

*Chordeiles acutipennis texensis* (LAWR.) vs. *Chordeiles texensis* LAWR. (Cf. HARTERT, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. XVI, 1892, 616.)

Deferred for later consideration, owing to last of material for examination.

*Icterus gularis yucatanensis* BERLEPSCH. (Cf. BENDIRE, Auk, X, Oct. 1893, 366.)

While there is no doubt of the capture of specimens as alleged, nor of the correctness of the identification, final action was deferred pending further investigations as to the possibility of their introduction through man's agency.

*Vireo huttoni obscurus* ANTHONY (Zoe, Dec. 1890, 307. Cf. also RHOADS, Auk, X, July, 1893, 239).

Deferred for later consideration, owing to lack of material for examination.

*Vireo huttoni insularis* RHOADS (Auk, X, July, 1893, 239).

Deferred for later consideration, owing to lack of sufficient material for examination.



## ELEVENTH CONGRESS OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

THE ELEVENTH CONGRESS of the American Ornithologists' Union was held in Cambridge, Mass., Nov. 20-23, 1893. The three days' open session of the Union were preceded by a business meeting held at the residence of Mr. C. F. Batchelder on the evening of November 20. The open session, to which the public was invited, was held in the Nash Lecture-room of the Harvard University Museum.

BUSINESS SESSION.—In the absence of the President, Dr. Elliott Coues, who was unfortunately unavoidably detained in the West, the meeting was called to order by Vice-President William

Brewster. The report of the Secretary showed that during the year the Union had lost fifteen members,—six by death and nine by resignation, all from the Associate List. The members lost by death were as follows: Jenness Richardson,<sup>1</sup> who died at Bryn Mawr, N. Y., June 24, 1893, aged 36; Erastus Corning, Jr., who died at Albany, N. Y., April 9, 1893, aged 41; Benj. F. Goss,<sup>2</sup> who died at Pewaukee, Wis., July 6, 1893, aged 70; Austin F. Park,<sup>3</sup> who died at Troy, N. Y., Sept. 22, 1893, aged 68; Charles Slover Allen, M. D.,<sup>4</sup> who died in New York City, Oct. 15, 1893, aged 39.

The Secretary also presented as a part of his report the following interesting tables showing how steadily, both in membership and attendance, the Union has grown. For comparison the attendance at the Eleventh Congress is also included.

STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP AT THE OPENING OF EACH CONGRESS.

	ACTIVE.	HONORARY.	CORRESPONDING.	ASSOCIATE.	TOTAL.
1883— 1st Congress, New York.	23				23
1884— 2d “ “	44	20	16	63	143
1885— 3d “ “	47	25	65	64	201
1886— 4th “ Washington.	45	25	69	112	251
1887— 5th “ Boston.	46	25	70	143	284
1888— 6th “ Washington.	45	25	67	161	298
1889— 7th “ New York.	49	25	68	258	400
1890— 8th “ Washington.	50	21	72	322	465
1891— 9th “ New York.	47	22	72	352	493
1892— 10th “ Washington.	45	22	74	416	557
1893— 11th “ Cambridge.	48	22	73	439	582

<sup>1</sup> For an obituary notice, see Auk, X, 1893, p. 304.

<sup>2</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, p. 385.

<sup>3</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, p. 384.

<sup>4</sup> For an obituary notice, see the present number of 'The Auk', under 'Notes and News.'

## ATTENDANCE AT EACH CONGRESS.

	ACTIVE.	HONORARY.	ASSOCIATE.	TOTAL.
1883— 1st Congress, New York.	21			21
1884— 2d “ “	16	2	4	22
1885— 3d “ “	16		6	22
1886— 4th “ Washington.	20		11	31
1887— 5th “ Boston.	17		12	29
1888— 6th “ Washington.	20		17	37
1889— 7th “ New York.	20		32	52
1890— 8th “ Washington.	20		18	38
1891— 9th “ New York.	14		32	46
1892— 10th “ Washington.	20		24	44
1893— 11th “ Cambridge.	17		36	53

The report of the Treasurer showed a considerable balance in the treasury of the Union.

The officers and councillors of the preceding year were re-elected. Eighty-four Associate Members were elected, but no additions were made to either the Active, Corresponding, or Honorary lists. The usual reports of Committees were received.

**PUBLIC SESSION. First day.** — The meeting was called to order by Vice-President William Brewster, and after an address of welcome of Prof. George L. Goodale on behalf of Harvard University, at once proceeded to the consideration of Scientific Papers.

The morning session was devoted to two papers on bird migration, the first by Leverett M. Loomis, entitled ‘Bird Migration in Chester County, South Carolina, viewed with Reference to Cause’; the second by Frank M. Chapman, entitled ‘Remarks on the Origin of Bird Migration.’ Two parts of Mr. Loomis’s paper appear in this number of ‘The Auk’ (pp. 26–39). The author summarized these parts and gave in detail the third and concluding part. Mr. Chapman’s paper is published in full (*antea*, pp. 12–17).

These papers were discussed by Mr. D. G. Elliot, Mr. Francis, Prof. John Macoun, Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Mr. Loomis, and Mr. Chapman.

The first paper of the afternoon session was by D. G. Elliot on 'The Survival of the Fittest.' It was discussed by Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Dr. J. A. Allen, and Mr. Elliot.

The concluding paper of the day was by Mr. William Dutcher on 'The Labrador Duck — Another specimen with some additional data respecting extant specimens' (published *antea*, pp. 4-12). Discussion followed by Messrs. D. G. Elliot, C. F. Batchelder, M. Chamberlain, A. C. Bent, E. W. Nelson, Capt. Charles Bendire, Prof. John Macoun, Dr. C. Hart Merriam, and the author.

*Second day's session.*—The meeting was called to order by Vice-President William Brewster. The morning session was given to the presentation of two papers by Dr. J. A. Allen entitled 'Protective Coloration and Natural Selection,' and 'Protective Mimicry.' These papers were discussed at length by Messrs. D. G. Elliot, William Brewster, Dr. C. Hart Merriam, and Dr. Allen. The first paper particularly appealed to the individual experience of many of the members in attendance and the whole day's session might have been profitably given to a presentation of their views.

The afternoon was devoted to a paper by Frank M. Chapman on 'The Island of Trinidad and its Bird-Life, Illustrated with Lantern Slides.' Many pictures were shown of characteristic forest scenes and birds.

*Third day's session.*—The meeting was called to order by ex-President, D. G. Elliot. Before proceeding to the reading of papers, the Committee on Resolutions presented the following report:—

"*Resolved:* That the thanks of the American Ornithologists' Union be and hereby are tendered to Prof. George L. Goodale for the use of the Nash Lecture-room of Harvard University as a place of meeting for the Union and for other courtesies extended.

"*Resolved:* That the thanks of the American Ornithologists' Union be and hereby are tendered to the Nuttall Ornithological Club for its cordial welcome and generous hospitalities extended to visiting members.

"*Resolved:* That the thanks of the American Ornithologists' Union be and hereby are tendered to the Colonial Club of Cambridge for courtesies extended to the Union during its Eleventh Congress."

The first paper of the morning was by Mr. F. A. Lucas 'On the Tongue of *Dendroica tigrina*.' In the absence of the author it was read by Mr. F. B. White.

The second paper was by Dr. A. P. Chadbourne and was entitled 'Change in Feeding Habits of the Night Hawk since the general use of Electric Lights.' Remarks followed by Mr. Ruthven Deane.

The third paper was by the same author and described 'An Instance of Reasoning in the Scarlet Ibis.' The fourth paper was by Dr. Louis B. Bishop 'On the nest of *Cistothorus palustris*.' The fifth paper was by Mr. George H. Mackay on the 'Habits of the Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax dilophus*) in Rhode Island' (published *antea*, pp. 18-24). It was read by Mr. William Dutcher and was discussed by Messrs. D. G. Elliot and E. H. Forbush. The sixth and last paper of the morning session was by Mr. E. W. Nelson and was entitled 'Some Mexican Notes.' The author gave a graphic description of the scenery and bird-life of the higher peaks at the southern border of the Mexican tableland.

The first paper of the afternoon session was by Mr. E. H. Forbush on the 'Capture of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron in Massachusetts.' The second paper was by Mr. Frank M. Chapman on 'General Impressions of Tropical Bird-life.' The third paper was by Dr. C. Hart Merriam who spoke informally of his recent trip to Wyoming.

At the conclusion of Dr. Merriam's remarks, the Union adjourned to meet at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, November 12, 1894.

This was one of the most successful Congresses ever held by the Union. Many of the papers had a general bearing upon the leading biologic questions of the day and were therefore of interest to all students of natural history. That this fact was appreciated was shown by the unusual attendance of the public, the audiences sometimes reaching nearly 150, a number not approached at any previous meeting.

But the success of the Congress was not dependent alone upon its formal and official transactions. From the social standpoint the meeting was no less memorable. Cambridge is the home of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, the immediate

ancestor of the Union, and its members both individually and collectively gave a most cordial reception to the visiting organization. Each day of the session the Club entertained the Union at luncheon at the rooms of the Colonial Club, and on the evening of the 20th the members of both societies met by invitation at the residence of Mr. C. F. Batchelder and celebrated in an informal and thoroughly enjoyable way the twentieth birthday of the parent society.

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## RECENT LITERATURE.

Newton's 'Dictionary of Birds,' Part II.<sup>1</sup>—The general character of Professor Newton's 'Dictionary of Birds' has already been indicated (Auk, X, pp. 357-360). Part II (Ga-Moa, pp. 305-576) contains, besides the definitions naturally to be expected, a number of especially noteworthy articles, as *Gare-Fowl* (pp. 303-308, concluded from Part I), *Geographical Distribution* (pp. 311-363), *Migration* (pp. 547-572), and *Mimicry* (pp. 572-575), some of which call for somewhat detailed notice. Among the other longer articles, which are noteworthy for their scope and varied information, are *Grouse* (6 pp.), *Guachero* (*Steatornis*), *Heron* (5 pp.), *Hoactzin* (*Opisthocomus*), *Hornbill* (5 pp.), *Hummingbird* (10 pp.), *Kiwi* (6 pp.), *Lark* (6 pp.), *Lyre-bird* (5 pp.), *Megapode* (4 pp.), etc.

In the twenty-five pages devoted to Migration, the general facts of the subject are set forth, and then an attempt is made to "account for the cause or causes of migration." "Want of food" is deemed to be "the most obvious cause," "far more so than variation of the temperature, though in popular belief that probably holds the first place." "As food grows scarce toward the end of summer in the most northern limits of the range of a species, the individuals affected thereby seek it elsewhere; in this way they press upon the haunt of other individuals," and so on. This, says Prof. Newton, "seems satisfactorily to explain the southward movement of many migrating birds in the northern hemisphere; but when we consider the return movement which takes place some six months later, doubt may be entertained whether scarcity of food can be assigned as its sole or suffi-

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<sup>1</sup>A Dictionary of Birds. By Alfred Newton. Assisted by Hans Gadow. With Contributions from Richard Lydekker, B. A., F. G. S., Charles S. Roy, M. A., F. R. S., and Robert W. Shufeldt, M. D. (late United States Army). Part II (Ga-Moa). London: Adam and Charles Black, 1893.—8vo., pp. 305-576.