

outstanding as a bird artist, demonstrates his ability as an exceptionally fine nature photographer. The text links together sound science, ornithological anecdote, and little-known legend to hold the interest of the reader who is less interested in birds than an ornithologist. The pictures amply illustrate Dr. Murphy's last sentence, a quote from Dr. F. M. Chapman, "Birds are Nature's most eloquent expression of beauty, joy, and freedom."—Elizabeth S. Austin.

55. Bird Songs / Adventures and Techniques in Recording the Songs of American Birds. Norma Stillwell. 1964. Doubleday and Company, Inc., Garden City, New York. xix + 194 pp. Price \$4.95. An attractive tale of 12 years and 180,000 miles of travel throughout the U. S. by the author and her husband, the late Jerry Stillwell. After his retirement, the Stillwells became absorbed with recording bird songs in the wild, with the encouragement of Peter Paul Kellogg and others at Cornell. The high quality and wide variety of the results led to a series of commercial records, which were praised by reviewers and have given a great deal of pleasure to their public. This is not a technical treatise, though the author does comment on such matters as trying to record songs clearly by a babbling brook. It does convey the enthusiasm and enjoyment the Stillwells derived from the project, and the sheer hard work involved. I had the pleasure of meeting the Stillwells early in their journeys (over some buff-bellied hummingbirds in the Rio Grande Valley), and of receiving Jerry's characteristic brief postcards with pointed comments on their later travels. From one standpoint, the book is a vivid illustration of the possibilities of a second career after retirement. From a broader standpoint, few of us accomplish this much in a full career, much less in 12 years.—E. Alexander Bergstrom.

NOTES AND NEWS

We note with regret the death of Lawrence Boylston Chapman on May 13, 1965, at the age of 78. He was professor emeritus of marine transportation and marine engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His services to NEBBA included a term as president from 1941 to 1948. He contributed major papers to *Bird-Banding* on Tree Swallows, based upon his colony of the species at Princeton, Mass. Many NEBBA members will recall pleasant and informative field meetings at Princeton.

Effective with this issue, printing costs of *Bird-Banding* have risen somewhat. We intend to absorb this increase within present membership and subscription rates. However, now more than ever we need the help of readers in recommending the journal to others who might enjoy it.

Because of this increase in printing costs, the price of whole copies of an issue to authors, when ordered in advance, is now 40c each, including postage within the U. S. Prices for separates of papers or notes are still as shown in the July, 1963 issue.

Favorable comments from users of type H nets (30mm mesh, otherwise like type A in specifications, and like type C in price) continue to reach us. One sizeable station comments: "On the whole, I think they are excellent. They seem to be equally good for catching warblers as well as thrushes, tanagers, etc. I did see one or two warblers slip through, but these were the exceptions . . . Some larger birds were caught but quite a few got away, i.e. robins, blue jays. All things considered, I think that they can and should be the net type used where small birds are predominant." Another user comments: "30mm. seems to be just right for warblers, especially yellowthroats. My experience has been that when they are caught in 36mm. mesh they are usually extremely tangled, otherwise they go right through." Another large station comments: "We used a lot of the 1 1/2" [36mm.] nets last year and our final totals really showed the difference; we had many more of the larger birds (thrushes, catbirds, etc.) but fewer warblers, hummingbirds, etc., so we've decided to go back to the smaller mesh [30mm.] in most of our lanes." These experiences confirm that no one net size is effective for all sizes

and shapes of birds. A choice—such as between 30mm. and 36mm.—depends on the circumstances of the station. It appears that the 30mm. mesh will leave fewer birds entangled badly, which is desirable not only for an inexperienced netter working on a small scale but also for the large stations at peak periods when it's particularly desirable not to spend a great deal of time in removing each bird from the net.

We have a moderate supply of type H nets on hand or on order. Starting in August, we will have a new type J (skipping "I" as a designation since it's too easy to confuse with the numeral "1"), in limited quantities. The new type has 30mm. mesh, 4 shelves, and is 6-meters long. Base price, \$2.85 each (postpaid within the U. S., surface). Discounts, 40c to members or subscribers, 15c cash, 15c quantity. Thus the price to a member or subscriber paying cash and ordering less than 10 nets would be \$2.30 (compared to \$2.10 for type D (36mm. mesh) or \$2.40 for type G (24mm. mesh) each.

The heavy type E net is reported as successful in taking ruffed grouse in Newfoundland and spruce grouse in Alaska: the speed and weight of grouse would usually carry them right through nets for small birds.

Orders for nets or requests for information may be addressed to: Mr. E. A. Bergstrom, 37 Old Brook Road, West Hartford, Conn. 06117.

The annual meeting of NEBBA will be held on October 16, 1965, at a site to be announced, probably on the mainland of eastern Massachusetts.