

NOTES AND NEWS

The International Ornithological Congress that met this year in Rouen, France, accepted the invitation of the American Ornithologists' Union to hold the next meeting in the United States. This will be the first time that the Congress has convened in the New World. Appropriately, Dr. Alexander Wetmore was elected president. We may look forward with great pleasure, then, to 1942 when the Tenth International Congress will bring many visiting ornithologists to this country. The exact place and time of meeting are not yet determined.—A.H.M.

"The Bird Life of Louisiana" by Harry C. Oberholser was received by us on August 13 of this year. It was published by the State of Louisiana Department of Conservation, as Bulletin No. 28 of that department, in cooperation with the Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture. This is the first comprehensive treatment of the birds of Louisiana and it takes a place of distinction among the increasing array of "state" bird books. The work comprises xii+834 pages, and 45 plates, eight of which are in color, engraved from paintings by Brooks, Sawyer, Horsfall and Sutton; it is well printed, except for the inking of the illustrations. There are short introductory sections on bird migration and protection, but the volume is given over chiefly to the accounts of species. These include information on habitat, distinguishing features and habits, and especially detailed records of occurrence within the state which appear to have been compiled with great care. Dr. Oberholser, ever active in nomenclatural matters, has adopted many scientific names not currently used. As always, the trend is toward greatly subdivided genera. Thus, the book becomes important to the nomenclaturalist who may have no concern with the geographic region treated by it. Convenient references to the A. O. U. Check-list are supplied where unfamiliar names are used, and in many, but unfortunately not all, such instances reasons for the adoption of names are given.—A.H.M.

"The Log of Tanager Hill" (Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1938; 244 pp.) by Marie Andrews Commons is an unpretentious diary of eight years of bird banding at Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota. It is pleasantly written, though not provided with a central theme that would stimulate consecutive reading. It fills well the need for a book to recommend to prospective and beginning banders, pointing the way to

the enjoyment and knowledge to be gained from operating a banding station. It also affords a good example of care and exactness in the keeping of banding records.—A.H.M.

Under pressure from certain sportsmen who have requested more liberal waterfowl hunting regulations, the United States Biological Survey has this year relaxed the provisions for protecting the duck populations. The hunting season has been extended from 30 to 45 days and the possession limit, which as far as the ducks are concerned amounts to the bag limit, has been raised from 10 to 20. Justification for this is sought in the greater numbers of waterfowl since 1934. It has been estimated that in the four years the increase has amounted to 25 per cent. The season and the possession limits are now increased 50 to 100 per cent, respectively, in a single year. Just at a glance the books do not seem to balance; the ducks are in the red. To be sure, these items can not be added up like dollars and cents. But, with this liberalization, it is probable that numbers will drop again to the 1934 level. The new provision permitting the taking of limited numbers of canvasbacks, redheads, buffleheads and ruddy ducks, heretofore fully protected, may have some merit. It will avoid some wastage of these species that inevitably are shot by mistake. It may do them no harm; it can not do them any good. In future years we may expect still more pressure to extend the season and to restore baiting. To this there must be no yielding.—A.H.M.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

MAY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, May 26, 1938, at 8:00 p.m., in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with President Emlen in the chair and about ninety members and guests present. Minutes of the Northern Division for April were read and approved. Names proposed for membership were: William F. Barr, 1606 53rd Avenue, Oakland, by Alden H. Miller, and Miss Annie R. Richardson, 162 Melville Avenue, Palo Alto, California, by Wilbur V. Henry.

President Emlen called attention to the meetings of the Western Society of Naturalists and the American Ecological Society, in connection with the meeting of the American Association for the