

NOTES AND NEWS

Dr. Ernst Mayr, Curator of the Whitney-Rothschild Collection, American Museum of Natural History, has been appointed Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University. Mr. James C. Greenway, Jr., has been appointed Curator of Birds in the Museum, succeeding the late James L. Peters, and Mr. Raymond A. Paynter, Jr., has been appointed Assistant Curator of Birds.

Dr. Charles G. Sibley has been appointed Associate Professor of Ornithology at Cornell University following the retirement of Arthur A. Allen.

Stanley G. Jewett was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Science by Oregon State College on June 8, 1953, in recognition of a life time of work as an ornithologist and biologist in the Pacific Northwest. Dr. Jewett retired from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in 1950 after approximately 40 years of professional work in the wildlife field.

Masauji Hachisuka died in Japan on May 14, 1953, at the age of 50. He was especially well known to west coast aviculturalists and ornithologists. His book on the Dodo, just published, is reviewed in this issue.

The American Ornithologists' Union will hold its seventy-first stated meeting in Los Angeles, California, October 21-25, 1953. This is the first meeting of the Union to be held in Los Angeles and the third on the Pacific Coast. It should be noted that the meetings extend from Wednesday to Sunday, the public sessions for papers beginning on Thursday. This schedule is planned in order to make use of the weekend and facilitate participation by those with limited time free from other commitments. Requests for hotel reservations should be made to Jean Delacour, chairman of the local committee, Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, California. Concerning the scientific program, address the Secretary of the Union, Albert Wolfson, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.

The 11th International Ornithological Congress, presided over by Sir Landsborough Thomson, London, will be held in Basel, Switzerland, from May 29 to June 5, 1954.

During the week of the Congress, five days will be devoted to meetings and two to excursions. Before and after the Congress (May 25-28 and June 7-19) excursions will be arranged to enable members to become acquainted with the Swiss avifauna, especially of the Alps and Lower Alps. The Congress fee is 30 Swiss francs.

The prospectus, containing registration form and detailed information, will be distributed this summer. Applications to attend, and to contribute scientific papers, should be sent in before February 28, 1954, and addressed to: *11th International Ornithological Congress, Zoological Garden, Basel, Switzerland.*

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

THE DODO AND KINDRED BIRDS. By Masauji Hachisuka. H. & G. Witherby, London, xvi + 250 pp. 1953. £6.

Marquis Hachisuka, who lived in California for several years after more than a decade spent in Western Europe, has not lived to see his last work published. It is a pity, as "The Dodo and Kindred Birds" is a beautiful book, well printed and illustrated with 22 plates, eleven in color, and numerous text figures. It constitutes a comprehensive study and revision of the birds of the Mascarene Islands, in the Indian Ocean, most of which became extinct during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, soon after their discovery. The islands were then inhabited by the huge flightless birds of the Pigeon family, the Dodos and Solitaires, as well as by other striking forms such as large Rails, and Parrots. Extinct birds always have a fascination and Hachisuka had long been greatly interested in them. His documentation is excellent and his work painstaking. The bibliography is complete and very useful. Although not everyone will agree with a few of his conclusions and some of his systematics, this book will remain for a long time to come the standard work on the amazing past and present avifauna of these isolated islands.—JEAN DELACOUR.