

After several days of this we took him "for a ride," well covered to prevent him from seeing the surroundings, and liberated him about a mile from home. But the next morning we found him again feeding contentedly in one of the traps. We again took him for another ride of two miles, with the same result. Only after taking him out in the country for several miles, and liberating him near a flock of his own kind, did we succeed in getting rid of him. How did this recently born bird, reared by alien parents, never before off the home lot, find his way back home so quickly, all by himself, and with no guides?—
EDWARD A. EVERETT, *Waseca, Minnesota.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE NASHVILLE MEETING

The fourteenth annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club will be held at Nashville, Tennessee, on December 30-31, in conjunction with the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science which will be in session throughout the same week. This will be the seventh meeting to be held with the American Association. The following announcements will give most of the information which may be desired by those who may be planning to attend. A meeting has just been held at Cleveland, Ohio, which was arranged during the interval between this one and the last issue of the BULLETIN. We expect to present complete accounts of both meetings in the next issue.

FROM THE NASHVILLE LOCAL COMMITTEE

The coming meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club at Nashville Tennessee, is being looked forward to with keen anticipation. The dates decided upon are December 30-31, with a field day on January 1. The American Association will hold its annual convocation at Nashville during the seven days following Christmas, and its programs, together with those of the thirty or more associated scientific organizations, provide a feast of entertainment and culture not otherwise to be had. The foremost scientific men of the country will be present at these meetings, many of them to participate in the programs. It will be a rare opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. These features, with the reduced railroad rates, should encourage every member of the Wilson Club to plan to attend the Nashville meeting.

The Tennessee Ornithological Society is again to be our host. Although the interval since the last Nashville meeting has not been great, the T. O. S. is pledged to outdo its previous efforts, and is confidently expecting that the W. O. C. members will do their part by lending their attendance. The program, tentatively, is as follows: On Friday, the 30th, the morning session will be divided between business and the reading of papers. The Friday afternoon and Saturday morning sessions will be devoted to papers, and the Saturday afternoon program will be followed by a short business session to conclude all business. On Friday evening the annual dinner will be served at the Hotel Hermitage, and the local Committee has prepared a spicy program for this occasion. Early Saturday morning a before-breakfast-trip, for those who wish, will be made to beautiful Radnor Lake, a thirty-five acre gem set among the knobs high above Nashville. Here several hundred ducks spend the winter along with other water birds.

On Saturday evening an informal reception in honor of the visitors will be held at the home of Mr. A. F. Ganier, where all "bird cranks" will have free reign to release their pent-up enthusiasm on sympathetic ears. Mr. Ganier's collections in various branches of natural history, along with those of other local members, will be on display. Among these will be shown the nests and eggs of all species of American warblers—part of the collection of Dr. H. S. Vaughn.

On Sunday a field day is scheduled, with headquarters at "Idle-wild-wood," the bird reservation on the Stones River where members Vaughn, Mayfield, and Ganier have their summer homes. Here the high wooded cliffs above Stones River and the low valley lands nearby should yield a field list of upwards of fifty species of birds. After the tramp dinner will be served under the trees, where barbecued pig, fricasseed rabbit, and other local delicacies will be dispensed. Ample motor transportation will be supplied by the Local Committee.

Nashville, a city of 175,000, is one of the greatest educational centers in the country, and on the five college campuses which join each other, are splendid facilities for taking care of the meetings. Information concerning railroad rates, hotel accommodations, etc., has already been sent to the members. You are urged to observe carefully the instructions given elsewhere concerning the railroad certificate to be secured when buying your one-way ticket to Nashville. Requests for additional information or offers for the program may be addressed to Mr. A. F. Ganier, 2507 Ashwood Ave., Nashville. The program will go to press on December 26.

RAILROAD TICKETS

The attendance at the general meetings at Nashville will be large enough to insure the one-and-a-half fare for the round trip. When purchasing your ticket to Nashville you will pay full fare for a one-way ticket, but you must ask for a Certificate of the Western Passenger Association, which will be furnished and filled by your ticket agent at your request. You must purchase early enough to allow time for making out this certificate. The American Association for the Advancement of Science and its associated societies are entitled to this rate, but to avoid any uncertainty it may be best to name the American Association as the meeting attended. When you reach Nashville you must deposit this certificate with the Secretary of the American Association for validation. When ready to return you reclaim your validated certificate, which entitles you to purchase the return ticket for one-half the regular fare.

ROOM ACCOMMODATIONS FOR LADIES AT NASHVILLE

The following item is clipped from *Science*, for November 11, and will be of interest to many of our members:

"Women planning to attend the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be interested in knowing that lodging can be obtained at the dormitory of the Peabody College for \$2.00 per day. The Peabody and Vanderbilt Universities will be used for the meetings and there are eating places near at hand. Application should be made to W. N. Porter, convention secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Nashville, Tenn."

Rooms in the dormitory will be much more convenient to the meetings than will the down-town hotels. It might be well to engage the rooms a week or two in advance of the meetings if you are certain of going.

MID-WINTER BIRD LIFE AT NASHVILLE

The mid-winter bird list at Nashville numbers between fifty and sixty. The Bluebird, Cardinal, Flicker, Junco, Mockingbird, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Towhee, Downy Woodpecker, and Carolina Wren are rated as abundant. The Bobwhite, Carolina Chickadee, Crow, Mourning Dove, Goldfinch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Meadow-lark, Robin, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Savannah Sparrow, Tufted Titmouse, Myrtle Warbler, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Bewick's Wren are rated as common. The Brown Creeper, Lesser Scaup Duck, Purple Finch, Sparrow Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Bluejay, Killdeer, Prairie Horned Lark, White-breasted Nuthatch, Screech Owl, Fox Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Hermit Thrush, Pileated Woodpecker, Winter Wren, Turkey Vulture, and Black Vulture are rated as fairly common in mid-winter in the Nashville region. Pick out the birds you would like to see on the field trip at the Nashville meeting and tell the Local Committee.

COMMUNICATIONS

Editor, WILSON BULLETIN: I have read with much interest your review of Mr. A. C. Bent's "Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds," published in the WILSON BULLETIN for September, 1927, pages 187 and 188. Since your principal criticism deals directly with that part of this work for which I am responsible and because it is believed that you have not understood the system followed I feel that this letter of explanation is warranted to clear up any similar misunderstanding that may exist among other readers of the BULLETIN.

The truth of your statement that we need detailed work on the distribution and migration of North American birds is fully appreciated but as this is a subject that if treated in proper detail would occupy a great amount of space it could not be included in a general work of the character of Mr. Bent's life histories. It is regretted that no technical bulletin on this subject has been issued from the Biological Survey since about 1916. You will be interested to know, however, that I now have in course of preparation, two manuscripts on this subject.

In the life history bulletin, however, it was impossible to give the great mass of detailed information that is available concerning the distribution and migration of our native birds but if you will compare the last volume with those preceding it you will find that this phase of the subject has been treated more fully than ever before. Even so I found that it was impossible to give more than a general sketch showing the general breeding range, winter range, and the outstanding features of the spring and fall migrations. In working out the breeding range the method employed was to start at the northwest corner working across to the eastward, thence down the east to the southeast corner, across to the southwest corner, and back to the starting point. The theoretical perfect range is thus worked out in a quadrangle. The same system was followed with regard to winter ranges. Obviously, if a bird is known to breed between certain north and south limits it may be safely considered to breed at all intermediate areas where the conditions are suitable.

To take the example that you use of the coot, by reference to our distribution maps it is noted that this bird is known to breed in no less than 34 different