

## THE FLICKER REPORT.

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Chairman Burns writes that he is in need of material for the "Flicker Report." Notes on identification and measurements of eggs are especially lacking. It ought to be possible for many members to make observations this spring; for instance, as to choice of nesting hole above the ground, manner of excavation, etc. There are many interesting things to be seen if one has the time and patience to watch the work of excavation regularly for a few hours every day, from under cover. The time of incubation, appearance of young when hatched, and the general life history of the Flicker furnish a fine field for original investigation of the highest grade. Careful study of the habits of one bird offers the best chance of discovering something really new to ornithological science.

R. M. STRONG, *President.*

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## INFORMATION WANTED.

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Responses to the call for 1898 migration records for Kildeer, Meadowlark, Bronzed Grackle, Robin and Bluebird have been numerous and gratifying, but a fuller report is desired before publishing the records. Will not *all* who have not already sent their records do so at once? Address Lynds Jones, Oberlin, Ohio.

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## EDITORIAL.

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There is now before us a pamphlet entitled, *The Destruction of Our Birds and Mammals*, by William T. Hornaday. Extracted from the report of the New York Zoological Society. March 15, 1898.

The appearance of this pamphlet, at a time when interest in nature study, and particularly in birds, is becoming so widespread, is cause for congratulation. The unimpeachable character of the author and the reliable sources of his information make us feel that the conclusions reached are absolutely accurate. No doubt many of us have realized in a general way, and with hardly any definite feeling about it, that the birds and mammals are really becoming fewer year by year. Those who may not have remained in one place or section of the country for more than a few years at a time probably attribute the greater scarcity to the different region, while others have given it no other attention

than "It was not so when I was young." But here we have in one brief review the opinions of one hundred and ninety persons qualified to give accurate information in regard to this decrease. We are therefore without further excuse for ignorance of the facts.

The "destructive agencies now in operation," according to this report, are eighteen in number, half of which stand out prominently as menacing factors. They are: Sportsmen, and so-called sportsmen; boys who shoot: market hunters and "pot-hunters;" "shooters generally;" plume hunters, and milliners' hunters; clearing off timber; development of towns and cities; Italians, and others, who devour song birds. Other agencies comprise so small a proportion of the whole that they scarcely need mention here.

While this report shows that the average decrease in the bird and mammal fauna of the whole country is forty-six per cent. for the last fifteen years, it also tells us that 154 species, including the *Gallinae*, *Columbae*, *Limicolae* *Paludicolae*, *Herodiones* and *Anseres*, are rapidly becoming extinct. These comprise the so-called game birds and plumage birds. If the slaughter could be confined to these even, the problem of adequate protection might be fairly easily solved; but as these begin to disappear the other birds, particularly the song birds, because they are so easily secured, are set upon and destroyed.

The problem, then, becomes one for universal protection for the birds at least. It is a problem not alone to be grappled with by the scientist and the legislator, but by every patriotic citizen of our country, because the destruction of the birds, which, at the present rate will be complete in the next fifteen years, touches every one in every walk of life. The utility of the birds is universally accredited and need not be mentioned here. The question is, what are we going to do about it? What is the attitude our Chapter should take in view of these facts presented by Mr. Hornaday? This is a vital question to us, because we are acknowledged students of the birds. Shall we not have an universal expression of opinion before the next issue of the BULLETIN? Let the question be, What shall we do as a Chapter? If you have no special thots on the subject, or no special reply to make, will you not state as briefly as you please how you stand with reference to the question? Let us not delay.

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### CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

Mr. Arthur H. W. Norton changes his address to Waring, Kendall County, Texas.