

NOTES AND NEWS.

PROF. J. W. P. JENKS, an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Providence, R. I., September 26, 1894. Prof. Jenks was born at West Boylston, Mass., in 1819, and was graduated from Brown University in 1838. Immediately after his graduation he went to Georgia as a teacher, returning to Massachusetts in 1842, to become Principal of Pierce Academy at Middleboro. Prof. Jenks had the instincts of a naturalist and had ever been interested in natural history pursuits, but it was not until 1891 that he found opportunity to devote himself entirely to the study of nature. At that time he was called to Brown University to establish a museum of natural history, and to occupy the chair of agriculture. The remaining years of his life were closely identified with the museum which he founded. With characteristic energy he devoted all his time and no small share of his means to its development, and, almost single handed, brought within its walls by far the larger part of its collections.

Early in his life, acting under the advice of Prof. Jeffries Wyman, Prof. Jenks decided that his contributions to science could best be made in the shape of material for his associates to study, and few men have been more liberal or broad-minded in their earnest wish that their specimens should be placed where they would yield the best results. In this way he rendered important assistance to the late Professors Agassiz and Baird, the pages of whose works attest their indebtedness.

Prof. Jenks had all a naturalist's fine enthusiasm; his love for his calling never waned, and at the time of his death he was as ardent in his plans for the future as a student on the threshold of his career.

DR. EDUARD BALDAMUS, a Corresponding Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died Oct. 30, 1893, in Wofenbüttel, Germany, at the age of 81 years and 6 months. This well-known ornithologist may be said to be one of the founders of German ornithology, having been an associate of Naumann, Brehm and Thienemann. Although from his earliest youth an ardent student of birds, he was by profession a teacher and clergyman. In 1849 he established the ornithological journal 'Naumannia,' which came to a close in 1858. This was apparently the earliest special journal devoted to ornithology, and was published as the organ of the German Ornithological Society, of which Dr. Baldamus was the founder and first secretary, this being likewise the first purely ornithological society ever organized. From 1860 to 1867 he was associated with Dr. Cabanis in the editorship of the 'Journal für Ornithologie.' In 1842 he began a series of ornithological explorations, which, during the next twenty-five years, extended from northern France and Italy to the islands of the North Sea, during which he formed his large oölogical collection, which has acquired world-wide fame. His writings have relation mainly to the life-histories

of European birds, and include the biological and oölogical portion of the supplement to 'Naumann's Vögel Deutschlands.' In 1876 he published an illustrated handbook of domestic fowls ('Illustrirte Handbuch der Federviehzucht'), and in 1882 appeared his 'Hausgeflügel.' His last work, 'Das Leben des Kuckucks,' was published only about a year before his death, in which work he gives the results of his many years' observations on the European Cuckoo. An extended history of the life and works of Dr. Baldamus is given in the September-October (1894) number of the 'Ornithologisches Jahrbuch,' by Dr. Rudolf Blasius, together with a list of his principal ornithological writings, numbering 160 titles.

MR. D. G. ELLIOT is engaged in the preparation of a work on 'North American Shore-Birds,' to be published by Mr. Francis P. Harper of New York. The work will include the Limicolæ, or the Plovers and Shore-birds of North America, with a full page illustration of each species, and a short account of its life history. It will also include keys to families, genera and species and a glossary of the terms used in description, being intended as a popular handbook of this group of birds, so full of interest to sportsmen and bird lovers.

FROM MR. P. L. SCLATER'S address as Chairman of the British Ornithologists' Club, at the opening of the 'third session' of the Club, we extract the following interesting information respecting the forthcoming volumes of the 'British Museum Catalogue of Birds.' He says: "From the last Parliamentary Report of the British Museum we learn that Vol. XXIV of this important work will contain the Waders, by Dr. Sharpe; Vol. XXV the Gulls and Petrels, by Mr. H. Saunders and Mr. Salvin; Vol. XXVI the Divers, Pelicans, Cormorants, and Herons, by Dr. Sharpe; and Vol. XXVII the Geese, Ducks, and the remainder of the Class of Birds, by Count Salvadori. Thus, as these naturalists are all, I believe, busily engaged on the compilation of their respective tasks, we may look forward to the completion of this arduous undertaking within a definite period—say, two or three years from the present time." Dr. Sclater suggests that there be a final index volume, giving references not only to the generic names, but to all of the specific names referred to in the twenty-seven volumes of the work. He further suggests that an additional volume be prepared "in which all the names of species described since 1874 (when the Catalogue was commenced), and not already recorded in the different volumes," be enrolled, with references to each of them. We trust both of these excellent suggestions will be carried out.

WE HAVE before us two claimants for notice in the rôle of new natural history journals, one of which is 'The Iowa Ornithologist, devoted to Ornithology and Oölogy,' published for the Iowa Ornithological Association. It is a quarterly magazine, the first number, bearing date October, 1894, consisting of 26 pages of very creditable matter. The proof-reading,

however, appears to have been left to the printer, if we are to judge by the frequent misspelling of scientific names. The leading article, on the Finches and Warblers of Iowa, contains much valuable information. The magazine is edited and published by David L. Savage, Salem, Iowa.

The other claimant for attention is 'The Museum,' "a journal devoted exclusively to research in Natural Science," published by Walter F. Webb, Albion, N. Y. This is a monthly, and the first number, of 32 pages, is dated November, 1894. It is only in part ornithological, although nearly one-half of the present number is devoted to that subject. Some of the articles, however, are unsigned, and we fail to find a table of contents, although a blank page of the cover might well have been taken for this purpose. We welcome these new-comers and wish them a full measure of prosperity.

WE HAVE just received 'The Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey,' prepared by Mr. Witmer Stone "under the direction of the Delaware Ornithological Club," and published by the Club. This important contribution to local ornithology, coming too late for formal notice in the present number of 'The Auk,' will be reviewed in a later issue of this journal.

We are also just in receipt of Part III (Moa-Sheathbill) of Professor Newton's 'Dictionary of Birds,' a most welcome continuation of this important work.

AT THE Twelfth Congress of the A. O. U. the Committee on Nomenclature, having in charge the preparation of a new edition of the Check-List of North American Birds, reported that the manuscript was practically ready for the press. The Council thereupon authorized its immediate publication, under the joint supervision of this Committee and the Committee on Publications. The work will probably be ready for distribution toward the end of the present year.

OWING to the absence of a quorum of the Committee on Nomenclature at the last Congress of the Union, and to the impracticability of calling the Committee together immediately thereafter, the publication of its report for 1894 is necessarily deferred till the April number of 'The Auk.'

MR. GEORGE K. CHERRIE, of the Field Columbian Museum, has just sailed for the Island of San Domingo, West Indies, where he will make an extended exploration of the ornithology of the island. The expedition is under the direction of Mr. C. B. Cory, Curator of Ornithology of the Columbian Museum, in continuation of his work on West Indian ornithology, which he has heretofore prosecuted with so much success.

IT MAY be of interest to know that Mr. William McIlwraith, of Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia, with others of a similar taste, is taking preliminary steps toward founding an 'Ornithologists' Union' in that distant land. We wish the new society every success.

THE A. O. U. 'Committee on Protection of North American Birds' made its usual report at the Twelfth Congress. The Chairman, Mr. Frank M. Chapman, read as a part of his report a communication from Mr. William Dutcher regarding the protection secured for the colony of Terns on Great Gull Island, New York, during the breeding season of 1894. In 1886 from 3000 to 4000 Terns were living on this island. It was found to be a common practice for persons to visit the island, shoot the birds, and take their eggs for various purposes, principally, however, for eating. Subsequently it was ascertained that the Terns were decreasing in numbers from year to year, and the necessity for protection became apparent if this colony of beautiful and harmless birds was not to be entirely destroyed. This had been the result elsewhere on the coast of Long Island. Through coöperation with several scientific and other societies of New York, and the United States Light House Board, a Special Game Protector was appointed who had charge of the island from May 15 to September 15. During that period numerous parties were prevented from collecting eggs and shooting birds. As a result of his efforts the estimated increase of the colony was from 1000 to 1500 birds, or at least one-half in numbers. Mr. Dutcher considered the statement correct, as large flocks of Terns had been seen on Long Island Sound as far west as Flushing Bay during the past season, none having been observed there before for a number of years.

Mr. Chapman also stated that Messrs. Wm. Brewster and Geo. H. Mackay were instrumental in saving from destruction the Terns on Muskeget Island, Mass. The efforts of these gentlemen prevented the threatened repeal of protective laws already in force.

The Committee was continued and, Mr. Chapman declining the Chairmanship, Mr. Gurdon Trumbull was made Chairman.

THE ACTION on the Amendments to the By-Laws of the A. O. U., proposed at the Eleventh Congress and referred to the Twelfth Congress, resulted as follows: The first proposed addition was not adopted. That part of the second amendment relating to elimination was adopted, but that portion consisting of the addition of the words "and voting" was rejected. The first paragraph of Article IV, Section 5, as amended, reads as follows:—

"*Article IV, Section 5.* Elections to Active Membership shall be held in the following manner: The number of Active Members to be elected shall be first decided by a majority vote of the Active Members present at the Stated Meeting at which the election is to be held. At each ballot each member present may vote for nominees not exceeding the full number of vacancies to be filled, and the person receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected, provided that he receive the votes of at least three-fourths of the members present, and so on until all the vacancies are filled."

Rule XI of the By-Laws and Rules was amended to read as follows:—

“Rule XI. Nominations for membership must contain the full name, residence, official position if any, and date of nomination of the candidate, and must be signed by the member or members making the nomination. A suitable form of nomination shall be provided by the Secretary, and also printed lists of the names of candidates for Active Membership, to be voted for by the Australian ballot system.”

FROM THE recently issued ‘Report of the Ornithologist and Mammalogist’ of the U. S. Department of Agriculture for 1893, by Dr. C. Hart Merriam, we learn something of the character of the work of this important bureau for that year. Like so many of the Government publications, it is belated news. With this Report Dr. Merriam brings out his ‘Third Provisional Bio-geographic Map of North America,’ modified in some essential details from the second, published about a year and a half previously. In speaking of the field work of 1893 Dr. Merriam says: “During the present year the biological survey of the Rocky Mountain region has been carried from Utah and Idaho completely across the State of Wyoming, thus connecting the work of the previous years in the Great Basin with the western part of the Great Plains. A large part of Wyoming was found to be from 1,000 to 3,000 feet lower than represented on the latest maps, and consequently to have a warmer summer climate and to belong to a more southern life zone than previously supposed. Thus the Wind River and Bighorn basins and the plains east of the Bighorn Mountains fall within the Upper Sonoran Zone instead of the Transition. . . . A special effort was made to determine the position of the boundary between the Upper Sonoran and Transition Zones in the States of Nebraska, North and South Dakota, and Montana. Further south, field work was carried on in Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico; and further west, in California, Nevada, and western Oregon.” Explorations were also continued on the tableland of Mexico.

The collection of data for the mapping of the distribution of species was also continued. While the methods of conducting this work are given in considerable detail, and its great economic importance is duly urged, we are given no definite information as to how far the work has been carried, or when the results will be made public.

In regard to the economic investigations respecting the habits of birds and mammals in their relation to agriculture, it is stated that the bulletin on the Crow, based on the examination of more than 900 stomachs of this bird, is about ready for publication, and that a similar bulletin relating to the Crow Blackbird is well under way. The report concludes with a short paper on the ‘Food Habits of the Kingbird or Bee Martin,’ by Mr. Walter B. Barrows, in which it is shown that very few Kingbirds catch honey bees, and that 90 per cent. of the bees thus caught are drones. On the other hand the Kingbird destroys large numbers of the so-called robber flies, which are very destructive enemies of the honey bee.