Buff-breasted Flycatchers are found at 4500 feet on the west and not under 6500 on the east.

The Rivoli Hummingbird nests from the summit down to 5500 feet on the east but not at all on the west.

These are a few facts as I have noted them but I have no theory to offer as to why they are so in any case. An exhaustive study of the food supply might explain it; but superficial observations in that line have afforded no clue. Neither do climatic conditions. It is still an interesting subject for one to speculate upon.

Tombstone, Arizona.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

A Striking Example of Protective Coloration.—The accompanying photo of an adult Rocky Mountain Screech Owl standing at the entrance of its nesting cavity illustrates more forcibly than any description, the remarkable similarity between many birds and their typical characteristic environment.

In this case the soft grays and browns of the owl's plumage blend perfectly with the lights and shadows upon the grayish tree trunk which forms the background, and this picture further answers the question so often asked as to why so many observers never see a screech owl during their woodland tramps. The only tell-tale bit of color in the make-up of these little fellows is their brilliant yellow eyes, but as the latter are nearly always closed during the day, this does not interfere with the perfection of their concealment to any great extent.

No better proof of the effectiveness of this protective coloration may be had than that the ever vigilant arch villian of the woods, the Magpie, seldom espies this esteemed enemy of his, as he sits stone still but in plain sight; but when from any cause the owl is forced to take wing he is immediately the center of a noisy mob of Magpies. But as soon as he is again able to assume his tree-like statuesque pose his tormentors seem at a loss to understand his sudden transformation and quietly depart in search of more profitable villiany.—R. B. ROCKWELL, *Denver, Colorado.*

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SCREECH OWL: AN EXAMPLE OF SPECIAL PROTECTIVE RESEMBLANCE

The Bryant Hybrid Hummingbird.—In *The Auk* for 1907, p. 312, Thayer and Bangs record and describe a hybrid hummer from the Bryant collection of mounted California hummingbirds. They also refer to my note entitled "Broad-tailed Hummingbird in California" and suggest that the specimen recorded by me was really the hybrid now described by them. I have no doubt that they are correct in this as well in the correction of the date as given in my note. I published the record without having seen the specimen, depending upon the verbal notes fur-

nished by Mr. Bryant who refused to publish that or any other record himself. Fortunately, Bryant's notes, written on the tag of their specimen, have enabled Thayer and Bangs to kill my erroneous record of *Selasphorus platycercus*.—RICHARD C. MCGREGOR, *Bureau of Science, Manila, P. I.*

Pipilo Clementæ Excluded from Santa Cruz Island Avifauna.—After careful examination and comparison of measurements of a series of towhees from Santa Cruz Island, I am satisfied that this form is *Pipilo maculatus megalonyx* and not *Pipilo clementæ*, as heretofore supposed. In the specimens from San Clemente Island there seems to be a slight difference in the size of bill and feet. In coloration the difference is extremely slight, if any, compared with *Pipilo maculatus megalonyx*. However, my series from Clemente is too small to judge this from. There is no doubt, however, that the form found on Santa Cruz Island is not *Pipilo clementæ* but *P. m. megalonyx*.—C. B. LINTON, *Long Beach, California.*

A Plan For Co-operative Ornithology.—The progress which has been made in the study of American Ornithology during the past fifteen years has been truly remarkable and it is probably a safe assumption that nowhere else on earth has as much scientific knowledge been gathered in so short a time. Yet notwithstanding this fact, not one work of any great magnitude has been undertaken, dealing with the life histories of North American Birds, since the peerless Bendire completed the second volume of his "Life Histories," in 1895.

During all the intervening time an army of bird lovers have been constantly at work collecting a vast amount of data and information regarding the life histories of our birds, the greater part of which has found its way into thumb-worn notebooks and dusty pigeon-holes. A very small part of these investigations have been given the publicity they justly deserve thru the medium of our scientific periodicals; but it is undoubtedly true that the published portion of ornithological knowledge constitutes a very insignificant part of the whole.

The realization of this fact has always been a source of wonder and regret to me; and in this connection I have often asked myself the question, "Why cannot the bird lovers of the country band together for the purpose of putting in black and white a great deal of the knowledge that now is unavailable thru lack of publication."

Further thought along these lines made it plain that the first requisite in an undertaking of this kind was an instrument of publicity, and the management of THE CONDOR promptly offered their magazine as a solution of this problem.

The details of an undertaking of this kind are far too complicated to be outlined by any one person; but very roughly my ideas are as follows:

There are very few bird students but who have certain species of birds with which they are intimately acquainted. According to location and environment these species vary among different students, and those students whose acquaintance with a given species is very intimate, must of reason be the recognized authorities on those given species. For example, after his wonderful experience among the California Condors and the subsequent study he made of them, there are very few who would not admit that Mr. Finley was an authority on these birds. The same is true of almost any student; he has his "pet" birds that come in for a large share of his attention, and his knowledge of these species is necessarily much greater than that of another student whose interest is centered on other forms.

Now if the men who are authorities on certain species would undertake the compilation of existing information regarding these species from all sources, and the combined results of this investigation could be embodied in one work, the result would undoubtedly be the greatest ornithological work that was ever published.

One of the great advantages of a co-operative plan of this kind would be that the work could be divided among all the students of the country instead of deluging one man with this vast amount of data. On the other hand the chief difficulty would probably lie in securing enough men who are authorities on certain species, who would be willing to assume the responsibility of collecting and compiling the necessary information.

Wide publicity, a thoro organization, and the active cooperation of a large part of our active students would be absolutely necessary to the ultimate success of the undertaking; but once the work is gotten under way, the characteristic perseverance of American Naturalists would undoubtedly carry it thru, and when completed the ornithological fraternity would be the proud possessors of a monumental work.

I fully realize that upon first thought the whole idea seems rather vague and etherial, and without active co-operation from a large number of students it would be entirely impractical; but it is a question well worth some thought from CONDOR readers. My ideas are necessarily very crude and incomplete, and I should like very much to see this question fully discussed.—R. B. ROCKWELL, *Denver, Colorado.*