

NOTES AND NEWS.

'THE AUK', beginning with the present number, will be issued by the Union, and not through a publisher, as heretofore. Mr. William Dutcher, Treasurer of the A. O. U., will act as its Business Manager. Hence all correspondence relating to subscriptions, changes of address, advertisements, and the sale of any of the publications of the Union, should be addressed to William Dutcher, 525 Manhattan Ave., New York, N. Y.

At the last meeting of the A. O. U., held in Cambridge, Mass., a Finance Committee was established to take charge, under instructions from the Council, of its business affairs, and especially to provide funds for carrying on its publications. This Committee consists of Mr. Ruthven Deane, Chairman, the Treasurer and Secretary of the Union, the Editor of 'The Auk,' and Mr. William Brewster.

Notice to Contributors.—Complaint has justly been made of the habitual late appearance of 'The Auk,' which has heretofore been issued from one to two or three weeks after the ostensible date of publication, —the first day of the month of date of the respective numbers. Great effort has been made to correct this evil, which is not by any means wholly due to the dilatoriness of either the editors or the printer, except that the former have been too lenient with tardy contributors. It has been customary to receive contributions up to as late as the tenth day of the month preceding the date of publication, and frequently long-promised articles — often also the longest in the number — have not reached the editors until the time had arrived when the whole number should have been in type and 'made up.'

This is to give notice that in future all 'copy' for general articles must reach the editors six weeks before the date of their desired appearance, and all contributions to the department of 'General Notes' and 'Recent Literature' must be in the editor's hands by the first of the month preceding the date of publication of the number for which such contributions are intended; otherwise they will be held over for the following issue. In other words, articles intended for the April number should be sent in not later than the middle of February, and minor contributions by the end of the month, and as much earlier, especially in the case of the former, as may be practicable.

IT HAS been decided to published the lists of Officers and Members of the Union in the October number of 'The Auk' instead of in the January number, as heretofore. In this way it will be possible to give the status of the Union in respect to membership with greater exactness than can be done at the beginning of the year, before all the members-elect have had time to qualify.

A CONFERENCE of Audubon Society delegates, representing nine Societies, was held in Cambridge, Mass., on the afternoon of Nov. 15, 1900, in conjunction with the A. O. U. Congress, the whole day being devoted to the subject of Bird Protection. The morning session of the A. O. U. was wholly occupied with the annual report of the A. O. U. Committee for the Protection of Birds, a general report on the work of the Committee being made by its Chairman, Mr. Witmer Stone, followed by special reports by Mr. William Dutcher on the protection of Gulls and Terns through aid of the Thayer Fund, and by Dr. T. S. Palmer on the legal aspects of the subject, with special reference to the Lacey Act, its provisions and scope. The Stone and Dutcher reports are given in full in the present number of this journal. We regret that Dr. Palmer's very interesting and encouraging report of what has already been accomplished through the enforcement of the Lacey Act for the suppression of traffic in the skins and plumage of birds for millinery purposes cannot be given with equal fulness. At the conclusion of these reports the Union adjourned, to enable its members to attend the Conference of Audubon Societies.

The Conference was opened by an introductory address by Dr. C. S. Minot; Mr. Ralph Hoffmann spoke of the desirability of coöperation on the part of the several societies, and of federation to secure greater unity of action; Mrs. Mabel Osgood Wright, President of the Connecticut Society, gave an account of the method adopted by this Society to awaken interest in bird protection, namely, the preparation of a series of traveling lectures, accompanied by series of finely colored lantern slides, and a lantern; the cost of furnishing such means of instruction the Society had found to be a most satisfactory investment. In explanation of their character and purpose, Mrs. Wright read the lecture entitled 'The Birds About Home,' illustrated with seventy colored slides. Mr. Frank M. Chapman, in speaking on 'What Can we do for Our Members,' referred to the remarkable success that had attended the introduction of bird-study into the Chautauqua course, under the direction of Mrs. Florence Merriam Bailey, and urged that the Audubon Societies organize similar classes as a prominent feature of their work. Miss Justice of the Pennsylvania Society reported that this method had already been tried in that State with excellent results. Dr. T. S. Palmer of the District of Columbia Society gave an account of the methods employed by that Society to provide teachers trained for nature-study work. Finally a Committee was appointed to formulate plans for the federation of the Audubon Societies, and the Conference adjourned to meet in New York City in 1901, during the Congress of the A. O. U. to be held there in the second week of November.

The Conference brought out the evident fact that the lines of greatest usefulness for the Audubon Societies are not emotional or sentimental but educational and practical,—to make known the value of birds to man, and to perfect legal measures for their protection.

IF EVIDENCE were needed that 'Bird-Lore' successfully fills its double rôle of a magazine "devoted to bird study and bird protection," it is undoubtedly furnished in the greatly increased size of the magazine and its program for a course in bird-study outlined and initiated in the number for December, 1900. Its chief feature during the coming year will be a series of articles and 'lesson-outlines' on 'Birds and Seasons.' It is the editor's hope that this may be a "starting point in the development of an idea which includes a school of popular ornithology, with a summer encampment where both class-room and field instruction could be given by a corps of experienced teachers." If "To know birds is to love them," as one author has happily said, we cannot have a better safe-guard for our birds than the kind of bird-study here contemplated.

AT THE last Congress of the A. O. U. steps were taken to amend the By-Laws of the Union in reference to the classes of membership. When the Union was founded in 1883, the list of 43 Active Members then admitted, either as Founders or as original members, included all of the ornithologists in North America who had attained any degree of prominence, and the limitation of the Active list to 50 members did not then seem unwise. During the last fifteen years North American ornithology has advanced with unlooked for rapidity, so that the number of prominent workers in this field has now greatly increased. Hence each year the competition for the few vacancies in the Active list has necessarily resulted in the raising of the standard for admission, and finally to the recognition that the limit of 50, while ample fifteen years ago, is now too narrow. It has also become apparent that the large and constantly increasing body of Associate Members contains very diverse material, which should be reclassified. In view of these facts it has been deemed wise to segregate from this material a new class of members, enrolment in which shall be a recognition of noteworthy work in ornithology.

The amendments to the By-Laws, duly proposed and approved at the last meeting, but which will come up for final adoption or rejection at the next annual Congress, it is hoped will satisfactorily meet the new conditions. They are (1) the increase of the Active list from 50 to 75; (2) the constitution of a new class of members, also limited to 75, to be elected from the present class of Associates; (3) the change of names of the classes of members, as follows: (a) Active Members to Fellows, and Honorary and Corresponding Members to Honorary and Corresponding Fellows; (b) Associate Members to Associates; (c) giving to the new class the designation of Members. There is apparently little doubt of the ratification of the amendments at the next Congress.