

NOTES AND NEWS.

SEMICENTENNIAL Jubilee of the A. O. U.—The fifty-first Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, marking the fiftieth anniversary of the organization, will be held in New York City, November 13–16, 1933. General headquarters will be at the American Museum of Natural History.

Convention headquarters will be at the Hotel New Yorker, 34th Street at Eighth Avenue. This hotel is connected with the American Museum by the new Eighth Avenue subway, a trip of about ten minutes, and has entrances directly into each building, as well as into the Pennsylvania railroad station.

Mr. David Olmstead, of the Hotel New Yorker, is an Associate of the Union, and was secretary of the local committee during the Detroit meeting in 1931. He is therefore fully conversant with the needs of members and will give his personal attention to all communications.

The Chairman of the Local Committee is Dr. Frank M. Chapman, Curator of Birds in the American Museum. Various sub-committees have been appointed, and plans are under way which, it is hoped, will make our Fiftieth Birthday party a memorable occasion.

The Committee in Charge of Arrangements is planning an exhibit of works of art in which birds are the subjects, including paintings, drawings, and sculpture. There will also be a section for the display of bird photographs. All persons, whether or not members of the Union, are invited to contribute samples of their work for this exhibit.

The Chairman of the Sub-committee on the Exhibit is Mr. Courtenay Brandreth, who may be addressed in care of the Museum. Full power of decision regarding the hanging of pictures, etc., will rest with the Committee, which may limit the number of works of any single exhibitor as seems expedient.

All persons wishing to exhibit are requested to communicate with Mr. Brandreth at the earliest possible date. Sculpture should be sent only after specific arrangements have been made with the Committee. Paintings and photographs may be shipped to the Museum, and a full and specific list, which includes the value of each item for insurance purposes, should be sent in advance to the Chairman.

All exhibits should reach New York not later than the last week in October. They should be prepaid and addressed to the American Museum of Natural History, 77th Street and Central Park West, New York City, and should be marked "A. O. U. Exhibit." The Local Committee will pay for insurance on the pictures from the time they reach New York until they are returned to their owners, and will also defray the cost of repacking and shipment.

Members who expect to contribute papers to the scientific program of the meeting should send their titles to the Secretary of the Union, 1939

Biltmore Street, Washington, D. C., *not later than October 15*, and should submit with each title an abstract of not more than 200 words.

Our members are well aware of what the A. O. U. has done for ornithology and how the small band of devoted ornithologists which assembled in New York, in 1883, labored for the success of the organization. As a tribute to the five remaining founders—Charles F. Batchelder, Nathan Clifford Brown, Albert K. Fisher, C. Hart Merriam, Robert W. Shufeldt and to the memory of the others who have passed on, it would seem that each one of us should make such sacrifice of time and convenience as is necessary to be present at this semicentennial meeting. Needless to say everyone will be fully repaid in the enjoyment of the occasion and the stimulus which A. O. U. meetings always give to our interests and activities.

Let us make it truly a "Jubilee Meeting."

MANY members of the Union, especially authors who have submitted papers for publication, are aware of the fact that we have on hand many more contributions than funds with which to print them, and that this condition does not seem to improve. It therefore seems but fair both to the ever patient authors, whose papers are on the waiting list, and to those who are contemplating the submission of papers now under way, to declare a sort of "moratorium" on 'Auk' papers.

The editor has arranged those on hand in three lots according to date of receipt, each containing about as many pages as he sees his way to publish in the next three issues, with the funds now in sight. Authors will all be notified of the number in which their papers will appear so that if they have an earlier channel of publication open to them they may withdraw them. If no papers are withdrawn no new ones can be published until the April issue of 1934, except the necessary reports for 1933, for which reservation has been made. Additional contributions, except of course for 'General Notes,' will be accepted subject to this condition.

If additional funds develop the expiration of the "moratorium" may be advanced to the January 1934 issue.

All 'General Notes' which do not exceed 700 words will be accepted and published in the next issue if received at least one month in advance, with the provision that the editor be allowed to revise them in the interest of brevity without altering the facts presented. Longer 'General Notes' may have to await a subsequent issue of the journal.

The review of literature is being condensed as much as possible consistent with a proper notice of publications sent to us for that purpose and reports, obituaries, etc., will be cut to avoid all unnecessary matter. With the list of Members in the April issue, concerning the publication of which we have received many protests, the editor has no discretion as it is ordered to be printed annually by the Council unless such order is suspended by that body but if funds could be secured to cover the expense of this list as well as the annual reports of the secretary, nearly one hundred additional pages per year could be devoted to ornithology.

ANNUAL Meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology. The Virginia Society of Ornithology held its fourth annual meeting recently on January 20-21, at Norfolk. Dr. J. J. Murray read a paper on the history of ornithology in Virginia, and Mr. Chas. O. Handley gave the results of a study of the abundance of Ruffed Grouse in the state. A resolution was passed favoring legislation that would provide a closed season on the grouse in counties in the Piedmont and eastern parts of the state where the numbers of grouse are much diminished. A number of other papers were presented by other members.

The features of chief interest were the first annual dinner for members, and a field trip to the private game and wild fowl preserve of Mr. W. E. Cory of New York, where over fifty Whistling Swans were seen, as well as thousands of other water fowl.

All officers were re-elected. They are as follows: President, Prof. Ruskin S. Freer, Lynchburg; Vice President, Mr. Chas. O. Handley, Ashland; Secretary, Dr. Florence Hague, Sweet Briar; Treasurer, Mr. John B. Lewis, Amelia; members of the Executive Committee, Mr. M. G. Lewis, Salem, and Mr. A. O. English, Norfolk. Dr. J. J. Murray of Lexington was re-appointed Editor of 'The Raven', bulletin of the Society. The meeting for 1934 will be held at Alexandria.—Ruskin S. Freer.

THE DELAWARE Valley Ornithological Club held its forty-third annual meeting at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, on January 5, 1933. Officers for the ensuing year are President, Julian K. Potter, Vice-President Arthur C. Emlen; Secretary, John A. Gillespie and Treasurer, Henry T. Underdown. Meetings have been held regularly twice a month with the exception of June to September, and the usual field trips have been taken.

THE BALDWIN Bird Research Laboratory has circulated 3000 copies of an excellent paper by Baldwin, Kendeigh and Franks, 'The Protection of Hawks and Owls in Ohio,' and 15000 copies of a brief abstract of the same on a single sheet. These publications have done much to stimulate interest in saving these birds from the extinction which the hunters of the country seem determined shall overtake them. If the latter would only pause to study the problem as set forth in this and many other publications surely they would realize their error and the folly of putting their personal opinions against the judgement of the trained men in the Biological Survey and the various State laboratories.

OUR HONARARY Fellow M. Jean Delacour is about to publish in 'L'Oiseau' a check-list of the birds of Russia and kindly offers to provide copies for any of our members who desire them at a merely nominal cost, but he must know how many copies will be desired. Anyone who desires to secure a copy should communicate at once with Dr. Ernst Mayr, American Museum of Natural History, 77th St. and Central Park, W., New York.