

At this time the program of the Des Moines meeting is not complete, but we are assured of one of the best in our history. We can only mention a few of the pictorial features already promised. Mr. Stoddard's wonderful movie reels of Florida birds are on the list. These were shown two years ago at the Nashville meeting, and nothing better exists. The exciting movie pictures of the Loon in its wild habitat, as described by Mr. Gromme in this issue, will also be shown. Mr. W. F. Kubichek will show some new slides and movies of water birds. Mr. W. W. Bennett will show colored slides and some new movies, the latter including the Ruby-throated Hummingbird and the Pine Siskin. Dr. Jones and Mr. Ganier also have illustrated papers. We are also sure of other movies and lantern slide papers from authors who have not yet given us the final word. There will be numerous other papers, whether illustrated or not, to fill two days and evenings. You are invited to attend.

Mr. George Miksch Sutton is now on Southampton Island, Canada. The Broadcasting Station KDKA broadcasts to the far north twice a month. Messages for Mr. Sutton may be sent through this Station, and should be sent to KDKA, Pittsburgh, Pa., addressed to Mr. Sutton. His friends are invited to send some word to him through the long winter.

The Editor wishes a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all readers of the WILSON BULLETIN. The past year has been a happy and fairly prosperous one for the BULLETIN. We are all much indebted to our Treasurer for his splendid work in keeping our funds in excellent condition, and our debts paid up. The Editor is appointed each year by the officers. He should not be appointed for a longer term, lest he cease to reflect the will of his organization. This year closes the fifth for the present Editor. Careful attention should be given this year in the selection of the Editor. The present Editor can not very much change his methods, but he can, and gladly will, give way.

Our members and readers are requested to notify us of any advance of the Starling into new territory. Mr. E. C. Hoffman is preparing a map which will be published in the March issue. You may send reports either to the Editor or to Mr. E. C. Hoffman, 740 West Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

Lest We Forget

“Nevertheless he must here record an earnest protest, futile though it may be, against the fatal facility with which the system of trinomials lends itself to sad consequences in the hands of immature and inexperienced specialists. No allusion is here intended to anything that has been done, but he must reiterate what was said before (Key, p. xxvii) respecting what may be done hereafter if more judicious conservatism than we have enjoyed of late be not brought to bear down hard upon trifling incompetents. The ‘trinomial tool’ is too sharp to be made a toy; and even if we do not cut our own fingers with it, we are likely to cut the throat of the whole system of naming we have reared with such care. Better throw the instrument away than use it to slice species so thin that it takes a microscope to perceive them. It may be assumed, as a safe rule of procedure, that it is useless to divide and subdivide beyond the fair average ability of ornithologists to recognize and verify the result. Named varieties of birds that require to be ‘compared with the types’ by holding them up slantwise in a good strong light—just as the ladies match crewels in the milliner’s shop—such often exist in the cabinets or in the books of their describers, but seldom in the fields.” Pages ix-x.

“The pliability and elasticity of our trinomial system of nomenclature is very great. . . . We seem to be in danger of going too far, if not too fast, in this direction. It is not to cry ‘halt!’—for any advance is better than a standstill; but it is to urge prudence, caution, and circumspection, lest we be forced to recede ingloriously from an untenable position—that these words are penned, with a serious sense of their necessity.”—ELLIOTT COUES, *Key to North American Birds*, 5th edition, page xxvii.
