

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

BY T. S. PALMER.

THE Union closes its 45th year in a prosperous and fairly satisfactory condition as to its membership and general activities.

Membership.—The total membership is 31 less than reported last year, notwithstanding the fact that 188 new Associates were elected at the last annual meeting. Losses due to death, resignation, and delinquency cause a serious turn-over each year and prevent rapid increase in the membership. The members are distributed in all the States and Territories except Hawaii, in the West Indies, and in a number of foreign countries and colonies on all of the continents. The following tabulated statement shows the figures for the present membership in comparison with those of last year and of 10 years ago:

		<i>Hon-</i>		<i>Corre-</i>			
	<i>Fellows</i>	<i>Retired</i>	<i>orary</i>	<i>sponding</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>Associates</i>	<i>Total</i>
		<i>Fellows</i>	<i>Fellows</i>	<i>Fellows</i>			
1918	50	2	15	56	80	750	953
1927	49	5	23	92	103	1500	1772
1928	49	5	22	88	103	1474	1741

The losses by death were greater than ever before and included those of 1 Fellow, 1 Retired Fellow, 2 Honorary Fellows, 4 Corresponding Fellows, 2 Members, and 23 Associates—a total of 33.

Notwithstanding the wide distribution of its membership, there is still a large area with which the Union, unfortunately, is not in contact, i. e.—eastern Europe and Siberia, comprising possibly one-third of the Palearctic region. Since the World War much activity in zoological exploration has been manifested by the Soviet Governments, and no doubt some ornithological work is being carried on. Important ornithological collections are located at Leningrad, Moscow, Kharkov, Tiflis in Georgia, and Tashkent in Turkestan, while the University of Tomsk is the home of the Siberian Ornithological Society and the place of publication of the Siberian ornithological journal 'Uragus.' During the past year relations have been established with the Department of Zoology

of the Mid-Asiatic University at Tashkent, and in the near future it is hoped that similar relations may be extended to Tomsk and to some of the ornithologists who are working in other parts of Siberia.

Activities of Members Abroad.—The past year has been characterized by unusual activity in expeditions from the principal museums and in the organization of these expeditions and in actual field work, members of the Union have taken an active part. Early in the year the Roraima Expedition of the American Museum returned from British Guiana with 1,250 birds collected by T. D. Carter and G. H. H. Tate. In April, Dr. Chapman returned after a third season spent at Barro Colorado in the Canal Zone, where he devoted special attention to the nesting habits of the *Oropendola*. Incidentally it may be mentioned that part of the results of his work at Barro Colorado are now on exhibition at the American Museum in a magnificent habitat group showing some of the more conspicuous of the 220 species known from that island. In June the American Museum Tanganyika expedition left for East Africa accompanied by Allen L. Moses, a bird collector formerly with the 'Blossom' expedition. This party expects to pay special attention to the avifauna near Lake Tanganyika and adjoining highlands of the Belgian Congo. Another important African expedition is that in charge of the well known collector Correia which has been working on San Thomé Island in the Gulf of Guinea. On July 21 the Tyler Duida Expedition sailed from New York for Para, Brazil, expecting to proceed up the Amazon to Manaos, thence via the Rio Negro to the northern border of the Amazon basin and to Mt. Duida, Venezuela. In Brazil, Emil Kaempfer is still in the field and much valuable material has been received as a result of his work. The Sanford-Whitney expedition in the South Pacific is actively at work and recently Lee S. Crandall left for New Guinea to collect birds for the New York Zoological Society and the Museum.

The Carnegie Museum has undertaken a three-year survey of the avifauna of Venezuela, a project in charge of Ernest G. Holt, who has recently left to take up the work. Early in the year the Denver Museum despatched an expedition in charge of its director, J. D. Figgins, to conduct explorations in British Guiana.

The Museum of Comparative Zoology was also active in the tropics last spring with an expedition to Spanish Honduras in charge of Jas. L. Peters and Outram Bangs, while the director, Dr. Thomas Barbour, visited Barro Colorado. The Philadelphia Academy was represented in the West Indies by James Bond, who made an extensive collection in Haiti and is now collecting in St. Lucia and St. Vincent. Since June the Public Museum of Milwaukee has had an expedition at work in British East Africa, where it is represented by O. J. Gromme. The National Museum has received a number of birds from Dr. Hugh M. Smith in Siam, from D. C. Graham in Sze Chuen, and also from the Rock Expedition in China. The Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia expects soon to receive specimens from R. M. de Schauensee, who left in October to continue his work in northern Siam. The Field Museum is preparing to dispatch another expedition to Asia, this time to Burma and the mountains of eastern India and will number among its members Josselyn Van Tyne as ornithologist.

As usual, several members visited Europe. Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson and Dr. John C. Phillips were the American representatives at the International Conference for Bird Protection held in Geneva in May. After the meeting Dr. Pearson visited France, Holland, Belgium and England, and Dr. Phillips spent several months in northern Ireland. During the summer Dr. L. C. Sanford visited a number of museums in western Europe in search of specimens of birds belonging to genera not previously represented in the American Museum collection. Charles H. Rogers spent some time at several European museums and Mrs. Naumburg also spent some time on the continent. Austin Paul Smith is still continuing his work in Costa Rica and A. W. Anthony, who has been collecting for the past three years in Guatemala, has brought his work to a close and has returned to the United States.

Biography and Bibliography.—Considerable attention has been given during the year to the subject of bibliography. The Secretary has been engaged for nearly eight months in reading proof on the 'Ten-year Index to The Auk' and has been assisted by Charles W. Richmond and Frank Bond, the latter undertaking

the laborious work of examining and checking some 8,400 cross references. The Secretary has also published a paper containing biographical notes on nearly 200 persons whose names are connected with the nomenclature of California birds. Several bibliographies have appeared during the year, including an excellent bibliography of the publications of Edward Howe Forbush issued on the occasion of his 70th birthday, and Miss Phoebe Knappen's 'Suggestions for a Bibliography on Avian Longevity' and on the 'Weight of Birds.' Members of the Committee assisted in completing authors' names in several other bibliographies including those in the last volume of Bent's 'Life Histories of North American Birds,' and Mrs. Bailey's 'Birds of New Mexico,' and Lincoln's 'Bibliography of Bird Banding.'

Museum Collections.—Reference has frequently been made in recent reports to the work of the Committee on Biography and Bibliography in collecting information regarding the more important public and private bird collections. This work has been continued during the year and part of the data tabulated. About 100 of the largest collections have been divided into four groups, viz.:

Class A, collections containing more than 200,000 specimens.

Class B, collections containing from 100,000 to 200,000 specimens.

Class C, collections containing from 50,000 to 100,000 specimens.

Class D, collections containing less than 50,000 specimens.

Dr. Hellmayr's account of the collection in the Munich Museum presented at the last meeting of the Union has been published. Valuable data were secured through Dr. Sushkin regarding the collection at Leningrad and through Dr. D. N. Kashkarov regarding the Zarudny collection at Tashkent, Turkestan. Through the activity of the larger museums which maintain world-wide collections of birds, the number of genera included in Sharpe's 'Hand List' still unrepresented in American museums has been reduced to about 50.

Type Specimens.—The recent publication by W. E. C. Todd of the list of types in the Carnegie Museum and the completion by Dr. Ernst Hartert of a similar list for the Tring Museum has focused attention on the importance of such records. Types

constitute the basis of descriptions of new species and naturally are among the most highly prized possessions of any museum. The Carnegie Museum has about 300 types of birds, the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology about 100, the Museum of Comparative Zoology about 1100, and the U. S. National Museum about 1300. The Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, in 1899, set the example of publishing a list of the types of birds in its general collection and some years later a list of those in the Gould collection of Australian birds. There are some prospects that this list will be brought down to date in the near future. The Museum of Comparative Zoology and the U. S. National Museum have for some years been working on lists of the types in their collections. Among foreign museums, lists of types in the Turin Museum were published by Count Salvadori in 1881, and of the Stockholm Museum by Dr. Lönnberg in 1926. The Museum in Stockholm has 283 types, that in Munich about 400, that in Turin about 480, the Berlin Museum about 2,000, and the Tring Museum about 2,000. Thus, in the ten museums above mentioned are nearly 9,000 types but detailed lists have been published for less than half this number. It is highly desirable that the larger museums, both in this country and abroad, which have not already done so, should publish information regarding the types under their charge. In some cases species are represented by more than a single specimen and such co-types are as important as the types. Apparently the Turin Museum is one of the few institutions which has listed its co-types as well as its types. In many cases, particularly some of the older species, the types have been lost and consequently are no longer available for study; in such cases topotypes or specimens collected at the original locality should be obtained whenever practicable. In view of the basic importance of such material it is somewhat surprising that more attention has not been given to the publication of information concerning types.

Papers of the Washington Meeting.—Apparently only about one-fifth of the 66 papers presented at the last annual meeting have appeared in print, nine in 'The Auk' and two elsewhere. Those which appeared in 'The Auk' include:

No. 2. Chapman's 'In Memoriam—Louis Agassiz Fuertes.'

No. 7. Casey Wood's 'Plea for the Continuation of Coues' Bibliography of Ornithology.'

No. 25. Anderson's 'The Work of Bernhard Hantzsch in Arctic Ornithology.'

No. 29. Mrs. Naumburg's 'Further Remarks on Kaempfer's Collections in Eastern Brazil.'

No. 42. Bailey's 'Exhibition of a Hybrid Scaled \times Gambel's Quail from New Mexico.'

No. 46. Bowen's 'Nesting and Local Distribution of the House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon aedon*).'

No. 48. Friedmann's 'Origin of Host Specificity in the Parasitic Habits in the *Cuculidae*.'

No. 56. Bergtold's 'More Colorado Ducks.'

No. 59. Hellmayr's 'Ornithological Collection of the Zoological Museum in Munich.'

Papers published elsewhere include:

No. 8. Stiles' 'What Constitutes Publication,' in 'Science,' Vol. LXVII, pp. 471-478, May 11, 1928.

No. 13. Kendeigh and Baldwin's 'Development of Temperature Control in Nestling House Wrens,' in *Am. Nat.*, Vol. LXII, pp. 249-278, May, 1928.

DECEASED MEMBERS.

LEVERETT MILLS LOOMIS,¹ Fellow, aged 70, died at San Francisco, Calif Jan. 12, 1928.

NEWBOLD TROTTER LAWRENCE, Retired Fellow, aged 73, died at Antwerp, Belgium, Aug. 14, 1928.

HANS FRIEDRICH GADOW,² Honorary Fellow, aged 73, died at Cambridge, England, May 16, 1928.

PETER PETROVICH SUSHKIN,³ Honorary Fellow, died in his 61st year, at Kislovodsk, Caucasus, Russia, Sept. 17, 1928.

HARRY BALCH BAILEY,⁴ Founder and Corresponding Fellow, aged 75, died at Newport News, Va., Feb. 10, 1928.

JAMES EDMUND HARTING,⁵ Corresponding Fellow, died in his 87th year at Weybridge, England, Jan. 16, 1928.

¹ For obituary notice see 'Auk,' XLV, pp. 263-264, XLVI, pp. 1-13.

² " " " " " " pp. 538-539.

³ " " " " " " XLVI, p. 149.

⁴ " " " " " " XLV, pp. 264-265.

⁵ " " " " " " pp. 265-266.

- MRS. ANNIE CONSTANCE MEINERTZHAGEN,¹ Corresponding Fellow, aged 39, died at Swordale, Ross-shire, Scotland, July 6, 1928.
- COUNT OTTO VON ZEDLITZ UND TRUTZSCHLER,² Corresponding Fellow, died in his 54th year at Varberg near Toftult, Sweden, Dec. 4, 1927.
- WILLIAM LEON DAWSON,³ Member, aged 55, died at Columbus, Ohio, April 30, 1928.
- BRADSHAW HALL SWALES,⁴ Member, died in his 53rd year at Washington, D. C., Jan. 23, 1928.
- CHARLES PONS AIMAR, Associate, aged 54, died at Charleston, S. C., Dec. 1, 1927.
- GEORGE BENNETT,⁵ Associate, died in his 77th year at McGregor, Iowa, Aug. 18, 1928.
- JOHN BLISS BRAINERD, Associate, aged 67, died at Middlebury, Vt., Nov. 21, 1926.
- MRS. LIDIAN EMERSON BRIDGE, Life Associate, aged 69, died at West Medford, Mass., Oct. 22, 1928.
- HARRY ALVIN CASH, Associate, died in his 58th year at Providence, R. I., Jan. 11, 1928.
- JOSIAH HUNTOON CLARK, Associate, died in his 55th year at Paterson, N. J., May 7, 1928.
- WARREN HANDEL CUDWORTH, Associate, of Norwood, Mass., aged 50, died Jan. 13, 1927.
- JOHN SMITH DEXTER,⁶ Associate, of Rio Piedras, Porto Rico, died in his 43rd year, Apr. 19, 1928.
- HENRY LANE ENO, Associate, aged 57, died at Montacute House, County Somerset, England, Sept. 10, 1928.
- ROBERT LEROY JACKSON, Associate, aged 25, died at Ohio, Ill., Oct. 18, 1928.
- ALBERT LANO,⁷ Associate, died in his 69th year, at Fayetteville, Ark., July 3, 1928.
- JOSEPH LYNCH, Associate, died in his 65th year, at Perth Amboy, N. J., Dec. 23, 1926.
- FRANKLIN H. MOSHER, Associate, of Melrose Highlands, Mass., died Apr. 18, 1925.
- MISS LUCY FITCH MYERS, Associate, aged 76, died at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Oct. 30, 1928.
- KARL ALBRECHT PEMBER,⁸ Associate, aged 48, died at Tucson, Ariz., Jan. 11, 1928.

¹ For obituary notice see 'Auk,' XLV, p. 539.
² " " " " " " p. 418.
³ " " " " " " p. 417.
⁴ " " " " " " pp. 264, 321-329.
⁵ " " " " " " p. 540.
⁶ " " " " " " p. 540.
⁷ " " " " " " pp. 540-541.
⁸ " " " " " " p. 268.

FRANK OTIS PILLSBURY, Associate, aged 75, died at Walpole, Mass., Aug. 16, 1927.

CHARLES SHELDON,¹ Associate, died in his 61st year, at Kedgemakoogee, Nova Scotia, Sept. 21, 1928.

MISS MARY IVINS TUFTS, Associate, of Lynn, Mass., died Oct. 28, 1928.

GEORGE ARTHUR WEBSTER, Associate, of Brattleboro, Vt., aged 63, died July 31, 1928.

GEORGE RIVERS WHITE, Associate, aged 71, died at Ottawa, Canada, Nov. 27, 1927.

WILLIAM AUGUSTUS WHITE, Associate, of Brooklyn, N. Y., died May 14, 1927.

MISS MARY ANGELINA WRIGHT, Associate, of Cambridge, Mass., died in her 79th year, Aug. 25, 1928.

LUTHER EVERET WYMAN,² Associate, aged 58, died at Los Angeles, Calif., Jan. 7, 1928.

¹ For obituary notice see 'Auk,' XLVI, p. 150.

" " " " " XLV, pp. 266-267.