

the camp thus furnishing a healthful vacation recreation full of the intensest of a boy's pleasures.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Editor THE CONDOR:—

Will you permit me to lay aside, for the time being, any connection with THE CONDOR it may be my privilege to claim, and to address you simply as a Cooper Club member and reader of this magazine.

Owing to the fact that something over a page of valuable space in the last number of THE CONDOR was devoted to criticism of my statements, and that at least a part of it was not based upon facts, I feel that in justice to myself it is necessary to answer these strictures, much as I dislike to burden yourself and CONDOR readers with a useless argument.

Judge Henderson begins by calling attention to "several erroneous citations" which, when boiled down, are found to number just three, in one of which Judge Henderson is entirely at fault, and in the remaining two his criticism is so far fetched as to be purely a matter of personal opinion. He follows this with an outline of "The Early Western Surveys," with which most of us became familiar about the time we were learning how to use an identification key.

Now I do not intend to enter into a discussion of the merits of Henderson's criticism, because it is not of sufficient importance. I wish, however, to quote my authority for my use of the phrases "a United States Geological Survey bulletin" and "United States Geological Survey reports", using a small "b" and "r" in "bulletin" and "report" respectively. In W. W. Cooke's "Birds of Colorado," State Agricultural College, Agricultural Experiment Station, Bulletin No. 37, page 27, will be found my authority for the first phrase; and on page 31 will be found my authority for the second phrase. At the time I used these phrases I considered them accurate enough for the use to which I put them. Since that time I have not changed my mind, and under date of April 8, 1909, Prof. Cooke himself writes me that he is of the same opinion.

Had Judge Henderson taken the trouble to look up the date of the first publication of Ridway's "Maxwell's Colorado Museum" instead of guessing at it, he would have saved himself from making the very error that he accuses me of making. Notwithstanding his statement to the contrary, this list was first published in 1877 in "Field and Forest," and my authority for this statement will be found in Cooke's "Birds of Colorado" on page 45, which is corroborated by Prof. Cooke in his letter of April 8th mentioned above.

Only one objection can be made to Prof. Felger's statements and that is that the facts are not as he has stated them. The Rocky Mountain Pine Grosbeak record is not Prof. Felger's record any more than it is mine, and his statement that the bird was taken by him and subsequently shown to me is also incorrect. As a matter of fact, at the time the record in question was made Prof. Felger was my guest and he was with me at the time the bird was taken. Whether he or I happened to kill the bird does not affect the ownership of the record in the least. His statement that the bird was taken July 8th instead of July 3rd, as stated in my Mesa County List, carries very little weight in the absence of proof. My notes are plain on this particular point, and I shall require more than Felger's unsupported statement to the contrary to induce me to recognize his alleged correction. Even admitting that he is correct, for the sake of argument, the spirit which prompted the publication of such a correction is too apparent to call for any remarks.

Now, in conclusion, I wish to state that I at all times welcome criticism and corrections of my work, when it is offered in a friendly spirit and is sincere, and I am continually asking for criticism and advice from those Ornithological friends whom I consider competent to criticize, but when one or more persons resort to the columns of a standard magazine as a means of discrediting me before its readers, for the satisfaction of a personal grudge, I feel that it is my privilege and my duty to myself to answer such attacks.

Very truly yours,

ROBT. B. ROCKWELL.

#### PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

THE THIRD EDITION of BAILEY'S 'HANDBOOK OF BIRDS OF THE WESTERN UNITED STATES' <sup>1</sup> appeared early in the year and attests to the popularity of the work. It remains our only good local text-book of birds, and we hope that further editions will be warranted in the not distant future.

The third edition of the "Handbook" presents no decided alterations as compared with the first and second. However, all errors discovered have been corrected, many of the photographs of bird-skins have been replaced with drawings, and the forms of *Astragalinus* have been revised in the text to accord with the late rulings of the A. O. U. Committee.—J. G.

BIRDS AND MAMMALS OF THE 1907 ALEXANDER EXPEDITION TO SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA. By JOSEPH GRINNELL, EDMUND HELLER, FRANK STEPHENS, and JOSEPH DIXON. Univ.

<sup>1</sup> Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston; \$3.50.

of Calif. Pub., Zool., V, pp. 171-264: Feb. 18, 1909.

As the first published result of the work of the new University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, under the patronage of Miss Annie M. Alexander, this paper is of special interest. The list of birds is by Joseph Grinnell, who has incorporated, with his own critical notes, the field observations of the collectors, Joseph Dixon, Chase Littlejohn and Frank Stephens. Edmund Heller treats of the mammals and Dixon and Stephens describe the localities visited. The usefulness of the report is further enhanced by a map and several half-tone illustrations from photographs by Miss Alexander. The localities covered include Admiralty, Baranof, and Chichagof islands, Glacier Bay, and several other mainland points, all in the heart of the faunal district known as Sitkan. This interesting region has been explored zoologically but little, although it is in the most accessible part of Alaska and from its position and climatic peculiarities exceedingly attractive.

Ninety-nine species and subspecies of birds are annotated, eighty-one represented in the collection of 532 specimens, and six characterized as new, as follows: *Lagopus alexandrae*, *Lagopus dixonii*, *Buteo borealis alascensis*, *Picoides americanus fumipectus*, *Loxia curvirostris sitkensis*, and *Planesticus migratorius caurinus*. It is doubtful, in these latter days, if a similar expedition to any other part of extra-tropical America could have secured so many ornithological novelties so well characterized as these appear to be.

The field observations relate principally to abundance, food and nesting, and descriptions of the eggs of a number of species are given. The Kittlitz murrelet was found in great abundance in Glacier Bay. The golden-crowned sparrow, curiously, was not observed as a breeder, although it certainly is such at White Pass and at Yakutat in the same general region. The gadwall is recorded for the first time from Alaska, but unfortunately in common with records of several other species this is only "according to Littlejohn's notebook," as specimens were not secured. The cormorant of the region is referred to *Phalacrocorax pelagicus*, the supposed subspecies *robustus* being discredited. The duck hawk, likewise, is referred to *Falco p. anatum*, the specimens secured failing to exhibit the characters of *pealei*. A small series of savanna sparrows is consigned to *Passerculus s. savanna*, which therefore is regarded as having an interrupted range. The questionable subspecies *Dendroica c. hooveri* and *Hirundo e. palmeri* are recognized and the names *Melospiza l. gracilis* and *Sphyrapicus ruber* are used for the northwest coast forms of the Lincoln finch and the red-breasted sapsucker respectively. The treat-

ment of subspecific forms and nomenclatorial questions is rather noticeably at issue with decisions of the A. O. U. Committee on Nomenclature and Classification. This could not possibly be open to objection if sufficient evidence were presented to make it at all likely that the Committee would regard the cases as subject to reconsideration. The reviewer is inclined to the belief that several of these points in this paper are well taken but ventures to suggest that if authors would calmly accept defeat in preliminary skirmishes and bide their time until accumulation of evidence made it possible for them to return in a veritable onslaught, there might be at least uniformity during the interim and we would be spared dribbling protests.—WILFRED H. OSGOOD.

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

### NORTHERN DIVISION

JANUARY.—A called meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held in the parlors of the Hotel Merritt, Oakland, on the evening of January 20, with nine members present and Mr. Ernest Mailliard as a visitor.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and approved as read.

Applications for membership were presented as follows: John Rowley, Palo Alto, Cal., by J. Grinnell; H. H. Kimball, Fresno, Cal., by W. Lee Chambers; Jesse T. Craven, Detroit, Mich., by W. Lee Chambers; Walter B. Barrows, East Lansing, Mich., by W. Lee Chambers; R. A. Bennett, San Francisco, Cal., by W. Lee Chambers; L. J. Hersey, Denver, Colo., by W. Lee Chambers; J. Warren Jacobs, Waynesburg, Pa., by J. E. Law.

Mr. Grinnell stated that he had received a letter from Dr. Palmer in which it was announced that the Island of Laysan had been set aside by the Government as a Federal Reserve.

A statement from Mr. Hunter showing the receipts and disbursements during his term of office was read and the Secretary was instructed to write Mr. Hunter thanking him for a very liberal donation made by him to the Club.

The resignations of C. F. Palmer and H. O. Jenkins were read and on motion accepted.

The resignation of Miss J. Newsom was read, but as the Treasurer reported that there were some back dues unpaid the resignation was laid over and the Secretary instructed to write.

The report of the Executive Committee, and also a copy of the proposed new constitution, were read. The latter did not meet with the approval of the members present and was referred back to the Committee with instructions to confer with a like committee from the Southern Division.