

FORTIETH STATED MEETING OF THE AMERICAN
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

BY T. S. PALMER

THE Fortieth Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was held at Chicago, Ill., October 23-27, 1922. This was the first time in its history that the Union ever met in the Middle West as all previous congresses, except a special one in 1903 and the annual meeting in 1915 both of which were held in San Francisco, have convened in cities on the Atlantic seaboard—at Cambridge, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington. In attendance the meeting of 1922 surpassed all expectations and proved to be one of the largest on record.

Attendance.—The list of Fellows present numbered 24 but for the first time included no Founders. Fewer Members than usual were present but the Associates more than brought up the average so that the total attendance of members of all classes was about 150. The Union had the pleasure of welcoming one of its Honorary Fellows, Dr. C. E. Hellmayr, who has recently taken up his residence in Chicago as Associate Curator of Birds in the Field Museum, and several others who came from a distance including Dr. T. G. Ahrens of Berlin, Germany; D. R. Dickey of Pasadena, Calif.; Mrs. J. W. Wheeler of Seattle, Wash.; Dr. W. H. Bergtold of Denver, Col.; Geo. F. Simmons of Austin, Texas; and J. H. Fleming, W. E. Saunders, P. A. Taverner, and Hoyes Lloyd from Canada.

Business Meetings.—The first day as usual was devoted to routine business which occupied two sessions of the Council beginning at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., a meeting of the Fellows at 4 p.m., and a meeting of the Fellows and Members at 8 p.m. all of which were held in the University Club of Chicago, 76 E. Monroe Street. At the meeting of the Fellows the single vacancy in the list was filled by the election of Dr. Arthur A. Allen of Ithaca, N. Y. At the evening meeting 32 Fellows and Members were present. Following the roll call and the reading and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting the Report of the Secretary was presented showing a total membership of about 1460. (For details see p. 115.)

The Report of the Treasurer was then presented and showed the finances of the Union in a very satisfactory condition.

The election of officers resulted in the reelection of the officers of 1922 as follows: President, Witmer Stone; Vice presidents, George Bird Grinnell and Jonathan Dwight; Secretary, T. S. Palmer; Treasurer, W. L. McAtee; Members of the Council, A. C. Bent, Ruthven Deane, Joseph Grinnell, Harry C. Oberholser, W. H. Osgood, Charles W. Richmond and T. S. Roberts.

On recommendation of the Council 6 Corresponding Fellows and 269 Associates were elected. This increase of 275 members was eleven more than were added in 1921 and with one exception the largest number ever elected. In the election of 5 members selected from among 1200 Associates, California was represented by Donald R. Dickey and Tracy I. Storer, Illinois by John T. Zimmer, Maine by Dr. Alfred O. Gross, and Pennsylvania by Wharton Huber. There are no longer any vacancies either in the list of Fellows or Honorary Fellows, only 9 among the Corresponding Fellows and 5 in the class of Members.

The Committee on Biography and Bibliography through its Chairman, Dr. Palmer, presented a brief report showing progress in the various lines of work. The main effort of the committee during the year has been concentrated on the preparation of the 'Ten Year Index of The Auk.' The slips containing the entries for each volume have been returned after being checked and corrected by the various members of the Index Committee and are now being arranged in a single alphabet. It is hoped that the material can be edited and prepared for publication before the next meeting.

Resolutions were adopted expressing the thanks of the Union to the President and Board of Trustees of the Field Museum of Natural History, to the Illinois Audubon Society, the Chicago Ornithological Society, and the Wilson Ornithological Club for courtesies extended to the members in connection with the meeting.

Public Meetings.—The meetings devoted to the presentation of scientific papers occupied three days, October 24, 25 and 26, from 9.45 A.M. to 5 P.M. with an hour and a half intermission for luncheon which was served each day in a room adjoining the lecture hall. All the sessions were held in the Field Museum of

Natural History, the general meetings in the small lecture hall, the session for technical papers in the botany lecture room on the third floor, and the moving picture session in the new auditorium known as the Simpson Theater. Owing to the length of the program it was necessary to extend the hours of meeting by beginning at 9.45 A. M. except on the first day, and to have two simultaneous sessions on Wednesday morning.

The meeting on Tuesday opened with an address of welcome by Mr. Stanley Field, President of the Board of Trustees of the Field Museum, and a brief response on behalf of the Union by the President, Dr. Witmer Stone. The first number on the program, 'A Sketch of the Wilson Ornithological Club,' was presented by the president of the Club, Prof. T. L. Hankinson, who, speaking in behalf of one of the hosts of the Union, made the paper not only an address of welcome but an appropriate review of the activities and publications of the Wilson Club since its organization. The two groups of papers of most general interest were those relating to habits of birds and to bird banding, on each of which several papers were submitted. Among the contributions on the habits of birds was Mrs. Nice's account of 'The 'Broken Wing' Ruse in Mourning Doves,' Miss Sherman's 'Home Life of the Chimney Swift,' Prof. Herrick's 'Nesting Habits of the White-headed Eagle,' Sheak's 'Observations on Struthious Birds,' Prof. H. B. Ward's 'Notes on the Pelicans of the Yellowstone National Park,' and Dr. Strong's 'Further Observations on the Habits and Behavior of the Herring Gull,' all of which dealt with interesting phases of the life history of important species.

The bird banding papers were grouped together at the morning session on Wednesday and occupied the entire program. The titles included Lincoln's 'Selection of Birds for Banding,' Lyon's 'Methods of Trapping,' Mrs. A. B. Harrington's 'Notes from the Records of the New England Bird Banding Association,' Baldwin's 'Experiments in Bird Banding,' and an interesting summary of bird banding work carried on at Rossitten on the Baltic Sea, presented by Dr. T. G. Ahrens of Berlin. Thus in the course of a single session members had an opportunity of hearing the most active advocates of bird banding in this country and discussing brief reports of banding operations in the Middle West, the New England

States and in Germany. Simultaneously with the bird banding session another session was held in another hall at which seven of the more technical papers were presented, two on bird measurements by Mrs. E. M. B. Reichenberger and Dr. W. H. Bergtold; 'Distribution of the Genus *Momotus*' by Dr. F. M. Chapman, 'Variations in the Structure of the Aftershaft' by W. DeW. Miller, 'A possible Mutant in the Genus *Buarremon*,' by Dr. Chapman, 'The Status and Distribution of *Larus fuscus* and *Larus cachinnans*' by Dr. Jonathan Dwight, and 'Notes on *Donacobius*' by Ludlow Griscom. The experiment of holding simultaneous sessions proved successful and made possible the presentation of several papers which otherwise could have been read only by title.

Among the contributions of more general interest were Bent's 'Impressions of Arizona,' Simmons' 'Sea Bird Sanctuaries of Texas,' Murphy's account of 'The Whitney South Sea Expedition' and Chapman's 'Summer in Ecuador.' All of these papers were illustrated by lantern slides and furnished not only an account of the birds but also a background of the scenery and characteristic vegetation of the regions described. An interesting discussion of the value of the bird census was presented in two papers by Miss May T. Cooke and Ludlow Griscom. The anatomical papers included Chapin's description of 'The Vocal Organs of the Prairie Chicken,' Miller's 'Variations in the Structure of the Aftershaft' and Dr. Casey Wood's 'Fundus Oculi of some South American Birds.' The exhibition of moving pictures formed the closing feature on the program on Thursday afternoon and attracted a large audience. These pictures included a film from the Biological Survey showing the bird life on the Farallone Islands, Calif., Dr. Roberts' 'Familiar Birds and Mammals in Motion Pictures,' a film loaned by the Miami Aquarium showing the 'Flamingoes of the Bahamas,' presented by L. A. Fuertes, and an interesting series of pictures of wild life in New Brunswick taken by D. R. Dickey showing particularly moose, deer, and the drumming of the Ruffed Grouse.

As a rule speakers were held to the limits assigned on the program. More time than usual was devoted to discussion and with two exceptions papers whose authors were not present were read only by title. As contributions to the programs increase in

number it is evident that greater reliance must be placed on simultaneous sessions or sectional meetings, and it may be necessary to shorten still more the time allotted to certain classes of papers. Judging by the experience of other organizations some of the longer papers can be condensed without serious loss and the time thus gained more profitably devoted to discussions which form one of the most important features of the meetings.

Other Events.—The social gatherings included a dinner for the bird banding members at the City Club, 315 Plymouth Court, on Tuesday evening, the annual dinner at the Auditorium Hotel on Wednesday evening, and a trip to the sand dune region of Lake Michigan in northwestern Indiana on Friday. At the Tuesday evening meeting methods of trapping and banding birds were discussed and plans made to organize a central bird banding association. The annual dinner was served in the banquet hall of the Auditorium Hotel and the members and guests numbered about 130. The entertainment was chiefly of a reminiscent character beginning with a few introductory remarks by the President. The Secretary then reviewed briefly some points of interest connected with former meetings and outings, exhibited a few slides of the principal group pictures of the Union, and pointed out some of the prominent members in each group. Dr. Chapman read from his diary a most interesting account of his first impressions of an A.O.U. meeting, describing in some detail the Washington meeting of 1886, and Mr. Fuertes closed with characteristic imitations of the notes of various birds.

The outing on Friday was one of the most successful and largely attended events of the kind ever enjoyed by the Union. Leaving Chicago at 9.15 A.M. via the South Shore Electric Lines the party travelled about 40 miles to Oak Hill station in Porter County, Ind., east of Miller. From this point the members walked about a mile and a half through the dunes to the south shore of Lake Michigan where, at the cabin of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Richardson, located at a beautiful spot overlooking the lake, a bountiful luncheon was served. Brief talks on the region were given by several of the members including a very instructive account of the flora by Prof. H. C. Cowles of the University of Chicago, who has made a speciality of the ecology of dune vegetation. Returning the

party took the train at Mineral Springs after having spent several hours in observing the birds and plants in the most interesting part of the sand dune region which forms the site of a proposed National or State Park. On Saturday several of the members made a trip to Desplaines, Ill., where through the courtesy of Mr. Ransom Kennicott, a nephew of Robert Kennicott, they were shown the old home of Robert Kennicott, the school which he attended, the farm where he made his early observations, and his grave in the cemetery at Arlington Heights. An opportunity was also afforded of inspecting the Cook County Forest Preserve and bird refuge of some 26,000 acres.

A very appropriate souvenir of the meeting was contributed by the Chicago Ornithological Society in the form of a pocket leaflet entitled 'A Guide to Trips about Chicago for Observing Birds.' Brief descriptions and directions were given for reaching favorable points from Waukegan south to the Indiana dunes and also several of the city parks. Similar souvenirs might well be provided for future meetings elsewhere.

Results.—The results of the meeting included a transfer of the business office of the Union from Philadelphia to Washington, where during the coming year it will be under the immediate charge of the Treasurer, and the impetus given to bird banding which resulted in the organization of the Inland Bird Banding Association. The field of activity of the new organization will include the Mississippi Valley from the Alleghanies to the Rocky Mountains and from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. The officers are: President, S. Prentiss Baldwin of Cleveland, O.; Vice president, Prof. Leon J. Cole of Madison, Wis.; Secretary, William I. Lyon of Waukegan, Ill.; and Treasurer, H. L. Stoddard of Milwaukee, Wis. A notable feature of the Chicago meeting was an exhibit of bird paintings and photographs, modeled after that held in Washington in 1920, which brought together a remarkable collection of pictures illustrating the best work of about 30 American artists. The paintings were admirably arranged in alcoves and on table cases in a special room of the museum and remained on exhibition during the month of November. Exhibitions of this kind stimulate the best work of artists and photographers and afford an unusual opportunity of studying recent progress in ornithological illustration.

The general concensus of opinion seemed to be that the Chicago meeting was highly successful not only in point of numbers but also in the unusual opportunity it afforded many members, heretofore known to each other only by reputation or correspondence, of becoming personally acquainted. The experiment of holding the sessions in October instead of November also seemed to meet with approval.

The Union has accepted the invitation of the Nuttall Ornithological Club to hold its next annual meeting in Cambridge, Mass., in the autumn of 1923. This meeting promises to be a notable one as the Nuttall Club will then celebrate the semi-centennial of its organization and the occasion will be an appropriate time for a review of some of the important ornithological events of the last half century.

PROGRAM.

(Papers are arranged in the order in which they were presented at the meeting. Those marked with an asterisk (*) were illustrated by lantern slides.)

TUESDAY MORNING.

1. A Sketch of the Wilson Ornithological Club. T. L. HANKINSON, Ypsilanti, Mich. (15 min.).
2. The "Broken Wing" Ruse in Mourning Doves. MRS. MARGARET M. NICE, Norman, Okla. (10 min.)
3. Some Observations on Struthious Birds. W. H. SHEAK, Philadelphia, Pa. (20 min.).
4. The Home Life of the Chimney Swift. MISS ALTHEA R. SHERMAN, National, Ia. (20 min.).
5. Bird Notes from the Tennessee Cumberlands. ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville, Tenn. (15 min.).
6. *A Contribution to the Home Life and Economic Status of the Screech Owl. ARTHUR A. ALLEN, Ithaca, N. Y. (30 min.).

TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

7. *An Eagle Observatory. FRANCIS H. HERRICK, Cleveland, O. (15 min.)
8. *Nest-Life of the White-headed Eagle—Late Phase. FRANCIS H. HERRICK, Cleveland, O. (15 min.).
9. *Notes on the Pelicans of the Yellowstone National Park. HENRY B. WARD, Urbana, Ill. (20 min.).
10. *Some Phases of Bird Photography. A. H. CORDIER, Kansas City, Mo. (40 min.).
11. *Impressions of Arizona. A. C. BENT, Taunton, Mass. (60 min.).

WEDNESDAY MORNING—BIRD BANDING SESSION

12. What Iowa is doing to promote Bird Study. GEORGE BENNETT, Iowa City, Ia. (15 min.).
13. Selection of Birds for Banding. F. C. LINCOLN, Washington, D. C. (20 min.).
14. A few Notes from the Records of the New England Bird Banding Association. MRS. A. B. HARRINGTON, Lincoln, Mass. (15 min.).
15. Methods of Trapping, Experiences or General Practice of Bird Banding. W. I. LYON, Waukegan, Ill. (20 min.).
16. *Bird Banding and Bird Migration at Rossitten on the Baltic Sea. T. G. AHRENS, Berlin (30 min.).
17. *Experiments in Bird Banding. S. PRENTISS BALDWIN, Cleveland, O. (40 min.).

WEDNESDAY MORNING—TECHNICAL SESSION.

18. Remarks on Methods of Measuring Birds. MRS. E. M. B. REICHENBERGER, New York (15 min.).
19. *The Comparative Value of Bird Measurements. W. H. BERGTOLD, Denver, Colo. (15 min.).
20. *Distribution of the Genus *Momotus*. Illustrated by maps. FRANK M. CHAPMAN, New York (20 min.).
21. A possible Mutant in the Genus *Buarremon*. Illustrated by maps and specimens. FRANK M. CHAPMAN, New York (10 min.).
22. Variations in the Structure of the Aftershaft and their Taxonomic Value. W. DE W. MILLER, New York (20 min.).
23. Notes on *Donacobius*. Illustrated by specimens. LUDLOW GRISCOM, New York (10 min.).
24. Status and Distribution of *Larus fuscus* and *Larus cochinnans*. Illustrated by specimens. JONATHAN DWIGHT, New York (20 min.).

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

25. The Great Plains as a Breeding Ground for Water Fowl. HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, Washington, D. C. (15 min.).
26. *The Sea Bird Sanctuaries of Texas. GEO. FINLAY SIMMONS, Austin, Texas (50 min.).
27. *The Whitney South Sea Expedition of the American Museum of Natural History. ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, New York (30 min.).
28. *Further Observations on the Habits and Behavior of the Herring Gull. R. M. STRONG, Chicago, Ill. (25 min.).

THURSDAY MORNING.

29. What can be learned from a Bird Census. MISS MAY T. COOKE, Washington, D. C. (20 min.).
30. The Role of the Bird Census. LUDLOW GRISCOM, New York (20 min.).

31. On a Collection of Birds from the Cape Verde Islands. ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, New York (15 min.).
32. Is Photo-periodism a Factor in Bird Migration? C. W. G. EIFRIG, River Forest, Ill. (15 min.).
33. *The Vocal Organs of the Prairie Chicken. JAMES P. CHAPIN, New York (15 min.).
34. *The Fundus Oculi of some South American Birds and Reptiles. CASEY A. WOOD, Chicago, Ill. (25 min.).
35. Notes on Off-Shore Atlantic Birds. J. T. NICHOLS, New York (15 min.).
36. Present Day Tendencies and Opportunities in Ornithology. WITMER STONE, Philadelphia, Pa. (Read by title.)
37. *Bird Arrivals in Relation to Sunspots. RALPH E. DE LURY, Ottawa, Canada. (Read by title.)
38. The Influence of the Southwestern Deserts upon the Avifauna of California. A. B. HOWELL, Pasadena, Calif. (Read by title.)
39. Laying Cycles in Birds. LEON J. COLE, Madison, Wis. (Read by title.)

THURSDAY AFTERNOON—MOTION PICTURES.

40. *A Summer in Ecuador. FRANK M. CHAPMAN, New York (50 min.).
41. The Farallones. (Exhibition of film of the Biological Survey.) W. L. McATEE, Washington, D. C. (20 min.).
42. Familiar Birds and Mammals in Motion Pictures. THOS. S. ROBERTS, Minneapolis, Minn. (45 min.).
43. Flamingoes of the Bahamas. (Film loaned by the Miami Aquarium.) L. A. FUERTES, Ithaca, N. Y. (15 min.).
44. A Pre-view of New Brunswick Wild Life in Motion Pictures. DONALD R. DICKEY, Pasadena, Calif. (60 min.).

FELLOWS AND MEMBERS PRESENT.

FELLOWS.—A. A. Allen, W. B. Barrows, A. C. Bent, W. H. Bergtold, F. M. Chapman, Ruthven Deane, Jonathan Dwight, J. H. Fleming, E. H. Forbush, L. A. Fuertes, Lynds Jones, W. L. McAtee, R. C. Murphy, H. C. Oberholser, W. H. Osgood, T. S. Palmer, C. W. Richmond, T. S. Roberts, John H. Sage, W. E. Saunders, Witmer Stone, P. A. Taverner, W. E. C. Todd and Otto Widmann—Total 24.

HONORARY FELLOW.—C. E. Hellmayr.

MEMBERS.—S. P. Baldwin, A. W. Butler, D. R. Dickey, B. T. Gault, Ludlow Griscom, Harry Harris, F. H. Herrick, F. C. Lincoln, J. T. Nichols, S. N. Rhoads, C. H. Rogers, Miss A. R. Sherman, T. C. Stephens, R. M. Strong, M. W. Swenk, C. A. Wood, and A. H. Wright—Total 17.

ELECTION OF FELLOWS, MEMBERS, AND ASSOCIATES.

FELLOWS:

Dr. Arthur Augustus Allen, Ithaca, N. Y.

CORRESPONDING FELLOWS:

Dr. Arthur Gardiner Butler, 124 Beckenham Road, Beckenham, Kent, England.

A. H. Chisholm, Daily Mail Office, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

Dr. William David MacGillivray, Broken Hill, New South Wales, Australia.

Dr. Erwin Streseman, Königl. Museum für Naturkunde, Invalidenstrasse 43, Berlin, Germany.

Dr. Arthur Landsborough Thomson, 9 Addison Gardens, Kensington, London, W. 14, England.

Dr. Claude Buchanan Ticehurst, 121 London Road North, Lowestoft, England.

MEMBERS:

Donald Ryder Dickey, San Rafael Heights, Pasadena, Calif.

Dr. Alfred Otto Gross, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine.

Wharton Huber, 225 St. Marks Square, Philadelphia, Pa.

Tracy Irwin Storer, Museum Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, Calif.

John Todd Zimmer, Field Museum Natural History, Chicago, Ill.

ASSOCIATES:

The Associates elected number 269. The names of those who qualify will appear in the annual Directory of Members in 'The Auk' for April and consequently are omitted here to save space.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

BY T. S. PALMER

FIVE years having intervened since the election of the present incumbent as Secretary of the Union it is fitting that a brief statement should be submitted showing the progress during this time.

Since 1917 we have passed through a period of war and reconstruction, a widespread epidemic of influenza which prevented the holding of one of the regular meetings, and have encountered unusual obstacles in publication due to strikes, high cost of paper and printing. During all this time the Union has maintained its work with unimpaired vigor, has increased the size of its journal without raising its dues, and has materially enlarged its membership and resources. Since 1917 it has increased its membership from 891 to about 1457 and its invested funds from about \$3600