

NOTES AND NEWS

Required six months' notice is given on the possible use of plenary powers by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in connection with the following names, listed by Case Number (see *Bull. Zool. Nomencl.*, 24, pt. 1, 6 March 1967):

1692. Suppression of *Strix capensis* Daudin, 1800 (Aves).

1784. Validation of *Sterna tschegrava* Lepechin and *Motacilla pleschenka* Lepechin, "1770" (Aves).

Comments should be sent in duplicate, citing Case Number, to the Secretary, International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, c/o British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7, England. Those received early enough will be published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*.

The newly formed Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., is attempting to reach as many people as possible who might be interested in research on and conservation of raptorial birds. In January, 1967, the Foundation published its first issue of *Raptor Research News* (mimeo), distributed to members of the Foundation or, for \$1.00 per annum, to subscribers. Contributions, subscriptions, or requests for further information should be addressed to Dr. Byron E. Harrell, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, South Dakota 57069, or to the Raptor Research Foundation, Centerville, South Dakota.

Joanna Burger and Richard Brownstein of Buffalo, New York, have begun work on the distribution and migratory behavior of the Bonaparte's Gull and are banding and color marking these birds at Buffalo (color of dye denotes date of marking session). Any data on the distribution and movement of these gulls would be appreciated by the researchers, who request the following information: Date, Locality, Color, Number of marked individuals, and the Number of unmarked Bonaparte's Gulls with any color-marked birds seen. Information should be sent to Joanna Burger, Department of Biology, State University College, 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14222.

OBITUARIES

I regret to inform our membership of the death of WILLIAM H. PARTRIDGE, a Life Elective Member, on July 14, 1966, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He had been seriously ill for some time with an unknown tropical virus.

He was born in Leones, Province of Córdoba on September 15, 1924, and received his first schooling there. He finished his primary schooling in Caseros and then attended the Colegio Nacional Sarmiento in Buenos Aires. By the time he entered the University of Buenos Aires, College (Facultad) of Natural Sciences, his boyhood interest in birds developed into a passion for ornithology. He turned to field work just short of completing his studies.

In 1942 he joined the staff of the Buenos Aires Museum of Natural Science and at the time of his death headed its Ornithology Section. During these years he was in the field much of the time, particularly in the Province of Misiones where, over a decade, he collected exhaustively. Those fortunate enough to have been in the field

with Bill can attest not only to his prowess in this respect but to his organizational talents and his excellence as a field ornithologist. He was, first of all, a field man and had little patience for desk work. Now we can only regret that all this knowledge was not recorded. Nevertheless he reactivated the Argentinian ornithological journal *El Hornero* and published a number of papers therein. A Guggenheim Fellowship allowed him to continue his work on the southeastern Brazilian avifauna at the American Museum of Natural History. While there he completed his "Notes on the Brazilian Merganser in Argentina" published in *The Auk* (Vol. 73, October 1956).

William Partridge became a member of the A.O.U. in 1953 and a life elective member in 1956. His death cut short what promised to be a brilliant career.—DON R. ECKELBERRY.

ELLISON ADGER WILLIAMS, a Member of The American Ornithologists' Union since 1923, died at his home in Charleston, South Carolina, on June 11, 1966. He was born in Charleston on May 9, 1889, attended the local schools, and was graduated from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1909 with the degree of Bachelor of Science. He was married in 1915 to Elizabeth Simonton Dillingham, who, with a son and two daughters, survives him.

Ellison, by profession a banker, followed in the footsteps of his father and his grandfather in the Carolina Savings Bank, of Charleston, an institution that had been founded by his grandfather. He entered the Bank as a clerk in 1909, was elected President of the Bank in 1944 and Chairman of the Board in 1955. A newspaper editorial at the time of his death characterized him as "a kindly man of modest dignity," and how true that was! He earned the respect of his banking associates and customers, which was reflected in an eloquent memorial, prepared and presented to Mrs. Williams.

His interest in ornithology was awakened in his early youth. He was one of the founders and an early President of the Charleston Natural History Society. Later in life, he was made Honorary Curator of Ornithology at the Charleston Museum. He came to be recognized as an authority on the bird life of coastal South Carolina and of the mountain region of North Carolina. He made a name for himself as a meticulous note-taker and a careful and reliable observer and acted as a brake and balance-wheel on the enthusiasm of less careful observers. His admonition to beginners was: "If you know it, name it; if you don't know it, don't guess!" But his principal contribution to the Natural History Society was as a coordinator and compiler of the records of the Society at large and as a capable conductor of field trips. A field trip under Ellison's guidance was an occasion for all participants to remember with pleasure and satisfaction—as this writer well knows by experience.

His published writings were comparatively few, confined to *The Auk*, *The Chat* (Carolina Bird Club), *The Oriole* (Georgia Ornithological Society), and the daily newspapers of Charleston. His note in *The Auk* on the discovery of Swainson's Warbler near Tryon, North Carolina, was one of the first notices of the occurrence of that species away from its ancestral haunts in the swamps of the Low Country.

In Ellison's passing, a host of associates in business and in ornithological circles lost a true friend and a dedicated leader.—FRANCIS M. WESTON.