

## ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWS

At each annual meeting of the Wilson Society the President appoints a Committee to draw up a set of resolutions to be adopted by the membership. In far too many instances the only resolution emerging is one thanking the local committee for its hospitality. When this happens a great opportunity is lost since a series of formally adopted resolutions in the name of the Society is the only way that the Society can make its collective opinion known to the public or to the people responsible for making final decisions in matters of interest. There must be a great many matters of conservation, both of birds and wildlife, and of natural environment in which a formal statement of position by the Wilson Society might be influential. Any member who knows of such matters, or who would like the Society to take a stand on some matter of conservation interest is urged to communicate the particulars of the case to our Secretary, James Tate. He will forward the proposals to the Resolutions Committee for possible action at the Chapel Hill meeting. Such material should be in Dr. Tate's hands no later than early May.

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At this writing plans for the Annual meeting are well advanced, and all signs point to another fine gathering. A feature of the program will be a symposium on "Progress in Rare and Endangered Species Programs."

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We have received word of the death on 2 January 1973 of Walter P. Nickell, formerly naturalist at the Cranbrook Institute of Science, and a member of the Wilson Society since 1943.

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The Bird Banding Laboratory is re-editing, bringing up to date, and expanding Merrill Wood's "A Bird-banders Guide to Determination of Age and Sex of Selected Species." This will be volume II of the recently revised "North American Bird Banding Manual," but the component parts will come out as they are done. The first group to be worked up will be the Fringillids.

Anyone with more recent information, emendations to, or criticisms of the material as published by Wood should send this information to Erma J. Fisk (Mrs. Bradley), 17101 SW 284th Street, Homestead, Florida 33030.

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*Texas Heron Banding Project*—In the spring of 1972 a total of 338 herons of eight species were color-banded, and marked with colored plastic wing tags along the Texas coast and near the Welder Wildlife Foundation. A more extensive project is planned for 1973. Persons seeing such marked birds are urged to report all sightings, with such detail as species, color of tag, location, date, time of day, and behavior to: Gene Blacklock or Douglas Mock, Welder Wildlife Foundation, P.O. Box 1400, Sinton, Texas 78387.

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*Pacific Seabird Group.* The Pacific Seabird Group has been formed by the participants in a seabird symposium held at the December 1972 meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists. The aims of the group are to promote and coordinate needed research on marine birds of the Pacific Basin, to make systematic studies of pollution effects upon birds and to promote a greater awareness of this marine resource. Anyone interested in further information should contact the group's acting secretary, George Divoky, c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1412 Airport Way, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.