

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE WILD LIFE CONFERENCE in Washington, D. C., February 3 to 7, 1936, called by President Roosevelt, was a great success and has done more perhaps than any one effort to arouse the interest of the people of the United States in the preservation of their wild life and protecting it from influences tending to its destruction.

What is needed now and what it is to be hoped will be accomplished is the organization of all of those interested in wild-life so that they shall be prepared to send delegates to Congress to protest every piece of legislation detrimental to wild life. For years the sportsmen have been thoroughly organized to further the preservation of wild fowl to the end that they will have game to shoot; the lumber interests have power organizations to ensure forests for cutting for lumber and the grazing interests have lobbies for defeating any legislation detrimental to their privileges. Wild life lovers however were represented, if at all, by a handful of scattered individuals with no organization behind them and necessarily made little showing against interests that were fully organized.

We should now have in every community organizations of those interested in conservation with no personal, political or financial axe to grind and whose whole object is to save our wild life.

THE BIOLOGICAL SURVEY began, in September, the publication of the 'Wild Life Review' conducted by W. L. McAtee to provide abstracts of articles on wild life management for the benefit of the employes and coöperators of the Survey.

ANOTHER new publication is 'The Oriole' a quarterly devoted to the ornithology of Georgia and sponsored by the Atlanta Bird Club. Don Eyles and Norman H. Giles, Jr. are the editors. We welcome this newcomer among the bird journals; we cannot have too many of these local magazines especially in the South.

WE HAVE been informed by Director Arno B. Cammerer, of the National Park Service, that orders have been issued by the Jacksonville Division of the United States Coast Guard carrying instructions for the coöperative patrol of the Dry Tortugas Keys bird reservation.

Although no funds are available this year for providing a custodian of the Fort Jefferson National Monument, Mr. Herbert Kahler, Superintendent of the Forts Marion and Matanzas National Monuments, St. Augustine, Florida, has been placed in charge and with the coöperation just mentioned the National Park Service hopes and expects to give adequate protection to the remarkable bird life of the region.

THE CANADIAN authorities have called attention to the growing numbers of persons who are visiting the Gaspé Coast in the vicinity of Perce Rock and Bonaventure Island to view the wonderful colonies of sea birds which breed there under the protection of the government. The increased tourist traffic benefits the whole vicinity.

Similarly the establishment of a sanctuary at Cape May, New Jersey, has brought a large number of autumn and winter visitors to the Cape to see the Hawk flights and the abundant winter bird life. If this is encouraged it will become a very important factor in increasing the number of visitors to the resort and the return to local hotels and business will far exceed any return from the Hawk shooting there which has caused such wide condemnation.

Atlantic City, N. J., has also established a bird sanctuary on Brigantine Island and realizes the value of such an adjunct.

WE ARE delighted to learn from Dr. R. M. Strong that his bibliography of birds is at last being printed thanks to the Field Museum which institution has undertaken the publication. It represents years of work and will be of the greatest benefit to ornithologists (cf. *Auk*, 1931 p. 31).

IN THE Bulletin of the Massachusetts Audubon Society Mr. Francis H. Allen makes a generous plea for the support of 'The Auk' and 'Bird Banding.' He emphasizes the fact that the thorough knowledge that the public now possesses regarding birds and their habits is the result of the "devoted and patient research" which was carried on by scientific ornithologists in the past and that this work is now being carried on in the same way although much of the results cannot be published on account of lack of funds. If those who are able would support this work by subscribing to these journals many papers that now have to be returned to their writers could be published. The dues for Associate membership in the American Ornithologists' Union are \$3.00 per year and for the Northeastern Bird Banding Association \$2.00 which includes subscription to the respective journals. Speaking for 'The Auk' we greatly appreciate Mr. Allen's generous gesture and we wonder whether other members of the A. O. U. could not induce more of their friends to support ornithological research in the same way?

FOR THE INFORMATION of any who may be concerned it has recently come to my attention that the provisions of the National Firearms Act, approved June 26, 1934, and intended to curb the possession of sub-machine guns and similar weapons, cover certain types of collecting guns used commonly by naturalists in obtaining specimens.

The Act includes the following definition: "The term 'firearm' means a shot gun or rifle having a barrel of less than eighteen inches in length, or any other weapon, except a pistol or revolver, from which a shot is discharged by an explosive if such weapon is capable of being concealed on the person." Through chance this statement includes the Marble Gamegetter and some models of the Stevens Pocket Rifle, which under this law must be registered on a special form with the Collector of Internal Revenue for the district in which the owner resides. Unless there is compliance with this provision for registry there is liability to a penalty of not more than \$2,000 or imprisonment.

There is further provision in the Act that such weapons may not be sold, or transferred by gift, except by payment of a tax of \$200.

It is suggested that registry papers be accompanied by a statement that the fact that this law applied to collecting guns has only now been ascertained, since registration is supposed to have been made not later than September 24, 1934.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

WE HAVE received many inquiries about the 'Birds of America' by T. Gilbert Pearson now being widely advertised by the University Society of New York and various dealers. The work was reviewed in 'The Auk' when it first appeared in the 3 volume edition (cf. 'The Auk' 1918, p. 89).

WE LEARN that Mr. J. D. Figgins for many years Director of the Colorado Museum of Natural History resigned in November, 1935, and that Mr. Alfred M. Bailey, Director of the Chicago Academy of Sciences has been appointed to succeed him. Mr. Bailey will assume his new duties about May 1, 1936.