

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS.—We are in receipt of the minutes of the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for the Protection of Birds, held in Toronto, Dec. 31, 1918.

Preceding the business meeting a complementary luncheon was held in honor of the retiring president, Dr. C. K. Clarke, at which felicitous remarks and speeches were made.

The secretary's report showed that though a lack of funds had been felt, considerable work had been accomplished through the year. The society brought Mr. Harold Baynes, of Meriden, N.H., to lecture on April 4 during the convocation of the Ontario Educational Association on "Wild Birds and How to Attract Them." In September a bird fete was organized at which Mr. W. D. Hobson, of Woodstock, spoke. Another lecture was also given by Mr. Hobson on Nov. 19, on "Bird Calls and Bird Ways".

The following officers were unanimously elected for the coming year: President, Frank F. Payne; vice-presidents, Dr. N. A. Powell and Principal Charles G. Fraser; secretary, Miss Laura B. Durand; directors, Miss Barbara A. Ewan, Mrs. L. Clark Macklem, Mrs. Arthur McFarlane, Mr. Herbert Barton.

At the first meeting of the Executive on Jan. 6 Dr. Clarke was elected the society's first honorary president and Dr. A. H. Mackay, Superintendent of Education, N.S., the first provincial vice-president. It is understood to be the policy to have similar representation in the other provinces.

The object of the society is: (a) to instruct the public regarding the importance of protecting bird life in the interests of the country, by holding meetings, lectures and exhibitions; (b) to publish and distribute literature relating to birds and co-operate with the Federal and Provincial Governments and regularly organized natural history societies throughout Canada in this respect; also to acquire and maintain a library; (c) to secure legislation on behalf of bird protection in addition to existing legislation and to assist in enforcing the same; (d) to forward the study of migration and all other matters relating to the nature of birds.

The members are of four classes, honorary, life, annual and junior. Life members are those who pay the sum of \$10.00 at one time, annual members pay \$1.00 each year. Juniors are children of fifteen years of age or under who are enrolled without fee on signing the pledge.

Branches may be formed in any place and affiliation is invited. County clerks and all other persons are asked to co-operate and report violations of bird

protection acts, and the public is asked to limit the number of cats in order that birds may increase, to confine pet cats or keep them under observation during the nesting season, and report to the local Humane Society's officers the presence of stray or unowned cats.

The pledge of the Society is as follows:

"In becoming a member of the Canadian Society for the Protection of Birds, I pledge myself to protect all useful wild birds from their enemies by every means in my power; to promote the study of their lives, and to influence others to do the same".

THE OTTAWA NATURALIST wishes the society every success.

ALBERTA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.—The 13th annual meeting of the society was held at Red Deer, Friday, Dec. 27, 1918. At the afternoon session the usual business was transacted, including the reading and passing upon of the report and financial statement of the secretary-treasurer, and the election of officers for the ensuing year, viz: Hon. president, Hon. D. Marshall; Hon. vice-president, Mr. J. J. Gaetz, M.P.P.; second Hon. vice-president, Mr. H. A. Craig; president, Mr. F. C. Whitehouse; vice-president, Mrs. W. A. Cassels; second vice-president, Dr. H. George; directors, Mrs. George, Mrs. Pamley, Mrs. Root, Miss Cole, Miss Goudie, Mr. E. Wilton; Edmonton—Messrs. K. Bowman, F. S. Carr, D. Mackie.

At the evening session the following papers were read: the executive report, Mrs. Cassels; annual entomological report, dealing with insect pests, etc., Mr. Whitehouse; Alberta mammals of the carnivorous group, Dr. George. Dr. George's paper was fully illustrated by specimens from his fine collection: Faunal zones, Mr. Whitehouse; insects and other specimens, representative of the different Alberta zones, were shown, with maps, defining the areas of life.

During the past two years the following papers have been given:

March 28, 1917—Insect Pests, Mr. Whitehouse.

April 25—Water-birds at Sylvan lake, Mrs. W. A. Cassels.

Birds of Alberta, Dr. H. George.

May 30—Fishes of Alberta and adjacent waters, Mr. Whitehouse.

Sept. 26—Dragonflies, Mr. Whitehouse.

Oct. 26—Nature study in Schools; its difficulties, Miss M. Cole.

Nov. 23—Alberta Beetles, Mr. F. S. Carr, of Edmonton.

Insect collecting Mt. Coliseum, Nordegg, Alta., Mr. Whitehouse.