

Minutes of the First Meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club

The first session of the first meeting ever held by the Wilson Ornithological Club was opened on Feb. 5, 1914, at 10 o'clock a. m. at the Academy of Sciences, Lincoln Park, Chicago, Illinois. In the absence of the president and vice-president, the secretary, C. W. G. Eifrig, called the meeting to order and introduced Mr. F. C. Baker, the curator and acting director of the Academy, who welcomed the club on behalf of the management of the institution, extended the liberties of the academy to the club and wished it success in its deliberations. The secretary, on behalf of the club, thanked Mr. Baker for his kindly, well-chosen words.

The first business for the meeting was the election of a temporary chairman, which was done by selecting Dr. T. C. Stephens, of Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa. The secretary then read a tentative order of business for the meeting. Resolved that this be more or less closely adhered to.

Concerning the election of officers, it was resolved to have the members of council present at the meeting submit at one of the next sessions a list of nominations for the various offices, also that they first pass on the proposed candidates for active and associate membership.

Then the matter of the "Bulletin," the official organ of the club, was taken up. The editor, Mr. Lynds Jones, was called upon to address the club on the status and needs of our publication. He gave a résumé of the published transactions of the club and of the club itself from the beginning, showing the ups and downs in the life of both and the difficulties the editor has had to contend with, these latter being mostly of a financial kind, often imposing great hardships and sacrifices on him. Further deliberation of this matter was postponed to the afternoon meeting.

Next the treasurer, the Rev. W. F. Henninger, of New Bremen, Ohio, read a detailed report of the finances of the club for the last five years. This again told a story of financial storm and stress, but ending with the statement that for the first time in the history of the club there was a balance amounting to \$43.00, instead of the usual deficit. The report was adopted. Then the secretary reported on the membership of the club, which shows the experiences of similar clubs the world over, viz., of losses in membership due to the lack of interest or the non-payment of dues, which are, however, more than offset by gratifying accessions to the membership. Especially have some members in Iowa been busy of late in increasing the membership by new recruits. Resolved, that the list of members, together with the reports of the officers, be annually printed and sent to the members.

Since the holding of meetings is a new departure in the life of the club, making it essentially a somewhat different kind of organization,

for which no provision has been made in the constitution, the advisability of drafting a new or revised constitution was next broached. All the speakers were unanimous in the conviction that the time was ripe and opportune for broadening and extending the usefulness of the club and its official organ, as well as for increasing the membership, if only properly organized, systematic efforts were made. Here the discussion was adjourned and resolved to hold the afternoon meeting from 2 to 4:30 o'clock.

AFTERNOON MEETING, FEB. 5, 1914.

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Dr. T. C. Stephens. The matter of the "Bulletin" was again taken up and Prof. Lynds Jones spoke at length on the finances and literary contributions for the same. Resolved that an auxiliary editorial committee be formed, composed of one or more members in each state and province in the natural territory of the club, i. e., the interior of North America, such members to see to it that field notes and other pertinent articles from their respective states or provinces be regularly sent for publication to the editor. The nominating committee is to nominate the members of this committee also.

In order to relieve the editor of some of the too great burdens he has hitherto borne in connection with the editing and publishing of the "Bulletin," it was resolved to create the office of business manager for the "Bulletin." Resolved, to appoint a committee for revising the constitution, said committee to embody in the draft the changes so far adopted. The chairman appointed the following gentlemen: Dr. R. M. Strong, Chicago, chairman; Prof. L. Jones and the Rev. W. F. Henninger.

Resolved, to appoint a standing committee to make a campaign for increasing the membership. The following were elected: The chairman, Dr. T. C. Stephens; Messrs. J. H. Fleming, of Toronto, Ontario; O. M. Schantz, of Chicago, Illinois.

Resolved, that the club look upon as its special field of investigation the interior of North America, from the Gulf to the Arctic Ocean, including the Great Lakes.

Resolved, that regular rates for reprints of papers appearing in the "Bulletin" be secured and published.

Adjournment followed, after which the members inspected the exhibits of the academy, especially the unique celestial sphere.

Members present during first day: Dr. T. C. Stephens, Prof. Lynds Jones, Rev. W. F. Henninger, Mr. E. W. Johns, of Kingsley, Ia.; Mr. F. M. Phelps, of Elyria, O.; Mr. Ruthven Deane, of Chicago; Mr. O. M. Schantz, Mr. Geo. Fordyce, of Youngstown, O.; Mrs. Irene G. Wheelock, of Chicago; Mr. G. A. Abbott, of Chicago; Dr. R. M. Strong, of the University of Chicago; Mr. C. J. Hunt, of Chicago, and the secretary, C. W. G. Eifrig.

FRIDAY, FEB. 6, 1914.

The chairman called the meeting to order. The secretary read the minutes of the two meetings of the day before, which were approved.

First the nominating committee, composed of Mr. Lynds Jones, Rev. W. F. Henninger and the secretary, reported and submitted its nominations. Resolved, that the secretary cast unanimous ballot for the following officers: President, Dr. T. C. Stephens; vice-president, Mr. G. L. Fordyce; secretary, Mr. O. M. Schantz; treasurer, Mr. P. B. Coffin, 3232 Groveland Ave., Chicago, Ill. Resolved, that the election of a business manager be postponed.

The following new members and associates were elected: Active, Dr. Joseph Grinnell, Berkeley, Cal. proposed by Prof. Lynds Jones; Mr. E. A. Cleasby, Portage, Wis., proposed by Dr. T. C. Stephens; Mr. F. M. Woodruff, Chicago, Mr. B. T. Gault, Glen Ellyn, Ill.; Mr. K. W. Kahmann, Chicago, Mr. F. A. Schantz, Berlin, Ont., proposed by the secretary. Associate: Mr. Wier R. Mills, Pierson, Ia.; Mr. Arthur A. Osborne, Peabody, Mass.; Mr. E. W. Johns was promoted from associate to active membership; Mrs. I. G. Wheelock, in addition to being an active member, became a sustaining member.

Resolved, to elect the following as members of the auxiliary editorial committee: For Illinois, O. M. Schantz and I. E. Hess; Indiana, R. C. Norris and A. W. Butler; Ohio, F. M. Phelps and Dr. B. R. Bales; Michigan, A. D. Tinker and N. A. Eddy; Wisconsin, Dr. R. M. Strong and Mrs. Ioda Malin; Minnesota, Dr. T. S. Roberts; Iowa, Prof. I. N. Gabrielson and Miss Althea R. Sherman; North Dakota, Adrian Larson; Pennsylvania, Frank L. Burns and W. E. Clyde-Todd; Canada, P. A. Taverner and L. McI. Terrill; Kansas, Dr. W. I. Mitchell and the Rev. P. B. Peabody; Louisiana, G. S. Guion; Florida, O. E. Baynard; Texas, Dr. A. R. Shearer.

Note: This is at the same time to serve as the official notification to the members of this standing committee of their election.

Resolved, that this committee be active also in increasing the membership of the club, under the standing membership committee.

Resolved, that the secretary prepare resolutions of thanks to the officials of the Academy of Sciences. Resolved, that we tender our thanks to the editor of "The Wilson Bulletin," Prof. Lynds Jones, for his labors and sacrifices in behalf of the club and that he be reimbursed as soon as the finances of the club allow it.

Adjournment followed.

In the afternoon session the following papers were read: A critique of the latest systematic work on ornithology of Dr. Reichenow, by the Rev. W. F. Henninger; The effect on the birds in the opening of the park and the building of the reservoirs in the vicinity of Youngstown, Ohio, by Geo. L. Fordyce; A six weeks' stay in the Big Cypress Swamp of Florida, by F. M. Phelps; Notes on the nesting of the Herring Gull,

the Common Tern and the Red-breasted Merganser, by Dr. R. M. Strong (illustrated); The Ottawa River in Canada as a migration route and bird boundary, by C. W. G. Eifrig.

Before adjournment a short business meeting was held in which the revised constitution was read by Dr. Strong for the committee. Resolved, to adopt this and recommend it to the club for ratification.

EVENING SESSION.

This, as well as the afternoon meeting, was open to the public. Two illustrated lectures were given, the first by Prof. Lynds Jones on the winter habits of birds; the second, by Mr. G. A. Abbott, on the birds of the Calumet Region near Chicago.

C. W. G. EIFRIG, Secretary.

Note: The new secretary's address is as follows: Mr. O. M. Schantz, 5215 W. 24th St., Cicero, Ill.; the treasurer's: Mr. P. B. Coffin, 3232 Groveland Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Field Notes

Unusual Central Ohio Occurrences.

Professor J. S. Hine, of the Ohio State University, sends a note to the effect that a Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax naevius*) in the female plumage of the year, was taken near Columbus on December 18, 1913.

Mr. Thos. M. Earl, of Columbus, reports the receipt of a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) sent to him for mounting from Coshocton county, in November, 1913.

Queer Practice of Wood Thrushes.

If more evidence is needed to substantiate the statement that a wood thrush frequently attaches a large piece of paper or cloth to its nest and lets it hang in conspicuous display, as if to mark the location of the nest, I will say that a piece of white tissue paper, several inches wide and perhaps half a yard long, hung from the nest of a wood thrush at Chautauqua last summer.

The nest was about eight feet high, in a thicket, and not to exceed a rod from the public street.

Birds are so well treated at Chautauqua that they are not very wild, and this bird seemed undisturbed by those who frequently stopped with inquisitive eyes as they passed by on the street.