

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

We are editorially happy to say that *three* different Cooper Club members have now offered their services in compiling the third ten-year index to *The Condor*, namely, Mr. Milton P. Skinner, Mr. Griffing Bancroft and Mr. George Willett. The generosity of each of these persons, in offering to commit himself to this task, can only be understood by one who has attempted similar undertakings and thus knows the amount of painstaking labor involved. Upon Mr. Willett has been conferred final choice, because of his central location and the library and clerical facilities close at his hand. He is beginning the work at once, and there is fair chance that the index will be ready for publication about the middle of 1930.

This note is to remind Cooper Club members that the award of the Mailliard Prize in Western Ornithology (one hundred dollars) is due to be made in January, 1930. As set forth in *The Condor* of last January (XXXI, pp. 40-41), this prize is open competitively to any member who submits written report, explicit though not necessarily technical in language, upon some phase of bird study carried on in western North America. It is the intention of the donor of this prize to encourage persons not located in actively scientific centers to make independent, intensive studies of living birds. Full details concerning this competition can be had through enquiry of the Editors of *The Condor*.

Old-time Cooper Club members will find much entertainment in reading Harry S. Swarth's History of the Club, an abundantly illustrated, neatly printed brochure of 80 pages. This was distributed, as a special feature of the evening's program, at the Fourth Annual Dinner of the Club in San Francisco. It is an accurate record of our early personnel and its activities, put together in attractive literary form in which a vein of humor frequently becomes evident. While this publication was privately printed for distribution on

the occasion mentioned, we understand there are copies still to be had by addressing either its author or Mr. W. Lee Chambers.

In Colorado, ornithological activities now center in the Colorado Museum of Natural History, at Denver, and in the University of Colorado, at Boulder. The State Museum, for many years maintained in Denver, has discontinued its natural history work and has distributed a large number of its ornithological specimens to the Colorado Museum of Natural History and a share of the mounted specimens to the University. At the latter place, where the Bergtold and Freeman collections totaling 1500 specimens are housed, new specimens are being added at a rapid rate. Courses in ornithology are taught during the spring and summer quarters, though but little research is undertaken. Items of interest are occasionally published. A recent major contribution of marked excellence was Junius Henderson's "Practical Value of Birds." The Colorado Museum of Natural History has assembled for the benefit of teachers, students and others interested, a practically complete mounted collection of the birds of Colorado, accompanied by selections of the birds' eggs. Some habitat groups of Colorado birds are on display and groups of South American birds are being added. Mr. Robert J. Niedrach, Ornithologist at the Museum, aids with the bird work in the schools and also directs Boy Scout nature work. The Director of the Museum, Mr. J. D. Figgins, has recently returned from South America, where he was collecting materials for exhibition purposes.

Dr. Erwin Stresemann, of the Zoological Museum of the University of Berlin, sends us the following information, of importance especially to bird banders. "*Chaetura vauxi* is wintering every year in great numbers in an old chimney of the coffee plantation El Zapote, near the Volcano Fuego (about lat. 14° 34' N, long. 90° 31' W), Guatemala. They arrive in December and begin to leave the spot in

March. At the end of March only a small number is left. They are molting during February and March and are not migrating back before the molt is nearly completed. Mr. Walter Wenzel, who drew my attention to this fact and published a note about it in the *Ornithologische Monatsberichte* (xxxvi, 1928, p. 76), has now started to mark the birds in the chimney with rings of the Biological Station, Helgoland (Germany). He ringed 99 of them on April 7, 1929, and is prepared to continue the scheme in 1930 on a larger scale. The guess, that the species is *Chaetura pelagica*, has proved to be an error. I since got a specimen for identification and found it to belong to *Chaetura vauxi*. It may be advisable to draw the attention of California ornithologists to this fact. A note about recovered birds would be welcome to Dr. R. Drost, Biologische Anstalt, Helgoland, Germany."

An item in "The official Record," United States Department of Agriculture (volume 8, number 20, May 16, 1929) records the shipment of some 3,000 live Mexican quail to Bologna, Italy, for "re-stocking purposes". These quail were brought into the United States from Mexico at Brownsville, Texas, and were shipped through an American importer on February 28 of this year. We can thus expect practically no limit in the transportation of game species from one place to another all over the world! It is curious to us that Government authorities should not only approve but apparently encourage such activities which are, admittedly by most serious students, of dubious propriety. In this connection, we see by the daily press that one Carl Ring, of the San Diego Zoo, is ardently advocating the stocking of southern California with various kinds of foreign pigeons and doves, so that our depleting "bird life would gain immensely". It is implied that our native Mourning Dove would in no wise suffer; there is "room for all". Fortunately San Diego has citizens of a sounder point of view. We understand that the San Diego Society of Natural History, through its Director, Mr. Clinton G. Abbott, has announced itself as opposing any such liberations of non-native birds. Mr. Frank F. Gander, another bird student of San Diego, asks cogently, "Why not practice conservation of what we have rather than replacement?"

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

APRIL.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on April 25, 1929, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 101, Zoology Building, University of California, Berkeley, with about one hundred members and guests in attendance. Upon the invitation of Vice-president Clabaugh, Mr. Joseph Mailliard occupied the chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for March were read and approved. Proposals of membership made at the March meeting of the Southern Division were read. New names proposed for membership were: Mrs. Helena E. Lindsey, Route 4, Box 30, Hayward, Calif., by Mrs. G. Earle Kelly; Mr. W. R. Penny, Hotel Carlton, Berkeley, Calif., by Genevieve S. Burk.

A letter of appreciation from Mr. J. Eugene Law was read, in which he thanked the Northern Division for its part in electing him to Honorary Membership in the Club. A motion was made by Mr. Clabaugh that since the Annual Meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club is to be held in the Bay region in May, the usual monthly meeting of the Northern Division be omitted. This motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Dr. Ritter requested help in replying to a correspondent who wished to know of some way in which he might divert the attacks of a Red-shafted Flicker upon the gable-end of his house. Mr. Clabaugh reported the finding of 26 occupied birds' nests among trees bordering a Fresno orchard on April 21. Ten of these nests proved to belong to mockingbirds. Mr. Mailliard reported the gratifying fact that California Clapper Rails are now to be seen along the slough near Mill Valley Junction in Marin County, and Dr. Bryant added that these birds have been noted also near Baltimore Park, a fact as gratifying as the increase, under protection, of Cranes and Band-tailed Pigeons.

Mrs. G. Earle Kelly gave the evening's talk, upon a "Trip to the Tropics in Winter". Leaving San Francisco on December 8 by steamer, Mrs. Kelly had the pleasure of studying birds at Fort Randolph, Panama, Cristobal, and the Barro Colorado Island Laboratory on Gatun Lake in the Canal Zone, in Jamaica,