

Bird-Love - March-April 1929

PERISH THE THOUGHT!

SHALL the California Condor go the way of the Dodo, Passenger Pigeon, and Great Auk? Formerly ranging as far north in our Pacific States as the Columbia River and as far south as Lower California, it is now reduced in numbers to some forty individuals, to be found only in a section of the coast range of south-central California.

Why have the Condors declined in numbers? What is the relative importance of known destructive factors? Are deer-hunters, shooting Condors with long-range rifles, primarily responsible? Is there no longer an adequate food-supply for the number of Condors now alive in California, or for an increased quantity of them? Specifically, what can be done to assure their preservation and bring about their restoration? These questions need definite answers.

Therefore, organizations and individuals in California, who have been in the forefront of efforts to obtain these answers and to stimulate action to preserve and protect these birds, are whole-heartedly and with enthusiasm pooling their knowledge and their energy in furthering the project of the National Association of Audubon Societies, whereby the University of California will conduct a three-year field-research program under the supervision of Drs. Joseph Grinnell and Alden H. Miller.

Other groups and individuals to whom great credit is due are the U. S. Forest Service, the Cooper Or-

nithological Club, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, the California Audubon Society, the California Academy of Sciences, the California Institute of Technology, the Audubon Association of the Pacific, the Los Angeles Audubon Society, the Pasadena Audubon Society, The Southwest Bird Study Club, Dr. Loye Miller, the Messrs. J. R. Pemberton, Robert T. Moore, W. Lee Chambers, Clinton G. Abbott, Laurence M. Huey, the late Ernest I. Dyer, Robert Easton, James Moffitt, Harry Harris, and Egmont Z. Rett, as well as the Messrs. Fred P. Cronemiller, S. A. Nash-Boulden, and Cyril S. Robinson of the U. S. Forest Service.

The National Association of Audubon Societies has undertaken to contribute \$4500 to the University of California to finance this research work. Of this sum, \$1750 has been contributed to date by certain individuals and organizations. Gratitude is due especially to Mr. Seward Brisbane, who has made the largest contribution and thereby made possible the definite launching of the project. It goes without saying that contributions to the Association by members and friends will be most welcome.

William L. Finley has well said, "These mighty creatures that in matchless flight cleave the heavens above our far western mountains and give such a stupendous thrill to the appreciative mind of the person fortunate enough to see them, should never be destroyed."