

THE WILSON BULLETIN

A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Study of Birds. Official Organ of the Wilson Ornithological Club

Edited by LYNDS JONES

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EDITORIAL

The lateness of the present number of the Wilson Bulletin is due to the editor's absence from home from the 20th of June to the 14th of September. He was conducting a party of sixteen from Chicago to Seattle, and from there up through Admiralty Inlet, and out through the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Neah Bay, and from there out on the Pacific and down among the islands and on the coast to Moclips. It was a camping trip, conducted as a summer class from Oberlin College. The sea life of the tide flats was studied as well as the life of the primeval spruce, cedar and hemlock forests. The trip proved so successful, so enjoyable, and so profitable that he proposes to organize a party for the same trip next summer, to occupy the time between June 19 and July 29.

The Bluebird, edited and published by Dr. Eugene Swope, Cincinnati, is publishing a series of color plates of the eggs of North American Water Birds in connection with articles from the pen of Dr. R. W. Shufeldt. The ten plates which are ready show the eggs natural size, and the colors and markings reproduced with fidelity. It is a valuable feature of this enterprising publication.

We are pleased to note that The Guide to Nature has introduced a department of Ornithology, which is edited by Harry G. Higbee. In the September number there are several good reproductions from photographs. The introduction of this feature should serve to increase the popularity of this magazine of the Agassiz Association.

The editor will have something to say about certain interesting features of his summer experiences in the December Wilson Bulletin. It will be recalled that a number of articles appeared from his pen about his trip down this same coast in June, 1907. The intervening eight years has witnessed marked changes, which it is proposed to note at this time.

Many readers of the Wilson Bulletin must have spent some of the summer where they have been able to gather interesting facts about bird life. The editor will be glad to receive accounts of these studies and the conclusions reached for the pages of the Bulletin. The real value of such studies is appreciated only when you write them up for publication.

GENERAL NOTES

BIRDS AND THE WORLD WAR.

A private soldier now on leave in England says birds warn the allies of German gas attacks. Long before the smell of the fumes can be detected by the man in the trenches, there is to be heard a clamouring of alarmed and awakened birds. These soon fly away beyond the reach of the deadly fumes, but the soldiers have had warning, and meantime adjust their respirators, and make other preparations to meet the gas. This item of war news is an addendum to the remarks in Dr. Shufeldt's very interesting paper on Ornithology and the War in Europe.

J. H. GURNEY.

Keswick Hall, Norfolk.

TAVERNER ON CORMORANTS VS. SALMON.—On account of numerous complaints that cormorants were damaging the salmon fisheries of the Gaspé coast of Quebec, Mr. P. A. Taverner and two assistants investigated conditions there for two months during the summer of 1914.

General observations did not support the contention that cor-