

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE HISTORY OF ORNITHOLOGISTS is often quite as interesting as the history of ornithology, especially when it descends from the stilted formality, so often characteristic of history, and gives us pictures of real life, full of humorous anecdotes and good natured fun. Such a piece of history is Harry Swarth's 'History of the Cooper Ornithological Club' which has just come to hand. Besides the admirable history there are here preserved early photographs of groups of members, on field trips and early portraits which show dignified present day ornithologists as callow youths. Every ornithologist we think should enjoy reading such a history for there must needs be much in the life of a successful ornithological club besides ornithology, and we cannot imagine a good field ornithologist without a sense of humor.

The Cooper Club has achieved much in ornithology and has won well-merited praise and we now congratulate it upon a history that so well portrays its personal side and the spirit of jolly good fellowship that has ever marked its progress.

THE YEAR 1929 has brought many changes in Ornithological Journals. In France the 'Revue Francaise d'Ornithologie' has combined with 'L'Oiseau' both titles appearing on the cover of the journal which is divided into two parts the former treating of general ornithology and the latter of aviculture.

Certain French ornithologists thinking that there is still room for two distinct journals have started a new bi-monthly publication, 'Alauda', devoted entirely to ornithology exclusive of aviculture. It is conducted by a Committee of eight, and is managed by Mons. P. Paris, Faculte des Sciences, 51 rue Monye, Dijon (Côte-d'Or). Subscription 50 Fr. per year.

The Association of Hungarian ornithologists and the Society for Bird Protection in East Hungary have started an excellent quarterly entitled 'Kocsag' (=the White Egret). Dr. Eugene Greschik, Hungarian National Museum, Budapest 80, is co-editor and manager. Subscription 6 P. per annum.

Among avicultural publications is an excellent German journal 'Vögel ferner Länder' published by the Austausch-Zentrale. Printed by F. E. Haag, in Melle, Germany.

Also the 'Avicultural Magazine' now changed to 'Aviculture' published by the Avicultural Society of America, 15 Park Row, New York City.

Smaller journals are 'The Wren Tit,' the neatly printed quarterly bulletin of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and 'The Flicker' the mimeographed bi-monthly bulletin of the 'Minnesota Bird Club,' Charles Evans, 3250 47th Ave., S., Minneapolis.

THE ANNUAL Heath Hen census on Marthas Vineyard Island, March 30 to April 3, 1929 disclosed the presence of only the single male bird noted the previous December. The former haunts of the species were thoroughly combed and in spite of a reward of \$100 for the discovery of a single additional bird none was found. As Dr. Gross says in his brief report "the death of this bird will also mean the death of its race."

FROM THE CIRCULARS of the U. S. Biological Survey we learn that there is no intention of establishing an open season for Swans and these beautiful birds will continue to enjoy the safety that they so well deserve. We cannot imagine any sportsman who has seen the winter flock on Currituck Sound desiring to have these birds again put in the class of legitimate game.

PRESIDENT HOOVER has created another bird sanctuary comprising 57,000 acres formerly a military reservation near Miles City, Mont., to be known as the "Fort Keogh Bird Refuge." Meanwhile Senator Fletcher of Florida has introduced a bill in Congress calling for a report on the advisability of establishing the "Tropic Everglades National Park" to save to posterity a portion of tropical Florida. Ernest F. Coe, who is an active advocate of the park, has an extremely interesting account of this region in the March 1929, issue of 'American Forests.'

AFTER NEARLY forty years with the Biological Survey and more than fifty years in the government service, Dr. Edward W. Nelson was retired, at his own request, on May 8, 1929. His work with the government began in 1877 when he was sent to Alaska under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution to make meteorological observations for the Signal Service.

Since his retirement as chief of the Survey Doctor Nelson has been engaged chiefly in preparing for publication of his report on natural history collections in Lower California, on special field investigations of big-game animals and birds, and on taxonomic revisions of important mammals. He will continue scientific work, with residence at the Cosmos Club, Washington.

ACCORDING TO THE DECISION of the VI. Ornithological Congress held at Copenhagen in 1926 the VII. International Ornithological Congress will meet in Amsterdam in 1930, probably from the 1st till the 8th of June. President of this Congress will be Professor Dr. Einar Lönnberg, Stockholm, elected by the Congress at Copenhagen, Honorary Secretary, Professor Dr. L. F. de Beaufort, Director of the Zoological Museum, Amsterdam. The following gentlemen have accepted an invitation to serve on the Executive Committee of the Congress: Count E. Arrigoni degli Oddi, Dr. Frank M. Chapman, J. Delacour, Dr. E. Hartert, Dr. O. Helms, Heim de Balsac, Dr. O. Heinroth, P. Hens, Dr. Percy R. Lowe, Dr. G. J. van Oordt, W. L. Sclater, Dr. E. Stresemann, Prince Taka Tsukasa, Dr. A. Wetmore.

Further particulars will be announced later on.

AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED the next stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held in Philadelphia, at the Academy of Natural Sciences, October 21-25, 1929. Everyone should make their arrangements now, in order that nothing shall interfere with their attendance. Those who have not attended previous meetings are especially urged to be present. These gatherings are always an inspiration to those who participate in them.

THE EDITOR wishes to express his deep obligation to Mr. William Vogt, of Hastings-on-Hudson, N. Y., who at the beginning of the year most generously offered to read the proof of 'The Auk' and has continued to do so most ably. This is a service the importance of which any editor will appreciate.