

NOTES AND NEWS

Louis Agassiz Fuertes and Margaret Morse Nice Awards.—Fuertes Awards are devoted to the encouragement and stimulation of young ornithologists. One particular desire is the development of research interests among amateur ornithologists. Any kind of ornithological research may be aided. Recipients of grants need not be associated with academic organizations. Each proposal is considered primarily on the basis of possible contribution to ornithological knowledge. Although grantees are not required to publish their studies in *The Wilson Bulletin*, it is hoped that they will submit their manuscripts to the editor of the *Bulletin* for consideration. In some years two Fuertes Awards have been made, in some years one. Amounts have been between \$100 and \$200.

Most of these conditions are also applicable to the Nice Award, which is limited to amateurs, i.e. those whose research is not associated with their livelihood and is not being done in pursuit of an academic degree. One Nice Award is made annually, in the amount of \$100. Interested persons may write to VAL NOLAN, JR., *Department of Zoology, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47401*. Completed applications must be received by **15 April 1973**. Final decisions will be made by the Council at the annual meeting of the Society, 17–20 May 1973.

Draft copies of a report entitled “**Systematics collections: a national plan . . .**” are available at no charge until **31 January 1973** from PHILIP S. HUMPHREY, *Interim Secretary, Association of Systematics Collections, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66044*. The report represents the combined efforts of a number of systematists for more than a year and takes into account the many constructive and thoughtful comments stimulated by the symposium on “Systematic biology—the development of a national program on resources and resource management” held at the National Academy of Sciences in July 1972. Following the symposium, a writing conference was held at the Belmont Estate in late September, chaired by representatives of the Association of Systematics Collections, with generous support from the Smithsonian Institution. The 24 members of the “Belmont writing conference,” all of them systematic biologists, felt unanimously that the systematic community and other users of systematics collections and associated resources should have an opportunity to review the report and comment on it before its final publication and distribution, now scheduled for March 1973.

The report presents a “national plan” for making systematics collections and their associated resources a more effective national resource, better able to serve the needs of systematic biologists and those agencies of society that depend on systematic information in seeking solutions to various biomedical, environmental, agricultural, and other problems. The “national plan” presented in the draft report is an important first step that, hopefully, will lead soon to solutions to some of the basic problems that have been plaguing systematics collections and their associated resources for many years.

The editors responsible for preparing the report for publication will be doing so during the latter part of February 1973. It is hoped that all those interested in systematics collections and the services they provide will take the opportunity to read the report in its draft form and provide the editors with thoughtful and constructive comments, all of which will be considered by the editors in their efforts to make the report a more effective instrument for the communities it is designed to serve.—J. C. DICKINSON, JR., *Interim President, Association of Systematics Collections*.

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. Applications should be submitted not later than **15 February** and **15 September**. Application forms may be obtained from the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund Committee, The American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024.

Chapman grants during 1972, totalling \$31,340, were awarded to: Humberto Alvarez, habitat utilization and social behavior of the Green Jay; Alexander Anderson, a census and the activity rhythms of Spitsbergen Fulmars; Robert F. Andrlé, biology, status, and conservation of the Whistling Warbler on St. Vincent, West Indies; Myron Charles Baker, genetic structure of populations of White-crowned Sparrows with different song dialects; William Belton, avifaunal survey of state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil; Peter D. Bottjer, serological and electrophoretic study of the Anatidae; Daniel E. Bowen, Jr., habitat variation in nesting success and winter territoriality in Upland Plovers; Edward H. Burt and Donald L. Schramm, color, form and movement perception in newly hatched Ring-billed Gulls; Lorraine Caruso, social organization of the Mute Swan; Brian R. Chapman, effects of nest ectoparasitism on Cliff Swallows in Garza County, Texas; Phillip D. Creighton, ecological segregation of four species of passerines; Allen B. Crockett, ecology and behavior of Williamson's Sapsucker; John Ebersole, interspecific territoriality and character convergence in finches of the high successional chaparral; Charles A. Ely, analysis of North American passerine populations wintering in southern Mexico; Stephen T. Emlen, evolution of coloniality in bee-eaters; Stephen Ervin, life history of the Common Bush-tit; David Ewert, vocalizations of the Rufous-sided Towhee; Lester E. Eyer and Paul B. Hamel, Common Grackle and Robin populations in central Michigan; John Faaborg and David Willard, mechanisms of niche expansion in Mona Island birds; Dennis M. Forsythe, song characteristics of sympatric and allopatric Indigo Bunting and Painted Bunting populations in the southeastern United States; Glen A. Fox, chemical, structural, and physiological changes accompanying eggshell thinning and productivity; William George, function of the subalar aperture; Shirley Ann Guisinger, the behavioral ecology of the Western Meadowlark; James L. Gullede, field studies of *Melanotis* and *Melanoptila* (Mimidae); Harlo H. Hadow, analysis of some woodpecker vocal repertoires with implications for taxonomy; F. Reed Hainsworth, comparative studies of foraging efficiency of hummingbirds; Thomas W. Haislip, Jr., ecological aspects of the avian community breeding in the western juniper stands of central Oregon; Robert B. Hamilton, the taxonomy of the Recurvirostridae; Charles Andrew Henley, the parent/chick bond in the Herring Gull; Oliver H. Hewitt, distribution and size of wintering and breeding bird populations in the Charlotte Harbor Estuary, Florida; David T. Holyoak, study of specimens from the Marquesas Islands in the American Museum of Natural History; David J. T. Hussell, limitation of brood size in altricial birds; Paul A. Johnsgard, taxonomic studies on the family Anatidae; Sara Jane Johnson, ecology and ethology of the postfledging Red-tailed Hawk; David E. Joyner, nest parasitism and brood behavior of the Ruddy Duck; David C. Krieg, hybridization in the bluebirds of the Great Plains; Donald E. Kroodsma, behavioral ecology of song in the Troglodytidae; Donald A. McCrimmon, Jr., interspecific nesting events in a mixed heronry; Mercedes F. McDiarmid, plumage characteristics, social behavior and sexual selection in the Long-tailed Manakin; Judy McIntyre, the breeding biology and behavior of the Common Loon; Bruce L. Manion, nocturnal orientation in the Ashy Petrel; Stephen G. Martin, food partitioning and its relationship to mating status in the Bobolink; R. Wayne Nelson, behavioral ecology of coastal peregrines; Timothy Nowicki, breeding behavior and biology of the Marbled

Godwit; C. Morrison Parker, an investigation into the functions of vocalizations in the Field Sparrow; S. L. Pimm, bird species diversity in grassland and desert areas; Dennis M. Power, evolution of *Carpodacus mexicanus* and *Salpinctes obsoletus* on the California islands; Donald Kay Riker, the relationship of catecholamines to migratory unrest in the White-throated Sparrow; Sievert A. Rohwer, dominance and winter plumage variability; Thomas J. Rudegeair, behavior and ecology of the White Ibis; Fred B. Samson, adaptive features of social organization in Cassin's Finches; James N. Sappington, social behavior and coloniality of the House Sparrow; David W. Snow, field study of southeastern Brazilian cotingids; Donald Wesley Sparling, interembryonic communication and synchronization of hatching in *Coturnix* quail; Steven Speich, breeding synchrony and age-specific productivity in Cliff Swallows; Cynthia K. Warbelow, a study of the mating system and its adaptive significance in the Northern Phalarope in interior Alaska; Julia M. Wentworth, factors influencing nonrandom mating in the Ruff; James W. Wiley, biology of the Red-shouldered Hawk.

The sum of \$600.00 is available in the **Josselyn Van Tyne Memorial Fund** for research grants in 1973. Students of any aspect of avian biology, including systematics, are invited to apply for support. Young men and women just starting their careers or others not eligible for government grants are particularly welcome. Applicants should prepare a brief but comprehensive description of their research projects specifying the objectives and proposed plans of procedure. Particulars of the type and amount of financial assistance needed must be included, and a brief statement of the applicant's ornithological background. Letters of recommendation from one or more recognized ornithologists are helpful. Review by the committee will be facilitated if six copies are submitted not later than **15 March 1973** to DR. WILLIAM G. GEORGE, CHAIRMAN, A.O.U. Research Committee, Department of Zoology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois 62901.

The Biotelemetry Committee of the **Raptor Research Foundation, Inc.** is conducting a survey in an effort to compile and make available information about recent studies utilizing biotelemetry in raptor research studies. If you are using telemetry techniques in raptor research work and would like to be included in the survey, please send your name and address to MARK ROY FULLER, 349 Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455. A questionnaire will be sent to you. A summary of the information obtained in response to these questionnaires will be sent to all respondents.

The Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University is offering a college-level correspondence course in ornithology. In nine seminars the course gives a substantial background in readable style for the appreciation and enjoyment of birds. Each seminar has been prepared by one or more eminent ornithologists and profusely illustrated by well-known bird artists and photographers. The course is offered sequentially, with each seminar mailed to the participant for his study and completion before progressing to the next one. Upon completing the course the participant will receive an appropriate certificate. For further details, including the procedures and costs of enrollment, write the CORNELL LABORATORY OF ORNITHOLOGY, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850.

A new study of the unpredictable **Red Crossbill** (*Loxia curvirostra*) emphasizes the desirability of preserving specimens from every major flight. Any material, including road, net, and window casualties, will be welcome. If whole skins cannot be saved, the heads alone (with bills closed in their natural form, if possible) will be useful—especially if sewed, not too tightly, to the same individual's wing(s) and tail. Skeletons of birds long dead may be very helpful. Please be sure to tag each with the standard data: collector; locality (if this is some distance from the nearest conifers, please so state); date; and, if found dead, an estimate (from the bird's condition) of how long it had been dead; also weight in grams if fresh.

Kindly submit material for study to ALLAN R. PHILLIPS, *Delaware Museum of Natural History, P. O. Box 3937, Greenville, Delaware 19807*. Specimens will be returned after identification of the subspecies, if you so request. Shipments from outside the United States should be marked "Scientific specimens. No commercial value." Please give your return address in all cases. I would especially prize records of movements of banded crossbills or measurements of birds banded, accompanied by a sketch of how the measurements were taken.

An index to Arthur Cleveland Bent's "Life histories of North American birds" series, compiled by Paul H. Oehser, one-time editor of the series, is available gratis, as long as the limited supply lasts, on request to P. H. OEHSER, *National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C. 20036*.

Plans are being made on behalf of the A.O.U. membership for group travel by air to the XVIth International Ornithological Congress to be held in Canberra, Australia, from 12–17 August 1974. The larger the group, the lower the air fare that will be set when the number of participants is known. A.O.U. members interested should contact the undersigned as soon as possible in order to benefit by the lowest rates.—JOHN P. BULL, *Department of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024*.