

DEPARTMENT OF THE

WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL CHAPTER

OF THE

Agassiz Association.

The object of our organization is to facilitate intercommunication for our members, aiding our progress by the exchange of notes and observations, and to advance the interest in, and knowledge of, our native birds, by the reports of the members and the publication of the results.

We wish to secure from each locality a list of all birds found there, and full descriptions of all sets of eggs found, and habits observed. In addition to this information regarding all birds, the Thrushes, Warblers and Bluebird will receive special attention during the coming season.

To all ornithologists who desire to aid the progress of ornithology by reporting their observations, we extend a cordial invitation to become members of the Chapter. Many notes are annually taken by ornithologists, which, if combined with those taken by other observers, will prove of ultimate value, so we hope *all* notes of interest will be reported.

During the past year much has been accomplished. We are now organized for active work with a membership of eighty-two, thoroughly interested in the progress of the Chapter. State committees are now formed in New Hampshire, New York, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana and Texas, which, under competent ornithologists, are studying their local avi-fauna thoroughly.

The Melological Committee is under the able direction of Mr. S. Willard Bridgham, who has made bird songs a special study. The report of this committee, on another page, shows what they have accomplished in only six months.

The Oological Committee, under Secretary Lynds Jones, will pay special attention to nesting, while Mr. L. Otley Pindar will collect and prepare for us observations relating to geographical distribution and migration.

It will be readily seen that with these different branches of investigation before us, the most meagre notes, sent to the President of the Chapter or to the gentlemen assisting in the special committees, can be turned to some use.

During the coming season several questions will arise regarding changes in our constitution: the most important being that of the division into active and associate members. In all these questions we hope *every member* will carefully consider both sides of the subject and vote according to what seems to him to be best for the Chapter. It is only by a universal expression of opinion that we can arrive at the right conclusions. Suggestions for the improvement of our rules and methods are always in order from those actively interested in our work.

ACTIVE AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP.

The above question now brought forward was carefully considered at the organization of the Chapter, but it was then thought not to be advisable to adopt it until the membership had increased and a general sentiment was awakened in favor of it.

Within a short time several prominent members have proposed the division and the matter will soon be laid before the Chapter for decision. The plan has worked well in the American Ornithologists Union since its organization in 1883. The proposition is to have the active members consist of a limited number, selected from the whole membership by ballot, who shall pay annual dues amounting to enough to secure for them all publications for the Chapter.

The associate membership to be governed by the same rules as those in force now.

The election of officers and changes in the constitution being made by the active members. With this exception both classes of membership have the same privileges. The advantages of this change will be: First, an assured amount will be subscribed for the publication of reports. Second, necessary changes can be made more quickly than now (about two months being needed at present), and the active members being those most interested in the Chapter, any changes would be made only when it would be