

THE CONDOR

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Western Ornithology

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EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

In this issue is printed the new Constitution of the Cooper Ornithological Club. This is in the form finally adopted by the Southern Division, Sept. 28, 1911, and by the Northern Division, November 18, 1911.

It is admittedly regrettable that this number of our magazine is so far behind its normal date of publication. But the present editors have always acted on the principle that care in make-up is far more essential than fixed date of appearance. An unfortunate accident in the printing office has made the hazard in this particular case one requiring unusual precautions.

On November 6, 1911, the appointment of Mr. F. S. Daggett as Director of the Museum of History, Science and Art, at Los Angeles, was confirmed by the Board of Governors. The building is finished, and Mr. Daggett is now pushing as rapidly as possible the preparation and installation of the material for exhibition. Comprehensive plans have been made regarding the development of all three branches of the Museum, but readers of THE CONDOR will be more particularly interested in the details of the zoological department.

The large collection of fossils amassed by the Southern California Academy of Science at the Rancho La Brea is all to be in the building, and restorations of most of the mammals and many of the birds will be made, forming an exhibition probably unique. The material includes more or less complete skeletons of elephant, mastodon,

giant ground sloth, bison, llama, camel, saber-toothed tiger, lion, wolf, condor, eagle, etc. The activities of the museum will be first directed largely along exhibitional lines, always with the view of having the exhibits as educational as possible. In building up a zoological collection it will be confined principally to west coast forms, in fact mostly to Southern California and the contiguous country to the south. Habitat groups of native mammals and birds will be installed as rapidly as the material can be collected and prepared.

Mr. Daggett's personal collections will be deposited in the Museum, amounting to 8000 birds, 3000 species of Coleoptera, and thirty-six large drawers of butterflies, as well as his ornithological library, comprising some 1800 volumes and about as many pamphlets. Other loan collections, and some gifts are promised, including a library of about 2000 volumes owned by the Academy of Sciences, and an extensive herbarium to be installed by Dr. A. Davidson.

The Museum's Board of Governors includes one member from the Southern Division of the Cooper Club, Mr. Howard Robertson. The Club should know that the successful inauguration of this Museum is in a great measure due to his energy and industry, and must accord Mr. Robertson credit for all time as one of the guiding spirits who made possible the founding of the institution. With two Cooper Club members so actively interested in the Museum, Mr. Daggett as its executive head, and Mr. Robertson as Secretary of the Board of Governors, we can feel assured as to its future development and expansion. The Club has also cause for congratulation in the fact that this new institution, bound to develop into one of great importance and usefulness, is in a measure a direct outgrowth of the activities of the Cooper Club.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

MILLER ON FOSSIL BIRDS.—California is the richest state in the union in point of living species represented within its borders, barring possibly Texas. It now seems that an added distinction is accruing, namely, that in number of fossil forms brought to light, this state has assumed foremost position. The Department of Paleontology of the University of California has come into possession of a large amount of material from the now famous Rancho la Brea asphalt deposits near Los Angeles; and previously extensive and fruitful searches had been conducted in certain cave deposits in the northern portion of the state. Upon the avian remains contained in the material from these two sources Loye Holmes Miller has prosecuted diligent research. It is our privilege to refer to two more papers from his pen announcing various new discoveries. (See CONDOR XIII, 1911, p. 79).