

Redheads vary from 1½ lbs. to 1¾ lbs.; Canvasbacks from 1½ lbs. to 2½ lbs. Very few of these are killed here.

Gadwalls (scarce) weigh around 1¾ lbs.

Spoonbills vary from 1 lb. to 1½ lbs.

Green-winged Teal early in the season weigh ¾ lbs. The few stragglers that winter here drop to ½ lbs.

None of these figures include cripples, since these are often abnormally emaciated.—ALDO LEOPOLD, *Secretary New Mexico Game Protective Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico, February 1, 1919.*

**The Summer Tanager in California.**—On March 10 of this year I took a specimen of the Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) in the Arroyo Seco between Los Angeles and Pasadena, California. The specimen was submitted to the members of the Southern Division of the Cooper Club and was also critically examined by Messrs. Grinnell and Swarth of the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. All agree upon the specific identity of the bird, although Grinnell and Swarth find slight divergences from the typical subspecies, *P. r. rubra*, and suggest that an extralimital race may be represented. It is not *P. r. cooperi*. The specimen, an immature male, has been deposited in the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, where the writer considers that all state records should be preserved.

The bird was quite shy and could not be approached within range. Only through repetition of the call note was it secured. Evidence of its having been in captivity is lacking and the wariness would point to its being an untamed bird, though the possibility must be conceded.

It may interest those collectors who think lightly of the collecting pistol as not sufficiently business-like, to know that this specimen and one other state record (Louisiana Water-thrush) would not have been secured except for such an arm.—LOYE MILLER, *State Normal School, Los Angeles, California, April 10, 1919.*

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The Cooper Club membership roster appearing in this issue of THE CONDOR shows that the Club is now made up of 6 Honorary members and 585 Active members. We are indebted to Mr. J. Eugene Law for compiling this annual roster, as has been the case now for several years passed. Corrections or changes should continue to be reported to Mr. Law, whose address is now the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, he having recently joined the staff of that institution as Curator in Osteology.

The many friends of Major Allan Brooks will rejoice in his recent safe return home after nearly five years service, with the Canadian army in France, almost from the very start of the war. One can imagine his delight to be once again among the forests and mountains of his own land, British Columbia. Accomplished as artist, accurate as observer, and skillful as collector, Brooks does highest credit to the science of ornithology and to the organizations to which he belongs, which promote this science.

Believing that a better knowledge of wild life will bring about better conservation of it, and that when people are on their summer vacations they are most responsive to appeal on this score, the California Fish and Game Commission backed by the Nature Study League will institute this coming summer a series of lectures and nature study field trips designed to stimulate interest in the proper conservation of natural resources. The Tahoe region has been selected for the work this year and lectures and field trips which will be open to the public without charge will be offered at six different resorts during the month of July. Illustrated lectures by Dr. H. C. Bryant on the game birds, song birds, mammals, and fishes will furnish evening entertainment, and early morning trips afield will give vacationists an introduction to mountain wild life. The motto of these classes will be: "Learn to read a roadside as one reads a book." Special excursions for children will be conducted.

The Organization Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists was held in the New National Museum, Washington, D. C., April 3 and 4, 1919, with a charter membership of over two hundred and fifty. The following officers were elected: C. Hart Merriam, President; E. W. Nelson, First Vice-President; Wilfred H. Osgood, Second Vice-President; H. H. Lane, Recording Secretary; Hartley H. T. Jackson, Corresponding Secretary; Walter P. Taylor, Treasurer. The Councilors are: Glover M. Allen, R. M. Anderson, J. Grinnell, M. W. Lyon, W. D. Matthew, John C. Merriam, Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., T. S. Palmer, Edward A. Preble, Witmer Stone, and N. Hollister, Editor. The policy of the Society will be to devote its attention to the study of mammals in a broad way, including life histories, habits, evolution, palaeontology, relations to plants and animals, anatomy, and other phases. Publication of the *Journal of Mammalogy*, in which popular as well as technical matter will be presented, will start this year. Anyone who qualifies for membership before the next annual meeting will be considered a charter member.

Addition to Military Service Record: SIMMONS, George F., Second Lieutenant, Sanitary Corps, Adjutant, Base Hospital no. 130, Camp Shelby, Miss. Discharged December 18, 1918. Mr. Simmons is now resuming his ornithological studies at the University of Texas.

The Summer Session of the University of California at Berkeley will be held this year from June 30 to August 9. Two courses of special interest to students of birds will be given, one on "The Birds of California" and the other pertaining to "Economic Vertebrate Zoology"; both to be conducted by Associate Professor J. Grinnell and based on the collections and equipment of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

Merrill W. Blain died at his home in Los Angeles on December 26, 1918. He was born at Oceanview, California, April 24, 1894, and received his early education in San Francisco. At the time of his death Blain was a third-year student in the Detroit College of Medicine and Surgery. He was an enthusiastic ornithologist and was a member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, the Wilson Ornithological Club and the American Ornithologists' Union. He had a well cared for collection of the birds and eggs of southern California. Blain had returned to California in the hopes of regaining his health and was for some months in a sanitarium, but he continued to fail. He was buried in southern California amid the hills and flowers he loved so well.

The Business Managers' report for the year 1918 has been presented to the two Divisions of the Cooper Ornithological Club by Messrs. Law and Chambers. Some of the more important features of their statement are as follows: In 1918, CONDOR fund receipts amounted to \$1258.46, Avifauna receipts, \$105.73; January 1, 1918, there was in bank \$8.68. Total available funds for 1918, \$1372.87. Expenditures, from CONDOR fund (which includes administrative expenses of the Club), \$1173.06, from Avifauna fund, \$9.31, a total of \$1182.37. Balance in bank, January 1, 1919, \$190.50. Deducting from this balance dues and subscriptions already received for 1919 and subsequent years (\$127.10), and there is left \$63.40, which represents the net balance on hand with all debts paid.

There were printed 1100 copies of each issue of volume 20 (1918) of THE CONDOR. The printing of this volume, with 226 pages, cost \$920.36, as compared with \$892.55 for volume 18 (1916), with 250 pages. Receipts during 1918 were the least of any year since 1913, but careful retrenchment kept disbursements at a lower figure than for any year since 1912,—this despite the fact that the cost per page of printing THE CONDOR is greater than ever before.

In last year's report the business managers ventured the prediction that January 1, 1919, might see the Club entirely solvent. Happily, this has been realized, and, for the first time in the twenty years of THE CONDOR's existence, the old year makes a small contribution to the new. The Club began 1919 with an actual cash surplus of \$63.40, and all debts paid.

The publication of Avifauna 13, the Second Ten Year Index to THE CONDOR, has been undertaken, and will again throw the Club in debt. The earlier numbers of the Avifauna series were published, and the cost successfully met, at a time when each new issue only increased an already excessive deficit, a condition requiring much optimism on the part of the business managers and a great deal of patience on the part of the Club's creditors. Now, with no deficit and with an established demand for the Club's publications, it is reasonable to assume that the sale of Avifauna 13, together with earlier numbers, will all but pay the cost of publication. But there is much more material available for production in this series, no less than four numbers being now in course of preparation, some with the manuscript well toward completion. The production of these papers presents a problem to be met during the coming year. The Business Managers invite suggestions as to

how this situation may best be handled to the interests of the Club at large.

DEPARTMENT OF ORNITHOLOGY AND MAMMALOLOGY OF THE MUSEUM OF THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—The Museum of the California Academy of Sciences has recently acquired by gift the entire ornithological and oological collection of John W. and Joseph Mailliard. The collection is devoted exclusively to North American birds. There are about 11000 skins representing 777 species. The oological collection contains more than 13000 specimens, in 5240 sets representing more than 600 species.

This is one of the largest and best selected collections in western America, and contains numerous specimens of species that are now rare or that possess unusual interest because of locality or other important fact. The collection represents the joint work of the Mailliard brothers during their many years of field work and study of American birds. The collection is especially valuable because of the unusually full and carefully kept records that accompany the specimens.

The water birds have already been installed in the Academy Museum; the land birds and the nests and eggs will remain at the residence of Mr. John W. Mailliard for the present, until adequate facilities for properly housing them are provided at the Museum.

With the transfer of ownership of the collection to the Academy of Sciences, and at the urgent request of the Council of the Academy, Mr. Joseph Mailliard consented to accept the Honorary Curatorship of Ornithology in the Museum. Having retired from active business, Mr. Mailliard is able to give practically his entire time to curatorial work in the Department, to field work for enlarging the collection where insufficiently represented, and in research work.

The Academy has also secured the services of Mr. Luther Little, formerly of Los Angeles, as Assistant Curator of Ornithology and Mammalogy. Mr. Little is a member of the Southern Division of the Cooper Club, has had considerable experience as a collector and student of birds and mammals, and is regarded by the Academy as a decided acquisition to its Museum staff.—B. W. E.

#### PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

THE ANIMAL LIFE OF GLACIER NATIONAL PARK.—The animal life of our national parks is one of their best recreative assets. The cliffs, the lakes, the waterfalls, and the for-

ests each and together tend to stimulate the senses and the mind to pleasurable excitement; and the efforts to secure these pleasures in full measure bring vigorous bodily exercise. But the animals, provided interest in them is once aroused, undoubtedly constitute a more subtle and even more alluring objective, one that brings into play at keenest pitch those more or less latent senses and instincts which were of vital importance in the earlier stages of human history. For, among mammals, large and small, and among birds and insects, one encounters the moving, elusive objective, the one characterized by mannerism, by changing form, color tone and pattern, and by sound of great variety. Moreover, the animal life, and the plant life too, presents innumerable problems of interrelations, of interdependences and of struggles for mastery—the contemplation of any one of which will provide unlimited stimulus for intellectual activity and enjoyment.

Despite our belief in the instinctive human appeal of all these things, the average human of today must be re-introduced, as it were, to this field of appreciation. A valuable service in this regard depends for performance upon those persons and agencies possessing the naturalist's knowledge and possessing also the power to make this available to the people at large. People must be instructed at least to that most desirable point where each will pursue eagerly and independently his own study of natural history. A splendid move has been made on the part of our National Park Service in the direction of realizing upon this special value of national parks by the inaugurating of a series of papers setting forth the more attractive features of their wild life.

The first separate publication of the Department of the Interior dealing solely with the animal life of any one national park is the one just published and entitled "Wild Animals of Glacier National Park."<sup>1</sup> Happily enough, the account of "The Mammals" is provided by Vernon Bailey, and that of "The Birds" by Florence Merriam Bailey; for each of these authors is exceptionally qualified to handle his subject both by reason of adequate field experience throughout the west generally as well as within the area dealt with in particular, and by reason of skill to put his knowledge into comprehensible language and to develop an enthusiastic

<sup>1</sup>Department of the Interior, National Park Service (Washington, Gov't Printing Office), 1918; 210 pp., 37 pls., 94 text figs. Our copy received March 6, 1919. Price 50 cents.