

# THE CONDOR

An Illustrated Magazine  
of Western Ornithology

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## A NEW MUSEUM

There is shortly to be inaugurated at the University of California a new line of work, which will mean increased activity in the exploitation of California ornithology. Miss Annie M. Alexander, of Oakland, an alumnus of the University, has expressed her interest in the field of science, by providing means for the support for a period of years of a University department to be called the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. While this broad title has been adopted, so as to give room for future expansion, the immediate activities of those engaged in the work of the Museum will be concerned with mammals, birds and reptiles. It is proposed to have at least one party continually in the field thruout the year. The objects will be not only the accumulation of specimens from our vertebrate faunæ, but also the gathering of data on life histories, habits, and distribution, together with special ecological studies of certain localities. Miss Alexander will herself take active part in the field work, and there will be at least two others whose entire time will be devoted to the Museum's interests. The collections will be gathered with a view to providing research material of the best quality, accompanied by accurate information as to the natural conditions under which the species concerned were living. An additional feature of the new Museum will be the installation of several mounted groups of our native large mammals. It is also planned to secure material for some exhibition groups of certain birds and smaller mammals arranged to show typical associations from different

faunal areas. A building provided by the University is being planned especially for the Museum, and will be completed during the coming summer. Meanwhile preparations are in progress for active field work during the spring.—J. G.

## THE REHABILITATION OF THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The income building and museum building of the Academy and most of their contents burned about noon, April 18, 1906.

All of the records of the Academy, many of the insect, plant, and reptile types, a few books, and two bird specimens (the types of the Guadalupe Petrel) were saved. A number of uninjured ethnological specimens were taken from the ruins after the fire.

The restoration began without delay. On the 29th of April, 1906, the first office was secured at 1806 Post Street. Here the work of soliciting donations from the learned societies of the world was begun. American societies and several foreign, British Museum, Zoological Society of London, etc., were written to directly by the Academy. The Smithsonian Institution kindly volunteered to take up the burden of corresponding with other foreign societies. As a result of all of this work the Academy now has thru gifts over ten thousand volumes on natural history.

The Academy moved into its present temporary quarters on Gough Street, near Sacramento, on June 1, 1906. About this time the first donation to the ornithological collection was received; viz., a Yellow-billed Tropic Bird, the gift of Mr. H. W. Henshaw of the Biological Survey, who had overlooked it when disposing of his collection some years ago. After a ten years stay in the Hawaiian Islands he returned to Washington, where he found this bird among his belongings, and presented it to the Academy, stating in his letter that he felt that it was "the beginning of a great collection".

The Galapagos Expedition put the Academy "on its feet" as far as material for a new museum is concerned. This Expedition left San Francisco on June 28, 1905, returning Thanksgiving Day, 1906, with some 5000 reptiles, 38000 shells, 1000 tertiary invertebrate fossils, about 13000 insects, about 10000 plants, 8688 birds, about 2000 eggs, many nests, and about 120 mammals.

The first paper on the results of the Galapagos Expedition, and also the first since the fire, was issued December 20, 1907, and described four new tortoises. The last paper published by the Academy before the fire was issued in March, 1906.

During the past year specimens as well as books have come in steadily. Dr. J. C. Thompson, U. S. N., has sent in large collections of Philippine reptiles and insects, making the Academy's collection of the former second to none. Mr. Anderson, Curator of Invertebrate Paleontology, has secured for the Academy large numbers of Pacific Coast invertebrate fossils and shells. Mr. R. H. Beck, chief field

assistant of the Academy, collected about 2000 water birds from the ocean in the vicinity of Point Pinos. The bird collection now occupies forty-five large zinc cases, and numbers over 11100 specimens, the result of exploration and the generous gifts of kind friends.

With the work on the ten-story Class A income building on Market Street well under way, with funds in hand and plans and specifications prepared for an attractive temporary museum building to be erected in Golden Gate Park, with substantial foundations laid for a large natural history library and great research collections, the prospects of the Academy seem brighter than at any time in its history.—*Edward Winslow Gifford.*

#### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COLORADO BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The members and friends of the Colorado Biological Society listened to a very interesting program, at the Annual Meeting of the Society which was held Wednesday evening, January 8, 1907, in the rooms of the Colorado Scientific Society, Chamber of Commerce Building, Denver.

The first address of the evening was given by Mr. L. J. Hersey, the prominent naturalist and sportsman, his subject being "Birds". His talk which covered the structure, habits, classification and distribution of bird-life was illustrated by many stereopticon views of birds and their nests and eggs.

The second address of the evening was given by Prof. C. P. Gillette of the State Agricultural College of Fort Collins. Prof. Gillette who is the leading entomologist of the state chose for his subject "Plant Lice", and the narration of the life history, food habits, peculiarities and economic features of these tiny creatures proved intensely interesting.

At the conclusion of the program an hour was devoted to informal discussions after which the meeting adjourned.—R. B. R.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES

The "Report of the Chief of the Biological Survey for 1907", by Dr. C. Hart Merriam, deserves the careful attention of every American citizen. The practical work of the Bureau extends to matters intimately associated with the interests of the farmer, fruit grower, stock raiser, and sportsman, and thus merits unstinted support from the utilitarian standpoint alone. And when it comes to pure science we recognize in the Survey a contributor of the larger share of our knowledge of North American zoogeography. Let us help, thru our influence with National legislators, to not only continue but augment the work of the Bureau, along the lines outlined by its chief in his Recommendations for 1909.

The Cooper Club again participates in a distinction won by one of its active members. The only election to Fellowship in the American Ornithologists' Union during 1907 was that

of Richard C. McGregor, who has been pegging away steadily at Philippine ornithology for the past five years. The honor was merited, and in behalf of the Club we extend to him our congratulations.

Miss Bertha Chapman, who has been in charge of the nature study department in the Oakland city schools for the past seven years, has received an appointment as instructor in the University of Chicago.

The "First Annual Report" of the California Audubon Society, recently issued, shows that organization to have a decidedly thrifty start. It has already done considerable work along the lines of bird protection, and a campaign is being outlined by its energetic secretary, Mr. W. Scott Way, which is sure to accomplish much further good. The movement is of a nature to elicit a very large popular support, and, as far as direct human agencies are concerned, bird-life will thru it become more and more immune from destruction. The general annihilation of the domestic cat will be about the most important achievement to work for.

Mr. Chas. A. Vogelsang, Chief Deputy of the California Fish Commission, has just returned from an extended trip in the East where much valuable data was gathered in regard to game protection and fish culture.

The plans of Mr. R. H. Beck for a 1908 expedition to the Galapagos Islands did not materialize. Instead, Mr. Beck is collecting along the coast of Lower California for the California Academy of Sciences.

Mr. Edmund Heller, assisted by Chas. H. Richardson, Jr., is engaged in field work in the vicinity of Salton, in the interests of Miss Annie M. Alexander.

Every student of California birds should send for Prof. Beal's report on the "Birds of California in Relation to the Fruit Industry", which can be had by application to the Biological Survey, Washington, D. C. While we cannot agree exactly with the conclusions in regard to some of the species dealt with (for instance, the Linnet), the data presented is of indisputable value and interest. Much biographical data is also incorporated, of interest to the general bird student.

#### PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

A | MONOGRAPH | of the | PETRELS | (Order Tubinares) | By | F. DUCANE GODMAN | D. C. L. F. R. S. President of the British | Ornithologists' Union etc. etc | With Hand-coloured Plates | by J. G. Keulemans | In Five Parts | Part I. | Witherby & Co. | 326 High Holborn London | December 1907. Large 4to (10x13 in.), pp. 1-68, pll. 1-19+5a (=20).

In excellence of typography and in careful execution of the plates, as shown by Part I,