

NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. JEAN LOUIS CABANIS, an Honorary Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died February 20, 1906, in the ninetieth year of his age. One of his earliest papers, and perhaps his most important single contribution to ornithology, appeared in 1847, entitled 'Ornithologischen Notizen' (Arch. f. Naturg., 1847, pp. 186-256, 308-352), in which he proposed a new classification of birds, which in many respects was a great improvement upon previous schemes, being based on a number of characters here for the first time given prominence. His system was soon after given fuller expression in the 'Museum Heineanum,' published in parts, beginning in 1850. He was also the author of the ornithological parts of Tschudi's 'Fauna Peruana' (1845-46), and of Schomburgk's 'Reisen in Britisch-Guiana' (1848). In 1853 he established the 'Journal für Ornithologie,' which he edited for forty years, being succeeded in this function in 1894 by his son-in-law, Dr. A. Reichenow. His ornithological papers number several hundred, and include the birds of all countries. For many years he was custodian of the zoological collections of the University Museum, Berlin, and general secretary of the German Ornithological Society.

DR. PAUL LEVERKÜHN, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died suddenly of pneumonia at Sophia, Bulgaria, December 5, 1905, in the thirty-ninth year of his age. He was private secretary to his Royal Highness the Prince of Bulgaria, and director of his Scientific Institutions and Library. He was the author of a large number of ornithological papers, many of them bibliographical and biographical. Among the latter may be mentioned his biography of the three Naumanns in the first volume of the new edition of Naumann's 'Vögel Deutschlands,' later issued separately.

THE A. O. U. Committee on Nomenclature and Classification of North American Birds held a four days' session in Washington in January last. Besides acting on many of the cases before it, and referring those left undecided to subcommittees for further investigation, it decided on the character of the proposed third edition of the Check-List, and apportioned the work of its preparation among the different members of the Committee. The Committee on Revision of the Code also held several meetings in January, and submitted a preliminary report to the Council, which, after some discussion, was referred back to the Committee for completion, with the understanding that its final report will come up for action at the meeting of the Council to be held in Washington in November next, in connection with the annual Congress of the Union.

FROM the 'Report of the Chief of the Division of Biological Survey for 1905,' we learn that during the year ending June 30, 1905, the field work in Texas was completed, and is being continued in New Mexico and Colorado, under the direction of Mr. Vernon Bailey, chief field naturalist. A report on the Texas work, by Mr. Bailey, has just been published, treating in detail of the life zones of the State and its mammals and reptiles, and a report on the birds, by Mr. Oberholser, is nearly completed. The biological work in the Mackenzie basin, by Mr. E. A. Preble, is also finished, and the preparation of a report thereon is well advanced. Mr. Preble "wintered at Fort Simpson, on the Upper Mackenzie, for the purpose of studying the conditions of an arctic winter and of being on the ground so as to begin investigations in the early spring. Having finished work at Fort Simpson, he descended the Mackenzie in June, visited Fort MacPherson, on the Lower Peel River, making collections here and at other points on his way southward." Explorations were also carried on in the northern Rocky Mountains of Yukon Territory, under the direction of Mr. Wilfred H. Osgood, who, with the coöperation of Mr. Charles Sheldon, of New York, made trips to the Ogilvie Range, near the Alaska boundary, and to the region about the head of the Macmillan River. Field work was also continued in California, under the immediate direction of the Chief of the Biological Survey, Dr. C. Hart Merriam.

Work in economic ornithology has been prosecuted as usual and the results, as published in various recent 'bulletins,' have already received notice in these pages. Respecting game protection, "Every effort has been made to secure the adoption of modern methods for the protection of game, to meet the numerous demands for aid and information concerning game laws and methods of enforcement, and to coöperate in every way possible with the several States and the various game-protective associations." During the year more than 100 Capercaillie were introduced for liberation on Grand Island, Mich. About 2000 other game birds were introduced for stocking covers, including pheasants, quail, partridges, ducks, etc.

During the year several additional game and bird reservations were set aside, as the Wichita Forest Reservation, in the Wichita Mountains, Oklahoma, the Stump Lake Reservation in North Dakota, and the Breton Island Reservation, off the coast of Louisiana. Various special investigations regarding the protection of game, including the migration and protection of shore birds, have been undertaken, and the results in some cases have already been published.

Work on the migration of birds is still continued as usual, including the sending out of migration schedules, and the compiling of migration records for United States birds at points in countries both south and north of the United States, and the preparation of a bulletin on the 'Distribution and Migration of North American Ducks and Geese' is well under way.