

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

A recent number of the *Museum Graphic*, house organ of the Los Angeles Museum, contains an article by Mr. L. E. Wyman entitled "Side-lights on the 'Mouse Invasion'". In unusually clear and forceful wording, Mr. Wyman enunciates a principle far too seldom recognized, or, if perceived at all, then ignored. He says: "In this Buena Vista Lake region, as in all California, hawks and owls have been killed almost to extermination, with practically no interference by the officials whose duty it is to enforce laws provided for the protection of such birds; while the four-footed mouse-eaters, as coyotes, skunks and badgers, are as systematically persecuted. Had these control factors existed in their natural numbers, the increase of mice would have brought them to the spot in thousands, and the plague would have been nipped at its inception. Once out of bounds, the pitiful remnants of the mouse-eating forces could serve only as mere onlookers at a spectacle which well illustrates the folly of man in tampering with Nature's well organized machine."

The frequent action of THE CONDOR Editor, in returning local bird lists to authors, is in many cases made necessary solely on account of lack of funds for printing. We, ourselves, are convinced of the value of good local lists; we think they ought to be published, and we do publish them just as often as we dare, in the face of the majority expression of our readers that other types of articles are more acceptable. We hope that with the growth in our facilities for printing we can publish more and more good local bird lists. As to what comprises *goodness*, we recall a most excellent article on the subject by Mr. W. E. Clyde Todd (*Osprey*, iv, 1900, pages 87-89). Residence for a considerable series of years in one locality is, of course, a prerequisite. Then there are such necessary adjuncts as extreme care in making identifications, down to the subspecies, analysis of floral environment, and many others which Mr. Todd so clearly sets forth.

The following incident comes to us, vouched for by Major E. S. Luce, U. S. A. On October 1, last, Mr. Edison L. Mouton, a regular Air Mail Pilot on the transcon-

tinental route, was coming into Elko, Nevada, from Reno. "When about a mile from the landing field and about 1200 feet above the ground", writes Mr. Mouton, "I throttled the motor about half and nosed the plane down in a gentle glide toward the field. I was looking out over the left side of the plane watching to see if there be any planes taking off or landing under me, when there was a shock. I looked over to the right side of the plane, to see the front middle strut knocked back along the lower wing and an eagle hung up in the stager wires. This let the lower edge of the lower wing belly up in the middle, giving the wing a great deal more incidence and resultant lift. . . . I finally made the field all right. . . . The eagle was of the Golden variety and measured 8 feet from tip to tip. . . . After landing at Elko the mechanics on the field called my attention to another eagle flying around a short distance from where I had hit the other a moment before. There was evidently a pair of the birds."

BIRD HAVEN

California ornithologists have been asked to contribute \$5,000 toward the fund of \$35,000 necessary adequately to endow Robert Ridgway's Olney, Illinois, acreage as a permanent bird sanctuary and as a perpetual monument to Mr. Ridgway. Only a fifth of our allotted amount has been pledged, and not all of this has yet been paid in. That there is justifiable hope of attaining the desired goal is indicated by the fact that of 596 possible contributors in this region only 58 have definitely been heard from.

In an earnest appeal to the group who are being given the opportunity to express materially their appreciation for a life of service devoted to the common cause, it can not be held out of place to state frankly some facts that do not seem to be currently known.

Robert Ridgway is now in his seventy-seventh year, and after sixty years of continuous and eminently fruitful service to his country he is doomed to retirement on a pension little more than sufficient to provide food for the hosts of birds that have for years fared on the bounty of Larchmound and Bird Haven. With sacrificing fidelity to what he justly considered the best interests of American ornithology, and with undeviating loyalty

to his obligations as a civil servant, Mr. Ridgway has never allowed himself to consider favorably opportunities that have offered him greatly increased financial returns. Museums, universities and other institutions of learning, by the lure of salaries impossible to hope for from Government, have sought in vain to avail themselves of his scholarship. This deliberate sacrifice of his material interests should appeal with particular force to those students everywhere who have profited by it.

There should be small need at this time to recall to the ornithological world its debt to Robert Ridgway. Let the well-thumbed and worn-out copies of Bulletin 50 in every laboratory in the world where North and Middle American birds are handled bespeak this obligation.

If and when the fund is completed and legally protected by the already incorporated Trusteeship, Mr. Ridgway will obviously and logically have the income placed in his hands for the upkeep of the Sanctuary. Failure to complete the fund will necessarily result in the forced sale and subdivision of the property on Mr. Ridgway's retirement. There will thus be lost to ornithological America a rare opportunity to do itself a signal honor, and to the birds a unique and invaluable haven of refuge.

The Cooper Ornithological Club as a publishing society has won for itself an enviable position in the field of zoological science. This has been made possible in large measure by the great hearts of its membership. As a further testimony to our generous impulses, and that we may meet our eastern brethren on the common ground of grateful tribute to our Dean in his ripening years, let us do our small share toward providing the fund asked for. Let us show him while he is yet with us to enjoy and benefit by it that we appreciate and measure the worth of a man by what he has done for others rather than by what he has done for himself.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

KURODA ON BIRDS OF FUJIYAMA¹.—Fujiyama is the most picturesque and romantic mountain in Japan. The present vol-

¹ Birds of Fujiyama. By Nagamichi Kuroda. Post 8vo, pp. 2+2+6+238+10, 4 pls., 161 figs. in text. Published by the author, Tokyo, Japan, December 24, 1926. Price 3 yen.

ume treats of the bird-life of that mountain, for much the same reasons, we infer, as certain natural history books do of National Parks in America. The visitor there will find more to enjoy, if he has this sort of a guide at hand. Furthermore, the ornithologist and zoogeographer will have new data regarding bird distribution of that portion of the world.

In the introductory pages, Dr. Kuroda, the well-known Japanese ornithologist, gives an idea of the vertical distribution of birds on Fujiyama. The mountain has an altitude of 3778 meters, and he finds it possible to divide the slopes into four different life zones. The highest zone has about 7 species of birds, the second zone about 25 species, the third zone about 60 species, and the fourth or lowest zone about 20 species. A total of 148 species and subspecies is listed in this book. In addition to that, there are 19 more species of the status of which the author is not yet certain. Referring to zones again, the author mentions that the avifauna is correlated with the local flora; and this recalls significantly what one finds on a similar mountain here, such as Mount Shasta.

Under each species, the writer gives its scientific name, common name, some references to literature, and localities and dates of record. A surprising number of the species have their counterparts in mountainous sections of northwestern America. A number of species are illustrated by photographs, most of these taken from mounted specimens, and not very good. The plates were painted by a Japanese artist, Mr. Kobayashi. The first three plates are beautifully colored, and well reproduced; the last one is a map of the Fujiyama region.

Fujiyama is one of the few protected breeding grounds for birds in Japan; it was made a game reservation in 1924. There are 82 passeriform birds recorded in Kuroda's list, 63 of them being breeders, 17 non-breeders, and 2 of uncertain status. Non-passeriformes are 66 in number; 55 of them are breeders, and the rest are non-breeders.

As early as 1880, Blakiston published a "Catalogue of the Birds of Japan", in which 39 species were reported from Mount Fuji. Since that time, many papers relating to the birds of this locality have been published; but they are widely scattered and not available to the average reader. During the summer of 1925, Dr.