

record, therefore, is the result almost entirely of spontaneous, mainly recent, amateur effort. Evaluated as such, it is a respectable one." No small part of the total effort was the author's own field work: starting in 1934, it was intensified from 1948 through 1952, when he and his occasional associates spent approximately 300 man-days in the field, traveled more than 12,000 miles within the state, and collected approximately 1,100 specimens. Other collections, 11 of which contained numerous specimens from the state, were subject to careful, critical examination.

The greater part of this weighty work consists of "Accounts of the Species" (pp. 152-516), followed by a hypothetical list, plus lists of dubious occurrences as well as species recorded on inadequate grounds. The main body of species accounts treats 296 species and 33 additional subspecies. The accounts contain lots of detail and are meticulously organized, with various subheadings (these necessarily varying somewhat from species to species): e.g., status, spring, breeding records, summer, fall and winter, geographic variation, and specimens examined. For a number of species the breeding-season distribution is mapped. Almost nowhere is Mengel hesitant about coming to grips with subtly intricate or challenging problems relative to geographic variation; such problems are encountered, for instance, in the Hairy Woodpecker and White-breasted Nuthatch. Certain analyses are statistical. Among particulars given under "specimens examined" are valuable data on weights and fat condition. The author showed good judgment, I think, in giving "only information that seemed specially applicable to Kentucky." This information is in part ecological, thus extending and complementing ecological analyses in earlier sections. Despite the mass of detail, the species accounts are quite readable and doubtless will be referred to continually by students of Kentucky birds.

The extensive bibliography, including many titles concerned with botany and other biota covers about 36 pages. The helpful index embodies the scientific names of species and subspecies and a variety of subject headings.

As suggested in foregoing paragraphs, this volume is perspicuously written and is well made in all respects. It is a masterful, idea-engendering, artistically finished piece of work. I am tempted to call it monumental. Any adverse criticism that I might offer would be minuscule, and from this I shall refrain. Whatever their geographic location, the ornithologically inclined and the ecologically oriented will find much of interest and value in *The Birds of Kentucky*.—Robert A. Norris.

NO MIST NETS IN JULY

During July, 1966 I expect to be abroad, partly to attend the International Congress at Oxford. Unfortunately it does not appear practical for anyone to pinchhit in handling mist nets meanwhile. Therefore we regret that NEBBA will be unable to ship nets or to reply to inquiries, from about June 24 through August 5. We hope to be able to fill all orders for nets that reach us prior to June 24, so that if you can anticipate your needs for nets to that extent, you can avoid holding up field work for lack of nets.

E. Alexander Bergstrom

NOTES AND NEWS

We note with regret the retirement of Dr. Charles H. Blake from our regular review staff. Dr. Blake, a past president of NEBBA and a frequent contributor of papers and notes to *Bird-Banding*, had served on the review staff since 1958.

We note with pleasure the addition of Elizabeth S. Austin (wife of Dr. Oliver L. Austin, Jr.) to the review staff on a regular basis. She has contributed individual reviews for years, largely on books on natural history.

The Bowdoin Scientific Station, on Kent Island in the Bay of Fundy (New Brunswick, Canada), is open to scientists doing field research, and to other visitors space permitting. Details may be obtained from Dr. Charles E. Huntington, Dept. of Biology, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Me. 04011.

Descriptions and prices of the mist nets handled by NEBBA appear in the January, 1966 issue. Net orders and inquiries should be addressed to Mr.

E. A. Bergstrom, 37 Old Brook Road, West Hartford, Conn. 06117. We have maintained prices at the 1962 level, despite some increased costs, such as the 1964 increase in parcel post rates. We hope to maintain this level despite the further increase in parcel post rates now being discussed, though postage is one of our major expenses. Supplies of nets are reaching us fairly well despite intermittent maritime strikes in Japan, though some delays appear to have resulted. This is one example of conditions beyond our control which make it impossible for us to guarantee immediate shipment of all net types at all times.

Starting in April, NEBBA will have a limited supply of a new, experimental net type (HT): similar to type H, but "tethered" on the top edge (an extra shelf-string is tied to the regular shelfstring and mesh at frequent intervals), with the top marked by a white shelf-loop. We recommend trying this for "Operation Recovery" work in windy locations. Tethered nets have been used quite widely by some netters, particularly in Britain. Because they do not permit the mesh to move downwind and bunch at the downwind end of the net, they permit the use of nets under some windy conditions that would otherwise hamper or suspend netting. The difference is most marked for net lanes which parallel the direction of the wind at the time, and least marked for lanes at right angles to the wind. Obviously tethering of a net will not permit use of nets under *all* windy conditions, if the wind is blowing a half-gale or is accompanied by rain or cold. The price of type HT will be the same as type E, only a modest increase over type H.

Within the U. S., zip codes are required now in addresses for parcel post, and will be required soon in the mailing of *Bird-Banding*. Therefore, we need your help in furnishing these codes, for new or renewal memberships or subscriptions, and for net orders.

American Ornithology, or the Natural History of Birds of United States, by Alexander Wilson, was published in nine volumes from 1808 through 1814. This first edition is now rare. Probably few complete sets are now in existence and only a scattering of broken sets, single volumes, or plates which have been removed from these books. The numerous plates were all hand-colored, many of them being done by Alexander Wilson himself. Mrs. John Lueshen, Wisner, Nebraska is making an attempt to learn the whereabouts of the remaining books. Some of these are in public libraries, others are privately owned. Anyone knowing where there are complete sets, single volumes, or plates from this first edition of *American Ornithology* by Alexander Wilson is requested to write to Mrs. John Lueshen, Wisner, Nebraska 68791.

Supplies for Bird Banders, a list of names and addresses of manufacturers or distributors of traps, nets, pliers, scales, and other items needed by bird banders is available for ten cents (stamps accepted), plus a self-addressed stamped envelope. Send request to Mrs. John Lueshen, Secretary, Inland Bird Banding Association, Wisner, Nebraska 68791.

The Long Point Bird Observatory (operated by the Ontario Bird Banding Association) will be conducting a continuous program of observations and banding of migrant and resident birds from April 1 to October 31, 1966 at Long Point on the Ontario shore of Lake Erie. The Observatory is situated at the eastern end of the Point, about 18 miles from the nearest road. Accommodation is available at the Observatory for a limited number of experienced observers or banders who are willing to assist in the work of the Observatory for periods of *one week or longer*. Accommodation includes bunks and cooking facilities, but visitors must bring their own sleeping bags, air mattresses and food. A fee is charged for accommodation and transportation on Long Point. Further details may be obtained from Mrs. P. S. Woodford, 76 Glentworth Road, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada.