

News and Notes

PETERS' CHECK-LIST OF BIRDS OF THE WORLD

The readers of *The Emu* may be interested to learn that the Museum of Comparative Zoology has just reprinted volume III of the late J. L. Peters' *Check-List of Birds of the World*. This volume, long out of print, lists the Columbiidae and Psittacidae, and related families. It is available from this museum for \$10.00. The only other volumes available are V (\$7.00), VII (\$6.00), and IX (\$7.50), but if sufficient interest is indicated we hope to reprint additional volumes.

With the co-operation of specialists throughout the world, work is progressing rapidly toward completing the unpublished volumes. Volume XV, containing the Ploceidae, Sturnidae, Oriolidae, Dicruridae, Paradisaeidae, Corvidae, etc., is in press and should be ready early in 1962. The proposed sequence for the remaining volumes is: X, XII, XIV, XIII, XI, and VIII.

—RAYMOND A. PAYNTER, Jr., Curator of Birds, M.C.Z., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

PERCY FITZPATRICK INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGY

Ornithologists from other continents intending to work on African birds are invited to make use of the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, as their base. Office or limited laboratory accommodation would be made available; use could be made of the Institute's reference library; access to the collection of the South African Museum could be arranged; and the advice of the staff on matters requiring local knowledge would be at the visitor's disposal. Anybody interested should write to the Director, Dr. J. M. Winterbottom, of the above Institute at Rondebosch, Cape Province, South Africa.—Ed.

FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL PARKS

The first world conference on national parks will be held in Seattle, U.S.A., June 30-July 7, 1962, under the auspices of the International Union for the Conservation of Natural Resources (I.U.C.N.) and with the support and co-operation of the United States Department of the Interior. The following is excerpted from an article by Doris Leonard and George Collins in *Pacific Discovery*, vol.14, 1961, pp.26-27.

“The United Nations has 99 member countries. Within their borders are more than 400 national parks. There are besides over 3,000 nature reserves in 61 of these UN countries. At Athens in 1948 Dr. Tsuyoshi Tamura, venerable father of the National Park System of Japan, urged consideration of a first World Conference on National Parks. The thought was well received, and during the Seventh General Assembly of the IUCN at Warsaw in 1960 the

Executive Board put the conference idea to the more than 200 delegates from 31 countries. All these nations — the Iron Curtain countries unequivocally included — voiced unanimous approval of this challenging idea. The Board then determined to hold the conference in Seattle in the summer of 1962 under the Century 21 banner. . The conference will provide a rare opportunity for the growth of understanding among those ranking officials of each country in whose hands are parks and reserves. These men need to keep before them the whole meaning of their natural and historic resources of compelling scenic beauty and scientific and human interest. . The distinctive native traditions exemplified in the scenery, wildlife, historic objects, and other resources that comprise the cultural pattern of each country must be recognized. They are fundamental to the advancement of the park movement everywhere under the ideals of international understanding. ."—Ed.

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Correspondence

FIRST LYREBIRD BROADCAST

To the Editor,
Sir,

There is an inference in Mr. R. T. Littlejohns' obituary notice (*Emu*, 61: 147) that Littlejohns was the first in Australia to broadcast the song of the Lyrebird. Credit for the first actual, or "live", broadcast should, I feel, go to the late Tom Tregellas of Melbourne. The two broadcasts were in fact made within a few days of one another, and as a matter of interest, the details might be put on record. I myself heard both and took part in one.

There was some little rivalry, withal friendly, between Ray Littlejohns and Tom Tregellas on Lyrebird matters about 1930-31. Admittedly, Littlejohns got in first with the bird's song on the air, but this wasn't a "live" broadcast, but was reproduced from a film sound track which he had made a year or so earlier.

It was also a case of one radio station getting in before the other. When the Australian Broadcasting Commission announced that, with the help of Tregellas, it would try for a broadcast from Sherbrooke forest on a certain day a