

NOTES AND NEWS.

AFTER completing fifty volumes 'The Auk,' it was hoped, might start upon its second half century with ambitious plans for better and larger issues which would take care of the constantly increasing number of excellent contributions which are being offered by the ornithologists of America. Unfortunately owing to financial conditions no such hopes can be realized at present and the journal will be fortunate to maintain the status of the past few years. Inability of a large portion of the members to pay their dues has very seriously affected the finances of the Union and has made it necessary to reduce both the size of the edition and of the issues as well. We shall, however, do our best to publish submitted papers as soon as possible and maintain the departments of "General Notes" and "Recent Literature" at approximately their present size, although brevity in contributions to both is a necessity.

THE NUTTALL Ornithological Club, parent of the A. O. U., celebrated its sixtieth anniversary on December 4, 1933, at a regular meeting held at the home of Mr. Charles F. Batchelder in Cambridge, Mass. Upwards of forty members were in attendance and after a supper provided by Mr. and Mrs. Batchelder the annual election was held and Dr. Glover M. Allen, the president, reviewed the life of Thomas Nuttall and referred to the activities of some of the members of the Club while Mr. Lawrence Kilham a member of the recent Harvard East Greenland Expedition read an interesting account of the experiences of the party.

IN SPITE of all efforts for their conservation the supply of Ducks in North America seems to steadily grow less. When Mr. Henderson, the representative of the Biological Survey, says that "the future of our wild fowl is in the balance" and that "it may become necessary to close the season for a year," while Dr. Pearson, of the Audubon Societies, states that "there may be witnessed in this generation a cessation of the hunting of wild water-fowl as a sport," we realize that a crisis is upon us. The reasons given on all sides are over-shooting; draining and cultivation of former breeding areas and the long continued droughts of recent years. All sportsmen should realize the seriousness of the situation and stand ready to coöperate fully with the authorities.

Most interesting papers on this and other allied topics as well as bird-banding are to be found in the 1933 report of the New England Game Conference published by the Massachusetts Fish and Game Association, Museum Comp. Zool., Cambridge, Mass., as well as in the 'More Game in America' publications (cf. *antea* p. 112).

LIEUT.-COL. H. F. STONEHAM founded in 1926, at Kitale, Kenya Colony, East Africa, the "Stoneham Museum and Research Centre," and has recently issued a circular setting forth the objects and opportunities

offered by the Centre. "As Science acknowledges no political or racial barriers, scientists of all nationalities are welcome to coöperate in the vast work of Research in the African Continent."

BRITISH Ornithologists have set forth a scheme for the establishment of a "British Trust for Ornithology," an extension of the Oxford Centre idea by which an institute of ornithology may be established as a national headquarters for field observation, where individual investigations and coöperative work may be encouraged, expert direction given and observers trained. An appeal is issued for financial support to make this establishment possible and contributions are to be sent to Mr. B. W. Tucker, Treasurer, University Museum, Oxford.

This plan seems well worth while and is quite in line with present day ornithological research which is paying more attention to the study of the live bird as offering great opportunity for valuable work by the increasing number of earnest field ornithologists.

A CORRESPONDENT of 'The Auk' calls attention to a glowing tribute to the work of Dr. A. K. Fisher during his forty-six years service in the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, which was made by Senator Sheppard and published in the 'Congressional Record' for February 25, 1933. Our correspondent adds: "Whereas the halls of the Federal Congress often resound with the extolled virtues of saints and sinners of varied merit one seldom hears the echoes of praise of one who has devoted his life to the study of the natural sciences. I do not recall another instance in which such peans of praise have tempered and enriched beyond measure the general flow of political buncombe. I certainly cannot remember any other past-president of the A. O. U. being so honored."

DR. EINAR LONNBERG, Director of the Royal Museum of Natural History at Stockholm, Sweden, since 1904, retired in December 1932, on account of old age. He still retains his desk at the Museum and his position as Director of the Marine Zoological Station of the Academy of Sciences.

THE MASSACHUSETTS Legislature has made a step backward in conservation policies in abolishing the position of State Ornithologist, a post so ably filled by the late Edward Howe Forbush and by his successor Dr. John B. May. We trust that the next session of the Legislature may see fit to restore this important position.

GEORGE H. MACKAY of Brookline and Nantucket, Mass., an Associate of the A. O. U. and contributor to 'The Auk' since 1890, passed his ninetyeth birthday on October 20, 1933, being the second American ornithologist to reach that milestone. 'The Auk' offers him its sincere congratulations and expresses the hope that it may continue to publish his ornithological observations.

THE sixty-fifth Stated and eleventh Annual Meeting of the Baird Orni-

thological Club was held at the home of Ernest P. Walker, 3016 Tilden St., N. W., Washington, D. C., on March 24, 1933. Sixteen members were present. Officers elected for the ensuing year were: President, Dr. T. S. Palmer; Vice-president, Dr. Paul Bartsch; Secretary, Mr. Frederick C. Lincoln; Council, Dr. Herbert Friedmann and Mr. A. H. Howell.

Among other speakers Dr. A. Wetmore presented an interesting account of his study of the nictitating membrane of the Water Ouzel, and Dr. Friedmann gave an account of his studies of the so-called "red-quail" of Grand Junction, Tennessee.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Secretary*.

THE Twentieth Game Conference will be held at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City, Jan. 22-24, 1934.

Beside the general sessions, there will be a Scientific Round-table and a Game Breeding Forum. The first day will be devoted to conferences on game breeding and wild life research, the second to discussion of the water-fowl situation and the third to general conference topics. Members of the Union will find much of interest in these sessions.

Further information may be obtained from Seth Gordan, President of the American Game Association, Investment Building, Washington, D. C.