

NOTES AND NEWS.

BEGINNING with the Thirteenth Series of 'The Ibis' C. B. Ticehurst takes over the editorship with G. M. Mathews, Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain and D. A. Bannerman, as Regional Assistants.

At the Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club, Mr. W. L. Sclater was presented with the Godman-Salvin Medal. With the close of the year 1930 he had completed eighteen years' editorship of 'The Ibis' and had brought out his notable 'Systema Avium Aethiopicarum,' achievements which in themselves merit the award, aside from his many other accomplishments in ornithology. All American ornithologists will join in hearty congratulations to Mr. Sclater.

DR. ERNST MAYR has returned from the Whitney South Sea Expedition and entered upon his duties at the American Museum of Natural History. He is at present working on the birds of the Solomon Islands.

HAROLD LESTER MADISON, who has been Acting Director of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History since 1928, has been recently appointed Director of the Museum.

DR. JOSSELYN VAN TYNE of the Museum of the University of Michigan left early in the year for Guatemala where he will be occupied in field work for several months.

PROF. PARKE HARDY STRUTHERS, in charge of the Syracuse Andean Expedition and accompanied by ten assistants, sailed Dec. 31 for Puerto Cabello, Venezuela. From that point the party proceeded inland to Merida intending to explore the Sierra Nevada. The expedition will collect birds and other vertebrates and expects to be in the field six months.

THE A. O. U. Committee on Arrangements for the Detroit meeting, of which Mrs. Etta S. Wilson is chairman, held its organization meeting Feb. 18. The Book-Cadillac Hotel was selected for headquarters where ample accommodations will be provided for the various sessions. The meetings will be held from Oct. 19 to 23. A day will be spent in Ann Arbor, at the University of Michigan, and after the close of the regular sessions, excursions to points of interest in the vicinity of Detroit will probably occupy the remainder of the week. The present indications are that the Detroit meeting will be largely attended and highly successful.

THE Provancher Society of Natural History, which initiated the invitation to the Union to meet in Quebec in 1932, has recently issued its annual report in which formal announcement is made of this meeting. Although the Committee on Arrangements has not yet been appointed Dr. D. A. Déry, President of the Society and others have already been considering plans which indicate that the Union will receive a most cordial welcome when it meets in Quebec.

THE Museum of Comparative Zoology announces that the first volume of a Check-List of the Birds of the World by James Lee Peters is now in press and will be issued shortly.

The classification followed for the higher groups is that proposed by Dr. Wetmore, with the sequence of genera and species according to the author's own ideas where no authoritative treatment has been published. The first volume will contain about three hundred genera and one thousand seven hundred species and subspecies covering the following orders:

Struthioniformes	Gaviiformes
Rheiformes	Colymbiformes
Casuariiformes	Procellariiformes
Apterygiformes	Pelecaniformes
Tinamiformes	Ciconiiformes
Sphenisciformes	Anseriformes
	Falconiformes

The only recent attempt to list most of the species in these groups was that made in the first volume of Sharpe's 'Hand-list' published in 1899 and consequently now thirty-two years old and out of date.

It is expected that at least ten volumes will be required to complete the work. The second volume is in active preparation and preliminary work on others is under way.

The new Check-List is *not* a Museum publication and will not be distributed to the Museum's exchange list, but will be sold by the Harvard University Press, who are the publishers.

Subscriptions are now invited and may be addressed to the Harvard University Press, Randall Hall, Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Price will be five dollars per volume.

DURING a recent visit to Florida—January 14 to February 1, 1931, Dr. W. C. Herman made a search for Spoonbills with the following results.

"We traveled by auto and boat, from Collier City to Key West and along the Gulf from the town of Everglades to the Shark river and up some of the numerous branches of this river for about forty miles. This region of the west coast of Florida is part of the 2000 square miles of the proposed "Everglades National Park" which we hope will materialize before most of the wild life has become decimated.

"After a careful search for the Spoonbill we regret to admit that this bird must be quite scarce, notwithstanding the reports of natives and other guides, especially in a seemingly uninhabited region. Large numbers—thousands—of Wood Ibis, White Ibis, American Egret and the Snowy Egret were seen. Just by chance we met two young men, natives of this region, who were camping on a nearby Key, I inquired whether there were any "Spoonbills" in the vicinity? The bird was unknown by this name but I was informed that a brother of one of the men had shot a "Pink Curlew" the day before and they had consumed the bird as part of the evening meal, adding that they are fine eating.

"Unless this area is well patrolled by competent wardens we will predict that the Spoonbill will follow the Flamingo."

THE Virginia Ornithological Society held its first annual meeting in Richmond on February 13, 1931. A field trip was taken to Curle's Neck Farm and addresses were made by Dr. Ruskin R. Freer, Dr. J. J. Murr, Charles O. Handley, J. P. Andrews, H. K. Job and M. G. Lewis.

The officers of the Society are Ruskin R. Freer, president; Charles O. Handley, vice-president; J. J. Murray, editor; Miss Florence Hagne, Secretary-treasurer.

THE Delaware Valley Ornithological Club held its forty-first annual meeting on January 8, 1931. The officers elected for the ensuing year were President, Dr. Samuel C. Palmer; Vice President, Julian K. Potter; Secretary, John A. Gillespie; Treasurer, Henry T. Underdown, and Chairman of the Editorial Board, J. Fletcher Street.

THE local committee for the Salem meeting of the A. O. U. was fortunate enough to have a balance on hand after all expenses of the meeting had been paid, and has generously contributed this to help meet the cost of publishing the account of the meeting in the January 'Auk.' This action is deeply appreciated by the editor and the Publication Committee.

THE Biological Survey has sent engrossed testimonials to seven persons who have sent in annual reports on bird migration for forty years or more. The recipients are as follows: S. R. Ingersoll, New Smyrna, Florida, 53 years; H. M. Micklem, Shipman, Va., 53 years; F. L. Burns, Berwyn, Pa., 47 years; C. S. Brimley, Raleigh, N. C., 46 years; E. L. Moseley, Bowling Green, Ohio, 45 years; W. W. Worthington, Long Island, N. Y., 44 years and F. F. Crevecoeur, Onaga, Kansas, 41 years.

IN September, 1930, the following committee was appointed to prepare the Fourth Ten-year Index to 'The Auk': H. S. Swarth (chairman), Clinton G. Abbott, F. N. Bassett, Mary E. Davidson, R. C. McGregor, G. Dallas Hanna, M. P. Skinner, T. I. Storer, and George Willett. Work was begun at once. The third Ten-year Index was taken as a model and the only deviation from that standard will lie in the addition of a few topical subject headings that are not included therein. The chairman of the present committee, after detailed study of the previous Index volumes has nothing but admiration to express for them, and a feeling that a high standard has been set thereby that it will be difficult to sustain. The present committee is composed of busy people who cannot work regularly or for long periods at this task, but it is hoped that the several volumes will be indexed by May or June. By the fall or winter of 1931 the manuscript of the entire Index should be ready for the printer.

As we go to press we learn of the signing by President Hoover of the amendments to the migratory bird regulations. The season for Ducks,

Geese, Brant, Coots, and Wilson's Snipe will be shortened fifteen days in the future. For the northern states it will be October 1 to December 31; for Long Island, New Jersey, Delaware, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, and part of Texas, October 16 to January 15; for Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, and from Kentucky and Arkansas to the Gulf Coast, November 1 to January 15; and in Florida November 20 to January 15.

The bag-limit on Geese (including Brant) is reduced to four a day while a permanent closed season is declared on Roos's Goose and Cackling Goose anywhere, and Snow Geese in all states bordering on the Atlantic Ocean.

While the Woodcock season has been slightly changed in New York it remains the same in New Jersey where thousands of migrant Woodcock are killed each year when they, under certain conditions, congregate at the end of the Cape May Peninsula. This outrageous slaughter will continue unless steps are taken by State or Federal authorities to check it. If it were possible to establish Cape May Point as a sanctuary the slaughter of both Woodcock and Hawks could be stopped or if Federal wardens could be on duty there at the time of the flights the illegal shooting which is responsible for most of the killing and which is now unrestrained could be halted.

DR. ALEXANDER WETMORE and Frederick C. Lincoln sailed for Haiti on March 17, to carry on further investigations of the bird-life of the island. They expect to return about June 1.

THROUGH an unfortunate typographical error on p. 90 of the January 'Auk,' Mr. H. Mousley's name appeared "Monsky."