

THE CONDOR

A Magazine of
Western Ornithology

Published Bi-Monthly by the
Cooper Ornithological Club

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Hollywood, California: Published Mar. 15, 1915

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Dollar and Fifty Cents per Year in the United States, Canada, Mexico and U.S. Colonies, payable in advance
Thirty Cents the single copy.

One Dollar and Seventy-five Cents per Year in all other countries in the International Postal Union.

COOPER CLUB DUES

Two Dollars per year for members residing in the United States.

Two Dollars and Twenty-five Cents in all other countries.

Claims for missing or imperfect numbers should be made within thirty days of date of issue.

Subscriptions and Exchanges should be sent to the Business Manager.

Manuscripts for publication, and Books and Papers for review, should be sent to the Editor.

Advertising Rates on application.

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The San Francisco Meeting of the A. O. U. On the 17th to the 20th of the coming May the Thirty-third Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union will convene in San Francisco. Many will remember the very successful Pacific coast meeting of the A. O. U. held in June, 1903. That was not, however, a regular stated meeting; in fact, the 1915 congress will be, to the best of our knowledge, the first formal meeting of the A. O. U. ever held west of Washington, D. C.

The business session for Fellows will be held Monday evening, May 17. All other sessions are open to the ornithological public. It is urged that members of the Cooper Ornithological Club attend each day's sessions during the entire convention; papers are invited from C. O. C. members, even from those who do not happen to be members of the A. O. U. All papers will be announced on the general program of the Union, to be distributed at the meeting. In other words, the occasion will be one of general ornithological activity, both within and without the Union's own membership.

It is further planned to have a joint A. O. U.-C. O. C. dinner and "smoker" on Tuesday evening, May 18, for the purpose of

providing an opportunity for personally meeting one another. This will be the one evening affair during the convention, as it is believed that the majority will prefer to use their evenings in "doing" the Exposition. Otherwise the sessions of the A. O. U. will be called each day at 9:30 A. M. and 2:30 P. M. After the A. O. U. congress has adjourned a session of the C. O. C. will be called. This will be a joint meeting of both Divisions, this being the first of its kind since 1903. At the conclusion of the convention, excursions will be undertaken under competent leadership to the Farallon Islands, to Mt. Tamalpais, and to Los Baños.

The A. O. U. committee of arrangements, Mr. Joseph Mailliard, chairman, has selected the Inside Inn, located on the Exposition Grounds, for A. O. U. headquarters. This will be available as a meeting place for those staying outside as well as inside the Grounds, and will enable all to take advantage of the time between sessions for seeing the main features of the Exposition. The Inside Inn has ample accommodations for guests and for the convention sessions. Those not wishing to live in the Exposition Grounds will find the down-town district of San Francisco abundantly supplied with thoroughly modern and moderate-priced hotels. A letter of enquiry addressed to Mr. Joseph Mailliard, 1815 Vallejo St., San Francisco, will elicit any specific information desired.

This congress promises to be no solemn affair; in fact, we are already aware of certain non-serious features in the outline of procedure which is now in the hands of our congenial San Francisco representative. The President of the A. O. U., Dr. A. K. Fisher, of Washington, is widely known as a gentleman of most cheerful qualities—one who is naturally gifted to preside felicitously. Then there is Dr. Witmer Stone, who will temporarily desert the office of *The Auk* for a visit to the Pacific coast, and whose joviality and social qualifications have made Philadelphia famous as headquarters for successful A. O. U. meetings. But we cannot here attempt a catalog of all the Easterners who we know are planning to attend. Come and meet them.

The chairman of the program committee, Professor W. K. Fisher, reports that already several popular illustrated numbers have been promised by C. O. C. members. While movie and lantern facilities are to be provided, it is not meant that the stock of the non-illustrated paper is to be listed below par. On the contrary, it is earnestly desired that a large proportion of the papers will be serious contributions to ornithology, each giving in concise form the results of special observation and study. Members of both the C. O. C. and A. O. U. are requested to send titles, and estimated time of reading, to Professor Fisher.

We learn through Dr. C. W. Richmond that Mr. Ridgway is nearly finished with the Parrots, which, with the Cuckoos and Pigeons, will comprise Part VII of his *Birds of North and Middle America*. The Cuckoos are already in page proof, so that the next volume is well under way.

A special meeting of the Southern Division was called at the Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, Friday evening, January 22, 1915. Fifty-two members and visitors were in attendance. No business was transacted, the purpose of the meeting being to hear a talk by a fellow Club member, Mr. Joseph Dixon, dealing with his experiences on a recent trip in the far north. Mr. Dixon was a member of a party engaged in gathering natural history specimens on the coast of Alaska. They visited certain of the Aleutian Islands, crossed over to the Siberian shore for a short sojourn, and then east once more to the vicinity of Point Barrow. Here they were caught in the ice and forced to remain until the following summer, the whole trip covering a period of about a year and a half. Mr. Dixon exhibited an interesting series of lantern slides, from photographs taken by himself, illustrating the varying fortunes of the expedition, the character of the regions visited, and certain of the birds and mammals encountered. This lecture constituted one of the most entertaining programs that has been presented to the Southern Division in recent years.

Two new numbers of the Cooper Club's *Avifauna* series are promised for publication in the not distant future. Both are in advanced stage of preparation as far as the authors are concerned. Number 11 will be "A Distributional List of the Birds of California", by J. Grinnell, and will aim to be an up-to-date summary of the nature of occurrence of the 539 species and subspecies of birds now authentically credited to the State. *Avifauna* number 12, by A. B. Howell, will treat of the "Birds of the Southern California Coast Islands". This paper will comprise practically everything that is known concerning its subject, not only distributional status island by island, but extended life-history narrative. The author's personal knowledge of the avifauna of the islands will be reflected in a goodly proportion of original matter.

The Business Managers' report for 1914 recently rendered makes interesting reading for those who like to watch the vigorous growth of the Cooper Ornithological Club. The membership of the Club at the close of 1914 numbered 503, which is 64 more than in any previous year. *THE CONDOR* for 1914 contained 278 pages, being 26 pages more than for any preceding volume. Pacific Coast *Avifauna* number 10 was published during the year at a cost of \$376.11. The edition of this, as also of *THE CONDOR*, was

1000. The full report, as compiled by W. Lee Chambers, goes into great detail; an abbreviated version is as follows:

Dues received during 1914.....	\$1011.67
Subscriptions during 1914.....	227.70
Advertisements	32.00
Sale of Avifaunas	71.88
Sale of back Condors	101.68
Donations	65.00
Refunds	5.61
Total receipts	\$1515.54
In bank January 2, 1914.....	648.36
Total cash assets	\$2163.90
Printing of Condor	\$ 975.18
Engraver's bills	219.28
Expended on Avifauna account.....	437.29
Editorial expenses	22.72
Business Managers' expenses.....	162.47
Southern Division expenses.....	27.85
Northern Division expenses.....	40.70
Sundry expenses	56.55
Total expenditures	\$1942.04
In bank January 2, 1915.....	221.86
	\$2163.90

COMMUNICATION

A NATIONAL BIRD CENSUS

Editor, *THE CONDOR*:

A preliminary census of the birds of the United States was undertaken by the Bureau of Biological Survey during the spring of 1914. The results were so encouraging that the work is to be repeated during the spring of 1915 on a larger scale, and will probably be repeated yearly thereafter in order to obtain permanent records showing the fluctuations in the bird population of the United States. Observers are particularly desired in the West and South and it is hoped that the readers of *THE CONDOR* will be able to render valuable assistance in the campaign for the coming season. Anyone familiar with the birds nesting in his neighborhood can help, more particularly as only about the equivalent of one day's work is needed.

The general plan is to select an area containing not less than 40 nor more than 80 acres that fairly represents the average conditions of the district with reference to the proportions of plowed land, meadowland, and woods, and go over this selected area early in the morning during the height of the nesting season and count the singing males, each male being considered to represent a nesting pair. In the latitude of Washington, D. C., the best time is the last week in May; in the South the counting should be done earlier; while in New England and the northern part of the Mississippi Valley about June 10 is the proper time. The morning count should be supplemented by visits on other days to make sure that all the birds previously noted are actually nesting within the prescribed area and that no species has been overlooked.

Readers of *THE CONDOR* and others who are willing to volunteer for this work are