

NEWS AND NOTES

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This section is for non-commercial ornithological news and requests for information, especially those of lasting interest. It will be appreciated if submitted material is concise, in *Condor* format, and typed double-spaced. Items of temporary interest should be submitted to the *A.O.U. Ornithological Newsletter* (Dr. Richard C. Banks, Ed., Bird and Mammal Laboratories, U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C. 20560), which has a larger circulation and a briefer lead time than *The Condor*.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

The following Opinion has been published recently by the ICZN (see *Bull. Zool. Nomen.* 34(3), 9 November 1977):

Opinion No. 1094 (p. 147) Refusal of request to correct the following on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:—No. 428 THRAUPIDAE Wetmore and Miller, 1926 (Aves).

The Commission cannot supply separates of Opinions.

The draft third edition of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature is now available for comment by zoologists. Copies may be obtained (price £2.50 surface mail, £5.00 air mail) from the Publications Officer, International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, c/o British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. Comments should be sent as soon as possible, and in any case before 30 November 1978, to the Secretary, International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, at the above address.

A paper explaining the major changes proposed by the Commission's Editorial Committee to the existing Code has been published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* vol. 34, part 3. Copies may be obtained (price 50p) from the same address as copies of the draft Code.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND GAZETTEER OF MEXICAN BIRD LOCALITIES

A comprehensive bibliography and gazetteer of localities concerning birds in Mexico is being prepared. All papers mentioning Mexican birds and birds recorded in Mexico are desired by the compilers. Authors who wish to have material included should send reprints to Mario and Isabel Ramos, Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, 10 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis, Minn. 55455.

LOON CONFERENCE

The North American Conference on Common Loon Research and Management, sponsored by the National Audubon Society and hosted by Syracuse University, was held 12–14 August 1977 at the Minnowbrook Conference Center, Blue Mountain Lake, N.Y. Priorities determined by the participants included: (1) establishment of an informal working group to serve as a clearing-house for information on research

and management efforts, (2) collection of historical loon nesting records for assessment of recent range contraction or expansion by this species, (3) coordination and standardization of breeding surveys and an effort to document the current breeding status of the loon, particularly in the northeastern U.S., and (4) expanded research, including increased banding efforts and initiation of a winter banding program.

The working group, consisting of Judith W. McIntyre of Syracuse University, Richard L. Plunkett of the National Audubon Society, and Rawson L. Wood of the Loon Preservation Committee of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, plans another meeting next year. Requests for conference summaries and other inquiries may be directed to the coordinator, Judith W. McIntyre, Biology Department, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y. 13210.

CLEANING OILED BIRDS

The New York Zoological Society, publisher of *HELP! A Step-by-Step Manual for the Care and Treatment of Oil-Damaged Birds*, (*Condor* 79:510) announces an important change in the method for cleaning the birds: "For actual removal of oil, 'Help!' had suggested the use of Shell Sol 70, a chemical solvent available from the Shell Oil Company. In order to avoid further stress to already weakened birds by dipping them in a cold liquid, 'Help!' suggested heating the solvent. This method had been reported to be effective by many bird rescue stations across the country. Since 'Help!' went to press, however, the Shell Oil Company has informed us that SHELL SOL 70 SHOULD NOT BE HEATED because of the potential fire hazard. Therefore, we must withdraw our suggestions for its use. Nor do we suggest using this or any other flammable solvents, such as white gas, or lighter fluid, to clean even small numbers of birds.

"There are several references to the solvent throughout the text which are no longer appropriate, but the most important changes must be made on pages 21 through 26:

'At this time, the most efficient procedure for cleaning oiled birds requires dipping them in a series of trays containing a warm solution of 1 part Amber Lux (industrial detergent manufactured by Lever Brothers) to 7 parts water. DO NOT USE SHELL SOL 70 as described on pages 22 and 24. Instead, substitute Amber Lux. Procedures for its use are described on page 26 (setup and techniques are similar to those for the solvent, except that the detergent requires rinsing with warm water.'

A revised edition of the manual is being prepared.

PHOTO CREDIT

The photograph of winter and summer feet of a Willow Ptarmigan, in the article by E. O. Höhn (*Condor* 79:380, Fig. 1) was taken by Samuel J. Barry.