

As a matter of convenience we use for a permanent record pages on which the species likely to be met with are printed in systematic order down the left hand margin. These pages are ruled both horizontally and vertically, and the vertical columns headed with the days of the month, so that a space is given for the entry of each species under each day. This greatly facilitates the making of the original entry, and upon subsequent reference to it the history of the occurrence and abundance of any species during the period of observation may be read at a glance.

When it happens to be impossible to make an exact count—as is sometimes the case with a large flock of birds—the fact of the number recorded being only an estimate can be indicated by attaching to the figures any arbitrary sign to suit the fancy of the observer. Similarly, signs and abbreviations can be used to indicate that a species was in flocks, was apparently migrating, was singing, etc. As a rule, however, such facts can be more profitably treated at greater length in the note-book proper.

Hoping that others may be induced to follow this plan, and so with but little trouble greatly increase the scientific value of their field-work,

I am,

Respectfully yours,

C. F. BATCHELDER.

Cambridge, Mass.,

March 14, 1890.

NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. LADISLAS TACKZANOWSKI, an Honorary Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Warsaw, Russia, on January 17, 1890, at the age of seventy years. For many years he was director of the Zoölogical Museum of Warsaw. His numerous important publications on the ornithology of Siberia, Northern Africa, and South America, made him one of the leading ornithologists of the world. His principal special work, his 'Ornithologie du Pérou,' in three octavo volumes, was published in 1884-86, and forms a most useful handbook of the ornithology of the region treated.

SINCE the publication of the By-Laws of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1887, the following Articles and Sections have been amended to read as follows:

Article I, Section 3. Associate Members shall be residents of North America, and shall not be limited in number.

Article II, Section 4. The Treasurer shall collect all dues from members, attend to all receipts and, after approval of bills by the President, make all disbursements, and shall have charge of the property of the Union, and make a report of the same to the Union at each Stated Meeting.

Article IV, Section 9. Every Honorary and Corresponding Member-elect shall notify the Secretary of his acceptance of membership within one year from the date of his election; in default of which notification, his name shall not be entered on the roll of members.

Article V, Section 2. The annual assessment for the ensuing year shall fall due on the first day of each Stated Meeting.

Article V, Section 3. No Active Member in arrears for dues shall be entitled to vote or take part in the business of any meeting.

Article V, Section 4. The name of any member one year in arrears for dues shall be removed from the roll of membership, provided that two notices of indebtedness shall have been given him by the Treasurer, at intervals of three months; and no such person shall be restored to membership until all arrearages have been paid, or the person has been re-elected.

MR. JONATHAN DWIGHT, JR., proposes to make a critical study of the entire group of Juncos, and solicits for this purpose the loan of material from those having specimens in their collections. It is especially desirable to secure large series of specimens of all of the different forms taken in the breeding season. As the material is not desired for use before next November, it is hoped, in the interest of science, that collectors will give special attention to this group during the coming season and be willing to promptly transmit their material to Mr. Dwight early in the autumn. The specimens should be sent to Mr. Dwight, care J. A. Allen, American Museum of Natural History, 77th St. and 8th Ave., New York, N. Y. They will be returned to the owners with reasonable promptness on the completion of the proposed investigation.

IN ORDER TO make the 'Minor Ornithological Publications' as complete as possible, the Associate Editor earnestly begs the readers of 'The Auk' to send him copies of newspapers, or other publications of but local circulation, in which they may happen to notice any ornithological articles or items of scientific value. Such assistance will add greatly to the thoroughness, and hence the usefulness, of these records.

He also especially desires to obtain, for use in this same connection, Nos. 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, of 'The Young Ornithologist' (published by Arthur A. Child at Boston in 1885-86), and Nos. 1 and 6 of Vol. I; also any numbers later than No. 1 of Vol. II, of 'The Florida Naturalist' published at St. Augustine in 1884-85 (the name changed in the second volume to 'The Naturalist'), and will be greatly obliged to any one who can inform him where copies of these issues can be purchased.

SOME READERS may be glad to know that record sheets such as are described by Mr. Batchelder in this number of 'The Auk' (antea p. 218), can be obtained at a small price from Mr. F. B. Webster, 409 Washington St., Boston. Each set is arranged for 200 species, and will hold a month's observations. They can be had printed with a selected list of 174 of the land birds that are most likely to come under observation in the region from Virginia to the St. Lawrence, east of the Mississippi, the rest of the space being left blank for insertion of any other species that may be noted. If preferred—as might be the case if used beyond these limits—they can be obtained with the spaces for the names of the species left blank, to be filled by the observer to suit the fauna of his own region.

A FOURTH EDITION of Dr. Coues's 'Key to North American Birds,' will be brought out immediately by Messrs. Estes and Lauriat of Boston. It will be printed from the same plates as the third, of 1887, and so will be identical in the main body of the text; but will contain an additional 'Second Appendix,' in which will be noted all changes which the A. O. U. Committee on Nomenclature have acted upon in the Committee's 'Supplements' of 1889 and 1890, thus bringing the subject down to date. A short second preface will appear with this edition.

THE 'ORNITHOLOGISCHES JAHRBUCH: Organ für das palæarktische Faunengebiet,' is a new ornithological journal, devoted especially, as its name implies, to Palæarctic ornithology, edited by Victor Ritter von Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen, President of the Committee for Ornithological Observation Stations in Austria-Hungary, and published at Hallein. It is a 24-page, large octavo monthly, the first number bearing date January, 1890. It is intended later to increase the number of pages and add illustrations. It is intended to fill the long-felt need of a special medium of publication for the now widely scattered material relating to the Palæarctic ornith. The first two numbers are devoted to records of rare captures in various parts of northern Europe.

THE OBSERVER, published monthly, by E. F. Bigelow, at No. 5 Waverly Avenue, Portland, Conn., is an eight-page newspaper, devoted to natural history and popular science, with a department of 'Ornithology' under the editorship of Mr. John H. Sage, containing original and selected articles. The first number is dated January, 1890. 'The Observer' is well edited and attractively printed, and as a popular journal of natural history well deserves many readers.

MR. W. E. D. SCOTT, with an ornithological assistant, has started on an exploring trip to the Dry Tortugas, Key West, and the whole chain of keys up to Key Biscayne. The trip will occupy several months. Some account of it may be expected in the July issue of 'The Auk.'

WILL the person who, in January last, sent a section of a spruce tree with excavation of the Pileated Woodpecker, to R. Ridgway, Smithsonian Institution, please send him his address?