

FOR THE SCHOOLS IN CHARLOTTE COUNTY, N. B.

STUDYING BIRDS FOR PLEASURE.

An article under this heading, written by Dr. J. F. Worrell, of St. Andrews, N. B., appeared last September in the *St. Andrews Beacon*. Dr. Worrell is anxious to awaken an interest in bird study throughout his own county, and to that end he is offering a prize to be competed for by the school children of Charlotte County, for the best composition on birds, based on the writer's own observation.

"The easiest time to study birds," says Dr. Worrell, "is in the spring, because at that time their plumage is fresh and the markings distinct, while later in the season the bird may look altogether different. There are no immature birds to confuse you in the spring—their plumage being different from that of grown birds—and there are no leaves on the trees to hide your view. Moreover, this is the season of song and nesting. The student must not make the mistake of thinking it is necessary to kill the birds or rob their nests in order to be able to classify them. One who is only trying to learn a little about birds during his spare time, and simply for the pleasure of it, need only be concerned about the classification and habits of the birds which visit the locality in which he lives."

The bird guide recommended is one by Chester A. Reed, published by the Musson Book Co., Toronto, at \$1.25. If field glasses, which are useful but not indispensable, are to be bought, a pair that will magnify only three or four diameters is to be preferred to more powerful glasses.

"The ability to identify a bird quickly will be acquired only by constant study in the field, and you may meet a bird many times before you can be sure of its identity. The colors and even the size will appear different in different lights. It is a good plan to carry a note-book and pencil and try to get down the following points: 'Length (point of bill to tip of tail); length, shape and color of bill; length of tail; color of back, wings, tail above and below, head, throat, breast, and underparts; where seen—dry or swampy ground, on tree or ground; whether quick or slow in action, etc.' With the bird before you and your book in hand you might decide on a certain species; but by taking notes and going through your guide more carefully at home you might conclude it to be something else."

How many of our readers have any idea of the number of species that visit New Brunswick? The writer of this article says:

"From studying the range of the complete list of the birds of Eastern North America, I have figured out that

there are one hundred and seventeen land birds that might, possibly, be seen in New Brunswick, and one hundred and five water birds. Out of this number, I personally, during spare time, have identified sixty-two land birds and twenty-three water birds. Of course a great many of these birds do not nest in New Brunswick, but can only be seen while passing through during their spring and fall migrations. I feel quite sure that many of the water birds which I have listed would never be seen in our Bay, but as their range in migrating makes it possible, I shall keep watching for them."

To the boy or girl sending the best composition, a pair of special Bird Study Field Glasses will be given. Papers should be written during the month of May and sent by the teacher, not later than June 1st, to Dr. J. F. Worrell, St. Andrews. The name and address of both pupil and teacher must be given.

The prize-winning composition will be printed in the *Beacon*.

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS.

The statement of the Rhodes Scholarships for 1914-1915, published in January last, says: "The war has continued to interfere seriously with the normal operation of the Scholarship System, as it has with university life generally throughout the Empire.

Nearly all the Colonial Undergraduate Scholars have entered the Imperial Service for the period of the war. In all cases the trustees have granted leave of absence to such scholars, reserving to them the right to resume their scholarships when they are set free from Military Service. Permission to postpone entrance at Oxford has also been granted to Colonial Scholars elected for 1916, so as to leave them free to respond to the call of national duty."

Up to January, 1916, 167 scholars and ex-scholars were known to have taken commissions or enlisted. Of these Canada contributed forty-two, Australia forty-three, South Africa fifty-three. This list is steadily increasing.

Six scholars or ex-scholars have lost their lives; several have been wounded and some are prisoners. One, an Australian, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Order, and four, one of whom is a Canadian, the Military Cross.

The next election of scholars for the Dominions and Colonies of the Empire will take place towards the end of 1916.