

NOTES AND NEWS

The Subcommittee on Collections of the Committee on Research of the American Ornithologists' Union is conducting a survey of bird collections in the United States and Canada. In the past many studies utilizing museum materials have been handicapped by ignorance of the existence of potentially important specimens. We hope, by means of this survey, to enable future workers to take full advantage of all available material.

Survey forms have been sent to institutions and individuals known to have, or suspected of having, an ornithological collection. We request your assistance so that our survey will be as complete as possible. If you have received a survey form, please complete it and return it promptly. If you have a collection and have not received a form, or if you know of other persons or institutions who have collections and who have not received a form, please notify RICHARD C. BANKS, Bird and Mammal Laboratories, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C. 20560.

The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature has validated four currently used and very well-known names of birds published in *Ornithologia Britannica* 1771, no doubt by M. Tunstall, the validity of which was dubious. The names are *Falco peregrinus*, *Falco aesalon*, *Alauda* [now *Anthus*] *rubescens*, and *Motacilla cinerea* (Bull. Zool. Nomencl., 26, part 1: 26-27, 1969). This validation had been recommended by the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature of the International Ornithological Congress.—E. EISENMANN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York* 10024.

The University of Miami is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Oscar T. Owre to the Robert E. Maytag Chair of Ornithology, June 1, 1969.

Manomet Bird Observatory.—The Manomet Bird Observatory, situated on a Massachusetts sea cliff overlooking Cape Cod Bay, began full-time operation in August 1969 as the first permanent observatory on the Atlantic coast of North America. The observatory will offer facilities where scientists and amateur naturalists can investigate environmental biological problems with emphasis upon banding and ornithological studies. In addition to the research program, the MBO will serve as a training center for banders and will provide opportunities for young people to observe and participate in ornithological research.

The Manomet Bird Observatory begins operations with a valuable backlog of records on both passerines and migrant seawowl. Operating as an "Operation Recovery" station for the past three autumns, approximately 7,800 birds of 101 species have already been netted and banded. All birds are weighed and measured in accordance with OR procedures and ectoparasites are collected routinely. A regular "Seawatch" from Manomet Point has produced worthwhile information on autumnal seawowl flights and will be continued.

Facilities and living quarters at the observatory will be available to qualified researchers and volunteer helpers, upon prior arrangement with the Director. Those seeking more information about the program and about membership in the Manomet Bird Observatory should write to the Director, Manomet Bird Observatory, Manomet, Massachusetts 02345.

Grants for research on endangered birds.—The International Council for Bird Preservation, United States and Pan-American Sections, have limited funds available to assist research into the status, ecology, and biology of rare and endangered species of birds. Qualified persons interested in carrying on such research, and needing funds for that purpose, are invited to submit proposals. Such proposals should be fully documented, indicating the plan of study, previous experience and training, what other financial assistance is being sought, a detailed expense estimate, and, if by a graduate student, a recommendation from his major professor.

Proposals relating to birds outside the Latin American area should be forwarded to STUART KEITH, Secretary, U.S. Section, I.C.B.P., American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York 10024; if relating to birds in Latin America to EUGENE EISENMANN, Secretary, Pan-American Section, I.C.B.P., at the same address.

Request for gull reports.—During May through July of each year for a 5-year period, Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) from three Great Lakes colonies will be wing-marked with 1.5 inch-diameter "Saflag" tags. Each colony is represented by a specific color. An attempt is being made to determine the dispersal pattern, migration route, and winter range for each population. Anyone observing such wing-marked gulls is asked to notify DR. WILLIAM E. SOUTHERN, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115. Please report each observation of marked individuals even though the same bird may be sighted on different days. The following information is desired: *date, exact location, marker color, and the observer's name.* Your assistance in this aspect of the project will be greatly appreciated. Respondents will receive information pertaining to colony locations and the date of marking.

Request for Cattle Egret records.—A survey is being made of the northward movement of the Cattle Egret to determine the species' distribution and postbreeding movements throughout its range in North America. The following information is requested: Name, address of observer, date, time, number, location of observation (state, nearest town, county, and if possible township, range, and section), habitat, activities, and weather. Cooperators will be sent proper forms and a report of the results, if requested. Please send records and observations to ALAN B. SCHROEDER, c/o Norman Bird Sanctuary, Third Beach Road, Rhode Island 02840.

The XV International Ornithological Congress will convene in the Netherlands at The Hague from 30 August to 5 September 1970 inclusive; the 15th World Conference of the International Council for Bird Preservation will be held at De Koog on the Island of Texel, Netherlands, 6–12 September 1970 inclusive. No excursion before or after the Congress will be organized. Those interested in air-travel arrangements to and from the Congress may save up to \$130.00 for either a 2- or 3-week stay, including room and board as well as air fare, by traveling as an A.O.U. group. Departure will be from New York (Kennedy International Airport) on August 28, 1970. For full details, members should address all inquiries to Woodmere Travel, Inc., 952 Broadway, Woodmere, New York 11598.

Request for Information on Color-Tagged Mississippi Kites.—As part of a study of the ecology and population dynamics of the Mississippi Kite, adult and juvenile birds are being color-tagged, banded with standard U. S. Fish and Wildlife bands, and released in areas of southwestern Kansas, western Oklahoma, and north-central Texas. Marked birds carry a large plastic oval on the humeral area of each wing, and colors used have been white, red, orange, yellow, dark green, dark blue, and light blue. Information desired includes: color of plastic oval on each wing; date, time, and location of sighting; activity of the bird; and observer. Please send information to: JAMES W. PARKER, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

Request for material on the Caprimulgidae.—For a bibliography I am compiling on the Caprimulgidae, I would be pleased to receive from authors references to papers in any language, and dealing with any part of the world, so long as they make some mention, no matter how trivial, of goatsuckers. Reprints would be particularly welcome. I intend eventually to publish a monograph of the Caprimulgidae. H. DESMOND JACKSON, P.O. Box 8014, Causeway, Salisbury, Rhodesia.

CORRESPONDENCE

Bowen and Nicholls (Auk, 85: 130-131, 1968) discuss a photograph of an egret taken in the equatorial Atlantic, on St. Paul's Rocks, at 0° 55' N, 29° 22' W. They suggest that it is probably of a Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), and discuss the possible transatlantic spread of this species and larger African wading birds.

We feel that this photograph does not show a Cattle Egret but a Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*). The posture seems to be that of the latter species, the bill appears dark, and allowing for their shadow in the water, the legs seem too long for those of a Cattle Egret. Furthermore, the habitat is typical of the Little Egret as known to Benson on the Aldabra atoll, in the western Indian Ocean, although admittedly a Cattle Egret would have little choice of habitat on the small St. Paul's Rocks, no more than some 200 meters across at the widest (see map in Murphy, Oceanic birds of South America, vol. 1, New York, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 1936, p. 150). On Aldabra, the Little Egret is coastal, whereas the Cattle Egret occurs inland.

Palmer (Handbook of North American birds, vol. 1, New Haven, Connecticut, Yale Univ. Press, 1962, p. 464) gives only two records of the Little Egret, from Newfoundland and Trinidad. It could well be confused in the field with the Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*), with which it may form a superspecies. Indeed the Snowy Egret has been recorded once on Tristan da Cunha, in the South Atlantic at 37° 06' S, 12° 20' W (Elliott, Ibis, 99: 550, 1957), and the bird photographed on St. Paul's Rocks may even have been that species.

We are grateful to R. K. Brooke and M. P. Stuart Irwin for discussing this record with us.—C. W. BENSON, *Department of Zoology, Downing Street, Cambridge, England*, and R. J. DOWSETT, *Wildlife Conservation Society, c/o Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and National Parks, P. O. Box 1, Chilanga, Zambia*.