

"common", "tolerably common", "abundant", "rare", etc., which we constantly meet with, do not tell the story. To get any adequate conception of the various relations of different genera and species throughout the country we need to make an approximate estimate of their numerical relations based on reliable data from different localities. Lay out a given section, however small, a pasture, a swamp-plot, or an orchard and count the exact number of each species you find present at a certain time. It is evident that by laying meadow to pasture and swamp to copse one may obtain a fairly accurate estimate of the bird population.

These two plans are submitted to the Chapter as forming the present work of the Committee on geographical distribution. The first must necessarily be continued for a term of years to be of more than individual value, but it is believed that it will, as a skeleton or framework of field observations, provoke a discriminating interest in the birds afield, which alone would be worth the trouble, and that if carried on it will afford useful material for correlation papers.

The second plan is evidently available for immediate service although publications cannot be undertaken until some considerable number of censuses have come in. All those who are willing to undertake this work are asked to submit their results to the chairman of the Committee for correlation and ultimate publication. W. L. DAWSON, *Oberlin, O.*

EDITORIAL.

When does the Whippoorwill arrive at your station? When does the Purple Martin arrive at your station? This information is earnestly desired from every member so that a record of the movements can be made, and the controversy over earliest arrivals settled. Write your earliest records for these two species on a postal card and mail to the editor at once. The records of previous years would also be welcome.

We gladly note the growing success of the new ornithological art periodical, "*Birds*," published by the Nature Study Publishing Company of Chicago. It has come to fill a want long felt and gives promise of being able both to interest the uninitiated and to delight the professed votaries of the birds. Each month a varied assortment of mounted bird groups from all climes is reproduced in colors, and every plate is accompanied by a simple descriptive text, together with a short talk to the children purporting to be by the bird itself.

Numbers 1-4 of the monthly have appeared, and while all the plates

are not of uniform excellence as to pose and fidelity of coloring, there is a determination to improve manifest and some of the color photographs must be pronounced superb. There is not a weak plate in the March number and the "Barn Swallow" alone is worth the price of the magazine.

Of course the periodical aims primarily to reach juvenile readers, but none of us have outgrown an appreciation of the faithful delineation of bird life. Hence a word of suggestion may not be deemed amiss. First by all means let the proper *scientific name* be attached to every bird-plate. A modestly printed Latin name (in parenthesis if you like) will not scare the children and will greatly add to the value of a picture in the eyes of those who care to know a bird accurately in its relationships. And along this same line too, while a bird is being painted so truly, why not tell us briefly what sex is before us? what seasonal phase of plumage is depicted? and what locality that precise subject hails from? All these points would add to the educational value of "*Birds*" and need not interfere in the least with its commendable work for the children.—W. L. D.

An invitation to attend the regular meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club, to be held in honor of the late Major Charles E. Bendire, has been received. The meeting, was held at the home of Otto J. Zahn, 427 S. Hope St., Los Angeles, March 27, 1897.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

The April election of new members resulted in the election of the following persons :

For Active Membership : Frank M. Woodruff, Assistant Curator Chicago Academy of Sciences ; Henry K. Coales, 136 Washington street, Chicago, Ill. ; W. S. Colvin, Ossawatomie, Kansas.

For Honorary Membership : Otto Widmann, Old Orchard, Missouri.

For Associate Membership : John W. Daniel, Jr., Lynchburg, Va.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The Birds of Colorado, by W. W. Cooke, Bulletin No. 37, Technical Series No. 2, State Agricultural College, Agricultural Experiment Station. A catalogue of 363 species of birds which have been found within the state, 230 of which are summer residents, and 51 are stragglers. The introductory chapter gives us a glimpse of Colorado topography and cli-