

Study the physical geography of the regions inhabited by the different races of Song Sparrows. Note differences in climate, due to temperature and humidity, also variations in altitude; and try to correlate them with the variations found in Song Sparrows.

It will be interesting to compare Song Sparrows with other species of Sparrows to see which are most closely allied and what characters are common. It is a good plan to attempt the construction of a Sparrow "tree." This may be largely a matter of guess work, but the attempt will help in obtaining a clearer conception of phylogenetic relationships.

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## THE WORK FOR 1899.

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This year, as heretofore, our work is naturally divided into two sorts: The more general study of the superficial features of bird life, often resulting in a glimpse into the inner life and thus throwing more or less light upon the many problems before us; and the more specialized work asked for by our committees. The general work requires less time and effort, and is often more entertaining to most of us. It certainly occupies a large place in present day bird study, and must always do so among those to whom it is merely a recreation or change from other activities and duties. It has its legitimate place and is certain to do great good.

The co-operation asked for by the committees on special investigations is work of the sort that must, from its nature, advance our knowledge of the birds materially if entered into with anything like heartiness by even a few. This is what we are organized for. It is for this purpose that our Chapter has continued these ten years to agitate the question of co-operative study among ornithologists everywhere. It is not too much to say that if every member would devote even what little time he may have at his disposal to the study of the Flicker, during the next six months, and make a report of that study to Mr. Burns in August, more would be known about that species than has ever been written. So it is with any subject upon which information has been asked. It seems difficult for us to understand that in this, as in everything else, it is the *little* things that count. The value of such reports lies in the range of comparison that is made possible by the work of individuals. It is not so much new things that are wanted as it is old things carefully studied and restated. Here a slight change and there a slight change made

necessary by a larger amount of material from the same or a greater range of country may change the whole aspect of the subject under discussion. We are not near the sunset of bird study, but rather scarcely yet behold the dawn.

The new committee on Variation, under the direction of President Strong, opens a wide range in the way of comparisons, and should bring the solution to some of the vexed questions in the classification of the lower groups. It will open new vistas in bird study to him who seriously enters upon the plan outlined by Mr. Strong.

The work on Geographical Distribution is one which can profitably be pursued every day, or during every outing of however limited time. It is a work full of profit and pleasure which will be one of the bright spots in the recollections of after years. He who does none of this sort of field study misses much of the pleasure of life.

The Migrations, Nesting, Song and Food of the Warblers are subjects that never grow old. There is room for years of work in each of them. There is no group of birds which yields larger profits for the effort spent in study than the Warblers. They will bear the closest acquaintance and always grow more interesting.

Let 1899 see a work done which shall make the close of this century memorable for lasting results.

LYNDS JONES, *Chairman of Work.*

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## EDITORIAL.

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We welcome to the field of ornithological literature the *Bulletin of the Cooper Ornithological Club*, of California. This new sixteen page publication is under the editorial management of Mr. Chester Barlow, assisted by Messrs. Henry Reed Taylor and Howard Robertson, and is published at Santa Clara, Calif. It is published bi-monthly in the interests of the Cooper Ornithological Club, and is a step in the right direction in bringing together the results for which this active organization has always been noted.

It is a pleasure to herald the reappearance of the *Osprey* after an absence of a few months. Its reappearance under the editorial management of Dr. Elliott Coues and Theodore Gill, with Mr. Walter Adams Johnson as associate and Louis Agassiz Fuertes as art editor, is a guaranty of success.