

NOTES AND NEWS.

HOWARD SAUNDERS, an Honorary Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home in London, after a long and painful illness, October 20, 1907, at the age of 72 years.

From Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant's appreciative biographical notice of Mr. Saunders, published in the November issue of 'The Zoologist' (Fourth Ser., Vol. XI, No. 131, Nov. 15, 1907, pp. 436-438) we take the following:

"Mr. Saunders was born in London in 1835, and was educated at Dr. Gavin Smith's school at Rottingdean, where at an early age he displayed a special interest in birds, and made his first recorded observation. Born of an old and honourable merchant family of the City of London, he received during his early years a business training, which may be traced in his accurate and methodical manner of dealing with any subject he undertook. All his writings bear testimony of the same careful and painstaking treatment, and it is not too much to say that his 'Manual of British Birds,' which is perhaps the best and most widely appreciated of his works, will always remain a model of accuracy and learning compressed into the smallest possible bulk....

"At the age of twenty Mr. Saunders left England in the clipper-ship 'Atrevida,' bound for South America, and his observations on the Albatrosses noted during the voyage were published in a letter to the 'Ibis' for 1866. During 1855 to 1856 he visited Brazil, Chile, and Peru, and remained in the latter country till 1860, his time being chiefly spent in antiquarian researches, and in acquiring a perfect knowledge of the Spanish language. Subsequently he made a remarkable journey across the Andes to the head-waters of the Amazon, and descended that river to Para. Thence he returned to England, where he devoted the greater part of his time to the study of ornithology. Between the years 1863 and 1870 he paid frequent visits to Spain, his proficiency in Spanish being of great use to him during his travels. The results of his observations on the birds of the Spanish peninsula were published in a series of articles which he contributed to the 'Ibis,' 1869-1872.... In 1870 he was elected a member of the British Ornithologists' Union, and took a leading part in its conduct, being still Secretary at the time of his death. He was twice Editor of the 'Ibis,' from 1883-1886, and again from 1895-1900. From 1880-1885 he was Honorary Secretary to Section D of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. He was a Fellow of the Zoological, Linnean, and Royal Geographical Societies, and served on the Councils of all of them, and from time to time contributed valuable papers to their 'Proceedings.' He was also a member of the Société Zoologique de France, Honorary Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, and of various other European societies....

"His ornithological writings were noted for their excellence rather

than for their number, for Mr. Saunders was by no means a voluminous writer. In 1882 he took over from the late Professor Newton the editorship of the fourth edition of Yarrell's 'British Birds,' and in the most admirable manner re-wrote the third and fourth volumes which were still required to complete the edition. Subsequently he conceived the idea of writing his greatest work, the 'Manual of British Birds,' mentioned above, which was published in 1899, and passed through a second edition ten years later. On this subject we have already touched, as also on his monograph of the Gulls [Laridæ, in Vol. XXV, 'Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum']. On these latter, to the study of which he had devoted the greater part of his life, he was undoubtedly the greatest authority in the world, and he possessed a remarkably fine collection of their skins, which was acquired by the Trustees of the British Museum in 1894. He presented to the nation his fine collection of eggs of Gulls and Terns, and, from time to time, numbers of skins of birds from Southern Spain and other parts of the world.

"He was always ready to place at the disposal of others his great store of information, and a large number of books written by his friends passed through his hands for revision. He was a man of singularly sound judgment, and possessed of a wonderful sense of proportion, consequently his help and sympathy in both public and private difficulties were constantly sought and invariably forthcoming. The loss of such a man and such a friend has plunged the little community of British ornithologists into heartfelt sorrow."

Mr. Saunders, with Dr. P. L. Sclater, attended the second annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, held in New York City, September 30 and following days, 1884, at which meeting Mr. Saunders was elected an Honorary Member of the A. O. U. He also visited Cambridge and other scientific centers in America, and the acquaintance thus formed with the leading American ornithologists ripened into lasting friendships. In recent years the notices of 'The Auk' appearing in 'The Ibis' have come from his pen. His American colleagues who have visited him at his London home will recognize the justness of Mr. Grant's tribute to his memory.

RUDOLPH BLASIUS, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home in Braunschweig, Germany, after a long illness, on September 21, 1907. An account of his life and ornithological work will be given in a later number of this journal.

MRS. ISABEL PADDOCK CARTER, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died quite suddenly in St. Johnsbury, Vt., Sept. 15, 1907, a fortnight after her marriage to Edgar N. Carter. She was born in the home where she died, March 19, 1871, and was the only surviving child of Harolin and Mary Hawes Paddock. After an academic course and a year or more in music at Smith College she gave instruction in instrumental

music at the Academy in St. Johnsbury, and for a time was curator of the Museum in her native town. Mrs. Carter was an active member of the Vermont Bird Club and of the Botanical Club of her State. Proficiency in music made it possible for her to do much original work in scoring the songs of wild birds, and Chapman in his 'Warblers of North America' makes frequent acknowledgment of help received from her in this line.— J. H. S.

MRS. JACOB L. SWEIGER, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died in Waterbury, Conn., March 24, 1907, in the 47th year of her age. She was born in Waterbury, May 13, 1860, and was the daughter of Joseph Shelton and Sarah (Denman) Bronson. The family removed to Watertown, Conn., shortly afterwards, where were spent Mrs. Sweiger's childhood and young womanhood. After her marriage she returned to Waterbury and resided in that city until her death. She was an active member of the Naturalist Club of Waterbury, contributing frequently and materially to the work of that flourishing organization. Mrs. Sweiger was an enthusiastic lover of birds, and her sunny, cheerful disposition won for her a host of friends.— J. H. S.

THE COUNCIL of the American Ornithologists' Union, at a meeting held in Philadelphia November 9, 1907, unanimously adopted the new Article 30 of the International Code of Zoölogical Nomenclature (see *Auk*, Vol. XXIV, Oct. 1907, pp. 464-466 for the full text of the article) as a part of the Revised A. O. U. Code, soon to appear, and instructed the Committee on Nomenclature and Classification of North American Birds to make such changes in the present draft of the Code as were necessary to bring it into harmony with said Article 30. It also provided that in case any differences of opinion should arise in the Committee in respect to the interpretation or application of the Article as applied to particular cases, such points of difference should be referred to the International Zoölogical Commission for decision, and the decisions of the Commission to be accepted as final. As the Zoölogical Commission has signified its willingness to act as an Arbitration Commission on moot points of nomenclature, the way seems now open for the adjustment of any cases where experts may reach different conclusions. It is to be hoped that other scientific bodies which have to deal officially with questions of zoölogical nomenclature will emulate the example of the American Ornithologists' Union.

AN IMPORTANT illustrated work soon to appear in five quarterly parts is 'A Monograph of the Petrels (Order Tubinares),' by F. DuCane Godman, D. C. L., F. R. S., President of the British Ornithologists' Union. The edition will be limited to 225 numbered copies, in large quarto, illustrated with 105 hand-colored plates, drawn by J. G. Keulemans. The work will comprise all of the known species of Petrels, Shearwaters, and Albatrosses,

over one hundred in number. The first part is announced to appear in December, 1907, and the other parts during the year 1908. The publishers are Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, London. Subscription price, £2 5s. per part, or £10 10s. for the whole work if paid for in advance.

A BOOK on the 'Hawks of North America' is in preparation by Prof. Lynds Jones and Rev. W. F. Heninger, of Oberlin, Ohio. "Although scientific in character, special stress will be put upon the diagnostic marks for the field student." Each species will be illustrated by photographs of head, tail, wing, and claws. Contributions on habits, distribution, etc., from bird students throughout America, especially on the rarer species, will be greatly appreciated and due credit given for them by the authors.

'THE Home-life of some Marsh-Birds,' photographed and described by Emma L. Turner, F. L. S., and P. H. Bahr, B. A., M. B. O. U., is announced by Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, London. It will contain 32 full-page plates. 64 pages of letterpress, descriptive of the points of interest, and many text illustrations. Demy 8vo, price, 2s. 6d. net.

A WORK on the 'Birds of Britain,' by J. Lewis Bonhote, M. A., F. L. S., F. Z. S., is announced by Adam and Charles Black, Soho Square, London, to be illustrated by 100 full-page illustrations in color selected by H. E. Dresser from his 'Birds of Europe,' of which they are to be facsimile reproductions. Price 20s. net (post free 20/6). The volume is written in popular style by a well-known ornithologist, and will have a complete account of every species one is likely to meet with in Great Britain.

THE twelfth annual meeting of the Maine Ornithological Society was held in the rooms of the Portland Society of Natural History, Elm St., Portland, Maine, Nov. 29-30, 1907. The officers present were: President, Prof. Leslie A. Lee, Brunswick; Secretary-Treasurer, J. Merton Swain, Farmington; Editor, W. H. Brownson, Portland; Councillor, Capt. H. L. Spinney, Bath; Councilor, Prof. Ora W. Knight, Bangor. There were about twenty-five other active members present, and two corresponding members, Hon. Thos. J. Emery, of the Harvard Law School, and Sherman E. Phillips of Canterbury, N. H. The officers, as given above, were reelected for the third term.

The next annual meeting will probably be held in Brunswick, the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving, 1908. Many scientific papers and talks were listened to with a great deal of interest. Among them were the following: 'The Terns of Bluff Island,' by W. H. Brownson; 'The Decrease of Eagles in The Kennebec Valley,' by Capt. H. L. Spinney (for fourteen years Keeper of Seguin Island Light); 'The Economic Value of Birds,' by Prof. E. F. Hitchings (Entomologist to the Department of Agriculture of Maine; 'Destruction of Birds during a Severe Storm in April, 1907,' by Miss Marshall; 'Birds observed along the Highway,' by J. Merton

Swain; 'Bird Migration in Maine,' by O. W. Knight; 'The Feathers of Birds,' (illustrated), by Arthur H. Morton. Many other shorter notes were given by other members.

A Public Meeting was held Friday evening, when a very enthusiastic audience listened to the three illustrated lectures: 'The Birds about Portland,' by W. H. Brownson; 'The Birds about a Light-house,' by Capt. H. L. Spinney; 'The Birds along the Eastern Coast,' by Prof. O. W. Knight.

A committee was chosen to send resolutions to the members of Congress, from Maine relative to the appropriations and continuance of the U. S. Biological Survey.

Ten new members were elected, and the Society is in a prosperous condition. The members are very enthusiastic for the future of the Society.—
J. MERTON SWAIN, *Secretary*.

THE THIRD annual meeting of the National Association of Audubon Societies was held October 29, in the American Museum of Natural History, New York City. Members were present from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and North Carolina.

The treasurer's report showed that the income of the Society during the year had been \$17,978.53 and that the expenditures were \$26,843.43, making a deficit of \$8,864.90. This condition arose from the fact that legislative expenses were very heavy during the past year, and it was also necessary to help several of the State Societies to carry on their local work. Further, the Society received only six months' interest on its endowment fund, as none of the investments of the Society were made early enough in the year to permit it to receive a full year's interest.

The Society now holds mortgages amounting to \$316,000 on six pieces of New York City property. Each title is guaranteed by a Title Guarantee Company. None of the loans exceeds two-thirds of the appraised value; the said values being certified to by the most conservative and well-known appraisers in New York City. All of the loans pay 5 per cent interest and are non-taxable.

The President gave a synopsis of what had been accomplished during the year 1907, and outlined some of the plans for 1908. For details of his report, together with the reports of the State Audubon Societies and other matters of interest, readers are referred to the complete report which follows in this number of BIRD-LORE. After December 15, members of the Association can receive separates of the annual report and financial statement on application at the office, 141 Broadway, New York City.

The following class Directors were elected to serve for a period of five years, being the class of 1912: Mr. F. M. Chapman, New York; Mr. Witmer Stone, Pennsylvania; Dr. Hermon C. Bumpus, New York; Mr. Frederic A. Lucas, Brooklyn; Mr. Carlton D. Howe, Vermont.

A resolution approving the work of the United States Bureau of Bio-

logical Survey, and calling upon Congress to amplify the work of the said Bureau, was unanimously passed, and it was further resolved that the secretary send a copy of the resolutions to every member of the next Congress.

Subsequently a meeting of the Directors of the Society was held, when the following officers were elected to serve for one year: President, William Dutcher; First Vice-president, John E. Thayer; Second Vice-president, Dr. T. S. Palmer; Secretary, T. Gilbert Pearson; Treasurer, Frank M. Chapman. Mr. Samuel T. Carter, Jr., was reappointed counsel for the Society.

† The President appointed the following Standing Committees: Executive Committee — Dr. J. A. Allen, Dr. George Bird Grinnell, Mr. F. A. Lucas, Mr. F. M. Chapman.

Finance Committee — Dr. Hermon C. Bumpus, Mr. John E. Thayer, Mrs. C. Grant LaFarge, Mr. F. M. Chapman.— T. GILBERT PEARSON, *Secretary*.¹

IN THE November-December issue of 'Bird-Lore' (Vol. IX, 1907, pp. 249-255) is an article of special interest on 'The Heath Hen, a Sketch of a Bird now on the Verge of Extinction,' by George W. Field, chairman of the Massachusetts Commission on Game and Fisheries. The Heath Hen "was formerly distributed from Cape Ann to Virginia, and was especially abundant in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Long Island and New Jersey." It was exterminated in Massachusetts and Long Island, and probably over the intervening district, by about 1840, but is known to have survived in New Jersey till 1869. Since this date its last stand has been on the island of Martha's Vineyard, off the coast of Massachusetts, where the area it inhabits has become restricted to about thirty square miles, and its numbers reduced to about one hundred individuals. This article is illustrated by photographs showing the home of the Heath Hen, its nest and eggs, and the Heath Hen Group in the American Museum of Natural History.

In the same number of 'Bird-Lore' (p. 283), is a note on 'The Protection of the Heath Hen,' which shows that an effort is being made to raise money for the purchase of land for a reservation for it on Martha's Vineyard, toward which the sum of \$2338 is already pledged. It is hoped "that sufficient funds may be raised to secure extensive tracts as refuges for the Heath Hen, Least Tern, Upland Plover and other birds which still resort to this island." Every dollar contributed for the purchase of land will add, it is said, at least one acre to the proposed reservation. Contributions may be forwarded to the Commissioners on Fisheries and Game, State House, Boston, Mass.

¹ From Bird-Lore, Vol. IX, 1907, pp. 282, 283.