

NOTES HERE AND THERE

Conducted by Gordon Wilson

The March-April, 1926, *Condor* contained this item: "Dr. Lynds Jones, of Oberlin College, was the evening's speaker [at the January meeting of the Northern Division of The Cooper Ornithological Club], upon the subject 'Ornithology in the Mississippi Valley.' His entertaining talk included a description of the topography of the country, and its peculiar advantages to those interested in bird banding, among whom the leaders are S. Prentiss Baldwin, of Ohio, and William I. Lyon, of Illinois. The speaker told of other ornithologists together with their special problems. The careful and long-continued observations of Miss Althea R. Sherman, of McGregor, Iowa, in her studies of the flicker, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and the House Wren were particularly commended. In closing his talk Dr. Jones told briefly of his many auto trips between Oberlin and the Pacific Coast and some of their points of interest to the ecologist."

The Federation of The Bird Clubs of New England has made the final payments on The Watatic Mountain Reservation, which contains eighty acres of spruce and which will be maintained as a wild life sanctuary in perpetuity by the commonwealth, to which it is now deeded.

The recent General Assembly of the state of Kentucky accepted from the State Park Commission the deeds to four state parks. Movements are on foot to increase this number to ten, including the justly famous Cumberland Falls. All these parks are to harbor wild life. The park commission is encouraging naturalists to camp in the parks and offer their services to visitors, charging a very nominal rate for their nature guiding.

The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union has adopted as a means of keeping in touch with its members mimeographed sheets which are called Letters of Information, very much like those put out by the United States Biological Survey. An improvement in the N. O. U.'s sheets, however, is that they are arranged for a regular-sized note-book and can be filed permanently. This also enables the sheets to be printed or mimeographed on both sides.

"That Canada is well to the fore in the preservation of birds and animals was the opinion of Harrison F. Lewis, chief federal migratory bird officer at Ottawa, expressed during an address before the Royal Canadian Institute. The forest reserves and the 10,000 square miles of national parks held by the federal government provided admirable sanctuaries for animals and bird life. Canada possesses at present forty special bird reserves, such as islands and marshy areas, to provide havens for certain types of birds."—*Christian Science Monitor*, March 19, 1926.

A full page of the Chicago *Daily News* for March 20, 1926, was taken up with rotogravure reproductions of pictures taken by William I. Lyon, showing bird banding and its many possibilities. These pictures were also to announce that Mr. Lyon would give the following Saturday, March 27, an address over the radio from station WMAQ.

"An 84-Acre Estate and 25-Room Mansion for Birds" was the striking headline in the Boston *Evening Transcript* for February 6, 1926. The article, profusely

illustrated, is by Bernard Peterson, and tells of the great ancestral home of the Brooks family in Medford which has become the headquarters for "teaching ways and customs of all wild life." The New England Federation of Bird Clubs has accepted the property in trust to administer it in perpetuity subject to the life interest of Mrs. Brooks. The Federation, which is an incorporated institution, plans to make the farm a model for the preservation of wild life and will do everything to attract even species not now found on the reservation.

C. K. Lloyd writes from Bradenton, Florida, to the editor of this department: "I am staying in the Tamiami Bird Reservation at present, and bird study is quite fascinating here at this time of the year."

Dr. L. Otley Pindar, Versailles, one of the founders of the W. O. C., has been in very ill health this winter but is somewhat better this spring. He was unable to attend the annual meeting of The Kentucky Ornithological Society, much to the regret of the members.

A large collection of the original Audubon prints has been obtained from English sources by Miss Susan Towles of the Henderson Public Library, Henderson, Kentucky. Miss Towles is selling these rare pictures to raise money to purchase some of the old Audubon property in Henderson. The Kentucky Ornithological Society, which is to meet at Henderson in September, 1926, is lending its support to this plan to make of the old mill and the surrounding country a small state park in memory of Audubon.

Dr. W. D. Funkhouser, head of the Zoology Department of the University of Kentucky, has recently been made dean of the Graduate School of that institution.

Our president, A. F. Ganier, is now president of the Tennessee Academy of Science.

Dr. Charles C. Adams, professor of Forest Zoology and director of the Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Experiment Station of the New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse, has resigned, to become director of the State Museum, of the University of the State of New York at Albany. He succeeds the late Dr. John M. Clarke.—*Science*.

Mr. Lyon has kindly called our attention to the omission of Professor George Wagner's name from the key to the group picture in the last (March) number. Prof. Wagner, who is associate professor of Zoology in the University of Wisconsin, is No. 14 in the group picture.

Mr. T. E. Musselman had another turn at duck banding this spring at Scobey Lake, in Missouri.

The Cooper Ornithological Club held its First Annual Meeting at Los Angeles April 8-10. The forty-two titles of the program were arranged in five sessions. The Club also held a bird art exhibition, similar to those held by the A. O. U., the first of which was held, we believe, at Chicago in 1922. The Cooper Club issued a very attractive catalogue of the exhibits, including an interesting biographical sketch of each of the artists.

The meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union has been set for October 12-14, at Ottawa, Canada.

Nature Notes from Yellowstone Park, Vol. III, No. 3, dated March 30, 1926, was received early in April. This mimeographed leaflet contains much valuable matter which deserves regular publication, and which should not be left with anonymous authorship.

Secretary Gloyd spent two weeks early in April with a party of herpetologists, under the leadership of Dr. Frank N. Blanchard, of the University of Michigan, in a collecting expedition through southern Louisiana and Alabama.

Wm. G. Fargo of Jackson, Michigan, spent the spring at Pass-a-Grille, Florida. He writes saying, "The rapid settlement of Florida and the real estate 'development' are driving the birds from localities where they were very numerous in previous years." It seems to be inevitable.

The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, of the University of California, has issued a pocket list of the birds of the Berkeley Campus. This check-list includes a total of 135 kinds of birds which have been observed on the campus by competent observers up to May 20, 1925.

The Sixth International Ornithological Congress was held at Copenhagen, Denmark, on May 24-26, under the auspices of the Danish Ornithological Society.

"Ornithological Note. To the Editor of *The Nation*: Sir: Claude McKay is a real poet, and I sympathize with him being homesick in France, but he is off in his ornithology. I have seen a million quail run, but I never saw one hop. Upton Sinclair." From *The Nation*, April 21, 1926.

Mr. George Miksch Sutton is spending the present summer in the Hudson Bay region in ornithological work.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

BIRDS OF THE AUSTIN REGION. By George Finlay Simmons. Published by the University of Texas, Austin. 1925. Price, \$4.00.

This well-bound book of xlvi + 387 pages makes a very substantial contribution to Texas ornithology; in fact it may serve as a very helpful reference book for bird students beyond this state. The first forty-six pages are devoted to various general discussions, including the facts of physiography, meteorology, and ecology to a limited extent. We find also a very interesting collection of brief biographies of Texas bird students.

The descriptive catalogue which follows contains 294 species or subspecies, each of which is quite fully annotated as to geographical distribution, habitat, local haunts, general habits, feeding habits, flight, voice, courtship, nest and eggs, technical description and plumage peculiarities, etc. The observations and remarks under the topic of "voice" on the songs and call notes of the various species are especially complete and interesting.

While the nomenclature is not the most important feature in a work of this kind, yet it has certain far-reaching bearings which deserve attention. In glancing over the first fifty forms in the bird list we note that there are seventeen departures from the A. O. U. Check-list and Supplements, and apparently many other departures occur beyond.