

## NOTES AND NEWS

THE Ninth International Ornithological Congress will be held at Rouen, France, from May 9 to 13, next. On the first day, registration of members will take place and the Congress will open at the Town Hall, after which there will be an evening excursion. The next three days will be occupied with meetings of the sections, a visit to the natural-history museum and a soirée at the Théâtre des Arts. There will also be short excursions to Clères, the Valley of the Seine, and the Forest of Brotonne. On the night of May 12, a banquet will be held, and the program of sectional meetings will be concluded on the 13th. For May 14 and 15, a visit to Paris and a reception at the Museum and its associated establishments will take place after which there is planned a longer excursion of four days to the famous Carmargue district. The sessions will be held in four sections: taxonomy and zoography; anatomy, physiology, paleontology and embryology; biology; applied ornithology.

The fee for those attending is one pound sterling, with an additional charge of ten shillings if accompanied by a lady. Titles of papers as well as requests for further details of information should be sent as early as possible to M. Jean Delacour, Secretary, Chateau de Clères, Clères, Seine Inférieure, France.

Preceding the Congress, on May 6 and 7, there will be meetings of the International Committee for Bird Preservation, at which questions concerning the protection of birds will be dealt with.

THE Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union proposes, if sufficient new material of interest is forthcoming, to make the July 1938 issue of 'The Emu' a memorial number to mark the centenary of John Gould's visit to Australia. His great folio works on the birds and mammals of that commonwealth rival those of Audubon. Any pertinent information that may be deemed useful, such as extracts from diaries or copies of letters, is earnestly solicited and should be sent to C. E. Bryant, Esq., Editor of 'The Emu', 394 Collins St., Melbourne, Victoria.

The Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union was founded in 1901 with the object of popularizing the study and furthering the protection of native birds. To this end it publishes a quarterly journal, 'The Emu', devoted to Australasian ornithology and has issued an 'Official Check-list of Birds of Australia' (price five shillings). In support of the fine work which the Union has carried on, it is making serious efforts at this time to enlarge its membership, and extends to members of the American Ornithologists' Union who may be interested, an invitation to join. The annual charge is 21 shillings, payable in July in advance. Applications should be addressed to the Hon. General Secretary, 170 Latrobe St., Melbourne, Victoria.

IN an effort to increase present knowledge of the migration, winter distribution, age and plumages of the Herring Gull, the Linnaean Society of New York is sponsoring a plan for the extensive banding of these birds. The operations were limited in 1937 to ten stations from Labrador to Block Island Sound. Each station was assigned a particular combination of either one or two colored celluloid bands in addition to the regulation Biological Survey band. The colors used were red, yellow and blue. Since the colored bands are conspicuous, it is believed that accurate sight 'recoveries' will be obtained in large numbers. Ornithologists are requested to record all gulls seen carrying colored bands, noting exactly the relative position, color and, if possible, number of each band. Reports should include the date and place of

observation, and should be sent to GULL SURVEY, care American Museum of Natural History, New York City.

ANNOUNCEMENT is made that a new edition of Witherby's well-known 'Practical Handbook of British Birds' is in course of preparation. Since the publication of the original edition a vast amount of new matter has appeared in print making the needed revision of the text an undertaking of magnitude. The parts dealing with field characters, habitat, song, and habits generally will be greatly expanded. An important feature will be the new illustrations, for it is aimed to show the birds, so far as possible, in all their plumages. Such a series of illustrations has not hitherto been available. The new work will be so largely re-written as to justify its title, 'The Handbook of British Birds.' It is planned to publish it in five volumes at six-monthly intervals beginning next spring. Observations on the passeriform birds, which will be treated in the first volume, are solicited. Notes relating to breeding habits or food may be sent to Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, Bellevue Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth, and all other notes to H. F. Witherby, Esq., Cobham, Surrey, England.

WANTED: On account of the demand for additional numbers of 'The Auk,' for July 1937, the edition is now exhausted, and any members who do not wish to keep their copy would confer a favor by sending it to the Treasurer, Dr. W. L. McAtee, 3200 22d St. North, Arlington, Virginia.