

EDITORIAL.

Our fellow member, John W. Daniel, Jr., as 1st lieutenant, 3rd Brigade, Rosser's Staff, in company with Dr. Edgar Mearns, is on his way, with the army, to Puerto Rico, where he will have opportunity to study the avifauna of our new island possession.

Again the heated term, coupled with the unusual interest in our war with Spain, has contributed to a dearth of copy for this issue. The editor pleads guilty to negligence in soliciting copy early in July, in the hope that solicitation would be unnecessary. But members should not wait to be asked to contribute short notes of interest; that is as much a part of the duty of membership as working for the committees. This number is both late and four pages short. Do not let this occur again.

Our Constitution provides that nominations for officers for the ensuing year must be made in September. As heretofore the September issue will be delayed a few days in order to announce the list of nominees. There should be no nominations for the office of Vice-President, since the person receiving the second highest number of votes for President is declared Vice-President. The list of nominations should be forwarded to President R. M. Strong, North Greenfield, Wis. Will not every member send in a list of nominations? By so doing your interest in the organization will be increased, and your zeal for study of the birds will receive a greater impetus.

Have we ever stopped to consider the real reason for the existence of our Chapter? What is its mission in the field of scientific investigation, and is it fulfilling that mission? Our Constitution declares that the object of the Chapter is the systematic study of Ornithology and Oology, and the publication of the results. But to furnish an excuse for existence the Chapter must have a mission as well as this broadly stated object. The mission, if we properly understand it, is the exhaustive study of some one limited topic, accomplished by the plan of co-operative study. The degree to which we are fulfilling this mission will find a ready answer in the mind of each member, for its fulfillment depends directly upon the earnest effort of each member. A complete fulfillment necessitates an exhaustive study of the object chosen by each member in his own locality. While a complete fulfillment can hardly be hoped for, on account of the limitations of time and opportunity of the most of us who are pressed by other duties, yet completeness can be closely approxi-

mated by earnest and intelligent attention during the opportunities for study. The mind must be trained to receive the impressions which eye and ear are constantly bringing to it. Probably the most of us are able to retain enough of a song, even once heard, so that we shall be able to recognize it weeks or years afterwards if it be repeated, but I doubt if more than a chosen few could imitate successfully even a small pittance of the more common songs and notes heard nearly every day. Then a secondary mission of our Chapter must be the training of the faculties for more careful and profitable study.

What have we done that will furnish assurance of future success? There is but one published report that is worthy of our high ideal—the Crow Report, BULLETIN No. 4—, but there are others under way. Mr. Frank L. Burns, the compiler of the Crow Report, has a similar work on the Flicker well under way, besides the several other investigations mapped out, for which see BULLETIN No. 19, page 26. It is earnestly hoped that these reports may be pushed to an early completion and published. Your investigations will contribute largely to this end.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Bird Tablet, for Field Use. By Josephine A. Clark, 1322 Twelfth St. N. W., Washington, D. C. Price twenty-five cents. Special rates to schools and classes.

In this *Bird Tablet*, Miss Clark supplies the need which every beginner must feel of a printed form which will at once furnish a record book which will enable the student to go to his key with a fair prospect of arriving at the correct identification of the bird seen, and also train him to look for the more essential points of structure, markings and habits. The beginner is too often led to stop with general impressions, giving little or no attention to details. This *Tablet* will correct that tendency, and prove to be an educator to eye and ear, and lead to a habit of discrimination, so necessary in the study of birds. There are fourteen main heads, with sub-heads under the most of them, and usually ample space left for annotations, besides two full pages for "Notes." While the printed descriptions are not intended to be exhaustive, they are sufficiently detailed to furnish a basis for intelligent work. Beginners in bird study will find this *Tablet* a useful field companion.

The Summer Birds of Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. By Francis R. Cope, Jr.