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## SUGGESTIONS FOR ORNITHOLOGICAL WORK IN CANADA.

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The local worker, then, should collect industriously and determine his specimens with accuracy, getting expert opinion whenever necessary. The fact that no one can be equally familiar with all the recognizable forms of every species should be recognized and no hesitation shown in referring to those having greater experience in special directions. It should be the endeavour to study the bird life of the chosen locality thoroughly and no means should be neglected to extend an understanding of conditions in past times as well as present. For this purpose old literature pertaining to the locality should be searched and the accounts verified as far as possible. In fact the compiling of a bibliography of local application is an important line of research. The aim should be to tie up every record, when possible, with an extant and fully confirmed specimen, if not one in the observer's collection, its whereabouts should be noted so that it may be available for future examination and reconsideration. Examination of old collections of stuffed birds in out of the way places and old houses is a fruitful source of information, but the greatest care should be exercised in substantiating the data in connection with them. When there is any doubt whatever on this point the fact should be noted. In fact, to a local faunal list it is better to add a hypothetical list for all species whose occurrence cannot be substantiated by specimens or on equally unimpeachable evidence. A long hypothetical list is often an indication of careful work rather than the contrary.

In collecting, the local student should attempt to gather representative series of all the birds of his area, showing every possible plumage in which they occur in the locality. This means