

It is due the librarian of the Academy to state that the irregularity in cataloguing resulted naturally from the absence of Ord's name on the separate as the authoritative author and to the fact that the main page heading of the tract reads "United States of America."

SAMUEL N. RHOADS.

Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.,
March 3, 1896.

Chen hyperborea and C. nivalis.

TO THE EDITORS OF 'THE AUK':—

Dear Sirs,—I am desirous of ascertaining the status of *Chen hyperborea et nivalis* east of the Mississippi River, and therefore request that all members of the Union and readers of 'The Auk' that have specimens of these forms in their collections from the territory in question will favor me with the following data: locality where taken, date, sex and measurement,—length and wing.

WILLIAM DUTCHER.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. WILLARD LORRAINE MARIS, an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at the German Hospital in Philadelphia, December 11, 1895. Dr. Maris was a graduate of the University of Michigan, and shortly before his death, from typhoid fever and pneumonia, was appointed resident physician at the hospital where he died. He was a young man of fine education and exceptional abilities, and was much interested in natural history, devoting special attention to ornithology. He was a son of Prof. L. Maris of Newtown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

THE DELAWARE VALLEY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB held its annual meeting at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, on January 2, 1896. The annual reports showed a continuance of the prosperous condition of the Club as reported last year, while the membership list shows a decided increase. Among the communications of the past year

may be mentioned the following: 'Food Birds of the Eskimo,' Dr. Wm. E. Hughes; 'Summer Birds of the Pennsylvania Coal Region,' R. T. Young; 'Nesting Habits of the Parula Warbler in Cape May Co., N. J.,' M. L. C. Wild; 'Ornithological Notes from the Diary of William Bartram,' Witmer Stone; 'Birds of Tennessee,' S. N. Rhoads; 'Winter Birds of Cape Charles, Va.,' G. S. Morris; 'Some Notes on the Extermination of the Wild Pigeon,' Wm. L. Baily.

The officers of the Club for the ensuing year are President, Dr. Wm. E. Hughes; Vice-President, I. Norris De Haven; Secretary, Charles J. Rhoads; Treasurer, Wm. L. Baily.

THE MICHIGAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB held three meetings during the last quarter. January 12, Mr. A. B. Durfee read an interesting paper on the Short-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus stellaris*), based on nearly half a century's experience; and Mr. W. E. Mulliken presented a paper on Evolution. February 14, Mr. L. J. Cole read a paper entitled 'Winter Experiences,' and Mr. Mulliken gave a talk on Migration. March 13 Mr. T. L. Hankinson presented a paper entitled 'Winter Notes,' and Mr. H. F. Jones a paper on the Prairie Horned Lark. A neatly printed Constitution has been issued and a copy sent to all observers in the State. At the meeting of February 14, a committee composed of L. Whitney Watkins, W. Earle Mulliken, and Thos. L. Hankinson, was appointed to prepare a migration schedule and to take up the study of bird migrations in Michigan. The blanks (similar to those used by the Department of Agriculture) have been printed and a copy sent to every observer in the State or near its borders. The membership of the Club now numbers forty, and is evenly distributed over the State. Persons interested in the work of the Club should address the Secretary, W. Earle Mulliken, at 191 First Ave., Grand Rapids, Mich., for particulars.

THE publishers, the J. B. Lippincott Company of Philadelphia, announce a "second edition, thoroughly revised," of Mr. Ridgway's 'Manual of North American Birds.' The prospectus states that this new edition of the 'Manual' "has been carefully revised to the close of 1895, and includes the characters of over one hundred species and six genera which have been added to the North American fauna since 1887. Various errors in the first edition have been corrected, several of the analytical keys having been entirely rewritten." Directions are given for the use of the keys, and marginal references in the body of the work refer to the additional matter in the appendix.

D. APPLETON AND COMPANY of New York have brought out a third edition of Mr. Chapman's 'Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America.' A few errors that escaped rectification in the second edition are here corrected, but no essential changes are introduced.

WE HAVE received Vol. I, No. 4, Jan. 1896, of 'The Feather,' a monthly journal devoted to "Poultry, Pigeons, Birds, etc.," published by George E. Howard & Co., Washington, D. C. It has a department devoted to "Cage Birds and Wild Birds," conducted by Dr. F. H. Knowlton of the U. S. National Museum. The January issue contains several pages of ornithological miscellany, contributed by Dr. Knowlton, including an article on 'The Great Auk, an Extinct Bird of much Renown,' illustrated with cuts of the bird, its skeleton, and its egg.

IN AN article in 'Nature' (Feb. 20, 1896), Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe gives an account of 'The Seebohm Collection' of birds received by the British Museum as a bequest from the late Mr. Henry Seebohm. Incidentally Dr. Sharpe sketches the growth of the Ornithological Department of the British Museum during the last twenty-five years, from a collection of about 40,000 specimens to its present status of the "finest in the whole world." The principal accessions are enumerated, and their distinctive features stated. These are the Wallace, Gould, Sclater, Shelley, and Sharpe collections; the magnificent Hume collection; the Tweeddale collection; and the great Salvin-Godman American collection. Nearly all have been donations from their former public-spirited and distinguished owners. Until the reception of the Seebohm collection, the birds of Europe and northern Asia were poorly represented. "By the splendid bequest of Mr. Seebohm," says Mr. Sharpe, "this vacuum in our Palæarctic collections has been filled, though there is no one in the Museum who does not feel that this addition to the strength of its ornithological section has been attained only through the loss of one of the truest friends of the institution which his dying wishes have enriched. There has not yet been time to register and incorporate the specimens of the Seebohm collection, but we know that we have now received the principal collection of Palæarctic birds of modern times." Some years since Mr. Seebohm presented to the British Museum his collection of eggs. This latest gift includes "the Swinhoe collection of Chinese birds, the Prior collection of Japanese birds, the series of specimens obtained by Holst in the Bonin and Loo-Choo Islands, and Formosa; and last but not least, his own European and Siberian collections, the result of his travels in all parts of Europe, and of his expeditions to the valleys of the Petchora and the Yenesei." Also his great collections of Charadriidæ and Thrushes, the former the basis of his work on the 'Geographical Distribution of the Charadriidæ,' the latter of his contemplated 'Monograph of the Turdidæ, or Family of Thrushes.' It is certainly pleasant to know that the ornithological treasures accumulated by Mr. Seebohm have been deposited where they will be not only duly appreciated but will contribute so effectively to the progress of ornithological research.

THE FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM has sent a Natural History Expedition into Central Africa, under the leadership of the Curator of Zoölogy, Mr. D. G. Elliot. Mr. Elliot sailed from New York about the last of February, and the details of his plans -- the particular part of the country to be visited, etc. -- were to be determined by information and advice obtained in London. As he takes with him the skilled taxidermist collector, Mr. E. Akeley, as his chief assistant, and is well provided with funds and necessary equipments, it may be naturally expected that the expedition will secure an ample harvest. Mr. Elliot will make special efforts to secure as many species of the Antelopes, many of which are rapidly nearing extinction, and other large South African mammals; not neglecting of course to gather in ornithological material when possible to obtain it. Mr. Elliot expects to remain in the field till December.

MR. FRANK M. CHAPMAN is spending a two months' vacation in Yucatan, where he finds that the ancient Aztec ruins rival in interest the mammals and birds.

As this page goes to press several ornithological publications have come to hand, some of which it seems desirable to mention. We have received, for instance, Part XIII of Mr. Nehrling's 'Birds of North America.' Also Mr. Cory's 'Hunting and Fishing in Florida' which should have plenty of interest for both the sportsman and naturalist, and particularly the ornithologist, as the latter half is devoted to a formal account of the Water Birds of Florida and very fully illustrated with cuts prepared especially for the work.