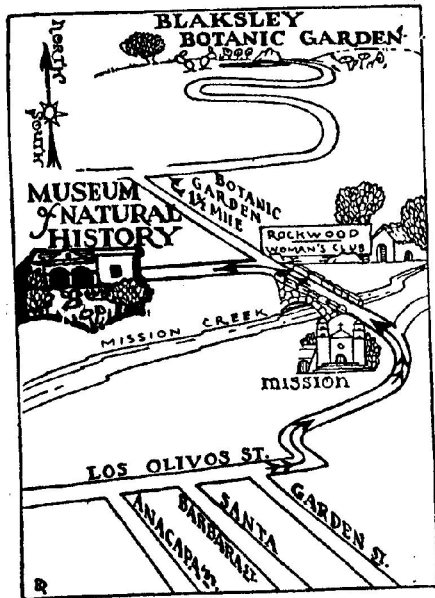


*Blue Grouse*

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### COLONEL CUTCHEON

The Museum feels very keenly the loss of Col. Franklin W. M. Cutcheon, who died at his home in Locust Valley, Long Island, on November 12, 1936.

Colonel Cutcheon had been a member of the Board of Trustees for eight years. In accepting his resignation in January 1935, the Trustees elected him to Life Membership "in affectionate appreciation of his years of distinctive service to the Museum, which has so greatly profited by his wise counsel and his clear vision respecting the Museum's objectives."

In the hope that the Museum might again have the benefit of his advice, Col. Cutcheon was re-elected as a member of the Board of Trustees on November 9, 1936—only three days before his death. His generous gifts of time and energy devoted to the Museum will not be forgotten.

### GROUSE AND CONDORS

During a single October week, the Museum became richer to the extent of four Mount Pinos Grouse and a California Condor. We are deeply grateful to the U. S. Forest Service for these valuable gifts.

The Mount Pinos Grouse (*Dendragapus fuliginosus howardii*), the only grouse in the southern Coast Range, was plentiful in bygone times on Mount Pinos and neigh-

boring peaks. For the past six years, however, it has been feared that the bird was extinct there. As recently as last October, a U. S. Biological Survey party searched for two weeks without finding any indication that a single one remained. Then, on October 14, three hunters were caught with four Mount Pinos Grouse that they had shot on the northwest slope of Mount Pinos. Incidentally, the hunters were fined heavily, and their firearms confiscated.

The four grouse, two young hens and a pair of adults, were brought to the Museum. All were fat and in excellent physical condition. The crops were stuffed with a mixture of short green needles from one coniferous tree, the White Fir, and seeds from another, the Jeffrey Pine. Though the birds had been damaged sufficiently to be unavailable for mounting, all four will make excellent study skins.

Were these the last four grouse in the Mount Pinos region? Probably not; it is a large, rugged area, and a few could easily escape the notice of searching parties. The hunters who took the birds state that a part of the flock was permitted to escape. If this observation is correct, and if grouse exist in numbers sufficient to enable them to withstand the depredations of natural enemies, they may repopulate the area in time. At best, however, their situation is critical.

In the case of our new condor, it is heartening to note that men had no part in its destruction. Two of these great birds were brought to the Museum. One, an adult female, has been mounted for display in the local forestry office; the other, an immature male which probably was hatched in 1935, will be kept for the Museum's study collection. This is a valuable supplement to the two condors in the Bird Hall, for it demonstrates the difference between immature and mature birds. Mature condors have bald, orange-colored heads, and large, conspicuous white patches beneath the wings; this immature bird's head was dark and covered with black down, and the patches beneath the wings had just started to whiten.

Both of these condors were found near the carcass of a horse in Peach Tree Canyon, about twenty miles northwest of Santa Barbara, on October 17. As their stomachs were practically empty, they cannot have been poisoned, and the absence of bullet wounds proves that they were not shot. Each bird, however, was badly bruised over an entire side, and each had a broken back and wishbone. Evidently both were killed by falling.

When the two dead birds were found, surrounding gullies were white with hailstones as big as walnuts. Apparently these condors had been attracted by the carcass,

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A CALIFORNIA CONDOR  
Held by MR. RETT  
One of the Mounted Condors  
On Exhibition in the Bird Hall

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and were caught in the violent hailstorm and stunned by the huge icy missiles while beating their way toward shelter. Still a third condor was seen, perched in a tree. A pair of condors has lived in the Peach Tree Canyon region for some years, and almost certainly it is that family of birds that met disaster. If so, their loss is doubly unfortunate; no other nest of condors is known so near to Santa Barbara.

The weights of the birds were: mature female, 18¾ pounds; immature male, 22½ pounds. Their wingspreads were identical—about 8 feet 2 inches. The accompanying photograph shows a condor measuring 9½ feet from tip to tip. These are fair average wingspreads for condors; a ten-foot bird is unusually large. Seventeen foot condors, often reported by inexperienced observers, are the product of unintentional exaggeration, although in Pleistocene times such birds actually did roam California's skyways.

Like the grouse of Mount Pinos, California Condors are reduced in numbers almost to the vanishing point. If the species is to be saved from extinction, it must be protected in every possible way. A part of this protection must extend even to the land that they inhabit, for condors cannot survive the encroachment of civilization. An attempt is being made to establish a wilderness area which will preserve their small

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remaining stronghold, and it is to be hoped that the project will meet fulfillment.

W. B. H.

#### OUR CHILD VISITORS\*

Probably more than ever before we are coming to realize that, in order to enable a child to adjust himself to life in our present complex civilization, his education must be broad—he must have had many varied experiences. The part that the Museum plays in his life should be interesting, stimulating, and educational.

We are anxious to help all grade school groups to enjoy their visits and to take away with them something that will broaden their outlook and that may open their eyes to the fact that wherever they go and wherever they live there will be something of interest. How much more readily we remember the flower, the bird, or the animal that we have actually seen than one in a story or picture! Books and pictures are indeed a help in any study, but unfortunately, so far as the wild things around Santa Barbara are concerned, books are more often a hindrance than a help, be-

\* Mrs. Cooke, of the Education Department, is now available to conduct school classes through the Museum on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings, and on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Appointments may be made by telephone.

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