

NOTES AND NEWS.

AS THESE pages go to press we are in receipt, through the kindness of the publishers, of Miss Maria R. Audubon's 'Audubon and his Journals.'¹ A hasty examination of these sumptuously printed volumes is sufficient to show that Miss Audubon has presented us with a work of fascinating interest to all ornithologists and bird-lovers, and one which must also appeal strongly to the sympathies of the general reader. The story of his romantic life, told briefly in the first volume, is of absorbing interest. Following this are the European, Labrador, and Missouri River 'Journals,' and the 'Episodes,' the latter for the first time collectively reprinted from the first three volumes of the 'Ornithological Biographies.' The illustrations include a dozen portraits of Audubon, most of them heretofore unpublished, and also portraits of his wife, and his sons, John and Victor. There are also views of his mill in Kentucky and of his home mansions in Pennsylvania, besides various camp scenes and previously unpublished sketches of birds, including a pencil sketch of Townsend's Bunting. The geographical and zoölogical annotations by Dr. Coues add further interest to the work.

THE AUDUBON SOCIETY of the State of New York held a public meeting in the large lecture hall of the American Museum of Natural History on the afternoon of December 2. Addresses were made by Morris K. Jesup, President of the Museum and of the Audubon Society; Henry S. van Dyke and Frank M. Chapman, of the Society's Executive Committee; George L. Davis, representing the Superintendent of Schools of the city; and A. S. Bickmore of the Museum's Department of Public Instruction.

Mr. Jesup spoke of the work of the Society and its desire to create a public sentiment against feather wearing which will result in the proper enforcement of the laws protecting birds. Dr. van Dyke made a plea for the birds as "messengers of beauty and good cheer," and referred to their place in literature, concluding his eloquent address with the reading of two original bird poems. Mr. Chapman presented statistics showing the alarming extent to which the traffic in feathers has assumed, and urged, as a means of protecting our birds from wanton destruction, that their aesthetic and economic value be made a part of our common school curriculum. Mr. Davis expressed the willingness of the Board of Education to introduce bird-study in their course of instruction and dwelt upon the elevating and humanizing influence of nature studies, while Pro-

¹ Two vols. 8vo., illustrated. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 1897. Price, \$7.50 net.

fessor Bickmore exhibited a series of slides in illustration of a method by which bird-studies could be taught.

The meeting was attended by about 1000 people, doubtless the largest audience which has ever assembled in this country to listen to addresses relating to bird protection, and the interest and enthusiasm shown were excellent evidences of the appreciation of the importance of this subject.

MR. GEORGE K. CIERRIE has resigned his position of Assistant Curator of Ornithology in the Field Columbian Museum and in October sailed for Bolivar, Venezuela, which he proposes to make the base of explorations in the upper Orinoco region for a period of a year or more.

DR. J. BÜTTIKOFER, so well-known for his ornithological work at the Leyden Museum, has resigned his curatorship in that institution and accepted the appointment of Director of the Zoölogical Garden at Rotterdam. He has nearly completed his report on the ornithological results of the Borneo Expedition, which he accompanied as zoölogist.

DR. OTTO FINSCH, the eminent ornithologist and anthropologist, has been appointed, we are informed, to succeed Dr. Büttikofer at the Leyden Museum.

PROF. R. A. PHILIPPI, for forty-three years Director of the National Museum at Santiago, Chili, and well-known as an authority on Chilean ornithology, has retired from active work at the age of ninety years, his son succeeding him in the office of Director.

WE HAVE learned of the recent death of two of our Corresponding Members, but no details have yet reached us, — namely, Dr. A. J. Malmgren of the University at Helsingfors, Finland, and Dr. A. von Mojsisovics, Professor of Zoölogy and Comparative Anatomy at the University of Gratz, Austria. Some notice will be taken of their ornithological work in a later number of this journal.

THE FINAL plans for the location of the buildings, ranges, dens, aviaries and other enclosures for animals, and the ponds, walks, roadways, entrances, etc., for the Zoölogical Park in South Bronx Park, New York City, were lately submitted by the New York Zoölogical Society (see *Auk*, XIV, July, 1896, p. 344) to the Department of Parks and approved and adopted by the Park authorities. The Society has raised \$65,000 toward the \$100,000 necessary to receive from the city an appropriation of \$125,000 for laying out the grounds and providing drainage and water supply. The funds provided by the Society—namely, \$250,000 to be raised during the three year limit—are to be applied to the erection of buildings and the purchase of collections. It is a work that may well interest people

residing beyond the limits of New York City. The area allotted to the Zoölogical Park is four times larger than that of the largest zoölogical garden in Europe, and with the care that has been bestowed upon the plans, in order to secure the best results attainable, there is no reason why this country should not in due time be in possession of the best zoölogical garden in the world. It is hoped that the necessary financial support will be given the Society. The annual membership fee is \$10; \$200 constitutes the fee for a life membership; a gift of \$1000 renders the donor a patron, while a gift of \$5000 entitles the contributor to be enrolled as a founder. As neither the influence of the Society nor its work will be local, it is quite fitting that its appeal for financial aid should not be restricted within narrow limits. Persons interested in the work of the Society are invited to apply to the Director, Mr. William T. Hornaday, 69 Wall St., New York City, for copies of the Society's 'Bulletins,' giving reports of progress and plans of the work.

AN EDITION of 1000 copies of the report of the A. O. U. Committee on Protection of North American Birds will be reprinted from the present number of 'The Auk' for free distribution.

Owing to the pressure of business engagements Mr. William Dutcher has been compelled to resign from the chairmanship of the Committee and Mr. Witmer Stone has been appointed in his place. The Committee as now constituted is as follows:

WITMER STONE, *Chairman*, Academy of Natural Sciences, Logan Square, Philadelphia, Penn.

GEORGE H. MACKAY, 218 Commonwealth Av., Boston, Mass.

E. H. FORBUSH, Malden, Mass.

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LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, Cal.

A. W. ANTHONY, San Diego, Cal.