

News and Notes

AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION

The sixty-first annual meeting of the American Ornithologists Union was held at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, on October 20, 1943.

Due to travel restrictions, the usual five-day meeting with programme sessions was dispensed with, all activities being condensed into a one-day business session to meet requirements of the by-laws and rules. Fifteen members of the Council, 19 Fellows, and 11 Members were present. On Wednesday evening the group was entertained at the University Club by Dr. Leonard O. Sanford of New Haven, Connecticut.

Officers elected for the new year were as follows: *President*, James L. Peters, New York City; *Vice-Presidents*, George Willett, Los Angeles, California, and Hoyes Lloyd, Ottawa, Canada; *Secretary*, Lawrence E. Hicks, Columbus, Ohio; *Treasurer*, J. Fletcher Street, Philadelphia, Penn.; *Editor*, John T. Zimmer, New York City; new members of the Council: Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, Cleveland; Ludlow Griscom, Boston; Dr. Alden H. Miller, Berkeley.

The Brewster Medal Award was made to Dr. Alden H. Miller, Berkeley, California, for his publication on 'Speciation in the Avian Genus *Junco*.' Two Fellows were elected: Dr. S. Charles Kendeigh, Champaign, Illinois, and Austin L. Rand, Ottawa, Canada.

In addition to 155 new Associate Members, 5 new Members were named: Dean Amadon, New York City; Robert J. Niedrach, Denver, Colorado; Frank A. Pitelka, Berkeley, California; Julian K. Potter, Collingswood, N.J.; Terence M. Shortt, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The 1944 meeting, if conditions permit, will probably be held in New York City, in October.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Up to 1936, the Secretariat of the Commission was at Washington, U.S.A., and the Smithsonian Institution printed and distributed the *Opinions* free of charge. Under this arrangement about £5,000 was expended by the Institution over a period of 30 years.

In 1936 Dr. Stiles ceased to be Secretary, and Mr. Francis Hemming, C.M.G., C.B.E., of 83 Fellows Road (Garden Flat), Hampstead, London, became Secretary. The Publications office of the Commission is situate at 41 Queen's Gate, London, which is the address of the Royal Entomological Society, which has placed accommodation at the disposal of the Commission free of charge.

The first *Opinions* which were published under the new

arrangement were *Opinions* 134-136, issued in 1939. *Opinions* 137-138 were issued in October 1942, and *Opinions* 139-144 in 1943. These all referred to subjects on which decisions had been taken by the Commission before the war.

As the only funds of the Commission are some grants made by the Royal Society and other leading Scientific Societies in London, *Opinions* issued from 1939 are supplied on payment. It has not been possible to fix an annual subscription as the amount of material published in any one year depends on the number of *Opinions* ready for publication in that period. Each *Opinion* is now published separately. In addition to the *Opinions*, the Commission has arranged for the immediate publication of a journal (*Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*) in which will be published all proposals.

The Secretary stresses the necessity of—

- (a) letting zoologists in Australia know of the publications of the Commission with a view to their becoming regular subscribers;
- (b) bringing the same information before scientific bodies, learned societies and research institutes in various parts of Australia with a view to those institutions—
 - (i) becoming regular subscribers to the Commission's publications, and
 - (ii) agreeing to make at least some token grant towards the work of the Commission.

The Council of the R.A.O.U., having considered the foregoing, decided to subscribe to the Commission's publications.

Correspondence

OPINIONS ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

To the Editor,

Sir,

Captain Grant (p. 224) interprets the word 'Opinion' too literally: his view would make the work of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature largely meaningless. Actually, of course, 'Opinions' in this instance stand for 'Decisions.' Though some of the *Opinions* (i.e. *Decisions*) apply to particular cases only (e.g. *Opinion* 115 where the Commission specifically stated that it "has never been able to reach a satisfactory agreement involving an *Opinion* that can be applied to all cases"—i.e. on that one particular issue—and that "all the Commission can expect to do is to build up a series of *Opinions* on special cases in the hope that these *Opinions* can some day be formulated into