

NOTES AND NEWS.

AS ILLUSTRATING still another angle in the problem of wild life conservation discussed in the two illuminating papers by Dr. Phillips and Mr. Adams (antea pp. 40 and 47) we print the following, released by the National Association of Audubon Societies: Addressing the National Game Conference, being held here this week Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, President of the National Association of Audubon Societies sounded a warning that unless hunters at once take energetic action to conserve the wild-fowl supply, public sentiment already alarmed by the decrease of this group of birds may demand an absolute closed season.

He declared "Wild water-fowl in this country have recently passed through two very adverse breeding seasons and their numbers are less today than during the life time of any one present. Drainage has taken from them at least one hundred million acres of lake, pond and marshland, thus reducing their breeding and feeding ranges. Hunters increase every year. More wardens are needed to prevent illegal shooting which is rampant in many sections. Sanctuary areas for wild-fowl are pitifully small when compared with the vast needs that exist. Where is the necessary money to come from to correct this situation? Probably not more than one person in sixty shoots ducks or geese. Will the fifty-nine agree to be taxed to supply field sport for the one? Should the hunters not bear the extra expense which now is so urgently needed, and will they do it?"

As to the means of raising this money, he said, a tax on shot-gun shells has been suggested. "A tax of one cent on each shell would produce about eight million dollars annually which could be spent for game preservation in addition to the hunter's license fee already required. It is the gasoline tax paid by people who use the roads that largely keeps up the public highways of the nation."

Dr. Pearson said that the Audubon Association was not opposed to reasonable field sports but that its business was wild-life preservation and "the American people will not willingly see another species of wild bird life become dangerously scarce."

In conclusion he urged as one immediate step that the convention recommend to the Secretary of Agriculture a substantial shortening of the open season on Ducks, Geese and Brant. "In the United States," he said, "these birds may be shot from three to three-and-one half months in the different zones. This is a longer period than is permitted for shooting deer, Quail, Grouse or any other form of wild life."

MR. JAMES E. CROUCH, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., is making a study of the life history of the Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) and desires information as to the location of these birds in numbers during the winter months. They had been abundant at Ithaca until about November 1, last when they suddenly became scarce.

MR. B. W. CARTWRIGHT of Winnipeg, Canada writes to Dr. A. O. Gross as follows under date of November 20, 1930.

I think that you will be interested to know that the two past weeks have witnessed the arrival of abnormal numbers of Snowy Owls in the marshes at the mouth of the Red River and the south-eastern and south-western parts of Lake Manitoba.

The first Snowy Owl of the season was seen by R. Vose at Petersfield, Manitoba on November 2, a heavily barred bird. On November 10 Ray Anderson of Winnipeg reported about 100 on that date at Lake Manitoba, marshes directly north of Poplar Point, Man. E. P. Gibson says he has seen more at Langruth west side of Lake Manitoba than ever before on November 10, and J. Close counted 30 while cruising along one of the channels of the delta of the Red River on or about November 3. The local taxidermists are receiving them almost daily. It would appear that another general invasion is under way. The month has been open and mild up until November 13 when we had a light fall of snow. The weather is still mild."

So far we have heard of no occurrences of the bird farther south.