

*Oceanodroma castro castro* (Harcourt).

				Outer tail feath- ers extend be- yond inner in closed tail	Bill	Hook of Bill (straight distance)
No. 11000	E. A. & O. Bangs	♂ Porto Santo.	Nov. 27, 1902	.25 in.	.55 in.	.28 in.
No. 15322	Jonathan Dwight, Jr.	♂ " "	Dec. 6, 1903	.20	.59	.30

*Oceanodroma castro cryptoleucura* (Ridgway).

No. 10984	Mus. Comp. Zoölogy	Sandwich Islands.		.40	.60	.27
No. 10985	Mus. Comp. Zoölogy	" "		.38	.57	.30

*Oceanodroma castro bangsi* ssp. nov.

No. 12413	E. A. & O. Bangs (Type)	♀ 1° N. 93° W.	Feb. 6, 1901	.34	.62	.35
No. 70299	Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.	Cocos Island.	June 18, 1898	—	.63	.33

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 THIRTY-SECOND STATED MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

THE Thirty-second Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union convened in Washington, D. C., Monday evening, April 6, 1914. The business meeting was held at 'The New Ebbitt,' 14th and F Sts., and the public sessions, commencing Tuesday, April 7, and lasting two days, were held in the Auditorium of the new building of the U. S. National Museum.

**BUSINESS SESSION:** The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. Frank M. Chapman. Twenty-six Fellows were present. The Secretary's report gave the membership of the Union at the opening of the present Stated Meeting as 1101, constituted as follows: Fellows, 50; Retired Fellows, 4; Honorary Fellows, 14; Corresponding Fellows, 57; Members, 74; Associates, 902.

Since the last meeting (November, 1913) the Union lost twenty-

seven members, three by death, and twenty-four by resignation. The deceased were:

Dr. Ora Willis Knight, a Member, who died in Portland, Maine, November 11, 1913, aged 39 years; also the following Associates: Charles S. Welles, of Elwyn, Pa., who died Feb. 24, 1914, and Henry W. Beers, who died in Bridgeport, Conn., April 2, 1914, aged 47 years.

The report of the Treasurer showed the finances of the Union to be in a satisfactory condition, the accounts being audited by a Certified Public Accountant.

Albert K. Fisher was elected President; Henry W. Henshaw and Witmer Stone, Vice-Presidents; John H. Sage, Secretary; Jonathan Dwight Jr., Treasurer; Ruthven Deane, William Dutcher, Frederic A. Lucas, Wilfred H. Osgood, Chas. W. Richmond, Thos. S. Roberts, and Joseph Grinnell, members of the Council.

Egbert Bagg, Utica, N. Y.; Dr. Thomas Barbour, Cambridge, Mass.; Robert Thomas Moore, Haddonfield, N. J.; Robert C. Murphy, Brooklyn, N. Y., and John Treadwell Nichols, of New York City, were elected to the class of Members, and the following twenty-six persons were elected Associates:

Miss Gertrude Mary Allen, New York, N. Y.

G. A. Bolden, Charleston, W. Va.

J. J. Boyle, Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Edward Gay Butler, Berryville, Va.

Miss Stella Risley Clemence, New York, N. Y.

Miss E. S. Day, Brooklyn, N. Y.

D. Douglas Findlay, Ontario, Canada.

Joseph A. Hagar, Newtonville, Mass.

Miss Helen E. Haynes, Lebanon, N. H.

Frank Hennesy, Ottawa, Ont.

Miss Mabel Hotchkiss, Waterbury, Conn.

Wilbur Wallace Johnson, East Orange, N. J.

Frank H. Main, New York, N. Y.

O. J. Murie, Portland, Oregon.

Free Ottemiller, York, Pa.

Neill Pennell Overman, East Orange, N. J.

Charles Phillips, Minneapolis, Minn.

Miss Anna H. Pierpont, Waterbury, Conn.

E. F. Pope, Colmesneil, Texas.

Charles A. Robbins, Onset, Mass.

Mrs. Stilwell, Philadelphia, Pa.

C. W. Tate, East Orange, N. J.  
 Titus Ulke, Washington, D. C.  
 A. W. Upham, Boston, Mass.  
 Mrs. Kate P. Vietor, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
 Lem Williams, Shonkin, Montana.

Drs. Allen, Chapman, Dwight, Jos. Grinnell, Merriam, Palmer, Richmond and Stone, and Messrs. Brewster, Nelson, Oberholser and Ridgway were appointed 'Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of North American Birds.'

The following amendment to the By-Laws proposed at the last Stated Meeting of the Union was adopted:

Article I, Section 7, now reads:

"Associates shall be residents of America, and shall not be limited in number."

The object of the change was to permit residents of South and Central America to become Associates.

**PUBLIC SESSIONS.** *First Day.* The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. Fisher.

The papers read during the morning session were as follows:

'Some Letters from Robert Kennicott,' by Ernest Thompson Seton. Remarks followed by Dr. D. G. Elliot who personally knew Mr. Kennicott.

'On the Zonary Stomach in the Euphonias,' by Alexander Wetmore. Remarks followed by Messrs. Fuertes and McAtee.

'Visits of Pine and Evening Grosbeaks,' by Mrs. E. O. Marshall. Remarks followed by John T. Nichols.

'A Note on the Herring Gull,' by John Treadwell Nichols. Remarks followed by Mr. Rogers, and the author.

'Side Light on the Saw-whet Owl,' by Ernest Thompson Seton.

The following papers, all illustrated by lantern slides, were presented at the afternoon session.

'Notes on Lower California Birds,' by Dr. Paul Bartsch.

'Notes on the Distribution of Breeding Egrets in the United States,' by T. Gilbert Pearson. Remarks followed by Dr. Bartsch.

'Winter Feeding of Birds,' by B. S. Bowdish.

In the evening the members of the Union and their friends met at dinner at the Wallis Café.

*Second Day.* The meeting was called to order by President Fisher. The papers of the morning session were:

'The Curious tail molt of Rhinoplax, with exhibition of specimens,' by Alexander Wetmore.

'Results of the Federal Bird Migration Regulations,' by Dr. T. S. Palmer. Remarks followed by Drs. Merriam, Bishop, and Chapman, Mr. Bond, and the author.

'Are Insectivorous Birds Decreasing?' Subject introduced by Dr. Frank M. Chapman. Remarks followed by Drs. Merriam, Chapman and Stone, Prof. W. W. Cooke, Mr. Waldron DeWitt Miller, and the Chair.

At the afternoon session the following papers, all illustrated by lantern slides, were presented:

'A Trip to Pelican Island, Florida,' by Ernest Thompson Seton. Remarks followed by Drs. Chapman, Bartsch, and T. S. Palmer.

'Notes on Feeding Birds,' by Frank Bond.

'Winter Birds at Ithaca, N. Y.,' by Louis Agassiz Fuertes.

'Migration in the Mackenzie Valley,' by Prof. Wells W. Cooke.

'With the Terns on Bird Key, Tortugas,' by Dr. Paul Bartsch.

The following papers were read by title:

'Anatomical Notes on Trochalopteron and Sicalis,' by Prof. Hubert Lyman Clark.

'The Intimidation Display of the White-breasted Nuthatch,' by Dr. Arthur A. Allen.

'Ten Minutes with the Birds of the District of Columbia,' by Dr. Paul Bartsch.

'Random Notes on Bird Preservation,' by Edward Howe Forbush.

Resolutions were adopted thanking the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution for the use of the auditorium in the new building of the United States National Museum for a place of meeting, and for other courtesies extended; to the Local Committee and other Washington members of the Union for the cordial welcome and generous hospitality shown visiting members; and to Dr. Frank Baker, Director of the National Zoological Park, for his polite invitation to the members of the Union to visit the Zoölogical Park.

The Stated Meeting just closed was the first one ever held in

the Spring — the change in time being the result of a desire expressed by numerous members of the Union.

After adjournment short field excursions were made in the vicinity of Washington, April 9 and 10, by members of the Union, under guidance of Prof. Cooke and Mr. E. A. Preble of the Biological Survey.

The next meeting of the Union will be held in San Francisco in May, 1915.

JOHN H. SAGE,  
*Secretary.*

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### GENERAL NOTES.

**A Misinterpretation.**— While photography is in many instances the only accurate and irrefutable means of determining the movements of rapidly moving objects there appears to be a misinterpretation in connection with the explanation of a figure in the April 'Auk.' I refer to the article, "Does a grebe spread its wings just before diving?" by Mr. Verdi Burtch, illustrated with Plates XXI and XXII. Figure 3, Plate XXI is a picture of a diving grebe taken instantaneously at the moment of disappearance and, as the author tells us, "shows a dark area representing the depression in the water where the grebe sat at the beginning of the exposure, the 'ghost' of its wings fully spread out behind as it started to lunge forward and the grebe itself nearly submerged a full length ahead."

I conclude that the so-called 'ghost' is considered to be the vague photographic impression made at the very beginning of the exposure. The shutter then remained open until the grebe had reached the almost submerged position at the right. If the exposure had been of that duration a continuous blurred image traversing the path taken by the grebe would have been the inevitable result and not, as we have had it explained, "a 'ghost' of the wings" followed by a photographically undisturbed area and then at the very close of the exposure a fairly well defined image of a grebe diving with its head held erect. In any event the supposed "ghost of the wings" would appear dark instead of light as seen in the figure on Plate XXI and intensified in the enlargement. Why should the grebe make such an intense and sharply defined image on the photographic plate just as it is disappearing while during the first part of the exposure practically no impression was made? It might be argued that the impact with the water had arrested its progress, but it does not seem possible that this retardation can come so suddenly and be as great as the relative intensities