

NOTES=HERE AND THERE

Conducted by the Secretary

THE NASHVILLE MEETING

While it will be impossible, because of lack of time and space, to tell of the recent meeting of the W. O. C. at Nashville, Tennessee, it seems advisable to mention briefly some few facts. The meeting of The Wilson Ornithological Club was held jointly on November 28-30 with The Inland Bird-Banding Association, The Kentucky Ornithological Society, The Tennessee Ornithological Society, and The Tennessee Academy of Science. The first two days were devoted to programs, the last one to a field trip under the direction of The Tennessee Ornithological Society. Members were present from West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Texas, Minnesota, Washington, D. C., Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana. Friday evening was devoted to a banquet at Hotel Hermitage, attended by 51 members. Saturday evening, after the program, the visitors were entertained at the home of Mrs. James C. Bradford, "Woodstock." Officers elected for 1925 were as follows:

President—A. F. Ganier, Nashville, Tennessee.

Vice-President—Thomas H. Whitney, Atlantic, Iowa.

Secretary—Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Treasurer—Ben. J. Blincoe, Dayton, Ohio.

Councillors—

W. M. Rosen, Ogden, Iowa.

Wm. I. Lyon, Waukegan, Illinois.

H. L. Stoddard, Beachton, Georgia.

Lynds Jones, Oberlin, Ohio.

A full account of the meeting will appear in the March Bulletin.

Mr. H. B. Bailey, Newport News, Virginia, listed as an associate member in the September membership list, should have been listed as an active member.

In a recent test, says an item in a Nashville, Tennessee, paper, English Sparrows showed an ability to resist fumes of mustard gas and other deadly chemicals. The experiment was tried to determine what would be the most effective way of getting rid of animal and bird pests.

Mr. G. D. Hibbs, Cox's Creek, Kentucky, says, in a letter to the Secretary: "I have worked with the birds about twenty years, building houses, and watching bird habits. On my place I have about seventy-five drop-hole boxes of different sizes and forms, of which four or five were unoccupied this season on account of Red and Flying Squirrels. The Bluebird is my best tenant, the Tufted Titmouse coming second, the Carolina Chickadee third. I have in my garden and orchard several open and bracket boxes and a few old gourds, which are occupied during the nesting season by Robins, Wood Pewees, Mockingbirds, Blue Jays, Brown Thrashers, and Wrens."

Here is an interesting item from one of our members: "A Crow banded by me, old American Bird Banding Association No. 23021, Tabu-

sinca, New Brunswick, Canada, June 22, 1917, was reported found dead at Paterson, New Jersey, October 21, 1924, by Tice C. Lobbregt. An interesting coincidence is that this bird, banded so far from my home in Demarest, New Jersey, a little more than seven years later had come within twenty miles of that home 'as the crow flies,' to die."—Beecher S. Bowdish.

The annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science was held at Toronto, Canada, August 6-13. The society hoped by this meeting to tie much more strongly together the scientists of the Old and of the New World.

The Iowa Academy of Science has published several papers by our own Professor Dayton Stoner, formerly Vice-President of the W. O. C. Though a comparatively young man, Professor Stoner has already done much for science in his state and has secured an enviable national reputation for his researches in the Fiji Islands and for his numerous smaller studies.

The London *Morning Advertiser*, of London, Ontario, for November 3, reports that thousands of Swans passed over the city recently in migration, identified by our member, W. E. Saunders. Many of the birds got lost in flying over the city at night and were seen at close range by Mr. Saunders.

Our President, A. F. Ganier, and several of our Tennessee members, George R. Mayfield, P. L. Cobb, A. C. Webb, Mrs. Sanford Duncan, and others, have interested themselves in the project to make a national or state park of the Great Smoky Mountains. Committees from the national government have investigated the location and the Tennesseans are hopeful about the prospects. A whole sheet of the Sunday edition of *The Nashville Banner* for September 21 was devoted to pictures made by President Ganier and his party in their trip this year to the Great Smokies. A large section of the *Banner* was given to the proposed park and its advantages and beauties.

Mr. William G. Fargo, of Jackson, Michigan, spent the period from August 18 to September 8, 1924, on Isle Royale, Michigan. In a letter to the Secretary he says: "Numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen after September 1 in the clearings at the west end of the island, evidently following migrations of warblers and sparrows. These Sharp-shinned Hawks attempted to drive the Sparrow Hawks off the clearings, where the latter were feeding solely on grasshoppers. Owing to pursuit by hawks the Savannah and Song Sparrows developed a zigzag manner of flight whenever flushed, which would do credit to a Woodcock. No Grouse of any sort were seen on the island. The numbers of Great Horned Owls and Coyotes probably account for this. The Great Horned Owl perches over the Moose runs along the margins of the swamps or other trails and picks up many a rabbit or hare at dusk. In the dense forests birds were seldom seen. The only clearings were seen around Washington Harbor and the small clearings at the four resorts. It was in these clearings that much of the bird life was observed. In the future

development of the island for park purposes more clearings should be provided."

Captain Donald Baxter MacMillan, who in early September, anchored his vessel, the *Bowdoin*, in the harbor of Sydney, N. S., on his way home from the exploration of northern Greenland and Ellesmere Land, brought with him, from his fifteen months in the far north, much new scientific data in the fields of geology, meteorology, and ornithology. Among the most unusual ornithological specimens he has are three White Gyrfalcons, never before successfully brought south. Captain MacMillan plans to return to the arctic region next summer.

A record of remaining nearly nine hours in the air in a motorless aeroplane, or Glider, has been recently established in France. This seems to be solving the problem of soaring flight, a subject which has been given much study by certain advanced ornithologists.

Among a number of rare ornithological works being offered for sale by Treat's Book Shop of Atlanta is a set of the rare *Birds of America*, by John James Audubon. This set is in the Edinburgh 1831-1839 edition, in elephant folio size. The price asked, \$3150, makes these probably the most expensive of all books on birds now being offered for sale by any dealer or collector.

Carl R. Smith, writing in *The Gull*, September, 1924, says: "It is often said that all things come to him who waits. Although they are no longer common, I have found the Road Runner from the Upper Lake to Santa Barbara, in the Coast Range; near Hanford in the San Joaquin Valley, and in the Sierra foothills near Woodlake. Curious as to their speed, I have often chased them in a machine, only to have them dodge off the road into the brush or ditch, and the question of speed was left in doubt. On December 6, 1923, as I came out of King City and approached the long concrete bridge over the Salinas River, a Road Runner jumped off the guard rail along the approach of the bridge and started for the west bank, about a half-mile away. At 26 miles per hour the bird jumped to the side rails and I nearly ran by it, but by swerving in close and using the horn I had it going again. The pace it would stand without trying to dodge was around 20 miles per hour. A blast of the horn would increase this to 22 miles, but it soon dropped back to 20 miles. On reaching the further end of the bridge, the bird turned off and stopped in the open, showing no sign of distress or fear."

One of our new members is Mr. Archie Mumma of Dayton, Ohio, who does one of the most unique things ever attempted by bird-lovers: he has transferred to the piano the songs of several common birds. Mr. Mumma's lecture-recitals are highly commended. His interpretations have been recorded by the Duo-Art Piano and can be secured from that company. There are three records, including the songs of the Purple Martin, the Screech Owl, the Cardinal, the Song Sparrow, the White-throated Sparrow, the Wood Pewee, the Warbling Vireo, the Dove, and the Carolina Wren.

One of our new but most loyal members, Mrs. Frank M. Thomas,

Bowling Green, Kentucky, died October 20, 1924. Though a semi-invalid for several years, she was a great inspiration to the bird lovers who knew her.

Mr. Wm. I. Lyon, our Vice-President, who always does interesting things, brought along to the Nashville meeting a cage containing five Fox Sparrows and a Harris's Sparrow, which he had caught and banded at his station. After they had been inspected by the members of the W. O. C. and the I. B. B. A., they were released. It would be interesting to know what will become of them, especially the Harris's Sparrow, which is unknown in that section. Mr. Lyon also brought along several traps and devices he uses in his trapping of birds.

Our good friend, Johnson A. Neff, of Marionville, Missouri, who is now doing graduate work in the Oregon Agricultural College, has chosen for his thesis *The Economic Status of the Common Woodpecker in Relation to Oregon Horticulture*. In collecting material he is traveling all over the state. After he has finished his M.S. degree, Mr. Neff plans to return to his old home and devote his life to horticulture and ornithology.

Mrs. Lewis Mounts, whose husband teaches in the Ballard Normal School of Macon, Georgia, reports that she has organized two bird clubs in that school which are thriving. Two trips are taken afield weekly. All their work is tied up with journalism, since items are published weekly about the activities of the club.

Mr. Frank Bruen, Bristol, Connecticut, who is still active in spite of approaching age, reports that on October 25, while out with the Hartford Bird Study Club, he found two Snow Buntings, a record-breaker for earliness. All native species, he says, are exceptionally scarce this year.

Mr. Harry Applegate, Deputy Game Warden of Kentucky, is "on the job." A number of times recently he has brought to trial violators of the Kentucky game laws, particularly those affecting hunting birds and trapping fishes.

A news item from Shreveport, Louisiana, dated November 14, says that hundreds of wild ducks of several species have met death because of flying into open oil tanks. The streams and lakes have been reduced in number by the prolonged drouth and this is the reason for the birds' seeking the oil tanks, which from the air look so much like ponds.

Mr. Leonard W. Wing, East Lansing, Michigan, one of our newest members, reports the capture in one of his trips of an immature Harris Sparrow, positively identified by Mr. W. G. Fargo of Jackson, Michigan. Both of these bird men think this is the easternmost record of this plains species.

Mrs. Lena S. Milles, who lives in the very heart of Detroit, Michigan, reports that Yellow-billed Cuckoos nest within sight of her window, that Wood Thrushes nest in an adjoining block, and that other so-called "wild" birds are common.

The Audubon Association of the Pacific, of which the President, A. S. Kibbe, is one of our members, publishes monthly a leaflet called *The Gull*. This little paper is always full of interesting items and nearly always contains a complete paper of great interest, not alone to the Pacific bird lovers but to our own members in the Middle West.

The Division of Ornithology of the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, has issued a bulletin called *Bird Migration and Distribution during the Year Ending November 30, 1923*. Since it was prepared under the direction of Mr. Edward H. Forbush, further words of commendation are needless.

The United States Biological Survey is sending out a questionnaire in an endeavor to ascertain the present status of the Golden Plover. The species has decreased enormously and is now apparently rare inland. Records of its occurrence should be reported to the Survey.

The Sioux City Bird Club issued at the beginning of the present school year a program for their entire year's work. They meet monthly, either for programs indoors or for field trips. Many of our most active members appear on this prospectus: Charles J. Spiker, Walter W. Bennett, Mrs. W. J. Hayward, Dr. T. C. Stephens, and others.

The Forty-second Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, November 11-13. Quite a large number of our members in that area were in attendance and several appeared on programs. Four of our members on the Local Committee of Arrangements were W. E. Clyde Todd, Bayard H. Christy, George M. Sutton, and Lynds Jones.

Mr. R. C. McGregor, the only one of our members living in the Philippines, says in a note to the Treasurer that he spent the months of May and June on a collecting trip in Samoa.

Professor W. E. Praeger of Kalamazoo College, Michigan, has been chosen president of the chapter in his town of *The Friends of Our Native Landscape*, an organization designed to aid and protect all phases of wild nature.

Mrs. A. S. Putnam of Manistique, Michigan, who was with Professor Sherzer's Alaskan party this summer, reports many interesting things on her trip: "On an iceberg just broken off from Taku Glacier were two dozen Ducks taking a free ride and enjoying it. Another iceberg carried a load of Gulls. One of my pleasantest memories of the trip was the wonderful singing of Veeries on the high wooded hills back of Juneau and Katchikan, close to the business section. I am sorry to report cats in Alaska. It is especially bad to introduce them into a new country. The birds are at their mercy there even more than here."—Condensed from Michigan Audubon Society *Quarterly News-Letter*.