

Information Requested.—In "Items of Interest" for September, 1925, Edward H. Forbush, State Ornithologist of Massachusetts, calls attention to the need of much more information than is at present available regarding the molting of birds and the colors of the iris, bill, and feet (including tarsi) taken from living birds. He recommends that this line of investigation be taken up by banders.

The matter of accurate color-description is one of admitted difficulty owing (1) to the fact that the same color possesses several names, and (2) to the personal equation. To avoid these difficulties, those taking up this work should have available for consultation Ridgway's book on "Color Standards and Color Nomenclature." The colors shown in the plates contained in this work are quite generally accepted as standard by scientists, and with plates in hand acceptable color names are accurately and easily obtainable. The volume can be purchased or it may be found in many libraries. Libraries not possessing a copy are likely to acquire one upon receiving a written request to do so.

Bird Aggregates.—In the *Condor*, Vol. XXV, pp. 129-131, 1923, W. C. Allee, in a paper entitled "Animal Aggregations: A request for Information," calls attention to the gregarious habits of animals and the current views as to the origin and purpose of such groups. In particular, he requests information as to what the ornithologist has to offer as a result of bird-study.

Regarding this subject, there is a little known and much to learn. Every one of our members has a splendid opportunity to share in answering the question: Are the little groups of fall and wintering birds we have in New England single families or aggregations of families of the previous nesting-season, or are they merely accidental groups made up of birds from several families. Attention has already been called to this matter in *Bulletin* No. 1, p. 9—at least to one phase of the matter. To make a beginning in such an investigation, banders are recommended to band entire families of young birds-of-the-year together with their parents when possible. Chickadees afford excellent material since this species both nests and winters in our territory. This should not be difficult.

It is hoped that within a short time colored bands will become available for a limited number of our banders, in which case their use will enable one under proper safeguards often to identify such groups or members thereof by sight alone.—C. L. W.