

## NOTES AND NEWS

An era in banding ended on 25 November 1957 with the death, at the age of 86, of Dr. Oliver L. Austin, Sr., M.D., father of Dr. Oliver L. Austin, Jr., the review editor of *Bird-Banding*. A leading physician and surgeon in Westchester County, New York, Dr. Austin made ornithology his hobby after it became his son's profession. In 1930 he founded the O. L. Austin Ornithological Research Station at North Eastham, Massachusetts, which ever since has been more active than any other private banding station in the world. From the banding of more than 650,000 Common Terns, Dr. Austin and his son prepared a long series of outstanding papers on the migration, population dynamics, and general life history of the species. Dr. Austin was an elective member of the American Ornithologists' Union and a member of many other scientific organizations. After more than 60 years of medical practice, he was recently named the outstanding general practitioner of the year in New York State.

The report of the Treasurer of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association (printed in this issue) is once again a favorable one. The reserve for the pending ten-year index was reduced \$50 net, with \$150 in clerical expenses partly offset by \$100 generously contributed by the Inland Bird-Banding Association (this \$100 is included in "other" income shown). The general funds of the Association increased \$508.10; the over-all increase would be \$458.10 if the reduction of \$50 in the index reserve were considered. The report does not assign any asset value to clerical work on the index which was completed and paid for within the fiscal year.

This issue also includes a statement on the Association's mist net account, which is kept entirely separate from funds in the hands of the Treasurer. In the income statement, the column headed "1956" covers the period from the start of the account (July, 1956) to October 31, 1956; the column headed "1957" covers the full year ending October 31, 1957, to conform to the Association's fiscal year.

The demand for a good grade of mist nets continues strong, even though we have distributed over a thousand nets down to the end of October, 1957. The bulk of these were type A, a 12-meter, 4-shelf net for small birds. Some stations have found our other two types useful: type B, 6-meter, 2-shelf, for small birds in places too small for the standard type A net; and type C, about 13-meter, 4-shelf, with heavier thread and wider mesh, for shorebirds or for larger landbirds such as grackles. These three types differ from such samples as we have seen from other Japanese manufacturers in having an ample count of meshes, both vertically and horizontally, which is a major factor in the effectiveness of such nets. Some samples we have seen had only half to two-thirds as many meshes, counting vertically, though at first glance the net appeared the same size as one of our types.

As this issue goes to press, in early December, both type A and type C nets are in stock. Another large shipment, including these types and also type B, is expected by early March, and we hope to keep each type in stock for immediate delivery during the warmer half of the year, when netting is most active in the northern U. S. and in Canada. A discount of 10% now applies when ten or more nets (one or more types) are ordered at one time for shipment to one address; a discount formerly applied only for 25 nets or more. All inquiries for these nets should be directed to E. Alexander Bergstrom, 37 Old Brook Road, West Hartford 7, Conn., as agent for the Association.

Effective with this issue, the printing bill for *Bird-Banding* will be substantially higher, reflecting general higher costs in the printing industry in recent years. We expect to print at least as many pages as in 1957, but an increased circulation would help materially in maintaining this size of issue after 1958, or in increasing the size further. If you like these long issues, why not get a friend to subscribe?

Also effective with this issue, a new, higher scale of charges for separates is listed on the inside back cover; the printer also charges for postage. If desired, we will supply whole issues to an author instead of separates, at cost (varying with the length of an issue—for example, 100 whole copies of an issue more than 56 pp. but not over 60 pp. would cost \$21.25 plus postage). Whole copies will generally prove more expensive than separates, except for very long papers or where less than 100 are wanted. Any request for whole copies should be made when returning proofs (like requests for separates) so that the printer can increase the number of copies printed.