

## ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWS

The Forty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society will be held at the Charleston Museum, Charleston, South Carolina, from 2-5 May 1963.

The Wilson Ornithological Society now has a total of 1,556 members categorized as follows (with net gain or loss over last year) :

Active	1,224	(-9)
Sustaining	141	(-3)
Life	187	( 7)
Patron	4	( 0)

In addition, the Society is filling 255 subscriptions to *The Wilson Bulletin*, and receives 86 publications in exchange for it.

The Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund Committee of the American Museum of Natural History has awarded Dr. Douglas A. Lancaster of Northwestern State College of Louisiana a two-year, post-doctoral fellowship for research on tinamous. Beginning in August he will be in Argentina to study several grassland species.

On 2 April 1962, at the annual birthday celebration of the John Burroughs Association, in New York City, Dr. George Miksch Sutton was presented the John Burroughs Medal. This award is made for the previous year's foremost example of fine nature writing. Dr. Sutton received it for his book, "Iceland Summer."

Dr. John LeGay Brereton, New South Wales, Australia, is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University. With Dr. William C. Dilger he is doing research on population ecology, behavior, and evolution in parrots.

The Gromaco Foundation for Natural Science, affiliated with the University of Miami, is a field station for scientific investigation in southeastern Costa Rica. It is set in 1,000 square miles of virgin jungle reaching from lowlands to paramo—untouched floral and faunal associations under tropic, subtropic, and cloud forest conditions. Scientists and advanced students are welcome. Comfortable housing and meals are furnished at \$3.00 per day.

No laboratory equipment is available yet except roomy workshops with tables, storage space, and heated drying closets for plant presses or faunal specimens. This is a non-profit organization established for the benefit of science and education. Inquiries are invited and should be addressed to: Rex R. Benson, Director, The Gromaco Foundation for Natural Science, Apartado 2752, San Jose, Costa Rica.

The Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund of The American Museum of Natural History is administered by a committee which meets twice annually to review applications for grants and fellowships. Applications should be submitted not later than 15 February and 15 September. The Chapman Fund is intended to support and foster research in ornithology from a broad and international point of view. There are no restrictions as to the formal qualifications of applicants or the locality in which research is to be conducted. Detailed information and application forms may be obtained from the Museum at Central Park West at 79th Street, New York 24, New York.

Don Bleitz wants to obtain a "complete ornithological library." Anyone who believes

that he can assist Mr. Bleitz should send information to him at 1001 N. McCadden Place, Los Angeles 38, California.

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The National Science Foundation has appointed Dr. Walter Hendricks Hodge as Program Director for Systematic Biology in the Foundation's Division of Biological and Medical Sciences. Before coming to the Foundation, Dr. Hodge was Head of the Department of Education and Research of the Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pa. At that time, he also served as special consultant to NSF for tropical biology.

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Mr. J. C. Finlay of 6710-102 A Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, is studying the Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) and its movements throughout the continent. He plans an extensive banding program this year and is interested in corresponding with others having a similar interest or having knowledge of any aspect of the biology of this species.

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*The Ring* is an international, quarterly bulletin devoted mainly to bird banding and migration studies. It contains a comprehensive section on recent literature, and it has been adopted by the International Committee for Bird Banding as the medium of publication for all official recommendations and announcements of the Committee.

Editorial offices are at the Laboratory of Ornithology, Sienkiewicza 21, Wroclaw, Poland. *The Ring* may be obtained for \$1.50 per year from European Publishers Representatives, Inc., Times Building, 1475 Broadway, New York 36, New York.

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Dr. Philip S. Humphrey has been appointed Curator of Birds at the United States National Museum and will assume the position beginning 1 June 1962.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

One or two comments about the article, "Kermadec Petrel in Pennsylvania" by Donald S. Heintzelman in the *Wilson Bulletin* for September 1961 seem in order. The observation upon which this article is based was discussed by Mr. Heintzelman and others in three numbers of the *Linnaean News-Letter* in 1959 and 1960. In the issue of that publication for January 1960, vol. 13, no. 7, Mr. Eugene Eisenmann listed a number of reasons why many will consider this record doubtful. He also pointed out that the only previous record of this South Pacific species in the Atlantic, a specimen reportedly picked up in England on April Fool's Day, 1908, has been rejected by Bannerman (1959. *Birds of the British Isles*, vol. 8, pp. 150-153).

Some observers who saw the bird at Hawk Mountain and subsequently examined both photographs and skins were not satisfied that the bird was *Pterodroma neglecta* and thought it more like *Pterodroma arminjoniana* of the Atlantic. Most of these considerations were known to Mr. Heintzelman who discussed Eisenmann's comments in the same issue of the *Linnaean News-Letter*. One would have expected some mention of them in the article thereafter submitted to the *Wilson Bulletin*.

Sincerely yours,  
DEAN AMADON