

## NOTES AND NEWS

At the annual meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society in Los Angeles, California, on May 6, 1960, Thomas R. Howell was elected President of the Board of Governors and A. Starke Leopold was named Vice-President; Kenneth E. Stager continues as Secretary.

The A. Brazier Howell Award for the most meritorious paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society by a member who is not the holder of a doctorate degree in biology was made this year for the first time. The recipient was Ned K. Johnson, whose paper dealt with specimen identification of flycatchers in the *Empidonax hammondi-wrightii-griseus* complex.

The Board of Governors has taken action to establish the Painton Award which will be instituted at next year's annual meeting through support of the Painton endowment fund. The award will be made to the author or co-authors whose paper appearing in the Condor is adjudged to present clearly the most significant and original ornithological research. The published contribution to be eligible must have appeared in one of the four calendar years prior to the annual meeting. The award will consist of \$500 and will be offered every two years. The committee that will make the selection will consist of the Editor of the Condor, the President of the Board of Governors, and two additional persons designated by the Board who are not members of the editorial staff.

The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is contemplating use of its plenary powers to stabilize the generic name *Drepanis* and the derived family name for the Hawaiian honeycreepers. Details are given in the Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature (volume 17, pp. 220-223, April, 1960). Persons interested in expressing views should address the Secretary of the Commission.

A recent paper by Hunt and Bischoff on the effects of mass poisoning of the waters of Clear Lake, California (Inimical Effects on Wildlife of Periodic DDD Applications to Clear Lake, Cali-

fornia Fish and Game, 46, 1960:91-106) is a serious and thorough examination of the unfortunate impact of another ill-advised pesticide program undertaken without adequate prior research. The guarded conclusion, following the finding of massive contamination of fish, birds and frogs with DDD, is that very drastic losses of Western Grebes were caused by chronic poisoning. The use of this particular poison has been discontinued but others are being tried, we believe without adequate tests of the immediate and long-range ecologic impact. Hunt and Bischoff are to be commended for an excellent study. To be inferred from their statements is a serious condemnation of the program and irresponsibilities of the pesticide agencies.—A.H.M.

The American Museum of Natural History, New York 24, New York, announces that a post-doctoral Fellowship for one year will be available in its Department of Birds, beginning on October 1, 1960. Inquiries may be directed to the Chairman, Department of Birds.

The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galápagos Isles is planning to establish a biological research station in the Galápagos Islands. This organization, headed by Victor Van Straelen of Belgium, is engaged in preparatory surveys supported in part by UNESCO. At present it is appealing for funds to continue the undertaking through the present year. Robert I. Bowman and S. Dillon Ripley are American members of the organization.

Programs of divisional meetings of the Cooper Ornithological Society in early 1960 have included the following: Junea W. Kelly on "Some Australian Birds and Their Habitats," at Berkeley, on March 3; William J. Maher on "Jaeger Studies in Northern Alaska," at Berkeley, on April 7; showing of motion pictures on "The Kittiwake Gull," and on "The Black-headed Gull," and a film on "The Elephant Seal," by George A. Bartholomew and Dr. R. A. Booloootian, at Los Angeles, on February 24; and a motion picture on "The Birds of Midway Island," taken by S. F. Briggs, presented in Los Angeles on March 30.