

## CHARGE TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL USE OF WILD BIRDS

IN view of general developments and changing attitudes of recent years concerning the collecting and use of wild animals, whether for museum, laboratory, educational, or display purposes, President Farner, in consultation with other members of the Union, established an *ad hoc* Committee on the Scientific and Educational Use of Wild Birds with John Aldrich as chairman (see *Auk* 1974, 91: 407). The committee is to present a preliminary report to the Council at the 92nd Stated Meeting in Norman, Oklahoma, covering the following:

1. A statement that rationalizes, in contemporary context, the need for scientific collecting and the maintenance of research collections of skins, skeletons, pickled specimens, and eggs.
2. A brief, meaningful "code of ethics" for collectors.
3. Examination and interpretation of foreign, federal, state, and local regulations concerning collecting, disposition, exportation, importation, and interstate shipment of scientific specimens including regulations that involve permanent accession and exchange as well as short-term loan of specimens.
4. A statement of rationalization for the use of live, wild-caught birds in scientific experiments and a code of ethics for investigators.
5. Standards for maintenance of wild birds in captivity.
6. A consideration of the current situation with respect to importation of live wild birds for scientific and educational purposes. (At the moment apprehension about Newcastle disease has made importation by university investigators and many zoos impossible.)
7. Development of continuing liaison with regulatory bodies so that scientists can be kept abreast of changes in laws and regulations. This in turn will give the scientists an opportunity to advise the regulating agencies regarding the effects of regulations on their scientific and educational activities as well as on the species that the laws and regulations are designed to protect.

Dr. Aldrich will welcome comments and suggestions bearing on the committee's responsibilities, addressed to him at: *National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560.*

GEORGE E. WATSON, *Secretary*