

Don't wait until next fall before writing, as this report will be ready for publication in December, and what notes I have now I can work up at my leisure. I would ask all to *observe* rather than *collect*. A live bird possesses hundreds of possibilities for the student that a dead one does not. If you chance to live near a colony of Barn or Cliff Swallows you will find the egg shells which the parent birds throw out; preserve these, they are nearly as valuable for study as the finest prepared specimens.

In conclusion I would say, don't take too much pains in arranging your notes, or in the choice of paper. (Still I appreciate a finely arranged report.) One acquaintance used brown paper and lead pencil, but his notes were of almost priceless worth in the preparation of the report.

STEPHEN J. ADAMS, Cornish, Me., *Chairman.*

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## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION.

There have not been as many notes sent in on the migrations of 1896 as were expected, though many are much fuller than usual. There is a disposition among observers to refrain from sending in notes because they may not be complete. This is a mistake, as such a note as this, which was received last year, "Yellow Warbler, May 4," may be of much value. We have a number of reports from observers who are not members and are very thankful for them. The Michigan Ornithological Club, through its secretary, Mr. Mulliken, has promised its aid, and we request all Chapter members to render the Club such assistance as they are able. With such outside assistance and active work on the part of our members, we hope for much in the future.

J. E. DICKINSON, *Chairman.*

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## ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

The following are proposed for membership in the Chapter. For Active membership :

Frank M. Woodruff, Assistant Curator Chicago Academy Sciences.

Henry K. Coales, 136 Washington street, Chicago, Ill.

W. S. Colvin, Osawatomie, Kansas.

For Honorary Membership : Otto Widmann, Old Orchard, Missouri.

Adverse votes should be sent to the Secretary.

The following Associate members have been received since the last report: P. M. Silloway, Roodhouse, Ill. L. Whitney Watkins, Manchester, Mich.

## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

*The Story of the Birds*, by James Newton Baskett, M. A. This is the first of Appleton's Home Reading Books, which are edited by William T. Harris, A.M., L.L.D., United States Commissioner of Education. The body of the book covers 250 pages exclusive of index, editor's introduction, author's preface, and a very helpful "Analysis" of each chapter with suggestions for study. The Story of the Birds is told in thirty-two chapters or subjects, beginning with a discussion of "A Bird's Forefathers" running through the many problems of the bird's life up to his Modern Kinsfolk, ending with "An Introduction to the Bird" and "Acquaintance with the Bird." The Story is told in a pleasant easy manner, every point clearly stated, every statement based upon some accepted fact. The arrangement of the chapters is progressive and logical, and nothing of the first importance in the life history of the bird is omitted.

There are twenty full page illustrations, besides a full page cut of Archaeopteryx, and a very instructive diagram of the relationships of the larger groups; also some sixty-two well selected cuts in the text. The typographical appearance is unusually good, and errors are few.

The author's aim is rather to create and stimulate interest leading to personal study than to instruct. To awaken a lively interest in the living bird rather than in the specimen. To induce the inquirer to think out the problems which cluster about each action of the bird, not being content to simply discover some new trait or habit or song. To delve deep for those things which cannot be had for the asking, but which must be worked for earnestly and faithfully. This has induced the author to depart from the usual order, treating all of the birds as a unit instead of separating group from group. The new order is refreshing to the student, and cannot but prove stimulating to the beginner or casual enquirer. It is a departure in the right direction. The time has come when the critical study of specimens for the purpose of determining the exact status of any questionable species or form must be left to those who have access to the collections of large series of specimens which are built up for that purpose. We have urgent need to study the live bird and let it live for another to study. The author of this little book has shown us how to