

but no noticeable reduction resulted in birds soaring over the runways, because non-breeding individuals replaced those killed. The scanty banding data indicate that these albatrosses do not breed until their seventh or eighth year, though birds begin to return to the colony when between four to six years old. Parents that have reared their single chick may not reneest the following year. This report concludes that "no large-scale reduction in numbers would be advisable from the standpoint of perpetuation of these [albatross] species" and recommends ground levelling, pointing out that as to jet aircraft the solution may be an engineering one. [Despite this report, the Navy authorities in August, 1959 announced a decision to extirpate entirely the albatrosses of Sand Island, Midway, by killing all over a period of years. Apparently no sea-bird habitat will be left on the other part of Midway Atoll (Eastern Island), for, according to R. E. Warner (Elepaio, 20: 19, Sept. 1959), the surface is to be completely paved in connection with the erection of a radio station and even then the area was being bulldozed. A world interest exists in the protection of the Laysan and Black-footed Albatrosses, birds of restricted range and slow reproduction. Surely American engineering ingenuity can work out a more creditable way of handling this problem—even though initially it may involve a greater dollar expenditure.]—E. E.

STRINGHAM, E. 1958. Alexander Wilson. A founder of scientific ornithology. 29 pp. Price, 50 cents. Box 986, Kerrville, Texas.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Supposed Cannibalism by Short-eared Owls

May I point out that it can be too readily assumed that owlets which disappear from the nests of Short-eared Owls (*Asio flammeus*) have been devoured by their nestmates. It is not unusual for the owlets to crawl out of the nest and secrete themselves some distance away. (See Armstrong and Phillips. 1925. *Notes on the nesting of the Short-eared Owl in Yorkshire*. British Birds, 18: 226-230). This may be particularly likely to occur when a human being has visited the nest. Cannibalism in this species should not be assumed to be "of frequent occurrence" until better evidence is available than is cited by Mr. Collingwood Ingram in his recent paper (Auk, 76 (2): 222-226, 1959).—EDWARD A. ARMSTRONG, *St. Mark's Vicarage, Cambridge, England*.

NOTES AND NEWS

Notice of Change of Editor

All manuscripts and communications intended for 'The Auk' and books to be reviewed should be sent to the new Editor, who will be responsible for volume 77 (1960): DR. DONALD S. FARNER, *Laboratories of Zoophysiology, Department of Zoology, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington*.

The retiring Editor thanks the numerous ornithologists who helped, whether in appraising manuscripts or in other ways, not least of whom were the authors who showed understanding (or at least forbearance) when pressed with suggestions for change.

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

The new address of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is c/o British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London S.W.7, England. Telephone: KEnsington 6323, Ext. 187.