

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

It may not be amiss here to call attention to the fact that the lists of proposed changes in nomenclature of North American birds now being published from year to year in *The Auk* are not to be considered authoritative; in other words, they do not in any sense replace the Supplements formerly issued by the A. O. U. Committee on Nomenclature. As stated by the editor of *The Auk*, himself, in a recent issue of that magazine, these lists, although exceedingly useful to the technical student of birds, carry no authority further than that of the compiler's personal opinion, and no action has as yet been taken by the A. O. U. Committee on any of the cases contained therein.

The Audubon Association of the Pacific, with headquarters in San Francisco, has issued no. 1 of a monthly bulletin under the caption of "The Gull". This consists of four pages of announcements of meetings and field trips, reports of birds seen on field trips, and news notes of interest to members of the organization represented. While no editorial staff is indicated in connection with this first number, we think we see evidences

here and there of the literary handiwork of the energetic President of the Audubon Association of the Pacific, Mr. C. B. Lastreto.

The publication of the Cooper Club military record which was scheduled to appear in this issue of *THE CONDOR* is now postponed till March issue. This is to give further time for securing important data still lacking in regard to certain of our men in service.

The vote is overwhelmingly in favor of continuing the Cooper Club membership roster as an annual feature of *THE CONDOR*. To be more explicit, the mail vote up to January 15 stands 24 to 5 against discontinuance. Numerous excellent reasons were advanced in the replies, to offset the plea for economy. The following extract from a letter to the Editor from Mr. John G. Tyler expresses the prevailing attitude in the matter. "To me the annual membership roster is one of the most valuable features of *THE CONDOR*. Frequently, when business has led me to other cities, I have taken with me the copy of our magazine containing the latest roster and when the day's work was over eagerly sought through the list for

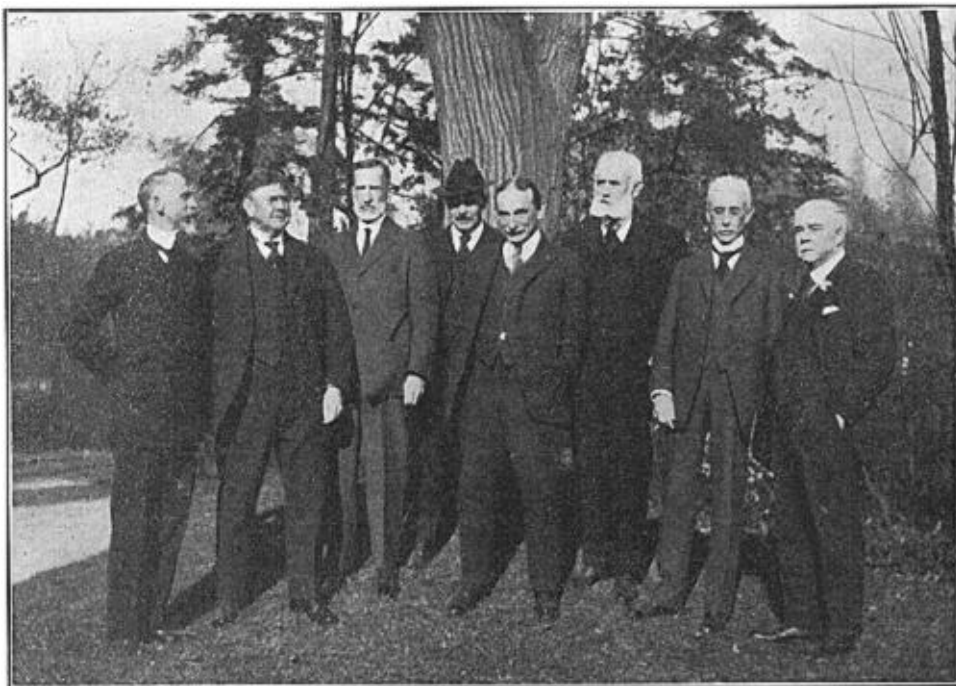


Fig. 11. COUNCIL OF THE A. O. U. IN ATTENDANCE AT THE THIRTY-FIFTH STATED MEETING, CAMBRIDGE, NOVEMBER 12, 1917.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: DR. J. DWIGHT, DR. A. K. FISHER, MR. JOHN H. SAGE, DR. FRANK M. CHAPMAN, DR. WITMER STONE, MR. WILLIAM BREWSTER, MR. CHARLES F. BATCHELDER, MR. RUTHVEN DEANE.

Photo by W. K. Fisher.

the address of some member upon whom I might call. Some of the most delightful and lasting friendships have had their beginnings when, wholly unannounced, some Cooper Club member has dropped in at my house with the 'apology' that he was passing through town and had seen my name in the Club roster and thought he would look me up. The value of this list is perhaps greatest to those of us who reside at some distance from the Club centers and are thereby deprived from attending meetings; for through it we can get in touch with other sequestered members in nearby towns. May the annual roster continue to grow until it appropriates not only ten but twenty pages of our magazine!"

A wonderfully interesting sketch of the history and accomplishments of the American Ornithologists' Union appears in a late issue of *The American Museum Journal* (vol. xviii, 1918, pp. 473-483). This is from the pen of Dr. T. S. Palmer, the new secretary of the Union, and includes among other notable features an assembled photograph of the founders and officers of the Union as they appeared thirty-five years ago. In this connection it is a pleasure to be able to present herewith a group of certain prominent A. O. U. members, as photographed by Walter K. Fisher at the 1917 A. O. U. meeting. Three of these, Dr. A. K. Fisher, Mr. William Brewster and Mr. Charles F. Batchelder, appeared in the group of 1883.

Cooper Club members and other ornithologists will be interested to learn that a movement has been started to establish an American Society of Mammalogists. The committee on organization consists of Dr. Hartley H. T. Jackson, Chairman; Dr. Glover M. Allen, Dr. J. A. Allen, Dr. Joseph Grinnell, Mr. Ned Hollister, Mr. Arthur H. Howell, Mr. Wilfred H. Osgood, Mr. E. A. Preble, and Dr. Walter P. Taylor. Incomplete plans call for an annual meeting, sectional meetings, and the publication of a magazine of both a popular and technical nature. Life histories, ecology, evolution, and other phases of mammalogy will receive attention as well as taxonomy. It is hoped that an organization meeting can be held this spring (1919). Anyone who desires to join or is interested in the organization may address the chairman of the committee, U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.

We are greatly pleased to be able to announce that favoring circumstances have permitted Mr. W. L. Dawson to again take up work on his *Birds of California*. The preparation of the text is now well under way, the gathering of the material for illustration having already been practically completed.

Avifauna no. 13 has gone to press—a pretty convincing piece of evidence that good times are indeed returning. This number is J. R. Pemberton's *Second Ten Year Index to The Condor*. The question has been raised as to the propriety of publishing such an index as one of the Avifauna series, instead of separately. Without going into the reasons here, it has seemed on the whole best to follow the precedent set when the first ten year index was issued, namely to give it a number in the Avifauna series.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

A REVIEW OF THE ALBATROSSES, PETRELS, AND DIVING PETRELS [being contribution number 12 based upon the expedition of the California Academy of Sciences to the Galapagos Islands, 1905-1906], by LEVERETT MILLS LOOMIS. Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., 4th ser., vol. 2, pp. 1-187, pls. 1-17; issued April 22, 1918.

We learn from the "historic sketch", which comprises chapter one of the paper under review, that Elliott Coues, of all previous authors, has contributed most importantly to our systematic knowledge of the Tubinares. His work, in the light of later developments, has proven most scholarly; yet the chief of his contributions was published in 1864 and 1866, when he had not yet attained his twenty-fourth year. Loomis thus at the outset pays appreciative tribute to the chief of his predecessors in the field he has chosen for his own special study.

Under the heading "geographic distribution", among the more striking generalizations is that barriers to pelagic species of birds are to be found in the limits of food-producing areas. While there is good reason for recognizing control by temperature also, a third factor of importance concerns historical circumstances. Loomis divides the oceanic portion of the earth's surface into "distribution areas", classified into three different grades, namely, *superarea*, *area*, and *subarea*, based on the occurrence of species at their breeding stations. These areas are demonstrated on the basis of the Tubinares of the world. Of the subareas there are twenty-five all told, and one of these is the "Californian Subarea", with six diagnostic species.

The subject of migration is gone into at some length. Interesting cases are described, of the long "transequatorial" emigrations of several of the shearwaters from the South Pacific to the North Pacific. There are also regular emigrations, though less extended as a rule, of species from the north-