

research. One unfamiliar with conditions in ornithology in this country twenty-five years ago cannot appreciate the greatness of the change. In consequence of this change the standards of admission to the higher grades of membership, not only in the A. O. U., but in other scientific societies with limited memberships, have also been raised. Twenty-five years ago the number of what would now be considered expert ornithologists was very small, and men who would not now be considered eligible to the present class of Members were accepted readily for the higher grade, being then, without question, among the fifty leading ornithologists of America.

It could not, however, be foreseen that men who were then promising and enthusiastic students of birds would later become absorbed in some other lines of research or that others had practically completed their career as ornithologists.

Aside from the purely honorary grades of membership, the American Ornithologists' Union was originally divided into Members (now Fellows) and Associates, the former limited to fifty, the latter numerically unlimited. Fifty for the former, in which there has always been one or more vacancies, seems still a reasonable limit, if membership in this class is to have any significance. Since then a grade of Members, between Fellows and Associates, has been established, limited to one hundred and, as in the case of Fellows, this limitation carries its implied distinction, a distinction which would be vague or wanting were the number unlimited.

It is hardly just to apply present day standards to conditions that prevailed a quarter of a century ago. Nor is the A. O. U. exceptional in regard to the conditions about which Mr. Childs offers complaint. Exactly the same conditions obtain in our own National Academy of Sciences and in Foreign Academies, where the candidates for membership far exceed (sometimes by 75 per cent.) the vacancies, and greatly excel in scientific attainments many who have long been honored members, and who were the peers of their colleagues when elected.—EDD.]

NOTES AND NEWS.

J. V. BARBOZA DU BOCAGE, an Honorary Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died recently at his home in Lisbon, at the age of 84 years. For many years he was Professor of Zoölogy in the Royal Polytechnic Institute and Director of the National Zoölogical Museum at Lisbon. He was especially known for his investigations in African ornithology, to which he contributed a long series of papers.

His 'Ornithologie d'Angola,' published in two parts (1877 and 1881) is a work of about 600 pages, with 10 colored plates, and gives a very complete résumé of the avifauna of the Portuguese Possessions in Africa. He also wrote numerous papers on African mammals and reptiles. It is

with the literature of African ornithology, however, that his name is most intimately interwoven.

FRANCIS HUNTINGTON SNOW, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Bellfield, Wisc., September 20, 1908, at the age of 68 years. He was born in Fitchburg, Mass., June 29, 1840, was graduated from Williams College in 1862, and from the Andover Theological Seminary in 1866. He was a member of the faculty of the State University of Kansas from the founding of the University in 1866, became president of the faculty in 1899, and was chancellor from 1890 to 1901. He filled the chair of mathematics and natural science from 1870 to 1890, and since 1901 that of organic evolution, systematic entomology and meteorology. He received the degree of Ph. D. from Williams College in 1881, and that of LL. D. from Princeton in 1890. The Snow Hall of Natural History at the University of Kansas was named in his honor. He was well known for his contributions to systematic and economic entomology, and for his interest in Kansas ornithology. He published his first catalogue of Kansas birds in 1872 — the first list of the birds of the State — and revised editions of it at frequent intervals, the fifth and last appearing in 1903 (reviewed in this Journal, XX, 1903, p. 317). In this last edition he excluded all species which could not be verified as birds actually captured in Kansas since 1886, the list as thus restricted including 342 species and subspecies. The following year, however, he added (in 'The Auk') five others; in 1906, two more; and in 1907 ten more, raising the total to 359. In addition to his own original contributions in various lines of natural history, he did much through his training of students at the University to promote biological research.

A NEW department has recently been established at the University of California to be known as the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoölogy. This has been made possible through the generosity of Miss Annie M. Alexander, of Oakland, Cal., who is an alumnus of the University and deeply interested in the vertebrate fauna of North America, and especially in that of California, which is thus far poorly represented in the museums of the State. A feature of the new museum will be the accumulation of material for original research, the collection of ecological data, and the representation of leading types by mounted groups. It is planned to have at least two skilled collectors in the field in the interest of the Museum. The University will provide a suitable building for the reception and installation of the material. Dr. Joseph Grinnell has been selected as Curator, and active field work was begun early in the present year. This undertaking cannot fail to yield results of great importance in a field as yet very imperfectly developed.

A PRACTICAL guide for those who wish to protect wild birds and attract them to their grounds has been issued by Witherby & Co., London, under

the title 'How to Attract and Protect Wild Birds.' It is an English translation of Martin Hiesemann's "Der gesammte Vogelschutz," which was prepared with the assistance of Baron von Berlepsch, and faithfully represents his ideas and the results of his long-continued experiments at his experiment station at Seebach. It is illustrated with views of different kinds of nesting-boxes, methods and means of feeding birds in winter, shelter-woods for birds, etc., and makes a small book of about one hundred octavo pages. It is based on careful research, and is beyond question the best manual of the subject extant. The publishers have arranged to supply the work to American bird protectors through the National Association of Audubon Societies, 141 Broadway, New York City.

THREE new Reservations for the protection of birds were established during August, 1908, by executive order of President Roosevelt, at the request of the National Association of Audubon Societies. These are: (1) The Key West Reservation in the Gulf of Mexico, including all of the keys and islands of the Florida Keys group. (2) The Klamath Lake Reservation in Oregon and California, including Lower Klamath Lake and its islands and contiguous marsh and swamp lands. (3) Lake Malheur Reservation, including Lakes Malheur and Harney and their connecting waters. The setting aside of these extensive reservations is a most important step for the preservation of our rapidly decreasing water-fowl, since they embrace some of the most extensive and important breeding stations of these birds within the control of the United States.

THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING of the National Association of Audubon Societies will be held at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, on October 9, 1908, at 2 P. M., for the election of officers and the transaction of such other business as may be necessary. The term of office of six directors, class of 1908, expires at this meeting, and their successors will be chosen. These directors are Ruthven Deane, Mrs. C. Grant La Farge, Frank M. Miller, Theodore S. Palmer, Abbott H. Thayer, and John E. Thayer. At the close of the business meeting an address will be given by Mr. William L. Finley, the Northwest Field Agent of the Association, on the results of his summer's work, under the title, 'On the Trail of the Plume Hunters.'

THE Twenty-sixth Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held in Cambridge, Mass., beginning on the evening of November 16, 1908. The evening session will be for the election of officers and members, and for the transaction of routine business. Tuesday and the following days of the session will be for the presentation and discussion of scientific papers and will be open to the public. Members intending to present communications should forward the titles to the Secretary, Mr. John H. Sage, Portland, Conn., so as to reach him not later than November 12.