

EDITORIAL

It seems essential that we plan to hold our Annual Meeting on the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving. As we go to press the officers of the Club and the Local Committee are embarrassed by the sudden announcement by President Roosevelt that Thanksgiving will be proclaimed for November 23 instead of November 30 as everyone had expected. Considerable opposition to this change has been expressed in many States but at this time of writing it appears that the change will be made this year and that most, if not all, States will accept the change. We must therefore announce that the Club's Annual Meeting will be held November 24 and 25, one week earlier than first reported. Announcement of all details will be made in the Secretary's letter to members. We also wish to announce that the dead-line for submitting photographs for the Bird Photograph Exhibit is hereby placed one week earlier. All pictures must be in the hands of Burt L. Monroe not later than November 18.

All indications point to an unusually interesting and worth while meeting. We have never met in Louisville before, but it is most appropriate that we should go to that historic city, so familiar to ornithologists because of its associations with Wilson and Audubon. Founded in 1790 by an Act of the Virginia Legislature, the city was named in honor of Louis XVI of France. It soon became one of the important centers on the Ohio River and both Alexander Wilson and John James Audubon studied birds there. It was in Louisville that their famous meeting occurred in March, 1810.

For our meeting the Brown Hotel has been designated as headquarters, and the photograph exhibit as well as all sessions will be held there. The Brown Hotel is in the center of the city, on Broadway six blocks east of the Union Station.

Members who have attended Annual Meetings will not have to be urged to make every effort to go to this one. Those who have not been able to attend before may be assured that they have awaiting them a delightful and stimulating experience.

We wish to have it clearly understood that we cannot undertake to publish all contributions used in the *Bulletin* in exactly the order received. We endeavor to acknowledge immediately the receipt of all manuscripts. Then, within a few days if possible, we go over the manuscript with care and write the author of its acceptance or rejection. If accepted we will use it in the earliest possible issue. Notes or very short papers will usually be published in the following issue but longer contributions may have to be held over one or two issues. The choice of papers for a given issue of the *Bulletin* must be determined by a number of factors, such as, diversity of subject matter, timeliness, length, number and cost of illustrations.

ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWS

The Fifty-seventh Annual Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was held at the University of California, Berkeley, and at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, June 19 to 24. There was a registered attendance of 248. James P. Chapin was elected President, James L. Peters and George Willett Vice-Presidents, Lawrence E. Hicks Secretary, and Rudyerd Boulton Treasurer. New members elected to the Council were Percy A. Taverner, Ludlow Griscom, and Alden H. Miller. Two Fellows were elected: Alden H. Miller and George Willett. New members elected were: Emmet R. Blake, Louis W. Campbell, Owen J. Gromme, Joseph A. Hagar, Paul Kellogg, Wesley F. Kubichek, Ivan R. Tomkins. The

Brewster Medal was awarded posthumously to Witmer Stone for his two volume work on "The Birds of Old Cape May." The next meeting will be held in Boston in October, 1940.

Donald W. Douglass, formerly of Texas Technological College, has been appointed Ornithologist of the Game Division, Michigan Department of Conservation.

William Vogt is having a successful year in Peru studying the guano birds for the Compania Administradora del Guano of Lima. At last report 9,000 cormorants were banded, and he had ordered 100,000 more bands.

Lawrence H. Walkinshaw and Edward M. Brigham, Jr., have become editors of *The Jack-Pine Warbler*, official organ of the Michigan Audubon Society.

Leonard Wing has been appointed Assistant Professor of Game Management at Washington State College, Pullman, Washington.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

The Wilson Ornithological Club's Wildlife Conservation Committee proposes to print regularly in this section of the *Bulletin* a summary of information it has gathered and recommendations it wishes to make. Opinions and factual contributions of members are solicited.

In view of the discussions there have been concerning the desirability of the Club's participating in Conservation activities we are taking the liberty of quoting from a personal letter received by your Chairman from one of America's greatest ornithologists, the late Joseph Grinnell. He wrote, "Your report of the Club's Conservation Committee looks good to me, and I hope that you make efforts along the lines indicated. I, too, out here find on the part of a few Cooper Club members an expressed reluctance or aversion to this Club's participating in any sort of 'propaganda' campaign. But I usually find this feeling traceable to certain government or state agencies whose policy seems to be to 'educate' the public to leave guidance in all those matters to those agencies! Observation through the years leads me to believe that in the interests of preservation of wildlife in its totality, said agencies cannot alone be trusted to act always effectively. It is well to have participation widely and audibly by organizations *outside* of the government, such as the Wilson Club, the Cooper Club, and the A.O.U."

There have been some very encouraging developments in the last year or two in Missouri. Following the passage of an amendment to the State constitution in November 1936, placing the administration of wildlife affairs in Missouri in the hands of an unsalaried, non-political commission, the new Commission has won the first two test-cases before the Missouri Supreme Court:

(1) In the spring of 1938, the Court upheld the power of the Commission to select its Director (Mr. I. T. Bode) without regard to geographic origin.

(2) In the fall of 1938, the Court upheld the power of the Commission to make regulations having the force of law.

Both these powers were clearly stated in the text of the constitutional amendment, but they were challenged and the Commission's powers in these respects have now been confirmed.

In the 1939 Missouri Legislature two moves designed to cripple the work of the Commission were decisively beaten, largely through the influence of the active and independent Conservation Federation of Missouri. These moves were:—

(1) To submit to the electorate, in the fall of 1940, a proposed constitutional