

THE FIFTY-SEVENTH STATED MEETING OF THE
AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

BY LAWRENCE E. HICKS

THE third California meeting was held June 19-24, 1939, at Berkeley and San Francisco. Headquarters were at the Hotel Durant in Berkeley and most of the business sessions were held there. The public sessions were held in the Life Sciences Building, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, of the University of California, on Tuesday and Wednesday, and in the Simpson African Hall of the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco on Thursday.

Business sessions.—The meetings on Monday, June 19, included two sessions of the Council, a meeting of the Fellows at 4 p. m. and a meeting of the Fellows and Members at 8 p. m. The evening business session was attended by 12 Fellows and 17 Members.

There were elected two Fellows, one Honorary Fellow, two Corresponding Fellows, seven Members and 499 Associates. On November 1, 1939, vacancies in the various membership classes were as follows: Fellows, 2; Honorary Fellows, 2; Corresponding Fellows, 13; Members, 23.

The Treasurer's preliminary report was accepted and the meeting authorized the Finance Committee (acting without the Treasurer) to review and approve the final audited report which would be available at the end of the current fiscal year (September 30). This final report (approved October 25, 1939) appears farther on. The Treasurer stated that corresponding expenses were 25% lower than during the previous year, and that various economy and efficiency measures promised eventually to give the A. O. U. a balanced budget. The Trustees' Report showed that the endowment funds were in good condition.

The Secretary's report indicated that on June 1, 1939, the paid-up members of the Union were as follows: Associates, 1,323; Members, 113; Fellows, 47; Associates-elect, 54,—total 1,537. In addition there were 167 subscribers and 164 delinquent members of all classes. Fourteen resignations had been accepted during the year. Roll-call was held for the 22 members deceased since the last meeting: 4 Fellows, 1 Fellow Emeritus, 2 Honorary Fellows, 2 Members and 13 Associates.

Dr. Herbert Friedmann retired after a two-year term as President and was replaced by Dr. James P. Chapin. The vacancy thus created in the Vice-presidency was filled by the election of George Willett. The retiring members of the Council (Dr. Arthur A. Allen, Dr. Wilfred H. Osgood, and Dr. J. Van Tyne) were replaced for three-year terms by P. A. Taverner,

Ludlow Griscom and Dr. Alden H. Miller. All of the other officers were re-elected.

Two new amendments to the by-laws, first proposed at the 1938 meeting, were passed. These increase the maximum limit for the number of Members from 125 to 150 and make the Editor a member of the Council. The report of the Committee on Cooperation (James L. Peters, Herbert L. Stoddard, Rudyerd Boulton, Alden H. Miller and W. L. McAtee) was accepted. Several new amendments to the by-laws were tentatively approved and laid upon the table for final action in 1940. These included proposals to: (1) grant affiliated ornithological societies meeting specific qualifications a voting representative on the A. O. U. Council, (2) appoint a nominating committee of three Fellows on staggered terms to supplement the present methods of nominating Fellows, Members, Honorary Fellows and Corresponding Fellows; (3) make dues of all members \$4.00 per year (except present dues of Fellows would continue until 1950); (4) make the cost of all new life memberships \$100 regardless of membership classification.

The Council voted to limit each edition of 'The Auk' to 300 copies in excess of current needs; to use no color plates in 'The Auk' in 1940 unless contributed; to distribute for educational purposes back copies of 'The Auk' in excess of 250 copies; to authorize, if found feasible, up to 30 pages of advertising in each volume of 'The Auk'; and to announce that claims for replacement of missing or defective copies will not be honored unless received by the Business Manager within six months of publication of the particular number involved.

The matter of consolidation of the six A. O. U. endowment funds into a single fund was referred for joint consideration and decision to the Finance Committee, Endowment Committee and the Investing Trustees.

The 1939 award of the Brewster Medal was made posthumously to Dr. Witmer Stone in recognition of his two-volume work on 'The Birds of Old Cape May.' Dr. Friedmann, as general chairman, summarized the reports of the various sub-committees of the A. O. U. Research Committee. The present Trustees (George Stuart III, C. H. Riker and Edward Norris) were re-elected, as was George Willett as editor of the Ten-year Index of 'The Auk.'

The Union voted to accept the report of the Committee on Bird Protection (Victor Cahalane, William Finley, Clarence Cottam and Aldo Leopold). The full report will appear in a later issue of 'The Auk'.

A report was read which had been prepared by Dr. Alexander Wetmore as Chairman of the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of North American Birds. Dr. Alden H. Miller and Dr. W. L. McAtee read a series of prepared statements compiled from various contributors. These statements collectively constituted a guide for procedures to be used by the

Committee in its work on the next A. O. U. 'Check-list of North American Birds.' The Union voted to accept these recommendations and directed that they be transmitted to the Committee for consideration.

The Union adopted the report of the Resolutions Committee (A. M. Bailey, A. A. Allen and Ludlow Griscom). This expressed appreciation to the following for their contribution to the 1939 meeting: the Local Committee, the officers of the Union, the Ladies' Entertainment Committee, the officials of the University of California, the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and the California Academy of Sciences, and those cooperating on the field trips to Muir Woods, Point Reyes, the Berkeley Hills, Point Lobos Preserve and the Hastings Research Area.

Public Meetings.—The public meetings opened on Tuesday morning with an address of welcome by Robert C. Miller, Director of the California Academy of Sciences, and a response by President Herbert Friedmann. The program included thirty papers, three of which were read by title, and as usual covered a wide range of subjects, both popular and technical. The Tuesday afternoon session was a symposium on the subject, 'Territorial Behavior in Birds.' Dr. Alden H. Miller introduced papers on this subject by Mary Erickson, Herbert Friedmann, and David H. Lack of England. Classified as to content the papers covered the following subjects: life history and food habits, 9; behavior, 7; taxonomic, 5; faunal, 5; conservation or education, 5; exploration, 3; anatomy and physiology, 3; waterfowl, 2; biography, 2; distribution and migration, 2; bird-banding, 1; general or miscellaneous, 1.

Social Events.—On Tuesday evening 185 persons attended a buffet supper at an open house at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. This event afforded a welcome opportunity for visits with friends while reviewing the superb vertebrate collections. Wednesday evening was occupied by the annual dinner at the International House, with 195 present. The highlight of the evening was the first showing of a color film by J. R. Pemberton on 'The California Condor—a four-year record of its life and manners.' Wednesday noon a group photograph was taken of the 95 members present at that time.

Excursions.—Friday, June 23, 107 persons participated in an all-day field trip to scenic areas in Marin County—Muir Woods with its redwood canyon, and Point Reyes with its thousands of nesting seabirds, aquatic mammals of several species and a precipitous slope covered with the finest natural 'rock garden' we ever hope to observe. On Saturday, June 24, a party visited bird haunts in the Berkeley Hills. Another party of 36 journeyed to the Point Lobos Preserve to see thousands of seabirds, several hundred sea lions and a group of no less than 16 of the rare sea otters. Most of this party spent Saturday night at the beautifully located Asilomar

Hotel along the California Coast, from which a most spectacular phosphorescent surf could be observed throughout the night.

Sunday morning most of the group toured the Hastings Preserve which is utilized as an area for research on population problems by workers from the University of California. Collectively the various field trips arranged probably exceeded those available at any previous American Ornithologists' Union meeting in both scenic interest and the unbelievable wealth of bird life which could be observed.

THE PROGRAM

Papers are arranged in the order in which they were presented at the meeting. Starred papers were illustrated by lantern slides; those with a double star were illustrated by motion pictures.

TUESDAY MORNING

- Welcome by ROBERT C. MILLER, Director of the California Academy of Sciences.
 Response by HERBERT FRIEDMANN, President, American Ornithologists' Union.
 Roll call of Fellows and Members, Report of the Business Meeting, Announcement of the Result of Elections.
 Report of the Local Committee on Arrangements. ALDEN H. MILLER, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, *Chairman*.
1. A Perspective of Ornithology. TRACY I. STORER, University of California, Davis, California.
 2. Aspects of Feather Pigmentation in the Flickers. FREDERICK H. TEST, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California.
 3. A Pleistocene Cavern Fauna from Nuevo Leon, Mexico. LOYE H. MILLER, University of California at Los Angeles, California.
 4. *Remarks on the Avian Zoogeography of Yucatan. J. VAN TYNE and MILTON B. TRAUTMAN, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
 5. In Memoriam: Samuel Prentiss Baldwin. S. CHARLES KENDEIGH, Experimental Zoology Laboratory, Champaign, Illinois. (Read by title.)
 6. In Memoriam: John Charles Phillips. GLOVER M. ALLEN, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts. (Read by title.)

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

- Symposium: Territorial Behavior in Birds.
7. Introduction: Extreme Manifestations of Territorial Behavior. ALDEN H. MILLER, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California.
 8. Territory in Permanently Resident Species. MARY ERICKSON, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California.
 9. Territory in Social Parasites. HERBERT FRIEDMANN, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.
 10. **An Analysis of Aggressive Behavior. DAVID H. LACK, London, England. Discussion of Symposium Papers.

WEDNESDAY MORNING

11. A Taxonomic Review of the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). JOHN R. ARNOLD, Stockton Junior College, Stockton, California.

12. Fall Wanderings of Clapper Rails. ROBERT T. ORR, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California.
13. *Observations on the Singing Postures of a Few Birds. DAVID G. NICHOLS, Berkeley, California.
14. *Parallel Adaptations of Trunk-foraging Birds. FRANK RICHARDSON, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California.
15. *Light Intensities Determining the Time of Morning Awakening and Cessation of Evening Song. ROBERT C. MILLER, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California.
16. *The Occurrence of Vestigial Claws on the Wings of Birds. HARVEY I. FISHER, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

17. *The Wildlife Refuge Program of the Biological Survey. IRA N. GABRIELSON, United States Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.
18. Birds of the Sacramento Migratory Waterfowl Refuge. PETER J. VAN HUIZEN, Sacramento Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, Willows, California.
19. History of a Family of Black Phoebes. GEORGE OBERLANDER, San Francisco, California.
20. **Habits of White-tailed Kites and their Preservation. ROBERT T. MOORE, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California.
21. **Nesting Activities of White-tailed Kites. ARTHUR BARR, Pasadena, California.

THURSDAY MORNING

22. *Sex and Age Composition of California Quail Populations. JOHN T. EMLÉN, JR., University of California, Davis, California.
23. *The Birds of Some North Pacific Refuge Islands. STANLEY G. JEWETT, United States Biological Survey, Portland, Oregon.
24. **The Life History of the Golden Eagle. JAMES B. DIXON, Escondido, California.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

25. **An Arizona Nest of the Coppery-tailed Trogon. ARTHUR A. ALLEN, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.
26. *The Dispersal of 40,000 Banded Starlings. LAWRENCE E. HICKS, Ohio Wildlife Research Unit, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.
27. Affinities of the Tetraonidae as indicated by Courtship Behavior. JAMES MOFFITT, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California.
28. **Beautiful Birds of the Southern Audubon Sanctuaries. JOHN H. BAKER, National Association of Audubon Societies, New York City.
29. **Colorado Birds in Color. ALFRED M. BAILEY, The Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado.

ATTENDANCE

The third California meeting had a registered attendance of 95 members (all classes) and 120 visitors—a total of 215. The list of those present in 1939 included 16 Fellows, 1 Corresponding Fellow, 18 Members and 60 Associates. This attendance far exceeded that of the second California

meeting of 1915. The number of visitors registered, save for the 1935 Toronto meeting, was the largest on record.

Members were present from twenty-four States and Provinces. Visitors coming from a distance added to this geographical representation. Forty-five members and 17 visitors registered from localities outside of California. Exclusive of visitors the eight largest delegations were: California, 50; Canada, 6; Washington, D. C., 6; New York, 6; Arizona, 3; Illinois, 3; Ohio, 3; Oregon, 3. The three members traveling the greatest distances were: Ronald W. Smith, Wolfville, Nova Scotia; William H. Phelps, Caracas, Venezuela; and David Lack, London, England.

ARIZONA, 3—*Member*, Harold C. Bryant, Grand Canyon. *Associates*, Gale Monson, Warren; Allan R. Phillips, Tucson.

BRITISH COLUMBIA, 3—*Member*, J. A. Munro, Okanagan Landing. *Associates*, Francis Kermode, Victoria; Theed Pearse, Courtenay.

CALIFORNIA, 50—*Fellows*, Louis B. Bishop, Pasadena; Joseph Mailliard, San Francisco; Alden H. Miller, Berkeley; Loye H. Miller and George Willett, Los Angeles. *Members*, Clinton G. Abbott, San Diego; W. Lee Chambers, Eagle Rock; Joseph S. Dixon, Berkeley; Hildegard Howard, Los Angeles; Laurence M. Huey, San Diego; Jean M. Linsdale, Monterey; James Moffitt, San Francisco; Robert T. Moore, Pasadena; Tracy I. Storer, Davis; E. Lowell Sumner, Jr., San Francisco. *Associates*, Amelia S. Allen, Berkeley; John R. Arnold, Stockton; Arthur Barr, Pasadena; Seth B. Benson, Berkeley; Mrs. A. P. Bigelow, Oakland; Eliot Blackwelder, Stanford University; George G. Cantwell, Los Angeles; John E. Cushing, Jr., San Francisco; John M. Davis, Eureka; Ralph Ellis, Berkeley; John T. Emlen, Jr., Davis; E. Raymond Hall, Berkeley; Walter E. Howard, Davis; A. Sidney Hyde, San Francisco; Mrs. George E. Kelly, Alameda; Eric C. Kinsey, Manor; E. Whitney Martin, Palo Alto; Herbert N. McCoy, Los Angeles; Robert T. Orr, San Francisco; John R. Pemberton, Altadena; Gayle B. Pickwell, San Jose; Sidney D. Platford, Los Angeles; William E. Ritter, Berkeley; Howard Robertson, Los Angeles; John McB. Robertson, Buena Park; W. T. Shaw, Fresno; O. P. Silliman, Salinas; E. L. Sumner, Sr., Manlo Park; Lewis W. Taylor, Berkeley; Peter J. Van Huizen, Willows; Laidlaw O. Williams, Carmel; Robert S. Woods, Azusa; Margaret W. Wythe, Berkeley.

COLORADO, 1—*Member*, Alfred M. Bailey, Denver.

CONNECTICUT, 1—*Associate*, Leonard Wing, New Haven.

IDAHO, 1—*Associate*, William H. Marshall, Boise.

ILLINOIS, 3—*Members*, Rudyerd Boulton, Chicago; H. B. Conover, Chicago. *Associate*, Mrs. Herman D. Smith, Lake Forest.

IOWA, 1—*Member*, T. C. Stephens, Sioux City.

KANSAS, 1—*Associate*, Harry L. Rhodes, Topeka.

LOUISIANA, 1—*Associate*, George H. Lowery, Jr., Baton Rouge.

MASSACHUSETTS, 2—*Fellow*, Ludlow Griscom, Cambridge. *Associate*, David C. Garrison, West Newton.

MICHIGAN, 1—*Fellow*, J. Van Tyne, Ann Arbor.

NEW MEXICO, 1—*Associate*, A. E. Borell, Albuquerque.

NEW YORK, 6—*Fellows*, Arthur A. Allen, Ithaca; James P. Chapin, New York City. *Associates*, John H. Baker, New York City; George E. Hix, Brooklyn; Adrian Lambert, New York City; Carll Tucker, Mt. Kisco.

- NOVA SCOTIA, 1—*Associate*, Ronald W. Smith, Wolfville.
OHIO, 3—*Member*, Lawrence E. Hicks, Columbus. *Associates*, David D. Blyth, Columbus; William C. Herman, Cincinnati.
ONTARIO, 2—*Fellow*, P. A. Taverner, Ottawa. *Associate*, J. Murray Speirs, Toronto.
OREGON, 3—*Member*, Stanley G. Jewett, Portland. *Associates*, Harold S. Gilbert, Portland; John B. Price, Portland.
PENNSYLVANIA, 1—*Associate*, Harry T. Underdown, Elkins Park.
TENNESSEE, 1—*Member*, Albert F. Ganier, Nashville.
WASHINGTON, 1—*Associate*, Elizabeth L. Curtis, Seattle.
WASHINGTON, D. C., 6—*Fellows*, Herbert Friedmann, Ira N. Gabrielson, Ernest G. Holt, Frederick C. Lincoln, W. L. McAtee. *Associate*, Charles H. M. Barrett.
ENGLAND, 1—*Corresponding Fellow*, David Lack, London.
VENEZUELA, 1—*Associate*, William H. Phelps, Caracas.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of officers for 1940 resulted as follows: *President*, J. P. Chapin; *Vice-presidents*, J. L. Peters and George Willett; *Secretary*, Lawrence E. Hicks; *Treasurer*, Rudyerd Boulton; *Members of the Council* (in addition to officers and ex-presidents), for three years, P. A. Taverner, Ludlow Griscom and Alden H. Miller.

The Council elected Glover M. Allen, Editor of 'The Auk'; Rudyerd Boulton, Business Manager; George H. Stuart, 3rd, C. H. Riker and Edward Norris, Trustees; and J. P. Chapin, S. S. Gregory, Jr., Rudyerd Boulton, W. L. McAtee, and Lawrence E. Hicks, members of the Finance Committee.

ELECTION OF FELLOWS, MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES

- FELLOWS, 2—Alden H. Miller, Berkeley, California; George Willett, Los Angeles, California.
HONORARY FELLOW, 1—Oscar Heinroth, Berlin, Germany.
CORRESPONDING FELLOWS, 2—G. C. A. Junge, Leiden, Netherlands; David Lack, London, England.
MEMBERS, 7—Emmet Reid Blake, Chicago, Illinois; Louis Walter Campbell, Toledo, Ohio; Owen Justus Gromme, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Joseph A. Hagar, Marshfield Hills, Massachusetts; Paul Kellogg, Ithaca, New York; Wesley Frank Kubichek, Washington, D. C.; Ivan Rexford Tomkins, Savannah, Georgia.
ASSOCIATES, 499—The names of Associates who have qualified will appear in the membership list in 'The Auk' for April, 1940.

DECEASED MEMBERS

During the year the Union lost 23 members by death: 4 Fellows, 1 Fellow Emeritus, 1 Honorary Fellow, 2 Corresponding Fellows, 2 Members and 16 Associates.

DR. SAMUEL PRENTISS BALDWIN,¹ Life Fellow (1917), aged 70, died at Cleveland, Ohio, on December 31, 1938.

DR. JOSEPH GRINNELL,² Fellow (1894), aged 62, died at Berkeley, California, on May 29, 1939.

¹ For obituary notice, see *Auk*, 56: 210, 1939; 57: 1, 1940.

² " " " " " 56: 363, 1939.

- DR. JOHN CHARLES PHILLIPS,¹ Fellow (1904), aged 62, died in southern New Hampshire, on November 14, 1938.
- DR. WITMER STONE,² Life Fellow (1885), aged 73, died at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on May 23, 1939.
- ALFRED WEBSTER ANTHONY, Fellow Emeritus (1885), aged 74, died at San Diego, California, on May 14, 1939.
- DR. ROBERTO DABBENE, Honorary Fellow (1916), died in his 75th year, at Buenos Aires, Argentina, on October 20, 1938.
- MONTAGU AUSTIN PHILLIPS, Corresponding Fellow (1919), aged 60, died in London, England, on January 11, 1939.
- DR. FRIEDRICH STEINBACHER, Corresponding Fellow (1934), died at Berlin-Friedrichshagen, Germany, on February 15, 1938 (see obituary in 'Journal für Ornithologie,' pp. 302-307, 1938).
- STUART TAYLOR DANFORTH,³ Member (1916), aged 38, died at West Boylston, Massachusetts, on November 25, 1938.
- DR. WILLIAM CABELL RIVES,⁴ Member (1885), died in his 89th year, at Washington, D. C., on December 17, 1938.
- ELIZABETH WILSON FISHER, Honorary Life Associate (1896), died at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, about February 1939.
- MRS. THOMAS ROBY HILL, Associate (1903), died at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1938 (?).
- NORMAN JAMES, Associate (1913), died at Baltimore, Maryland, in January 1939.
- JAMES COLUMBUS NEELEY,⁵ Life Associate (1919), died in his 72d year, at Brookline, Massachusetts, on March 1, 1939.
- HON. HERBERT PARKER,⁶ Associate (1920), died in his 83d year, at Lancaster, Massachusetts, on February 11, 1939.
- PROF. ALEXANDER HAMILTON PHILLIPS, Honorary Life Associate (1891), died in his 73d year, at Princeton, New Jersey, about March 1939.
- HON. EDMUND PLATT, Associate (1917), died in his 75th year, at Chezy, New York, on August 27, 1939 (see obituary notice in 'The Auk,' 57: 139, 1940).
- WILLIAM EMILIUS PRAEGER, Honorary Life Associate (1892), aged 73, died at Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 1936.
- JAMES HENRY RICE, JR., Associate (1910), died in his 67th year, at Wiggins, South Carolina, on March 23, 1935.
- WILLIAM DERRICK RICHARDSON,⁷ Associate (1917), aged 60, died at Chicago, Illinois, on January 14, 1936.
- EDWARD SIDNEY SCHMID, Associate (1931), died in his 83d year, at Washington, D. C., on March 12, 1939.
- MRS. WILLIAM VAN SCHOONHOVEN, Life Associate (1925), died at New York City, on December 25, 1937.
- WILLIAM ENOS SHERRILL, Associate (1922), died in his 70th year, at Haskell, Texas, on March 9, 1938.

¹ For obituary notice, see Auk, 56: 111, 1939.

² " " " " " 56: 363, 1939.

³ " " " " " 56: 362, 1939.

⁴ " " " " " 56: 502, 1939.

⁵ " " " " " 56: 363, 1939.

⁶ " " " " " 56: 362, 1939.

⁷ " " " " " 56: 503, 1939.

JOSEPH SIMONS,¹ Associate (1929), died in his 69th year, at Chicago, Illinois, on April 29, 1935.

ROLLIN BURDETTE TROUSLOT, Associate (1933), died in his 78th year, at Walnut Creek, California, about April 1939.

FRANK SMITH WRIGHT, Associate (1917), aged 81, died at Auburn, New York, about March 1939.

¹ For obituary notice, see *Auk*, 56: 503-504, 1939.