

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE RESIGNATION "for personal reasons" of J. N. Darling as Chief of the Biological Survey will be deeply regretted by all interested in the conservation of wild life. Although his tenure of the office was short he accomplished a tremendous amount of work and brought conservation of wild life before the public in a way that had never been done before. Especially has he done a great service in demonstrating the multiplicity of agencies working under the Government for the same objective and frequently working at cross purposes, while other agencies with different objectives are in direct conflict with them. We are at least informed as to the almost impossibility of accomplishing certain results in conservation through Government agencies as now set up, but as to how to remedy existing conditions no one apparently knows.

It will at least be a satisfaction to all to realize that Mr. Darling is now again where he was before he took over his Governmental position and can continue with his excellent efforts through the public press in behalf of wild life "from the outside." Sometimes cartoons are the most effective means to accomplish reform and we wish him all success and the much needed rest that he so greatly deserves, while appreciating deeply the personal sacrifices that he has made in behalf of wild life in the past two years.

To his successor, Mr. Ira N. Gabrielson, some of whose earliest papers appeared in 'The Auk,' we tender best wishes for success in the difficult work that lies before him.

WE LEARN from Mr. W. B. Alexander, of Oxford University Museum, England, that Rev. J. M. McWilliams of Glasgow has in his possession a portrait of Alexander Wilson "almost certainly the original of the engraved frontispiece of Jameson's Edinburgh edition of the American Ornithology of 1831." The portrait is for sale and Mr. Alexander will be glad to furnish any further information regarding it.

THE FOLLOWING announcement is presented at the request of Mr. Bent for the information of those who have been helping in gathering information for his 'Life Histories of North American Birds':

So many inquiries have come to the author as to when the next volume of 'Life Histories' is likely to appear, that it seems desirable to explain to former contributors the present status of the work.

Since Bulletin 162 on Gallinaceous Birds was published, the manuscripts for two volumes on Birds of Prey have been prepared, covering all the birds from the Vultures to the Owls inclusive in the order of the old 'Check-list.' These volumes have not been published for lack of the necessary money, drastic economies in the regular governmental appropriations having required the elimination of such funds. While there is no immediate prospect of their publication it is our hope that one at least may appear next year.

In the meantime, the author is at work on still another volume, the twelfth, which will cover all the birds in the old 'Check-list' arrangement from the Parrots to the Hummingbirds inclusive.

Although some material has already come in on some of these groups, the author realizes that former contributors have not been advised as to what groups would be taken up next so that they have not sent in as much material as they might have done.

The author is ready now to receive contributions of notes on habits, and photographs, relating to any birds in the groups indicated above. Notes relating merely

to distribution or migration should be sent to the Biological Survey, where this part of the work is handled.

The assistance of our many contributors in the preparation of earlier volumes has been invaluable and I ask that it be continued. Those who send in material suitable for use in the work will have their names placed on the mailing list to receive future volumes.

Sincerely yours,

ARTHUR CLEVELAND BENT,
Taunton, Mass.

FOR THE benefit of those ornithologists and mammalogists who are interested in the systematic zoology of Africa we reprint what will probably prove a rather rare leaflet in our libraries. It was privately printed and the edition is apparently limited. It is reprinted verbatim et litteratim!

DESCRIPTION OF NEW RACES OF KALAHARI BIRDS AND MAMMALS
BY R. D. BRADFIELD.

Lophoceros Monteri Marjoriae; subspecies Nova; paler than L. M. Monteri of Benguella. The secondary flight feathers and tail more white. The typical form extends to Waterberg, its place at Quickborn, Windhoek and Karabib being taken by above. Type male taken by me at Quickborn, 25/8/1922, and presented to Pretoria Museum.

Micropus Melba Majoriae. The whole upper surface and chest bar paler than M. M. Africanus. Subspecies nova, type male taken by me at Quickborn, 2/10/24, and presented to Pretoria Museum. This form is resident in Damaraland throughout the year and nests in numbers in the Waterberg Krantzes.

Namibornis; genus novelty. Type Bradornis Herero. De Schawensee. This genus differs from Bradornis in its more curved bill, in the colour of its rump and tail and its rock dwelling habit. It is closely related to *Cossypha Dichora*, it is a noisy bird, its three note call is hardly distinguishable from that of *Dichora*.

Its appearance at 30 yards and its habit of shaking its wings on alighting make it difficult to identify it from the Familiar Chat. I collected two, a female and a young one, the latter like a young robin, at Chaos Mountains, 3/4/33, and presented them to the Albany Museum.

Petromys Typicus Marjoriae. Subspecies novelty differing from P. T. Tropicalis in its exceptionally pale sandy colour, tail hardly darkened and pale feet. Type male taken by me at Khan River, January, 1931, and presented to Pretoria Museum, mentioned in Captain Shortridge's book, "Mammals of South West Africa," page 330.

Suricata Marjoriae. Species novelty. Differs from S. S. Hahni by its small size, forehead unmarked, body paler, undersurface dirty white. Type male captured at Saltpan, 10 miles north of Swakopmund, and now in possession of A. Stickel, at Swakopmund.

Stickel owned a pair of mierkats from Windhoek, they reared a batch of young which he sold, the male then died and was replaced by the type. The type has tried to mate with the female but she will not have anything to do with him. Though adult, he is only half her bulk. This species is mentioned in Shortridge's book, page 146.

Cerpithecus Aethiops Marjoriae. Subspecies nova differs from C. A. Pygerthus by its general paler shade of colour. Type adult female taken by me at Zoetvlei, near

Kuruman, in January, 1932, and presented to Pretoria Museum with a young male. The type, when shot, I found had a large young one clinging to her, which I released.

This paper was due to be printed many months ago and was to form part of Vol. VII of "The Journal of The South West African Scientific Society," of which I am a member. It will appear when that volume is printed.

R. D. BRADFIELD,

Benoni,

26th September, 1935.