

because of the risk of descent far from help and in the second because of the small hope of recovering the instruments.

New British Birds

THE addition of six birds new to the British list, and the alteration in nomenclature of another, has been agreed to by the council of the British Ornithologists' Union (*Ibis*, July 1934); and no less than three of the new types are birds from South Uist, Outer Hebrides, where they were distinguished and described by Col. Meinertzhagen. The newly added species are: the Hebridean twite (*Acanthis flavirostris bensonorum*) which is darker and not so red as the common twite (*Linota (A.) f. flavirostris*) and with blacker centres to its feathers, the underparts being similar to the mainland birds; the Hebridean stonechat (*Saxicola torquata theresoe*), the female of which is not so red and darker above and below than the common stonechat (*Saxicola t. hibernas*), the black bases of her throat-feathers being more conspicuous—the male is slightly darker above, especially on the forehead, but with the underparts similar; the Hebridean hedge-sparrow (*Prunella modularis hebridium*) with general darker plumage than the common hedge-sparrow (*Accentor modularis occidentalis*), the flanks being more heavily marked and streaked, the upper parts richer and more distinctly marked and the grey on the throat darker. The types of these three birds were obtained from South Uist, the latter bird being the least common. The other additions are the Scandinavian jackdaw (*Corvus monedula monedula*) from a specimen obtained at Lowestoft and described as a migrant to the east coast of England; the arctic ringed-plover (*Charadrius hiaticula tundrae*), a well-established race distinguished from the common bird (*Ch. h.h.*) by its smaller size and darker colour, nesting in Lapland, Arctic Russia and Siberia, a specimen in the British Museum being from Poole Harbour, Sussex; and the bridled or lesser sooty tern (*Sterna anaethetus*) of the West Pacific and Indian Oceans, which has been obtained from Dungeness and a Thames lightship. The British song thrush has been altered from *Turdus philomelus clarkei* to *Turdus ericetorum ericetorum*, and correspondingly, the continental song thrush to *T. e. planiceps*, and the Hebridean song thrush to *T. e. hebridensis*.

High Wind Speed at Mount Washington

IN the *Engineering News-Record* of May 10, 1934, there is an article about the alleged wind speed of 231 miles an hour said to have been attained at the meteorological observatory of Harvard University on Mount Washington, New Hampshire, on April 12, 1934. Most meteorologists—at least European ones—probably paid little attention to the reports of this wind that appeared in the newspapers soon after that date, on the grounds that such a wind could not have been measured even if it actually occurred, but Dr. C. F. Brooks, professor of meteorology at Harvard, is quoted as stating that the speed in question was recorded by an anemometer

of the cup pattern, similar in principle to the well-known Robinson anemometer, and is probably correct to within about ten miles an hour. It appears that the design of the instrument was roughly copied from an experimental anemometer seen at Bergen in 1931, modifications being introduced to meet the difficult conditions sometimes experienced at Mount Washington, in very windy weather, that may result in massive ice formations due to rime. Electrical heating of the anemometer of a very powerful kind had to be introduced, and hot air was made to pass through the six cups, which were fitted closely round a copper disc placed over an electric stove, and were driven in the normal manner by the pressure of the wind. The instrument was tested in a wind tunnel at the Bureau of Standards up to a speed of 150 miles an hour, and as the calibration curve became nearly straight towards the maximum speeds it seemed justifiable to extrapolate to 231 miles an hour, with the probability of obtaining a figure not significantly different from the true figure. The speed in question was the average, while three contacts were made, each representing the passage of 1/30 mile of air past the cups and was therefore for a gust.

Forestry in Trinidad and Tobago

THE annual report of the Forest Department of Trinidad and Tobago, 1933, has recently been published (Govt. Printer, Port of Spain, Trinidad, 1934). The satisfactory lines upon which the Department has been working, with the active support of the Government, is evident. The Government has obviously placed implicit trust in its Conservator, Capt. R. C. Marshall, who, after eleven years in the colony, is now taking up the post of conservator of forests in the Gold Coast. The acting conservator, the writer of the present report, seizes the opportunity of taking stock, in an introduction, of the progress made by the Department during Capt. Marshall's tenure of the post. This review covers all the branches of forest activity and is well worth reading. Progress in silviculture has been considerable, but there are problems connected with the cedar which have yet to be solved. Most of the Colonial services are as yet so backward in the working plans branch of forestry that it is of interest to read that outline working plans or working schemes have been prepared for an area of approximately 90,000 acres of reserves. Under finance, the acting conservator shows that the surplus of revenue over expenditure for the eleven-year period, exclusive of free timber supplied to the P.W. Department (an iniquitous practice since, as a former Governor-General of India expressed it, Government is in effect taking free from the State forests materials for which the public has to pay), amounted to £51,017; revenue fluctuated from £25,054 in 1927 to £8,466 in 1931. The writer continues: "The Forest Department has repeatedly emphasized in its Annual Reports that the higher revenues are liable to be unstable, much of them being due to the clearing activities of Oil Companies, and that the Department's endeavours in this direction are primarily concentrated on obtaining a stable