

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

This year will bring the 80th anniversary of this organization, which was founded on 3 December 1888 as "The Wilson Ornithological Chapter of the Agassiz Association." Its first publication was *The Curlew*, which soon became *The Wilson Quarterly* and, eventually, *The Wilson Bulletin*. During the first 25 years of its existence, members of the Wilson Ornithological Club, as it came to be known, knew the organization solely through its quarterly journal. For not until 1914 was there an Annual Meeting of this society.

In this connection, it is revealing to read now the comment which the Editor of *The Auk*, Witmer Stone, made on the subject (1914. *Auk*, 31:290-291): "The first of the proposed annual meetings of the Wilson Ornithological Club was held in Chicago on February 5 and 6, 1914, and plans were formulated for similar annual gatherings at points in the middle section of the country. For an initial gathering it was well attended and the business done will mean much for the cause of ornithology throughout the region which the club especially covers. Such a movement will, we feel sure, prove of immense benefit to the A.O.U. and will pave the way for a meeting of the latter body in Chicago or vicinity some time in the near future." Dr. Stone's words were prophetic. For, in October 1922, the A.O.U. held its first Middle Western meeting, in Chicago.

Meanwhile, the early-1914 Chicago meeting of the Wilson Club appears to have been so successful that the club held a second meeting there that same year. Yearly meetings have followed, except in the war years (1918 and 1942-1945, inclusive) and in 1933 and 1948. By states and the Province of Ontario, our Annual Meetings have numbered as follows: Illinois, 9; Ohio, 5; Michigan, 4; Tennessee, 4; Missouri, 3; Pennsylvania, 3; Indiana, 2; Iowa, 2; Minnesota, 2; West Virginia, 2; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 1; Maine, 1; Nebraska, 1; New Hampshire, 1; New Jersey, 1; New York, 1; Oklahoma, 1; Ontario, 1; South Carolina, 1; South Dakota, 1; and Wisconsin, 1.

Our most recent Illinois meeting was held in Urbana in 1941. It is both opportune and appropriate that, in the 80th year of our society's existence, we should hold our 49th Annual Meeting at Southern Illinois University, in Carbondale, during 2-5 May 1968. And we may hope that "the business done will mean much for the cause of ornithology"—without restrictions as to its geographical application.

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