

THE WILSON BULLETIN

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The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union.
The Iowa Ornithologists' Union.
The Kentucky Ornithological Society.
The Tennessee Ornithological Society.

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EDITORIAL

We desire to make the BULLETIN of the utmost service to its readers. As a magazine it is a medium for ornithological publication; as a Club organ it must serve the needs of the organization and its members.

In recent issues we asked to be notified of all complete (or nearly complete) sets of the WILSON BULLETIN. Very few complete sets have been found or reported. A few persons wrote in to say that they possessed a nearly complete set, and desired to complete it, if possible. Numbers which are out of print can probably be secured only by chance or by advertising, and the latter may be very uncertain. We are not sure that such an advertisement in the WILSON BULLETIN would be worth much, because very few of the old members (of twenty-five and thirty years ago) would now see such an advertisement. However, if there are any considerable number who would like to try it, the WILSON BULLETIN will be willing to carry the advertisement without charge, simply to encourage the completion of files. But all such requests must state precisely three things: what you have, what you want, and your address—one, two, three. If you wish to make an offer, it may be included. The Editor will arrange the announcements. They will all be held until enough accumulate to justify the space.

We have also been thinking of another innovation which should increase the BULLETIN's service. Would a question-box department be of value or interest to our readers? Here, questions on any ornithological subject might be asked by any member. The question would be published, and the membership at large would be invited to supply the answer.

Thirdly, after the publication of the September issue we received a number of requests for extra copies of that number or for reprints of the article on birds of prey by Prof. H. K. Gloyd. One teacher wanted a number of extra copies of that article for use in class work. Others may have wanted it for field use. In order to supply this demand we had a limited number of reprints made, which we propose to distribute at cost. This makes a twenty-page pamphlet giving descriptions and keys for identification of hawks in the field. The price will be five cents each and fifty cents a dozen, with postage extra. We have hoped that we might be of added service to our members in this way.

Without desiring to anticipate the Treasurer's report we may say that it now appears likely that the WILSON BULLETIN will close the current year fully paid up,

and without a deficit. If there is any deficit it can scarcely exceed fifteen or twenty dollars, at most. If the income for 1926 does not shrink, we should be in a position to increase the number of pages, or the number of illustrations, or both. The loss of a number of paying members, or an appreciable reduction in amount of dues paid per member may, however, upset this calculation. In other words, the membership list for 1925 just about carried the cost of publishing the BULLETIN on a sixty-four page basis, with a few illustrations. The special fund which was generously subscribed by the membership early in 1925 was for the special purpose of liquidating accrued deficits. These deficits, which had been carried along from the war period, were liquidated; and the magazine has run through 1925 on its income.

What the BULLETIN shall be in 1926 is to be determined by its readers in a double sense. It will depend upon the financial support, as just intimated. But in a much more vital way the BULLETIN also depends upon its members and readers for its literary support. The readers will get out of it what the readers put into it. The BULLETIN is a "mutual" institution, rather than a "stock" institution, to borrow the terminology of the business world. The Editor can do a good deal to make or to unmake the magazine; but after all, the readers must supply the contents of the pages, and this determines, fundamentally, its success. We are free to say that the editorial work would be much rosier if five or ten times more manuscripts were presented. We are thinking, not of the additional labor to the Editor, but of the greater pleasure and profit to the readers.

With the close of the present year a very pleasant relationship between the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union and the Wilson Ornithological Club will expire. In 1915 a rather close affiliation between the two organizations was consummated. The nature of this connection was such as to make each member of the N. O. U. a voting member in the W. O. C. Primarily to make other disposition of their funds, the N. O. U. now withdraws from the financial arrangement which has hitherto existed. After ten years of mutually happy relationship we release the N. O. U. with gratitude and sincere good will; and we trust that they may continue to remain associated upon the less rigid basis which applies to other state organizations.

The Editor and his family enjoyed a very pleasant two-day visit by Dr. and Mrs. Lynds Jones in the latter part of September, while they were en route to the Pacific coast for the winter. We might have prevailed upon our guests to stay longer, but for the plea that they must get over the mountains before the passes become buried in snow.

As we complete the present volume the Editor wishes to acknowledge the splendid co-operation from every quarter. The genuine loyalty of the membership has been a constant inspiration to the officers. The Editor is under deep obligation to his associates, who have faithfully responded to every call for assistance. We must also acknowledge the cordial co-operation of our printers, who have taken pride in the mechanical work of producing the BULLETIN. In behalf of all the Editor expresses the thanks and appreciation of each to the other.