

THE CONDOR.

Bulletin of the

**COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
OF CALIFORNIA.**Published bi-monthly at Santa Clara, Cal., in the interests
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matter.**This issue of The Condor was mailed Nov. 18.****EDITORIAL.**

Chester Barlow, editor of this magazine, passed away Thursday morning, November sixth, at the home of his uncle, Mr. W. W. Brown, near Mountain View, Santa Clara county. He had been seriously ill for some time, and the end, though feared by his friends, came rather suddenly.

His death will prove a great blow to his many friends, and to the science of Ornithology, which he followed with so much credit to himself, and advantage to his fellow men. Chester Barlow has done more to spread an interest in Ornithology and to stimulate bird study on the west coast than any one man, living or dead, and when this is fully realized, the fraternity at large will appreciate our loss.

A man of charming personality and generous character, Chester Barlow was universally loved, and in the hearts of his nearer friends he holds a quite unique place—one which time can never destroy. He had the power of inspiring confidence and enthusiasm, and stimulated others to better things. He thoroughly enjoyed his chosen hobby and either in the field or study was a delightful companion. Many are there of our Cooper Club "boys", who remember him plodding cheerily over hills in quest of eagles' eggs, or off at dawn for some early set, to whom the simple announce-

ment of his death will bring a nameless pang. He is gone, but so long as generous manhood and faithful friendship are cherished, so long will his memory be green among us.

The funeral was held Sunday, November ninth, from the home of his uncle, and many of his old friends of the Cooper Club were present to act as pall-bearers.

On November 14th a special business meeting was held at Stanford University, when Mr. Chas. R. Keyes of Berkeley was elected Secretary of the Club for the remainder of this year, and for 1903. At the same time Mr. Joseph Grinnell was elected Business Manager-Treasurer, his duties to begin at once.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.—Hereafter all manuscripts for publication, exchanges, and books for review should be mailed to Walter K. Fisher, Palo Alto, Cal. All communications of a business nature, such as subscriptions, dues, and advertisements should be sent to Joseph Grinnell, Palo Alto, Cal. Communications concerning the Club, not intended for publication, should be forwarded to Charles R. Keyes, 2201 Ellsworth St., Berkeley, Cal.

Our January issue will be a memorial number dedicated to the memory of Chester Barlow.

COMMUNICATIONS.**EDITOR of 'THE CONDOR':**

I wish to raise my voice of protest, feeble and ineffective though it may be, against what seems to me cruel indifference to and lack of genuine sympathy with bird life, on the part of some of the scientific ornithologists, and especially of those who are but little more than collectors of "specimens" for private exploitation.

There is no doubt that we need the work of certain students of bird anatomy for the sake of accuracy in nomenclature and classification; and we need a few collections no doubt of dead and stuffed birdskins for purposes of study and illustration in connection with scientific schools. But the unflinching, destructive disposition of some, even of the better class of collectors seems to me without excuse and abhorrent to the lover of life in Nature.

They would not think of killing, even in the Philippines, varying specimens of the genus Homo, merely for purposes of anatomical study, to embellish some museum or to settle a disputed point of faunal geography. And yet they have no hesitation in taking the lives of other animals, who are in some respects superior to themselves, for just such purposes of curiosity, or, what is worse, for merely selfish am-

bition. Beings who love and mate, who build homes with infinite labor and pains, with marvelous wisdom and skill, these are hunted, robbed and killed, without any consideration of their rights.

If these beings, wearing feathers, were anything but innocent, beautiful, useful, wonderfully gifted with intelligence and the power of flight; if they were injurious, enemies and not friends of that conceited being, man, he might be justified perhaps in taking no account of their rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

And it would seem that the representative ornithologist ought to have some regard for their rights, and a degree of sympathy with birds as living beings. But to paraphrase a very bad popular saying concerning Indians, they seem to consider that *the only good bird is a dead bird*.

In the September-October number of the CONDOR, there is an interesting and excellently written article on the rufous-crowned sparrow, the description of a social colony on a little hillside opposite a schoolhouse, where the birds obtained a part of their living no doubt from the scraps remaining of the childrens' lunches. If the teacher was up to date she taught the children to be lovers and protectors of these "feathered friends." But the ornithologist went across the road, and "eighteen specimens were taken within an area of two or three acres."

The writers handle their English deftly. They never say killed, slaughtered or murdered but "taken" or some such gentle word. For example, on a succeeding visit to the same field, after finding a nest, the mother bird appeared, "but was extremely wary. She flew past the bush and alighted but would not go to the nest. Then she flew up the hill again when I collected her."

Now I should like to say seriously, why one dozen birds should not have been sufficient, leaving six at least to enjoy life; also why the bright little mother should have been "collected" merely for dissection to show that her nest of eggs was complete.

And the writer is "looking forward to further investigation of this sage brush home with renewed interest."

Among general news notes, we observed that Messrs. — and — have returned from an extended trip with "a host of interesting and valuable material"—a soft name for dead birds.

In pleasing contrast, to me at least, with these polite allusions to destructive bird study, is the beautiful article of a lady in Berkeley, on the Black-headed Grosbeak. Here is the sympathetic study of a living sentiment being with a voice of harmony: a life and a voice to

be loved and described without the "collection" of its owner.

I believe in the motto of *Bird-Love*, albeit the editor was once a collector himself:

"A bird in the bush is worth two in the hand."

I hope no one will be offended by my plain speaking. It seems to me that the time has come to emphasize more the study of the living and less the study of the dead. Young people are taking notes of us, and if very many of them get the impression that ornithology means merely the collection of eggs, nests and skins, it will be a sorry time for the birds.

The better trend of thought I believe, is toward a kind regard for, and sympathetic interest in the native citizens of the earth and air.

Yours truly,

GARRETT NEWKIRK.

Pasadena.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED.

BREWSTER ON LOWER CALIFORNIA BIRDS*—

This paper of nearly 250 pages is much more than the unpretentious title would indicate. We are accustomed to see mere nominal lists of species bearing such titles as that of Mr. Brewster's paper. But his is something out of the ordinary. The reader fails to properly realize its scope until he has perused its many pages and studied some one of the monographs which the accounts of several species actually are. Mr. Brewster's paper is in reality a compendium of all that is known of the 255 species found in the region dealt with.

The paper is based primarily on the collections made by Mr. M. Abbott Frazar who spent nine months in Lower California in 1887 in Mr. Brewster's interests. The collection numbered 4,400 birds which have already afforded several novelties as well as series of certain species previously known only from one or two specimens. Mr. Frazar also kept field-notes to some extent, and these, with extended critical remarks on specimens, constitute the new material offered in the present paper. Four new forms are described as new, namely, *Totanus melanoleucus frazari*, *Megascops xantusi*, *Bubo virginianus elachistus* and *Tachycineta thalassina brachyptera*. These are all confined so far as known to southern Lower California. Thirty-six species are newly accredited to the region.

A useful feature of the paper is a carefully compiled Bibliography, and synonymies are entered complete for each of the birds peculiar to

*Birds of the Cape Region of Lower California. By William Brewster. —Bull. Mus. Co np. Zool. XVI, September 1902, pp 1-242, with one map.