

appearance of Leydig cells in small numbers in the intertubular spaces; these cells are absent in stage 1. Leydig cells are difficult to find in stage 2 but usually one to six per section can be located in my material. Whether or not these cells are completely absent or at least unrecognizable at any time in the Golden-crowned Sparrow I can not at present determine. The control bird whose testes were sectioned showed that on April 23 there were abundant Leydig cells, enlarged tubules, and many primary spermatocytes in synapsis. If we assume by analogy with the closely related White-crown that the appearance of a few Leydig cells is a first sign of recrudescence before any tubular growth or progress in meiosis, the significant fact derived from the experiment is that under the light regime used the testis remains in stage 2 without other histologic progress from December to May. Further development is not inherent or automatic in this period without appropriate light conditions.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California.*

NOTES AND NEWS

It is with pleasure that we announce the formation of the A. O. U. Illustrations Committee, composed of David E. Davis, Cleveland P. Grant, Robert A. McCabe, Roger Tory Peterson, Charles W. Schwartz, and Milton B. Trautman, Chairman. The Committee has been functioning for some time, and the selection of the painting for the present frontispiece was one of its first jobs.

One of the wishes of the Committee is to prepare and to publish in 'The Auk' several series of life history photographs, with descriptive legends. Providing photographs and funds are available, each series might consist of two to four, or even more, plates. Another aspect of the Committee's rôle is selection of colored plates. It has processed the one mentioned above and is working on several others. However, as regards both the black and white pictures and the paintings or color-slides to be used, it takes time for all matters to be satisfactorily settled and proofs checked by everyone concerned. The Committee is, therefore, desirous of learning of any such illustrative material that is available for use in 'The Auk'; in this way the pictures will be on hand and in shape to use as funds and space permit.

President Van Tyne has appointed the following Committee on the Nomination of Associates: Leonard Wing, *Chairman*. Aaron Moore Bagg, *Vice-Chairman*. Gordon Alexander, Clark S. Beardslee, Betty Carnes, C. Russell Mason, Robert T. Orr, William F. Rapp, Jr., Chandler S. Robbins, Ernest S. Booth, and William J. Beecher.

Mr. T. M. Shortt is to be congratulated on his excellent painting of juvenile pipits, and we want especially to thank him for permitting its use in 'The Auk.' It is just this sort of illustrative material we desire—the kind that points up little-known aspects of bird structure, behavior, ecology, etc., or that pictures birds not widely known or illustrated.

Dr. T. S. Palmer notes that three ornithological centennials occur in 1951—January 27, the death of J. J. Audubon; July 5, the birth of William Brewster; and August 20, the birth of Ruthven Deane.

Marcel Henri Felix de Contreras, Corresponding Fellow, died in Ixelles, Belgium, on December 28, 1949.

The Membership List of the American Ornithologists' Union appears in this issue. Despite the attention to details, there may be errors or omissions. Please call them to our attention.

The Wilson Ornithological Club held its thirty-second annual meeting on April 27 and 28, 1951, at the Davenport Public Museum, Davenport, Iowa. More than 300 members and guests attended.

Harrison B. Tordoff of the University of Kansas was named Editor of 'The Wilson Bulletin' to succeed George M. Sutton whose resignation takes effect with the end of the present volume (December, 1951). Leonard C. Brecher, Louisville, Ky., was elected Treasurer succeeding James H. Olsen, and William W. H. Gunn, Toronto, Ont., was elected to the Executive Council succeeding Richard Pough. Maurice Graham Brooks, President, and other officers were re-elected.

Gatlinburg, Tennessee, at the entrance of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, was the location selected for the thirty-third annual meeting to be held on April 26 and 27, 1952.

The Cooper Ornithological Club held its twenty-second annual meeting April 20 to April 22, 1951, at Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, California.

Dr. Frank A. Pitelka was elected President of the Board of Governors, Dr. Robert Orr, Vice-President, and Dr. Charles G. Sibley, Secretary. Officers of the corporation are: John R. Pemberton, President; Dr. Jean M. Linsdale and Ed N. Harrison, Vice-Presidents; and Kenneth E. Stager, Secretary.

The sixty-ninth stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held October 8 through 13 (Monday through Friday), 1951, at Montreal, Province of Quebec, Canada. Hosts for the meeting will be the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds. Headquarters will be the Mount Royal Hotel where the business sessions will convene on Monday and the annual banquet will take place on Wednesday evening. Papers sessions will be held on Tuesday at McGill University, on Wednesday at the University of Montreal, and on Thursday at the Botanical Gardens. On Friday there will be field trips to the Heron Island Sanctuary and St. Helen's Island. Mr. G. H. Montgomery, Jr., 4689 Westmount Avenue, Westmount, P. Q., is chairman of the Local Committee on Arrangements.

Titles of papers and of motion pictures for presentation at the meeting must be in the Secretary's hands not later than September 1. The title of each paper must be accompanied by a brief abstract of the paper's contents and a statement concerning the time desired for delivery and the kind of projection facilities needed, if any. The title of each motion picture must be accompanied by a brief description of the film's subject matter and a statement concerning the total footage and the time desired for projection and commentary.

Papers and motion pictures submitted for presentation will be reviewed by the Committee on Communications. Abstracts of papers chosen for presentation will be mimeographed and made available at the meeting. It is important, therefore, that all abstracts be carefully prepared by the authors.

HANDBOOK OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

For some time the Council and members of the American Ornithologists' Union have been discussing the desirability of preparing a concise handbook on North American birds. A committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Ernst Mayr was appointed by President Robert Cushman Murphy to consider the preparation of such a book. That committee's excellent report was adopted with enthusiasm by the Council, and in October, 1950, the Council voted to ask Dr. Ralph S. Palmer of the New York State Museum at Albany to become editor-in-chief of the handbook. Fortunately Dr. Palmer received the generous backing of Director Carl E. Guthe of his Museum and has agreed to accept the responsibility for this great undertaking.

The Handbook of North American Birds, sponsored by the American Ornithologists' Union, will be a broadly cooperative undertaking. Dr. Palmer will ask for extensive help from a number of specially qualified individuals and for smaller though essential contributions from a great many others among our membership. Details will be announced by Dr. Palmer from time to time in these pages. The present brief announcement can only outline the project as it is now visualized by Dr. Palmer and the Council.

The objective is to present with reasonable completeness, but in telegraphic style, our knowledge of each of the more than 600 species occurring in the A. O. U. Checklist area (omitting Baja California).

Five volumes of not over 550 pages each are planned, and these will be published as completed. In general, the handbook will emphasize habits and ecology. There will be an introductory section on each family, and under each species it is now planned to include the following topics: plumage description, field characters, voice, range, migration, reproduction, habitat, habits, food, and a select bibliography. Subspecies will be treated only briefly.

As a first step, it would be very helpful if persons who have compiled bibliographies on particular species or subjects (such as bird weights, incubation periods, longevity) would inform Dr. Palmer and volunteer the use of such material. Dr. Palmer may be addressed at New York State Museum, Albany 1, New York,