

THE CONDOR

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of Western Ornithology

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EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

During the past summer the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology has had two expeditions in the field, both in the state of California. This in addition to the party which, earlier in the season (March 6 to June 6) traversed the length of the San Joaquin Valley. Some of the ornithological results obtained by the latter (primarily a mammal collecting expedition) are published in the present, and in the last number of THE CONDOR.

Miss Annie M. Alexander and Miss Louise Kellogg, with assistants, spent three months in the high mountains of Siskiyou County, collecting birds and mammals, in continuance of work begun by them in Trinity County, during January and February. The series of specimens gathered includes some species new to the Museum collections, and others but scantily represented; while one species of bird was secured new to the state of California.

The special point of enquiry toward which the work has been directed is to ascertain the relationships of the fauna of the region with that of Mount Shasta on the one hand, and the Humboldt Bay region on the other. At the latter point the Museum had collectors working during the previous summer (1910); the Mount Shasta fauna has been the subject of exhaustive study by Dr. C. Hart Merriam.

J. Grinnell and W. P. Taylor, with T. I. Storer, H. A. Carr, and N. Stern as assistants, have been exploring the mountains between Bakers-

field and Mount Whitney since the middle of June. In two parties they traveled up different branches of the Kern River, finally meeting in the high mountains, and are to come out by way of Owen's Valley, on the eastern side of the range. The expedition has been highly successful in every way. At the last report received there were but two species of mammals known to occur in the region which had not been secured, and the bird collection is almost as comprehensive, at least as regards summer residents. The results will be of peculiar interest, both in relation to the collections already amassed from the southern California mountain ranges, and to those from the San Joaquin Valley.

California ornithologists will rejoice at the news that Mr. F. S. Daggett has returned to this state, and that there is a possibility of his making his home here once more. The Cooper Club will profit greatly by the renewal of his active participation in the affairs of the organization.

Dr. N. Dearborn, of the Biological Survey, has been spending part of the summer in California, in pursuance of the work of that Bureau, visiting the forest reserves of Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino counties. His particular study is the determination of the extent to which the smaller rodents are detrimental to the planting operations of the Forestry Department, and devising ways of reducing their numbers where necessary.

Mr. Malcolm P. Anderson, who for some years past has been collecting birds and mammals in Asia for the British Museum, has recently returned to his home at Menlo Park, California. His work took him to the more remote islands of the Japanese archipelago, and also to the wilder parts of western China, and to Thibet.

- PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

A REVISION OF THE FORMS OF THE HAIRY WOODPECKER (*Dryobates villosus* [Linnaeus]). By HARRY C. OBERHOLSER. [Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 40, 1911, pp. 595-621, pl. 70 (map). Published June 3, 1911.] As a result of the careful examination of a very large series of these woodpeckers (1070 specimens) Mr. Oberholser increases the fourteen forms heretofore recognized, to twenty, three of the newly described subspecies occurring north of Mexico, in the territory covered by the A. O. U. Check List. Of the remaining three, two are from Mexico and one from Nicaragua.

Dryobates v. hyloscopus suffers the most in this readjustment, as it supplies the material for all three of the new North American forms—*D. v. orius*, type from Quincy, California, occurring in eastern Washington and Oregon, south to central California, *D. v. leucothorectis*, in central New Mexico, northern Arizona, and southern Utah, and *D. v. icastus*, a Mexican form ranging north to extreme southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. The