

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Since its beginning in 1930, the Wilson Ornithological Club Library has gradually increased in size through (1) gifts of books, pamphlets, and periodicals, (2) occasional purchases of much needed books, using cash obtained by contributions to the New Book Fund or from the sale of duplicate items, and (3) exchanges for *The Wilson Bulletin*. At the present time the Library contains approximately 400 volumes (books and bound volumes of serial publications) and 4500 pamphlets.

The Library is located at Ann Arbor in the University of Michigan's Museum of Zoology, sharing a room with the Library of the Division of Birds. It is separately shelved and catalogued, and in each volume there is a handsome bookplate showing a Long-eared Owl, from a drawing by George Miksch Sutton.

The primary purpose of the Library is to serve those Club members who do not have access locally to adequate reference material. Members may use it in two ways: (1) They may use it in the library room, in which case they may also have the privilege of using the Library of the Division of Birds. (2) They may write in and borrow items. (See the instructions for borrowing on the inside front cover of this number.) By arrangement with the University of Michigan, our collection is not only allowed permanent housing, but also such valuable services as cataloguing and shelving all items received, binding and repairs, transportation costs one way on loans to any address in the United States or Canada.

There is every evidence that the purpose of the Library is being well fulfilled. Each month many items are borrowed by mail. Quite frequently borrowers live in places hundreds of miles from the nearest reference sources. Of the various items borrowed, new books head the list.

In view of the important service which our Library is performing, we should make a great effort to keep it up to date, to augment as rapidly as possible the collection of rare and out of print books and pamphlets, and to complete the files of serials. There are at least three ways in which these objectives can be met: (1) By monetary contributions. Already a Book Fund has been generously established by two members and is being used for the purchase of newly published books. Additions to this fund would permit us to obtain worthwhile books as they appear on the market. (2) By gifts of publications. In case such gifts should duplicate certain items already in the Library, they can be readily sold and the money received can be turned over to the Book Fund or they will be returned to the donors. (3) By gifts of new books and reprints of papers. All authors are particularly requested to remember the Library when giving away copies of their latest publications.

Of the various functions of the Wilson Club, the maintenance of our Library is one of the most important. Like our *Bulletin* and the annual meeting, it is a means of advancing the science of ornithology, the object to which we are dedicated. Any contribution, however modest, is most welcome.

OLIN SEWALL PETTINGILL, JR.



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