

There are unquestionably many of us who can add materially to the value of our papers by bearing in mind this need of definite records.

Very truly yours,

FRANCIS HARPER.

U. S. Biol. Survey, Washington, D. C.,  
July 19, 1917.

[The editor feels responsible for the omission above referred to for had he noticed it and called the authors' attention to it, the desired information would surely have been furnished. For various reasons it may seem desirable to withhold the *exact* locality for the breeding of rare birds, but there can surely be no objection in publishing the county, which except in certain cases of varied topography would doubtless answer the needs referred to by Mr. Harper.—W. S.]

### Appeal for Assistance in Work of the Biological Survey.

EDITOR OF 'THE AUK':

The Biological Survey, as is generally known, is engaged in compiling and collating distributional records of all North American birds and mammals. These records are compiled from all available published literature, from reports of field work by members of its staff, and from manuscript reports by voluntary observers throughout the United States and a large part of Canada. The Survey's file system of carded records doubtless constitutes the only source of fairly complete information regarding the distribution of North American birds and mammals, as at present known. As such it is constantly being consulted and utilized in the preparation of the Survey publications, the A. O. U. Check-List and its supplements, and the Indexes to 'The Auk,' as well as in various other ways.

The Biological Survey would take this occasion to invite all members of the A. O. U. to contribute bird migration reports and bird census reports for use in its work. Blanks for the purpose will be promptly sent to those who write for them. It is only by the accumulation of a vast amount of additional data that many problems in distribution and migration can be worked out satisfactorily. Reports from the South, West, and Pacific Coast are especially needed, and fall migration notes from the entire country are much to be desired. The importance of accuracy in all records can scarcely be over emphasized.

Since A. O. U. members are among the chief beneficiaries of this phase of the Biological Survey's work, it is hoped that this request for their cooperation will not go unheeded.

Very truly yours,

E. W. NELSON,  
*Chief, Biological Survey.*