

TWENTY-THIRD CONGRESS OF THE AMERICAN
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

THE TWENTY-THIRD CONGRESS of the American Ornithologists' Union convened in New York City, Monday evening, November 13, 1905. The business meeting, and public sessions, November 14, 15 and 16, were held at the American Museum of Natural History, and the final session, Thursday afternoon, at the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.

BUSINESS SESSION.—The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Batchelder, in the absence of the President, Mr. Charles B. Cory. Sixteen Fellows were present. The Secretary's report gave the membership of the Union at the opening of the present Congress as 860, constituted as follows: Fellows, 45; Honorary Fellows, 18; Corresponding Fellows, 65; Members, 71; Associates, 661.

During the year the Union lost fifty-eight members, five by death, twenty-seven by resignation, and twenty-six for non-payment of dues. The deceased members were: Walter E. Bryant,¹ a Corresponding Fellow, who died in San Francisco, Calif., May 21, 1905, aged 44 years; Dr. Sylvester D. Judd, a Member, who died Oct. 22, 1905, at the age of 34; Charles E. Bailey, of North Billerica, Mass., Dr. Mortimer Jesurun, of Douglas, Wyoming, and John C. Knox, of Auburn, N. Y., Associates.

The report of the Treasurer showed the finances of the Union to be in a satisfactory condition, much better than ever before.

Charles F. Batchelder was elected President; E. W. Nelson and Frank M. Chapman, Vice-Presidents; John H. Sage, Secretary; Jonathan Dwight, Jr., Treasurer; Ruthven Deane, A. K. Fisher, Thos. S. Roberts, Witmer Stone, William Dutcher, Chas. W. Richmond, and F. A. Lucas, members of the Council.

Walter K. Fisher, of Palo Alto, Calif.; Lynds Jones, of Oberlin, Ohio; and Wilfred H. Osgood, of Washington, D. C., were elected Fellows. Dr. Chas. W. Townsend, of Boston, Mass.; John E. Thayer, of Lancaster, Mass.; Rev. Wm. Leon Dawson, of Seattle,

¹ For an obituary notice, see Auk, XXII, pp. 439-441.

Wash.; James H. Riley, of Washington, D. C.; and Austin H. Clark, of Boston, Mass., were elected to the class of Members, and the following seventy-one persons were elected Associates, namely:

John A. Aiken, Greenfield, Mass.; William B. Allison, New Orleans, La.; Mrs. Bennet F. Ball, Oakville, Conn.; Edwin Beaupre, Kingston, Ontario; Henry F. Blount, Washington, D. C.; Allen Bourn, Yonkers, N. Y.; Mrs. Mary G. Bowman, Springfield, Mass.; Courtenay Brandreth, Ossining, N. Y.; M. C. Buffum, Newport, R. I.; Thos. L. Burney, Lynn, Mass.; Mrs. John H. Cady, Providence, R. I.; Mrs. Robert Campbell, Jackson, Mich.; J. M. Carroll, Waco, Texas; James P. Catlin, Ottawa, Ill.; Dr. E. A. Chapman, New York City; Emily L. Clark, St. Johnsbury, Vt.; Susan E. Clark, St. Johnsbury, Vt.; Lucy V. Baxter Coffin, Chicago, Ill.; F. M. David, Damariscotta, Me.; Samuel S. Dickey, Waynesburg, Pa.; E. A. Doolittle, Painesville, Ohio; Henry L. Douglas, Brockton, Mass.; Alexander D. DuBois, Chicago, Ill.; W. L. R. Emmet, Schenectady, N. Y.; A. H. Gallup, Ottawa, Ont.; Earle R. Greene, Atlanta, Ga.; Mrs. C. B. Graves, New London, Conn.; Campbell Hamilton, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Mrs. Henry W. Hardon, New York City; John H. Hardy, Jr., Arlington, Mass.; Miss Helen P. Haskell, Alton, Ill.; Ashton E. Hemphill, Holyoke, Mass.; Harold Herrick, New York City; Alfred C. Hill, Belmont, Mass.; Isabel B. Holbrook, Rockland, Mass.; Bruce Horsfall, Red Bank, N. J.; Chas. F. Jenney, Boston, Mass.; Geo. H. Kent, Suffolk, Miss.; Mrs. Henry A. Knapp, Scranton, Pa.; Dr. Victor Kutchen, Dartford, Wis.; A. Lechasseur, Trois-Pistoles, Quebec; Louis E. Legge, Portland, Me.; Mark W. Maclay, Jr., New York City; Nell K. McElhone, New York City; Miss Emily McNeil, Cromwell, Conn.; Henry F. Merriam, Summit, N. J.; W. B. Mershon, Saginaw, Mich.; Miss Elizabeth Putnam Moore, New York City; Franklin H. Mosher, Wakefield, Mass.; Robert C. Murphy, Mt. Sinai, N. Y.; Mrs. Harry A. Noyes, Hyde Park, Vt.; Geo. P. Perry, Sterling, Ill.; Mrs. Rose A. Pickering, Middletown, Ind.; Mrs. Wallace Radcliffe, Washington, D. C.; John A. Remick, Jr., Boston, Mass.; H. S. Reeside, Washington, D. C.; Harriet Richardson, Washington, D. C.; Harrison Sanford, New York City; Harry C. Sargent, Newton, Mass.; Carleton Schaller, New York City; A. R. Shearer, Mount Belvieu, Texas; Charles Sheldon, New York City; Watson Snyder, Newark, N. J.; Loring T. Swain, Cambridge, Mass.; Roy Thompson, Cando, N. Dak.; Miss Anna J. Valentine, Bellefonte, Pa.; Arthur T. Wayne, Mt. Pleasant, S. C.; Louis Wessel, Butte, Mont.; Dr. Emma D. Wilcox, New York City; Miss Florence A. Wyckoff, Elmira, N. Y.; and Walter R. Zappey, Roslindale, Mass.

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

Committee was empowered to prepare a new edition of the Check-List for publication as soon as practicable.

PUBLIC SESSION. *First Day.*—The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Batchelder. An address of welcome was made by Prof. H. C. Bumpus on behalf of the President and Trustees of the American Museum of Natural History.

The papers read during the morning session were as follows:

'Some Unpublished Letters of Wilson and some Unstudied Works of Audubon,' by Witmer Stone. Remarks followed by Dr. Allen, and the author.

'The Evolution of Species through Climatic Conditions,' by Dr. J. A. Allen. Remarks followed by Dr. Bishop, Rev. H. K. Job, Messrs. Chapman, Elliot and Bent, and the author.

'Summer Birds of the Mt. Marcy Region in the Adirondacks,' by Elon H. Eaton. Remarks followed by Dr. Fisher.

'Pelican Island Revisited,' by Frank M. Chapman. Illustrated by lantern slides.

The papers of the afternoon were:

'Some Breeding Warblers of Demarest, N. J.,' by B. S. Bowdish. Illustrated by lantern slides. Remarks followed by Mr. Chubb, and the Chair.

'Notes on Wing Movements in Bird Flight,' by William L. Finley. Illustrated by lantern slides. Remarks followed by Dr. Palmer.

'The Status of Certain Species and Subspecies of North American Birds,' by Jonathan Dwight, Jr. Remarks followed by Messrs. Oberholser, Lucas, Elliot, and Dr. Allen.

'Wild-fowl Nurseries of Northwest Canada,' by Rev. H. K. Job. Illustrated by lantern slides.

In the evening the members of the Union, and their friends, met at dinner at the Hotel Endicott. After the dinner an informal reception was held at the American Museum of Natural History, with an exhibition of a new projection apparatus.

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

'Andreas Hesselius, a Pioneer Delaware Ornithologist,' by C. J. Pennock.

'The Probability of Error in Bird Migration Records,' by Witmer

Stone. Remarks followed by Prof. Cooke, Dr. Fisher, and the author.

'Some Observations on the Applicability of the Mutation Theory to Birds,' by Witmer Stone. Remarks followed by Drs. Allen and Bishop, Messrs. Oberholser, Brewster and Fuertes, and the Chair.

'The Song of the Hermit Thrush,' by Henry Oldys. Remarks followed by Mr. Fuertes.

'Impressions of English Bird-Life,' by Frank M. Chapman. Illustrated by lantern slides.

The papers of the afternoon were:

'Similarity of the Birds of the Maine Woods and the Pocono Mountains, Pa.,' by William L. Baily, followed by an 'Exhibition of Lantern Slides' by the same author.

'Discontinuous Breeding Ranges,' by Prof. Wells W. Cooke. Illustrated by lantern slides.

'The Principles of the Disguising Coloration of Animals,' by Abbott H. Thayer. Illustrated with experiments and slides. Remarks followed by Mr. Eaton and the author.

The Chair announced that the afternoon session the following day would be held in the Museum of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.

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

The following Committees were appointed by the Chair: 'Revision of the A. O. U. Code,' Dr. J. A. Allen, Chairman, Dr. Theo. N. Gill, H. W. Henshaw, H. C. Oberholser, W. H. Osgood, Dr. C. W. Richmond and Witmer Stone. 'Bird Protection,' Dr. A. K. Fisher, Chairman, D. G. Elliot, Dr. T. S. Roberts, E. W. Nelson, and Dr. C. W. Richmond. ✓

The papers of the morning were:

'The Collection of Birds in the New York Zoölogical Park,' by C. William Beebe.

'A Contribution to the Natural History of the English Cuckoo, with a review of the Literature on the Subject,' by Dr. Montague R. Levenson.

'Plumages and Status of the White-winged Gulls of the Genus *Larus*,' by Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr.

'A Contribution to the Ornithology of South Carolina, pertaining chiefly to the Coast Region,' by Arthur T. Wayne. In the

absence of the author the paper was read by Mr. William Brewster.

'Should Bird Protection Laws and their Enforcement be in the hands of the National Government?' by Otto Widmann. Read by Dr. Palmer, in the absence of the author.

'A Lapland Longspur Tragedy,' by Dr. Thos. S. Roberts. Illustrated by lantern slides. Remarks followed by Drs. Fisher and Bishop.

The afternoon, and final, session was held at the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, with Frederic A. Lucas, Curator-in-Chief of the Museum of the Brooklyn Institute, Chairman. On behalf of the Trustees he welcomed the Union to the Institute.

The papers read were:

'The Hoatzin and other South American Birds' (with exhibition of specimens), by George K. Cherrie. Remarks followed by Messrs. Dutcher, Beebe, Fuyertes, the author, and the Chair.

'Among the Water Birds of Southern Oregon,' by William L. Finley. Illustrated by lantern slides. Remarks followed by Drs. Bishop and Fisher, Rev. H. K. Job, Messrs. Dutcher, Eaton and Fuyertes, Mrs. Chapman, and the author.

At the conclusion of the papers there was an informal gathering in the office of the Curator-in-Chief, with refreshments provided by members of the Executive Committee of the Institute. Afterwards an opportunity was given to view the collections of the Museum.

On Friday, November 17, after adjournment of the Union, and upon invitation of the New York Zoological Society, many members visited the Aquarium and the New York Zoological Park. They were received and entertained by Directors Hornaday and Townsend, and Curator Beebe.

The next meeting of the Union will be held in Washington, D. C., commencing November 12, 1906.

JNO. H. SAGE.

Secretary.