

Valley Quail (*Lophortyx californica vallicola*) and an English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). The birds, seemingly in close coöperation, chased the weasel across a weed-covered city lot, across a street and up to a garden wall, where they were frightened by the sight of a negro beating rugs on a lawn. It certainly seemed strange to see birds of such different type and temperament combining their efforts against their mustelid foe. The quail may have had a clutch of eggs on the ground or young to protect, but why was the English Sparrow interested?—EDMUND C. JAEGER, *Riverside Junior College, Riverside, California, August 26, 1926.*

A Three-cornered Fight.—I was camping in a pine forest not many miles from Reserve, New Mexico, accompanied by a small English terrier. In front of my tent stood a large dead pine, near the top of which there were a number of holes, evidently the homes of four pairs of Ant-eating Woodpeckers (*Balanosphyra formicivora aculeata*). A gray, tassel-eared squirrel came scampering along, and was at once spied by the dog, which gave chase. The squirrel ran up the dead tree mentioned above, to be instantly assailed by the Woodpeckers. Their constant cries and their sharp bills made things so uncomfortable for the squirrel that it ran down the tree to within a few feet of the dog, who sent him scampering to the top again with his eight antagonists constantly flaying him.

About this time there was a swish of wings, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*) darted like a streak among the Woodpeckers. For an instant it seemed that one of them was doomed, but by a small margin it managed to escape, and in an instant they had all darted to cover among the green boughs of surrounding trees. All was quiet for a few brief seconds, when the Woodpeckers returned to the attack, except one which perched on the topmost bough of a near-by tree, as guard or lookout, watching for the hawk. The other seven took up the fight with the squirrel.

In a few minutes the hawk again appeared on the scene, the guard gave a shrill call of warning, and all the Woodpeckers were under cover before their enemy could reach them. The hawk, then, finding the birds on their guard, left and did not return. The terrier soon abandoned the tree, and the squirrel hurried down and scampered away; the Woodpeckers quickly quieted down and went peacefully about their home affairs. I believe that the birds recognized in the squirrel a danger to their eggs or young.—ED. S. STEELE, *Reserve, New Mexico, August 28, 1926.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

THE OTTAWA MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.—The first meeting of the A. O. U. ever held outside of the United States convened October 12-14 in Ottawa. Despite its being held on "foreign" soil, this meeting proved to be almost the best ever held, in point of total attendance as well as in general interest manifested. This development showed the extreme cordiality of feeling which obtains between the two countries, as evidenced in part by the wonderfully warm reception accorded by the Canadians, in part by the large measure of attendance from all parts of the United States.

The Victoria Memorial Museum at Ottawa served as headquarters for the meeting. Here thoroughly comfortable rooms were available for the daily sessions; and the elegant Chateau Laurier provided for

the social features. The thoroughness with which local arrangements had been worked out set a new standard. And for this success the local committee in charge, Mr. Hoyes Lloyd as secretary, should be accorded full credit.

The upwards of 200 in attendance included more far-westerners by double than heretofore in the history of the Union. Evidently westerners thought of Ottawa as really a western point of meeting, as compared with the usual Atlantic coast cities. One of the original founders of the Union was present, Mr. Chas. F. Batchelder of Cambridge. An Antipodean delegate it was a pleasure to meet was Mr. W. B. Alexander, until lately Editor of the Australian *Emu*. There were naturally many others in attendance for the first time, from the various Canadian provinces.

The Canadian Government itself, through its Minister of Mines, Hon. Chas. S. Stewart, participated actively in the entertainment of the Union. Each member as he registered on the opening day was presented, with the compliments of the Minister of Mines, an autographed copy of Taverner's sumptuous new volume on the "Birds of Western Canada"—a lasting memento of the Ottawa meeting.

The art exhibit, housed in a wing of the Museum for this occasion, was world-wide in its representation. Besides the work of practically all active American artists there were pieces by Joseph Wolf, the father of accurate bird portraiture, loaned by Dame Alice Godman; also pieces by Lodge, Millais, Larsen (of Denmark), and Liljefors (of Sweden). The exhibit of Ridwayiana, including many original drawings, was extensive and of great interest. A further exhibit was a very effective one relating to the history and personnel of Canadian ornithology.

The business session of the Union occupied an entire day and evening. Perhaps the most important items of business transacted included the formal launching of the Ridgway Memorial movement. Then the report of progress of the work upon the new Check-list, presented by Dr. Stone, and the authorization of the printing of the ten-year index to *The Auk*, were accomplishments of moment. New officers elected included, for President, Alexander Wetmore; Vice-presidents, J. Grinnell and J. H. Fleming; Secretary, T. S. Palmer; Treasurer, W. L. McAtee. There was no vacancy in the class of Fellows. New members elected were: May Thacher Cooke, Maunsell S. Crosby, Stanley G. Jewett, William H. Mousley, and J. A. Munro.

The regularly scheduled program comprised 57 numbers, representing practically all fields of ornithology. During much of the three days devoted to this program, double sessions were held, the more popular papers being presented simultaneously with the technical ones in a separate part of the building. It is, of course, very hard to say which were the most noteworthy contributions. That by Harrison F. Lewis, describing the eider-down industry newly developing in Quebec, proved of wide interest. As to the movies, perhaps the most novel one was Owen J. Gromme's, showing the nesting behavior of the Loon. Of the technical papers, Robert C. Murphy's report on "A Study of Adaptation among the Tubinares" was particularly suggestive. The

animated impromptu discussion of this and many other papers furnished a valuable feature of the program.

At the annual dinner our Canadian colleagues presented an entertainment of rare humor, long to be remembered. And, of course, the regular issue of the *Auklet* made its appearance as the evening progressed. A miniature of the Great Auk appeared as one of the table favors at each of the 200 places. A serious note during the dinner was struck when formal presentation was made to Major Allan Brooks of a medal in recognition of his eminence as a bird illustrator.

Throughout the sessions, the collections in the Division of Ornithology of the Victoria Museum, rich most especially in water birds, were kept fully open for examination by visitors. There was a pleasing lack of restraint in this regard, so that the fullest opportunity was enjoyed by the systematically inclined for profiting by the chance to study the extensive series of Canadian birds there available.

Making toward a real spirit of welcome was an unique piece of modeling which surmounted the stair-head in the entrance hall of the Museum. This, the work of Mr. P. A. Taverner and his assistants, was a huge Great Auk standing on three volumes (the A. O. U. *Check-list*, the A. O. U. *Code*, and *The Auk*); and below this was enthroned a jeering Auklet straddling the world! The whole thing was done in a fine spirit of humor and originality.

At the conclusion of the regular program, three days were devoted to excursions afield under the guidance of local bird-students. These were largely attended, by reason of the favorable weather; and long will be the memory, on the part at least of Californians, of the brilliant display of autumnal foliage in the beautiful Ottawa Valley and among the Laurentian Hills.—J. GRINNELL.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

JULY.—The Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club held its regular meeting Tuesday evening, July 27, 1926, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park; twenty-five members and friends were present. In the absence of the president and vice-president, Mr. Howard Robertson was called on to act as chairman. Minutes of the June meeting were read and approved. Through over-