

NEWS AND NOTES

SMITHSONIAN RESEARCH GRANTS

The Smithsonian Institution awards grants to institutions conducting research abroad in the natural sciences and cultural history. These grants are funded from U.S.-owned "excess" foreign currency accounts derived from sales abroad of surplus American agricultural commodities and from similar programs involving nonconvertible foreign currency payments to the U.S. Such currencies are available only where the Treasury Department determines that such accounts are in excess of normal U.S. requirements.

In Fiscal Year 1978, \$3 million equivalent in foreign currencies will be available to the Smithsonian to make grants for work in Burma, Egypt, Guinea, India, and Pakistan. The deadline for proposal submission is 1 November 1977. Interested persons should write to the Smithsonian Foreign Currency Program, Office of International Programs, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560 or call 202-381-5881.

PHEASANT MONOGRAPH REPUBLISHED

Jean Delacour's "The Pheasants of the World" (1951. Country Life, London) has been acclaimed as the most comprehensive and authoritative work on pheasants produced in the last fifty years. Unfortunately, it has long been out of print.

At the request of the World Pheasant Association, of which he is President, Delacour has now revised and updated his original work. The latest information on the distribution and habits of all 49 species is included, together with a description of recent methods of captive management, or aviculture.

The illustrations, 17 pages in color and 16 in monochrome, 32 based on paintings by J. C. Harrison, are again incorporated in this volume. A new addition is the frontispiece, depicting the Himalayan Blood Pheasant, by R. David Digby.

Published by Spur Publications in association with WPA, the book will retail at £18. A special edition, limited to 100 copies, will be available from WPA only. Each of these is hand-bound in full leather with gilt embellishments, signed by the author and contains a hand-colored etching of the rare Western Tragopan by Timothy Greenwood. These will sell at £225., plus postage and insurance, and all profits will go towards WPA conservation projects.

The launching of this new edition is planned to take place during the WPA Convention, 23-26 September, which also coincides with Dr. Delacour's 87th birthday. The headquarters of the WPA are at Daws Hall, Lamarsh, Bures, Suffolk CO8 5EX, England.

SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF GULLS

We are developing a procedure whereby the U.S. Air Force can predict the potential seasonal hazard to aircraft represented by gulls in parts of North America. This knowledge will be used to schedule missions around high risk areas, thereby reducing the likelihood of bird/aircraft collisions. Supplemental data on local gull populations are needed from all parts of the continent. The assistance of field workers

is solicited to aid us in this task. Data will be gathered for a 2-year period beginning 1 September 1977.

For each observation, please provide the following information: list of species present, approximate number of each species, precise locality description, dates observed, any information about causes for concentrations (e.g., sanitary landfill operation), and any details about the frequency of such concentrations in the respective areas. Information is sought from inland as well as coastal localities. Please submit reports of your gull observations to Dr. William E. Southern, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115.

SHOREBIRD COLOR-MARKING IN ALASKA

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has begun color-marking and banding shorebirds along the Alaska Peninsula. Dunlin, Short- and Long-billed Dowitcher, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Rock and Western Sandpiper and Bar-tailed Godwits are being color-banded with a split red-blue band (and with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service metal leg band). Each bird is also being color-marked yellow with picric acid. Reports of sightings of such birds are requested. They should include details of species (with age if possible), place, date, color marks, and notes on association with other shorebirds. For color and metal bands please record which leg the band is on, the color scheme, e.g. red over blue or blue over red, and whether the bands are above or below the "knee." Please send reports to: Bird Banding Laboratory, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Laurel, Maryland 20811. A copy of the report should also be sent to Robert Gill, Jr., USFWS, 800 A Street, Suite 110, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

BIBLIOGRAPHY ON MARTINS

A comprehensive bibliography of the North and South American martins (*Progne* spp.) is currently in preparation. It will include all papers dealing solely or partly with martins, except local annotated checklists. Authors wishing to have material included should send an abstract or reprint to: Charles R. Brown, Box 1309, Austin College, Sherman, Texas 75090.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

The Condor is published four times per year by the Cooper Ornithological Society. The Office of Publication and the General Business Office are located at the Department of Biology, University of California, Los Angeles, California 90024. The Editor is Peter Stettenheim, Meriden Road, Lebanon, New Hampshire 03766. The owner is the Cooper Ornithological Society. There are no bond holders, mortgagees, or other security holders.

Extent and nature of circulation: Total no. copies printed: average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 2562; actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 2600. Paid circulation, sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales, none; mail subscriptions, average number, 2365; actual no. of nearest issue, 2430. Total paid circulation, same. Free distribution, none. Copies not distributed, average number, 197; actual no. of nearest issue, 170; returns from news agents, none. Total average number 2562, actual no. of nearest issue, 2600.

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