

This was unanimously rejected by the Committee, as being based on unstable characters, the same difference being observable, as an individual variation, in all the geographical races of this species. (Cf. CHAPMAN, Auk, VII, Jan. 1890, 91.)

*Geothlypis trichas roscoe* (AUD.) HASBROUCK, Auk, VI, April, 1889, 167, 168.

Rejected on the ground that *Sylvia roscoe* of Audubon is a synonym of *G. trichas* (Linn.), the Mississippi valley bird being not sufficiently different from that of the Atlantic coast to merit subspecific separation. The birds described by Mr. Hasbrouck belong to the Florida race, recently named by Mr. Chapman *G. trichas ignota*, Mr. Hasbrouck's error (for which he was not wholly responsible) being in identifying his birds with *Sylvia roscoe* Aud.

*Sialia mexicana anabelæ* ANTHONY (Proc. Cal. Ac. Sci. 2d ser. II, Oct., 1889, 79.)

Characters deemed not sufficiently constant.

Final action on the following was deferred, owing to lack of evidence respecting their status.

*Turdus sequoiensis* BELDING, Proc. Cal. Ac. Sci. 2d ser. II, June 11, 1889.)

550 a. *Ammodramus maritimus peninsulæ* ALLEN, vs. *Ammodramus peninsulæ*. (Cf. SCOTT, Auk, VI, Oct., 1889, 322.)

611.1. *Progne cryptoleuca* BAIRD, vs. *Progne subis cryptoleuca*. (Cf. SCOTT, Auk, VI, Oct., 1889, 325.)



## SEVENTH CONGRESS OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

THE SEVENTH CONGRESS of the American Ornithologists' Union was held at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, Nov. 12-15, 1889, the President in the Chair. The meeting was attended by twenty Active Members and thirty-two Associate Members.

The Secretary's report showed the status of membership at the opening of the Congress to be as follows: Active Members, 49; Honorary Members, 25; Corresponding Members, 68; Associate Members, 258.

During the year just past the Union lost by death one Corresponding Member, Dr. Eugen Ferdinand von Homeyer,\* of Stolp, Pomerania, and two Associate Members, as follows: Mr. Wm. L. Breese,† of Islip, Suffolk Co., N. Y., and S. Lowell Elliott, Ph.D.,‡ of Brooklyn, N. Y. Since the founding of the Union one death has occurred among the Honorary Members, three among the Active Members, eight among the Corresponding Members, and twelve among the Associate Members. The Secretary presented a tabular statement of the membership at the opening of each congress of the Union, and the attendance at the meetings, which shows a steady and encouraging increase in respect to both membership and attendance, the statistics being as follows:

*Number of Members.*

	<i>Active.</i>	<i>Honorary.</i>	<i>Corre- sponding.</i>	<i>Associate.</i>	<i>To t</i>
1883	23				23
1884	44	20	16	63	143
1885	47	25	65	64	201
1886	45	25	69	112	251
1887	46	25	70	143	284
1888	45	25	67	161	298
1889	49	25	68	258	400

*Present at Meetings.*

		<i>Active Members.</i>	<i>Associate Members.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1883,	New York	21	0	21
1884,§	“	16	4	20
1885,	“	16	6	22
1886,	Washington	20	13	31
1887,	Boston	17	12	29
1888,	Washington	20	17	37
1889,	New York	20	32	52

\* For obituary note see 'The Auk,' Vol. VI, p. 341.

† See 'The Auk,' Vol. VI, p. 81.

‡ See 'The Auk,' Vol. VI, p. 206.

§ Two Honorary Members also were present.

The single vacancy in the Active list was later filled by the unanimous election of Dr. Arthur P. Chadbourne, of Cambridge, Mass. Four Corresponding Members were elected, as follows: Edward Bartlett, of Maidstone, Kent, England; W. Eagle Clark, of Leeds, England; Thomas Lyttleton, Lord Lilford, of London, England; and F. H. Waterhouse, Librarian to the Zoölogical Society of London, England. Eighty new members were added to the list of Associates.\*

The Treasurer's report showed the finances of the Union to be in good condition, there being no outstanding bills and a small balance in the treasury.

The election for officers resulted in the unanimous re-election of the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Secretary, Dr. C. Hart Merriam, however, declined, greatly to the regret of the Union, to accept a re-election. Mr. William Brewster was then unanimously chosen as his successor, but also declined to serve. The third ballot resulted in the choice of Mr. John H. Sage. A single change was made in the list of Councillors, Dr. C. Hart Merriam being elected in place of Mr. McIlwraith.

Under the call for reports of Standing Committees, Dr. Merriam, Chairman of the Committee on the Geographical Distribution and Migration of North American Birds, rendered a verbal report of progress. The work of collating and mapping the data hitherto collected respecting the geographical distribution of North American birds, is being carried on as a part of the work of the Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, as rapidly as the limited force of the Division will permit; the Migration Schedules are sent out as usual, but the returns have not as yet been to any great extent elaborated, owing to lack of proper clerical assistance.

The report of the Committee on Avian Anatomy (Dr. Elliott Coues, Chairman), was made by the Secretary of the Committee, Dr. R. W. Shufeldt. This consisted of a brief but comprehensive review of the work done during the last year in this important field, throughout the world.

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\*The names of the new Associate Members, so far as they have qualified to date will be found in the Membership lists issued with the present number of 'The Auk.'

Mr. George B. Sennett, Chairman of the Committee on the Protection of North American Birds, made a verbal report of progress. The Committee is continuing its efforts to educate the public and influence legislation in behalf of better protection of birds. The law on this subject recently enacted by the State of Pennsylvania, in a measure through the influence of the Committee, was commended as the best thus far adopted by any of the States.

In behalf of the Audubon Monument Committee (Dr. George B. Grinnell, Chairman) Mr. Sennett, in the absence of the Chairman, recapitulated the work of the Committee during the past year. The contributions received had been small, and the interest in the project disappointingly weak. It was hoped that plans now under consideration by the Committee of the New York Academy of Sciences would stimulate new interest in the movement.

The first day of the Congress was wholly devoted to routine business, including action on various amendments to the By-Laws proposed at the preceding Congress, and the proposal of others for final consideration next year. The second, third, and fourth days were occupied with the reading and discussion of scientific papers, a number of which proved of special importance and interest. Following is a list of the papers, those marked with an asterisk being read by title, or presented only in abstract :

- Remarks on San Francisco Mountain and vicinity (Arizona) from the Faunal standpoint. Dr. C. Hart Merriam.
- Observations on the Avifauna of Arizona. Dr. Edgar A. Mearns.
- The Winter Distribution of the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), with Remarks on its Routes of Migration. Frank M. Chapman.
- On the Changes of Plumage in the Bobolink. Frank M. Chapman.
- To what extent is it profitable to recognize Geographical Variation among North American Birds? J. A. Allen.
- Birds that have struck the Statue of Liberty, Bedloe's Island, New York Harbor. Jonathan Dwight, Jr.
- On the Forms of the *Thryothorus ludovicianus* group of Wrens. J. A. Allen.

- On the Eastern Forms of *Geothlypis trichas*. Frank M. Chapman.
- Observations on some of the Summer Birds of the Mountain Portions of Pickens County, South Carolina. Leverett M. Loomis.
- \*Notes upon *Coccythraustes vespertinus* as a Cage-bird. Dr. R. W. Shufeldt.
- Remarks on Waterhouse's 'Index Generum Avium.' J. A. Allen.
- Remarks on Dr. Blanchard's Report to the Congrès International de Zoologie, on a Code of Nomenclature, presented at the Paris Session, 1889. J. A. Allen.
- \*On Peculiarities of Coloration in the Woodpeckers of the Genus *Dryobates* from the Northwest Coast. Frank M. Chapman.
- Note on *Cyanocitta stelleri litoralis* Maynard. Frank M. Chapman.
- On the Western Form of the Warbling Vireo. Dr. Edgar A. Mearns.
- \*On Seasonal and Individual Variation in certain Flycatchers of the Genus *Elænea*. J. A. Allen.
- Abundance of the Wild Pigeon in Central and Eastern New York in 1835. Prof. R. P. Whitfield. (By invitation.)
- Phalænoptilus nuttalli nitidus*.—Is it a valid Race? Col. N. S. Goss.
- The Mottled Duck in Kansas. Col. N. S. Goss.
- Some Michigan Birds observed near the Straits of Mackinac during 1888. Jonathan Dwight, Jr.
- \*Notes on the Habits of some of the Birds of Orange County, Florida. B. Mortimer.
- The Little Brown Crane (*Grus canadensis*) in Rhode Island. William Brewster.
- Capture of the Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) near Cambridge, Mass. William Brewster.
- \*The Maximilian Types of South American Birds in the American Museum of Natural History. J. A. Allen.
- Mr. Brewster exhibited and made remarks upon the Western form of the Purple Martin (*Progne subis hesperia*), and Mr. Sennett showed various interesting birds from Mexico, including Motmots (*Momotus caruleiceps*) and Trogons (*Trogon am-*

*biguus* and allies). He called attention to specimens of the former in which the middle tail-feathers had not been denuded into the usual racket-shaped form, and stated the prevailing theories offered in explanation of the racket-shaped tail-feathers in the Motmots. He also called attention to a peculiar, dark-colored, and otherwise abnormal specimen of the Carolina Rail taken at Erie, Pennsylvania.

On the afternoon of the third day some time was spent in informal session in examination of the Thrushes and Horned Larks sent in by various members for exhibition at the meeting.\*

Resolutions were adopted extending the thanks of the Union to the President and Trustees of the American Museum of Natural History for the use of the Museum building as a place of meeting, and for other courtesies; to the Linnæan Society of New York for the collation daily provided for the members; and to Dr. C. Hart Merriam in recognition of his untiring labors as Secretary during the last six years, to which the success of the Union is so largely to be ascribed.

In point of attendance, and in the number and character of the papers presented, the Seventh Congress proved the most successful of the series.

It was voted to hold the next meeting in Washington, on the third Tuesday of November, 1890.

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## RECENT LITERATURE.

**Waterhouse's 'Index Generum Avium.'**† The character, scope, and purpose of this extremely useful work cannot be better expressed than by the quotation of a paragraph from its preface by Mr. P. L. Sclater. "It will be observed that, as its title implies, the 'Index Generum Avium,' consists merely of an alphabetical list of about 7000 terms that have been employed or suggested by various authors, since the date of the twelfth edition of Linnæus's 'Systema Naturæ,' as generic and subgeneric names for birds, and references to the places and dates of their publication. No attempt has been made to discriminate between these various terms as to

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\*See further on this matter a paragraph under 'Notes and News' of this issue of 'The Auk.'

† Index Generum Avium. | — | A List | of the | Genera and Subgenera of Birds. | By | F. H. Waterhouse, A. L. S., | Librarian to the Zoölogical Society of London. | — | London: | R. H. Porter, 18 Princes Street, Cavendish Square. | 1889.—8vo. 311,+ pp. 240.