

CORRESPONDENCE.

To Associates, Members and Fellows of the American Ornithologists' Union:

Deep concern on the part of many of us for the future as well as the immediate welfare of the Union has led to the definite question: Is it not desirable, and *possible*, that the functions and benefits of the Union be more permanently insured and more widely extended than they are at the present time? While it can be said that our organization is serving in all its aims in fairly gratifying measure, and has been from the outset, is this service rendered in as full amount as it *should* be, consistent with the rate of progress in science at large? Considering the huge expansion in support and in service of organizations concerned with other fields of science, has not the A. O. U. in reality been left behind? Especially is this enquiry pertinent when we take into account the great spread of lay interest in birds.

Our Union's strength depends upon its service in promoting the highest ideals of scholarship and attainment in ornithology. To accomplish this, increased resources are needed not only for publishing a larger "Auk" and frequent check-lists and periodic indexes, but also for publishing worthy and extensive monographs such as we cannot now attempt; for the establishment of medals and honoraria stimulative of activity in pure research in our field; for the increased exercise of the Union's influence in obtaining sound practice in bird protection, in administration of wild-life resources, and in popular education.

What the American Ornithologists' Union should have in the future is greatly increased *funds to work with*—financial support to enable it to carry out its purposes in measure consistent with the age. It is hereby urged that members of the Union, those among us who are convinced that worthy service can be rendered by the Union on a larger and better scale, take the proper steps, each on his own account, toward insuring such expansion—by remembering the Union in his *will*. It may be objected that now, at the bottom of a general financial sag, is no time to suggest benefaction. On the other hand, the present time, of generally limited resources and incomes, is likely the best time for making soundest plans for the ultimate disposition of one's estate. Good times will return; and a seemingly meager prorated item now may amount to a considerable sum in later years.

Serious attention is invited to this matter, vital to the future of the Union. While this is of course wholly a private affair with each individual, should any A. O. U. member desire further information concerning the organization of the Union, or as to such factors as proper form of bequest, for any special object or for general purposes, correspondence is invited.

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[Dr. Grinnell's appeal is most opportune since we regret to say that 'The Auk' finds itself today with but half the necessary funds to publish the April and July issues for 1932 in their usual size, and unless financial help is forthcoming these numbers must be reduced proportionately. Had we a reserve publication fund such temporary situations could be taken care of without sacrificing any part of the Journal.—WITMER STONE, *Editor.*]