

## NOTES AND NEWS

The dates for the annual meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society have been changed to May 5, 6, 7, and 8, 1960, with scientific sessions on Friday and Saturday, the 6th and 7th, in Los Angeles. The change was made to accommodate persons travelling to the meeting of the International Committee on Bird Protection scheduled a few days later in Japan.

A. Brazier Howell has recently made a special endowment contribution for the purpose of providing an award of \$150 each year to the member of the Cooper Ornithological Society who presents the most meritorious paper at the annual meeting. The awards are limited to persons who do not at the time hold a doctorate degree in biological sciences. This excellent feature should be a particular inducement and aid to independent and beginning investigators. The Brazier Howell Awards will be made on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the editor of the *Condor*, the president of the Board of Governors, and the member of the local committee in charge of the scientific program of the annual meeting. It is planned that the award be made first in 1960. The Cooper Society is deeply grateful to Brazier Howell who has thus benefited the organization and who was the Society's first Endowment Secretary and as such, shortly after 1910, began the building of the endowment fund for the printing of special publications.

The index for volume 61 of the *Condor* was prepared by Jane R. Durham as a contribution in the interests of the users of the journal. The many persons in this category will be continually indebted to her for this aid.

The Council of the American Ornithologists' Union at the 1959 meetings in Regina authorized issuance of the first grants for research from the income of the Josselyn Van Tyne Memorial Fund. A sum of approximately \$600 will become available at the end of the fiscal year, July 31, 1960. The Council assigned to the Research Committee of the A.O.U. the administering of these grants and it is hoped that the first recipient or recipients may be announced at the next annual meeting in Ann Arbor in August of 1960.

Any student of birds who has a special need for equipment, travel, assistance, or materials to further his research is invited to submit an application (10 duplicate copies) for a portion or all

of the money available. This application should give a full description of the proposed research, the type of help that is required, when the money should be made available, and the background and training of the applicant. All applications must be received by June 1, 1960.—S. C. KENDEIGH, *Chairman, Vivarium Building, University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois.*

The small shrub *Daphne mezereum*, which is covered with a profusion of pink fragrant blossom in the late winter, has been favored by English gardeners since the time of Francis Bacon (about 1600), who mentions it in his *Essay on Gardens*. This plant has a widespread north-temperate distribution in the calcareous woodlands of the Old World. But just recently, the Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*) has discovered the large seeds in the unripe fruits and will strip the lot, in a couple of days, in June. Since the shrub is doubtless also grown in many gardens in North America, the writer would be grateful to be informed whether any seed-eater there similarly has discovered the food source provided by these fruits, which is available early enough to be fed, pulped, to nestlings. It would also be of interest to know what species of birds eat the shrub's succulent fruit when red and ripe, and thus may serve to disperse the seeds.

In the case of the Greenfinch the new habit has now spread by cultural diffusion from the Pennine region, its center of origin, to most parts of the British Isles; it is now being watched for on the European mainland.—MAX L. PETERSSON, *Linnean Society, Piccadilly, London W. 1, England.*

The year 1960 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Los Angeles County Museum. One of the four organizations instrumental in the founding was the Cooper Ornithological Club. The Club's representative in this undertaking was the late Howard Robertson who was the guiding spirit of the Museum in its early days. The extraordinary subsequent growth of the Museum has now brought it to a position of international prominence. As part of the celebration of the anniversary, the new auditorium of the Museum has been named by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in honor of Jean Delacour, the present director, and a member of the board of governors of the Cooper Ornithological Society.