

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF  
THE NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

One of the most successful and enjoyable meetings ever held by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union took place at Fairbury, Nebraska, on Friday and Saturday, May 11 and 12, 1923. The sessions included a dinner Friday evening, followed by a public program and a business meeting, and a field day on Saturday. The meeting was the twenty-fourth annual meeting of the organization, and the members of the N. O. U., with their escorts and friends, were guests of the Bird Study Department of Fairbury Women's Club at this meeting.

The members and their friends assembled at the Mary-Etta hotel for dinner at 6:30 p. m., immediately after which they joined the local bird enthusiasts at the First Baptist Church, where the public program was held. About seventy persons were present. Mrs. H. F. Hole of Fairbury, called the meeting to order at 8:15 p. m., and on behalf of the Bird Study Department of the Fairbury Women's Club extended a cordial welcome to the visiting members of the N. O. U., which was responded to by Mrs. Addison E. Sheldon, President of the N. O. U. Mrs. Sheldon called upon the Secretary to explain the aims, history and achievements of the N. O. U. briefly, and to take the chair during the Presidential Address. This was on the subject, "American Poets as Ornithologists," and was much enjoyed by the audience.

Following the Presidential Address a symposium on the sparrow family (*Fringillidae*), as represented in Nebraska, was held. This symposium was conducted similarly to the symposium on the shore birds given at the 1922 meeting of the N. O. U. and the same persons participated. Prof. M. H. Swenk exhibited specimens of all of the "streaky" members of the family pointing out the best characters by which they could be identified in the field and outlining a key for field use, employing plumage, song and habitat characters. Prof. R. W. Dawson presented a chart illustrating graphically the migration of twenty species of the commoner Nebraska *Fringillidae*, chiefly the streaky sparrows, based on data compiled from over 500 field trips at Lincoln. Dr. R. H. Wolcott took up the nesting habits of the *Fringillidae* known to breed in Nebraska, illustrating his remarks with specimens of eggs of the several species discussed. The symposium concluded with a general discussion of the subject. The plans for the field day were then announced and discussed, after which a short recess was taken to enable those present who were not members of the N. O. U. to retire if they desired before the organization went into business session.

The President called the business session to order at 10:30 p. m. On motion, the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was dispensed with, as they have been published in full in the June, 1922, number of the Wilson Bulletin. The President reported briefly for her office, following which the report of the Secretary-Treasurer was presented. The President then appointed an auditing committee, consisting of Dr. R. H. Wolcott and Miss Mary St. Martin, to examine and report upon the financial statement of the Secretary-Treasurer, and a nominating committee,

consisting of Mrs. L. R. Button, Prof. R. W. Dawson, and Mrs. H. C. Johnston.

Election of new members being next in order the Secretary-Treasurer reported that nine names had been presented by members of the N. O. U. for action at this meeting, as follows: Prof. C. O. Carlson of Crete, Mrs. George L. Day of Superior, Mrs. Charles Groves of Superior, Mrs. E. A. Holbrook of Lincoln, Mrs. George W. Trine of Red Cloud, Mrs. George O. Smith of Lincoln, Mr. Anton Stipek of Wilber, Mrs. T. H. Wake of Seward, and Mr. Leighton O. Williams of Lincoln. After discussion, on motion all were elected to membership in the society.

Two amendments to the Constitution of the N. O. U. next came up for consideration and action, the required one month's notice to all members having been given by the Secretary. They were as follows:

*Article II, Section 2.* "Honorary members shall be elected for their eminence in ornithology or for distinguished services in furthering the aims for which this Union is established."

Replace by "Honorary members may be elected for their eminence in ornithology or from among the members of the Union, past or present, for distinguished services in having furthered the aims for which this Union is established. Election shall be by the approval of three-fourths of the members voting on names submitted by the Executive Committee through a special mail ballot to be sent by the Secretary to all members of the Union in good standing."

*Article VIII, Section 1.* "The annual dues of the members shall be two dollars (\$2), due in advance at the time of election to membership and on the date of each annual meeting thereafter. These dues shall also entitle the members to active membership in the Wilson Ornithological Club."

Omit the word "active" before membership in the second sentence.

The Secretary explained the objects of these amendments, which were, briefly, to make possible the recognition of some of our older Nebraska ornithologists at the quarter century annual meeting of the N. O. U. in 1924, as well as to provide a definite manner of electing to the class of membership, and to make the constitution conform with the revised articles of agreement with the Wilson Club adopted at the 1922 meeting of the N. O. U. After discussion both amendments were unanimously adopted.

Next in order of business was the presentation by the Secretary, and discussion by the members, of a plan to publish the long-proposed "Birds of Nebraska" in parts, issuing one each year until the book, which it is estimated will be of about 800 pages, is complete. The plan met with general approval, and, on motion, the Secretary was authorized to proceed along this line, and, if possible, to publish the first part before the quarter centennial meeting of the N. O. U. next year.

The auditing committee then reported that the financial report of the Secretary-Treasurer, with accompanying vouchers, had been examined and found to be correct. On motion the report was accepted. The nominating committee then reported, and it was voted that the Secretary cast the unanimous ballots of the Union for the following officers for 1923:

President—Dr. R. H. Wolcott, Lincoln.  
Vice-President—Rev. J. M. Bates, Red Cloud.  
Secretary-Treasurer—Prof. M. H. Swenk, Lincoln.

Fifteen members were present at this session of the N. O. U., as follows: Mesdames Lily R. Button, Margaret M. Cory, Blanche Garten, H. F. Hole, H. C. Johnston, G. A. Loveland, L. H. McKillip, Mary St. Martin, Addison E. Sheldon, and Fred W. Tyler, and Messrs, J. M. Bates, R. W. Dawson, M. H. Swenk, R. H. Wolcott, and Leonard Worley.

Adjournment at 11:15 p. m.

On Saturday, May 12, the twenty-first annual field day of the N. O. U. was held. Following an early light breakfast start was made at 6:00 a. m. from the Mary-Etta Hotel. Forty-six persons participated in the field day. Four parties of about ten each were organized under the leadership of Messrs. R. W. Dawson, M. H. Swenk, R. H. Wolcott, and J. T. Zimmer, and local leaders acquainted with the territory, and available cars carried the parties to the following localities: (1) Rose Creek, about four miles south of Fairbury; (2) Kesterson woods, on the Little Blue River, south of Fairbury; (3) Crystal Springs, a splendid place for water birds, just west of town; and (4) the Fairbury Bird Refuge, about three miles north of Fairbury. All of the field parties reassembled at 10:45 a. m. at the Christian Church at Fairbury for a substantial breakfast served by the Fairbury hosts of the Union. A special treat occurred directly after this breakfast when Mr. J. T. Zimmer, a former member of the N. O. U., who has just returned from a fifteen months' ornithological collecting trip in Peru in the interests of the Field Museum of Chicago, gave an intensely interesting talk on the bird life of that region. At noon the parties returned to the field and continued until the middle of the afternoon. Although the morning was unseasonably cold and raw, a composite list of one hundred and fourteen birds, exceeding by nine the record 1922 list, was obtained, as follows:

Bluebird, Robin, Olive-backed Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Wood-Thrush, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Long-tailed Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Western House Wren, Brown Thrasher, Catbird, Mockingbird, Redstart, Yellow-breasted Chat, Maryland Yellowthroat, Kentucky Warbler, Louisiana Water-Thrush, Oven-bird, Cerulean Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Bell Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Migrant Shrike, Cedar Waxwing, Rough-winged Swallow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Scarlet Tanager, Dickcissel, Indigo Bunting, Western Blue Grosbeak, Black-headed Grosbeak, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Cardinal, Arctic Towhee, Towhee, Lincoln Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Western Field Sparrow, Claycolored Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Gambel Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Harris Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Western Grasshopper Sparrow, Savanna Sparrow, Goldfinch, Bronzed Grackle, Baltimore Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Western Meadowlark, Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Cowbird, Crow, Blue Jay, Prairie Horned Lark, Least Flycatcher, Traill Flycatcher, Phoebe, Crested Flycatcher, Arkansas Kingbird, Kingbird, Chimney Swift, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Belted Kingfisher, Sparrow Hawk, Pigeon Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Mourn-

ing Dove, Bob-white, Piping Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Yellow-legs, Greater Yellow-legs, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Baird Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson Snipe, Wilson Phalarope, Coot, Sora, Green Heron, Great Blue Heron, Bittern, Shoveller, Blue-winged Teal, Widgeon, Franklin Gull, and Pied-billed Grebe.

The most interesting nest find of the day was that of a pair of Yellow-throated Vireos, just completed. Occupied nests of the Long-tailed Chickadees, Brown Thrasher, Cardinal and Phoebe were also found.

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER, 1922-23

*Receipts*

Cash on hand, May 19, 1922.....	\$ 79.04
Annual dues collected.....	67.50
Sale of publications.....	246.68
Interest on investment.....	12.75
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	\$405.97

*Expenditures*

Wilson Bulletin (subscriptions).....	\$ 63.00
Postage and Stationery.....	54.90
Purchase of \$250 Liberty Bonds.....	247.18
Balance on hand, May 1, 1923.....	40.89
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	\$405.97