

NOTES AND NEWS

The Josselyn Van Tyne Memorial Fund will have a sum of \$300 available for research awards at the end of the fiscal year, 31 July 1961. Any student of birds is invited to apply for part or all of this amount.

Ten duplicate copies of applications are desired for distribution to members of the Research Committee, who will determine how the funds will be allotted. The application should give a full description of the proposed research, the type of help required (equipment, travel, assistance, etc.), the amount of money desired, and the background and training of the applicant. With young men or women just starting their careers, a supporting letter from one or more recognized ornithologists would be helpful.

Applications should be submitted not later than 1 June 1961 to S. C. Kendeigh, Chairman, Vivarium Building, University of Illinois, Wright and Healey Sts., Champaign, Illinois.

As a result of a generous bequest from Elsie Binger Naumburg, who, with her late husband, Walter W. Naumburg, founded the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund, it is now possible to expand the Fund's program. In addition to cash grants in support of research, ornithological fellowships with a tenure of one year will be awarded. Applicants need not be residents of the United States. It is expected that recipients will carry out research at the American Museum of Natural History, though in exceptional circumstances they might do so at one of the Museum's Field Stations or elsewhere. Grants will ordinarily be made in March and October, and applications should be in hand by the first of these months. They should outline the proposed research, the applicant's qualifications, provide a budget when necessary, and, for graduate students, include one or two supporting letters. Nonexpendable equipment will, at the discretion of the Memorial Fund Committee, remain the property of the Museum. If specimens are collected, it is expected that all or some of them will revert to the Museum. A copy of any published result of research supported by the Chapman Fund should be sent to the Chairman, and will, it is hoped, give credit for the aid so received. Applications for fellowships or for grants in support of research should be sent to the Chairman, Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund Committee, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West, New York 24, New York.

During the spring of 1960 Professor Ernst Mayr made a survey of graduate work in American colleges and universities in which birds were being used as subject matter for theses. Replies to his questionnaires were received from 67 departments of zoology and biology and from 25 departments of wildlife management. Among these departments 43 reported graduate students working for a higher degree, a total of 162 graduate students being reported. These data serve as an interesting indication of the extent to which birds are used for research for theses in this country.—EDITOR

The first triennial award of the Gill Memorial Medal of the South African Ornithological Society for contributions to ornithology south of the Zambezi has been made to Dr. J. M. Winterbottom, Hon. Secretary of the Society since 1951 and Director of the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology.

The ornithologists of the Soviet Union held in 1956 their first congress attended by more than 350 ornithologists and foreign visitors. The proceedings of this congress, containing 48 contributed papers, has now been published (*Proceedings of the First All-Union Ornithological Conference*, Leningrad, Moscow 1960,—in Russian, with English table of contents). Distribution, migration, habitat, and food ecology are the dominant theses. It is a pleasure to see so much activity, and one would wish that our Russian colleagues and we could have closer contacts with each other.—ERNST MAYR.

Dr. Oliver L. Austin, Jr., Curator of Birds, The Florida State Museum, has been appointed Chairman of the Bent *Life Histories of North American Birds* Committee by the Nuttall Ornithological Club.

Alarmed by persistent reports of a downward trend in the population of Bald Eagles, the National Audubon Society has launched a study aimed at determining the status of the species. This project is designed to cover at least five years and to gather data from all parts of North America. The study will consist of two parts: first, an inventory based on the number of active nests located, and second, an investigation of various aspects of eagle biology. Information is urgently needed on the location of active eagle nests and also on wintering concentrations of eagles. If you have information on these or any other facets of eagle biology, please communicate with: Alexander Sprunt, IV, Box 231, Tavernier, Florida.

The American Ornithologists' Union will meet in 1961 at Washington, D.C., with The United States National Museum and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as host organizations, and the Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States a sponsoring organization. The scientific sessions will be held Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 18–20 October, in the auditorium of the U.S. National Museum. The business sessions will be held on Tuesday, 17 October, at places to be announced later. Field trips are planned for Saturday, 21 October. The Annual Banquet will be held in the ballroom of the Hotel Willard on Friday evening, 20 October.

Applications for a position on the program should be submitted not later than 1 September. A formal "call for papers" will be circulated well before the deadline.

Convention headquarters will be the Willard Hotel, Pennsylvania Avenue and Fourteenth Street, Washington 4, D.C., situated in the heart of down-town Washington and within walking distance of the National Museum.

This will be the fourteenth Washington meeting and the first since 1938.

Through the generosity of the Marcia Brady Tucker Foundation, Inc., we are again in a position to award funds to assist promising young ornithologists to attend the annual meeting of the Union. The amount granted will depend upon distance to be travelled and personal need. Any member may nominate candidates. It is not required that awardees present papers at the meeting, but since some may wish to apply for a position on the program, it is important that nominations be in hand *not later than* 1 August 1961.

Please send to the Secretary (H. G. Deignan, U.S. National Museum, Washington 25, D.C.) the following information: (1) name, age, and address of the nominee; (2) education and experience of the nominee; (3) a statement by the sponsor on the capabilities, special interest, and financial need of the nominee.