

vertebrae being penetrated to any extent in the material examined. Homology of the large sac above the sternum is problematical; embryological investigation and comparison with other passerine species is needed to verify my supposition that this sac is the anterior intermediate.—DAVID K. WETHERBEE, *Biology Department, Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts.*

NOTES AND NEWS

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP AWARDS FOR 1951 SELECTED BY THE A. O. U. COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Samuel Andrew Army, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge
 Charles Omar Bartlett, University of Wisconsin, Madison
 Henry Lonsdale Bird, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine
 Donald James Burdick, San Jose State College, San Jose, California
 Charles C. Carpenter, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
 Richard William Fyfe, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B. C.
 Frederick Kelker Hilton, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland
 Ned Keith Johnson, University of Nevada, Reno
 (Mr.) Clare Burten Kenaga, Western Michigan College of Education, Kalamazoo
 Pierre Chester Lawson, Oklahoma A. and M. College, Stillwater
 (Mrs.) Elizabeth E. Levine, University of California at Los Angeles
 John Stanley Maskiewicz, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.
 Daniel Lawson McKinley, University of Missouri, Columbia
 Eric Leonard Mills, Fisher Park High School, Ottawa, Ontario
 Joseph Robison Murphy, Brigham Young University, Salt Lake City, Utah
 Paul Woodburn Parmalee, Texas A. and M. College, College Station
 Donald Caldwell Snoddy, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 Andrew Spielman, Colorado College, Colorado Springs
 Keith Lynde White, University of Wisconsin, Madison
 Franklin Willis, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION AND CONSERVATION

SINCE 1884 the American Ornithologists' Union has had a Committee on Bird Protection. In its early days the committee played a very active part in saving many plume species from virtual extinction at the hands of the millinery trade. The National Association of Audubon Societies—or, as it is now called, the National Audubon Society—which grew out of this early militant phase of the Committee's work has done a magnificent job in the 45 years of its existence and deserves all the support we can give it.

No one organization, however, can do everything that needs to be done for bird protection in an area having nearly 200 million people and covering a large part of the continent. This is especially true today, as population pressures and improved technology threaten soon to leave little unexploited land. In view of this situation, has the A. O. U. Committee on Bird Protection any right to sit on the sidelines and simply document annually for the membership the sad story of wildlife decline, without itself raising a hand to do anything about any of the many problems that are crying out for attention in every county in the land?

Have we the right to shirk all responsibility by saying that the National Audubon Society should do it? To date it has put \$41,742 into its Ivory-billed Woodpecker, California Condor, and Whooping Crane projects alone, of which only \$12,380 has as

yet been covered by special donations; and other similar projects only await the funds to finance them.

More, however, needs to be done. Swamps, marshes, heron colony sites, eagle trees, and other strategic habitats are disappearing from one community after another. Local extirpation threatens many species over large areas as civilization gradually destroys all of the special environment they require. I for one believe that the Bird Protection Committee of the A. O. U. must again, as in the days when Brewster and Dutcher were active in it, become a real force for conservation. Hoping that others will agree with me, I have accepted the chairmanship of the Committee for 1951. Who will help me? I know I can always look to the A. O. U.'s many busy professional members for advice, but it is largely to the membership at large that I feel I must turn for real help, especially those who through retirement from active business or other reasons have time and possibly funds they could devote to some phase of bird conservation work. Charles L. Broley, the retired Canadian banker who some 12 years ago at my suggestion undertook a program of research, photography, and propaganda on behalf of the Bald Eagle, is a case in point. His work has revolutionized our knowledge of the bird and helped the cause of its conservation immensely, incidentally bringing him election recently to full membership in the A. O. U.

If you agree with me that the A. O. U. has an obligation to do more than just sit on the sidelines and cheer or criticize, and if you feel you would like to help the Committee become more active, please write me. Let me know what you think you could contribute in time, travel, secretarial help, or funds to a rejuvenated Bird Protection Committee with a real action program.

If you are especially concerned about any particular situations or problems on which you would like to work as a member of the Committee, please mention them.—
RICHARD H. POUGH, *Chairman, A. O. U. Committee on Bird Protection, American Museum of Natural History, New York, December 18, 1950.*

Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fellowships.—In order to perpetuate the memory of Dr. Frank M. Chapman and to continue his influence, a memorial fund under control of The American Museum of Natural History was established after his death in 1945 by Mrs. Elsie M. B. Naumburg and her husband, Walter W. Naumburg. Many of Dr. Chapman's friends and admirers have since contributed to this fund which has grown sufficiently to permit a grant or grants to be made from the income. The Frank M. Chapman Memorial Committee is happy to announce that the first awards may be allotted in 1951.

Applications for fellowships should be addressed to the Chapman Memorial Fund, care of the Department of Birds of the American Museum of Natural History, New York 24, N. Y. Applicants should state their training and experience and describe the nature and the scope of the proposed project as well as the plan of procedure, previous work on the project (if any), and the amount of financial aid that is required. They should also supply the names of one or more sponsors.

Projects that are eligible under the provisions of the Chapman Memorial Fund include field expeditions, travels undertaken for the purpose of intensive studies of behavior of species of birds or of bird colonies, and support of laboratory or museum studies—in fact, almost any phase of sound ornithological research. A sum of approximately \$2000.00 will be available for the first grants.

The American Museum of Natural History will be responsible for judging the qualifications of the applicants. Any necessary collections made during the tenure of a Chapman Fellowship will be deposited in the American Museum. Applications must be received before June 1, 1951.

ALTHOUGH our Membership Committee is functioning very efficiently, much real help can be provided by each and every one of us. Have you checked with friends who are interested in birds and who might become associated with us? What have you done recently to stimulate interest in the American Ornithologists' Union?

WE are sorry to note that Bernard William Tucker, Corresponding Fellow of the A. O. U., died December 19, 1950, and that Lynds Jones, Fellow, died February 11, 1951.

THE editor regrets the scrambling of names on Plate 1 in the January, 1951, Auk. Please correct to read *Dendroica dominica stoddardi*.