

tion, what are we to think of the author's reliability as a field observer, or as a judge of the observations of others?

Casual editing by anyone who knows the first principles of simple English composition would have saved the author at least 10 percent of his printing costs. Had he submitted his typescript to any of the many reputable ornithologists in New England and taken their advice, he would have saved every cent of them. I presume the book is on sale at Audubon House, but the less it is referred to (except for laughs) and the sooner it is forgotten by those seriously interested in the birds of Massachusetts, the better.—O. L. Austin, Jr.

(*Ed. Note:* this review reached me the first week in October, 1955, before publication of *The Birds of Massachusetts/ An Annotated and Revised Check List*, by Ludlow Griscom and Dorothy E. Snyder (which will be reviewed in our April issue). That list admits no species unless there is "a specimen, a banding record by a reputable ornithologist, or a recognizable photograph on file and readily available for examination." The authors reject reports of a number of species referred to by Bailey.)

NOTES AND NEWS

At the recent annual meeting of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association, on October 1, 1955, Dr. Charles H. Blake retired as president. He had served the Association well in that position, since January, 1948, and now hopes to find time to carry out more of his many ideas for the improvement of banding techniques and the better interpretation of banding results. This issue includes two of his papers, and during the coming year we will publish three more. Dr. Blake is presently in Jamaica, helping to establish a permanent banding scheme, under a Fulbright grant.

We welcome as the new president of the Association Mr. Edwin A. Mason, Director of the Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary of the Massachusetts Audubon Society (mail address: Easthampton R.D., Mass.), since 1944. For many years he worked with Mr. William Wharton at the latter's extensive banding station in Groton, Mass. He has contributed a number of papers to *Bird-Banding* and other journals, and is widely known as the designer of the Mason ground trap, one of the best traps yet devised.

At the annual meeting, the Committee on Trap Standards presented a preliminary draft of the proposed standards. Copies may be obtained free (from the chairman, Mr. Parker C. Reed, 27 Hayes Ave., Lexington 73, Mass.) by those who would like to offer suggestions on the standards, or who would like to have the benefit of the tentative standards in trap design and construction.

A mimeographed list showing which back issues of *Bird-Banding* are in stock may be obtained upon request from the Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Johnson. We are always willing to print requests for back issues which may be lacking in this stock. If any readers who have no further use for older issues care to give them to the Association, they would be very welcome, and would help to fill requests.

The April issue will include full details of the financial statement for the fiscal year ending October 31, 1955, which was quite encouraging. It will be possible to print more pages of *Bird-Banding* during 1956 than in the past. While we have a number of good papers awaiting publication, this increase in the average size of issues will make room for more papers, and make it possible to print them more quickly than for the past year or two. The editor would also welcome more general notes; we never have too many, and often have too few. Every active banding station ought to have data in its files for at least one note.

Readers are reminded that Dr. Farner is handling the review section of *Bird-Banding* during the absence of Dr. Austin in the Antarctic.

The list of Councillors of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association, as shown on the inside back cover, includes four more names than the previous list. As revised in 1954, the by-laws provide that "each ex-president of the Association shall be an *ex officio* Councillor, without limit of time while he continues to be a member in good standing, except during such period as he may hold another office in the Association." Messrs. Chapman and Saunders should have been included in the list as soon as the by-laws were revised; Drs. Blake and Gross became Councillors under this by-law as of the 1955 annual meeting, on the expiration of their terms as President and Vice-President, respectively.

Mr. William H. Allen, to whom we are indebted for reviews 6 and 51 in this issue, is staff meteorologist at the Research Studies Institute, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., and also holds an Air Force navigator's rating. He has long been interested in problems of bird navigation.

The latest complete *Manual for Bird Banders*, published by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1947, was essentially a reprint of the original (1929) manual. In 1953 the Bird-Banding Office published the first sections of a revised manual, on a loose-leaf basis, largely dealing with office procedures and the reports to be made by cooperators. In the belief that completion of the new manual is of paramount importance to new banders, and of substantial value to all of us, the four regional banding associations have set up a joint committee to prepare a first draft of the remaining sections, in the expectation that the Bird-Banding Office will then be able to publish the sections promptly. We will welcome the help of all banders in this major task, but will not ask for contributions of material at the moment, pending more work on the basic outline.