

THE WILSON BULLETIN

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

Edited by LYND S JONES.

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The result of the vote in favor of ratifying the action taken at the Chicago meeting to provide for a regular annual meeting, and the ratification of the list of officers tentatively chosen at the meeting, is most gratifying. There are suggestions for changing minor points in the proposed constitution which will be taken up at the next annual meeting. There was no dissent of the list of officers nominated. Their names appear above. The total vote to date has reached 72, with all approving.

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A perusal of any number of the "Auk" brings out the fact clearly that at least in the eastern sections of the country there are many unusual

occurrences of birds. While it is true that more work has been done in those sections, and therefore probably better ground for knowing just what occurrences are unusual, we believe that in this particular the East does not outrank the Middle West. If all of the unusual occurrences for the region which we are supposed to especially cover are written up and sent in for publication, that department of the "Wilson Bulletin" would assume the importance which it should assume. Fresh notes of this sort right from the field not only add a peculiar interest to the magazine, but also go to show the activity of the folks who live and work in the region. Send your notes in.

The virtual reorganization of the Wilson Ornithological Club from a purely corresponding organization to one which will hereafter hold annual meetings marks an epoch not only in the organization but as well in the central districts of North America, which is the particular field of the organization. The region has witnessed the rise and fall of various organizations of a local character, but none has ever appeared even for a short period which served to weld together the men and women of the region who are interested in the study of birds and who are working in the same field. With such an instrument there should be, is certain to be, as substantial a growth here as we have seen along the two coasts where it has been possible, for years, for folks of the same mind to get together and work together.

Before the next number of the "Bulletin" is in the mails the opportunity will come for all of us to undertake the intimate study of one or more pairs of nesting birds. By how much would our knowledge of the life history of even the Robin be advanced if somebody could have the opportunity to compare the accounts of the nesting activities of ten pairs of Robins sent in from as many different localities! Perhaps not all of us have the training which is necessary to carry on such intensive studies, but any of us can add to our sum total of knowledge in this field by painstaking effort. We earnestly hope that there will be many careful studies of the nest activities of many species during the coming nesting season.

At the Washington spring meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union there is to be a discussion concerning insectivorous birds—as to whether they are or are not decreasing in numbers. To supplement this discussion it would be valuable if a large number of people from the central districts would give their opinions on this topic. The editor will undertake to prepare such matter for publication in the June number of the "Bulletin" if such reports are sent in to him. It is a vital subject and should receive our earnest attention.

In entering upon the plan of having the offices of editor and business manager presided over by different individuals and the office of publication transferred to Chicago, Ill., while the office of the editor remains at Oberlin, Ohio, there is certain to be some delay until we become adjusted to the change. We are certain, however, that in the long run the change will work to the great advantage of the "Bulletin" as well as to the Club of which it is the official organ. A little more time must be allowed for getting copy to the printer and for the correction of proofs and their return. But if every contributor will get his copy to the editor by the fifteenth of the month preceding publication the wheels will be seen to run smoothly and each issue will be out on the date set.



The "Auk" is entering upon its 31st volume, the "Wilson Bulletin" upon its 26th volume, and "Bird-Lore" and "The Condor" upon their 16th. The Wilson Ornithological Club has actually been publishing its own official organ for 22 years, and the present number marks the beginning of its 21st volume under its present title. It has witnessed the birth, growth and death of many worthy efforts of local organizations. It is outranked in age only by the "Auk" and the "Oölogist." From small beginnings it has gone steadily forward until it deserved to rank among the few survivors of a once numerous host. Its future was never brighter.



The "Bund Deutscher Forscher," President Georg August Grote, Hanover, Germany, has arranged with the Rev. W. F. Henninger, of New Bremen, Ohio, to publish a book on the North American birds in the German language, entitled "Ne-Arktisches Vogelleben," the same to contain the life histories of the North American birds, i. e., of all those birds which are found to breed in the ne-arctic region, waifs and subspecies to be described and recorded but not to receive an exhaustive treatment. The work is to be illustrated by about 150 colored plates and numerous photographs and to be published in about 35 to 40 parts. The classification used will be that of Dr. A. Reichenow, in order to be in accord with German investigations. If sufficient subscribers are found after the first part is issued, which will be about June the first, the work will be continued. Such men as Prof. G. Eifrig, Lynds Jones, F. C. Willard, of Tombstone, Ariz., Oscar E. Baynard, of Clearwater, Fla., and Isaac E. Hess, of Philo, Ill., will assist Rev. Henninger in the work, besides many other noted ornithologists. The work will be authentic in every particular, and should find numerous subscribers in this country as well as in Europe. The price will be one mark and 50 pfennig in Germany, and will come to about 40 cents a part in this country. Subscriptions will be received by the president in Hanover, or by Rev. W. F. Henninger, New Bremen, Ohio. Later on the agency for America will be transferred to some German publishing house in America.