

### NOTES AND NEWS.

W. H. HOFFSTOT, 14 East 55th Street Terrace, Kansas City, Missouri, has published a circular on 'How to Attract Wild Birds' and 'How to Build a Blue Bird House,' with detailed instructions and figures. "Simple tools; simple directions; easy to make." He does not sell bird boxes or represent dealers, his object being solely to arouse interest in wild song birds, especially Bluebirds.

He will send a copy of his circular to anyone sending him a self addressed, stamped envelope.

RODOLPHE M. DE SCHAUENSEE, Associate Curator of Birds in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, has just returned from a several months sojourn in the mountains of Guatemala where he secured an interesting collection of birds which he has presented to the Academy.

CHESTER C. LAMB of Los Angeles, California, who spent some time in Mexico in 1934, writes from Rosario, Sinaloa, that he expects to remain in Mexico during the present year making a collection of birds.

H. G. DEIGNAN of Washington, D. C., who spent several years collecting birds in Siam has returned to Chiangmai, Siam, to resume his work in that interesting region.

MARCH 7 WAS THE CENTENNIAL of the birth of Daniel Girard Elliot, a founder and former president of the Union, who was born in New York City, March 7, 1835. In honor of the occasion the Library of Congress prepared a special exhibit of Elliot's work. This exhibit included portraits from the Deane Collection, some of his monographs, and scientific publications and other documents in the possession of the Library. Not only were Elliot's publications shown but attention was called to the work of the artists who assisted in illustrating his various monographs.

JUNE 27 WILL MARK the centennial of the birth of Otto Herman, the eminent Hungarian ornithologist, who for some years was a Corresponding Fellow of the Union. He was born in Breznóbánya, Hungary, June 27, 1835, and was the founder of the Royal Hungarian Central Bureau for Ornithology. His portrait and a brief account of his work may be found in 'The Auk' for October 1915, pp. 539-540.

THE COUNTRY IS FLOODED today with literature from various quarters relative to the Duck situation. There is no question but that the Ducks are facing a crisis and unless drastic measures are taken the extermination of certain species is imminent.

Those who desire to secure a clear understanding of the situation should read the address of Chief Darling of the U. S. Biological Survey on "The Wild Life Situation in the United States" published by the Survey.

The fundamental trouble from the viewpoint of the conservationist is that there is not, nor ever has been, a definite comprehensive National policy for the conservation of our wild-life resources nor any one Government agency entrusted with the problem as a whole. The result has been that various agencies in different Departments have been working at cross purposes. In the zeal to provide work for the unemployed large areas of marsh land have been drained and underbrush cut down, under the direction of one agency, while another is trying to accomplish exactly the opposite result in order to maintain breeding grounds for water-fowl and cover for upland game. The Biological Survey has no authority outside its own Bureau and

it would seem that one Bureau or Department does not know what another is doing in activities related to conservation.

The National Association of Audubon Societies is advocating a closed season for Ducks next winter and all broad minded citizens will endorse such a proposal but there must be substantial appropriations made for the enforcement of a closed season and how are they to be obtained? The Biological Survey has, according to Mr. Darling, about one third as many wardens available in the whole United States as there are traffic policemen on Broadway and with some five million licensed gunners, and it is hard to say how many unlicensed, what can such a meagre force accomplish? With such an army in the field, with drought still in force, and with lack of co-operation among Government agencies what chance have the Ducks?

Chief Darling is doing noble work in bringing these conditions before the people and trying to remedy some of them with utterly inadequate appropriations but to meet the present crisis there would seem to be no course but a direct appeal to the President, by all concerned, for drastic action.

THE PRESENT ISSUE CONTAINS A SMALLER number of leading articles in order to make room for the long list of members which has to be published unless omitted by order of the Council. Its compilation is responsible for a delay in the appearance of the issue.