

THE WILSON BULLETIN

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EDITORIAL

The annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club will be held this fall at Ann Arbor, Michigan. The dates have not been fixed, but the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving Day are being considered. It is now expected that the Inland Bird Banding Association may meet at the same time and place.

In the last March issue the two full page plates in the body of Mr. Sawyer's article on the Courtship of Barrow's Golden-eye should have been interchanged. The one marked No. 2 should have been No. 3, and vice versa. On page 8, line 15, the figures referred to should have been 10-11, Plate 2 as corrected. On page 8, line 17, the figures referred to are 6-9 of Plate 2, as corrected. Such errors are vexing, and we are sorry.

The suggestion comes from Mr. Frank C. Pellett that an ornithological library be established by the Wilson Ornithological Club. The plan would be to place the collection of books in some large, centrally-located institution on terms to be mutually agreed upon. We are informed that the bee-keepers have established a similar library on bee culture at the University of Wisconsin. The books are gathered from the members by donation and bequest. Occasionally an entire private library may be thus contributed. The middle west has very few extensive collections of literature in the field of ornithology—either public or private; and perhaps none adequate for research.

It might even be possible to encourage the establishment of two or three such libraries; one main library, centrally located, and one or two subsidiary libraries to which duplicate material might be sent. The central and main collection might well be located in Chicago, or at the University of Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, or Michigan. There should be one in the south, at Nashville or St. Louis, for instance. And one should be established in the west, possibly at the University of Kansas or Nebraska.

Once a depository is selected, it would be expected that the members of the W. O. C. would do what they could to build up a library by donation. The books would probably become the property of the institution housing them. But, on the other hand, the collection could be designated by a name, and be subject to circulation among the members of the organization. At any rate, perhaps the ideas here suggested merit investigation.

Several of our readers have shown enough interest in the life list idea to send in their reports. These reports start out in rather large figures and are based on extensive travels. The totals thus far reported immediately exclude nearly all observers whose field work is limited to their own local regions. We do not wish to do this. We would like to see the local observers take an interest and pride in their total lists also. There can be no harm in a little competition.

Suppose, then, that we arbitrarily divide our life lists into two classes, which we may call General and Local. Let us define General Life Lists as those without any limitations as to time or space. One may combine into one list the results of one's work in as many localities as possible. One or two of these life lists have been reported in summary in our pages, and we will be glad to continue them.

A Local Life List is restricted in space, at least. It is limited to accommodate the observer who does not travel, but who does intensive field work at his home station. We believe it is worth while for the observer to keep his notebook records; and to know how many birds he has on his life list; and to take some pleasure in adding a new one from time to time—always with deliberation and scientific accuracy, of course.

In order to stimulate interest and to learn of each other's results, we propose a contest as to Local Life Lists. Let those who will, compile their lists and submit them. First, however, let us have suggestions as to the rules which should govern such a contest. How much of an area is to be allowed? Should it be a political area or an ecological area? Shall there be prizes, and who will offer them? If the matter is taken up we will hope to make a complete announcement in our next issue.

Let us also remember that this is play-work, but that it is enjoyable and instructive and stimulative, and can do no harm. If it does no more than encourage some of our luke-warm members to spend a little more time in the field in an effort to increase their life lists, the scheme will be justifiable.

GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

Some Oregon Records.—The following records of birds taken at Scio, Oregon, may be of interest, and I am therefore placing them on record.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*).—A male, taken February 1, 1900. The only record for the state.

Black Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius suckleyi*).—A female, taken November 1, 1922.

Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*).—A male, taken November 1, 1924. The female was seen but not secured.

Gray Gryfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*).—A male, May, 1925.—A. G. PRILL, Scio, Oregon.

Who Banded This Bird?—Late in December, 1927, a local gunner came to my office one day with a hawk's leg, on which was an aluminum band. He said that a local mutual friend had sent him, to me to find out what it was put there for, and by whom.