

Note: No minutes of meetings were preserved before March 17, 1898

**Illinois Audubon Society
First Annual Meeting
125 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago
March 17, 1898
Annual Report**

You perhaps know that Illinois is not the first State to start this new movement for the protection of birds. Although there had been a small society here a few years ago, it was gradually growing less & would probably soon have been forgotten had not fresh interest been aroused through the efforts of the Massachusetts Society.

During the last few years there has been an Audubon Society established in that State as well as in New York & Pennsylvania. Miss Richards, the Mass. Secy., wrote to Mrs. Sara A. Hubbard, asking her if it were not possible to form an organization in this State.

Through the efforts of some of the present members of this Society a very successful meeting was held April 1st, 1897, at the residence of Mrs. A.C. McClurg, 125 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, where it was decided to give up the old Society & form & regularly incorporate a new one, & where new officers were elected. The Directors met several times before they were dispersed by warm weather. They adopted a Constitution & by-laws, which were printed for distribution. Leaflets stating the purposes of the Society & pleading the cause of the little creatures it was trying to protect were prepared & mailed to over 2000 people.

Communications were sent to the Commissioners of the different parks, asking them to cooperate in enforcing the law which imposes a fine of \$5.00 on the boy with the sling shot. The Directors procured & posed in many places in regard to the game law. They have visited many suburban towns in the interest of branch Societies. The towns to respond by appointing local Secretaries & forming branches are Alton, LaGrange, Riverside, Hinsdale, Wheaton, Oak Park, Chicago Heights, Evanston, Savannah, Winnetka, Elmhurst, & Lake Forest.

We hope during the coming year to widen our circle so as to reach distant parts of the State. So far, Alton is the only town, not in the immediate neighborhood of Chicago, to show any interest in the movement.

Very soon after the first notices of our Society appeared in the daily papers, letters came to the Secretary from all parts of the country, letters approving of what we had done & encouraging us, letters asking for information & letters giving us information. One of the last, written by a man in Florida, who had seen the cruel manner of hunting the heron, was thought so telling that it was printed & distributed as our leaflet on the aigrette. Another letter, written from Iowa, shows what one person, with the proper amount of enthusiasm, can accomplish. Out of a town of 800 inhabitants, the writer, a lady, has persuaded 102 to become members of her society & it was not necessary for the milliner to even keep feathers, there was absolutely no demand.

A leaflet has just been issued by the society containing an appeal to the mothers of the boys to whose so-called love of manly sports so many birds are sacrificed annually. The masculine sling shot has its part in the destruction of our feathered friends as well as the feminine Paris bonnet.

Members of the Society have visited the millinery shops this Spring & find that some of these report a noticeable decrease in the demand for the plumage of song birds. But the aigrette seems to be worn as much as ever by the great majority of womankind.

Our Society has now 580 adults & about 2800 Junior members. We feel greatly encouraged that so many thoughtful men & women have already given the subject their earnest consideration & help & we hope to induce many more to do so in the future.

Miss E.S. Rumsey, Secretary

Report of Treas. Miss E.S. Rumsey for the First annual meeting, March 17, 1898.

Rec'd from dues	309.25
Rec'd from sale of leaflets	1.00
Rec'd from calendars	48.00
	1.95
	\$360.20

Expenses	
Postage	55.25
Printing & stationery	145.54
Business Woman's Ex	10.15
Mass. Society leaflets	1.90
Game law.	2.00
Wrappers	1.00
Rental of chairs	7.00
Calendars	30.00
Express	2.00
Addressing envelopes	5.25
	\$263.09

Cash balance	\$97.11
(March 17, 1898)	