

NOTES AND NEWS.

WITH the beginning of a new year of 'The Auk' a few words of explanation as to the arrangement of matter seems desirable. With the new 'Check-List' at last available the nomenclature of all articles and notes published in 'The Auk' will be made to conform to it, unless the author explicitly desires to use a different name, in which case the 'Check-List' name will appear somewhere in the text or as a footnote. The sequence of species in all articles will follow the 'Check-List' and this will apply also to "General Notes" which are always arranged in systematic order with lists embodying several species following at the end, geographically.

A number of the more important books and articles will be reviewed more or less at length, as heretofore, followed by a *single* list of shorter papers and articles published in general journals, arranged alphabetically, with brief comment. The ornithological journals will be listed as before with their contents and will be arranged geographically beginning with the United States, as this seems to be the plan desired by the majority of our readers.

Every effort must be made to condense matter as much as possible as we are exceedingly short of funds for the coming year and the journal will probably have to be temporarily reduced in size. Prompt publication of the many papers awaiting attention will therefore be impossible and we beg lenience on the part of the authors.

We have received many requests for exchange of publications with various journals and societies but would explain that this is impossible except with those devoted wholly to ornithology and a very few others that have been on our exchange list since 'The Auk' was first established.

WHILE we have differed from Mr. Jack Miner in the matter of extermination of the Marsh Hawk and the crows we are heartily in accord with his recent appeal against the starlings. As he truly says "the way these birds are increasing is anything but a joke and will require the combined efforts of us all to control them." As we have repeatedly said they are crowding our native birds out of all areas where they establish themselves. They are good eating, and if the arms manufacturers would urge united action against them as they did some years ago against the crows, they would do a good service, while some means of trapping on a large scale in our cities, where they cover the large buildings at night, should be devised.

THE MIGRATORY Bird Conservation Commission has authorized the acquisition by the Federal Government of land for game-bird refuges in New York, North Dakota, Nebraska, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Wyoming and Nevada aggregating 43,227 acres.

ALL COAST Guard Stations on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts have received instructions to report violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act regulations which come to their attention. This should prove a valuable check on illegal shooting of wild fowl and may help to stop the disgraceful slaughter of Woodcock at Cape May Point, N. J., and other localities where the birds concentrate during migration and where local authorities seem quite unable or unwilling to cope with the situation.

A NEW edition of the two volume set of Beebe's "Pheasants" has been published to meet the demand of persons who were unable to secure the work when first issued several years ago. Copies may be secured from the Game Conservation Society, Inc., 205 E. 42nd St., New York City. Price \$15.00.

COLONEL JOHN ELIOT THAYER of the Harvard Class of 1885 has just presented to the Museum of Comparative Zoology his collection of some 30,000 bird skins as well as his enormous collection of nests and eggs. This contains fine series of the eggs of several extinct birds as, for instance, ten of the Great Auk. There are also two big sets of eggs of the Brant and a number of other interesting species.

He has likewise given the Museum a very beautiful, mounted, adult male Laborador Duck. The Museum previously had no mounted specimens of this species and had only skins of one young male and one female in the study collection. Col. Thayer has retained his collection of mounted North American birds for his museum at Lancaster where the collection is of much use and is frequently visited by classes from the schools in the nearby towns and by Boy and Girl Scouts.

MANY READERS of 'The Auk' are aware of the great task undertaken by Biological Abstracts in supplying abstracts of the world's literature in biology. When it is realized that probably at least 50,000 original papers in this field are published annually, the great need of such an abstracting journal becomes obvious. It enables the individual biologist to keep in touch with current research in his particular speciality as well as with the general progress of biology.

As a means of furthering this coöperative enterprise, the editor of 'The Auk' is undertaking to attach to the galley proofs of longer papers a printed form furnished by Biological Abstracts. This form requests the author to furnish an abstract or summary of his research and gives brief directions for preparing the same. The abstracts are to be returned with the proofs for transmittal to, and publication in, Biological Abstracts.

Such requests will not be sent with the proof of purely taxonomic papers, since the abstracting of such contributions is a highly specialized undertaking probably best left to the editors of Biological Abstracts. Also, the brief "General Notes" do not require abstracts by the authors.

The abstract should *summarize* the research, not merely describe it. In general it should not exceed 3 per cent of the size of the original paper;

in most cases a much smaller percentage suffices for all essential informational and indexing requirements.

MR. ARTHUR H. HOWELL'S 'Florida Bird Life' is expected to be off the press by the first of the year and from the information presented in the prospectus will be a notable addition to state ornithologies. It is a volume of some 650 pages royal octavo ($7\frac{3}{4}$ x 10 inches) with 37 color plates by Francis L. Jacques and many half-tones from photographs and numerous distributional maps. There is an historical account of Florida ornithology from the time of Bartram and Audubon down to the present day; biographies of the 423 species and subspecies of birds so far recorded from the state; a chapter on bird protection in Florida by R. W. Williams, and a bibliography of more than a thousand titles.

The book may be obtained from the Department of Game and Fresh Water Fish, Tallahassee, Florida, upon receipt of \$6.00.

PREPARATIONS are already under way at Quebec for the meeting of the A. O. U. to be held there next autumn. This meeting promises to be a particularly enjoyable one in a locality replete with natural and historic interest and every member who can possibly attend should make an effort to be present. Information regarding the meeting may be obtained at any time from the Secretary, Dr. T. S. Palmer, 1939 Biltmore St., N. W., Washington, D. C.