

Both birds were evidently much heated and tired. The Vireo uttered a plaintive noise resembling that uttered when his nest is destroyed. I have no doubt that the Hummingbird could worst any bird that flies if he should wish to fight. He seems to have learned all there is to know about aerial locomotion, and his diminutive size enables him to dart about with incredible swiftness. He has no weapons of offense worth mentioning, it is true, but his whirring presence might become very annoying to another bird.—LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

DEATH TO THE SPARROWS.—Last evening (Aug. 3rd) a terrific hail and wind storm struck the city [St. Paul] about 12 o'clock, and this morning the streets around the city parks are covered with dead sparrows. In one residence lawn on Summit Avenue I counted over 600 dead sparrows, mostly young of the year.—WALTON I. MITCHEL, *St. Paul, Minn.*

ABOUT THE WORK.

In spite of the financial depression and the closeness of the times, the past year has not lacked its share of ornithological progress and enthusiasm. There is a growing interest throughout the country, especially in educational circles, for the study of the interesting science of Ornithology. The tendency is in the right direction, also, as it looks toward the economic value of birds and an appreciation of the ornithological science. Students of birds who are not bird and skin collectors masquerading as ornithologists are becoming numerous. The field glass is coming more and more to replace the gun. The disciples of Burroughs are multiplying. Books touching the popular scientific side of ornithology now have a wide circulation.

A very important move, and one that, it is to be hoped, will be generally successful, is the recent petition of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture to the schools of the country for the establishment of a "Bird Day" somewhat similar to Arbor Day. The proper and general observance of such a day ought to have considerable influence against wanton shooting of small birds and indiscriminate egg collecting by American small boys; and its educational value can hardly be over estimated. Members of the Wilson Chapter should urge upon the school authorities of the various towns in which they reside, the importance of observing "Bird Day."

Mr. Lynds Jones gives two courses in Ornithology, one elementary, and the other advanced, in Oberlin College. Both courses are offered

in the spring and are very popular. During the past two years, the study of Ornithology has become quite general among cultured people in Oberlin, as the result. The courses are quite extensive and comprehensive and are designed for upper class students.

The classification of North American birds is practically settled and *general* geographical distribution is fairly well defined. There seems to be little reason for much more extensive collecting and there is certainly little to justify most ornithologists in making private collections of large series of single species, except for careful study and research. Desire for study of individual variations, etc., cannot be sufficient ground for the wholesale slaughter of birds even now becoming rare. The writer does not wish to condemn all collecting nor the accumulations of series in our museums and colleges, where students may study them. There are few men who can make use of a large private collection of birds or their eggs who will justify the collecting, however.

The time has come for a more careful and systematic study of the habits and economic relations of birds. The food of birds at various seasons, period of incubation, the appearance of the young, periods and manner of moulting, etc., are broad fields yet to be explored. Geographical distribution, including the conditions that govern it and the mapping of the lesser life areas is yet in its infancy. Mr. Jones spent a large portion of the summer studying the habits of the Bronzed Grackle and a grackle roost in Oberlin. A valuable paper may be expected from him giving the results of his observations and conclusions in a few months.

One of the widest fields in ornithology is to be found in the study of migration. Much has been done along this line but much more is to be done. Mr. J. E. Dickinson has charge of the committee work on migration of the warblers and wishes the notes of all the members of the chapter.

Mr. H. C. Higgins has a committee studying nesting habits of the warblers. No family of birds is more fascinating than this group and none needs study any more than these "feathered jewels" of our woods and streams.

Mr. Frank L. Burns, Berwyn, Pa., is preparing a careful report upon the Flicker. He writes that he already has something like eighty local names for this widely distributed bird. Mr. Burn's report on the "Crow" attracted great attention and deserved praise from prominent ornithologists. The demand for his report exceeded the supply of copies. It will undoubtedly be as great an honor to be a contributor to his Flicker bulletin.

An almost unoccupied field for original investigation is to be found in the study of "Nestling Down." Mr. Howard P. Mitchell, Mt. Sterling, Wis., has charge of this work.

Notes on the food and song of birds should be sent to Mr. Lynds Jones, Oberlin, Ohio. The study of the food of birds is of the greatest economic importance and it would be hard to find anything more fascinating than the study of bird song. A good ear and some knowledge of musical scale are necessary in studying bird songs.

Members are referred to Bulletin No. 8 and 9 for further information concerning committee work and to the chairmen themselves. The bulletins of the Wilson Chapter are in great demand and the work of the committees is highly praised. It is an honor to be a contributor to one of the reports, which may not be lightly esteemed.

I am sure that all have read with much interest the article entitled "Bird's Nests, No. 1." in Bulletin No. 9, by Mr. V. H. Chase, Wady Petra, Ill. It is a suggestion that much may be done toward a far better understanding of birds' nests and bird mind as exhibited in the preparation of the most important office of the bird's life—propagating its kind—by a careful study of the nest after the young have left it to take care of themselves. Mr. Chase proposes to take charge of a committee which shall have for its object such a study of nests, and the publication of the results of the work in a special bulletin. This study need not be confined to the summer months, but nests may be preserved and studied during the winter when outdoor work is at a minimum. Many old nests could be obtained now in a good state of preservation. Of course the positive identification of the nest is of the first importance. I trust that this committee will have the earnest and enthusiastic support of every member.—R. M. STRONG, *President*.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The annual election of officers for the Wilson Ornithological Chapter will begin November 25th and close December 5th. The following persons have been nominated to fill the several offices of the chapter.

For President—R. M. Strong, Ned Hollister.

For Secretary—J. E. Dickinson, A. T. Wayne.

For Treasurer—Lynds Jones, Ora W. Knight.