

## NOTES AND NEWS.

THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONGRESS of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held in Philadelphia, in the Lecture Hall of the Academy of Natural Sciences, beginning on the evening of November 13, 1899. The evening session will be for the election of officers and members and the transaction of the usual routine business. Tuesday and the following days, the sessions will be for the presentation and discussion of scientific papers, and will be open to the public. Members intending to present communications are requested to forward the titles of their papers to the Secretary, Mr. John H. Sage, Portland, Conn., so as to reach him not later than November 8, in order to facilitate the preparation of the program of papers to be read at the Congress.

MAJOR JOSHUA L. FOWLER, 10th Cavalry, U. S. Army, an Associate Member of the American Ornithologist's Union, died on board the Steamer 'Ella' July 11, 1899, while returning home from Holguin, Cuba. The immediate cause of death was acute gastritis, but for sometime prior to leaving Holguin, where he was in command, he had had attacks of malarial fever, which probably weakened him and made him more susceptible to the graver disease.

Major Fowler was born at Fishkill, N. Y., February 20, 1846, and at the age of eighteen entered West Point. Graduating from the Military Academy he was assigned to the 2d U. S. Cavalry, June 15, 1868, promoted to captain in 1881, and remained with that regiment until July, 1898, when he became Major in the 10th Cavalry. During these thirty years he was stationed at various army posts in Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona and Colorado where there was ample opportunity to study the birds. Although not a writer on ornithology, he was deeply interested in the subject, and more than one member of the Union was indebted to him for valuable assistance in procuring specimens and notes. Even at his new post in Cuba, where the duties were rather trying, he found time to write to an ornithological friend about the birds he saw from day to day.

He was a brave and conscientious soldier, universally beloved and respected by officers and men, an ideal husband and father, and a true friend. His frank, cheerful disposition, courteous manner and sound judgment, coupled with his extensive general knowledge, made him a great favorite, and one who will live long in the memory of a multitude of friends. A wife and son, Frederick Hall Fowler, also a member of the Union, survive him.—A. K. F.

MR. JOHN CORDEAUX, a Corresponding Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his residence, Great Cotes House, Lincoln,

England, on the 1st of August, 1899, in his 69th year, after a short but painful illness. He was born on the 27th of February, 1831, at Foston Rectory, Leicestershire, and was the eldest son of the Rev. John Cordeaux, M. A., rector of Hoonton Roberts, Yorkshire. From a memorial notice by his friend and associate, Mr. W. Eagle Clarke ('The Naturalist,' Sept. 1899, pp. 277-279) we learn: "As a young man he went to live at Great Cotes, on the Lincolnshire bank of the Humber Estuary, and here he made for half a century those interesting and valuable observations on birds and their migratory movements which have not only made his name familiar to all British ornithologists, but also to those of Europe and America. . . . In the year 1873, Mr. Cordeaux published his 'Birds of the Humber District'—a book teeming with original observations on the birds resident and migratory of the district he had made so preëminently his own. . . . It is, perhaps, in connection with the interesting phenomenon of the migrations of our British birds that Mr. Cordeaux has come most into prominence. He was practically the founder of that elaborate and exhaustive enquiry which was undertaken by the British Association in 1880, in which year a committee of experts was appointed to investigate the subject of bird migration as observed on the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland. . . . During all this period—now well nigh on to twenty years—Mr. Cordeaux acted as Secretary to the Committee, a post which was no sinecure, especially during the years of the Committee's active existence, 1880-1887; and it is not too much to say that he was the life and soul of the enquiry, while in later years he has been the valued adviser of him who undertook to prepare the results of the investigation as a whole.

"Mr. Cordeaux had a competent knowledge in several other branches of natural history, especially as regards botany, mammals, and fishes. He filled, with distinction, the important office of President of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union, and, on its formation in 1890, he was elected to the chief post of honour in the Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union as its first President. He was gifted with a graceful pen and a poetical imagination, and these contributed to make his writing peculiarly attractive. As a friend and a man it is impossible to speak in terms too high. He possessed a singularly charming personality, and was beloved by all who knew him, while his sterling worth and lofty principles won for him universal esteem. By his death a wide circle has lost a true and very dear friend, and British natural history an enthusiastic and accomplished devotee."

In the same number of 'The Naturalist' there is a much longer and more detailed tribute to his memory by the Rev. E. A. Woodruffe-Peacock.

VOLUME I, Number 1, of 'The Gulf Fauna and Flora Bulletin' bears date June, 1899. It is a bi-monthly octavo magazine, issued by the Louisiana Industrial Institute, Ruston, La., under the editorship of

Prof. W. Edgar Taylor. "Its aims are to encourage scientific research of a biologic nature. Its columns are open to all biologists, more especially investigators of the so-called Gulf section, broadly speaking." The first number, consisting of 48 pages, opens with a portrait and biographical sketch of the late Alvin W. Chapman, "educator, physician, author and botanist," and known to all botanists as the author of 'The Flora of the Southern United States.' In the varied contents of this issue we observe nothing ornithological, although ornithology must fall within its scope.

THE June number of 'The Osprey' makes the following editorial announcement: "Dr. Coues has retired from the editorship of THE OSPREY, and Dr. Gill, who had withdrawn his name from the April and May numbers, assumes control. . . . The publication will be resumed with the September number, and conducted in such a manner as not to infringe on the rights or feelings of others, and in harmony with all our scientific brethren. Care will be taken that the contributions to the magazine shall be worthy of a place in it, provision will be made for the exposition of the characteristic features of the avifauna of our new possessions in the Atlantic as well as Pacific oceans, and current news of interest to ornithologists will be given in the successive numbers. Pertinent illustrations will also be increased." We feel sure that this announcement will give sincere pleasure to the friends of 'The Osprey,' with whom we join in best wishes for its future prosperity and usefulness.

Since writing the above the first number of Volume IV, for September, has appeared, containing papers of more than usual interest, including one on the birds of Hawaii.

A NEW edition (vermehrte Auflage) of Gätke's 'Die Vogelwarte Helgoland' is now appearing in parts, to be completed in sixteen parts, under the editorship, as before, of Dr. R. Blasius, of which, through the editor's kindness, we have received the first six parts. It is published at one mark per part, or 16 marks for the completed work, by Joh. Hein. Meyer, Braunschweig.

WE HAVE also received the prospectus and the first two parts of Dr. Eugène Rey's 'Die Eier der Vögel Mitteleuropas,' to be issued in 25 monthly parts, with five colored plates to each part, giving a total of about 1200 figures. The work is large octavo in size, finely printed, and the plates are exceptionally fine. The price is two marks per part. The work is published by Fr. Eugen Köhler, Gera-Untermhaus, Russia.

Of the new edition of 'Naumann, Naturgeschichte der Vögel Mitteleuropas,' issued by the same publisher, 45 parts have already appeared, forming volumes II, V, and VI. The whole work will form twelve folio volumes, or 120 Lieferungen, at one mark per part. It is edited by Dr. Carl R. Hennicke, with the coöperation of a large number of the leading European ornithologists. Vol. V, now before us, treating of the Birds

of Prey, consists of 334 pages of text and 71 beautiful chromolithographic and 4 plain plates, and is altogether a most attractive and authoritative work. Like the original 'Naumann,' this cannot fail to mark an era in the history of European ornithology.

THE HARRIMAN scientific expedition to Alaska, mentioned in the July number of 'The Auk' (p. 302), successfully completed its work and returned about Aug. 1, as planned. Important discoveries were made in various departments of science, and it is proposed to publish in due time the scientific results of the expedition in two volumes, one to contain a general history of the expedition and the other the technical papers. A report on the mammals will be prepared by Dr. Merriam, and one on the birds by Mr. Ridgway and Dr. Fisher, other specialists also reporting for their respective departments. The volumes will be copiously illustrated, the cost of publication being generously defrayed by Mr. Harriman, who has spared no pains to make the expedition a success, both as a pleasure trip for his guests and as an expedition for scientific research.

WE LEARN through Mr. Frank S. Daggett, Vice-President of the Pasadena, Cal., Academy of Sciences, that "Mr. Joseph Grinnell, who joined a gold hunting expedition into the Kotzebue Sound region in the spring of 1898, for the purpose of extending his knowledge of west coast birds, has at last been heard from. The party wintered north of the Arctic Circle, several hundred miles up the Kowac River, and were ten and one half months without communication with the outside world. A fine series of skins of many species of birds was preserved, including summer and winter plumages, and young in all stages, besides nests and eggs of many rarities. Those who know of Mr. Grinnell's painstaking methods will look forward to his return and the appearance of his articles and photographs with much interest. The ice of Kotzebue Sound broke July 9, enabling their craft to pass south, through Berings Straits to Cape Nome, where they arrived three weeks later. Here Mr. Grinnell will continue investigations until late in September, touching at Ounalaska, Aleutian Islands, on the home trip."

As we go to press a meeting of the Hungarian and Austrian ornithologists is in session at Sarajevo, Bosnia, the meeting having been called for September 25-29. The program includes: (1) Report of the Hungarian Ornithological Central: (a) Exhibition of maps and tables with lectures on bird migration; (b) Proposal of coöperative methods for observing and elaborating the phenomena of migration. (2) Report of the Austrian Committee for Ornithological Observation Stations. (3) Report of the Museum of Sarajevo: (a) Maps and explanatory lecture on the migration of birds in Bosnia and Herzegovina; (b) Report on ornithological investigations in the Balkan States, illustrated by a fine

collection of birds from those countries. There will also be various excursions to nearby localities of special ornithological interest. The purpose of the meeting, as announced, is for the discussion of principles to be followed in the continuation of the great work on bird migration carried on at the large number of observation stations extending over a wide territory in Austria and Hungary, by the organizations here mentioned.

THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS will be held, under the patronage of the French government, from the 26th to the 30th of June, 1900, in the series of official congresses of the Paris Universal Exposition. This session has been organized under the direction of the Permanent International Committee named at the Second Congress, held at Budapest, in 1891. Important questions relating to the classification, habits, migrations, uses, breeding and acclimatation of birds form the matter of discussion and reports of the coming congress. The organizing committee is making every effort to insure the success of the congress by bringing together the chief naturalists of the world. The Honorary President is M. Milne-Edwards, Director of the National Museum of Natural History; the Acting President, M. Oustalet, the Secretary, M. de Claybrooke, and the Treasurer, Baron d'Hamonville, hold corresponding posts in the Permanent International Committee. In the Comité de Patronage, comprising foreign specialists adjoined to the French organizing committee, there are the following American members: Messrs. W. Brewster, Cambridge, Mass.; Elliott Coues, Washington; D. G. Elliot, Field Columbian Museum, Chicago; Clinton Hart Merriam, Department of Agriculture, Washington; Harry C. Oberholser, Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture, Washington; Robert Ridgway, Smithsonian Institution, Washington; R. W. Shufeldt, Washington; and Dr. L. Stejneger, Smithsonian Institution, Washington.

There will be admitted as members of the congress all delegates of French and foreign governments, and those who pay the subscription fee of twenty francs. Zoölogical societies and societies of acclimatation, aviculture, and for the protection of animals, may be represented by one or more delegates, the subscription being due for each delegate. Each member will receive the printed proceedings of the congress, and only members will have the right of taking part in the sessions and visits which are being prepared by the organizing committee.

The work of the congress has been divided among five sections, as follows:

I. Systematic ornithology — classification; description of new genera and species; nomenclature. Anatomy and embryogeny of birds. Palæontology; classification, description of new genera and species; ancient faunas, relations of extinct to present species.

II. Geographical distribution of birds. Present faunas. Species extinct

in historic times. Migrations. Accidental changes of place. Appearance of rare species in certain districts.

III. Biology — Habits — Diet — Nesting. Oölogy.

IV. Economic ornithology — protection of species useful to agriculture; destruction of harmful species, hunting. Acclimatation. Aviculture.

V. Organization and working of the international ornithological committee. Election of new members. (This section is especially reserved for members of the permanent international committee.)

Papers on the subjects of the program which have been accepted by the committee will be discussed in general session. Questions outside the program may be submitted to the respective sections. All papers must be in the hands of the organizing committee, at least in the summary form containing the conclusions reached, before the 1st of May, 1900. Communications may be made in English, German, and Italian, as well as French; but the publications of the congress will be limited to the French language. Minutes of each meeting will be printed and distributed at once. After the close of the congress a volume of proceedings containing the papers presented to the congress will be published under the direction of the committee. Correspondence relating to the ornithological congress should be addressed to the secretary of the organizing committee, M. Jean de Claybrooke, 5 rue de Sontay, Paris.

**Erratum.** — In 'The Auk' for January the change of a single letter in the eighth line from the top of page 78 exactly reverses the meaning of the sentence: "the true Swifts, *Macropterygidæ*," should of course read Tree Swifts. — F. A. LUCAS.