

Let each member enter into the work heartily, determined to make our paper second to none in the field which it occupies.

The excellence of the paper will depend upon the interest taken in preparing articles, notes, and reports for its pages. We cannot offer each other prizes for best articles, but we can offer the first place and honorable mention to the best report which is forwarded to the President during the coming summer.

### THE WORK FOR 1892.

In the January issue of *The Taxidermist* we announced the scheme for work during the coming season. The group of Owls was selected not because it might prove interesting to all, but because it seemed too little known by very many members. The object always in view is to direct study in such a way and along such lines as will bring the most that is new and valuable to the greatest number.

Thus far the lists that have come in have been good ; but there should be more of them. Every member should not fail to make out his list and send it to the President at once if he has not done so already.

In order that all may not fail to understand what the work is, we copy the scheme from *The Taxidermist*.

“1st. As soon as you have read this make out and send to the President of the chapter a list of all the *owls* known in your locality, noting whether each is a resident, summer resident, transient (or migrant), or accidental. Whether abundant, common, tolerably common, or rare. Whether it breeds near you commonly, rarely, or not at all.

“2d. Study its habits carefully, noting where it stays ; what is its food ; whether it flies during the day ; whether it is harassed by crows and jays ; whether it approaches dwellings ; how it is affected by weather ; what is its cry ; study its courtship.

“3d. Breeding habits. Note : Whether it builds a nest or not ; when it begins to build or lay. To what extent it

appropriates old nests. Where is the nest situated. Proximity to dwellings. Actions when its nest is disturbed. Whether its cry is different than at other times. Study carefully all about the eggs; number, size, shape, color. Period of incubation. Whether the male assists in nidification. How long the young remain in the nest after hatching. What is their food. Whether they differ from the old in color. Whether there are marked phases of plumage during development.

“4th. Habits after the breeding season closes. Note: How long families remain together. When the moult begins; when it ends. How the birds employ their time. Economic bearing: Relations to poultry; to rodents; to insects.

“Whatever other points not given above occur to you, or appear as you proceed with your study, do not fail to make a note of them.”

The benefit of the season's work to you will be measured by the earnestness and faithfulness of your own individual work.

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## NOTES.

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Mr. Maxfield, the former publisher of the *Semi-Annual*, has found it impossible to publish the October number. His business was such that time could not be given to the paper. All will be sorry that this is so. To make good the loss we will forward to each member any back number of the *Semi-Annual*, or an extra number of the QUARTERLY, at their option.

We take pleasure in calling the attention of all to the work of Capt. Chas. E. Bendire, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C. The Capt. is preparing the life histories of North American birds, accompanied by plates of eggs, especially of the rarer species, and many illustrations. He desires information from all who may have interesting notes upon any species included between A. O. U. 382 and