

THE WILSON BULLETIN

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EDITORIAL

THE COLORED PLATE in this issue requires some explanation and comment. Mr. George Miksch Sutton has very kindly permitted us to reproduce his painting to accompany the article by Mr. Holt. Our regular income does not permit us to furnish illustrations by the costly 4-color process. But this picture of the Wood Ibises is so beautiful and so appropriate in this issue that the Editor has voluntarily taken a plunge in presenting it. A small part of the cost has already been subscribed through correspondence. The Editor is trusting that enough members, upon seeing the plate, will indicate their approval by sending a small donation toward the expense. We realize that this sort of solicitation may be undignified in a pretentious journal; but if it brings pleasing results our critics may be mollified. We have on hand at the present time another equally beautiful painting in color, to accompany an equally interesting article, which we shall publish in the near future if it can be financed. If we should fortunately receive more than enough money to pay for the plate in this issue, the excess will be made the nucleus of a fund for the other plate. When our endowment fund becomes a little larger and productive, the interest from it will help to furnish these desirable illustrations.

THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP roll will be published as usual in the June issue. Last year, for the first time, the date of beginning of membership was included in the roll. Because of faulty records some mistakes were made in these dates. In the next roll it is hoped to eliminate as many of these errors as possible. The Secretary would be glad if members would notify him of any inaccuracies as to date of joining, or in address.

RECENT NEWSPAPER DISPATCHES indicate that the people of Hawaii are proposing to import song birds on a large scale, not for commercial purposes, but purely for aesthetic reasons. In the long run bird protection will find its strongest argument in the realm of sentiment.

Nevertheless, at almost the same time there appears an Associated Press dispatch from the Black Hills of South Dakota (January 22, 1929) telling of an irruption of rodents, which "are making life miserable for the Jones County farmers." It is said that 1,300 acres of corn has been destroyed in one county, and that on one tract alone 2,154 field mice have been destroyed by poison. This abnormal multiplication of rodents followed promptly a war on "vermin," including hawks, owls, crows, and snakes, just a short time ago.

And yet, within the past year we clipped the following item from the editorial column of some newspaper: "When scientists of the present day get to talking about scientific achievements, for public consumption, they probably impress themselves and others who do not know that professional scientists have had little part in such developments. Practically all of the important new things originate outside of recognized scientific circles."

This should abate, somewhat, scientific conceit! Progress is slow. Just when we think that beliefs in witchcraft and intolerance have been outgrown, and that the open mind has become the rule of mankind, something happens to shake our optimism. Progress is, however, pretty sure.

IN OPENING THE NEW YEAR it becomes necessary to record some changes in our official staff. Mr. Thos. H. Whitney has served in the capacity of Vice-President for the past four years. During this time he has initiated the incorporation of the W. O. C. and the establishment of a trust agreement, from which it is hoped in the natural course of events may grow an appreciable endowment fund. Mr. Whitney's term of office marks a distinct service to the organization, and his efforts are recognized and appreciated. He is succeeded by Mr. George Miksch Sutton. Mr. Sutton needs no introduction, but we may say that at present he is a member of the staff of the Pennsylvania State Board of Game Commissioners, being in charge particularly of ornithological research and educational work. Mr. Sutton received his preliminary education in the middle west, and later went east, as so many of our good men have done. He is now spending some of his spare time in graduate work at Cornell University. While he is a prolific writer, he is best known as a painter of birds. We will not attempt to name all of the magazines or books in which Mr. Sutton's work has appeared in color; but we will notice that *Outdoor Life and Recreation* has begun a series of bird paintings by Mr. Sutton. The first colored plate in this series was of the Prairie Chicken, and appeared in the February number. Mr. Sutton has been especially kind to the WILSON BULLETIN.

After three years of faithful service Mr. Gloyd insisted that he be relieved of official duties in order that he might pursue his graduate research. Mr. Gloyd's pleasing personality was evident even in his correspondence, and while the debt is all ours, yet we feel that Mr. Gloyd has a host of friends to his credit as a result of the three terms of office. It takes an energetic secretary to keep our membership roll at par, and in this respect Prof. Gloyd did his duty well, and we thank him.

Prof. Gloyd is succeeded in the office of Secretary by Jesse M. Shaver, Professor of Zoology at Peabody College, Nashville, Tenn. Many of us became acquainted with Professor Shaver at our two Nashville meetings, and remember him as a genial six-footer, who can make a good speech of welcome. During the past year he received his doctorate from the University of Chicago; and it has been said that Dr. Shaver's degree was the first one ever granted by this University in ornithology. Incidentally, for this is an interesting point, Dr. Jones received his degree at Chicago years ago on a thesis on nestling down, but we do not know that his major (or minor) was designated as ornithology.

We cordially welcome these new officers, with confidence in their determination to make this year one of progress and achievement.