

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

the Juncos. Already the first volume is in press and will be ready for distribution by Sept. next. It contains 414 pages of text, with index, etc., making the whole volume about 450 pages. Samples of the text may be found in the *Forest and Stream*, of Jan. 14, and Feb. 25, 1892, on Gamble's Partridge and Bald Eagle. All should be interested to contribute notes toward this work.

Any one who contemplates entering upon any work should ask himself: "Of what benefit will it be to me? Will it pay for the effort expended upon it?" If, after careful consideration, he decides to undertake it, he may reasonably expect that he shall receive interest upon whatever capital he may have put into it, provided he exert himself sufficiently to make it bear interest.

Many who contemplate entering into the work of any organization like the Wilson Chapter, may ask: "In what lies the advantage of membership in this over any other similar organization? Is there any advantage?" We do not presume to say in regard to the Wilson Chapter. Very likely it presents no advantages over other similar organizations. Its method is simply co-operation in study. Those who constitute the organization largely determine, each one for himself, the value of the organization as an aid in the study of our favorite science. Each worker has the advantage of becoming acquainted with the results of the work of all the others, and better than that, with the *methods* of work of each one. The best work is always systematized. If each of us will give careful attention to the forth-coming reports upon the various groups of birds, and to all that have been presented, we shall be able to select from each one some points of excellence which may enter into our own method and be of value to us.

A great advantage of our work is that it extends over a very large area—from Canada to Florida, California, and Minnesota. Not all, indeed, very few, of the intervening places are now represented, especially the west and north; but these extremes always give us the extremes of variation. As new members come in, filling up the centre, as

they do constantly, we shall not only have the extremes of variations, but will also be able to trace the variation from extreme to extreme.

To those who are just entering the field, our system of investigation cannot but be of service, in that it teaches them how to study, how to observe and note things as they occur. To those who are already initiated, the organization is a benefit, in that it gives them a wider range of study—something beyond their personal range. To those who desire to gain position in the ornithological field it is an aid in gaining that position. It offers a channel through which they may make their work known to those who are the leaders. It stimulates them to better work. To those who are already masters of the science the system commends itself for its disinterestedness in personal elevation, as well as its scheme of wide co-operation, aiming to bring together, as far as possible, those who could not otherwise know each other.

That the work of the chapter is worthy the name is assured by the fact that those who are the most interested in American ornithology seek after our reports. We now have on our table requests from the leaders in the science for back numbers of the *Semi-Annual* in which reports have appeared. This is encouraging. The results cannot but increase in value as the methods become more and more systematized. At first what we did was but little more than an experiment, now we enter upon the work confident of the results.

We cordially invite all who are interested in our work to join our ranks and so have a part in it. For further information concerning the organization,—its membership, official organ, and other details,—we refer the reader to our advertising page.