

use of English names—no more indeed than in the use of the ever changing technical names.

As to the issue of the indexes as regular numbers of 'The Auk' the treasurer would probably have something to say! This practice would entitle every subscriber and member to receive them without extra charge and vastly increase the cost to the Union with practically no return. It is the sale of these publications that makes them at all possible.

Mr. Swarth is bibliographically right on every count but in these days of financial and editorial stress there are other angles to be considered.—Ed.]

### **Migrating Dovekies and the Polar Ice Cap.**

Editor of 'The Auk.'

In the account of the "Dovekie Influx of 1932" (Auk, July, 1933) John Treadwell Nichols suggests (p. 348) that the hordes may have come from Old World breeding grounds; while in the April issue (p. 216) Ira N. Gabrielson mentions "a great southward movement of unusual northern sea-fowl off the Oregon coast." Admiral Byrd in his 'Little America' and Gould in his 'Cold' have pointed out that the polar ice cap influences the weather conditions for the rest of the world.

These statements taken together are very interesting to those of us who sailed up to the polar ice pack north of Spitzbergen in August, 1932, and found this impenetrable barrier at 80° 30' N. Lat., sixty miles farther south than it had been when the motor yacht "Stella Polaris" had made the trip, the year before. The southward movement of the ice pack augured an unusually severe winter cold to follow and it would seem to have had an immediate effect on the birds.

We found Dovekies and other species nesting by tens of thousands on "Bird Rock" some sixty miles south of Bear Island a little south of Spitzbergen.

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