

THE WILSON BULLETIN

A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Study of Living Birds.
Official Organ of the Wilson Ornithological Club.

Edited by **LYNDS JONES.**

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EDITORIAL.

This is the last issue of the BULLETIN at the subscription price which has from the beginning resulted in a deficit which the editor has always met. It has been impossible to print the BULLETIN for fifty cents a year. The advance to a dollar a year will be accompanied by a doubling in the number of pages and the introduction of a number of illustrations in each issue. The value of the BULLETIN will be more than doubled. 1908 will therefore mark an epoch in the history of the BULLETIN.

The editor has ready for sale reprints of the first three numbers of the New Series of the BULLETIN at fifty cents a set. These three numbers constitute the first volume of this series. The greatest care has been taken to make these reprints conform exactly to the original prints word for word, line for line, and page for page. The only changes are in the size of type—10-point instead of 8-point—and in correcting the spelling of about a dozen common words. The reprints are uniform in size with the other numbers of the New Series up to and including No. 29. We can guarantee their accuracy in the above stated particulars.

With the initiation of the new era for our BULLETIN the editor wishes to have it clearly understood that the character of the articles which will be printed in its pages will be improved both as to their bearing upon the question of contributing to our knowledge of the birds and as to typography and general make-up. It rests with each reader and member to determine how far the improvements can go as to the character of the matter. Unless you are ready to contribute such articles and notes as you may be able to, it will be impossible to make the improvement that is greatly desired. Won't you make this a personal matter and plan to contribute something during the year?

What kind of matter is appropriate to the pages of the BULLETIN for 1908? Well prepared local lists of regions which have not already been covered by such lists. Systematic comments upon the species of a region which was covered by a local list two or more decades ago, this assuming the form of a local list if there has been much or significant change in the bird life of the region. Carefully worked out and well prepared Preliminary lists of the birds of a region which is little known in a general way and scarcely at all known to those outside of it in a special way. As an instance: a list of the birds of Morgan county, Ohio, would be a welcome addition to faunal literature because the region in which that county lies does not appear in bird literature except in the general way of being covered by the state list. Such lists should be copiously annotated. Lists of the birds of a region which presents some marked peculiarities having a bearing upon bird distribution are always valuable. Lists of winter birds and of summer birds, when they are carefully worked out in the field, are also valuable. Records of careful studies of any phase of bird life are always acceptable and valuable, particularly the breeding habits. Carefully worked out censuses of small areas are earnestly desired for all regions. In short, the field is so wide that it would take pages to particularize.

The editor feels certain that his action in confining his work for the Club to editing its BULLETIN and withdrawing from the Presidency of the Club will commend itself to every thoughtful member. It has not been possible to properly attend to all of the duties involved in the double responsibility to the Club in addition to the regular duties of a teacher, and with the increased work which the enlargement and improvement of the BULLETIN involves, the burden would become impossible. The editor fully believes that the change will prove of great advantage to the Club. Its development and that of the BULLETIN can go forward together.

The Twenty-fifth Annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, held in Philadelphia, December 9 to 12, was the first meeting of this body which it has been the privilege of the writer to attend. One of the marked features of this meeting was the good fellowship which prevailed everywhere and at all times. The local committee's efforts to make this meeting a most enjoyable one were crowned with success. Most of the papers presented were of a popular scientific nature since the general public were invited to the meetings, but it was not difficult to perceive a deep undercurrent of the scientific spirit pervading those who are engaged in the active business of studying the birds. A great mass of facts has been gathered; we must now inquire what they mean. The next meeting of the Union was set for November 16, 1908, at Cambridge, Mass. It is not too early to begin planning to attend that meeting now. A fuller attendance of ornithologists would be of great advantage to the cause of the study of the birds as well as an inspiration to the individual.

GENERAL NOTES.

NOTES FROM BRISTOL, CONN. The following scattered notes may prove of interest as illustrating what seem to be unusual conditions in this vicinity during the past year.

Pine Grosbeaks appeared December 2, 1906, and were last seen March 31, 1907. They were unusually plentiful for this locality.

Evening Grosbeaks were first seen on February 27, the last day on which they were recorded. The males were in brilliant plumage, and at least one sang *sotto voce* on one occasion. We could see them eating maple seeds, and they appeared to eat snow. They were often within twenty-five feet of us.

On April 27 I had a rare experience with an American Woodcock. As I was walking in a woods with some companions a sitting Woodcock caught my eye just as I was about to step upon her. The bird made no least motion while I watched her, and while my companions came up and looked until they were satisfied. As I stooped toward her with extended hand she made no move until my hand was within six inches of her head, when she suddenly flew off. There were three young in the nest, one of which stood up and stepped out of the nest; another nestled down motionless except for a slight movement of the head. The air was cold so we hastened away to permit the mother to return and hover the young. Two days later I found four shells in the nest. Doubtless one of the eggs was covered by the young and was not seen on the first day. FRANK BRUEN, *Bristol, Conn.*

HENSLOW'S SPARROW IN OHIO IN 1907. The rarity of this Sparrow in Ohio makes its appearance in some numbers and at two widely sep-