

which utilizes the Holdridge system for plant formations, and a description of the native vegetation. Slud's ecological interpretations display an understanding of tropical plant associations rare among zoologists. Maps of the physiography, river systems, and life-zones are provided, the latter as a large fold-out with all known collecting localities indicated. The author states that this volume is an annotated check-list and is not intended as a taxonomic treatise. He has, however, offered opinions concerning the taxonomic status of many forms and brought the nomenclature up-to-date.

The bulk of the text is devoted to species' accounts. The range of each species and its contiguous races, the distribution of each form within the country, and habitat preferences are given. Pertinent comments on behavior and song are included for almost all species. These notes on the comparative ecology and ethology of wide-ranging species should be of value to workers in other geographical areas. Carriker's check-list included keys to the species of a number of neotropical families. It is disappointing to find that keys are totally lacking in the present volume. A rapid aid to identification would seem a valuable addition not only for the benefit of ornithologists with little neotropical experience but for biologists in other disciplines. This is especially applicable to a country such as Costa Rica which stands geographically and politically as one of the most accessible of Latin American nations. It is regrettable that Slud's exceptional knowledge of the taxonomic characters of this avifauna has not been passed to others less experienced.

With this treatise Slud, whose skill as a writer par excellence equals his talents as an ornithologist, has set a standard for future efforts of this nature. It will undoubtedly serve as a major reference to students of avian zoogeography and ecology for years to come.—Robert W. McFarlane.

A NORTH AMERICAN NEST-RECORD CARD PROGRAM

Beginning in January, 1965, the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University will operate a nest-record card program on a continent-wide basis and would like the assistance of everyone.

Through the cooperation of Dr. David B. Peakall and the Onondaga Audubon Society, the Laboratory has carried on a nest-record card program on a local basis for two years. The aim of the program, which is similar to one used in Britain (see Mayer-Gross, 1962, *Bird Study* 9: 252-258), is to collect specific data on bird reproduction in a form convenient for statistical analysis. The results of this two-year trial have been so gratifying that we are encouraged to make the program continent-wide.

For this to be a success we will need the cooperation of all bird observers in all parts of the continent, particularly the United States and Canada. We will also need—because we are certain that regional centers can handle the distribution of data cards and their return to the Laboratory better than individuals—the cooperation of all bird clubs and other societies whose members make field observations of birds.

The Laboratory will provide bird clubs or individuals with cards. The observers will record the contents of each nest found on a separate card and make dated notations on the same card for each subsequent visit to the nest. Each card will then contain all the data from a single nesting. While one observation of a nest will be valuable, additional observations over a period of days or weeks will increase the worth of the record. Our goal is to have hundreds, possibly thousands, of cards containing data on each species from all parts of its range.

We are well aware that there are other local nest-record card programs in this country and in Canada (see Peakall, 1964, *Audubon Field Notes*, 18 (1): 35-38)

and, naturally, we do not intend to infringe on them in any way. We only hope that they will cooperate with us and help broaden the scope of the whole endeavor. The net result should be the accumulation of far more data on every species than heretofore and the centralization of these data for comprehensive and intensive study, much as is true of the bird-banding program of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. All of the information from our program will, of course, be available to anyone who is interested.

Clearly this is a program in which every person seriously interested in birds can participate, be he a seasoned nest finder or one who merely watches a nest from a window. Local organizations, or individuals not members of local groups, may address all inquiries and communications to the North American Nest-Record Card Program, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14850. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., Director.

NOTES AND NEWS

At the Lawrence, Kansas meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in August, 1964, Oliver L. Austin, Jr. (for many years, review editor of *Bird-Banding*) was elected First Vice-President. L. Richard Mewaldt (formerly a member of the review staff) was elected Secretary. Another election of special interest to our readers was that of William J. L. Sladen (a past contributor of papers about Antarctic birds) as an Elective Member.

The Library of Oregon State University (Corvallis, Ore.) needs issues 1, 3 and 4 of *Bird-Banding* for 1930 (volume 1), all of 1931, issues 1, 3 and 4 of 1932, all of 1933 and all of 1935. Any reader who can spare any of these, or knows of copies for sale elsewhere, is requested to write to the Library, indicating the issues available and the price.

NEBBA enjoyed the hospitality of the University of Massachusetts for its annual meeting on October 10, 1964, at the University's new Peabody research station on Nantucket Island, Mass. While no major migration was apparent that weekend, enough variety of migrants was present for netting demonstrations. While members have received island sites for the 1963 and 1964 annual meetings enthusiastically, the 1965 annual meeting is planned for October at a mainland site (probably in eastern Massachusetts), to enable more members to take part over a period of years.

NEBBA has now gone over a year without running out of stock of the most widely used type of mist net (type A), thanks to more extensive reserves of nets. While we hope to keep this (and the other seven types we handle) in stock regularly an early order may prevent disappointment, particularly in the rush season from late February through May. Inquiries or orders should be directed to: Mr. E. A. Bergstrom, 37 Old Brook Road, West Hartford, Conn. 06117.

We note with pleasure the addition of Robert S. Hoffman (Associate Professor of Zoology at Montana State University) to the review staff. He will review material on wildlife management, and also some Russian periodicals.