

Explanatory Note.

At the recent Congress of the A. O. U. in Cambridge the author's attention was called to some parts of the introduction to 'Birds of California,' which have created a wrong impression concerning the work, among those lacking time to investigate the matter. Hence, it seems best to state definitely that *the book* is not the result of one season's reconnaissance in the field; it is based upon the author's own field notes, begun in October, 1894, and continued, with few interruptions, until July, 1902.

These years of data gathering *in the field* were supplemented by two years' work upon the text.

The "test study" refers only to the last five months, which were spent, as stated, in ascertaining so far as possible what birds were *most commonly* met with by the casual observer. The list of places where observations were made includes all places visited during the eight years mentioned, and does not refer alone to the last trip.

Also, the word "cases" on page 13 is used as synonymous with "instances," the specific meaning intended being "broods."

When Mr. F. M. Chapman, in reviewing the book in 'Bird Lore,' interpreted 'cases' as 'species,' the author was appalled and at once wrote to Mr. Chapman, asking that this error be corrected in the next issue. Owing to Mr. Chapman's absence in the Bahamas, the letter failed to reach him and the correction was not made.

TWENTY-SECOND CONGRESS OF THE AMERICAN
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

THE TWENTY-SECOND CONGRESS of the American Ornithologists' Union convened in Cambridge, Mass., Monday evening, November 28, 1904. The business meeting was held in Mr. William Brewster's museum, and the public sessions, commencing Tuesday, November 29, and lasting three days, were held in the Nash Lecture-room of the University Museum.

BUSINESS SESSION.—The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Charles B. Cory. Sixteen Fellows were present. The Secretary stated that at the opening of the present Congress

the membership of the Union numbered 808, constituted as follows: Fellows, 46; Honorary Fellows, 18; Corresponding Fellows, 66; Members, 70; Associates, 608.

During the year the Union lost seventy-two members, ten by death, thirty by resignation, and thirty-two for non-payment of dues. The deceased members include one Fellow, two Corresponding Fellows, one Member, and six Associates, as follows: Gurdon Trumbull,¹ a Fellow, who died in Hartford, Conn., Dec. 28, 1903, in his 63d year; Dr. R. A. Philippi, of Chili, a Corresponding Fellow, who died in Aug., 1904; Dr. Samuel W. Woodhouse,² a Corresponding Fellow, who died in Philadelphia, Oct. 23, 1904, in his 84th year; John Fannin,³ a Member, who died at Victoria, British Columbia, June 20, 1904; and the following Associates: Josiah Hoopes,⁴ who died in Westchester, Pa., Jan. 16, 1904, in the 72d year of his age; J. B. Canfield, who died in Bridgeport, Conn., Feb. 18, 1904; James M. Southwick,⁵ who died in Providence, R. I., June 3, 1904, at the age of 58; J. C. Knox,⁶ who was drowned in Shoal Lake, Manitoba, June 10, 1904; Leonard E. Burnett; and Lee Nims.

The report of the Treasurer showed the finances of the Union to be in a satisfactory condition.

All of the officers were reelected, as follows: Charles B. Cory, President; Charles F. Batchelder and E. W. Nelson, Vice-Presidents; John H. Sage, Secretary; Jonathan Dwight, Jr., Treasurer; Frank M. Chapman, Ruthven Deane, Witmer Stone, A. K. Fisher, Thos. S. Roberts, William Dutcher, and C. W. Richmond, members of the Council.

Glover M. Allen, of Cambridge, Mass.; Robert O. Morris, of Springfield, Mass.; and J. Warren Jacobs, of Waynesburg, Pa., were elected to the class of Members, and the following one hundred and twenty-five persons were elected Associates, namely:

Gerard A. Abbott, Chicago, Ill.; Miss Adeline E. Ackley, East Hamp-

¹ For an obituary notice, see *Auk*, XXI, pp. 310, 311.

² For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, XXII, p. 104.

³ For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, XXI, p. 510.

⁴ For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, XXI, pp. 311, 312.

⁵ For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, XXI, p. 511.

⁶ For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, XXII, p. 106.

ton, Conn.; Mrs. Eustace L. Allen, Hartford, Conn.; Edward E. Armstrong, Chicago, Ill.; Frank T. Antis, Canandaigua, N. Y.; A. D. Atwood, Tenafly, N. J.; Roger N. Baldwin, Wellesley Hills, Mass.; Ernest Harold Baynes, Meriden, N. H.; Wm. A. Birnie, Springfield, Mass.; William S. Bogert, Leonia, N. J.; H. H. Brimley, Raleigh, N. C.; Lewis B. Brown, Toronto, Canada; Miss Elizabeth Brown, Washington, D. C.; Alex. M. Burgess, Providence, R. I.; Miss Charlotte W. Butler, Beverly, Mass.; Louis Cabot, Brookline, Mass.; Rufus H. Carr, Brockton, Mass.; Sidney Chase, Boston, Mass.; A. W. Child, Boston, Mass.; Harold R. Colson, Cambridge, Mass.; Miss Clara L. Crane, Dalton, Mass.; Mrs. Zenas Crane, Dalton, Mass.; James W. Cromwell, New York City; Maunsell S. Crosby, Rhinebeck, N. Y.; Percival de Luce, New York City; S. H. Derickson, Annville, Pa.; Emma E. Drew, Burlington, Vt.; Miss Mary Drummond, Wheaton, Ill.; Dr. Clyde E. Ehinger, Westchester, Pa.; Geo. P. Ells, Norwalk, Conn.; Robert T. Emmet, New Rochelle, N. Y.; John O. Enders, Hartford, Conn.; Paul J. Fair, Freeport, Ill.; John A. Farley, Boston, Mass.; William L. Finley, Portland, Oregon; Henry S. Forbes, Milton, Mass.; Charles H. French, Canton, Mass.; T. Otis Fuller, Needham, Mass.; J. E. Gardner, Cambridge, Mass.; Geo. B. Gates, Madison, S. D.; Langdon Gibson, Schenectady, N. Y.; Arthur F. Gilbert, New Bedford, Mass.; Edward W. Gifford, San Francisco, Calif.; Juliet T. Goodrich, Chicago, Ill.; Miss Amy Goodwin, Cambridge, Mass.; Miss Helen Granger, Cambridge, Mass.; Mrs. Amelia P. Greenough, Boston, Mass.; Miss Marion Gunnison, Ithaca, N. Y.; H. Porter Hall, Leominster, Mass.; Elizabeth S. Hill, Groton, Mass.; Geo. E. Hix, New York City; Herman Horshert, St. Louis, Mo.; John S. Howard, Franklin, Mass.; Rev. V. A. Huard, Quebec, Canada; H. J. Jager, Owatonna, Minn.; John W. Kay, Detroit, Mich.; Wallace G. Kay, Detroit, Mich.; Blanche Kendall, Brookline, Mass.; Francis Kermodé, Victoria, B. C.; Chas. R. Keyes, Mt. Vernon, Iowa; A. Vincent Kidder, Cambridge, Mass.; Mrs. Fanny B. Kirkham, Springfield, Mass.; A. B. Klugh, Guelph, Ont.; Mrs. H. R. Kunhardt, New York City; D. Lange, St. Paul, Minn.; Albert L. Lincoln, Brookline, Mass.; John R. Livermore, Katonah, N. Y.; Edward H. Lum, Chatham, N. J.; O. G. Malde, Madison, Wis.; H. W. Marsden, Witch Creek, Calif.; Henry B. McConnell, Cadiz, Ohio; James H. Miller, Lowville, N. Y.; Mrs. E. M. Meade, New York City; Mrs. Geo. R. Mosle, New York City; James A. Munro, Toronto, Ont.; Fred. Mutchler, Worcester, Mass.; Wm. G. Neal, Walton, Ont.; Wm. E. Nichols, New York City; Roy C. Norris, Richmond, Ind.; Mrs. Carrie W. Ormsbee, Brandon, Vt.; A. Osgyani, Bridgeport, Conn.; Miss Isabel M. Paddock, St. Johnsbury, Vt.; Edgar M. Parker, Montgomery City, Mo.; Herbert Parker, So. Lancaster, Mass.; Elmore E. Peake, Salem, Ill.; Clark J. Peck, West Philadelphia, Pa.; Henry O. Peck, Pittsfield, Mass.; James L. Peters, Jamaica Plain, Mass.; Cyrus A. Peterson, St. Louis, Mo.; John C. Phillips, Boston, Mass.; Sherman E. Phillips, Rochester, N. H.; Stanley E. Piper, Washington, D. C.; Grace V. Pomeroy, New York City; Rev. Geo. B.

Pratt, Chicago, Ill.; James N. Proctor, Ventura, Calif.; Chester A. Reed, Worcester, Mass.; Emily E. Reed, Boston, Mass.; Mrs. Wm. Howell Reed, Boston, Mass.; Geo. H. Reynolds, Springfield, Mass.; William Richard, Waterford, N. Y.; Chas. H. Rogers, Wayne, Pa.; G. H. Ross, Rutland, Vt.; Howland Russell, Milwaukee, Wis.; Frank Schwarz, St. Louis, Mo.; Richard P. Stapleton, Holyoke, Mass.; Wm. M. Stillman, Plainfield, N. J.; Chas. R. Stockard, New York City; Chas. S. Strout, Biddeford, Me.; Mrs. F. L. Sturgis, New York City; Myron H. Swenk, Lincoln, Nebr.; Mrs. Thos. W. Thacher, Brookline, Mass.; Dr. M. T. Thompson, Worcester, Mass.; John M. Van Huyck, Lee, Mass.; Arthur W. Van Pelt, Chicago, Ill.; Stephen Visser, Chicago, Ill.; Leo Wallingsford, Alexandria, Ind.; William A. Wheeler, East Templeton, Mass.; Miss Mary E. Winslett, Stevensville, Montana; Wm. R. Wister, Philadelphia, Pa.; Norman A. Wood, Ann Arbor, Mich.; S. T. Wood, Toronto, Ont.; Frank M. Woodruff, Chicago, Ill.; Dr. L. F. Woodward, Worcester, Mass.; Dr. Samuel B. Woodward, Worcester, Mass.; and Carl O. Zerralin, Milton, Mass.

Drs. Allen, Dwight, Merriam and Richmond, and Messrs. Brewster, Ridgway and Stone, were reelected 'Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of North American Birds.'

PUBLIC SESSION. *First Day.*—The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Batchelder. The papers read during the morning session were as follows:

'The Direction of Flight in the Fall Migration at New Haven,' by Dr. Louis B. Bishop.

'Regurgitative Feeding of Nestlings,' by Mrs. Irene G. Wheelock. Remarks followed by Messrs. Hoffmann and Oldys, Prof. Hodge, Dr. Palmer, and the author.

'Some Interesting 1904 Bird Songs,' by Henry Oldys.

'*Helminthophila leucobronchialis* and *Helminthophila lawrencei*,' by Dr. Louis B. Bishop.

'The Psychological conditions of Bird Study,' by Rev. Wm. R. Lord.

The papers of the afternoon session, illustrated by lantern slides, were:

'Florida Notes,' by Frank M. Chapman.

'The Land Birds of Oregon and California,' by William L. Finley.

Second Day.— The meeting was called to order by the President. The papers read during the morning session were:

‘The Birds of the Southern West Indies,’ by A. H. Clark. Remarks followed by Dr. Palmer.

‘Experiments in rearing Ruffed Grouse in Confinement,’ by Prof. C. F. Hodge. Illustrated by lantern slides, and in the absence of the author presented by Miss Helen A. Ball.

‘Wear in its relation to Subspecies,’ by Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr. Remarks followed by Messrs. Nelson, Clark and Dutcher, and the author.

‘A Review of the Gulls which have light-colored Primaries,’ by Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr.

‘The Nesting Habits of the Flamingo,’ by Frank M. Chapman. Illustrated by lantern slides.

The following papers — both illustrated by lantern slides — were given at the afternoon session, viz.:

‘The Sea-birds of the Oregon Coast,’ by William L. Finley.

‘Illustrated Readings from Thoreau’s Journals,’ by the Rev. H. W. Gleason.

Third Day.— The meeting was called to order by the President.

The papers of the morning were:

‘The Present Status of the Prairie Chicken east of the Mississippi,’ by Dr. T. S. Palmer.

‘An Untenable Theory of Bird Migration,’ by Prof. W. W. Cooke. Read by Mr. Oberholser in the absence of the author.

‘Observations on the Birds of the Sand-hill Region of Nebraska,’ by Dr. R. H. Wolcott. Illustrated by lantern slides and presented by Dr. Palmer in the author’s absence.

Resolutions were adopted thanking the authorities of Harvard University for the use of the Nash Lecture-room as a place of meeting for the Union; to the Nuttall Ornithological Club for the very cordial welcome and generous hospitality extended to the visiting members and friends of the Union, and to the Harvard Natural History Society for its hospitable invitation.

The following papers were read by title:

‘*Cyanocitta cristata*, and other Eastern Birds, at Wray, Yuma County, Colorado,’ by Horace G. Smith.

'Ornithology of a Churchyard,' by B. S. Bowdish.

As the opening paper of the afternoon, Mr. Dutcher, Chairman of the 'Committee on Protection of North American Birds,' read a summary of the report of his committee for the previous year.

The concluding paper, illustrated by lantern slides, was :

'The Season's Experiences with Shore-birds, Herons and Water-fowl,' by Rev. H. K. Job.

The next meeting of the Union will be held in New York City, in November, 1905.

The good attendance at this Congress, together with the new members elected, the largest number in any year since the founding of the Union, was most gratifying.

JNO. H. SAGE,
Secretary.

GENERAL NOTES.

Sabine's Gull in Montana.—I enclose two photographs of an immature example of Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*), which, as far as I know, has not before been recorded from Montana. This bird was shot September 23, on the Yellowstone, by the ferryman at Terry, who told me that on the previous day he had seen about fifty gulls, all resting on the river shore—the flock including this species and others slightly larger. I presumed the larger gulls to be Ring-billed Gulls, which, as well as American Herring Gulls, I have observed on the Yellowstone at different dates.

The specimen is a male. The dimensions in inches are: Length to end of tail, 13; to end of wings, 14; extent, 30; wing, 10; tail, 5; across fork of tail, 1½; bill, along gape, 1½. The bill was black; legs and feet flesh color; irides dark brown.—E. S. CAMERON, *Terry, Montana*.

Additional Record of the European Widgeon (*Marcca penelope*).—I have recently examined a fine adult male of this species, which was shot on an overflowed meadow near Nippersink Lake, Lake County, Ill., on April 1, 1904, by Mr. Charles Muehrcke, and is now in his possession. The bird was in company with six of his American cousins, all of whom were shot. The specimen is mounted representing dead game. This record makes the eighteenth for the interior.—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

Little Blue Heron in Connecticut.—A flock of Little Blue Herons (*Florida carulea*), all young in the white plumage, made its headquarters