

It is probable that one thousand Crows died of this disease during the last winter in Ontario County, but when the roost was visited just before the disbanding in the spring very little difference was noticeable in the immense numbers of birds which gathered at dusk to pass the night in that little grove.

The accompanying photographs (Pl. II) may give a little help in understanding the conditions as they actually existed.

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## TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

THE TWENTIETH CONGRESS of the American Ornithologists' Union convened in Washington, D. C., Monday evening, November 17, 1902. The business meeting was held at the residence of Dr. C. Hart Merriam, and the public sessions at the U. S. National Museum, beginning Tuesday, November 18, and continuing for three days.

BUSINESS SESSION. — The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. C. Hart Merriam. Twenty-one Fellows were present. The Secretary stated that at the opening of the present Congress the membership of the Union numbered 753, constituted as follows: Fellows, 48; Honorary Fellows, 16; Corresponding Fellows, 61; Members, 53; Associates, 575.

During the year the Union lost sixty-five members, nine by death, fourteen by resignation, and forty-two for non-payment of dues. The deceased members include one Fellow, two Corresponding Fellows, one Member and five Associates, as follows: Maj. James C. Merrill, U. S. A.,<sup>1</sup> a Fellow, who died at Washington, D. C., Oct. 27, 1902, in his 50th year; Dr. James G. Cooper,<sup>2</sup> a Corresponding Fellow, who died at Haywards, Calif., July 19, 1902, aged 72; Emil Holub,<sup>3</sup> a Corresponding Fellow, who died at

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<sup>1</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Auk*, XX, p. 90.

<sup>2</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, XIX, pp. 421-422.

<sup>3</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, XX, p. 92.

Vienna, February 21, 1902, in the 55th year of his age; Chester Barlow,<sup>1</sup> a Member who died at Santa Clara, Calif., November 6, 1902, at the age of 26; also the following Associates: Clarence M. Morrell, who died at Pittsfield, Me., July 15, 1902, aged 30 years; William H. Daffin, who died at Philadelphia (Tacony), Pa., April 21, 1902; Alonzo M. Collett,<sup>3</sup> who died at Denver, Col., Aug. 22, 1902, at the age of 33 years; Aubrey B. Call, who died at Burlington, Vermont, Nov. 20, 1901, and Curtis C. Young,<sup>4</sup> who died at Port Daniel, Quebec, July 30, 1902, at the age of 28 years.

The report of the Treasurer showed the finances of the Union to be in a satisfactory condition.

All of the officers were reelected, as follows: Dr. C. Hart Merriam, President; Charles B. Cory and Charles F. Batchelder, Vice-Presidents; John H. Sage, Secretary; William Dutcher, Treasurer; Frank M. Chapman, Ruthven Deane, E. W. Nelson, Witmer Stone, Drs. A. K. Fisher, Jonathan Dwight, Jr., and Thos. S. Roberts, members of the Council.

Harry C. Oberholser, of Washington, D. C., was elected a Fellow; Ernst Hartert, of Tring, England, and John A. Harvie-Brown, of Larbert, Stirlingshire, Scotland, were elected Honorary Fellows; Arthur J. Campbell, of Melbourne, Australia, W. P. Pycraft, of the British Museum, London, Dr. Hermann von Ihering of the Museu Paulista, Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Alfred J. North, of Sydney, New South Wales, were elected Corresponding Fellows. Eighty-four Associates were elected, and the following thirteen persons were elected to the class of Members, namely: Andrew Allison, of Bay St. Louis, Miss.; Dr. William C. Braislín, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Arthur C. Bent, of Taunton, Mass.; Hubert Lyman Clark, of Olivet, Michigan; Edward A. Goldman, Paul Bartsch, Arthur H. Howell, and Dr. F. H. Knowlton, of Washington, D. C.; Arthur H. Norton, of Westbrook, Maine; Prof. J. Gilbert Pearson, of Greensboro, N. C.; Samuel F. Rathbun, of Seattle, Washington; P. M. Silloway, of Lewiston, Montana; and Prof. C. O. Whitman, of Chicago, Ill.

<sup>1</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Auk*, XX, p. 92.

<sup>2</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, XIX, pp. 422-423.

<sup>3</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, XIX, p. 423.

<sup>4</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, XX, p. 94.

Drs. Allen, Dwight, Merriam, and Richmond, and Messrs. Brewster, Ridgway and Stone were reelected 'Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of North American Birds.'

PUBLIC SESSION. *First Day.* The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Cory.

The first paper of the morning was 'Notes on the life of Edward Harris, with extracts from his Journals,' by Geo. Spencer Morris.

Next came 'Summer Bird Life of Eastern North Carolina,' by Prof. J. Gilbert Pearson. This paper provoked much discussion and many inquiries were made regarding the protection of birds in North Carolina. Dr. Bishop spoke of the slaughter by marketmen and milliners' agents of the species found along the coast, and Mr. Dutcher on proposed legislative bills for the preservation of such birds. Dr. Palmer told of the immense number of ducks annually taken to the northern markets from the North Carolina coast. He thought the upland as well as the shore birds needed protection. Prof. Pearson referred to the destruction of the Bobwhite and of the illegal methods used in shipping them north.

The third paper was 'The Development of the Pterylosis,' by Hubert Lyman Clark. Remarks followed by Dr. Allen, Messrs. Chapman, and Lucas, and the author.

The afternoon session was devoted to the following papers, all being illustrated by lantern slides, viz.: 'Comparison of the Bird Life of Gardiner's Island and Cobb's Island,' by Frank M. Chapman; and 'A Contribution to the Life History of the Herring Gull,' by Wm. Dutcher.

*Second Day.* The meeting was called to order by the President. The first paper, by Dr. J. A. Allen was entitled 'The A. O. U. Check-List—its History and its Future.' Remarks followed by the Chair.

The second, 'A glance at the Historical side of the Check-List of North American Birds,' was by Witmer Stone, and dealt mainly with the period preceding the founding of the American Ornithologists' Union.

'Evolution of Species and Subspecies as illustrated by certain Mexican Quails and Squirrels,' by E. W. Nelson, was the subject of the third paper. Remarks followed by Dr. Merriam, Messrs. Stone, Chapman, Maynard, and the author.

The next, 'Form in Bird Music,' by H. W. Olds, was discussed by Messrs. Brewster, Morris, Dutcher and Fuertes, Mrs. Patten, the Rev. Wm. R. Lord, and the author.

The concluding papers of the morning were by Dr. R. M. Strong, entitled: 'Change of Color without Molt,' and 'Iridescence and White Feathers.'

The following papers — all illustrated by lantern slides — were given at the afternoon session, viz.: 'Some Problems of Local Bird Population,' by Prof. Walter B. Barrows; 'Ancient Birds and their Associates,' by F. A. Lucas; 'Observations on the Herons of the District of Columbia,' by Paul Bartsch; and 'Bird Life in the Bahamas,' by Frank M. Chapman and Louis Agassiz Fuertes.

*Third Day.* — The meeting was called to order by the President. Mr. Dutcher, Chairman of the Committee on Protection of North American Birds, presented the report of his Committee for the previous year, which was followed by an address by Dr. T. S. Palmer on 'Federal Game Protection in 1902.' By invitation, Mr. Sheibley, of the U. S. Department of Justice, spoke of certain prosecutions under the Lacey Act.

'Nesting of the Red-bellied Woodpecker in Harford Co., Md.,' by Wm. H. Fisher, was the third paper. In the absence of the author it was read by Dr. Palmer.

The fourth paper, 'An Epidemic of Roup in the Canandaigua Crow Roost,' by Elon H. Eaton, was read, in the author's absence, by Mr. H. W. Olds. Remarks followed by F. A. Lucas, Wm. Palmer, and Dr. S. D. Judd.

The following papers were read by title:

'Some Variations in the Piping Plover, *Ægialitis meloda*,' by Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr.

'The Significance of Trinomials in Nomenclature,' by Witmer Stone.

'Notes on *Picoides americanus* and *Picoides arcticus* in Minnesota,' by Dr. T. S. Roberts.

'Some Food Habits of West Indian Birds,' by B. S. Bowdish.

'The Domestic Affairs of Bobwhite,' by John N. Clark.

Resolutions were adopted thanking the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution for the use of a hall in the U. S. National Museum for a place of meeting, and for other courtesies

extended; to the Washington members of the Union for the cordial welcome and generous hospitality shown visiting members; to Prof. S. P. Langley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, for his polite invitation to the members of the Union to visit the National Zoölogical Park; and to the Superintendent of the Park, Dr. Frank Baker, through whom the invitation was received.

Dr. T. S. Palmer, Mr. Frank M. Chapman and Dr. C. W. Richmond were appointed 'Committee on International Bird Protection,' and Ruthven Deane and William Dutcher delegates to the forthcoming Congress.

The question of holding a Special Meeting of the Union in California during May or June, 1903, was referred to a Committee, with power.

On Friday, November 21, after adjournment of the Union, many members visited the National Zoölogical Park by invitation of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. Prof. Langley received the visitors, who were subsequently taken through the Park by Dr. Frank Baker, the Superintendent.

The Congress adjourned to meet in Philadelphia, November 16, 1903.

JNO. H. SAGE,  
*Secretary.*

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## GENERAL NOTES.

**Breeding Grounds of the Black and Socorro Petrels. — A Correction. —**  
In my recent paper on the 'Birds of the Cape Region of Lower California,' I stated (p. 33) that "on July 10, 1896, Mr. Anthony found some Black and Socorro Petrels breeding together on one of the Coronados Islands (in the Gulf of California)." There is a Coronados Island lying close to the eastern shore of the Peninsula in the Gulf of California in about latitude 26° N., and a group of islands bearing the same name situated off the Pacific coast only about twenty miles south of San Diego, California. Just what led me to attribute Mr. Anthony's observations to the former locality I cannot now remember, but in so doing I was evidently in error, for Mr. Frank S. Daggett writes me that he has definite information to the effect that Mr. Anthony did not visit the Gulf