

THE AUDUBON BULLETIN

SPRING, 1916

Published by the
ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY
(For the protection of wild birds)

Greetings from the President of the Illinois Audubon Society

To the members of the
Illinois Audubon Society.

The Directors of the Audubon Society long ago realized that its members who have so generously supported it from year to year, have had no way of knowing how the income of the Society has been spent except through the reports of its officers which have been read at the annual public meeting in May. It was recognized that while the real activities of the Society would naturally be determined and controlled by the Directors, the members should have a more definite knowledge of how the bird conservation work has been carried on and with what measure of success. Accordingly the Directors have committed the Society to the publishing of stated bulletins which shall give the activities of the Society publicity, as well as contain items of interest to bird lovers, notes on the status of both State and Federal laws for bird conservation and protection, and any bird news of importance from other organizations, State or National, that have the same object as the Illinois Audubon Society.

It is planned to publish three a year, a Spring Bulletin, an Autumn Bulletin, and a Winter Bulletin.

This Spring Bulletin for 1916 is the maiden issue. It is hoped that through it and the succeeding bulletins the Illinois Audubon Society will be able to create a wider interest in bird life, increase its membership and resources, and furnish a center of influence for the work of bird conservation in Illinois.

There are doubtless many bird lovers who would be willing to assist materially in organized work of this kind who are not even aware of the fact that there is an Illinois State Audubon Society and that it has been more or less actively at work for eighteen years. This is explainable in large part by the Society's limited resources and inadequate means of publicity. However the Directors are willing to admit a measure of responsibility for the somewhat limited rôle the Society has hitherto played. They realize that theirs should have been a wider appeal, and that they have not been quite courageous enough to assume for the Society the leadership which its name and its position entail. Let us hope that this bulletin and those which are to follow will serve to foster a truly state-wide organization and help to make possible whenever necessary, a union for efficient effort of the Illinois State Audubon Society and all organizations of similar aims in the state.

This Spring Bulletin has been put together hurriedly, yet in its preparation thirty or forty individuals and seven organizations have given cheerful co-operation. The response has been immediate. It has come from various parts of the state. Doubtless even a larger number of organizations would have been represented had our Secretary possessed a comprehensive list of bird clubs, nature study clubs, local Audubon Societies, etc. to which to send out the invitation to co-operate. We apologize to all clubs and organizations of this kind that we failed to include on our mailing list. We hope that before we issue the Autumn Bulletin we may have all such organizations on our list.

We are sending out two thousand copies of this bulletin. It would seem possible for our Society so to increase its resources that it could afford to issue a much larger edition and instead of a forty-eight page bulletin like the present one, send out a seventy-two page bulletin, well illustrated and attractively printed. There will be no trouble to secure valuable articles for publication. The range and wealth of bird life in Illinois insure us material of the right sort. Elsewhere are suggestions for co-operative work which we trust will appeal to bird observers in every part of the state. The big word is CO-OPERATE. Our membership is 450. Let's make it 1,000.

Now then Fellow Members, all together!

ORPHEUS M. SCHANTZ,
President Illinois State Audubon Society.

The Present Bird Protection Laws in Illinois and Their Enforcement

(Editor's note: In response to a request for some notes for editorial use on the present status of bird protection in Illinois, Mr. Millard submitted the following article which he characterized as a "dry, formal statement to be worked over and made interesting by the editor." To the editor it seems unusually clear and clean-cut. It appears here unchanged except for the decorations in the way of Italics, for which the editor is responsible.)

The present Illinois statute protecting bird and fish life in the state is known as the Game and Fish Act, and went into effect on July 1, 1915. It provides that the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint three persons, to be known as the State Game and Fish Commission, one of whom is the President and Executive officer of the Commission. It is the duty of the Commission to conserve and propagate the game, birds and fish of the State, enforce the statutes and bring action in the name of the people, to prosecute violators of the statutes. The Commission appoints seven wardens and 78 deputy wardens, who give all their time to the offices. They are under the control of the Commission, and, in addition, all constables of the state are ex-officio special deputy wardens, without salary or expenses as such, but receiving one-half of all the fines recovered for violation of the statute, in cases where they file the complaint.

The President receives an annual salary of \$4,000.00; the other two Commissioners \$3,000.00 each; the seven wardens receive \$1,500.00 each and the 78 deputy wardens \$1,200.00 each, besides actual traveling expenses. There are offices in Springfield, as well as in each of the six districts provided. The law protects various kinds of animal life for all or part of the year, and provides a penalty of from \$15.00 to \$50.00