

## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Everyone leading an active life today realizes that extensive and rapid changes are taking place, not only in our physical surroundings, but also in our methods and techniques of doing almost everything. Even our birding is experiencing changes. In years gone by a large part of the significant contributions to ornithology came through observations and researches of individuals working essentially by themselves in the field as well as in the laboratory. Although there are still unlimited opportunities for individual work, today many resourceful bird students are turning to cooperative projects to furnish the answers to many baffling questions that still face the ornithologists. Those bird researchers with organizing tendencies and facilities might well probe deeper into the possibilities of such organized endeavor as a means of securing data bearing on problems of migration, local movements, homing and related bird phenomena.

Cooperation between bird students as it pertains to subject matter alone is not new, of course. The enormous bird banding program, direction of which was assumed by the United States Biological Survey back in 1920, attests to that. Observation coordinated as to time, as well as to subject matter, is the more modern approach, although even this technique appeared early in the National Audubon Society's Christmas censuses. The coordinated reporting of a single season's findings on certain species, such as has been carried on by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, has been productive of much better over-all pictures on the nesting distribution and migration of these species than could be secured by random reporting. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's nationwide study of the migration of the Broad-winged Hawk, carried on under the direction of C. S. Robbins, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland, is bringing to light many new facts concerning the routes, rate of migration, and the effects of weather on the flights. And very much in the public eye just at present is the project of coordinating nocturnal observations of bird migrants seen crossing the face of the moon. Inaugurated by Dr. George H. Lowery, Jr., Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, this new and somewhat romantic form of bird study has attracted many cooperators and is producing factual data on many phases of the still rather mysterious nocturnal movements of birds. Both of the last mentioned projects are operating at the present time, and the leaders of both would welcome the services of more volunteer observers.

The above are examples of projects organized on a continent-wide basis. Smaller local field studies carried out cooperatively by the members of local clubs can also be productive of new and more accurate information. I recently enlisted such cooperation in determining the extent of daily movements of wintering American Golden-eye flocks, while the Craighead brothers used such methods in outlining the daily feeding movements of hawks in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. With the increase in numbers of local bird clubs more and more problems, difficult or impossible of solution through individual observations, can now be attacked by such coordinated teams. And most active clubs have keen and experienced members who, having passed through the early stages of field identification, are groping about for projects into which they can direct their energies which will result in real contributions to the science of ornithology. The major lack at the moment, I feel, is of more originality and ingenuity on the part of the leaders of organized groups in outlining such cooperative projects aimed at the solution of the many ornithological problems in need of more and better factual data.

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