

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.