

# THE WILSON BULLETIN

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## EDITORIAL

We are heartily in favor of the bird banding movement, and we not only wish it success to the highest degree, but we will do our little bit in the banding work. But we strongly urge that those who do not find it possible or practicable to join the banding game shall not let the work which they can do lapse. Bird banding naturally lends itself to the more intimate study of individual birds and their activities within certain definite limits. Let us not forget that we have hardly yet begun a study of the undisturbed activities of wild birds in their natural environments. Anybody with a little leisure may enter this field and he may do much or little as his training and inclination and time may warrant. But it is all important that the telling of what has been seen shall be in simple language and without additions or subtractions—that is, just as it actually was. A vast deal of the reports of observations that find their way into popular print are padded with all sorts of interpretations. Cut that sort of thing out.

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We find, in the January-February, 1923, Condor a comment by the Editor which seems to us well worth quoting here entire. "The *Wilson Bulletin* for December, 1922, contains an article by Ira N. Gabrielson on 'Life Histories of Various Species of Birds,' which well illustrates the point that there is no one, anywhere, who is lacking in plenty of opportunity to contribute to avian natural history. The species dealt with by Mr. Gabrielson are all very common ones in the Mississippi valley, but he brings forward a considerable mass of accurate observational data, some of it, to the best of our knowledge, new, and all of it well deserving publication because of its corroborative worth. Here in the West we often find that scarcely anything of definite value has been published about the behavior of even an abundant species. We cite the *Wilson Bulletin* article as a pattern of what can and ought to be accomplished along this line much more frequently than is the case in the western states."

It need only be added that offerings of matter of this sort are earnestly solicited from everybody.