

slenderly peopled. It was well therefore that Mr. Mason directed our attention to this subject, and especially to the circular issued by the American Ornithologist's Union, with whose action in the matter we can cordially sympathize.

It is proper to add that much important matter has been published in the Record which has not been read, except by title, at our monthly meetings; but the subjects I have already treated of are sufficient to show that we have not been altogether idle. There is, however, still vast scope for our exertions, and a great many fields to be cultivated in which our younger members more particularly might benefit our country and distinguish themselves. In relation to this they should bear in mind that we do not exact lengthy and profound papers. Any notes, however short, relating to new facts in natural history or useful application of those already known, will be acceptable to the Society, since it often happens that important discoveries are overlooked and irretrievably lost to science, because no attention has been paid to the matter of bringing them under the notice of those who can appreciate their value. Our monthly meetings also are of much greater interest than one would infer from the moderate number of members usually present. We have in most of these meetings several subjects under discussion, some of them illustrated by specimens, and it not unfrequently happens that lively and interesting discussions follow the reading of our papers. Nor is the benefit of our regular meetings confined to members, since our rules allow members to introduce their friends, whether ladies or gentlemen, and we shall welcome any who think it proper to favour us with their presence at these meetings.

It has been suggested, and I hope this suggestion will receive the attention of the council, that next winter we should resume the practice of inviting our fellow-citizens to a *conversazione* in our rooms. These meetings have in former years been very attractive, and may, I think, be renewed with advantage to the Society and to the interests of science. They constitute a legitimate means of attracting to scientific pursuits, and more especially of imbuing the young with a taste for the study of nature, while they