

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Our Society's Executive Council consists of the Officers, the 3 Elective Members, and the Past Presidents. Presently, there are 22 members of the Council; their names can be found on Page 341 in *The Wilson Bulletin* for September 1966. On pages 332-333 of that same number of the *Bulletin*, our Secretary, Pershing B. Hofslund, has summarized the principal actions of the Executive Council at its 1966 meeting. As can be seen under items 1-3 of these principal actions, an important duty of the Council involves determining where future Annual Meetings are to be held.

Turning again to the September 1966 *Bulletin*, we find (p. 376) a breakdown of the geographical distribution of the Society's membership. This shows the extent to which a large proportion of our membership is concentrated in the states and the province bordering on the Great Lakes. This fact carries some weight in the Council's determinations about the sites of Annual Meetings, for the feeling has been that our Meetings should be within reasonably convenient range of the geographical center of our membership.

The geographical breakdown also shows, however, that California, with 75 members, follows New York, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Illinois, in that order. Moreover, 178 members live within the 11 states and 3 provinces comprising the area which includes, and extends westward to the Pacific from, Saskatchewan, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico.

At its next scheduled meeting, in June 1967, the Council will act upon a proposal that the Wilson Ornithological Society should consider the feasibility of a joint meeting with the Cooper Ornithological Society, at some future date, "somewhere in mid-continent." If a line connecting Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Brownsville, Texas, represents a fair approximation of mid-continent, the question arises: how far west of that line would it be practicable for the Wilson Society to meet? In 1965 we enjoyed an excellent meeting in the Back Hills of South Dakota, slightly west of the Winnipeg-Brownsville line. Should the Wilson Society consider meeting at some location which is as far west as the Black Hills, or even more so?

The foregoing is by way of background for saying that the Council, which will have this matter for consideration, would appreciate any comments from Wilson Society members regarding their feelings about a possible future Meeting at a site somewhere along, or to the west of, the Winnipeg-Brownsville line. The Council can best make a determination if it is aware of the wishes of the members of our Society.

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