

NOTES AND NEWS.

BY THE time this issue is received by our members those intending to attend the Stated Meeting of the Union at Quebec will probably have made their arrangements for the trip. We trust that a large number will find it possible to accept the invitation of our Quebec friends to be present and to enjoy what will undoubtedly be a notable occasion.

For the benefit of those who may not have been able to arrange their plans before we repeat that the general sessions will be on October 18, 19 and 20, at Laval University; the headquarters are at the Chateau Frontenac Hotel, and the Secretary of the Local Committee is Mr. R. Meredith, 121 Moncton Ave., Quebec.

WE LEARN from the press service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture that by act of Congress approved July 14, 1932, the District of Columbia has been made in effect a bird sanctuary, by abolishing shooting in certain portions where it was still permitted. This will maintain the great accumulation of ducks on the waters of the Potomac which has in recent years attracted so much attention, and, by establishing a refuge for the birds from gunning farther down the river, will doubtless greatly increase the numbers of water-fowl congregating in the District.

The preservation of the Crescent Lake Migratory Bird Refuge has, we learn, been assured by the dismissal, by the Nebraska Department of Public Works, of an application to drain the lakes and use the water for irrigation purposes. The Federal Government had acquired some 35,000 acres of land and small lakes in this ideal locality for a refuge for nesting and migratory water fowl and the Biological Survey, along with various conservation organizations, strenuously opposed the draining with the result above announced, which should serve to discourage such ill-advised proposals elsewhere.

IN FEBRUARY last the Bird Haven tract including the former home of Robert Ridgway, was given by the Bird Haven Memorial Association to the University of Chicago along with the funds for its upkeep and it will in future be administered through the University.

Mrs Charles L. Hutchinson, who contributed a large part of the original \$50,000, raised for the preservation of the tract as a memorial to Mr Ridgway, has bought ninety-seven acres of land adjoining the original eighteen acres which makes it possible to carry out Mr. Ridgway's ideal. It is hoped that botanists and zoologists will find Bird Haven an attractive place in which to carry on experimental work and observational studies on plant and animal life.

SENATOR Walcott has reported on the advisability of the Federal Government acquiring the 390,000 acres on the border line of Georgia and Florida

constituting the Okefenokee Swamp, as a wild life reservation, which is advocated by the Committee on Conservation of Wild Life Resources, of which he is chairman, and by the Biological Survey. The latter is to receive proposals from the several owners of the swamp and necessary legislation introduced when these are satisfactory and the financial status of the Federal Government permits. Much interesting information is contained in the report.

THE OPEN season for ducks for the coming season has been fixed at two months and the bag-limit at fifteen but not more than five Eiders and ten (of each or in aggregate) of Canvasbacks, Redheads, Scaup, Ringnecks, Teal, Gadwalls or Shovellers. The period ranges between October 1 and January 15 differing in the several districts. The Ruddy Duck and Bufflehead with the Wood Duck, are absolutely protected at all times.

Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, a member of the Federal Advisory Board which suggested the seasons etc., has published an independent circular in which he states that his proposal to limit the season to forty-five days was lost, also one to prohibit shooting from baited shooting grounds upon which the Biological Survey had as yet made no report. Duck hunters on Currituck Sound and Back Bay, Va., will rejoice in the restoring the lock in the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal which was removed in 1922, and thus permitted the inflow of salt water which killed the water plants upon which the ducks fed and forced the latter to go elsewhere. How long it will require for the water plants to re-establish themselves it is not possible to determine but at least the old conditions are restored.

Another item of interest to duck hunters is the availability of an educational motion picture in two reels on 'Duck Sickness.' Copies may be secured from the Biological Survey, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

CANADA we learn has set aside 560,000 square miles of territory as bird sanctuaries, of which thirty-one are now operated by the Dept. of the Interior under the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

A RECENT pamphlet issued by the Dept. of Agriculture under the title 'Policies of the Bureau of Biological Survey relative to the Control of Injurious Birds' furnishes much information of interest. The general policy of the Survey we are glad to see is "to hold bird-control work to the minimum." The field men of the Survey must notify State officials of contemplated bird-control work and secure necessary authority in the case of State protected species. The Survey is opposed to indiscriminate anti-Crow campaigns and similar campaigns against birds of prey and to the general destruction of Vultures.

From a circular to Field Men of the Survey we find the welcome warning: "The preparation and distribution to the public of poisoned baits for birds should not be undertaken by members of the Biological Survey." We trust that this may be extended to cover baits in mammal control, as well, otherwise it would seem to be of little value.

THE EXCELLENT plates of Forbush's 'Birds of Massachusetts' by Louis Agassiz Fuertes and Allan Brooks have been issued in a separate volume to be had from Room 118 State House, Boston, Mass., all orders to be accompanied by check or money order for \$1.75, payable to the Secretary of the Commonwealth. This work consists of probably the finest set of colored plates of the birds of the Eastern States that has ever been published and the price is merely nominal.

FROM an issue of the 'United States Gazette,' published on July 1, 1832, a little more than one hundred years ago we quote: "Mr. Audubon has just returned to our city [Philadelphia] in excellent health. His arduous excursions during the last nine months in the Carolinas, Georgia, East Florida and the Tortugas have been richly repaid. During this comparatively short period Mr. Audubon has, by his own gun, acquired nine species of birds altogether new to the United States. We have seen these birds and it has been our good fortune also to see inimitable drawings he has made of them, with the interesting landscapes so peculiar to the southern country and which vie with them in beauty and interest. Besides these Mr. Audubon has brought with him about 2,000 specimens of rare Southern birds in the highest state of preservation together with an immense quantity of shells and plants. It is impossible to say too much in praise either of the talents or perseverance of this unrivalled naturalist."

THE "last Heath Hen" which was supposed to have succumbed reappeared in his old haunts on Marthas Vineyard Island on February 9, 1932, after an interval of nine months. Thereafter it was seen at regular intervals until March 11. It has been the lone survivor since December 8, 1928.

THE Ornithological Society of Japan has issued some beautiful picture postal cards of rare Japanese birds in packages of four each.

A TESTIMONIAL dinner was tendered to Dr. Amos W. Butler, Indiana's veteran ornithologist by the Hamilton County Nature Club, at Noblesville, Ind., on June 24, 1932, with addresses by S. E. Perkins, III, Marcus W. Lyon, Jr., Rev. Francis H. Gavisk, W. A. Mills and Earl Brooks, with a response by Dr. Butler. The proceedings are published in a little pamphlet issued by the society.