

NOTES AND NEWS

The Eighty-fifth Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was held at Toronto, Ontario, 21-25 August 1967. Eugene Eisenmann was elected Second Vice-President and Oliver L. Austin, Jr., was elected Editor of *The Auk*. Continued in service were the following: Harold F. Mayfield (President), John W. Aldrich (becomes First Vice-President), L. Richard Mewaldt (Secretary), Burt L. Monroe, Sr. (Treasurer), and Robert W. Storer (Editor of A.O.U. *Ornithological Monographs*). The following were elected to special classes of membership: Georges P. Dementiev, *Honorary Fellow*; Alvarez del Toro, *Corresponding Fellow*; William R. Dawson, Richard F. Johnston, James R. King, Robert A. McCabe, *Fellows*; Jon C. Barlow, William H. Drury, Jr., Terrell H. Hamilton, Thomas A. Imhof, Marvin P. Kahl, James A. Mulligan, Ralph J. Raitt, Neal G. Smith, Walter R. Spofford, Robert C. Stein, Allen M. Stokes, George C. West, Francis S. L. Williamson, Edwin O. Willis, *Elective Members*.

W. E. Clyde Todd received the Brewster Memorial Medal and Award. Elected to three-year terms on the A.O.U. Council were John Davis, Thomas R. Howell, and Robert M. Mengel, Pierce Brodkorb being elected to a one-year term on the same Council. A complete account of the meeting will appear in a subsequent issue of *The Auk*.

The first Arthur A. Allen Award of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (see *Auk*, 84: 167, 1967) was made on 15 September 1967 to Roger Tory Peterson at a ceremony at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

The following news release is so unusual in nature that it seems appropriate to reproduce it in part. It is from the Public Affairs Department of the Weyerhaeuser Company, a large timber producing firm, and reads as follows:

"Protection and preservation of American bald eagles is the objective of a new woods operating policy adopted by Weyerhaeuser Company.

"Classification of the nation's symbolic bird as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service led to this special effort to safeguard eagles and their nesting sites on the company's tree farms in Oregon and Western Washington. . . . emphasis will be placed on locating and protecting active and recently active nest trees. Weyerhaeuser forest engineers will map known nest locations on company lands and report them to the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Additional nests located in the future will be recorded in the same way.

"In the company's 2.8 million acres of western tree farms there are known to be upwards of half a dozen pairs of nesting eagles. Under the new policy nest trees will be specially protected. Woods operations in their vicinity will be curtailed as much as possible to avoid disturbing the birds during the period when nests are in use. Nesting sites will not be made public for the same reason.

"In another phase of eagle conservation about 65,000 hunting maps being distributed this fall by Weyerhaeuser Company and other forest products concerns in Western Washington and Oregon will contain information on how to identify eagles and caution against shooting them. Molesting or destroying eagles is a federal crime with maximum penalties of a \$500 fine and six months in jail, but offenses still occur. Immature bald eagles resemble large, brown hawks and lack the white head and tail of adult birds."

Fellows and Elective Members of the A.O.U. are reminded that nominations for election of Fellows (by Fellows only) and Elective Members (by Fellows and Elective Members) must be in the hands of the Secretary 90 days prior to the annual meeting. Thus nominations, with supporting data, must reach the Secretary prior to **18 March 1968**. Appropriate forms may be obtained from the Secretary.

The Eighty-sixth Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held 18-23 June 1968 at College (Fairbanks), Alaska, at the University of Alaska. Further details will be published in the January, 1968, issue of *The Auk*.

The principal shipment of Programs for the A.O.U. meeting at Toronto in August, 1967 (long lost in customs), will soon be delivered to the Secretary. Persons interested in obtaining one should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Secretary Mewaldt.

The classic ornithological spoof "*Eoornis pteroveloxy gobiensis*" by "A. C. Fotheringham" is once again available. Write to DR. GEORGE E. WATSON, 2621 "O" Street, NW, Washington, D. C. 20007, or DR. RICHARD C. BANKS, 3200 Curtis Drive, Washington, D. C. 20031 (\$1.00 postpaid in U. S. and Canada, \$1.25 elsewhere).

POSTLOGUE

At the Duluth meeting of the A.O.U. in early September, 1966, all five living editors of *The Auk* turned up at one time, a circumstance never before quite realized. Sensing the historic import of the situation, with his customary quickness in such matters, the incumbent bullied this somewhat superannuated pickup basketball team into position on a handy set of stairs. After careful instruction in the use of a camera, and after a few preliminary failures, Professor Philip Humphrey, who happened to be standing nearby, was able to expose the memorable photograph reproduced herewith. Careful study of this historic document will show that Mrs. Mengel was entirely right in her instant perception of the fact that the width of the editorial grin is a precise function of distance of removal from service! The now outgoing editor is happy to report the recent appearance of a nascent grin on his own pinched countenance.

Speaking more seriously, in some ways it scarcely seems two years, much less five, since I accepted the editorship of *The Auk* at the Salt Lake City, Utah, meeting of the A.O.U. At that time, I remember, I was surrounded by a little group of ex-editors who gathered to wish me well and to impress upon me in a jocular way the magnitude of my error. (They reminded me of the fatigue-suited work crews lining company streets on World War II army posts who used inevitably to pause from their labors to greet passing truckloads of incomers to the post with the gleeful chant: "you'll be sorr-eee"!) But I didn't really understand.

Now I do understand. Even so, I wish here to take issue with the oft-repeated statement that editing is a thankless job. It is not, or anyway, it certainly should not be. Editors are all too human, as is well known in the sense, at least, that humanity implies fallibility, and I suspect I am as human as any. Being so, I require a reasonable amount of thanks, in one form or another, and if I hadn't gotten it I should never have lasted five years. The working principle, I believe, lies in never forgetting that authors too, improbable as it may come to seem, are also human, hence creatures of essential worth and dignity no matter what kind of offerings some of their number may regard as scientific literature.



Five editors of *The Auk* at Duluth, Minnesota, September, 1966, being the fifth through ninth. From left to right (back row), Robert M. Mengel (1963–67), Robert W. Storer (1953–57), Harvey I. Fisher (1949–52); left to right (front row), Eugene Eisenmann (1958–59), Donald S. Farner (1960–62). The first four editors, all deceased, were: J. A. Allen (1884–1911; 1877–1911 if one counts vols. 1–8 of the *Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club*, continuous with *The Auk*), Witmer Stone (1912–36), Glover M. Allen (1937–42), John T. Zimmer (1943–48).

It is a genuinely touching experience to be sincerely thanked by a human being whose manuscript—in a very real sense a projection of his egoistic quick—you have just mangled beyond recognition, or just informed him cannot be accepted after any amount of further work. And there are many other kinds of thanks, all of which, in reasonable volume, pump the necessary transfusions into the editorial bloodstream. It is my purpose here profoundly to thank in return the surprising number of people who grasp this fundamental principle and, more importantly, act upon it!

I urge everyone who grasps it but has (as I have often have) the bad habit of not acting, to reform. We may then expect a long and happy editorial life, to our collectively great benefit, from my successor, Dr. Oliver L. Austin, Jr., The Florida State Museum, Gainesville, Florida 32601. All materials and correspondence intended for *The Auk* should henceforth be routed to him.

Finally, I should once more express my thanks and vast debt to the many people, officers of the A.O.U., members of the Editorial Committee, Editorial Assistants, workers at The Allen Press, and zoologists of all kinds not falling under one of these headings, without whose patience and skilled, prompt assistance (often rendered despite pressing duties of greater urgency) my task would have been quite impossible. I feel that it would be an error even to try to single out specific individuals, with but one exception. That exception is Marion Anne Jenkinson (which is the pen name

for Marion J. Mengel), the retiring Associate Editor. The full magnitude of her highly skilled contribution to the A.O.U. will perhaps never be known. It is customary for editors to thank their wives in well known ways. I am in the rare position, however, of thanking mine not only for bearing the brunt of the editorial temper, distraction, etc., but also for performing an extraordinary amount of the editorial work. My decision to make *this* statement is one that she shall not overrule.

—ROBERT M. MENGEL

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

Title of Publication: *The Auk*.

Frequency of Issue: Quarterly (January, April, July, October).

Location of Office of Publication, Business Office of Publisher and Owner: The American Ornithologists' Union, c/o Museum of Natural History, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

Editor: Robert M. Mengel, same address as above.

Managing Editor and Known Bondholders or other Security Holders: none.

Circulation: 4,016.