

seems best for the majority of us to follow the lead, perhaps under protest, of the consensus of representative opinion as evidenced by our American Ornithological Union Check List, though we can reserve to ourselves the liberty of departing from their findings in cases where mature judgment or data justifies it. However, for the sake of uniformity it is better to err on the conventional rather than the radical side and to keep as largely as possible in harmony with accepted contemporary authorities.

Others, to the contrary, notwithstanding no enduring faunal work, can be accomplished without the collection of specimens. The field-glass and camera are most valuable auxiliaries, but cannot altogether take the place of a bird in the hand. Due regard must, however, be given to the principles of humanity. Collecting is a necessary evil to scientific study and is amply justified by it, but the responsibility of the collector is great and his influence should be always thrown against the useless killing of anything. The collector kills for a good and sufficient reason and should never do it, without that justification. Man, who has been given or has assumed the rights of the earth, should recognize his responsibilities and bear the relation of a guardian to harmless lower life. Our laws recognize this and it is necessary for a collector to get a permit from the game warden of his province. This, however, is issued to duly qualified students who should be careful that the privilege is not abused. Nothing should be killed without a good and sufficient reason and when so killed particular care should be exercised that the best use possible is made of it and that it is preserved for all times.

The privilege to collect specimens, the legal property of the people, is granted by the representatives of the people for the benefit and increase of knowledge of the people. Hence such specimens are in a manner public trusts and when once taken should be preserved as such and not for individual gain or hoarding. They should be kept as safely from damage by time, dust, light, insects or accident as circumstances permit and, as the owner has morally but a life interest in them, arrangements should be perfected, so they may be for the present available for study by other workers and finally deposited in some known repository where they will be available to coming generations of investigators.

The fear that the legitimate collector will deplete our bird life is groundless. Even were the number of our collectors increased many times and stimulated to greatly increased energy they would have a negligible effect. Large collections are sometimes pointed to as causes of a supposed reduction in bird life but all the collections in North America, the results of fifty years'