

THE CONDOR

An Illustrated Magazine of Western
Ornithology

Published Bi-monthly by the Cooper Ornithological Club of California

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Palo Alto, California: Published May 15, 1905

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Price in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and U. S. Colonies one dollar a year; single copies twenty-five cents. Price in all countries in the International Postal Union one dollar and a quarter a year.

Subscriptions should be sent to the Business Manager; manuscripts and exchanges to the Editor.

EDITORIAL NOTES

ATTENTION is called to Mr. Mailliard's request for information concerning the winter distribution of the western robin (p.82). Letters have already been sent to a number of members and the notes are published on another page. Since the robin is known to everyone, all readers, who can shed any light on the problem of the movement of robins during the past winter, should send in their notes. Negative information is valuable. Please state whether robins are usually present in your locality and whether common or rare; also include any other information concerning unusual birds during the past winter, or absence of ordinarily common species. The following letter from Prof. Ritter bears directly upon this matter, so that further remarks are unnecessary.

Berkeley, Cal., March 20, 1905.

DEAR MR. MAILLIARD:

Since the meeting at Miss Head's Saturday evening I have been thinking over the matter raised by Dr. Stejneger's paper, and it has occurred to me in a quite positive way that the Cooper Club has just now an admirable opportunity to take in hand an investigation that would be exactly in line with Stejneger's suggestions. I refer to the question of the behavior of the winter birds this year, and the bearing of this on the broader problem of bird migration. If it is really true, as it seems to be, that the western robin, varied thrush, pipit, and some other birds, have not come to this region this winter because the conditions have not been such as to induce them to, it is a genuinely interesting fact, and ought to be carefully looked into. Have the birds remained on their nesting grounds, or have they gone to some other locality than that which they are accustomed to visit in winter? In either case they would appear to have departed from their usual habit, and if so, this is a fact of prime importance from the point of view of the migratory instinct. I would suggest that two lines of inquiry be taken up at once. In the first place

that letters be addressed to all members of the Club in localities ordinarily frequented by the birds in winter, to find whether they have been as scarce at all these as they have been in the San Francisco Bay region. In the second place, that somebody be sent, if possible, to the mountains where the western robin, for instance, breeds, to ascertain if it has remained there through the winter, and if so, what the peculiar conditions have been.

Very truly yours,
W. E. RITTER.

OUR series of portraits is continued in the present issue with likenesses of Count T. Salvadori, Dr. Anton Reichenow, Dr. Otto Finsch, and Mr. H. E. Dresser.

Among Count Tommaso Salvadori's works may be noted the following: *Prodromus Ornithologiae Papuasiae et Moluccarum, Ornithologia delle Papuasie e Molluche* (3 vols. and appendix), *Uccelli di Borneo* (first published in *Annali Mus. Civ. Genova*, 1874-75); and of the *British Museum Catalogues*: vol. XX, *Catalogue of the Psittaci, or Parrots*; XXXI, *Catalogue of the Columbæ or Pigeons*; XXVII, *Catalogue of the Chenomorphæ (Palaemedæ, Phœnicopteri, Anseres), Crypturi, and Ratitæ*. In 1887 appeared *Elenco degli Uccelli Italiani*. He has named between 500 and 600 genera and species, of which *Brachyrhamphus craveri* is one.

Dr. Anton Reichenow, editor of the *Journal fuer Ornithologie* and the *Ornithologisches Monatsbericht*, has published many papers in these journals, and elsewhere. The *Conspectus Psittacorum* appeared in the former. *Die Voegel Deutsch-Oest-Afrikas*, quarto, was published in 1894, and *Die Voegel Afrikas*, two volumes and part of the third of which have already been published, is not yet completed.

Dr. Otto Finsch has been an extensive traveler. He visited the United States, July—December 1872, northwest Siberia, March—November, 1876, South Sea Islands, April 1879—November 1882 and June 1884—August 1885, and New Guinea, to which he made six trips in 1884 and '85. In 1899 he published his *Systematische Uebersicht der Ergebnisse seiner Reisen und Schriftstellerischen Thaetigkeit (1859-1899)*, which lists 384 titles covering a wide range of subjects besides ornithology. He has written *Die Papageien (2 vols. 1867-'68)*, *Index ad Caroli Luciani Bonaparte Conspectus Generum Avium (1865)*, *Beitrag zur Fauna Centralpolynesiens: Ornithologie der Viti - Samoa - und Tonga-Inseln (with Hartlaub, 1867)*, *Die Voegel Oest-Afrikas (with Hartlaub 1870)*, besides numerous other longer and shorter papers in *Notes from the Leyden Museum, P. Z. S., Ibis, Jour. f. Ornithologie*, etc. Dr. Finsch has described 14 genera and 155 species of birds, and has a genus and 41 species in zoology and botany named in his honor.

Mr. Henry Eeles Dresser's best known works are: *History of the Birds of Europe* (8 vols., text and 8 of plates), *Monograph of the Bee-eaters*, *Monograph of the Rollers*, *List of the Birds of Europe*, *Reprint of Eversmann's 'Addenda' (3 parts)*, besides numerous shorter papers. In *The Ibis*, 1865 and 1866, was published *Notes on the Birds of Southern Texas*.