

NOTES AND NEWS

The Explorers Club announces that it has funds from which grants may be made, to aid exploration and scientific work in the field. Application for grants should be made upon forms that will be sent upon request addressed to the Executive Director, The Explorers Club, 10 West 72nd Street, New York 23, N.Y. The proposals will be refereed by a committee of scientists. If favorably recommended, the grants must then be passed upon by the Board of Directors, whose decision is final. Applicants need not be members of the Explorers Club. The grants are usually modest in amount, seldom over \$1,000.

The Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund of the American Museum of Natural History is administered by a committee that meets twice annually to review applications for grants and fellowships. The Chapman Fund is intended to support and foster research in ornithology from a broad and international point of view. There are no restrictions as to the formal qualifications of applicants or the locality in which research is to be conducted. Applications should be submitted not later than 15 February and 15 September. Detailed information and application forms may be obtained from the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Committee, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York 24, New York.

The Gromaco Foundation for Natural Science, a nonprofit organization affiliated with the University of Miami, announces the availability of field-station facilities in southeastern Costa Rica. The Foundation administers a preserve consisting of approximately 1,000 square miles of virgin forest extending from tropical lowlands to the montane cloud forest at 9,500 feet. At present the Foundation has no resident staff and no laboratory equipment. A permanent laboratory workshop, administration building, and residence facilities are now being constructed. Comfortable housing and meals will be provided at \$3 per day. Unskilled field assistance at the station can be provided on an actual-cost basis. Air transportation from San José can be similarly arranged. Inquiries are invited from established investigators and advanced students, and should be directed to Rex R. Benson, Director, The Gromaco Foundation for Natural Science, Apartado 2752, San José, Costa Rica.

As part of an investigation of the migration and population trends of the Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) in North America, Mr. J. C. Finlay, 6710 102A Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, is seeking the cooperation of ornithologists in obtaining data concerning the movements, abundance, and reproductive success of the species. Persons genuinely interested in participating in this investigation should apply to Mr. Finlay for a checklist of the information desired.

Bird taxonomists may be interested to know that the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, volume 19, part I (February 1962), contains an application for the suppression of eight dubious specific names of birds.

As several readers have pointed out, my review of *The Bird Watcher's Guide* by Henry Hill Collins (*Auk*, 78: 658) was obviously incorrect in including among the errors in the book the use of bayberries as food by the Tree Swallow.—EDITOR.

Extensive evidence indicates that wild birds are involved in the life cycle of many arthropod-borne viruses and are the source of infection for arthropods that infect man

and domestic animals. The natural history of these viruses and the epidemiology of the diseases they produce are so complex that only a coordinated effort by specialists on all facets of ornithology, ecology, and virology can produce the information needed.

The American Committee on Arthropod-borne Viruses (ACAV) has been attacking the virological aspects of these problems for several years, but greater participation by ornithologists is required. A meeting of ornithologists, virologists, ecologists, and entomologists was organized in Atlanta, Georgia, 16 and 17 February 1962, to discuss information at hand, current investigations, and the need for more research and communication.

A subcommittee of the ACAV was formed to serve as a channel of information exchange, a focus for consultation, and to stimulate development of new tools and ideas.

The proceedings of the meeting and a list of references have been prepared, and the subcommittee desires to distribute them as widely as possible. Interested persons may obtain copies from the chairman, who will place their name on a mailing list for future communications.

American Committee on Arthropod-borne Viruses, Subcommittee on the Relation of Birds to Arthropod-borne Viruses: David E. Davis, Joseph J. Hickey, Robert J. Newman, Maurice W. Provost, Donald D. Stamm, Chairman, USPHS, Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta 22, Georgia.