

THE WILSON BULLETIN

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EDITORIAL

THE FOLLOWING FIGURES for the last five meetings show interesting comparisons. The most gratifying figures are those showing the out-of-town attendance at the annual meetings. Naturally, our attendance at the Cleveland meeting included good representations from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and the Virginias; we were glad to have so good a showing from the Atlantic states and the District of Columbia. Mrs. H. J. Taylor, who came all the way from Berkeley, California, probably made the best record for distance.

In looking over the register of attendance, the writer was chagrined to find the names of many persons of whom he has known or with whom he has had correspondence, and of whose presence at this meeting he was not aware at the time. One of the greatest privileges in attending these meetings is the opportunity of making new acquaintances. We are not quite ready to go to a three-day program; and we will be reluctant to curtail the number of papers on the program. Therefore, we recommend to our officers that in planning future meetings a good deal of thought be given to ways and means of getting acquainted—in the midst of so much activity.

	Chicago 1926	Nashville 1927	Ann Arbor 1928	Des Moines 1929	Cleveland 1930
Local attendance	37	32	31	106	41
Out-of-town attendance	75	43	75	96	122
Total attendance	112	75	106	202	163
Dinner attendance	61	46	50	77	98
Titles on the program..	23	34	24	36	33
Honorary members	4	4	4	9	7
Life members				5	7
Sustaining members	73	68	64	66	58
Active members	216	244	248	245	227
Associate members	327	347	383	397	479
Total members	620	663	702	717	775
Total receipts	\$1753	\$1638	\$1981	\$2167	\$2451

NEW ORLEANS has been selected as the meeting place for this year. The dates will probably be Monday and Tuesday, December 28 and 29. Many of our members will undoubtedly wish to take this occasion to visit this historic old city. Reduced railroad fare (one fare and a half) will be available as usual for this trip. Announcements concerning special attractions will be made in succeeding issues.

THE JANUARY (1931) issue of the *Auk* contains a Platform of the A. O. U. Committee on Bird Protection. This platform consists of six articles embodying what are regarded by the Committee as the most fundamental principles in bird conservation. The six general principles are: 1) education, 2) prevention of extermination, 3) opposition to bounties and organized shooting campaigns, especially on birds of prey, 4) opposition to the introduction of exotic species, 5) control of destructive agencies arising with the progress of civilization, 6) legislative regulation. The platform has not, apparently, been as yet adopted by the American Ornithologists' Union, though little doubt can be entertained that it will be adopted. The only division likely to arise will be when the general principles are applied to some concrete proposal. The Committee consists of: Dr. H. C. Bryant, chairman, A. C. Bent, Florence Merriam Bailey, Bayard H. Christy, Stanley G. Jewett, Hoyes Lloyd, Edward A. Preble. And we know enough of the personnel of this committee to have complete confidence in their zeal for *honest* conservation and sane protection.

Not long ago the WILSON BULLETIN (XLI, September, 1929, page 189) made a plea for just such a statement of principles by ornithological societies, and the American Ornithologists' Union has demonstrated its leadership. Now, it seems to us that it would be appropriate for the Wilson Ornithological Club, or any other society interested in bird protection, either to ratify and adopt this same platform, or to put in motion the machinery necessary to formulate one of its own.

WE ARE very much interested in a bit of publicity in behalf of the birds of prey which has been undertaken by the Brodie Bird Club, of Toronto. This organization has been furnishing a short daily article on "Our Birds of Prey" to the *Toronto Globe*. These articles average about two hundred words in length, and have a double-column display heading. Apparently all phases of the ecological relations of the birds of prey are to be discussed in this series. It is indeed a splendid educational program. The *Toronto Globe* and the Brodie Bird Club are to be congratulated for carrying out such a concrete effort in defense of the wild life of the continent. It is altruistic and economic.

What a fine thing it would be if each local bird club in America should engage its members to prepare twenty-five to fifty brief and incisive articles on the birds of prey, and then arrange with the local newspaper of largest circulation to run the series daily as a special feature. We have no doubt that many papers would be glad to cooperate—to the enjoyment of the readers and great benefit to wild life.

IN 1930 the WILSON BULLETIN received for publication a letter of complaint against the Fish and Game Department of the State of Arkansas for encouraging the destruction of various birds of prey in that state. It was our intention to publish the letter, but before we got to it we received, about four months later, another letter from the same writer stating that the Fish and Game Department had been converted to a less drastic policy, and requesting the withdrawal of the first letter. Thus, a great deal can be done for the native wild life of the country if those who are interested and informed will take the trouble to disseminate the interest and information.

WE ARE PLEASED to publish in this issue a paper by Mr. Manly F. Miner. It deals with the history of Jack Miner's work in banding wild geese, in which he has had remarkable success. This account places Jack Miner as one of the pioneers in the systematic trapping and banding of birds—in fact he may be the pioneer. At any rate no one else has caught and banded so many wild geese, to say nothing of ducks and song birds. No doubt this work has added much to our knowledge of the migration of the Canada Goose. There may be some question as to what extent these birds are drawn out of their normal route of migration by the regular food supply in the Jack Miner Sanctuary; but the terminals are at least established.

It was our privilege last December to hear Jack Miner lecture on himself and his work with the birds. Jack Miner is a dynamic personality, and his story is a fascinating one. He held his audience of seven or eight hundred people for two hours and ten minutes, and apparently they would have remained longer to listen to him. His talk is interspersed with humor, facts, a good deal of feeling, a little prejudice, and a whole lot of the homely philosophy of life which makes Jack Miner who he is and what he is. He is dead set against the Crow and hawks in general—several Canadians seem to get this slant on the matter. But we have decided that Jack Miner is a remarkable man, and that he has a message of general interest to the bird lovers, to sportsmen, to outdoor enthusiasts, to indoor habitues, and to most people. His lecture in Sioux City seemed to please the sportsmen as much as the bird lovers, and the latter as much as the former—which leads us to think that perhaps there is not so much of a gulf between the two groups as we are sometimes told there is. If these two forces would ever harness up together in the interest of real conservation, wouldn't it be great for the wild life of America!

THE DEATH KNELL of conservation organizations is rung when they begin to employ salaried executives. If not death, at least look for gangrene. And what does the surgeon advise in this case?

WE HAVE advance information of the forthcoming publication by the Museum of Comparative Zoology of a "Check-list of the Birds of the World," by James Lee Peters. The completed work will consist of about ten volumes, and will be sold for about five dollars per volume. The first volume, soon to be ready, will contain about three hundred genera with seventeen hundred species and subspecies. This will be an up-to-date work similar to Sharpe's Hand-list published in 1899.

WE WISH to call attention to our small, but growing, endowment fund, which is shown in the report of the Treasurer. One more life membership will bring the fund up to the minimum required for deposit with the trust company with which we have a contract.