

## TWENTY-SEVENTH STATED MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

THE Twenty-seventh Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union convened in New York City, Monday evening, December 6, 1909. The business meeting and public sessions, December 7, 8 and 9, were held at the American Museum of Natural History.

BUSINESS SESSION.—The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Edward W. Nelson. Seventeen Fellows were present. The Secretary's report gave the membership of the Union at the opening of the present Stated Meeting as 866, constituted as follows: Fellows, 48; Honorary Fellows, 14; Corresponding Fellows, 62; Members, 71; Associates, 671.

During the year the Union lost eighty-five members, five by death, thirty-three by resignation, and forty-seven by non-payment of dues. The deceased members were all Associates, as follows: Wm. L. Kelker, who died Feb. 15, 1908; Edward Seymour Woodruff,<sup>1</sup> who died in New York City, January 15, 1909, aged 33 years; Charles K. Worthen,<sup>2</sup> who died at Warsaw, Illinois, May 30, 1909, in the 59th year of his age; William H. Brownson,<sup>3</sup> who died at South Portland, Me., Sept. 6, 1909, in the 55th year of his age; and Wm. Hubbell Fisher, who died Oct. 6, 1909, aged 66 years.

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

All of the officers were re-elected, as follows: Edward W. Nelson, President; Frank M. Chapman and A. K. Fisher, Vice-Presidents; John H. Sage, Secretary; Jonathan Dwight, Jr., Treasurer; Ruthven Deane, William Dutcher, Henry W. Henshaw, F. A. Lucas, Chas. W. Richmond, Thomas S. Roberts, and Witmer Stone, members of the Council.

Arthur Cleveland Bent, of Taunton, Mass., was elected a Fellow; Allan Brooks, Okanagan Landing, B. C.; Bradshaw H. Swales, Grosse Isle, Mich.; Harry S. Swarth, Berkeley, Calif., and Percy

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<sup>1</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Auk*, XXVI, pp. 218, 219.

<sup>2</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Auk*, XXVI, p. 332.

<sup>3</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Auk*, XXVI, p. 453.

A. Taverner, Highland Park, Mich., were elected to the class of Members, and the following one hundred and twenty-one persons were elected Associates, namely:

Gerald Alan Abbott, Chicago, Ill.; Arthur A. Allen, Ithaca, N. Y.; Henry Allison, Fitchburg, Mass.; F. E. Arnold, East Providence, R. I.; Samuel W. Bailey, W. Newbury, Mass.; Harold L. Barrett, Jamaica Plain, Mass.; Franklin Benner, Minncapolis, Minn.; Annie H. Brown, Stoneham, Mass.; S. Jennie Berry, London, Ontario; Miss Charlotte Bogardus, Coxsackie, N. Y.; Benjamin F. Bolt, Kansas City, Mo; Mrs. Ella J. Boudinot, Davenport, Iowa; John J. Boyce, Juneau, Alaska; John B. Brainerd, M. D., Brookline, Mass.; William J. Brown, Westmount, Quebec; John A. Bryant, Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Arthur E. Clarke, Manchester, N. H.; Annie W. Cobb, Arlington, Mass.; William C. Clarke, M. D., New York, N. Y.; William B. Cleveland, Burton, Ohio.; Stanley Cobb, Milton, Mass.; Ernest Amery Codman, Boston, Mass.; James M. Cole, Woodstock, Ontario; Lee S. Crandall, New York, N. Y.; Henry C. Davis, Cummaquid, Mass.; Frederick B. Day, Lynn, Mass.; John Dearborn, Malden, Mass.; William Dearden, Springfield, Mass.; Lee Raymond Dice, Prescott, Wash.; Charles W. Dimick, Boston, Mass.; Joseph H. Dodson, Chicago, Ill.; James L. Du Bon, Windsor Locks, Conn.; Miss Harriet A. Dunn, Athol, Mass.; Francis B. Eastman, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind.; Miss Mary S. Eaton, Concord, Mass.; Dr. Ernest Earl Elliott, Lyons, N. Y.; Christopher T. Emmet, Long Island, N. Y.; J. F. Frazier, Audubon, Iowa; Leonard Freeman, M. D., Denver, Colo.; Mrs. Ella M. Fuller, Needham, Mass.; Frederick M. Gaige, Ann Arbor, Mich.; William Glück, Plainville, Conn.; Mrs. James F. Goodell, Rhinebeck, N. Y.; William J. Graham, Aledo, Ill.; Mrs. Henry Tyler Grant, Providence, R. I.; L. M. Grombergh, Washington, D. C.; Dr. B. A. Hamilton, Highland Park, Ill.; Arthur W. Henn, Chicago, Ill.; Luman J. Hersey, Denver, Colo.; Isaac E. Hess, Philo, Ill.; Ashley Hine, Banff, Canada; A. Brazier Howell, Baltimore, Md.; Walter J. Hoxie, Savannah, Ga.; Miss Annie S. Hoyt, Oyster Bay, L. I.; Frank N. Irving, Savannah, Ga.; Mrs. I. M. James, Doylestown, Pa.; McCormick Jewett, New Haven, Conn.; C. A. Jones, Memphis, Tenn.; A. H. Kilman, Ontario, Canada; Miss Jessie E. Kloseman, Dedham, Mass.; Roland E. Kremers, Madison, Wisc.; Dr. Avery E. Lambert, Framingham, Mass.; Mrs. James H. Lancashire, Alma, Mich.; Lawton W. Lane, Lynn, Mass.; Edgar M. Ledyard, Los Banos, P. I.; H. E. Lee, Pierre, So. Dak.; Frederic T. Lewis, M. D., Boston, Mass.; A. C. McFarland, Chicago, Ill.; Charles W. Miller, Shawnee-on-Delaware, Pa.; John K. Musgrave, Allegheny, Pa.; Frank O. Novy, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Dr. Frank Overton, Patchogue, L. I., Mrs. Benjamin W. Parker, Dorchester Center, Mass.; William Parsons, Manila, P. I., Morton E. Peck, Salem, Oregon; W. M. Peck, East Providence, R. I.; Henry J. Perry, Boston, Mass.; George A. Phillips, Dedham, Mass.; Frank O. Pillsbury, Walpole, Mass.; Miss Ellen J. Pond, New York, N. Y.;

Charles H. Pratt, Chelsea, Mass.; Wm. Raborg, Jr., Muirkirk, Md.; Chas. S. G. Rankin, St. George's, Bermuda; John C. Rembold, Hackensack, N. J.; Alfred G. Rolfe, Pottstown, Pa.; Percival B. Rolfe, Portland, Me.; Gilbert R. Rossignol, Jr., Savannah, Ga.; John Lee Saltonstall, Beverly, Mass.; Leonard G. Sanford, New Haven, Conn.; Aug. E. Sanvola, Chassell, Mich.; Henry R. Scott, Framingham, Mass.; Edwin Shore, Pawtucket, R. I.; John A. Sinclair, New Hampton, N. H.; Ethel M. Smith, Stevens Point, Wis.; Prof. Frank Smith, Urbana, Ill.; Myrton T. Smith, Hartford, Conn.; Mrs. Ruth Cook Smith, Woodcliff Lake, N. J.; Wilbur F. Smith, South Norwalk, Conn.; Mrs. Etta Rich Soule, Watertown, Mass.; Miss Cordelia Johnson Stanwood, Ellsworth, Maine; T. C. Stephens, Sioux City, Iowa; Ernest M. Stokes, Minesing, Ontario; John K. Strecker, Jr., Waco, Texas; D. D. Streeter, Washington, D. C.; Z. T. Sweaney, Columbus, Indiana; Chas. S. Thompson, San Bernardino, Calif.; Miss Harriet W. Thompson, Port Sanilac, Mich.; Thomas M. Trippe, Howardsville, Colo.; Prof. Frank D. Tubbs, Lewiston, Maine; Henry E. Tuttle, Lake Forest, Ill.; Albert G. Ulrich, St. Louis, Mo.; Miss Louise van Beuren, New York, N. Y.; Stephen S. Visher, Tucson, Arizona; George E. Walker, Murray, Utah; Mrs. Martha E. Ward, Lynn, Mass.; John R. White, Manila, P. I.; Henry H. Wikel, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Frank C. Willard, Tombstone, Ariz.; Victor John A. Willett, Wycombe, Whiteman's Creek P. O., British Columbia; Francis Windle, West Chester, Pa.; John W. Winson, Sumas, Wash.

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

Drs. A. K. Fisher, Edgar A. Mearns and Thomas S. Roberts, and Messrs. F. M. Chapman and Ruthven Deane were appointed 'Committee on Bird Protection.'

The amendment to the By-Laws proposed at the last Stated Meeting of the Union was adopted. Article III, Section 1, now reads as follows:

"Stated Meetings of the Union shall be held annually, at such time and place as the Union may determine. The time and the place for any Stated Meeting, appointed by the Union, may be changed by the Council by a two-thirds vote of its members. Special meetings shall be called by the Council as occasion may require, due notice thereof being given by the Secretary."

PUBLIC SESSIONS. *First Day.*—The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Nelson. The papers read during the morning session were as follows:

'In Memoriam — Charles Aldrich,' by Ruthven Deane.

'At the Sign of the Northern Flicker,' by Miss Althea R. Sherman. Remarks followed by Dr. Merriam.

'The Increase of Austral Birds at Ithaca, N. Y.,' by Dr. Albert H. Wright and Arthur A. Allen; presented by Mr. Allen and illustrated by lantern slides.

'Sharpe's Hand-List of Birds,' by Dr. J. A. Allen.

'Development of the Flicker,' by Wm. L. Baily. Illustrated by lantern slides.

Dr. Merriam gave an account of the recent discovery of the skulls and bones of several species of birds in the asphalt beds near Los Angeles, Calif., including a gigantic bird of prey, and other species undoubtedly new to science.

The papers of the afternoon, both illustrated by lantern slides, were: 'Response of Wild Birds to Kindness,' by Rev. Herbert K. Job.

'A Bird Photographing Trip in the Carolinas,' by B. S. Bowdish.

In the evening an informal reception was held at the American Museum of Natural History, tendered by the Board of Trustees and Officers of the Museum.

*Second Day.*—The meeting was called to order by President Nelson. The papers of the morning session were:

'In Memoriam — James Cushing Merrill,' by William Brewster.

'The Tagging of Wild Birds. Report of Progress in 1909,' by Dr. Leon J. Cole. Remarks followed by Mr. Rhoads, Dr. Bishop, and the author.

'Some Notes on the Pinnated Grouse of Martha's Vineyard, Mass.,' by Dr. Geo. W. Field. In the absence of the author it was read by Mr. E. H. Forbush. Illustrated by lantern slides.

'Birds of the Blackwater River, Va.,' by George Spencer Morris. Illustrated by lantern slides.

'The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club — A Retrospect, and a Prospectus,' by Witmer Stone.

The following papers were presented at the afternoon session:

'Changes of Geographical Distribution in the Lake Erie Basin,' by Prof. Lynds Jones. Remarks followed by Ernest Thompson Seton, and Ruthven Deane.

'Racket Formation in the Tail-feathers of the Motmot,' with exhibition of skins and a living specimen, by C. Wm. Beebe.

'Notes on an Expedition to British Guiana,' by C. William Beebe. Illustrated by lantern slides.

'Present Status of the Passenger Pigeon Problem,' by Prof. C. F. Hodge. Remarks followed by Messrs. Forbush, Dutcher, and the author.

'Courtship and Wedlaw of Certain Wild Fowl,' by Ernest Thompson Seton. Remarks followed by Prof. Hodge, Mr. Beebe, and the Chair.

Mr. A. R. Dugmore showed lantern slides of a few of the remarkable pictures he had taken during his recent trip to East Africa.

In the evening the members of the Union and their friends met at dinner at the Hotel Endicott.

*Third Day.*—The meeting was called to order by President Nelson.

The Chair read a letter from C. William Beebe having special reference to locating, if possible, living specimens of the Passenger Pigeon, *Ectopistes migratorius*.

The papers of the session were:

'Notes concerning the Status of Franklin's Grouse, with Exhibition of Specimens,' by Louis Agassiz Fuyertes.

'The Method of Migration Study at Cornell,' by Dr. A. H. Wright and A. A. Allen, presented by Mr. Allen. Illustrated by lantern slides. Remarks followed by Mr. Stone.

'The Willow Grouse of Scandinavia, with Exhibition of Specimens,' by Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr.

'The Status of some North American Species of Birds,' by Drs. L. B. Bishop and Jonathan Dwight, Jr. Presented by Dr. Bishop. Remarks followed by Mr. Fuyertes.

The following papers, in the absence of their authors, were read by title:

'Statistical Distribution of the Common Birds of Illinois,' by Alfred O. Gross.

'Common Birds in Northeastern Illinois,' by Frank C. Gates.

'On the Extinction of Birds in this Country,' by Dr. R. W. Shufeldt.

Dr. L. B. Bishop explained a proposed method of Tagging Wild Birds, and called attention to an Association in Connecticut recently organized to study this subject.

Dr. Dwight exhibited specimens of the Motmot and referred to the peculiar formation of the tail-feathers. Remarks followed by Messrs. Chapman and Dutcher.

The following resolution was passed.

*Resolved:* That the American Ornithologists' Union heartily approves of H. R. 10276, introduced in Congress May 28, 1909, by the Hon. Mr. Weeks of Massachusetts, entitled 'A Bill to protect Migratory Birds of the United States,' for the reason that the Union recognizes the difficulty of obtaining uniform and satisfactory legislation for migratory birds from State legislatures, and it further believes that all birds which do not remain permanently the entire year within the borders of any State or Territory are logically the wards of the nation and should be placed in the care of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Resolutions were adopted thanking the President and Trustees of the American Museum of Natural History for a place of meeting, and for other courtesies tendered to the Union; to the Linnæan Society of New York for generous hospitalities extended to the Union during the Twenty-seventh Stated Meeting; to the Executive Committee of the New York Zoölogical Society for their courteous invitation to visit the Zoölogical Park and the Aquarium of the Society; and to the Executive Committee of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences for their kind invitation to visit the Museum of the Institute, and for other courtesies extended.

After adjournment on Thursday, December 9, a visit was paid to the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, and the members of the Union were welcomed to the Institute by Dr. Frederic A. Lucas, Curator-in-Chief. An opportunity was thus given to view the collections in the Museum, which was followed by an informal gathering in the Library, where refreshments were served.

On Friday, December 10, upon invitation of the New York Zoölogical Society, many members visited the Aquarium and the New York Zoölogical Park. They were received by Director Townsend and Curator Beebe.

On Saturday an all-day excursion was made to the Lower Bay and ocean off Sandy Hook to see at close range the large flocks of Gulls gathered there.

The next meeting of the Union will be held in Washington, D. C., the date to be determined later.

JNO. H. SAGE,  
*Secretary.*