

NOTES AND NEWS**THE COUNCIL OF THE A. O. U.**

At the meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union next October, three of the most experienced members of the Council retire and are not eligible for immediate reelection:—H. C. Oberholser, T. S. Roberts, and P. A. Taverner. In their place three new councillors to serve for the following three years must be chosen. Inasmuch as the business of the Union is largely in the hands of its Council, it is important to consider carefully the qualifications desired in possible candidates. Hitherto little thought has been given to this matter, because prior to the adoption of the rotating Council, what really happened was that all, or most, of the old members were usually reelected. This is now changed, and each year three new members are to be elected. The Union provides no machinery for the nomination of Councillors prior to the business meeting, and it therefore becomes necessary for the Fellows and Members to consider, discuss, choose, or eliminate possibilities in their own minds before the meeting. Again, we may be reminded that Members as well as Fellows are eligible to serve on the Council. The only restriction that seems at all advisable is that candidates be chosen who may reasonably be expected to attend the meetings, as an absent Councillor is merely an empty chair during the transaction of business.—HERBERT FRIEDMANN.

A NATIONAL exhibition of Auduboniana was held at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, April 26 to June 1, in commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of the publication of the elephant folio of 'The birds of America.' A handsomely printed 44-page catalogue, bound in stiff-paper covers, describes the objects here brought together and may be obtained from the Academy for twenty-five cents a copy, post paid. An account of Audubon and his association with the Academy precedes a descriptive list of the pictures and articles exhibited. The former include many of Audubon's original crayon and water color drawings loaned by the Harvard College Library, original oil paintings of birds loaned by the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, as well as manuscripts, copper plates, the five elephant-folio volumes, Audubon's guns, and other interesting mementoes loaned from various sources. The catalogue contains reproductions of the portrait of Audubon by his son, John Woodhouse Audubon, as well as of the plates of Wild Turkey, Prairie Chicken, Passenger Pigeon, Baltimore Oriole and Swamp Sparrow; the portrait of Lafayette painted by Audubon, and two of his quadrupeds. It forms an attractive memorial, of value to all who are interested in Audubon and his work.

THE newly formed Texas Federation of Nature Clubs has started an active campaign for a wiser use of the State's natural resources, and has issued as the first gun of its advance, an illustrated pamphlet championing the Brown Pelican, a spectacular and harmless species which is in danger of being exterminated on the Texas coast through thoughtless persecution. The Secretary of the Federation is Mr. Jerry E. Stillwell, 7460 San Benito Way, Dallas, Texas.

THE President of the American Ornithologists' Union, in pursuance of his suggestion that the Union should take a more active share in certain aspects of ornithology, has appointed a Research Committee, with the following as chairmen of their respective subcommittees: Anatomy, Dr. A. H. Miller; Genetics, Dr. Leon J. Cole; Migration, Homing, and related phenomena, Dr. Ernst Mayr; North American

Faunistics, P. A. Taverner (tentative); Physiology, Dr. S. C. Kendeigh; Psychology, Territory, Individual Behavior, Mrs. Margaret M. Nice.

THERE is much valuable material, largely of local interest, in the various mimeographed 'journals' at present issued by several active ornithological societies in the eastern United States and Canada, much of which is likely to prove ephemeral since such publications are seldom permanently preserved in libraries. Two of these have lately, however, graduated to the class of formal publications, and are issuing their current volumes as regularly printed journals, 'The Flicker,' issued by the Minnesota Bird Club, Minneapolis, and 'The Jack-Pine Warbler,' published by the Michigan Audubon Society. May success attend them!

THE National Park Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior has issued, December, 1937, in mimeographed form, with covers, a check-list of the birds of the National Parks. For each of the Parks a carefully prepared and briefly annotated list of the birds ascertained to occur within or close to its boundaries, is given and the lists are arranged alphabetically by the titles of the twenty-three Park areas. Its object is to make available to visitors and students such information as now exists and to stimulate the gathering of additional data. It would have been helpful if, in addition, a brief list of the Parks and their location or at least a map of the United States showing their situation could have been added. The whole, clipped together in stiff covers will prove very convenient to the many summer tourists who annually include these reservations in automobile trips. The matter contained, it is stated, is "not for publication."

STATISTICS issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture show that for the year 1936, a total of 6,658,158 hunting licenses was issued in the United States, bringing in \$10,466,237.37. The sales of Migratory Bird Hunting Stamps for the same period numbered 603,623. An analysis of these figures by States is given. It would be interesting—perhaps appalling—to know the total resulting destruction of animal life.

FOR a generous contribution toward the expense of the colored plate in the January 'Auk,' grateful acknowledgment is made to Mr. John B. Semple.

IN reply to many inquiries, Mr. Arthur C. Bent writes that the eleventh volume of his 'Life Histories of North American Birds' is now in press and about to appear, the twelfth has gone to the publishers and the thirteenth is largely written. He is now ready to receive notes and photographs relating to any of the North American flycatchers, larks and swallows for use in the fourteenth volume of this work.

WE note with satisfaction that Dr. Alexander Wetmore has been elected an Honorary Member of the British Ornithologists' Union and that Percy A. Taverner has been made a member of the Royal Society of Canada,—honors well merited.