

of "General Distribution," a discussion of "Status in Georgia," and information on "Habits and Recognition." The order and names used are those of the 1931 Check-List and its supplements through 1956. Burleigh did find it to his liking to introduce a few new vernacular names for newly recognized subspecies. Such resulting mouthfuls as "Red-eyed Rufous-sided Towhee" bid fair to take their place alongside the "One-eyed One-horned Flying Purple People-eater." Perhaps both will move into limbo together.

Welcome additions to the volume are George Sutton's short history of his studies and planning for the color plates, W. W. Griffin's interesting chapter on the history of ornithology in Georgia, and Robert A. Norris' very worthwhile discussion of the physiographic regions of Georgia, prepared with special reference to the distribution of the breeding birds. While Norris' figure showing *two* systems of regional classification superimposed is so complex as to be almost undecipherable, his treatment is otherwise masterful and contains a wealth of information.

The 35 color plates do not appear to have been reproduced with uniform attention to quality in the copy I have at hand, but the great majority are very pleasing to the eye. I am personally pleased by the attention Sutton gave to furnishing identification of the plants in his paintings. Where this was done it adds considerably to an understanding of the natural history of the bird portrayed.

The author and his collaborators are to be congratulated on having made a new model available for prospective authors of state bird books.—J. C. Dickinson, Jr.

**51. Curious Naturalists.** Niko Tinbergen. 1958. Country Life Limited, London. 280 pp. 35s. In this delightful book Dr. Tinbergen describes without technical language some of the projects of himself and his students in watching living things in their natural surroundings and in carrying out well planned experiments. In engaging, simple narrative he tells of his first enterprise—the study of the digger wasp or bee-wolf, of the year spent with his wife in Greenland, and of many problems worked out on birds and insects. He vividly expresses the effect on the observer of color-marking his subjects: "It was remarkable how this simple trick of marking my wasps changed my whole attitude to them. From members of the species *Philanthus triangulum* they were transformed into personal acquaintances, whose lives from that very moment became affairs of the most personal interest and concern to me."

The six chapters devoted primarily to birds describe Snow Buntings, Phalaropes, Hobbies, Kittiwakes, Black-headed Gulls, and Eiders. The eight that deal largely with insects discuss "locality studies" of sand and digger wasps on their nests, camouflage and its effectiveness against birds, the frightening effect on birds of eye-spots on wings of butterflies and moths, and many other subjects. These problems studied with "care and love" give us clear pictures of the interdependence of different forms of life. The author tells us: "I feel the principal gain I have had from my studies is the growing awareness of the huge variety of animal life, the endless diversity of life patterns, of ways of coping with an adverse world; all helping to come out of the battle victorious."

The strenuous and happy field work "has always been fun." It is fun to read about it, an enlightening experience and an inspiration.—M. M. Nice.

## NOTES AND NEWS

In keeping with our custom of the past three years, the July, 1959 issue will emphasize studies on migration, and the use of mist nets. It will include a paper on visible migration at Narragansett Bay, R. I., by Baird and Nisbet. We also hope to publish some of the results of the coastwise netting project (Operation Recovery) from the fall of 1958.

Those interested in participating in Operation Recovery for the first time can get details from James Baird, Norman Bird Sanctuary, Third Beach Road, Middletown, R. I. We expect another very active season, including some netting on Cape Cod at the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary of the Mass. Audubon Society (the former Austin Ornithological Research Station property).

Our stock of back issues of *Bird-Banding* has been replenished by a number of gifts, particularly from Oliver L. Austin, Jr. A new list showing issues available may be obtained from Mr. Harlow. If any reader is discarding issues prior to 1949, and cares to give them to the Association, Mr. Harlow would welcome them.

Val Nolan, Jr. (1708 N. Fee Lane, Bloomington, Ind.) is interested in purchasing a complete set of *Bird-Banding* in good condition.

The ornithological library of the late Arthur Cleveland Bent has been presented to the University of Massachusetts, as a memorial, by Mrs. Bent.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is asking banders along the east coast to band at least 10 *nestlings* apiece of the Redwinged Blackbird during 1959. Banding individuals once they have left the nest is of some help in their studies of damage to crops by this species. However, in the past very few birds have been banded in the nest. Only these nestlings can tell us definitely just where the birds damaging crops were reared, and thus from what area the flocks gathered in the grain fields. Here is a real opportunity for most banders to contribute to a cooperative study, without great effort on their part. Details may be obtained from Mr. Brooke Meanley, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Md.

### NEBBA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, 1958

The various financial statements for the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association for the fiscal year ending October 31, 1958 reflect its increasingly varied activities.

Mr. Harlow has instituted a double-entry bookkeeping system for our general accounts, and made some other changes, which are designed to show somewhat more details, and to separate various funds more specifically, than in the past. The 1957 and 1958 figures are not strictly comparable, as the 1958 figures tend to overstate the operating loss slightly, to understate the net worth slightly, and to understate amounts in separate funds by a somewhat larger amount.

The expenses shown in the general statement for printing reflect longer issues than in past years; the increase in printing rates (the first since 1951) accounts for about \$380 of this sum, on three issues (we show costs of the four issues for which bills are received during the fiscal year—October, 1957, and January through July, 1958). We hope that a continuation of our present rate of growth in paid circulation will narrow the gap between income and expenses for the 1959 fiscal year.

As of October 31, 1958, we had spent \$299.60 on preparation of the ten-year index for 1941-50. The expenses incurred during the 1958 fiscal year are shown under the subheading for the Index Fund, but not in the general list of expenses (income for the Index Fund will be treated similarly). The first draft of the typescript for the index has been completed, and a satisfactory quotation received for preparation by photo-offset, so that the volume may be ready by the end of 1959.

The statement for our new Nantucket Ornithological Research Station Fund shows a substantial carryover, as the active season in 1958 was shorter than that contemplated in 1959 and 1960. The practice of appointing an Assistant Treasurer to handle a sizeable separate fund like this relieves the heavy burdens of the Treasurer. Such Assistant Treasurers do not become members of the NEBBA Council *ex officio*, but may be members if elected in the usual way, as John H. Conkey was at the last annual meeting.

The Mist Net Account had another active year, despite the imposition of U. S. customs duties which made it necessary to increase the price of nets. From March 20, 1958 to date, our standard net (type A) was never out of stock, and we hope to keep it in stock continuously during the current year as well, so that orders can be filled immediately. The greater part of the "miscellaneous" expenses represent reprints of Seth Low's paper on the use of mist nets (*Bird-Banding*, 28: 115-128). These reprints are being distributed without charge, to stimulate interest in the use of nets and to help users of nets to master the special techniques necessary.

The number of types of nets in stock increased to four, including type D, which is 6 meters long (like type B) but 4 shelves high (like type A). We also have a few experimental shorebird nets, like type C but undyed (white) instead of black. It has been suggested that these may work better than a black net for daytime use on a white beach, or that they should be dyed to match a brownish background; but these theories have not yet been confirmed. For prices and other details on nets in stock, please write to E. Alexander Bergstrom, 37 Old Brook Road, West Hartford 7, Conn.