

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

First Annual Meeting—Held at Ames, Iowa, March 8, 1924

Our state organization, which is just one year old, held its first annual meeting at Agricultural Hall in Ames on March 8. The meeting was well attended and the very excellent program was carried out just exactly as it was announced.

The forenoon session consisted of reports by the various officers and the following papers:

1. Birds of Southwest Iowa, C. E. Butler, Atlantic.
2. What I See from my Back Window, Mrs. J. L. Adams, Ottumwa.
3. Bird Feeding and Nesting as Studied by the Boy Scouts, E. G. Stowell, Scout Executive of Ames.

The afternoon program started with a paper by Miss Althea Sherman of National, entitled "Down with the Wren Boxes." C. J. Spiker, New Hampton, followed Miss Sherman with a paper on "Recent Winter Bird Records for Northern Iowa." The five-minute open discussion on "My Most Interesting Bird Record in 1923" brought out several good observations, the one by Dr. Weeks of Emmetsburg, being especially notable. The paper of Carl Fritz Henning of Boone, on "The Ledges, the Ozarks of Iowa," was read by Dr. Weeks and was very good. This was followed by a paper by Miss Olivia McCabe of Des Moines, on "Birds of a City Marsh." The exciting number of the afternoon was the lecture by Professor Guthrie of Ames, on "Birds in Their Relation to Snakes." His lecture was illustrated very forcibly by a number of large live snakes, which he brought before us and handled with about the same ease that he would handle a kitten or any other pet. This was an entirely new angle of bird study rarely touched upon and was especially delightful after some of the audience had changed seats and had moved out of range of Professor Guthrie's pets.

The executive session which followed resulted in the election of the following officers for the ensuing year:

President—W. M. Rosen, Ogden.

Vice-President—Dr. T. C. Stephens, Sioux City.

Secretary—Mrs. H. M. Bailey, Sioux City.

Treasurer—Thomas H. Whitney, Atlantic.

Executive Council—Dr. Homer R. Dill, Iowa City; Dr. L. T. Weeks, Emmetsburg; A. J. Palas, Des Moines.

A number of business matters were then disposed of, the principal one being the unanimous vote of the members present to affiliate with the Wilson Ornithological Club and that as many members as possible of the I. O. U. become members of the W. O. C., since the Wilson Bulletin would keep us in closer touch.

Professor Charles R. Keyes of Mt. Vernon, then gave his lecture on "Some Iowa Great Horned Owls," which closed the afternoon session. This lecture was illustrated with lantern slides from photographs taken by Dr. Keyes.

The evening session was given over entirely to Dr. T. C. Stephens and Walter W. Bennett, both of Sioux City. Dr. Stephens first gave his lecture entitled "Two Bird Students on a Vacation Trip in Minnesota." Some very excellent slides were shown. The closing number was by

Mr. Bennett and was entitled "A Few Birds of the Itasca Lake Region." This was also illustrated by colored slides taken by Mr. Bennett last summer and showed many of the Warblers and other migratory birds on their nests in the northern pine woods. Some of the slides were of the natural color process. Iowa can certainly feel proud that we have such men as Bennett, Stephens, Keyes, and Weeks as platform men and lecturers in Ornithology, as they are entertainers worth going far to hear.

The membership during 1923, which was our year of organization, was over 100, and with the enthusiasm shown, I am sure that we will have a much larger membership before the next annual meeting. Iowa has a large number of bird lovers and we hope to build a strong organization and one which will be a credit to our state. Members, let's all boost for the I. O. U. and the W. O. C. W. M. ROSEN, President.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

ANIMAL LIFE IN THE YOSEMITE VALLEY

Grinnell, J. and Storer, T. I., *Animal Life in the Yosemite*, xviii plus 752 pages, 60 plates (12 in color), 2 maps (color), 65 figures in text. University of California Press, Berkeley, California, 1924. Buckram \$7.50. Carriage extra. Weight, 5 lbs. 9 oz.

This is a book that combines in admirable fashion scientific description of characters and occurrence with accurate but pleasing description of habits. There is unmistakable evidence that the authors have made a thorough study of the region that is treated, and have been discriminating in their selection of the facts presented. The difficulties of identification of some of the forms here treated may be attested by the fact that no less than eight subspecies of fox sparrows are found in the region, and yet the work has been well done. The colored plates are done in Allan Brooks' careful and accurate manner, and the clearness of the impressions attest the care that was taken in the mechanics of printing. The same excellence extends throughout the treatment of the Mammals, Reptiles and Amphibians. We would like to see the same sort of intensive work done in other regions.

L. J.