

particularly in evaluating evidence. Many highly capable historians have written popular works without loading them down with footnotes, but they avoid much reliance on the sort of secondary source which the bibliography here refers to as "some local item of history, gossip, folklore . . ." in one case, and in another as including "speeches by local historians". Quite a bit of the discussion relates to incidents in Scotland or the United States that have no close connection with Wilson, but seem to have been introduced by Mr. Cantwell as rather vague analogies supporting his view of Wilson's life as melodramatic. Above all, Wilson is important to us as a scientist, and this part of the biography is the least satisfactory. Not only do we miss an informed evaluation of just what Wilson accomplished, but the flow of the narrative is hampered by use of antique names, frequent errors in giving present-day equivalents, and many lapses of fact and evaluation on the birds mentioned and Wilson's contemporaries. Perhaps a color-blind man can write a biography of Gauguin, but the result is not likely to remain the definitive biography. Nevertheless, we may enjoy Mr. Cantwell's narrative gifts, and welcome the availability of any popular life of such a pioneer. —E. Alexander Bergstrom.

#### NOTES AND NEWS

Dr. William H. Drury, Jr., Director of Research for the Massachusetts Audubon Society and a member of the Council of NEBBA, has been appointed a temporary member of President Kennedy's Science Advisory Committee, during their study of pesticides.

Research teams working under Dr. Drury applied conspicuous colors to Massachusetts Herring Gulls on a sizeable scale, 1945 birds in 1961 and 2,855 more in 1962. While the birds winter largely in Massachusetts, reports have been received south to Delaware Bay, and at least two birds were reported farther south.

The 1941-50 index to *Bird-Banding* is available from Mrs. J. R. Downs, South Londonderry, Vt., postpaid, 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. She also has stocks of many back issues.

One foresighted bander in Minnesota ordered mist nets for spring use at a time when the thermometer registered 24 below zero. While we have the largest stocks of nets, on hand or on order, that NEBBA has ever accumulated, we still cannot guarantee immediate shipment at rush seasons. If you can anticipate your needs for nets, early orders will help you and us as well. For details of the five types of nets regularly stocked by NEBBA, write to Mr. E. A. Bergstrom, 37 Old Brook Road, West Hartford 17, Conn. We are also starting to receive moderate supplies of two new types with small mesh (about 1", stretched), type F (12 meters long) and type G (6 meters).