

# THE CONDOR

A Magazine of  
Western Ornithology

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Cooper Ornithological Club

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## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The Business Managers of the Cooper Club, Messrs. Chambers and Law, have submitted to the two Divisions their financial statement for the year 1913. This statement includes itemized receipts and expenditures on both *Avifauna* and *Condor* accounts, an inventory of Cooper Club property, and a final appeal for continued and increased support on the part of all interested in the growth of western ornithology. The following abbreviation from this report will give an idea of the amount of work which now devolves upon our Business Managers, but which is essential to handling the Club's publications as they are now appearing.

Balance in Bank January 2, 1913.....	\$ 181.54
Dues received during 1913.....	844.09
Subscriptions during 1913.....	224.36
Advertisements.....	46.00
Donations.....	238.69
Sale of Avifaunas.....	52.75
Sale of back Condors.....	83.01
Total Receipts.....	\$1670.44
Printing of Condor.....	\$ 646.25
Engraver's bill.....	133.14
Northern Division expenses.....	21.75
Southern Division expenses.....	27.98
On account conservation of game....	37.03
Postage.....	84.55
Purchase of back Condors.....	11.50
On Avifauna account.....	12.56
Sundry expenses.....	47.32
Total Expenditures.....	\$1022.08
Balance on hand, January 2, 1914....	\$ 648.36

From this deduct \$291.44, in Avifauna account, which leaves \$356.92; then add \$105.35 for 1912 bills paid during 1913, making \$462.27, the total amount in Condor fund. From this deduct the amount of advance dues and subscriptions (\$96.10), and 1913 bills payable (\$278.69), and there is left a net balance, or "profit" on the Condor, of \$87.48.

The printing of volume XV of the Condor cost \$60.73 more than volume XIV, while \$3.68 less was spent upon cuts. An edition of 1000 copies of each issue of the Condor was printed. Avifauna number 10, Swarth's "Distributional List of Arizona Birds", is now in press.

## COMMUNICATION

### REVIEWS AND JUST CRITICISM

Editor THE CONDOR:

I am a far-off, perhaps unheard of—so to speak—member of the Cooper Club; but it is my Club, and to me it means more than any of the other organizations of its kind of which I am a member—all because eight of the best years of my life were spent in the Land of the Golden West. Just what my rights as a member of the Cooper Club may be to criticise the reviews in its Organ, THE CONDOR, I do not stop to ask; but as a member of Society, in general, and especially as a member of that small portion of supposed Goodfellows, banded together under the name of Nature Students, I have the moral right to ask regarding that which, to me, seems undesirable, and, especially so, when that same is printed matter which goes forth to the world and becomes a living record.

Does that portion of the review regarding Bruce Horsfall's plate of the Catbird, signed W. L. D., page 236, volume 15, November issue of THE CONDOR, sound like brotherly love? Has it any of that milk of human kindness, as such, making THE CONDOR a medium of good fellowship?

I know neither Mr. Horsfall nor W. L. D., only as they have come on record in print; but even if all that is said be true, could it not have been said in a kind way? Why not a plain, honest statement, even though cruel in its frankness, instead of a flippant thrust carrying with it a personal tang? Why could it not have been a good clean review, such as the one given of *The Birds of Virginia*? For that was, indeed, most necessary and just.

There is no stimulus to my life's work like study and communion with nature. From the fundamentals to the last integral parts of design, my profession is a logical sequence along lines of evolution, based on the primal laws of creation. With this knowledge, I have learned to feel that all who turn to nature seriously, do, of necessity, set themselves apart from the proletariat, are bigger and better in thought, more susceptible of sympathy, no matter what their walk in life. Then, if so, is Mr. Horsfall one to be encouraged in the right way, by

a clean hand of criticism and good fellowship stretched across the intervening States?

*Humanum est errare.*

With sincerity and honesty of purpose, I remain,

Most respectfully,

A. O. TREGANZA.

*Salt Lake City, Utah, January, 7, 1914.*

#### PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

THE BIRDS OF CONNECTICUT. By JOHN HALL SAGE and LOUIS BENNETT BISHOP, assisted by WALTER PARKS BLISS. [= State of Connecticut, Public Document No. 47. State Geological and Natural History Survey Bulletin No. 20. 1913. Pp. 1-370.]

The authors' names are sufficient assurance of the general excellence of this, the latest state list of birds to make its appearance. Under each species is uniformly careful and methodical entry of data pertaining to the various phases of the subject here considered, a general statement of the status of the bird within the state, followed by migration dates, particulars of nesting sites and dates, unusual records, and such additional comments as seem to be called for. About half the book is taken up by the introduction and the body of the list. The remainder of the volume is occupied by various appendices to part one—a catalogue of introduced species and those of doubtful standing, a statistical summary, list of observers, and bibliography—and by part two, a treatise on the economic ornithology of the region, compiled by Dr. Bishop.

A summary of the list gives a total of 334 species for the state, divided as follows: residents, 80, summer residents, 78, winter residents, 38, transient visitors, 124, accidental visitors, 89. The long list of accidentals, second only to the transients in numbers, is probably one result of the host of observers enlisted in furtherance of the work, the catalogue of whose names occupies nearly four pages.

The portion of the report treating of the economic aspect of the subject is largely a judicious compilation of data pertaining to species occurring in Connecticut, and is undoubtedly an accurate portrayal of the relations of these birds to their surroundings. In fact the whole book strikes one as an eminently "solid" and dependable piece of work. The authors' attitude toward questionable records, well illustrated in the introduction in their protest against the acceptance of "operaglass" records of rare or unusual species, as well as in other matters, would be calculated to inspire confidence in their statements, even without a knowledge of their previous years of brilliant accomplishment in the field of ornithology.—H. S. SWARTH.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE BIRDS AND MAMMALS OF THE SAN JACINTO AREA OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, WITH REMARKS UPON THE BEHAVIOR OF GEOGRAPHIC RACES ON THE MARGINS OF THEIR HABITATS. By J. GRINNELL and H. S. SWARTH (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 10, October 31, 1913, pp. 197-406, pls. 6-10, 3 text figs.).

In this comprehensive paper of 210 pages, are clearly set forth the results of a summer's reconnoissance in and about the San Jacinto Mountains, undertaken in 1908 by the newly organized staff of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. The report embodies the work of two field parties, each of several members, the one which was headed by the authors maintained from the 18th of May to the 5th of September; and the other, under Messrs. Taylor and Richardson, from the 1st of May till July 12th. Both because of the wide experience of the leaders and the industry of their helpers, a large amount of museum material (including 1533 bird skins) was secured, and a fairly exhaustive survey was made of this interesting and topographically well-defined area. The report itself is notable as a piece of scholarly workmanship; and so far as method, accuracy, and lucidity are concerned, is unquestionably a model of its kind.

After a careful description of localities or base camps, and a brief exposition of the ecological elements involved, there appears a check-list of 169 species of birds encountered in the course of the season, followed by a carefully annotated account of the birds themselves. While each account aims primarily to summarize the status of the species from a taxonomic and ecological view point, a gratifying amount of biographical material is introduced, and our demand to know the most possible about the lesser known is commendably satisfied. Thus, we have, quite appropriately, a mere half-page devoted to the well-known Audubon Warbler, as against six pages given to the Gray Vireo, a bird about which we are still very curious.

In like manner also, the mammals, of 63 forms, are listed and described.

From a taxonomic standpoint this paper gives much ground for satisfaction, and leaves little to be desired. To our distinct relief there are no new forms described, not even a sub-species. Better than that, the abundant material secured enables the authors definitely to discredit, at least as birds of California, several alleged varieties which have hitherto cumbered our check-lists: *Oreortyx picta confinis*, *Aphelocoma californica obscura*, *Vireo vicinior californicus*, and *Sialia mexicana anabelae*. Most astonishing of all, the Gray Flycatcher, *Empidonax griseus*, which used to bulk so large in south-