

- VAURIE, C. 1971. Systematic status of *Synallaxis demissa* and *S. poliophrys*. *Ibis*, 113: 520-521.—*S. demissa* is a valid species placed in the genus *Certhiaxis*, whereas *S. poliophrys* is a synonym of *S. frontalis*.—R.W.S.
- VOISIN, J. F. 1970. On the specific status of the Kerguelen Shag and its affinities. *Notornis*, 17: 286-290.—Data indicate that *Phalacrocorax albiventer* and *P. atriceps* have no direct relationships with the Kerguelen Shag, *P. verrucosus*. Its closest living relative is *P. carunculatus*.—G.D.S.

### OBITUARIES

G. CLIFFORD CARL, long-time director of the British Columbia Provincial Museum in Victoria and a member of A.O.U. since 1941, died on 27 March 1970. While essentially a marine biologist and student of lower invertebrates (fishes, amphibians, and reptiles), he nevertheless had a strong interest in birds and promoted much interest in ornithology locally, regionally, and nationally, in the latter case as a regular participant in the Audubon Screen Tours.

Dr. Carl was born in Vancouver, British Columbia on 3 April 1908. He obtained the B.S. and M.S. degrees at the University of British Columbia and the Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. At various times in his career he served on the staffs of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada, the University of Toronto, and the University of British Columbia. He became acting Director of the British Columbia Provincial Museum in 1940, and Director in 1942. While Director he maintained continuous contact with numerous smaller museums and museum personnel throughout the province and was instrumental in the founding in 1957 of the British Columbia Museum's Association. He initiated a series of handbooks on the Flora and Fauna of British Columbia, for six of which he was author or coauthor. Indeed, he wrote about 75 scientific papers and articles all told. Another activity was the production of a variety of colored films on natural history subjects, the most notable ones featuring birds being "Birding in Haida Land," "Secrets of the sea," "Nature's feathered folk," "Sea gulls, sea birds and pelican parade." He published a natural history series in local newspapers and on radio participated in a local program entitled "Outdoors with the experts." In each of these he featured birds from time to time. In August 1968 a new museum complex called Heritage Court opened, which is a monument to his vision and endeavor. Ever active in community affairs he served as a member of the Board of Trustees of many organizations—one being the Puget Sound Museum of Natural History, another the Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society. He served two terms as President of the latter.

In January 1970, looking forward to relief from museum administrative duties after 29 years, he relinquished the directorship of the Provincial Museum to assume the newly created position of Curator of Marine Biology. He was deeply involved in a proposed "Hall of the sea" when he was stricken with acute leukemia to which he succumbed after a short illness. He will long be remembered in British Columbia as a kindly and knowledgeable man. I am indebted to Charles J. Guiguet, Curator of Birds and Mammals of the Museum for the above information on Dr. Carl.—  
WILLIAM H. BEHLE.

**RALPH EMERSON YEATTER.** The field of wildlife ecology lost one of its pioneer practitioners and ornithology one of its authorities on upland game birds with the death on 23 May 1971 of Ralph Emerson Yeatter at the age of 75. He was born on a farm at Colon in Southern Michigan on 29 February 1896. He studied at Michigan State University where he received the B.S. degree in Agriculture in 1921. His early career involved farming for a while, then teaching science at Southwestern High School in Detroit from 1926 to 1929 with study during summers at the University of Michigan Biological Station at Pellston. In 1928 he attained the M.S. degree in zoology at the University of Michigan and the following year was awarded a fellowship there as part of a newly instituted program conceived by Aldo Leopold, among others, of in-depth field studies on species of wildlife management interest. Funding of the fellowships was by the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute. Thus he joined the early illustrious group of scientifically-trained wildlife ecologists, such as Paul L. Errington, Ralph T. King, and David M. Gorsuch who were co-fellowship holders at various other institutions. Ralph's subject of study was the Hungarian Partridge—its life history, habits, and ecological relationships. His work constituted a thesis for the Ph.D. degree in ecology, which he received in 1934. In the summer of this same year he obtained a position as Wildlife Specialist in the Illinois Natural History Survey at Urbana. He remained on the staff of the Survey as Game Specialist for the rest of his professional life. Retirement came in 1964.

Another thorough study that he made was of the Prairie Chicken in Illinois, from which came sound management practice. In recognition of his contributions a 77-acre tract in Jasper County, Illinois was designated on 12 November 1962 by the Prairie Chicken Foundation of Illinois as the Ralph E. Yeatter Prairie Chicken Sanctuary. He also made noteworthy studies of pheasants and tularemia in rabbits. A singular feature of his work was his constant endeavor to use knowledge scientifically gained in the solving of wildlife management problems.

Among his many professional affiliations was the A.O.U., which he joined in 1926. He became an Elective Member in 1948. This summary of Ralph Yeatter's life and work is based on a more extended account by Thomas G. Scott that appeared in the *Journal of Wildlife Management*, 36: 203-204, 1972.—WILLIAM H. BEHLE.

## NOTES AND NEWS

**Shorebird Recapture Operation:** Several species of shorebirds will be marked in the 1972 fall migration with yellow feather dye on the underparts and yellow streamers attached to the leg. Sanderlings will be marked only with leg streamers. Birds will be caught on the Magdalen Islands (Gulf of St. Lawrence). Reports of sight records should include the locality, date, species, name, and address of observer(s). Please weigh any bird taken alive and read the band number. Information should be sent to: RAYMOND MCNEIL, *Centre de Recherches Ecologiques de Montréal, 4101 est, rue Sherbrooke, Montréal 406, Québec, Canada.*

The International Council for Bird Preservation has funds available for grants to qualified individuals for research on endangered or vulnerable species. Proposals may be submitted to the OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, *I.C.B.P., Room 336, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 20560.*