

THE WILSON BULLETIN.

*A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Study of Living Birds.
Official Organ of the Wilson Ornithological Chapter of the Agassiz
Association.*

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PUBLISHED BY THE CHAPTER, AT OBERLIN, OHIO.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Price in the United States, Canada and Mexico, FIFTY CENTS a year, FIFTEEN CENTS a number, postage paid.

Price in all countries in the International Postal Union, SIXTY-FIVE CENTS a year, TWENTY CENTS a number.

Subscriptions may be sent to Lynds Jones, Oberlin, Ohio, or to Mr. Frank L. Burns, Berwyn, Penn., or to Mr. John W. Daniel, Jr., 3146 Q street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

EDITORIAL.

The outlook for 1903 seems bright. We have a largely increased membership already, and the probabilities are for a still larger increase before the close of this year. The subscription list is constantly growing and the interest of all bird students in our work is showing itself more and more. We already have nearly ready for publication several papers which must prove valuable additions to our chosen science. At least one more Sectional Bird Census, a comprehensive study of Mourning Dove, a paper to follow Lorain County Winter Birds, on the breeding birds, and another to follow these two on The Terms Used to Denote Relative Abundance. These are some of the definite promises for next year. We hope, also, to be able to introduce our readers gently to some of the world problems in ornithology, by means of personal work in certain foreign fields which some of our members or friends have been doing. We have not exhausted America yet, to be sure, but a broader view can in no wise be detrimental to our understanding of our own birds. It should be a material aid. The world is so much smaller than it was five years ago that we begin to long for some of its good things beyond our own home land.

It may be of interest to readers of the BULLETIN, as well as to members of the Wilson Chapter, to learn something of what is being done by some of our active ornithologists.

Mr. R. L. Baird, one of our recently elected members, has finished his work for the Bachelor's degree in Oberlin College, and has gone to Denmark, Iowa, to take charge of an academy. He promises some interesting notes from that extreme southeastern part of Iowa.

Mr. Walton I. Mitchell, of St. Paul, Minn., will be graduated from the Hahnemann Medical College of Philadelphia, in the spring of 1903, and will return to New Mexico to begin practice. We may feel assured of his continued study of the birds in that interesting region.

Our Secretary, John W. Daniel, Jr., has been exploring the Dismal Swamp, and reports a very pleasant and profitable time there. Such places, especially if they be threatened with destruction, should be thoroughly explored at once, in order to determine the influence of the changed conditions in the years to come.

Our Vice-President, Mr. N. Hollister, Delavan, Wis., writes from Rockland, Texas, under date of July 12, that while the weather is *rather warm*, he is enjoying the work with the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture. They are working down Eastern Texas to Beaumont, and go from there to the Desert.

Mr. Harry C. Oberholser, of the Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture, writes from Texarkana, Arkansas, that he is engaged upon a state list of the birds of Texas. His remark that it is a good-sized contract is well to the point, since about half of the whole North American list is accredited to Texas. We await the results of his work with much interest.

Our well-known member, Mr. Benj. T. Gault, Glen Ellyn, Ill., writes under the date of Sept. 1st, that on the 9th Mr. George K. Cherrie, Brooklyn, N. Y., and himself sail for South America. Their destination is to be French Guiana at Cayenne. They will be gone all winter, and will be occupied with both Ornithology and Botany, with much else as incidental. It is needless to say that we shall hear from Mr. Gault. He has our hearty good wishes for a most successful and pleasant trip.

Our former Secretary, J. Warren Jacobs, Waynesburg, Pa., has about ready for mailing a neat illustrated booklet giving the results of six years' observation of his own fine colony of Purple Martins. We are pleased to note in a Waynesburg newspaper of recent date, editorial comments on the arrest and punishment of thoughtless "sportsmen" for shooting birds out of this colony.

Rev. J. Hibbert Langille, our Honorary member at Kensington, Md., is putting a revised edition of his "Our Birds in their Haunts" into the schools of that county. This book, in the original edition, was the second book on birds which the writer purchased, the first being Coues's "Key." "Our Birds in their Haunts" has always possessed the charm of bringing one closer to the birds as we actually find them than any other book among the many which now call for our attention. We are impressed with the feeling that the author has not simply gone into the fields and woods in search of the birds at all seasons and under all conditions, but has actually written on the spot much of what has gone into his book. We are glad that the school children are to be introduced to the birds by means of this book in its revised form.

Rev. W. Leon Dawson, of Columbus, Ohio, has temporarily laid down his ministerial work for the purpose of writing a book on the Birds of Ohio. The book will contain 80 colored plates and 200 half-tone reproductions of photographs. It will be in the popular scientific style, with full descriptions of the plumages and habits of every bird known to occur in the state (which includes 322 species to date), treated in 500 pages, of large clear type. It is to be exclusively a subscription book and will not be put upon the open market. The introduction and analytical and artificial keys will be written by the editor of the BULLETIN. In preparation for this work Mr. Dawson and the writer spent ten days together in the southeastern part of the state, along the course of the Ohio River, studying the birds and the peculiar conditions of topography of the region, and taking photographs of typical nesting-places of the birds which are found there in summer. Two half-days spent at McConnellsville with Messrs. C. H. Morris and E. J. Arrick were among the most enjoyable of the trip. Ohio lies so nearly in the transition region between the extreme east and middle west that its bird life is more than usually interesting. The plan of the Birds of Ohio contemplates making it by far the best book ever published on the birds of any state. The author's fitness for such an undertaking cannot be questioned.