

I would be utterly opposed to a change if it were to result in admitting a single incompetent person to the "active" list. The requirements should be severe and the honor only come to those who earn it; but there are a few who deserve it and should not be deprived of the honor because the number fifty is arbitrarily adhered to. Out of our membership of 90 I am sure we have two, possibly three, who would fill the requirement in every way. You will see by this number that I fix the standard high, and I would not expect that all would be admitted at once, but certainly one or two should be.

I have never heard of any good reason why this state of affairs should exist, perhaps it can be explained. Certainly there are many who would like to have the condition changed or else satisfactorily explained.

FRANK S. DAGGETT,

Pasadena, Cal.



The Club Collection of Birds.

Denver, Colo., March 21, 1900.

To The Cooper Ornithological Club:

Apropos of the suggestion of President Emerson that you aggregate a study collection of 5000 skins, and on the assurance that the collection is well under way, I will contribute 100 from this state, a representative lot, and give the club some choice as far as practicable in their selection. I should like to be informed of your plans for the keeping and handling of the collection etc.

Very truly,

FRED M. DILLE.



Publications Reviewed.

WARBLER SONGS. The Wilson Bulletin, No. 30. By Lynds Jones, Oberlin, O. Jan. 1900. pp 56.

Not since the publication of its valuable bulletin on the American Crow, under the direction of Mr. Frank Burns, has the Wilson Ornithological Chapter put forth such a complete summary of results in a given line of study as that embodied in the present *Bulletin*. From a field of study possessing an almost limitless range of results, Mr. Jones has gleaned enough substantial facts, and has so arranged his observations, as to form a most creditable basis from which to proceed farther in the work of warbler songs. This has been no easy task, especially the separation of the various warblers into the class whose song is most nearly like their own.

Two song periods are first defined,—the *diurnal* and the *seasonal*, and these in turn are subdivided into the "call song" and "passion song," between which the author distinguishes as follows: "The call song is the product of a deliberate purpose but the passion song wants no purpose. It bursts forth unbidden." Mr. Jones comments upon the difficulties of properly describing bird songs, and with him the majority of our observers will agree. He says: "This may be minimized by combining notes from many describers, thus securing a sort of Volapuk description, which will really be a generalized song possibly suggestive to most persons already familiar with the song, but practically useless to the novice."

Following a lucid introduction comes the descriptions of the warbler songs, divided into five classes. These are: 1. Thin, wiry high-pitched songs; 2. Songs of striking character; 3. Songs resembling that of the Chipping Sparrow and Junco; 4. Species whose songs resemble that of the Yellow Warbler; 5. Whistling songs. Under each heading appears the proper species and subspecies, together with numerous examples of their songs. It is obvious, however, that the songs of a genus are sometimes widely divergent in its several species; for illustration, species of the *Dendroica* group are found in each of the five categories. The paper ends with "A Field Key to the Spring Males." Throughout the work the author has embraced the observations of all recent writers on the subject, and the paper forms the neatest thing on warbler songs which has been given us.—C. B.



THE U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey steamer *Pathfinder*, which has been engaged in chart work about the Hawaiian Islands, has reached Seattle, whence she will leave shortly for Alaskan waters. Mr. Richard C. McGregor is acting as official photographer to the expedition.