

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE PRESENT ISSUE of 'The Auk' is necessarily late owing to the late date of the A. O. U. meeting and the impossibility of getting certain papers, and the reports on the meeting itself, to the printer at the usual time.

It is however not too late to wish both readers and contributors a Happy New Year.

To the former we would also offer apologies for the shortcomings that every editor is aware of in his publication; while to the latter we extend sympathy for the delay in the appearance of their papers and the hope that funds may soon be forthcoming that will enable us to handle manuscripts more promptly and avoid such a long waiting list.

In this connection some suggestions occur to us by following which contributors could help one another as well as the editor.

(1) Be as brief as possible, using no more words than necessary to express, in good English form, the facts or theories that you wish to publish. Every unnecessary paragraph may force us to hold some other communication over for the next issue.

(2) Make yourself thoroughly conversant with what has been previously published on the subject, and comment on the differences or similarities of your observations and those of your predecessors, rather than set forth the whole matter anew, and always give credit and references to the previous work of others. It is now quite impossible to publish in 'The Auk' complete annotated lists of the birds of any portion of the eastern United States and most of the western States, as it would involve too much duplication of what has already been printed. Such lists should be cared for in state reports or 'Proceedings' of local societies. Short lists of notable occurrences are, however, always acceptable.

(3) In preparing manuscript for 'The Auk' the editor will be saved a vast amount of labor if "General Notes" be prepared exactly as they are to be printed. Consult the notes in any issue and make your note conform exactly to that model. Do not make it part of a letter to the editor as he must then rewrite it for the printer, and in all lists place the Latin name first followed by the English name.

If possible have your manuscript typed and never write on both sides of the paper. Dr. Elliott Coues once said "If the archangel Gabriel were to send us the glad tidings of salvation on both sides of the paper we should decline his article with thanks and tell him that is no way to blow his horn!"

There are a few other thoughts that come to mind in connection with the new year that might be put in the form of resolutions.

(I) Let us resolve not to waste time and space attacking the manufacturer of subspecies. This is a perfectly legitimate industry, practised all over the world, and the artisans do not ask everyone to accept their wares. Each of us is free to accept or reject what we like. There is no

right or wrong about the subspecies business, like many other things it is a matter of personal opinion and it will go on forever. Subspecies are very important for certain lines of work and those not concerned with such work need not use them.

The new 'Check-List' will include all subspecies that have been properly proposed and not disproven, just as the check-lists of the birds of other countries do, and just as dictionaries are supposed to include all words whether we wish to use them or not. Some one else is going to use words that we do not need and we must know what they mean, and exactly so with subspecies and the 'Check-List.'

(II) Let us resolve not to quibble over the differences, if any, between species and subspecies. We do not really *know* anything about it and individual opinion will continue to exist for all time. The 'Check-List' committee will present its opinions on each case and the vast majority, as in the past, will accept them, glad of some standard.

(III) Let us resolve, to avoid controversy among conservationists and to sink our personal interests in all matters of wild life preservation, and back a broad policy to save our forests and wild life for the enjoyment of the people at large who love nature. If the business man, promoter, sportsman, farmer and biased ornithologist are each going to destroy whatever stands in the way of his personal interests we shall soon have no wild life left. Only those conversant with all sides of such questions should say what animals may be destroyed or how far the disruption of forest and marsh may be carried, and when the "doctors disagree," as they have been doing of late when conservation bills are presented for adoption, how can we expect the legislators to do anything?

ATTENDANCE AT A. O. U. MEETINGS. Members are often interested in knowing how the last annual meeting compared in size with previous gatherings. Such figures as are available are given in the following table which shows the attendance at the last ten meetings. The column marked 'Others' includes Retired, Honorary and Corresponding Fellows; asterisks indicate that the figures are only approximate since it is very difficult to ascertain the exact number of Associates present as some fail to register.

Year	Meeting	Fellows	Others	Members	Associates	Total
1919	New York	28	1	—	—	125*
1920	Washington	25	2	—	—	150*
1921	Philadelphia	25	4	24	76*	125
1922	Chicago	24	1	17	108*	150
1923	Cambridge	25	0	25	100*	150
1924	Pittsburgh	26	1	17	96*	140
1925	New York	30	2	27	146	205
1926	Ottawa	22	1	24	88	135
1927	Washington	30	4	33	148	215
1928	Charleston	27	1	26	76	130

The figures given above are not entirely comparable. While the number of Fellows has remained at 50, the number of Members has increased from 84 in 1919 to 103 in 1928, the number of Associates from 807 to 1474, and the total membership from 1024 to 1741. At two meetings the number of Fellows present reached 30, or 60 per cent. and at five meetings exceeded 50 per cent. of the total number. The number of members present has never been one third of the total although it almost reached this proportion in 1927. The total attendance at half of the recent meetings, in 1919, 1920, 1922, 1925 and 1927, exceeded 10 per cent. of the total membership of the Union.—T. S. P.

FIELD TRIPS in conjunction with the A. O. U. meetings are attracting increasing interest. The following list of birds seen on the outing to Dewees Island during the recent Charleston meeting was reported by Mr. Charles H. Rogers.

Dewees Island, S. C.—November 23rd, 1928.

From Charleston by boat from foot of Charlotte Street to Dewees Island and back (on foot on Dewees Island three and one half hours). 8:15 A. M.—5 P. M. Cloudless; brisk westerly wind; 50° at 2:20 P. M.

Horned Grebe	9	Turkey Vulture	12
Pied-bill Grebe	1	Black Vulture	9
Common Loon	1	Marsh Hawk	4
Herring Gull	20	Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Ring-bill Gull	35	Bald Eagle	1 im.
Laughing Gull	60	Osprey	1
Bonaparte's Gull	3	Sparrow Hawk	1
Caspian Tern	25	Kingfisher	2
Forster's Tern	10	Red-bellied Woodpecker	1
Double-crested Cormorant	3	Flicker	1
Red-breast Merganser	14	Phoebe	1
Hooded Merganser	7	American Crow	several
Black Duck	6	Fish Crow	several
Scaup sp.	1	Red-wing Blackbird	12
Bufflehead	3	Meadowlark	several
Great Blue Heron	several	Florida Grackle	few
Little Blue Heron	10	Boat-tail Grackle	50
Louisiana Heron	5	House Sparrow	7
Clapper Rail	1	White-throat Sparrow	several
Coot	2	Junco	1
Western Sandpiper	few	Towhee	2
Willet	few	Tree Swallow	1
Black-belly Plover	several	Loggerhead Shrike	2
Semipalmated Plover	several	Myrtle Warbler	several
Turnstone	1	Pine Warbler	1

Mockingbird	1	Golden-crown Kinglet	2
Brown Thrasher	1	Ruby-crown Kinglet	1
Carolina Wren	1	Hermit Thrush	several
House Wren	1	Robin	1
Brown Creeper	1		