

New York, April 3, 1865, and moved to Kalamazoo in 1872. His favorite study was ornithology, and his collection of birds, nests, and eggs is one of the best in his State. The many friends who enjoyed the privilege of Pomeroy's acquaintance bear witness to his kindly nature and earnest helpfulness. Although always residing in the East, he was deeply interested in Western ornithology, and followed closely the results of the work of others, as reported in current magazines.

Dr. Barton W. Evermann and Mr. Joseph Mailliard spent a week in April in the Kern Valley district of the extreme southern Sierra Nevada. Their prime object was to learn further details of the manner of occurrence of the remarkably restricted Kern Red-winged Blackbird, lately described by Mr. Mailliard. The trip was a success, and the results will be reported in due time.

COMMUNICATION

BECK AT CAPE HORN

Editor THE CONDOR:

Having rounded the Horn safely in our twelve-ton cutter, and being anchored within fifteen miles of that well-known landmark waiting for one of the ordinary gales to let up, a line to you will pass away a few minutes until the candy boiling on the floor of the cabin on a seventy-eight-cent oil stove bought in San Francisco is pronounced by Mrs. Beck ready for eating. We passed somewhat closer to Cape Horn than do most of the passers-by, going inside the two outer rocks which lie a half mile or so to the southward.

The blue-eyed, white-breasted cormorants were nesting on a pinnacle rock to the westward, recalling the murre rookeries of Alaskan islands. Albatrosses and sooty shearwaters sailed high and low about us. Skuas flew by in rapid flight to some distant fishing point, and frequently penguins would show for a brief moment above the choppy sea.

If the captain of the boat had not been so anxious to take me back alive to Punta Arenas, I might have landed and gone up on top of the Horn for a look around; but the uncertainty of the winds and their rapid changing from one point to another, as well as the sudden manner in which they increase most forcefully in strength, prevented. As it was, the nice breeze we had, picked up after dinner into half a gale, and it felt most comfortable to run into a sheltered cove and anchor.

In the last five weeks, three days have passed without rain, snow or hail, and I'm hoping for as many more on the return trip. Some days but a squall or two, and others a continual drizzle, makes the raincoat constantly necessary. Compared with the off-shore ranging of the common California albatross, the fishing here by the common albatross in these southern channels bordered on either side by snow-topped hills is interesting. The island land-bird life is rather barren though, as compared with the Aleutian Islands of Alaska. One misses the ptarmigan, the cheery snowflake and the brightly colored leucosticte, although the latter has a counterpart here in a rarely noticed, black-chinned finch that inhabits rocky hillsides. Sea-birds are plentiful, and I have seen nesting colonies of terns, gulls, shags, penguins, shearwaters, and albatrosses.

Sincerely,

R. H. BECK.

Cape Horn, Chili, January 3, 1915.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

REPORT ON BIRDS COLLECTED AND OBSERVED DURING APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE, 1913, IN THE OKANAGAN VALLEY, FROM OKANAGAN LANDING SOUTH TO OSOYOOS LAKE. By E. M. ANDERSON. (Report of the Provincial Museum of Natural History for the year 1913, Victoria, British Columbia, Jan., 1914, pp. 7-16.)

REPORT OF BIRDS COLLECTED AND OBSERVED DURING SEPTEMBER, 1913, ON ATLIN LAKE, FROM ATLIN TO SOUTH END OF THE LAKE. By F. KERMODE and E. M. ANDERSON. (*Ibid.*, pp. 19-21.)

BIRDS COLLECTED AND OBSERVED IN THE ATLIN DISTRICT, 1914. By E. M. ANDERSON. (Report of the Provincial Museum of Natural History for the year 1914, Victoria, British Columbia, January, 1915, pp. 8-17.)

The lists contained in the above cited papers include what may be accepted as practically complete catalogues of the summer birds of the regions treated. As little or nothing has been published heretofore regarding the birds of the Atlin district and of Okanagan Valley, of extreme northern and extreme southern British Columbia, respectively, these contributions are consequently of importance, and as evident care was taken in the collection and proper identification of specimens, they may be taken as authoritative.

From Okanagan Valley one hundred and twenty-nine specimens are listed; from the

Atlin district, eighty-four summer birds and thirty-five in the September list. Some species were found new to British Columbia, and there are many records of interest as regards distribution. The comments under each species are condensed; including little more than brief statements of the manner of occurrence. On pages 17 and 18 of the 1914 report is a list of errata in the Okanagan paper. These are mostly corrections of names used, in most instances closely related subspecies having been confused.

It seems a pity that papers of such value and of such general interest should be buried in museum reports where they are lost to those most interested. They have evidently escaped the notice of even so thorough and careful a searcher of ornithological literature as is the reviewer of the *Auk*! Also but scant justice is done to either collection or author, for statements must be condensed to the utmost, and many interesting phases of the collections passed over without comment. The exceedingly brief account of the nesting of the Bohemian Waxwing in the Atlin district, where four sets of eggs were found, is but one instance of many, of facts of life history, manner of occurrence, etc., that would bear carefully detailed treatment. In these same annual reports there are included similarly abbreviated lists of mammals, insects, etc., from the Atlin and Okanagan districts.

While the subject matter of these various lists is, as far as it goes, evidently authoritative and a welcome addition to our knowledge of the biota of the regions involved, the editorial treatment of the papers can not be commended. While care has been taken to ascertain the proper names of the species listed, punctuation and general typographical treatment of these names is not uniform, nor do they accord with current usage. Also there are many errors of typography throughout the several papers.—H. S. SWARTH.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

JANUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division was held at the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, January 21, 1915, at 8 p. m. President Bryant was in the chair with the following members present: Mesdames Allen, Bryant, Grinnell and Schlisinger, the Misses Andrews, Atsatt, Conger, Dolbear and Wythe, and the Messrs. Bolander, Camp,

Carriger, Dice, Evermann, Grinnell, Joseph Mailliard, McAtee and Storer. Visitors present were: Mr. and Mrs. Newberry, Mrs. Kluger, Miss Dora Lemon, and Mr. F. Martens.

The Northern Division December, 1914, minutes were read and approved and the Southern Division December minutes were read. The following were elected to membership: J. N. Kendall and the seven persons proposed by the Southern Division in November. The following applications for membership were read: J. H. Paul, 1320 East 2d Street South, Salt Lake City, Utah, by A. O. Treganza; Irwin C. Schumacher, Yuba City, and G. F. Sutherland, East Hall, University of California, Berkeley, both proposed by A. L. Barrows, and two received by the Southern Division in December. The resignation of Mr. Charles H. Richardson was accepted.

A written communication from Mr. W. Otto Emerson was received asking that the Club endorse a movement to have ornithology made a required subject in the grammar schools. The matter was laid on the table.

Election of officers resulted as follows: President, Joseph Mailliard; Vice-president, Walter K. Fisher; Secretary, Tracy I. Storer. For the offices of Editor of the *CONDOR* and Business Managers the present incumbents were re-elected, namely, Joseph Grinnell, editor; W. Lee Chambers and J. Eugene Law, business managers.

Tracy I. Storer gave a short demonstration of a new method of photographing freshly killed specimens of animals.

H. C. Bryant briefly summarized the changes in game laws proposed in the California Legislature. Shorter seasons, smaller bag limits, and extending a measure of protection to species not now protected, are the important changes to receive attention.

The Division was fortunate in having Mr. W. L. McAtee of the Bureau of Biological Survey present. Mr. McAtee spoke of the economic work being done by the Survey on birds. A re-examination of the Crow and English Sparrow problems, investigation of disease among ducks on inland bodies of water in the West, studies of the food habits of thrushes, swallows, wrens, thrashers and titmice, also nighthawks and poor-wills, the damage being done to the oyster industry in Washington, the damage done by sapsuckers to forest trees, and the special methods to be used in attracting birds in different parts of the United States, are some of the problems which the economic ornithologists of the Survey have been or are now working upon. A general discus-