

**NOTES AND NEWS.**

THE CAMPAIGN which bird-lovers have long been waging to prevent the possible extermination of the American Eagle in the United States has been carried to Congress by the introduction of bills in the Senate and House providing a heavy fine for anyone who kills a Bald Eagle "Within the continental United States, Alaska, Porto Rico, or Hawaii."

The bill is sponsored in the Senate by Peter S. Norbeck of North Dakota and in the House by Congressman August H. Andersen of Minnesota. Let everyone write to his Representatives and Senators asking them to support it. Relative to this matter Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson says: "Exhaustive investigations reveal the fact that many of these birds are killed wantonly, apparently for the mere pleasure of being able to boast of having killed an Eagle. It is also extremely rare that anyone is ever convicted in the local courts for killing an Eagle. A federal law would insure far greater protection for this magnificent emblem of our country, which is today becoming a very rare species over large areas of its range.

In Alaska where the bird is plentiful and on which a bounty is paid many thousands have been killed and turned in to the territorial authorities for the one dollar prize money which is offered. Dr. Pearson traveled extensively in Alaska to gather facts regarding this bounty system and the feeding habits of the Eagle. He learned that in that Territory, as well as elsewhere, this species feeds almost entirely upon fish and carrion. It is popularly supposed to catch many fawns, lambs, and foxes on fox-farms, but he is convinced that these cases are comparatively rare. He quotes W. R. Sproat, Assistant Manager of the Aleutian Livestock Company, operating in the Aleutian Islands, who said, "I have closely observed the habits of the Eagle pertaining to sheep-raising for three years past and have never witnessed an Eagle attacking a lamb. I have seen them carry off dead lambs, but Eagles in their present number are not a menace to the raising of sheep in the Aleutian Islands."

THE LOCAL COMMITTEE on Arrangements announces that the next Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held in the week beginning Oct. 20, 1930, at the Peabody Museum in Salem, Mass.

WORK on the new A. O. U. Check List has been going on steadily ever since the present Committee took over the task. The subcommittees on classification and on nomenclature completed their work some time ago, and the main work of compilation was then begun. Nearly five hundred proposed new forms, proposed cancellations and changes in rank or status were arranged in systematic order by the Chairman and after being typed were mailed to the members of the Committee, a family or two at a time. The returns were tabulated by the Chairman and only such forms or changes were accepted as had received a majority of at least two votes. Two thirds of the entire lot were unanimous or had but one dissenting vote.

Two copies of the 1910 List were then cut up and pasted in the order of the new classification with the accepted new forms and alterations typed

and inserted in their proper places. Then the ranges were revised to the best of the Chairman's ability and after being typed were put in place. Then the manuscript was submitted section by section to Drs. Grinnell, Wetmore, Richmond and Oberholser, who spent much time in a further revision of the ranges and in making other suggestions and corrections. With all these corrections added the sheets were sent to the printer and upon return of the galley proof, copies were sent to the members of the Committee and to some fifteen other ornithologists for further revision.

At the present time the matter is all in galley proof down to the Oscines and nearly all of the corrected galleys have been returned to the Chairman who, after the present number of 'The Auk' is off his hands, will mark them up for revision by the printer preparatory to putting the proof into pages. Meanwhile the section covering the Oscines is being set up in galleys. Incidentally all of the references have been verified as well as the type localities which will appear verbatim in the new list with the restricted locality following.

This report of progress will give some idea of the enormity of the task which many people do not at all appreciate. It should also be remembered that all the members of the Committee are busily engaged in work for the Museums to which they are attached and that work on the Check-List must be done largely in their own time and at much personal sacrifice, while the Chairman has also the burden of 'The Auk' which entirely prevents work on the Check List during the time that the magazine is being gotten out.

No one regrets the delay in the appearance of the List more than the Committee but this report will show that rapid progress is now being made and the work should be issued at a not far distant date.

ON MARCH 1 the vacancies in the various classes of Membership in the Union were as follows: Fellows 2, Honorary Fellows 1, Corresponding Fellows 20 and Members 20 (only 5 Members elected in any one year). Nominations of candidates to fill any of these vacancies should be in the hands of the Secretary before July 15.

THIS ISSUE OF 'THE AUK' contains the revised list of Deceased Members which is published once in five years. The additions since the last appearance of the list in 1925, number 118 and include the names of 8 Fellows, 2 Retired Fellows, 15 Corresponding Fellows, 6 Members and 81 Associates. The Fellows include one Founder, Robert Ridgway, 4 others elected at the first meeting, Dwight, Loomis, Nehrling, and Sage, Forbush elected in 1887, and two of the younger Fellows, Fuertes and Miller, both of whom met accidental deaths. The two Retired Fellows, Lawrence and Lucas joined the Union in 1883 and 1888 respectively. The list includes references to biographical sketches which have appeared in 'The Auk' or elsewhere and this forms a convenient index to biographies of deceased members. The total number of names in the list is 518 and references are included to nearly 400 biographies. Much effort has been expended by the Committee on Biography and Bibliography in revising and completing

the entries and any information regarding further corrections or additions which may be necessary will be appreciated.

**MEETINGS OF THE UNION.** Since its organization the A. O. U. has held 48 meetings—one special and 47 annual. These meetings have been held in 5 states, the District of Columbia and Canada—in Boston and Cambridge (9), Chicago, Charleston, New York (14), Ottawa, Philadelphia (7), Pittsburgh, San Francisco (2) and Washington (12). The 1930 meeting in Salem will increase the number of cities to 11. Three fourths of these gatherings have taken place in November but actually they have been distributed in six different months of the year—one in April, two in May, two in September, five in October, 36 in November and two in December. The September meetings were abandoned after the first two years, the three spring meetings were arranged with special reference to the excursions to California, and the experimental December meetings in New York and Philadelphia proved to be too late and too close to the holidays. The October meetings in Boston, Cambridge, Chicago, Ottawa and Philadelphia were all successful and in spite of the early date were well attended but on the whole, November has proved to be the most convenient and satisfactory month for the annual convention.—T. S. P.

**THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY** of Sciences has recently acquired the private collections of birds of Harry S. Swarth and G. Freaan Morcom, thus adding over 6000 specimens to the ornithological series in its collection.

**THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL** Congress will be held at Amsterdam, Holland, June 1-7, 1930. The President of the Congress is Dr. Einar Lönnberg, Naturahist. Riksmuseum, Stockholm, Sweden. It is hoped that the American Ornithologists' Union will be well represented at this convention and the following members have already been appointed by President Grinnell as Delegates: Dr. Frank M. Chapman, Mr. J. H. Fleming, Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, Mr. Harry S. Swarth, Dr. Charles W. Townsend, Dr. Alexander Wetmore and Dr. Casey A. Wood. The Secretary of the Union will be glad to learn the names of any other members who expect to attend.

Information regarding the arrangements for the Congress may be obtained from the Secretary, Prof. Dr. L. F. de Beaufort, Zoological Museum, Amsterdam.

**TWO MANUSCRIPT** diaries of Audubon in the possession of the Museum of Comparative Zoology of Harvard University have recently been printed *verbatim et litteratim* by the "Club of Odd Volumes" and will be noticed in the July 'Auk.'

**OWING** to unexpected demands upon our reserve stock, the supply of Auks of all the 1929 issues and of January 1930 is nearly exhausted. Such of our members as do not maintain sets of the magazine will confer a great favor by sending any of these numbers to the undersigned or by communicating with him.—W. L. McATEE, Business Manager, 200 Cedar St., Cherrydale, Va.