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THE CONDOR

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THE CONDOR

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EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

This issue is concluded with the annual "Club Roster". It shows the membership of the Cooper Ornithological Club on September 1, 1912, to be 410 in the active class, and six in the honorary class. We would be glad of information as to any errors in spelling, or changes in address, so that the Secretary's list may be perfected accordingly.

By the election of Mr. Frank Stephens to Honorary membership in the Cooper Club, just distinction has been conferred upon a man who is closely identified with the development of the ornithology of the southwest. As set forth in the Club's minutes on a subsequent page, Mr. Stephens may be fairly credited with having obtained a large part of the first information in regard to many of the birds peculiar to Arizona and southern California. This field-work was carried on, too, at a time when conditions made it far more difficult than we now can realize.

Cooper Club members will have noted with approval the new seal appearing on the title pages of Avifauna numbers 7 and 8. This design was executed and presented to the Club by the one-time editor of THE CONDOR, Mr. Walter K. Fisher, who thus registers his continued loyalty to the Club's welfare.

Mr. L. E. Wyman, of Nampa, Idaho, spent the month of June in the high mountains of central and northeastern Idaho, collecting birds and mammals for the Biological Survey.

Albert H. Frost, for some years a Cooper Club member, and always an enthusiastic de-

votee of oology, died at his home in New York City, January 27, 1912. Mr. Frost visited California in 1898, and at that time became widely and favorably known to many of the bird students on this coast.

SHALL CALIFORNIA HAVE A "NO-SALE OF AMERICAN DUCKS" LAW?

The report of an Ohio State Senate Committee for 1857, contains the following:

"The passenger pigeon needs no protection. Wonderfully prolific, having the vast forests of the North as its breeding grounds, traveling hundreds of miles in search of food, it is here today and elsewhere tomorrow, and no ordinary destruction can lessen them or be missed from the myriads that are yearly produced."

Note the following from the same report:

"The snipe needs no protection. It does not breed in Ohio, but merely tarries a while in its migration to the breeding grounds in the extreme North. The snipe, too, like the pigeon, will take care of itself, and its yearly numbers cannot be materially lessened by the gun."

After the few years which have elapsed since then, we are in a position to realize how short-sighted the American people have been in the matter of adequate and timely protection of wild life. It is furthermore clearly apparent that the reason for this lack of foresight has been the easy but erroneous belief in the inexhaustibility of our wild game. But why discuss a matter so clear to every one?

In the official "Hearings" (1912) before the United States Senate Committee on Forest Reservations and Game, to which the McLean bill providing for Federal protection of migratory birds was referred, our own Senator Perkins (California) said: "On the Pacific Coast they say game birds are *increasing*." Suggestions heard from other quarters indicate the prevailing dense ignorance concerning this important matter. Competent testimony from many points in the state has it that every game bird, with the exception of quail in certain localities, is rapidly *decreasing* in numbers.

The ducks are going down with such speed that two species, the Red-head and Wood Duck, are now facing extinction. All this while the Army of Destruction is increasing; means of rapid transit from city to hunting grounds are being perfected; shot guns are becoming continually more highly efficient killing machines; and the waste land suitable to wild life is becoming more and more restricted.

New York and Massachusetts now prohibit absolutely the sale of American-killed wild game of any kind. Shall we in California put through a law of this kind, or shall we be listed with those other states and countries in the "It might have been" column?

Every Cooper Club member should realize that the cause is one which issues a pointed challenge to every nature-lover. What can

the individual do? Become a center of information as to the present condition of our remnant of wild life, and an enthusiastic booster for more and better laws and the rigorous enforcement of those now existent.

"The wild life of today is not wholly ours, to dispose of as we please. It has been given to us *in trust*. We must account for it to those who come after us and audit our records."—W. P. TAYLOR.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

MAY.—The May meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club was called to order in the committee room of the Museum of History, Science and Art, with Mr. Willett in the chair and the following members present: Howell, Lamb, Willett, Antonin Jay, Alphonse Jay, Zahn, Davis, Daggett, Rich, and Miller. The following ladies were visitors: Miss Mary H. Hainline, Denver, Colorado; Mrs. A. W. Beven, Chicago, Ill., and Miss F. M. Shields, Chicago, Ill.

The chairman appointed Mr. Miller as secretary pro tem. The minutes of the April meeting were read and approved. On motion by Mr. Lamb, the secretary was instructed to cast the unanimous ballot of the club electing to membership the following applicants, as proposed at the April meeting:—Kate W. McGraw, C. W. Chamberlain, Asa W. Chandler, L. K. Tevis, and Geo. Wood. The name of Mrs. Frances M. Harmon was proposed for membership in the club, the application to lie on the table till the next regular meeting of the club. The resignation of Dr. Garrett Newkirk of Pasadena was read and upon motion by Mr. Daggett was accepted. Announcement of the death of Mr. A. B. Frost was read and was referred to the secretary for publication in *THE CONDOR*.

Letters from Mr. W. P. Taylor of the northern division of the Club regarding protection of wild life of the state were read, and freely and favorably discussed by the club. On motion by Mr. Daggett, seconded by Mr. Lamb, the secretary of the committee on the preservation of wild life was authorized to write letters to various members of the committee in Congress having to do with federal legislation on the protection of game.

The meeting adjourned to spend a very pleasant hour under the direction of Mr. Daggett inspecting the beautiful building of the museum and the very creditable work accomplished in the short time that its energetic director has been at work. Unqualified commendation was expressed by all.—LOYE MILLER, Secretary *pro tem.*

JUNE.—The meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on June 27, 1912, in the committee room of the Museum of History, Science and Art, with vice-president Lelande in the chair, and the following members present: Mrs. Harmon, and Messrs. Chambers, Daggett, Fisher,

Granville, Howard, Howell, Lamb, Law, Lelande, Miller, Rich, Smith, Snyder, Willett, and Zahn.

The minutes of the Southern Division for May were read and approved. Upon motion by Mr. Willett, seconded by Mr. Rich and duly carried, the Secretary was instructed to cast the unanimous ballot of those present electing to active membership Mrs. Frances Harmon, proposed at the last meeting.

Applications for membership were proposed as follows: Don C. Phillips, Bakersfield, California, proposed by H. C. Bryant; R. D. Jewett, Los Angeles, proposed by G. Willett; Chas. Jeffreys, Tetbury, England, proposed by A. B. Howell; John Dryden Kuser, Bernardsville, N. J., proposed by W. Lee Chambers.

Upon motion of Mr. Willett, seconded by Mr. Chambers and duly carried, the secretary was instructed to notify the Audubon Society that the Southern Division of the Cooper Club would gladly co-operate with it in endeavoring to procure satisfactory bird legislation. After an extended discussion of bird legislation and a pleasant bird chat, the meeting adjourned and inspected the progress made in placing specimens in the new museum. The displays are beginning to show up and some of the new ideas, which Mr. Daggett as Director has introduced, will result in a very attractive exhibit. Adjourned.—J. E. LAW, Secretary.

JULY.—The July meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday evening, July 25, 1912, in the Directors' room at the Los Angeles County Museum of History, Science and Art, with the following members present: Chambers, Daggett, Howell, Lamb, Law, Miller, and Rich, and A. W. Brauer as visitor.

Mr. Daggett was elected Chairman. The minutes of the Southern Division for June were read and approved. Messrs. Don C. Phillips, R. D. Jewett, Chas. Jeffreys and John Dryden Kuser, nominated at a previous meeting, were elected to active membership. The resignation of M. C. Blake was accepted. Applications for membership were proposed as follows: Samuel Hubbard, Jr., Oakland, Cal., proposed by A. B. Howell; Jesse J. Wood, Santa Barbara, Cal., proposed by W. Lee Chambers; Mrs. J. W. Wheeler, Seattle, Wash., proposed by J. L. Sloanaker; William A. Magee, Jr., Oakland, Cal., proposed by W. Lee Chambers.

On motion by Mr. Miller and seconded by Dr. Rich, the by-law relating to the distribution of Avifaunas was altered to read:

"The sale and distribution of Avifaunas to be left in the hands of the Business Managers, who shall establish prices for the sale of such publications. Members shall receive copies of such publications at half regular prices thus established."

A telegram to Mr. Law from the State Fish and Game Commission was read, stat-