

# THE WILSON BULLETIN

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The present editorial organization is as follows: T. C. Stephens, Editor-in-Chief, Sioux City, Iowa; Myron H. Swenk, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska; Albert F. Grier, Nashville, Tennessee; Alfred M. Bailey, Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, Illinois; R. D. Hissong, Sioux City, Iowa.

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## EDITORIAL

After serving for many years as Editor of the *Ibis*, official organ of the British Ornithologists' Union, Dr. W. L. Sclater retires. He is succeeded by Dr. C. B. Ticehurst, of Kent, England.

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The issue of the WILSON BULLETIN for March, 1930, is now practically exhausted. If any of our readers are not accustomed to retain permanently their copies, and would be willing to donate the March issue, they may be sent to the Editor and will be thankfully accepted. We have had a great many calls this year for back numbers, and most of the two hundred new members for the year have asked for back numbers of the year. These two demands were not foreseen, and only the usual number of copies of the March issue were printed. And so we ask our readers to send us only such copies as might otherwise be lost or destroyed.

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MR. E. C. HOFFMAN, of Lakewood, Ohio, is still working on the Starling problem. He finds that this species is continuing to increase and spread rapidly. In Cleveland, for instance, the Starlings began roosting in the Public Square on October 13, 1930, at which time they numbered about 150. On November 8th they had increased to more than five thousand, and the greater number of these were roosting on nearby buildings. At sunset flocks of a thousand or more fly in compact formation high over the roofs of office buildings. Mr. Hoffman is anxious to receive reports from all parts of the country concerning the movements of the Starling this winter, and he may be addressed at 1041 Forest Cliff Drive, Lakewood, Ohio.

THE FIRST AND ONLY TIME we ever visited the American Museum of Natural History must have been about 1896, or thereabouts. We have a vague recollection of an old wooden fence around the premises. We are now profoundly impressed with the scope and development of this institution as briefly sketched in the September-October number of *Natural History*, one of the Museum's periodical publications.

The modern metropolitan museum is not merely a collection of natural history exhibits or sponsor of a course of lectures, but it is an institution of research and exploration—an influential contributor to the store of human knowledge. The present-day art of taxidermy is a wonderful advance over the methods of the past. Most of us have little conception of the skill and variety of the accessory work in the preparation of the exhibits in the modern museum. The best exhibits of today blend art with science—if exact reproduction of natural environment may be called art, and who will deny the artistry of nature? The great collections of study material are important features of the big museums of today. The active educational work carried on in the local community is by no means the least of the museum's functions. Fortunate, indeed, is the school system of a community which supports a modern museum of this kind, where pupils may be taken by classes to observe and study the collections under expert guidance, to profit by the courses of lectures, and to benefit by the inspiration which arises from contact with an intellectual and cultural center. The educational work of the modern museum is also carried on by means of circulating nature study collections, by loan libraries of lantern slides and motion picture films, and by various other extramural aids. The services performed by the public museum in a community are as important as are those of the public library, and probably cost no more in smaller communities. The number of people served by the public museum may be very great. Over twelve millions of school pupils were served by the educational activities of the American Museum during the year of 1929, and this figure does not include the regular adult visitors to the museum exhibits. We have been told that the Field Museum, of Chicago, often entertains five thousand visitors in a single day. Is it not time for many of the communities of the middle west to begin to profit by the examples of the older eastern cities in this public enterprise?

## THE CLEVELAND MEETING

The Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club will convene in Cleveland, Ohio, on Monday and Tuesday, December 29 and 30, 1930, in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The reading of papers will form a prominent feature of the meetings. All members are earnestly requested to contribute and to notify the Secretary as to the titles of their communications, the length of time required for their presentation, and whether they will be illustrated by lantern slides, small films, or standard films. If a definite place on the program is desired, members should so indicate.

Meetings will be held in Room 32, Clark Hall, College for Women, Western Reserve University, from 9.00 A. M. until 5:00 P. M.

The annual banquet of the Wilson Ornithological Club will be held with the Cleveland Bird Club and the Inland Bird Banding Association at a time and place to be determined later.

The attention of all Wilson Club members is called to the meeting of the Inland Bird Banding Association which will meet in Cleveland on Wednesday, December 31. All Wilson Club members are urged to stay over one day and attend this meeting.

At this meeting, the new Constitution and By-Laws will come up for ratification.

The headquarters of the Wilson Club will be at Hotel Hollenden, Superior Avenue at East Sixth Street, where rooms may be secured at the following rates: single room with bath, \$3.00 to \$6.00; double room, \$6.00 to \$12.00. Reservation should be made well in advance.

A special railroad rate is made to all members of organizations associated with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Since the Wilson Ornithological Club is an associated organization, this special rate applies to its members. To secure this special rate, purchase a one-way ticket to Cleveland, Ohio, and secure from the agent a certificate to the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Do not purchase a ticket without securing this certificate. This certificate must be presented to the proper official at the convention for validation. After validation, the certificate entitles its holder to a return ticket at half the regular rate.

JESSE M. SHAVER, *Secretary*.

George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee, October 28, 1930.