

To the Editor of the Auk, Sir:

Abnormal young terns, organochlorines and arboviruses.—The Auk has now published three communications reporting the occurrence of congenital abnormalities and feather-shedding in young terns along the east coast of North America in the early 1970s, and the presence of similar congenital abnormalities in terns and other water birds of the North American Great Lakes, suggesting that they may be due to organochlorine pollution (Auk 89: 19–35, 92: 58–65, 93: 434–442). We have enquired into the incidence of such phenomena in the Old World, and find that while they have not attracted attention around the at least equally polluted coasts of Europe, similar phenomena were noticed at much the same time in the Indian Ocean on the Seychelles, where some of the terns and associated shorebirds also developed neurological symptoms and died (Marine Pollution Bulletin 8 in press).

We have found that whereas in the Indian Ocean seabirds normally contain less than one $\mu\text{g/g}$ (ppm) of combined organochlorines, the site with the highest incidence of abnormalities also had an exceptional infestation of ticks *Ornithodoros capensis* infected with Soldado virus (Converse et al. 1975, Amer. J. Trop. Med. Hyg. 24: 1010–1018). The first virus of this group was described from the same species of tick at one of the sites where similar abnormalities have been reported in terns in North America, the Dry Tortugas off Florida. Similar viruses are known to be transmitted between generations of ticks in their eggs, and if they also occur in birds' eggs this could explain the occurrence of congenital abnormalities. A similar failure of feather-growth known as "French molt" has also been attributed to a transovarially-transmitted virus (among other possible causes) in captive Budgerigars *Melopsittacus undulatus* (Arnall and Keymer 1975, Bird Diseases, London, Balliere Tindall, pp. 210–213).

There appears to be a need for more investigation of the possible role of arboviruses in causing such phenomena than we found practical in the Indian Ocean.—W. R. P. BOURNE, *Zoology Department, Aberdeen University, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen, Scotland*; J. A. BOGAN, *Department of Veterinary Pharmacology, Glasgow University, Veterinary Hospital, Bearsden Road, Bearsden, Glasgow, Scotland*; D. BULLOCK, *Zoology Department, Edinburgh University, Kings Buildings, West Mains Road, Edinburgh, Scotland*; A. W. DIAMOND, *Department of Zoology, University of Nairobi, Chiromo, P. O. Box 30197, Nairobi, Kenya*; and C. J. FEARE, *Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Pest Infestation Control Laboratory, Field Research Station, Tangley Place, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3LQ, England*.

OBITUARY

HARRISON FLINT LEWIS was born December 15, 1893 at Sag Harbor, Long Island, New York, and died January 16, 1975 at his home in Sable River, Nova Scotia. He joined the A.O.U. as an Associate Member in 1912, was elected to full membership in 1930, and became a Life Fellow in 1942. He was one of Arthur A. Allen's early graduate students at Cornell, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1929 with a thesis on his five years of field work with the Double-crested Cormorant on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Most of his professional life was spent working for the Canadian government. He became Chief Migratory Bird Officer for Ontario and Quebec in 1920, and served throughout the provinces of Ontario and Quebec from then until 1944. In 1947 he became the first Chief of the Canadian Wildlife Service and steered this important national agency through its formative years until he left the service in 1952. For a detailed account of his illustrious career with a photograph and a 326-title list of his major publications see *The Canadian Field Naturalist*, 1974, 88: 507–516.—O. L. AUSTIN, JR.

NOTES AND NEWS

The American Ornithologists' Union will hold its 95th Stated Meeting 22–26 August at University of California, Berkeley, California at the invitation of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and the University. A Circular of Information providing details of the meeting and a formal call for papers will be circulated to the A.O.U. membership. Chairman of the Local Committee is Dr. Ned K. Johnson, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720. Chairman of the Committee on Program at the meeting is Dr. James R. King, Laboratories of Zoophysiology, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington 99163.

Fellows and Elective Members of the A.O.U. are reminded that nominations for the classes of Fellow and Honorary and Corresponding Fellow (by Fellows only) and Elective Member (by Fellows and Elective