

NOTES HERE AND THERE

Conducted by Gordon Wilson

Mr. George O. Ludcke, a former president of the Sioux City Bird Club, addressed the Minneapolis Audubon Society early last December. We would be glad to hear more about the activities in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Dr. Albert F. Woods, president of the Maryland State University, has been appointed director of scientific work in the United States Department of Agriculture to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. E. D. Ball.

For some years our stationery has been carrying what we believe to be an erroneous statement concerning the date of founding of the W. O. C. From the records in our possession it seems that the date of such founding is December 3, 1888, and not December 5.

We have received a leaflet entitled "A College Course for Twenty-five Cents", which announces a number of radio correspondence courses offered by the Extension Division of the University of Iowa. Among these we find a course on Iowa Birds, for which one hour of university credit is allowed. Lectures and instructions are to be given over the radio by Professor Dayton Stoner.

In *American Game*, for October, 1925, we find an article giving an historical account of the founding of the Wild Life School, at McGregor, Iowa. This has developed into an annual conference of about two weeks during August, which had its beginning in 1919, wholly as the outcome of plans arranged by Rev. George Bennett, of Iowa City. We are under the impression that, beginning with 1925, the Izaak Walton League has given some support to the conference.

In *Science* for October 30, 1925, we find an interesting article by Professor Wm. H. Powers, of South Dakota State College, on "Some Facts in the Life of Thomas Nuttall." It reviews the biographical literature on Nuttall pointing out certain erroneous statements, and concludes with a revised chronological summary of events in Nuttall's life. From this account it seems that Nuttall reached St. Louis, by the way of the Great Lakes, the Wisconsin, and Mississippi Rivers, in 1809. The ascent of the Missouri River was not begun, however, until early in January, 1811, and not December 31, 1809, as stated by Durand.

Number 1, Volume II of the *Kentucky Warbler*, a four-page, quarterly leaflet, appeared on time in January. It is published at Bowling Green under the auspices of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, and is edited by Professor Gordon Wilson. These little communiques serve to keep the members in touch with each other and stimulate interest in the affairs of their organizations. We gather from the last issue that Editor Wilson is in love with the canoe, and we are beginning to wish we were near enough to run down and join in a canoe trip with him.

We hope sometime to be able to publish a more or less complete list of the spring and summer courses in ornithology in the colleges and universities of the Middle West, perhaps a sort of directory of such courses, if it is not too bulky. There are many such opportunities for the student of birds, and the older students should be in a position to advise. We have just learned of an interesting course offered at the University of Cincinnati under the guidance of Professor Harris M. Benedict, and which runs for two weeks in June and July. During this time the class lives in the dormitories of the Ohio Military Institute, about eight miles

from Cincinnati. It is usual for the class to have three field trips and one lecture each day. Two credits in the University are given to those who complete the course by examination. Dr. Benedict will be glad to answer inquiries as to dates, fees, etc., and may be addressed in care of the University of Cincinnati.

Mr. Harold S. Peters, now of the Ohio State University, is making a special study of the group of Mallophaga, or bird lice, and would be very glad to receive such material from any of our members who may chance to come across it. The idea of co-operation has always been one of the fundamental principles of our organization. Mr. Peters says that these lice are usually found on the head, throat, breast, wings, and back, and are likely to be most common on water and shore birds. The lice may be picked up with small forceps and transferred to glass vials containing seventy per cent alcohol. It is very important that the lice from each individual bird be placed in a separate vial. The vial should then be carefully labeled with name of the bird, locality, collector, and date. Mr. Peters will be glad to supply vials to those who will be on the lookout for these specimens. Bird banders are pretty sure to find these lice in numbers, and there is a splendid opportunity here to do some co-operative work. Address Mr. Peters at 363 W. Ninth Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

Dr. C. I. Reed, 2635 Reagan Street, Dallas, Texas, is carrying on a study of the digestive mechanism in the Great Horned Owl. He wishes to obtain live owls at about the age of six or eight weeks. If any of our readers are able to assist Dr. Reed in procuring young living specimens of this owl, he would be very glad to hear from them.

The Reverend J. M. Bates, Red Cloud, Nebraska, is one of our oldest members. In a recent letter to the retiring secretary he says: "I send my dues for 1926. I am eighty years old and cannot tell how much longer I shall think it worth while to keep up such interests, but at present I am not inclined to stop." We congratulate Mr. Bates, and wish him many more years of interest in the birds.

Dr. and Mrs. Casey A. Wood are spending the winter at Kandy, Ceylon, in further pursuance of a fascinating program of nature study, which has carried them through the West Indies, British Guiana, Australia, New Zealand, and the Fiji Islands. Dr. Wood has an elaborate article in the January-February *Condor* on airculture as it is practiced in Oriental countries.

The Cooper Ornithological Club has announced the dates for its first annual meeting, to be held in Los Angeles, California, on April 8, 9, and 10, 1926. Heretofore the Northern and Southern Divisions have held separate meetings periodically at San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Mr. Norman McClintock, the well-known cinematographic photographer of birds and animals, has recently been added to the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh. It is the University's purpose to make Mr. McClintock's lectures available to the general public.

Enid Michael contributes to *Yosemite Nature Notes* of July 28, 1925, an interesting note on "A Common Language Among Birds." One of our members, Professor L. Y. Lancaster, Teachers College, Bowling Green, Kentucky, has been investigating the same phenomenon and has had many interesting facts which seem to prove his theory.

One of our newest members, Miss Marcia B. Clay, Bristolville, Ohio, since retiring from an active life as librarian, has taken up in earnest her hobby of bird study. Her home is on the bank of a ravine which is a veritable paradise of birds. She has listed 123 species in this ravine alone. As there is no running water, or ponds, near by, this appears to be a very remarkable list. Miss Clay joined the Better Bulletin Club, by becoming an active member.

Our good friend, A. E. Shirling, Kansas City, Missouri, during the last several summers has conducted nature classes at Camp Olympus, Estes Park, Colorado, under the auspices of the State Teachers College, Greeley, Colorado. He is to offer courses in Ornithology and Nature Study again this coming summer. He regards the work as very pleasant, and reports from his students say that the courses are in every way excellent.

Mr. Walter W. Bennett, who appeared on the Kansas City program, has issued a very attractive folder, illustrated with pictures of his own taking, advertising his lectures on birds. Mr. Bennett is a good illustration of the business man who uses his spare time effectively in outdoor study.

At a meeting of the Councilors of The Federation of the Bird Clubs of New England, held February 3, 1926, the following officers were elected: Francis H. Allen, Chairman; William C. Adams, George C. Atwell, Gorham Brooks, Henry E. Childs, Arthur L. Clark, George S. Foster, Alfred O. Gross, Mrs. L. O. Ingalls, Heloise Meyer, John C. Phillips, Harry A. Reynolds, William P. Wharton, Charles L. Whittle. Many of these people are members of the W. O. C.

Miss Juliette A. Owen is eager to know something of the scientific study of the food of our common domesticated pigeons. She recalls a controversy which was waged some years ago in a St. Louis paper as to whether a pigeon eats table scraps. She has observed recently that pigeons eat anything and everything, especially the ones she herself owns.

The volume of Summarized Proceedings of the last six meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, from 1921 to 1924, inclusive, was distributed early in 1926. In checking over the long list of members of the American Association we find that there are at least ninety-three W. O. C. members who also hold membership in the American Association. There are one hundred smaller societies officially associated with the American Association, among which is the Wilson Ornithological Club. The volume of Proceedings gives a list of all these societies with a brief statement of the history and objects of each. We reproduce herewith the statement which appears concerning the Wilson Ornithological Club.

"The Wilson Ornithological Club was organized December 5, 1888, at Fall River, Massachusetts, as a club to foster especially the less technical phases of ornithology, a sort of meeting-ground between the ultra-scientific and the ultra-popular. Though its membership includes ornithologists in every state in the United States and in many foreign countries, its specific field is the Middle West. With the club are affiliated The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, The Tennessee Ornithological Society, The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, and The Kentucky Ornithological Society, live state societies fostered largely by enthusiastic Wilson Club members. It is the hope of the Wilson Ornithological Club to have ultimately associated with itself societies from all the Middle Western states. The membership on January 1, 1925, was 625. The club's organ is the quarterly WILSON

BULLETIN. The club holds its annual meetings usually in some prominent and centrally located Middle Western city, and as often as possible with those of the American Association."

For our convenient reference the following schedule of meetings of the American Association is here recorded.

- 1926. Philadelphia. Monday, December 27-January 1.
- 1927. Nashville. Monday, December 26-December 31.
- 1928. New York. Thursday, December 27-January 2.
- 1929. Des Moines (?). Friday, December 27-January 2.
- 1930. Cleveland (?). Monday, December 29-January 3.
- 1931. New Orleans (?). Monday, December 28-January 2.
- 1932. Chicago. Monday, December 26-December 31.

The quadrennial meetings are fixed, and rotate between Washington, New York, and Chicago. It has become a pretty well-established custom for the W. O. C. to hold its meeting in conjunction with the American Association when the latter meets in the Mississippi Valley. The attendance at the Kansas City meeting of the American Association was 1,931, which was the smallest attendance since the Toronto meeting in 1921. We are, therefore, always assured of the reduced railroad fare when we join with the A. A. A. S.

WHO'S WHO IN THE W. O. C.

Dr. Zeno P. Metcalf is professor of Zoology and Entomology in the North Carolina State College, and is also entomologist for the North Carolina Experiment Station, Raleigh, N. C.

Dr. Amon R. Shearer is a practicing physician at Mont Belvieu, Texas.

Miss Althea R. Sherman, of National, Iowa, devotes much of her time to the intensive study of bird life. Her winter months are spent chiefly in writing up results. Her most important papers have been on the Northern Flicker, the Screech Owl, the Sparrow Hawk, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and the House Wren. She has also done much work on the Chimney Swift and several other species, which is yet unpublished.

Professor Jesse L. Smith is superintendent of schools at Highland Park, Illinois.

Dr. W. H. Bergtold is a practicing physician of Denver, Colo.

Garfield A. Bowden is supervisor of sciences, University School, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dr. Amos W. Butler, the author of "The Birds of Indiana", is lecturer on Sociology in the University of Indiana, at Bloomington.

Dr. Leon J. Cole is professor of Genetics in the University of Wisconsin, at Madison.

Dr. C. F. De Garis is instructor in Anatomy in Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

Professor C. W. G. Eifrig teaches in the Concordia Teachers College, Oak Park, Illinois.

George E. Ekblaw is assistant geologist in the Illinois State Geological Survey.

W. Elmer Ekblaw is the managing editor of *Economic Geography*, and honorary fellow in Clark University, Worcester, Mass.

Dr. Joseph Grinnell is professor of Zoology and director of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in the University of California.

Luther Little is a salesman for the A. M. Castle and Co., Los Angeles, Calif.

Richard N. Lobdell is professor of Biology in the Mississippi A. and M. College, Agricultural College, Mississippi.

Professor Albro D. Morrill is a member of the teaching staff of Hamilton College, Clinton, N. Y.

Professor E. L. Moseley is head of the Biology Department in the State Normal College, Bowling Green, Ohio.

Dr. T. S. Palmer is Biologist, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. He is a specialist in the field of game legislation and conservation. Dr. Palmer has also been the very efficient secretary of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1918.

Dr. L. H. Pennington is professor of Botany in the New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse, N. Y.

Francis Harvey Pough is department manager in the Southern Acid and Sulphur Co., St. Louis, Mo.

William D. Richardson is chief chemist with Swift & Company, Chicago.

Oscar Perry Silliman is connected with the Mitchell Silliman Company, Salinas, Calif.

Bradshaw Hall Swales is honorary assistant curator in the Division of Birds, United States National Museum, Washington, D. C. He also holds the title of associate curator in the Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Dr. Dayton Stoner is assistant professor of Zoology in the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

Dr. Alexander Wetmore is assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

Dr. Frank N. Wilson is professor of medicine in the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Dr. William R. Allen is assistant professor of Zoology in the University of Kentucky, Lexington.

Rev. John Mallory Bates is a retired clergyman of Red Cloud, Nebraska.

Dr. G. Clyde Fisher is curator of visual instruction in the American Museum of Natural History, New York, and is an expert photographer, and has, we believe, the best illustrated lecture on John Burroughs extant.

Dr. F. L. Fitzpatrick, recently of the Colorado State Teachers College, is now professor of zoology in Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Dr. Harry Hapeman is a practicing physician of Minden, Nebraska.

Prof. Junius Henderson is professor of Natural History and curator of the Museum in the University of Colorado, Boulder. He has published papers on birds and mollusks.

Miss Lena B. Henderson is assistant professor of Botany in Rockford College, Rockford, Illinois.

Dr. David C. Hilton is a surgeon in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Noel J. Williams, formerly an instructor in Chemistry in Iowa State College, is now a farmer at Arnolds Park, Iowa.

Dr. Robt. H. Wolcott is professor and chairman of the Department of Zoology, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.



Group at the Kansas City Meeting of the W. O. C. and I. B. B. A.