

and cat-tails, along with the Yellow-headed Blackbird, which are met with at almost every step. But many of the wren's nests were just finished or contained only partial sets.

Along the edges of the sloughs, the Tree Swallow nests abundantly in old holes of Downy Woodpeckers or Flickers, from five to seven eggs being laid; but rarely over five, which is the average set.

WALTON I. MITCHELL, *St. Paul, Minn.*

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## COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.

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"And now comes the dull season" sighs many an ornithologist, as he lays by his field-glasses and note-book and prepares to go into winter quarters. But this thing need not be. Winter is the best time to begin the work on the local *bird census*. At this time of the year the bird population of any given area may be not only estimated but counted with reasonable accuracy. Our editor has kindly consented to give space to census reports in the February BULLETIN. Let each of our members who can possibly afford the time, put in a day or two, this coming holiday vacation, taking the census of all the birds found in their village, or on the farm, or, if in the city, in the neighboring park.

Some of our northern members will be surprised at the number of Woodpeckers, Kinglets, Chickadees and foolhardy Robins which a systematic search will discover. List every individual and send the result, together with a brief description of the area examined and such remarks as occur to you, to the chairman of the committee. Such reports as are available for immediate publication will appear in the February BULLETIN, and the rest will be retained (with permission) as a nucleus for more extended work.

W. L. DAWSON, *Oberlin, O.*

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## ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

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An unofficial note from Mr. Frank L. Burns, Judge of Elections, announces the election of the following officers:

*President.*—R. M. Strong, Lake Forest, Ill.

*Vice-President.*—N. Hollister, Delavan, Wis.

*Secretary.*—W. L. Dawson, Oberlin, Ohio.

*Treasurer.*—Lynds Jones, Oberlin, Ohio.

A close vote for members of the Executive Council makes it necessary to defer announcement of that result.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

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*To the Members of the Chapter :*

If you will look up the official reports for the last year you will find that Mr. Jones had to contribute about twenty-three dollars toward the expenses of publishing the BULLETIN. In a personal letter Mr. Jones informs me the deficit this year will be about forty dollars. We all realize that it would be impossible for the Chapter to keep in existence without some means of communication. The BULLETIN furnishes the means needed. As the membership dues are not enough to meet the expense of publication, let us each contribute a little to make up the present deficit, so as not to put the burden too much on one. Are we not willing to blot from our account book this item ; "Contributed by the editor of the BULLETIN—forty dollars" ? Let us also try to secure a large enough subscription list to make the BULLETIN self-supporting.

Fraternally,

MILTON JUNCTION, WIS.

G. M. BURDICK.

[NOTE.—The reason why this year's deficit will be larger than last year's is, first, because we began last year with a little over seventeen dollars on hand and, second, because this year a special BULLETIN has been issued, costing about ten dollars more than an ordinary number.—ED.]

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## ERRATA.

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The following corrections should be made in the note on the breeding of Ruby-throated Hummingbird, p. 62. In line two read "May 29, 1896," and in line eight read "May 29, 1887."

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## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

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*Some Common Birds*, by P. M. Silloway. The Editor Publishing Company, Cincinnati, Ohio. In this volume, without the formality of a