

these species in this locality, all the other and more common shore birds were quite abundant during the spring and fall migration about the shores of this lake. The Pipit and Savannah Sparrow were frequently seen during the summer of 1913.

As near as I can estimate from my records there are over 60 species of birds that have been added to my list in this locality since the opening of the park and the building of these reservoirs.

It will perhaps emphasize the opportunity for bird observation in the vicinity of Youngstown to refer to all-day lists last May, when Prof. Lynds Jones was in the field with me: May 9th, 1913, 116 species; May 10th, 1913, 113 species, nearly all of which were in the park or about the reservoirs. For the year 1913 we listed 196 different species of birds in the vicinity of Youngstown. Previous to the building of these reservoirs an all-day list of 75 species was considered very good, and a yearly list of 130 species, including residents and migrants, was about the limit.

With such favorable conditions for bird study, the people of Youngstown and vicinity have become quite generally interested in the birds. At the present time we have a number of men and women who are reliable in observation and identification, and a great many with a good general knowledge of the birds.

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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB.

BY LYNDS JONES.

The actual founding of the organization out of which this Club grew occurred on December 3, 1888, when President Harlan H. Ballard, of the Agassiz Association, issued a charter to the Corresponding Wilson Ornithological Chapter of the Agassiz Association. The movement was inaugurated by Mr. J. B. Richards, of Fall River, Mass., who was elected

its first President, with the writer as Secretary. It is pretty clear that this Chapter grew directly out of the Young Ornithologists' Association, which was organized some years earlier by Mr. L. O. Pindar, of Hickman, Ky., in an informal way, and became a formal organization on May 29, 1886, by the adoption of a constitution.

Of the 36 members on the original roll of the Wilson Ornithological Chapter of the Agassiz Association but four are on our present roll. They are: Frank L. Burns, Berwyn, Pa.; John H. Sage, Portland, Conn.; R. M. Strong, University of Chicago, and Lynds Jones, Oberlin, Ohio. Mr. Burns has held all of the offices of the organization, including the editorship of its official organ for the year 1901, and has written the most notable papers which the Club has published. Mr. Sage has long been a member of the Executive Council. Dr. Strong has also occupied every office and in addition handled the business end of the official organ in 1892, when the Wilson Quarterly succeeded the Semi-Annual as our official organ. The writer has tried to do his part in keeping the movement going.

Perhaps the greatest interest clusters around the various publications which have served as the official organ of the organization, but mention should be made of the change in the name which resulted in casting loose from the parent Agassiz Association, late in 1902, and reorganizing under a new constitution and adopting the present name. The first organization had been avowedly for the purpose of bringing together, in a mutual sort of way, the younger ornithologists of this country, but with the passage of time so many grew to man's estate that the inevitable must happen, so the apron strings were cut. To those who have followed the career of the Club it will seem clear that this cutting loose was necessary for the further growth of the cause which the organization represented.

The first official organ of the then Agassiz Chapter was the *Curlew*, a twelve-page 3x5 printed page monthly published by O. P. Hauger, Orleans, Ind. This little paper enlarged the size of page to 4x6½ with the sixth number, issued the

seventh and then suspended, in April, 1889. Beginning with January, 1890, the Ornithologists and Oölogists' Semi-annual, published by W. H. Foote, Pittsfield, Mass., became the official organ until its suspension with the first number of the third volume, April, 1891. Beginning with the fourth number of the first volume of the Taxidermist, edited by E. W. Martin and managed by C. F. Mignin, both of Akron, Ohio, space was used until its suspension with the May number, 1892. Beginning with April, 1892, Dr. Strong undertook the task of publishing The Wilson Quarterly, which was the successor of the Ornithologists and Oölogists Semi-annual. After publishing the July number the funds available were exhausted, and financial support was lacking, so suspension became necessary. In January, 1893, a much smaller publication, known as "The Journal," was issued, under the same management, the writer remaining the editor, and after two numbers it also suspended because of lack of funds. This ended, for the time being, the efforts of the organization to publish its own official organ. Lack of support is the proper spelling.

President Ballard furnished space in the Popular Science News for May, 1893, for a report of the Owls, which was compiled by the writer. Following this report and the suspension of "The Journal" communication between the members was maintained by means of mimeographed sheets, done on the writer's typewriter and the mimeograph of the Oberlin Department of Zoölogy.

Beginning with February, 1894, the present series of Bulletins was begun by the then Secretary, William B. Caulk. These were post card size, and the three which were issued bear the dates of February, May and July, 1894. To supplement these several printed postal cards were sent out.

Two reports had been prepared and it was thought best to publish them as a fitting end to the organization. The two were the "Warbler Report," issued as Bulletin No. 4, January 15, 1895, by the writer, and "The American Crow," as Bulletin No. 5, by Frank L. Burns. These were mostly financed by the writers of the reports. Instead of killing the

organization, as we expected, these reports seemed to infuse it with such life that the writer of this sketch was encouraged to plan for the publication of a modest official organ to be known as *The Wilson Bulletin*, with a bi-monthly appearance. Accordingly the publication was begun in January, 1896, as a twelve-page magazine with a printed page of  $5 \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ , brevier type. This publication continued through 1899, with regularly recurring deficits which the editor met for the good of the cause, with some occasional assistance from Mr. Burns and others.

During the several years preceding 1900 Mr. Burns had been working on an exhaustive study of the Flicker, and the editor upon a study of the songs of the warblers. Both of these papers were ready for print by the beginning of 1900, and plans were made for putting them into print. The deficits were becoming so onerous that it was decided to issue these two reports as a grand finale and disband the organization. But history repeated itself and it was found that a continuance of the publication was demanded by the membership. The editor was not able to spare the time necessary for the preparation of a bi-monthly, so it was decided to increase the size of the printed page and increase the number of pages in order to make a quarterly magazine of reasonable size. Volume 12, 1900, thus became the first of the enlarged volumes, as at present.

An unusual stress of work during 1901 precluded the possibility of the present writer carrying the *Bulletin* during that year, so Mr. Frank L. Burns, of Berwyn, Penn., edited and published that volume. Beginning with the year 1902 the writer has both edited and published the *Bulletin*. It has been too hard a task. For the lifting of the burden of publishing from his shoulders he is indeed grateful, and predicts a future full of great achievements for the Club which the change of policy will make certain. The help which has been given, both financial and of other but not less real sorts, he is certain not to forget.

The thought that inspired the original founders of the organization had its roots in mutual helpfulness among the

younger ornithologists. Regular gatherings were assumed to be impossible, hence the expedient of coöperation through correspondence was hit upon as the instrument to bring about the results aimed at. That good has resulted from this necessarily rather loose organization cannot be denied, as witness the several papers of no mean value which were based upon this idea of coöperation by correspondence.

The time came when a change was demanded, and it was made. Now the time has come when another more profound change is demanded, and it has been made. That it will result in a decided forward movement those who have lived the life of the Club are confident.

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## DIE VÖGEL—HANDBUCH DER SYSTEMATISCHEN ORNITHOLOGIE.

BY DR. ANTON REICHENOW.

A CRITIQUE BY W. F. HENNINGER.

(Read at the meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club, at Chicago, February 6, 1914.)

The first volume of this work contains one map, 185 cuts and 529 pages.\* The writing of this phenomenal work was caused, according to the author's own words, by the fact that in spite of the richness of German ornithological literature there was no German "Handbuch" or Manual of Systematic Ornithology in existence that took into consideration all the existing forms of birds. To supply this obvious need Dr. Anton Reichenow has presented us with a splendid work, that gives us in terse language as complete a Manual as seems necessary for placing a bird in a system of classification and in its proper relation to other forms. It is limited in its scope, however, as to subspecies and closely related species. Still all European birds, all the birds of the German colonies

\* The second to be published in the summer of 1914.