

NEBBA received confirmation, some years ago, that gifts to it were deductible from income subject to federal income tax. The new corporation will of course share this ruling, and will help to stimulate such gifts by providing additional safeguards in the future handling of funds. We now have a small permanent endowment (from life membership fees); an increase in this endowment by such fees, or gifts, or bequests, would be of real assistance in the publication of *Bird-Banding* and in the other activities of the association.

NEBBA has an entirely new set of by-laws (copies may be obtained without charge from the Secretary, Roland L. Sargent, 45 Fairfield St., Needham 92, Mass.). These expand and clarify the previous by-laws, and introduce some technical points needed by a corporation. Highlights of the substantive changes include the following:

- (a) Only one vice-president is provided. Particularly since we have no rule or tradition for rapid turnover of the office of president, it became apparent that the value of several vice-presidential offices as training for succession to the presidency was quite limited;
- (b) Councillors now have a four-year term (for greater continuity), and the number has been increased from 9 to 12;
- (c) The by-laws formally provide for the appointment of assistant secretaries or treasurers (at present, John Conkey is assistant treasurer for the Nantucket Ornithological Research Station, and E. A. Bergstrom for the Mist Net Account);
- (d) The fiscal year, previously from November 1 to October 31, will become September 1 to August 31. The change will require a fiscal year from November 1, 1960 to August 31, 1961, only 10 months. Final reports for the fiscal year, rather than estimates, can be presented at future annual meetings. The fiscal year ending in October was established at a time when the NEBBA annual meeting customarily was in mid-winter; the annual meeting is now in October.

NEBBA is indebted to the committee which drafted the new by-laws: Richard J. Eaton (chairman), William H. Drury, Jr., and David L. Garrison. Few members can readily visualize the many months of time and thought they devoted to the task, but at the annual meeting there was full agreement that an outstanding job had been done. The association is especially indebted to Mr. Kenneth W. Thomson of Boston for his indispensable legal advice and assistance, which he has freely given for a purely nominal fee.

The effective date of incorporation is to be determined.

INDEX TO BIRD-BANDING, 1941-50

While the new index has been mentioned briefly in the past two issues, its wealth of information deserves more extended comments.

With iv + 247 pages, it is about as bulky as a recent full year of *Bird-Banding* itself. This is accounted for by extensive cross-references, which penetrate much deeper than the title of the paper. For example, references to "The Nesting Habits of the Whip-poor-will," by Gilbert S. Raynor, *Bird-Banding* 12: 98-104, July, 1941, include entries under: *Antrostomus* (cross-reference under the old Latin name), *Caprimulgus*, eggs—measurement, incubation period, Raynor, voice, and Whip-poor-will (cross-reference under the English name).

Under the heading of *Turdus*, 14 species are listed. *T. migratorius* (our Robin) is represented by no less than 40 headings or subheadings, with up to 12 page references each. The headings for species outside the U. S. or Canada are also plentiful: for example, 39 for *T. merula* the (European) Blackbird.

Individual authors are listed in detail, either for papers and notes in *Bird-Banding* or for reviews of work elsewhere. For David Lack, the index has 35 entries (including papers in which he was co-author).

Subject headings and subheadings cover a wide field. Under the general heading of "management," the heading "control" has 22 subheadings. Ten entries appear under the subheading "predators" and four under "DDT spraying, effect on birds" (the 1951-60 index volume will of course have many more entries under this last subheading).

We think that the new index will be highly useful for anyone who has the volumes of *Bird-Banding* for that decade. However, its usefulness does not stop there. The college reader who has access to these volumes in another part of the

institution, anyone with access to a nearby public library with the volumes, the reader who can consult them only on infrequent trips or by borrowing them by mail—each can use the index to determine in advance where to look, and save time and effort. Perhaps a university can use the index in branch libraries to facilitate use of a set of *Bird-Banding* in a central library.

The extensive reviews of ornithological literature are indexed in detail, thus concentrating in a single place references to many of the more important books and papers published anywhere in the world in this decade, particularly those relating to field ornithology. Reference to this one volume may be simpler than consulting indexes of individual journals, especially if memory does not serve to recall for sure which journal and which year were involved—and many journals have no complete index. Compared to any annual list or index, the reader looks in one place, not ten; also, he may benefit from the more detailed headings and subheadings possible for a ten-year compilation.

We are deeply indebted to Margaret B. Hickey, whose labors with the index made heavy demands on her time for years, and whose organizing ability and broad knowledge of ornithology have produced a volume which is far more than a routine list of authors and titles. We are also greatly indebted to Benjamin and Mary Shaub, whose experience with lithoprinting saw the manuscript through the difficult stages of final preparation of copy and actual printing.

Copies of the index may be obtained from Mrs. J. R. Downs, So. Londonderry, Vt., at \$3.00 (paperbound) or \$4.50 (hard covers) to present NEBBA members or *Bird-Banding* subscribers; or \$4.00 (paperbound) or \$5.50 (hard covers) to others. All prices include postage.

NOTES AND NEWS

At the NEBBA annual meeting, considerable interest was shown in a display of new banding pliers, which appear to be of high quality. These resemble the original Kennard pliers (see "Pliers for Bird Banding," by Frederic H. Kennard, *Bull. NEBBA*, 5: 105-108, July, 1929), which have not been available commercially for many years. Holes bored in flat-nosed pliers fit standard band sizes, so as to make it quite easy to get a perfect fit. This avoids the danger of lapped bands, which may injure the leg if not corrected, and which are troublesome to remove even with good tools. The new pliers differ from the Kennard type in having a split pin, which enables the user to open a band evenly with one operation. A spring on the side of the plier provides tension to keep the opened band in the plier while handling the bird. While new banders may welcome such pliers to increase their confidence in attaching the band, many experienced banders have shown interest in the pliers in order to handle birds more rapidly at peak times. One size will handle band sizes 0, 1, 1B and 1A (price \$6.00), the other will handle sizes 2 and 3 (price \$5.00); these prices include postage within the U. S. Orders should be sent to Mr. Roger N. MacDonald, 850 Main St., Lynnfield Center, Mass., who has developed and manufactured the pliers.

Dr. W. Ryzewski has been appointed Professor of Ornithology at the Wroclaw University and Director of the recently founded Laboratory of Ornithology. He expects to continue publication of *The Ring*. His new address is: Laboratory of Ornithology, Sienkiewicza 21, Wroclaw, Poland.

Dr. Lawrence Bartlett (Dept. of Zoology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass.) has been named chairman of a committee to prepare the index to *Bird-Banding* for the years 1951-60. An effort will be made to complete it in a shorter time than the 1941-50 index.

The five sizes of mist nets handled by NEBBA will take birds up to the size of the largest shorebirds or small hawks. Details may be obtained from Mr. E. A. Bergstrom, 37 Old Brook Road, West Hartford 17, Connecticut. We are prepared to ship these nets by surface or air parcel post, in small or larger quantities, to most countries where such shipments are not restricted by government regulations, and where payment can be made either in U. S. dollars or in freely convertible currency.