

NOTES=HERE AND THERE

Conducted by the Secretary

President T. L. Hankinson, of The Wilson Club, spent part of the months of August and September in North Dakota, at the Biological Station on Devil's Lake. Professor Hankinson is making some studies for the North Dakota Natural History Survey.

The yearbook for 1921 of the Milwaukee Public Museum is at hand and is replete with interesting articles throughout its 100 pages. Articles on collecting trips for birds and bird group material are included, from the pens of Messrs. Herbert L. Stoddard and George Shrosbree of the museum staff. A number of photographs illustrate the nesting of the Duck Hawk, Double-crested Cormorant, and Great Blue Heron, in Wisconsin.

Revised articles of agreement have been concluded between The Wilson Ornithological Club and The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union. The original affiliation, which was consummated in 1915, has been revised to conform to the recent increase in dues.

Rev. W. F. Henninger has immigrated to Brazil from his former home at New Bremen, Ohio. Rev. Henninger is located at Cachoeira in the State of Rio Grande do Sul and will doubtless experience much pleasure in becoming acquainted with a new avifauna.

Bird-Lore for July-August, reviews The Wilson Bulletin with pleasant commendation on its improved appearance, size and quality. We are very much appreciative of this friendly mention and, together with a return of the compliment, we wish our worthy contemporary many more years of success and prosperity.

Mr. Ben J. Blincoe, formerly of Bardstown, Ky., is now located at Dayton, Ohio. Bird-men of "The Blueglass State" are hoping that their loss will not be a permanent one.

Dr. Wilfred H. Osgood, Curator of the Department of Zoölogy of the Field Museum of Natural History at Chicago, has recently reorganized and augmented the staff of that department. The division of ornithology includes Dr. C. E. Hellmayr, Associate Curator; Mr. John T. Zimmer, Assistant Curator; Mr. Colin C. Sanborn, Assistant. Mr. Boardman Conover is a volunteer associate, and Mr. R. Magoon Barnes, whose fine oölogical collections will be deposited in the museum, has been appointed Curator of the division of Birds Eggs.

Dr. W. S. Strode, formerly of Lewiston, Ill., and one of the "old school" bird men, has taken up residence in California at Hollywood. According to The Oölogist, Dr. Strode has "struck oil," and it may be presumed that henceforth he will be able to indulge in his several hobbies to the fullest.

One of the recent rare accessions to the New York Zoölogical Park is a Duck-billed Platypus, the rare egg-laying Australian mammal which is usually spoken of as half bird, half beast. It is twenty inches in length

and, in spite of its 9,000-mile journey, at last reports is getting along nicely. This is said to be the first living specimen brought to this country in satisfactory condition.

The asphalt lakes of Rancho la Brea and at McKittrick, California, are continuing to yield splendidly preserved skeletons of the early birds of that area. It is apparent that the birds were entrapped and became submerged while the lakes were newly formed by the escape of crude oil. As the volatile oils evaporated the mass gradually became asphalt and the bird remains were thus perfectly protected. Recent articles in *The Condor* by Dr. Loye Miller give much interesting detail, including the fact that many of the remains are of birds of prey and vultures. It is not difficult to conjecture how such birds become trapped in the oil while trying to make a meal off some luckless victim which had preceded them.

Hon. R. M. Barnes was a visitor to Middle Tennessee during the last week in June, returning by way of Nashville. A day afield had been planned by himself and the writer, but an almost unparalleled sequence of unlucky incidents, involved by a cross-country auto trip, prevented him from arriving with more than just enough time to catch his home-bound train.

The third Asiatic expedition of the American Museum of Natural History has just completed the first of five years of investigations in central Asia, with most interesting results. The known presence of fossil remains in the Rocky Mountains similar to those of western Europe had led to the logical theory that they must have come from some point of distribution midway between. This theory is apparently being borne out, since the expedition is finding the same fossil remains in the Gobi region of Mongolia. Remains of the largest known prehistoric land mammal are included among the finds. Asia has been spoken of as the cradle of the human race, and new interest is awakened in the thought that here may be discovered the forbears of all our early birds and mammals, including too, perhaps, some real "missing links."

The Chicago Ornithological Society has met regularly during the past year and has accomplished some very credible results. Perusal of a list of papers presented show that its members have been afield dilligently and have given their fellow members the results of their observations.

A new work on the birds of Massachusetts is in preparation, according to an announcement made by the author, Mr. E. H. Forbush, Director of the Division of Ornithology of that state. The illustrations for the two volumes proposed are to be in color and will be from the brush of Mr. L. A. Fuertes. The publication has been well provided for by the state and the cost to purchasers will be nominal. The ability of its author assures its excellence.

The Alaskan legislature pays a bounty of fifty cents each on all eagles killed. It is claimed that they kill many kinds of mountain goat and sheep as well as other game.

A national movement has been set afoot to commemorate on February 3, 1923, the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Spencer Fullerton Baird, one of our pioneer ornithologists, whose death occurred in

1887. It has often been said that Professor Baird did more to harmonize and coordinate the work of the ornithologists of his time than any one who lived before or after him. While stationed at Washington, during the period following the Civil War, he carried on a voluminous correspondence with observers throughout the land and built up an interest which culminated in the founding of the U. S. National Museum. This work was done largely before the advent of the numerous bird journals which sprang into existence throughout the eighties and early nineties. A permanent and appropriate memorial will be decided upon by a committee upon which The Wilson Club will be represented by Dr. Lynds Jones.

The Outdoor League of America is the name of a very comprehensive organization recently launched at St. Louis by lovers of nature interested in its conservation and perpetuation. The subject of bird reservations was among the objects outlined for its activity. Invitations had been extended to all organizations interested in the great outdoors and The Wilson Club was ably represented by Mr. Otto Wildman of St. Louis.

Messrs. Herbert L. Stoddard and George Shrobbree of the Milwaukee museum, spent the month of July on Bonaventure Island in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. They were engaged in securing material for new sea bird groups for the museum and in making motion pictures of the wealth of sea bird life to be found there.

Attention is called to the announcement on another page of the coming annual meetings of the American Ornithologists' Union and of The Wilson Club, in Chicago, during the week of October 23. It is hoped that W. O. C. members will turn out in record numbers. There will be no meeting during Christmas week as heretofore held.

FIELD NOTES

BREEDING OF THE BARN SWALLOW IN TENNESSEE

The summer range of the Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogastra*) is not generally known to extend as far south as Tennessee. Various local lists from this state, as well as Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina, fail, as far as I am able to ascertain, to mention instances of its nesting. In Arkansas, Howell's list mentions one old record of its having bred at Clinton, while in North Carolina Pearson mentions but three breeding records known for that state. In Kentucky, which lies north of and adjacent to Tennessee, I have knowledge of its being a fairly common breeder at several points.

My own observations of its breeding in this state are confined to the immediate vicinity of Nashville, where perhaps a half dozen colonies are now, or have been, in existence. The Nashville area is essentially a farming district and the extensive meadows and large barns that go with stock raising would seem to be well adapted to the requirements of this species. However, the bird must be considered as relatively scarce. Two of the four colonies now in use consist of two or three pair, another