

## NOTES AND NEWS

### BENT'S 'LIFE HISTORIES'

READERS of 'The Auk' and others will be interested to know that the fourteenth volume of Arthur C. Bent's well-known 'Life Histories of North American Birds,' to include the flycatchers, larks and swallows, will go to the printer very soon, although it may not be published until some time early next year, owing to the congestion in the Government printing office. The fifteenth volume, covering the Corvidae and Paridae, is in manuscript and will go to the publishers next fall. Work on the sixteenth volume, to contain all the birds included in the Sittidae to Mimidae of the 1931 edition of the 'Check-list,' is now starting. Mr. Bent wishes to thank all former contributors for the valuable material they have sent in even though all of it could not be published for lack of space. He would be glad to receive as soon as possible, notes, photographs or other data on the species to be covered in the next volume in order that these may be included. All such contributions should be sent to ARTHUR C. BENT, *Taunton, Massachusetts.*

### WALKER PRIZES IN NATURAL HISTORY

UNDER the terms of the will of the late William Johnson Walker, the Boston Society of Natural History annually offers two prizes for the best original and unpublished essays submitted on subjects selected by a committee. For the 1942 competition the essays may be on any subject in the field of ornithology. For the best memoir a prize of \$100 may be awarded and for the next best a prize of \$50. Manuscripts must be in the Secretary's hands by May 1, 1942. For details as to the conditions of the competition, apply to the SECRETARY, 234 Berkeley St., Boston, Massachusetts.

### CAPTAIN DELACOUR IN THIS COUNTRY

EVERYONE interested in birds who has visited France within the past twenty-five years has gone to see Jean Delacour at his park at Clères, near Rouen. As a zoological park, Clères is now dead. The chateau, with its magnificent collections and its library, was gutted by fire before the war. The park is now pock-marked with bomb craters, the birds either dead or sold. Four men, as well as many of the birds and animals, were killed by bombing and machine-gunning from the air, and the German troops, coming later, looted the houses and wrought much damage.

Jean Delacour, who has entertained so many of us so kindly at Clères, is now in New York, working as an adviser to the New York Zoölogical Society, and has been appointed an extraordinary member of the Zoölogical Society of London for the duration of the war. He writes that steps have been taken toward the publication of the next number of 'L'Oiseau,' both in the occupied and the unoccupied zones of France. It is probable that there will not be an International Ornithological Congress for several years. Mr. Delacour is the Secretary-General of the International Ornithological Committee, as well as President of the International Committee for Bird Preservation. Any inquiries on matters pertaining to these committees should be addressed to Mr. DELACOUR, New York Zoölogical Society, Bronx Park, New York City.

## RETIREMENT OF DR. OBERHOLSER

DR. Harry C. Oberholser, internationally known ornithologist, after forty-six years of active duty with the U. S. Biological Survey (now the Fish and Wildlife Service) retired from Government service on June 30 of this year. He will continue his scientific work, however, as Curator of Ornithology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, thus by a curious coincidence taking over the duties of Dr. John W. Aldrich, who has been selected to fill the vacancy in the Fish and Wildlife Service caused by Dr. Oberholser's retirement.

## THE KANSAS CITY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

A year ago a group of ornithologists met at the Kansas City Museum and organized the Kansas City Ornithological Club with headquarters at the Museum. It is planned to hold four meetings a year for the presentation and discussion of papers on ornithology. Undoubtedly the work of this new organization will prove stimulating to those in the region interested in the study of birds.

## REPORTS OF THE BIRD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

REPRINTS of the 'Reports of the A. O. U. Committee on Bird Protection,' for a number of years past are still available to those who may wish to keep a file complete or to preserve a record of the work of the Committee. For certain years the number of copies available is small. Persons wishing to receive back reports from 1930 to 1939 should send a self-addressed envelope and postage to Mr. VICTOR H. CAHALANE, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.

## A BIOGRAPHY OF LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES

MATERIAL for a biography of the late Louis Agassiz Fuertes, naturalist and bird artist, is being collected by his daughter, Mrs. Mary Fuertes Boynton, R. D. 3, Trumansburg, New York. She is eager to have letters written by Louis Fuertes, as well as anecdotes and personal recollections. Letters sent to her will be copied and returned promptly.

## POSTPONEMENT OF THE TENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

THE officers charged with the arrangements for the Tenth International Ornithological Congress, scheduled to have been held in the United States in 1942, announce that the proposed meeting has been indefinitely postponed.