

NOTES AND NEWS.

AS A RESULT of action at the last annual meeting, the limited membership lists of the Union were very nearly filled. However, at the present time, several vacancies still exist viz: 1 Fellow, 3 Corresponding Fellows and 12 Members. Nominations for these vacancies should be made before July 15, 1935, but, under the present By Laws, not more than ten Members can be elected in one year.

PERSONS desiring copies of the group photograph taken at the recent Chicago meeting of the A. O. U. may obtain them at \$1.00 each, post paid, from the photographers, the Kaufmann and Fabry Co., 425 South Wabash Ave., Chicago. An indispensable blue print key to this photograph has been prepared by Mr. A. F. Ganier, 2507 Ashwood Ave., Nashville, Tenn., and may be had gratis from him, but return postage should be enclosed with the application.

STATUS OF BIRDS OF PREY AND HERONS IN WISCONSIN. Until very recently, the birds of prey and the Great Blue Herons and Bitterns enjoyed no protection whatsoever in Wisconsin.

Anyone who had courage enough to say or publish a word in defense of any of the Herons was immediately pounced upon by the fishermen, particularly trout fishermen, as a sentimental crank.

As for the Hawks and Owls, a word in their defense was immediately met by a howl of protest from game breeders and hunters in general. The munitions manufacturers played no small part in spreading malicious propaganda.

Under the old set-up, the Wisconsin Department of Conservation, which in itself was not interested in economic ornithology, was handicapped by a legislature which was still less concerned with Hawks or Herons and consequently these birds were ruthlessly slaughtered.

In the recent past the Commission was made non-political insofar as was possible and the only real handicap to progress was public sentiment. The Commission did not desire to enact legislation which was not favored by the majority of hunters and fishermen.

Then the Department of Ornithology of the Milwaukee Public Museum accidentally learned of the destruction of one of Wisconsin's finest Great Blue Heron rookeries which was situated within a few miles of one of our state fish hatcheries.

Violent protest at this outrage in the 'Milwaukee Journal' brought the whole Heron and Hawk and Owl controversy into the limelight. Public indignation was aroused. Various small and loosely organized bird groups throughout the state, and many individuals and particularly the conservation division of the Wisconsin Federation of Woman's Clubs under the able leadership of their conservation Chairman, Mrs. E. La Budde, came to the rescue. The editorial staff of our largest daily papers and particularly of the 'Milwaukee Journal' printed columns, pointing out the real worth of the species in question. The public became conscious of the loss of a valuable economic asset.

The well-organized groups of fishermen and hunters were in the very small minority as compared to the multitude who are more interested in seeing a bird alive than a dead fish in a basket.

In 1934 the conservation department wisely took the opportunity to place upon the protected list all Herons and all Hawks with the exception of the Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk and Sharp-shinned Hawk, and all Owls with the exception of the Great Horned Owl.

The Department is to be highly commended for taking a decidedly forward step in real conservation.—O. J. GROMME, *Milwaukee Public Museum*.

WITH ITS first 1934 meeting, October 1st, the Tennessee Ornithological Society began its twentieth year of active bird study. The original group of five founders has grown to a membership of 150 and there are now three flourishing chapters of the Society located at Knoxville, at Nashville and at Memphis, respectively.

On October 15th, the Nashville Chapter celebrated the 19th anniversary of its founding, with an interesting meeting. The four living founders were present and presented certain phases of the Club's history.

THE CAMBRIDGE BIRD CLUB, 5a Market Place, Cambridge, England, has just published a book by David Lack on 'The Birds of Cambridgeshire,' a work of 118 pages of text and a folding map of the area, the result of the combined work of members of the Club since it was founded in 1925, and especially of the author who was at the University from 1929 to 1933.

DR. ARTHUR A. ALLEN has just issued an admirable popular bird book consisting of the "autobiographies" of birds which he has been contributing to 'Bird Lore' for some time past with a series of beautiful full page bird portraits from paintings by George M. Sutton. It is published by The Comstock Publishing Co., 124 Roberts Place, Ithaca, N. Y, Price \$3.50, and will be reviewed in the April issue of 'The Auk.'

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AUDUBON SOCIETIES announces that, at the request of Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, he has been relieved of the executive responsibilities of President of the Association, and on October 30, 1934, was elected President Emeritus.

Mr. Kermit Roosevelt was elected President and Mr. John H. Baker, who since December, 1933, has been Chairman of the Board of Directors, was elected Executive Director.

Since then Mr. Warren F. Eaton and Mr. Roger T. Peterson have been added to the Association's staff; the former in charge of Hawk and Owl protection and the latter in educational work.

A PAMPHLET by J. Clark Salyer issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in October last, discusses in detail the problem of water-fowl restoration and the plans adopted by the Biological Survey. The effect of the disastrous drought is discussed and the results of investigations as to water conditions on the breeding grounds are described. Then the proposed restoration of former conditions by flooding and maintaining emergency water supplies is outlined. This is all very important and the Survey is to be congratulated upon having a definite policy outlined for which emergency funds may be applied for but it would seem still more important that all shooting of Ducks should be abandoned for a year or two to allow the stock of wild birds to recover from the terrible effects of the drought. Unfortunately no such step was permitted during the shooting season just passed. Mr. Salyer speaks of the Survey's energies in the interest of wild life restoration having been released under the new leadership. This implies that they were restrained in the recent past but it would seem that the same influence, whatever it may be, still restrains the Bureau in taking the drastic steps that its members and chief undoubtedly know are necessary. Let us hope that this may be overcome.