

Bulletin No. 3.

**The Wilson Ornithological Chapter.**

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**President's Address.**

It is with deep regret that I have learned of the resignation of President Clute, as printed on another page, and with some solicitude that I take up the duties he has so faithfully performed.

Only a few weeks remain before the annual election of officers, but circumstances make it imperative that some action with reference to the welfare of the society be taken at once. As president of the Wilson Ornithological Chapter, it is my desire to do all that lies in my power towards the success of our society and act in accordance with the wishes of the members.

What is the object of our organization and of what value is it to its members? Is it not that we may keep in touch with the beautiful science of ornithology and with those who study it? Our association should give us inspiration and stimulus for systematic investigation. Doubtless there are some who have not seen any good coming to themselves as members of the chapter, but those who have

worked and entered into the spirit of the society do not regret what their membership has cost them. As one of the founders of the chapter, I have followed its career with interest. It has been a source of inspiration at times, when enthusiasm was inclined to be low, and it has helped to counteract the influence of countless distractions. It is my wish that the chapter may extend its influence more generally among its members. If it shall be my fortune to have helped to awaken the interest of those whose enthusiasm has been at a low ebb and to bring before them the great value of active participation in the work of the society, I shall feel that my work has been richly rewarded and that the success of our chapter is assured. Every day I hear from members wishing the society success and offering suggestions which are of the greatest value to one in my position.

The chapter is now out of debt and is thus relieved of the heavy burden it has carried for some months. It will be our policy in the future to avoid contracting debts and to make the receipts cover all expenses.

I would recommend that some good journal of ornithology be secured as an official organ. Steps towards this end have already been taken. Such terms ought to be secured as would enable us to make the dues amount to very little above the subscription price of the

magazine. The sentiment of the members upon this subject is solicited.

We have read the reports on the Fringillidae of the committee under Mr. Lynds Jones, in the Wilson Quarterly, with great interest and have found the information given of the greatest value for reference. A committee under Mr. Frank Burns has been preparing for several years a very careful report on the American Crow, which promises to be especially valuable to ornithologists. This is now ready and will be published as soon as the funds in the treasury will warrant. On another page will be found statements by Mr. Jones concerning Warblers and new work planned. It is my purpose to appoint chairmen of several committees on special investigation in ornithology as soon as possible.

It is to be hoped that there will be great interest in these special lines of work and that the members will prepare reports for the various committees. The value of these reports of committees depends on how many contribute to them. Each member should feel it his duty to try to extend the membership so that as many localities may be represented as possible. The success, yes, the existence of the chapter in the future demands active and aggressive work by its members. There is no virtue in idly waiting to see what others will accomplish. If we wish to succeed we must

bestir ourselves and join the ranks of those who are making progress that we may gain their co-operation and sympathy in our work; receive inspiration and be stimulated to more active work; and, finally, have our views broadened and toned by those whose achievements are greater than ours.

REUBEN M. STRONG, President.

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**Resignation.**

Binghamton, N. Y., July 7, 1894.

*Mr. Wm. B. Caulk, Sec'y Wilson Ornithological Chapter.*

Dear Sir:—Owing to an unusual press of other duties, I find I cannot give proper attention to the affairs of our chapter, and herewith tender my resignation as President of the Wilson Ornithological Chapter, to take effect as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

WILLARD N. CLUTE, Pres't.

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Mr. Reuben M. Strong has accepted the office of president and his letter of acceptance, found on another page under the heading of "President's Address," should be carefully read by all.