

**RALPH EMERSON YEATTER.** The field of wildlife ecology lost one of its pioneer practitioners and ornithology one of its authorities on upland game birds with the death on 23 May 1971 of Ralph Emerson Yeatter at the age of 75. He was born on a farm at Colon in Southern Michigan on 29 February 1896. He studied at Michigan State University where he received the B.S. degree in Agriculture in 1921. His early career involved farming for a while, then teaching science at Southwestern High School in Detroit from 1926 to 1929 with study during summers at the University of Michigan Biological Station at Pellston. In 1928 he attained the M.S. degree in zoology at the University of Michigan and the following year was awarded a fellowship there as part of a newly instituted program conceived by Aldo Leopold, among others, of in-depth field studies on species of wildlife management interest. Funding of the fellowships was by the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute. Thus he joined the early illustrious group of scientifically-trained wildlife ecologists, such as Paul L. Errington, Ralph T. King, and David M. Gorsuch who were co-fellowship holders at various other institutions. Ralph's subject of study was the Hungarian Partridge—its life history, habits, and ecological relationships. His work constituted a thesis for the Ph.D. degree in ecology, which he received in 1934. In the summer of this same year he obtained a position as Wildlife Specialist in the Illinois Natural History Survey at Urbana. He remained on the staff of the Survey as Game Specialist for the rest of his professional life. Retirement came in 1964.

Another thorough study that he made was of the Prairie Chicken in Illinois, from which came sound management practice. In recognition of his contributions a 77-acre tract in Jasper County, Illinois was designated on 12 November 1962 by the Prairie Chicken Foundation of Illinois as the Ralph E. Yeatter Prairie Chicken Sanctuary. He also made noteworthy studies of pheasants and tularemia in rabbits. A singular feature of his work was his constant endeavor to use knowledge scientifically gained in the solving of wildlife management problems.

Among his many professional affiliations was the A.O.U., which he joined in 1926. He became an Elective Member in 1948. This summary of Ralph Yeatter's life and work is based on a more extended account by Thomas G. Scott that appeared in the *Journal of Wildlife Management*, 36: 203-204, 1972.—WILLIAM H. BEHLE.

## NOTES AND NEWS

**Shorebird Recapture Operation:** Several species of shorebirds will be marked in the 1972 fall migration with yellow feather dye on the underparts and yellow streamers attached to the leg. Sanderlings will be marked only with leg streamers. Birds will be caught on the Magdalen Islands (Gulf of St. Lawrence). Reports of sight records should include the locality, date, species, name, and address of observer(s). Please weigh any bird taken alive and read the band number. Information should be sent to: RAYMOND MCNEIL, *Centre de Recherches Ecologiques de Montréal, 4101 est, rue Sherbrooke, Montréal 406, Québec, Canada.*

The International Council for Bird Preservation has funds available for grants to qualified individuals for research on endangered or vulnerable species. Proposals may be submitted to the OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, *I.C.B.P., Room 336, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 20560.*

Individuals or institutions wishing to receive a copy of the paperbound, published **Proceedings of the First North American Osprey Research Conference** may do so by writing to DR. MITCHELL A. BYRD, *Department of Biology, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185*. Sale price is expected to be no more than \$2.00. Requests for copies need not be accompanied by prepayment; a bill will be sent when the order is filled.

The Smithsonian Institution has received word from the Bombay Natural History Society of Bombay, India, that the Society would be pleased to provide facilitative services to advanced pre- or postdoctoral students in ornithology who wish to pursue field research projects in India and who would be willing to demonstrate to Indian graduate students up-to-date ornithological research techniques, particularly in quantitative studies in ecology, population dynamics, food and feeding habits, migration, and similar areas.

The Bombay Natural History Society can offer its own study facilities, reference collections, and library and can provide the Indian institutional base necessary for foreign research projects in India, but cannot offer financial support.

Interested ornithologists are invited to seek support for their travel, maintenance, and research expenses in India from the Smithsonian Special Foreign Currency Program. Under this program, the Smithsonian makes grants in PL-480 foreign currencies, including Indian rupees, to support the basic research activities of American institutions in a number of disciplines including the natural sciences. These grants are awarded on a competitive basis after review by leading senior scientists in the discipline concerned. Other countries where these excess currencies are available include Poland, Yugoslavia, Egypt, Tunisia, and Pakistan. Deadlines for submission of proposals are 1 March and 1 October each year.

Inquiries about the Smithsonian Foreign Currency Program should be addressed to the DIRECTOR, *Smithsonian Foreign Currency Program, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 20560*.

**The Neotropical Nest Registry.**—A Nest Registry has been formed to record information on the breeding biology of neotropical birds. A detailed discussion of the rationale for and the difficulties associated with such a registry appears in *American Birds* for February 1972 (26: 18–20). Contributions from Mexico, Central and South America, and the West Indies are needed, and nest reports for primarily neotropical species elsewhere will also be welcome. Contributions need not be in the form of a standard nest record card, although entries typed on 4 × 6 index cards, one card per species, would be desirable. Information to be published by the contributor will, of course, be respected. Part of the registry file will be a reprint library of papers on life history studies or on specific aspects of reproductive biology of neotropical birds. Send requests for information or contributions of nest data or reprints to MICHAEL GOCHFELD, *Department of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York 10024*.