

fornia condors, *Gymnogyps californianus* (Shaw), one just shedding the last of its natal down while the other, at the age of three years, has just acquired the fully adult head colors and gular swelling; black cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus banksi* (Lath); satin bower bird, *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus* (Vieill); and sacred ibis, *Ibis æthiopica* (Lath). A pair of ocellated turkeys, *Agriocharis ocellata* (Curv.), just acquiring adult plumage and coloring is perhaps the rarest species in the entire collection.

The series of American warblers is as complete as ever, and an excellent beginning has been made on the birds of our western deserts, as the following list will show: phainopepla, ptilogonys, white-rumped shrike, western blue grosbeak, pyrrhuloxia, house finch, western lark sparrow, lark bunting, gambel sparrow, western vesper sparrow, Abert desert towhee, dickcissel, dwarf, and red-eyed cowbirds, Sonoran redwing, Texas meadowlark, great-tailed grackle, Rio Grande green jay, besides many larger forms such as scaled quail, roadrunner, etc.

C. WILLIAM BEEBE,  
*Curator of Ornithology*

#### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE 1:1,000,000 MAP OF THE WORLD

At the Fifth International Geographical Congress at Bern, in 1891, Professor Albrecht Penck first proposed that the enlightened nations who were engaged in making maps of their own territories and of other countries should unite upon a common plan for the execution of a general map of the world. He suggested that the scale of the map should be 1:1,000,000, or about 16 miles to the inch, and that the separate sheets of the map should be so bounded by meridians and parallels that any one sheet would match any other except for distortion of projection, no matter by what country either sheet might be made. This proposal led to resolutions and discussions at successive geographic congresses and to several tentative maps made by Germany, France, England and the United States as essays toward the general plan.

At the ninth congress at Geneva in July,

1908, a resolution was presented by Mr. Henry Gannett, of the U. S. Geological Survey, with a view to the formation of an international committee to which should be entrusted the details of arrangement which should lead to more definite cooperation in the preparation of the world map. Following the adoption of that resolution and the recommendations of the committee at Geneva, the British government has recently sent out invitations to Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, Spain and the United States, for a meeting of the committee in London on November 16, to proceed with the standardization of the international map on the scale of 1:1,000,000. The British delegates will consist of representatives of Great Britain, Canada, Australia and India. At this conference the various details essential to an agreement on the preparation of a uniform map will be discussed and it is hoped adjusted.

The United States Geological Survey has for some time past been engaged in compiling maps of portions of the United States on the 1:1,000,000 scale and in accordance with a plan which is believed to embody the principal features on which agreement with other nations is expected.

In view of the interest which it thus has in the results of this conference, Messrs. Bailey Willis and S. J. Kubel, of the U. S. Geological Survey, have been instructed to proceed to London as representatives of the United States.

#### MR. KENNEDY'S BEQUESTS

By the will of John Stewart Kennedy, the banker of New York City, who died on October 31, in his eightieth year, bequests are made for public purposes amounting to nearly \$30,000,000. Seven of the bequests are of \$2,225,000 each, and are, respectively, for Columbia University, the New York Public Library, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, and to three of the boards of the Presbyterian Church. Bequests of \$1,500,000 are made to Robert College, Constantinople, and to the United Charities of New York. Bequests of \$750,000

are made to New York University and the Charity Organization Society of New York for its School of Philanthropy. Bequests of \$100,000 are made to the University of Glasgow, Yale University, Amherst College, Williams College, Dartmouth College, Bowdoin College, Hamilton College, the Protestant College at Beirut, the Tuskegee Institute and Hampden Institute. Bequests of \$50,000 are made to Lafayette College, Oberlin College, Wellesley College, Barnard College (Columbia University), Teachers College (Columbia University), Elmira College, Northfield Seminary, Berea College, Mt. Hermon Boys' School and Anatolia College, Turkey. Bequests of \$25,000 are made to Lake Forest University and Center College. A bequest of \$20,000 is made to Cooper Union. There are also a number of other bequests to hospitals and charities.

Mr. Kennedy was a liberal benefactor in his life time and probably stands third among men in the history of the world who have given most largely for public purposes.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PROFESSOR J. H. VAN AMRINGE, head of the department of mathematics in Columbia University, and dean of the college, will retire from active service at the end of the present academic year, when he will have completed fifty years of service for the institution and reached his seventy-fifth birthday.

THE Bakerian lecture before the Royal Society will be given on November 18 by Sir J. Larmor, on "The Statistical and Thermodynamical Relations of Radiant Energy."

PROFESSOR JOSEPH P. IDINGS is at present traveling along the east coast of Asia. In September he visited the southern part of Manchuria, making a study of certain Cambrian rocks there. He expects to visit Manila about thanksgiving time, and while there will take occasion to see something of the volcanoes on the island of Luzon.

DURING the past month the newspapers have printed more or less sensational and alarming reports with reference to a geological exploration party which made a trip during the summer to the east shore of Hudson Bay under

the leadership of Dr. C. K. Leith, of the University of Wisconsin. Under these circumstances it will be gratifying to acquaintances of the members of the party to learn that they have reached the railway north of Cobalt, Ontario, and will be in the United States before this notice is printed.

THE Telford gold medals of the British Institution of Civil Engineers have been awarded to Professor B. Hopkinson and G. R. G. Conway; the Watt gold medals to D. A. Matheson and W. C. Popplewell and the George Stephenson gold medals to E. H. Tabor and A. J. Knowles.

A GOLD medal has been presented to Dr. Oswaldo Cruz in recognition of his services in extirpating yellow fever in Rio de Janeiro.

DR. THEODOR WEBER, emeritus professor of medicine at Halle, has celebrated his eightieth birthday.

DR. SIMON SCHWENDENER, professor of botany at Berlin and director of the University Gardens, will retire from active service at the end of the present semester.

DR. AUGUST BRAUER, director of the zoological museum of the University of Berlin, has been given the title of honorary professor.

AT Cambridge University Mr. H. H. Thomas has been appointed curator of the Botanical Museum, and Mr. C. L. Boulenger, assistant to the superintendent of the Museum of Zoology.

PROFESSOR HARRY SNYDER has resigned the chair of agricultural chemistry at the University of Minnesota, which he has held since 1892.

SIR WILLIAM TURNER has been elected president, and Professor G. Crystal general secretary, of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

PROFESSOR L. A. HERDT, head of the department of electrical engineering at McGill University, has been appointed honorary secretary for Canada of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

PROFESSOR JOSEPHINE E. TILDEN, of the University of Minnesota, is at present in New Zealand, with leave of absence for a year for botanical research. Her courses at the Uni-