

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

BY T. S. PALMER.

Membership.—During the past spring the membership list of the Union has undergone a drastic revision and in consequence the total number of members is not as large as would be the case under ordinary circumstances. The Union has members in every State and Territory and in the Philippine Islands, and also in a number of foreign countries and colonies in North America, the West Indies, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia. Following is a tabular statement showing the figures for the present membership in comparison with those for last year and ten years ago.

Year	Fellows	Retired Fellows	Honorary Fellows	Corre- sponding Fellows	Members	Associates	Total
1914	50	4	14	57	74	902	1101
1923	49	5	23	87	95	1393	1652
1924	50	5	23	89	96	1374	1637

The gain during the year included the election at the last annual meeting of 12 Corresponding Fellows and 172 Associates. This apparent increase of 184 was offset by losses of 21 by death, 25 by resignation, 27 by failure to qualify, and a considerable number by delinquency.

In revising the list published in 'The Auk,' for April 1924, 176 names were dropped including those due to death, resignation or delinquency. The deaths included those of 1 Honorary Fellow, 6 Corresponding Fellows, 1 Member and 13 Associates.

Activities of Members Abroad.—During the year 1924, a number of our members visited foreign countries or engaged in field work abroad. The South Pacific, Tropical America and Africa have been the scenes of labor of several collecting expeditions. The American Museum has continued its explorations in the South Pacific where Mr. R. H. Beck has been collecting recently, with Suva, Fiji, as a base of operations.

The expedition of the Cleveland Museum in charge of Mr. Geo. F. Simmons after a somewhat protracted and stormy voyage

across the Atlantic, collected on the Cape Verde Islands and has recently been working on the adjacent coast of West Africa.

Dr. Frank M. Chapman and Mr. Frederick C. Walcott made an extended trip to southern South America, visiting a number of points in Chile, Bolivia, and Argentina.

In tropical America, Dr. Paul Bartsch has again visited San Domingo, Mr. Henry Malleis returned last spring from explorations in search of the Ocellated Turkey and other game birds for introduction in Florida and has again gone to Honduras where he is continuing his work. Mr. Ludlow Griscom has worked in some of the lesser known regions of Panama and Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson visited both Panama and the Canal Zone in the interest of bird protection.

Mr. George Stuart, 3d and Dr. Casey Wood have visited England and the latter is now preparing for an extended tour to Ceylon, while Dr. Spencer Trotter spent some time in Iceland and Scotland.

Africa has been the scene of activity of several members. Dr. John C. Phillips has recently returned from an extended trip to British East Africa, Uganda, and other points in the interior of Africa. Mr. Alfred M. Collins spent some time in the latter region and secured two fine gorillas. Dr. Herbert Friedmann, after making investigations on Cowbirds in southern Texas, has arranged for a broader extension of his studies on parasitism in South Africa.

In the Orient, Dr. Hugh M. Smith has been engaged in making a preliminary fisheries reconnaissance for the Siamese Government. He returned for a brief visit last summer, bringing with him a small collection of birds and has now resumed his fisheries work in Siam. In China, Mr. N. Gist Gee is still at Peking and Dr. R. P. Metcalfe is at Nanking.

Bequests and Contributions.—The by-laws impose on the Secretary the pleasant duty of acknowledging the contributions received by the Union, which during the year 1924 have been notable. The bequest of \$2000 under the will of William Brewster payable after the death of Mrs. Brewster was received in May and deposited with other permanent funds in the custody of the Investment Trustees. This is the largest bequest that the Union has thus far received and it is hoped it may be only a forerunner of others

which will express in permanent form the active interest of the donors in the study and preservation of birds. During the year a gift of \$1000 was received from a friend of the Union who insisted that his identity should not be revealed. One half of this generous gift is to be placed in the publication fund and the other half is intended for a 'Students Fund' the income of which is to be used primarily under direction of the Council in meeting the dues of students working their way through College who find it impossible to keep up their membership. In the past the Union has lost a number of young and enthusiastic students who felt unable to carry the dues in addition to their college expenses and this fund will make it possible to retain such members during the years when they are likely to receive the greatest benefit from their association with the Union.

The Journal.—A revised list of complete sets of 'The Auk' was published in the January number. This list showed a total of 203 of which 87 were in public libraries or museums. Since the publication of the list renewed interest has been manifested in completing sets especially for college and museum libraries. As a result 19 additions have been made bringing the number of library sets up to 97 and the total to 222. In addition several other sets have been completed to a point where only half a dozen volumes or less are now lacking and some of these may be secured in the near future. It may be recalled that when this investigation was begun five years ago, only about 150 complete sets were known. Since then the increase has been nearly 50 per cent.

The Union has now reached a point where it no longer has any complete sets of 'The Auk' for sale, and it is doubtful if more than one or two additional sets can be completed from the stock on hand owing to the exhaustion of several of the early numbers. Under these circumstances it seems less important to maintain the stock of duplicates in the hope of making up complete sets than to place them whenever possible in college libraries, where they will be bound and permanently preserved.

Museum collections.—Last year attention was called to the fact that the number of genera unrepresented in any American museum was approximately 130. Notable additions to the collections in Cambridge, New York and Washington have now made a sub-

stantial reduction in the number. During the coming year it is hoped to publish an annotated list of the genera which are not contained in any of the museums of this country.

Papers of the Cambridge Meeting.—Rather more than the usual number of papers presented at the last annual meeting ('Auk,' XLI, pp. 131-133), have been published this year in 'The Auk.' These include No. 2, Palmer's 'Looking Backward,' No. 3, Townsend's 'Mimicry of Voice in Birds,' No. 11, Herrick's, 'Eagle Observatory,' No. 20, Mrs. Naumburg's 'Remarks in *Thraupis sayaca*,' No. 23, Chapman's 'Criteria for Determination of Subspecies,' No. 32, Brandt's 'Nesting of the Short-tailed Hawk in Florida,' No. 39, Bergtold's 'Colorado Anatidae,' and No. 41, 'Kirtland's Warbler in Its Summer Home.'

DECEASED MEMBERS, 1923-1924

COUNT ADELARDO TOMMASO SALVADORI PALEOTTI,¹ Honorary Fellow, died in his 89th year at Turin, Italy, Oct. 9, 1923.

MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN,² Founder and Corresponding Fellow, died in his 80th year at Boston, Mass., Feb. 10, 1924.

CHARLES CHUBB,³ Corresponding Fellow, died in his 73d year at London, England, June 25, 1924.

HENRY HAVEBESHAM GODWIN-AUSTIN,⁴ Corresponding Fellow, died in his 90th year at Godalming, Surrey, England, Dec. 2, 1923.

WILLIAM HENRY DUDLEY LE SOUËF,⁵ Corresponding Fellow, died in his 67th year at Melbourne, Australia, Sept. 6, 1923.

WILLIAM ROBERT OGILVIE-GRANT,⁶ Corresponding Fellow, aged 61, died at Farley Cottage, near Reading, England, July 26, 1924.

VICTOR RITTER VON TSCHUSI ZU SCHMIDHOFFEN, Corresponding Fellow, aged 76, died at Villa Tannenhof, Salzburg, Austria, Mar. 5, 1924.

HERLUF WINGE,⁷ Corresponding Fellow, aged 66, died at Copenhagen, Denmark, Nov. 10, 1923.

DEAN CONANT WORCESTER,⁸ Corresponding Fellow, died in his 58th year at Manila, P. I., May 2, 1924.

NED HOLLISTER, Member, aged 48, died at Washington, D. C., Nov. 3, 1924.

¹ For obituary notice see 'Auk,' XLI, pp. 384-385.

² " " " " " " pp. 643-644.

³ " " " " " " pp. 646-647.

⁴ " " " " " " pp. 512-513.

⁵ " " " " " " pp. 385-386.

⁶ " " " " " " pp. 644-645.

⁷ " " " " " XLII, pp.

⁸ " " " " " XLI, pp. 645-646.

- JOHN LEONARD BAER, Associate, died in his 45th year in southeastern Panama, May 28, 1924.
- MRS. WILLIAM BREWSTER, Associate, died at Boston, Mass., Mar. 3, 1924.
- NAPOLEON ALEXANDER COMEAU,¹ Associate, aged 75, died at Godbout, P. Q., Nov. 17, 1923.
- MRS. A. P. L. DULL, Associate, died at Harrisburg, Pa., Aug. 9, 1924.
- AUGUST FREDERICK EIMBECK, Associate, aged 82, died at New Haven, Mo., Sept. 1, 1924.
- CHARLES FRANCIS JENNEY,² Associate, aged 63, died at Boston, Mass., Nov. 29, 1923.
- REGINALD MANSFIELD JOHNSON, Associate, aged 47, died at Boston, Mass., Feb. 11, 1923.
- MRS. WILLIAM HENRY HERRICK, Associate, of Topsfield, Mass., died 1923.
- R. WALTER MILLS, Associate, died at St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 16, 1924.
- MRS. CHARLES E. RAYMOND, Associate, of Hinsdale, Ill., died Feb. 5, 1924.
- CLARENCE SACKETT, Associate of Rye, N. Y., died May 1923.

NOTES ON THE TAXONOMY OF ARDEA CANADENSIS LINNÉ.

BY JAMES L. PETERS.

PRACTICALLY all modern ornithologists are now agreed that the Little Brown Crane (*Megalornis canadensis*),³ the Sandhill Crane (*Megalornis mexicana*)⁴ and the Cuban Sandhill Crane (*Megalornis nesiotis*)⁵ differ from one another only subspecifically. This has been clearly pointed out by Oberholser⁶ and by Hartert.⁷

There remains, however, an additional form to be described and a nomenclatural change to be effected, both of which it is the purpose of this paper to accomplish.

Ardea mexicana Müller has long been accepted as the proper name of the Sandhill Crane, but as Dr. Hartert (*op.cit.*) has pointed out, the name is unidentifiable. The original description reads:

¹ For obituary notice see 'Auk,' XLI, pp. 387-388.

² " " " " " " " " pp. 386-387.

³ *Grus canadensis* Linné, Syst. Nat. ed. 10, 1, 1758, p. 141. ex Edwards, Nat. Hist. Birds, p. 133, pl. 133 (Hudson Bay).

⁴ *Ardea (grus) mexicana* P. L. S. Müller, Nat. Syst. Suppl. 1776, p. 110 (Mexico).

⁵ *Grus nesiotis* Bangs and Zappey, Amer. Nat. 29, 1905, p. 193 (LaVega, Isle of Pines).

⁶ 'Auk,' 38, 1921, pp. 80-82.

⁷ Vög. Pal. Faun. 3, 1921, p. 1818.