

with 1 egg and 2 chicks in the down, and close by a fresh soft-shelled crab recently dropped by one of the parents; another nest contained 1 chipped egg, and a broken egg-shell; and still another 2 eggs. We discovered only 1 chick, which was about the size of a pigeon and looked very much like one, except for the length of its legs. This bird was mature enough to fly but made no attempt to do so, being very tame, eating from the hand the same afternoon. I have not seen a dead chick this season.

As a description of this large chick may prove of interest to some readers I give it, as follows: Feathers of the back slate gray edged at the tip with drab gray; top of head and sides mouse gray; exposed edges of wing-coverts and covered edges of feathers on back plumbeous; inner webs of the tail feathers and primaries black; throat light gray; breast and sides gray; bill, legs, and feet chocolate color.

It was apparent to me from the many abandoned nests and broken egg-shells—more than I have ever before seen—that this season has been a most favorable one for these Gulls. I noticed the old birds contentedly sitting about on all the bare spots of sand that were available on their breeding grounds, where they could watch and care for their young which were hidden in the beach-grass.

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### THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE 'AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

THE THIRTEENTH CONGRESS of the American Ornithologists' Union convened in Washington, D. C., Monday evening, November 11, 1895. The business meeting was held at the residence of Dr. C. Hart Merriam. The public sessions, lasting three days, were held in the Lecture Hall of the U. S. National Museum, commencing Tuesday, November 12.

BUSINESS SESSION.—The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. Elliott Coues. Eighteen Active Members were

present. The Secretary's report gave the membership of the Union at the opening of the present Congress as 667, constituted as follows: Active, 47; Honorary, 20; Corresponding, 68; Associate, 532; the total increase for the year being 51.

During the year the Union lost forty-six members,—eleven by death, fifteen by resignation, and twenty were dropped for non-payment of dues. The members lost by death were George Newbold Lawrence,<sup>1</sup> one of the Founders and an Honorary Member, who died in New York City, Jan. 17, 1895, in the eighty-ninth year of his age; Professor Thomas Henry Huxley, who died in London, England, June 29, 1895, aged 70, also an Honorary Member; Edward Hargitt,<sup>2</sup> a Corresponding Member, who died in Edinburgh, Scotland, March 19, 1895, in the sixtieth year of his age; and Henry T. Wharton, also a Corresponding Member, particulars of whose death have not yet been received. Also the following Associates: Dr. Frederick H. Hoadley,<sup>3</sup> who died at Palm Beach, Florida, Feb. 26, 1895, aged 45; George H. Ragsdale,<sup>4</sup> who died in Gainesville, Texas, March 25, 1895; Hon. Franklin Fairbanks,<sup>5</sup> who died in St. Johnsbury, Vt., April 24, 1895, aged 67; Rev. A. H. Gesner,<sup>6</sup> who died at Sing Sing, N. Y., April 30, 1895; John S. Cairns,<sup>7</sup> who was accidentally killed June 10, 1895, while on a collecting trip to Black Mountain, N. C.; Dr. W. H. Stowe, who died in Palmer, Mass., March, 1895; James H. Slater, who died at Nashua, in February, 1895, aged 17.

The report of the Treasurer showed the finances of the Union to be in excellent condition, much better than ever before.

William Brewster was elected President; Dr. C. Hart Merriam and Robert Ridgway, Vice-Presidents; John H. Sage, Secretary; William Dutcher, Treasurer; Dr. J. A. Allen, Charles F. Batchel-

<sup>1</sup> For an obituary notice, see Auk, XII, pp. 198-199, also Memorial Address in the present number.

<sup>2</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, p. 315.

<sup>3</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, p. 199.

<sup>4</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, 316.

<sup>5</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, pp. 315-316.

<sup>6</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, p. 316.

<sup>7</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, p. 315.

der, Major C. E. Bendire, Frank M. Chapman, Dr. Elliott Coues, D. G. Elliot, and Dr. A. K. Fisher, members of the Council. A. W. Anthony, of San Diego, Cal., was elected an Active Member; William T. Blanford, of London, England, an Honorary Member; Dr. D. Webster Prentiss, of Washington, D. C., and William Henry Hudson, of London, England, Corresponding Members. Eighty-eight new members were added to the list of Associates. The usual reports of Standing Committees were received.

**PUBLIC SESSION. *First Day.***—The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. William Brewster. After the routine business was disposed of Dr. Elliott Coues exhibited and explained a collection of unpublished water-color paintings of birds made by Louis Agassiz Fuertes. Remarks on the paintings were made by Mr. D. G. Elliot and the Chair.

The first paper of the morning was by Carl F. Baker entitled 'An Important Factor in the Study of Western Bird Life.' In the absence of the author it was read by Mr. Frank M. Chapman. Remarks followed by Dr. Merriam.

The second paper was 'On Pallas's Cormorant,' by Mr. F. A. Lucas. It was remarked upon by Dr. Coues, Mr. Chapman, and the author.

The third title was 'Further Remarks on the Subgenus *Quiscalus*,' by Frank M. Chapman. Discussion followed by Drs. Allen, Merriam, and Coues, Mr. Brewster, and the author.

The opening paper of the afternoon session was by Geo. H. Mackay 'On Gätke's Heligoland.' It was read by Mr. William Dutcher in the absence of the author. Remarks followed by Drs. Coues, Mearns, Merriam, Stejneger, Gill, Palmer, and Allen, Messrs. L. M. Loomis, Frank M. Chapman, F. A. Lucas, William Dutcher, and the Chair.

In the evening a special public Memorial Meeting was held in the Lecture Hall of the U. S. National Museum, in commemoration of the two distinguished Honorary Members of the Union who have died during the past year. The late George N. Lawrence was eulogized by Mr. D. G. Elliot, and Prof. Thos. H. Huxley by Dr. Elliott Coues.

***Second Day.***—The meeting was called to order by the President,

Mr. Brewster. A communication was received from Dr. Ch. Wardell Stiles, delegate from the United States to the International Zoölogical Congress, requesting the Union to appoint a representative to an Advisory Committee to which will be submitted all questions of nomenclature likely to be ruled on by the International Zoölogical Congress to be held in England in 1898. Dr. J. A. Allen was so appointed.

The reading of scientific papers began with one by Prof. F. E. L. Beal on the 'Food of the Meadowlark.'

The next paper was 'Methods in Economic Ornithology, with special reference to the Catbird,' by Sylvester D. Judd. Remarks followed by Prof. Beal, Messrs. F. A. Lucas, and J. Van Denburgh, Dr. Merriam, and the author.

The third title was 'Notes on the Birds of Idaho,' by Prof. M. J. Elrod. In the absence of the author it was read in part by Dr. Merriam, who remarked upon the paper. Further remarks followed by Mr. Rolla P. Currie.

'Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) in Captivity,' by Ora W. Knight, was the fourth paper of the morning. It was read by Mr. F. A. Lucas in the absence of the author. Remarks followed by Drs. Merriam and Allen, Messrs. Loomis, Judd, and Lucas.

The first paper of the afternoon was by Mr. Leverett M. Loomis entitled 'Midwinter Migration Southward in the North Temperate Zone to Breeding Grounds.' It was discussed by Major C. E. Bendire, Mr. C. H. Townsend, Drs. Palmer, Mearns, and Merriam, and the author.

The concluding paper of the day was 'Why are there so few Bluebirds?' by Mrs. Louise M. Stephenson. As the author was not present it was read by Mr. Wm. Dutcher. Extended remarks followed by Dr. T. S. Palmer.

*Third Day.*—The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Brewster. 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 the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution for the use of the Lecture Hall of the U. S. National Museum as a place of meeting for the Thirteenth Congress of the Union, and for other courtesies extended.

“*Resolved*: That the thanks of the visiting members of the American Ornithologists' Union be and hereby are tendered to the Washington members for their cordial welcome and generous hospitality.”

The first paper of the morning was by Mr. Frank M. Chapman, ‘On the Standing of *Ardetta neoxyna*.’ Remarks followed by Drs. Allen and Merriam, Mr. Brewster, and the author.

The second paper was ‘What Constitutes Publication,’ by Dr. J. A. Allen. Remarks followed by Dr. Merriam.

The third title was ‘The Value of the Tongue in the Classification of Birds,’ by F. A. Lucas. Remarks followed by Dr. Allen.

The fourth paper was by Dr. T. S. Palmer, ‘On Introduced Birds.’ Remarks followed by Drs. Merriam and Gill, and the author.

The opening feature of the afternoon session was an exhibition by Mr. William Palmer of pictures, thrown on a screen, of living birds taken in their haunts, and of nests *in situ* from photographs made by Messrs. Wm. Brewster, F. M. Chapman, Harry W. Flint, and himself. Explanations were made by Messrs. Brewster, Chapman, and Palmer.

The first paper of the afternoon was entitled ‘A Critique on Trinomial Inconsistencies,’ by Wm. Palmer. Discussion followed by Drs. Allen and Merriam, Messrs. D. G. Elliot, F. M. Chapman, H. C. Oberholser, and the author.

Owing to the lack of time for their presentation in full the following papers were read by title:

‘The Terns of Muskeget Island, Part II,’ by Geo. H. Mackay.

‘Kingbird and Sapsuckers in Southern California,’ by A. J. Cook.

‘A few Effects of the Winter of 1895 upon the Spring and Fall Migration in Canton, Mass.,’ by J. H. Bowles.

The Union then adjourned to meet in Cambridge, Mass., Nov. 9, 1896.

This Congress was a most successful one — a thoroughly representative gathering of American ornithologists. It was especially gratifying to see so many Associate Members present.

JNO. H. SAGE,

Portland, Conn., Nov. 30, 1895.

Secretary.