

## ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWS

The latest membership list, published in this issue, offers some interesting information about the Society. The median length of membership in the Society is about 11 years (approximately 50% of the membership has joined since 1953). Six members have belonged for 50 or more years; 24 have been members for 41 to 49 years; and 80 have belonged for 31 to 40 years. About a third of the total membership has belonged to the Society for 15 to 30 years.

The Society now has members in 49 states (Nevada is missing), the District of Columbia, 3 U.S. territories, 8 Canadian provinces, and 12 foreign countries. New York can claim the most members with 138, followed by Michigan and Ohio with 122 and 103 members, respectively. A complete breakdown of the geographical distribution of the membership is given at the end of the membership list.

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Persons who attended the Annual Meeting at Kalamazoo in May will be interested to know that the fine Kalamazoo Nature Center which we saw in the construction stage was dedicated on 24 October. Congratulations are due to H. Lewis Batts and his associates for the successful completion of this project.

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The Acting Secretary of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature informs us of the proposed use of the plenary powers of the Commission in five cases. The only case in class Aves is the proposed suppression of the name *Certhia chrysotis* Latham, 1801 (Z.N. (S.) 1653). Persons interested in commenting on this case should write the Commission before 7 February 1965. All communications should be addressed to: The Secretary, International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, c/o British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W. 7, England.

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As the plans progress it becomes apparent that the 1965 Annual Meeting in the Black Hills of South Dakota will be one of the more memorable meetings of the Society. Plan now to be there.

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It is a pleasure to acknowledge the assistance and services of the members of the Editorial Board: Andrew J. Berger, Tom J. Cade, William C. Dilger, William W. H. Gunn, William A. Lunk, Robert A. Norris, Kenneth C. Parkes, Raymond A. Paynter, Jr., and Olin S. Pettingill, Jr. Other persons who have provided valuable assistance in the preparation of this volume are Pershing B. Hofslund, C. Chandler Ross, Phillips B. Street, and Tanya Hall.

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A sum of \$526 is available in the *Josselyn Van Tyne Memorial Fund* for research grants in 1965. Any student of birds is invited to apply. Young men and women just starting their careers or others not eligible for government grants are particularly encouraged to apply.

Applicants should prepare a brief but comprehensive description of their research project specifying the objectives and proposed plan of procedure. Particulars of the type and amount of financial assistance needed must be indicated. A brief statement of the applicants' ornithological background should be appended. Letters of recommendation from one or more recognized ornithologists would be helpful.

Applications should be submitted not later than 1 April 1965 to the Chairman of the A.O.U. Research Committee, John T. Emlen, Jr., Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

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*, 18:35-38) 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.*