

CONCERNING A MATTER—

Dear Dr. Stephens:

Occasionally we have in the past received letters and notes from members complaining, sometimes gently, sometimes with more force, of the fact that we have invited them to become members when they are already members. These complaints somehow seem unavoidable because it appears impossible to eliminate all re-solicitation.

When you figure that the Secretary has three different files of prospective members containing about four thousand names, you will realize that the problem of accurate checking is a difficult one. A great many of the people whose names appear on these lists belong to a number of organizations or are interested in a number of fields of activity and consequently their names appear on a number of different lists. Sometimes the address on one list will be the person's home address, on another, it may be his office address, on a third, it may be sent to him in care of a commercial firm or school or museum, *et cetera*. Sometimes a man's initials, sometimes his first name are given, etc. The problem of checking these lists against each other and against the roll of the Wilson Ornithological Club seems a task in which complete accuracy is impossible.

It is one of the penalties of prominence that certain people appear on different lists in such a way that duplication and re-solicitation appears occasionally unavoidable. So I hope that our members to whom this occurs will understand that we are trying our best to keep from giving them unnecessary annoyance. One suggestion that you might care to make to the member who has been re-solicited is this: If he would take the letter, sample program, and application cards, which have been wasted in being sent to him and put them in an envelope addressed to a friend of his, it would help immensely. In this way our members would be helping the friends to whom they send this information and, of course, the Wilson Ornithological Club would profit by this new contact which it might not otherwise have been able to make.

I trust that this explanation will satisfy those members whom we have unwittingly re-solicited. We hope they will forgive us for our unknowing attempt to re-interest them in our organization.

Sincerely yours,

JESSE M. SHAVER, *Secretary*,
Wilson Ornithological Club.

Our Library

The Wilson Ornithological Research Library at Ann Arbor is now an establishment, but with empty shelves. The arrangement with the Museum of Zoology of the University of Michigan is printed in full in the last (March) issue of the WILSON BULLETIN. This Library now solicits contributions from the members and friends. Publications on ornithology, and the allied subjects of ecology, anatomy, exploration, travel, etc., are desired. And the following types of publications are suggested as especially desirable:

- Single volumes, bound or unbound
- Magazines, sets, volumes, and numbers, foreign or domestic
- Authors' reprints
- Maps
- Reports and journals of explorations
- Biographies
- Bibliographies, printed and manuscript
- State natural history and geological surveys
- Proceedings or transactions of state scientific societies
- Manuscript notebooks
- Original paintings or drawings of birds
- Photographs of birds, nests, eggs, habitats, etc.
- Portraits of ornithologists

All portraits and photographs should be accompanied with full identifying data. Authors are requested to deposit a set of reprints of their publications. Members who wish to bequeath their libraries are invited to correspond with the officers of the Club. All gifts should be addressed to

THE W. O. C. ORNITHOLOGICAL LIBRARY,
Museum of Zoology,
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN
