

### NOTES AND NEWS.

THE FATE of the Eagle Bill is still undecided as we go to press. Opposition to the adequate protection of the Eagle in Congress has seriously jeopardized it and only continued agitation of the subject, even if it fails of passage at this time, will eventually save this noble bird.

Everyone must keep up the campaign of education in behalf of Eagles and most Hawks and Owls, and the National and State Departments in charge of conservation matters, and the Audubon Societies, should exert every effort to protect these birds. The evidence of their work has been secured and should be spread broadcast.

THE NEW A. O. U. Check-List is now entirely in type and the proofs are being examined by some twenty leading ornithologists in addition to the Committee, in an effort to make the ranges as accurate as possible. The Chairman with the assistance of members of the Committee is also checking up all the references and making them more explicit, while the type localities are being revised and quoted verbatim from the original sources.

IN AMERICA we have been fortunate in having the opportunity to build up many things without being hampered by old rights and customs. In the field of ornithology, this has enabled us to achieve a code of bird protective laws and regulations free for the most part from incongruous minor defects. Acquaintance solely with our conditions hardly prepares us to realize that in the older countries a constant struggle for the improvement of bird protection is necessary and conservationists are only achieving bit by bit things that have been accomplished in this country by far more comprehensive measures. To illustrate the situation, we may cite that in Belgium there has only just been secured through the action of a minister of agriculture favorable to birds, regulation of bird exhibitions which had been made the excuse for capture of large numbers of wild birds, even of the protected species. It has been decreed that in the future no birds enjoying absolute protection will be permitted in these exhibitions. The use of blinded finches for song competitions had flourished until comparatively recent times in France and Belgium, but friends of the birds were able to secure action from the respective ministers of agriculture entirely prohibiting this practice. Trapping of certain birds is permitted but the use of ground snares has been abolished and this will be a considerable protection to thrushes and to game birds. The season for trapping Ortolans was shortened because it had been made a pretext for snaring other species of birds. These ameliorations in regulations pertaining to birds have been obtained largely through the energies and activities of the Marquise de Pierre, President de la Ligue Belge Pour la Protection des Oiseaux, and a leading contributor to the 'Bulletin Trimestriel' of that society.

While this news item stresses abuses of birds that we do not experience in the United States, it must be admitted that in some respects practices in certain European countries are ahead of ours. For instance, pole traps have been abolished in Belgium, Bavaria, Prussia, and England, but in the United States they are permissible everywhere except in New Jersey. The Owls, including even the Eagle Owl, counterpart of our Great-horned, are entirely protected in Belgium, an example that could well be followed in many parts of our country.

A NEW series of twelve colored reproductions from the Wallace Havelock Robb collection of bird paintings by Allan Brooks is being reproduced and will be on sale at the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology in the near future. The demand for the first series was gratifying to the staff of the Museum and to Mr. Robb. It is apparent that these illustrations are filling a want created by the increasing interest in nature-lore, particularly bird-lore. The new series is to be uniform in size and method of reproduction with the first. They have been made from the collection of paintings by the Canadian bird artist held in the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology for the people of Canada. The bringing together of this collection is one of the public spirited accomplishments of Mr. Robb. His work, including the fostering of "Abbey Dawn," a sanctuary for wild life near Kingston, Ontario, is promoted under the patronage of His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales. Mr. Robb intends to enlarge the collection of paintings, now comprising fifty-five, to one hundred, as soon as it is possible.

#### NOTICE.

MEMBERS who expect to present papers at the next annual meeting of the Union in Salem, Mass., October 20-23, are requested to send to the Secretary, before October 1, the titles of their contributions with a statement of the time necessary for the presentation of their papers including lantern slides or moving pictures.

An estimate of time required will not suffice as experience shows that it usually takes twice as long to read a paper as the writer expects, not to mention the introductory remarks that may be added. Careful timing of the paper exactly as it is to be presented is absolutely necessary or speakers who are to follow will be crowded off the program.

An outline or abstract of the paper of 150 to 200 words should be sent with the title so that it may be properly placed on the program. This is very important.

The Secretary desires to arrange the program to the best possible advantage, and to allow time for discussion and must have the co-operation of the speakers. Papers submitted at the last moment cannot be given consideration.