

### NOTES AND NEWS.

MEMBERS who have returned from Oxford report that the Eighth International Ornithological Congress which met in July was a highly successful gathering. The A. O. U. was represented by President J. H. Fleming, Vice-president Herbert Friedmann, Ex-president Alexander Wetmore, and several other members from America including A. R. Brand, Ludlow Griscom, Ernst Mayr, Alden H. Miller, Mrs. M. M. Nice, T. Gilbert Pearson, Tracy I. Storer and W. E. Clyde Todd.

FRANK BOND, a Member of the U. S. Geographic Board since 1903, and chairman for the past nine years, retired from Government service July 31, 1934. For many years Mr. Bond was connected with the General Land Office in the Department of the Interior but was never too busy to take an active interest in bird protection. He prepared many of the early Executive Orders creating Federal Bird Reservations and conceived the idea of establishing such refuges on a number of Reclamation Projects in the West. He has also taken an active part in the work of the Union and just prior to his retirement assisted in reading the proof of the 'Ten Year Index to The Auk' by laboriously checking some 8000 cross references. Now that he is free from Departmental routine, we hope that he will have more time for bird work and the things in which he is especially interested.

THE WATERFOWL of America are facing a crisis, W. C. Henderson, associate chief of the U. S. Biological Survey, told the International Association of Game, Fish, and Conservation Commissioners at their annual meeting held in Montreal, Canada, September 10 and 11.

"Last year," said Mr. Henderson, "more birds were killed than were produced, and since then breeding conditions have shown no improvement. The drought of 1934 has been the severest ever recorded by the Weather Bureau, and its worst effects have been felt in the areas that formerly constituted important breeding grounds for many of the highly prized species of our wild Ducks. Several naturalists of the Biological Survey studied conditions in Canada this season and each found the breeding stock there insufficient to occupy even the comparatively small areas still favorable for nesting."

In spite of this condition Duck hunting is to be permitted this fall and while the season has been shortened so far as total number of days is concerned the states may determine whether to have the shooting days continuous or spread out over a longer period. Baiting under permit is also allowed. It would seem that those in charge do not realize the seriousness of the situation and for some reason do not wish to enforce a close season. As pointed out by Mr. McAtee, Duck hunting is a luxury not a necessity. Are the Ducks to go the way of the buffalo and the Wild Pigeon?

WE are informed by H. A. Carter, State Zoologist of Georgia, that "flagrant misuse of privileges extended to scientific collectors in Georgia has led Commissioner Zack D. Cravey to order the suspension of all ornithological collecting in Georgia for a period of twelve months effective July 1, 1934." It is not the purpose to stop completely the necessary work of this nature in the state. The Department would be glad to have statements from ranking ornithologists setting forth their ideas of what problems should be considered in connection with collecting in Georgia. These problems will be tabulated and at the expiration of this twelve months ban, permits will be issued to those who care to pursue them.

Along the same line the U. S. Biological Survey has decided that it will no longer issue permits for the collection of migratory birds for scientific purposes to extend beyond June 30 of any year, and after carefully reviewing its list of permittees, those whose qualifications cannot be questioned will be furnished with permits to be reissued annually on and after July 1, 1935.

**THE TORONTO ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB.**—On January 5, 1934, the organization meeting of the Toronto Ornithological Club was held at the Biology building of the University of Toronto.

The aim of the Club is to further the study of Ornithology in the Toronto region and the membership is therefore limited to those more seriously interested in the subject.

Meetings are held at the Central Y. M. C. A. on the first Friday evening of each month; twenty men constitute the charter membership including James Henry Fleming as an Honorary Member.

Further information may be obtained from Hubert Richardson, Secretary, 182 Rusholme Road, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

WE would make a last minute appeal to all members of the A. O. U. who have not already made arrangements to attend the annual meeting in Chicago to do so at once. We are counting on the members of the Middle West to make this meeting a memorable one as it offers them an opportunity of participating in an A. O. U. meeting and making the personal acquaintance of the many members from the East who will be present and who expect, in turn, to meet many of their correspondents from the Central States who have been unable to come East.