

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 ethereal, 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.*