

and helping when we can, secure in the knowledge that any results arrived at in Washington are applicable here and available for our use. In the meantime we will have our hands and time free for other original work and avoid unnecessary and wasteful duplication.

Systematic zoology is pre-eminently the work of the closet naturalist and though to the laity it is the proverbial dry-as-dust work of the naturalist of caricature it ultimately underlies our whole modern conception of life. The tracing out of the relationships of species is our means of retracing the chain of life back through the ages to its beginnings. The conditions under which development arises gives us clues by which we are beginning to understand the fundamental principles of living creation. It is work, however, for the specially trained and can only be successfully engaged in after considerable experiences and preparatory study. In the ornithological field, so far, Canada has been too busy with practical development to give much attention to this field of endeavour. For the present, therefore, we cannot hope to seriously compete with older countries who have already trained their staffs and where collections represent material in series such as ours do not as yet contain.

However, we can all do our mite towards preparing the country for future work and future needs, gather data and specimens and gradually train a scientific body competent to attack the "riddles of existence" from the ornithological side as well as from other directions. We are all searching for the truth, the biologist, the geologist, the physicist, the chemist and the astronomer. Far apart as we seem to be in our work, we are all attacking the one great question from different directions. The answer to an astronomical detail is often found by the geologist or the chemist and the geologist receives illumination from the physicist and the biologist.

It is not an overstatement to say that zoology has had more to do with the development of modern thought in its various branches than any other science. The enunciation of the evolutionary theory had a more fundamental effect upon current thought and conception of life than anything that ever went before it. Ornithology is a branch of biology and has done its honorable share in making the intellectual world what it is to-day. If we, as ornithologists labor and do our work conscientiously, with due appreciation of our responsibilities both to science and to mankind, we can shed the light of our individual tapers in some of the dark places and add our quota to the general enlightenment. In the foregoing I have attempted to outline or indicate a course for such work.