

The laboratory is also studying on behalf of the Air Ministry the problem of improving methods of locating the position of an aeroplane by determining the direction of arrival of signals from radio beacons whose situation is known, with particular attention to the elimination of errors in the apparent direction of a transmitter arising from the effects of waves reflected from the upper atmosphere.

In the metallurgy department research on dental fillings was carried out, and in the engineering department research on the fatigue of metals under service conditions has afforded much new and useful information.

A PROPOSED CLOSED SEASON FOR FUR ANIMALS

A FIVE-YEAR closed season for the marten, fisher, wolverine and otter to save them from joining the list of extinct wild animals is urged by Ira N. Gabrielson, chief of the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey. He states that these fur animals may share the fate of the passenger pigeon, the heath hen, the Maine giant mink and other extinct species unless the hunting and trapping season on them is closed for five years.

Mr. Gabrielson points out that several states have laws providing closed seasons for these animals, but broader protection is needed. They were never very abundant and their pelts always have sold at prices high enough to cause close trapping. They have disappeared entirely from much of their former range.

Resolutions recommending shorter open seasons for taking wild fur animals, and a closed season of at least five years on marten, fisher and wolverine were adopted at the North American Wildlife Conference in Washington, D. C., last February. The otter should also receive special protection as its number is diminishing. However, it still lives in most states largely because trappers find it difficult to locate its haunts.

Trapping female marten and fisher before they bear their young late in March and early April has to a large extent kept these two species from multiplying. The female marten requires about 9½ months to develop its young, and the fisher 11 months. Before this was known it was generally believed to range from 60 to 102 days. This animal lives in the pine forest regions of California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Montana, New Mexico, Colorado, Wisconsin, Michigan, New York, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine.

Fishers may be found in California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Wyoming, Montana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine. Wolverines live in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

MEETINGS OF THE CHAPTERS OF SIGMA XI

At the annual meeting and dinner of the District of Columbia Chapter of the Society of Sigma Xi, held at the University Club on May 15, the following were elected to alumni membership and delivered initiatory addresses: Dr. Ralph Edward Gibson, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Dr. Paul Renno Heyl, of the National Bureau of Standards, and Dr. Edward Oscar Ulrich, of the U. S. National Museum.

The annual dinner of the Western Reserve University Chapter was held on May 15. Three members from the faculty and eleven from the student body were initiated. The following officers for 1936-37 were installed: *President*, Dr. C. J. Wiggers; *Vice-president*, Dr. J. E. Hyde; *Secretary*, Dr. Edward Muntwyler, and *Treasurer*, Dr. Frank Hvorka. The address was given by Dr. Arthur H. Compton, of the University of Chicago, who spoke on "Cosmic Rays."

The spring initiation and banquet of the Ohio State Chapter will be held at the Faculty Club on the evening of May 29. The address on this occasion is to be given by Professor Griffith Taylor, chairman of the department of geography at the University of Toronto. Professor Taylor's subject will be "Forecasting Settlement in Australia and Canada." Preceding the address 27 members and 31 associates will be initiated into the chapter.

The following officers were elected at the installation ceremonies of the University of Buffalo Chapter, which were held on April 25: *President*, Dr. Wayne J. Atwell, professor of anatomy; *Vice-president*, Dr. Albert R. Shadle, professor of biology; *Corresponding secretary*, Dr. Rufus R. Humphrey, associate professor of anatomy; *Recording secretary*, Dr. Wilson D. Langley, associate professor of biochemistry; *Treasurer*, Dr. Carleton F. Seofield, associate professor of psychology.

Dr. George Howard Parker, professor of zoology, emeritus, at Harvard University, addressed the annual joint meeting of the Washington University Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi at St. Louis, Mo., on April 28. He spoke on "The Color Changes of Fishes and the Relation of these Changes to the Action of the Nervous System."

Dr. Robert M. Yerkes, professor of psychobiology at Yale University and director of the Yale Laboratories of Primate Biology, at Orange Park, Fla., gave an address before the Sigma Xi Club of the University of Florida on May 20 on "Anthropoid Apes as the Servants of Man."

The Ohio State Chapter is sponsoring a series of lectures on the general subject of "Hormones." The series was initiated in February with two lectures on "Plant Hormones," the first given by Professor George S. Avery, of Connecticut College, and the second by