

*Rhode Island.*—Lake Worden (Nov. 25, 1900; Dec. 11, 13, and 20, 1900).

*Texas.*—Lipscomb (June 22 and 24, 1903); Vernon (April 28, 1894); Henrietta (April 21, 1894).

*Virginia.*—Fairfax County (Nov. 25, 1880); Falls Church, Fairfax County (Nov. 27, 1890); McRaes (Oct. 24, 1890); Gainesville (May 17, 1887).

*West Virginia.*—Franklin (June 26, 1899); White Sulphur Springs (April 29, 1893).

*Wisconsin.*—Palmyra (June 23, 1890); Marquette (Oct. 25, 1908); Kenosha (Oct. 11, 1888); Delavan (Oct. 23, 1910).

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## THIRTY-EIGHTH STATED MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.<sup>1</sup>

BY T. S. PALMER.

THE Thirty-eighth Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union<sup>1</sup> was held in Washington, D. C., November 8 to 11, 1920. The business sessions on the opening day were held at the Cosmos Club and the public sessions on the following days at the United States National Museum. The meeting was one of the most largely attended in recent years, and with the excursions on Friday and Saturday occupied the entire week.

*Attendance.*—The total attendance of Fellows, Members, Associates and visitors was nearly 150. The Fellows present numbered 25 and the Retired Fellows two. Among these were two of the nine surviving founders, Dr. A. K. Fisher and Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, and eleven members elected at the first meeting in

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<sup>1</sup> This was the eleventh meeting held in Washington, D. C. Readers who have access to early volumes of 'The Auk' will be interested in comparing the report of the first Washington meeting in 1886, given in Vol. IV, pp. 56-61. The Union then had 252 members, of whom about 20 Active Members (now known as Fellows) and 13 Associates were present. Five additional Corresponding Members and 44 Associates were elected. Committees were appointed to draft a new Constitution and By-laws, and to take the necessary steps to incorporate the Union. The recent publication of the first 'Code and Check-List' had caused a deficit which it was necessary to meet. The economic relations of birds caused considerable discussion in connection with the presentation of extended reports of the Committees on Protection and on Geographical Distribution of North American Birds. The work originally undertaken by these Committees subsequently developed to such an extent that it resulted in the organization of the National Association of Audubon Societies and the U. S. Biological Survey.

1883: seven Fellows, Prof. W. B. Barrows, Ruthven Deane, Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Dr. George Bird Grinnell, Dr. T. S. Roberts, John H. Sage, and W. E. Saunders; two Retired Fellows, H. W. Henshaw and Dr. Leonhard Stejneger; one Member, Dr. F. H. Knowlton; and one Associate, Dr. W. H. Fox. Among others present were Dr. Frank M. Chapman and Dr. Witmer Stone, Fellows; Dr. Wm. C. Rives, a Member elected in 1885; and W. L. Baily, a Member, and Dr. Hugh M. Smith, an Associate, elected in 1886 at the first Washington meeting. Among those who came from a distance were Miss Louise P. Ford, of South Carolina; A. F. Ganier, of Tennessee; Mrs. M. M. Nice, of Oklahoma; Dr. T. S. Roberts, of Minnesota; and R. M. Anderson, Major Allan Brooks, W. E. Saunders, and P. A. Taverner, from Canada.

*Business Meetings.*—The first day was devoted to meetings of the Council which lasted from 10.30 A. M. to 4 P. M., and two evening meetings: one of the Fellows at 7.15 P. M., and the other of Fellows and Members at 8.15 P. M.

By order of the Council, Dr. W. K. Fisher (at his own request) was transferred to the list of Retired Fellows and C. J. Pennock was reinstated in the list of Members. The price of complete sets of 'The Auk' was fixed at \$200 and the annual subscription to non-members was advanced to \$4.00, but members and members-elect may continue to receive the journal at the regular price, \$3.00 per year.

At the meeting of the Fellows one vacancy was filled by the election of Robert Cushman Murphy, of Brooklyn, N. Y., and two amendments to the By-laws were adopted. One of these amendments, in Art. II, Sec. 4, modified the duties of the Treasurer; and the other, in Art. VII, Sec. 1, provided for the election of a board of three trustees to have charge of all the funded property of the Union.

At the meeting of the Fellows and Members, called to order by the President, 23 Fellows and 15 Members were present. Following the roll call and the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting the report of the Secretary was presented, showing a total of about 1140 Members (for details see p. 105). The report of the Treasurer showed the finances of the Union in a more satis-

factory condition than ever before, with a substantial balance of \$2,362.94 in receipts over current expenses, and a total surplus, including income from life memberships and invested funds of \$16,343.71, of which \$6,774.75 is contained in the Brewster Memorial Fund.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Witmer Stone; Vice-Presidents, George Bird Grinnell and Jonathan Dwight; Secretary, T. S. Palmer; Treasurer, W. L. McAtee; Members of the Council, Ruthven Deane, Joseph Grinnell, Fred-eric A. Lucas, H. C. Oberholser, W. H. Osgood, Charles W. Richmond, and T. S. Roberts.

On recommendation of the Council, two Honorary Fellows, 13 Corresponding Fellows and 306 Associates were duly elected (see p. 96). In the election of five Members the States of California, Connecticut, Iowa, Nebraska and Oregon were represented respectively by Loye Holmes Miller, A. A. Saunders, T. C. Stephens, Myron H. Swenk, and I. N. Gabrielson. Fellows, Honorary Fellows and Members are elected from other classes, but Corresponding Fellows and Associates are elected from candidates outside the Union, so that the actual increase in membership was 319, the largest on record.

The Committee on Biography and Bibliography, through its Chairman, Dr. Palmer, presented a brief verbal report showing progress in various lines of work undertaken since its inauguration in 1915.

A replica of the William Brewster Memorial Medal which will be awarded by the Union for the first time in the year 1921, was exhibited by Dr. Chapman, who explained the details of the design and the conditions of the award.

Resolutions were adopted expressing the thanks of the Union to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the Superintendent of the National Zoological Park, the Librarian of Congress and the Director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing for various courtesies extended during the Thirty-eighth Meeting of the Union.

*Public Meetings.*—The meetings devoted to the presentation and discussion of scientific papers occupied three full days, November 9, 10 and 11, from 10.15 A. M. to 5 P. M., and on Wednes-

day until 6 P. M., with an hour or more intermission for luncheon. The program included 38 papers on a wide range of topics relating to North American birds and contributions to the ornithology of Argentina, Nicaragua, Peru, Europe and Madagascar.

Illustration of birds may fairly be said to have been the outstanding feature of the meeting. The nine papers illustrated by lantern slides and the five contributions of motion pictures furnished an opportunity of comparing the best recent work with camera and motion picture machine. Finley's pictures of bird life on the Texas coast shown by Pearson, McClintock's detailed studies of the Least Bittern, Lloyd's views of the Trumpeter Swan, and Murphy's pictures of Peruvian birds were revelations, while Roberts' careful studies of some of the common birds of Minnesota demonstrated that many important facts may be learned from birds near home. Through the cordial coöperation of the Library of Congress a special exhibition of drawings, paintings, photographs and prints of birds was arranged in the Division of Prints and remained in place through the month of November. It not only brought together the best work with brush and camera by a number of American artists, but was supplemented by a series of prints arranged to show the development of ornithological illustration from the earliest times to date. (See beyond p. 161.)

The Passenger Pigeon formed the topic of considerable discussion in connection with Bond's 'Later Flights of the Passenger Pigeon,' while Dr. Shufeldt illustrated with lantern slides the principal published figures of this species. Plumage, including feather arrangement and structure, also formed the subject of several interesting and important papers: A. A. Allen discussed the 'Eclipse Plumage of certain Water-fowl'; W. DeW. Miller the 'Pterylosis of the Avian Wing'; J. P. Chapin the 'Pterylosis of *Monias benchi*' and also the 'Primaries of the Juvenile Plumage of Woodpeckers'; and Dr. Dwight the 'Metallic Plumage of the Purple Grackle.' Chapman and Fuertes illustrated by a series of specimens the 'Postmortem Changes in the Colors of Birds' Feathers' and showed the importance of recording the actual color of feathers in living birds. The fugitive nature of the tints in the plumage of certain species seem to have been better appreciated by bird artists than bird observers. Faunal papers were

represented by Stone's 'Notes on Birds of Cape May, N. J.,' Ganier's 'Birds of Middle Tennessee,' A. H. Howell's 'Birds of South Florida,' Griscom's 'Little Known Birds from Nicaragua,' Murphy's 'Ornithology of the Peruvian Guano Islands,' and Dabbene's 'North American Shore Birds in Argentina.' 'Recent Returns from Trapping and Banding' were reported by S. P. Baldwin and 'Progress in Ornithology in 1920' introduced by Dr. Oberholser was discussed by a number of the members.

The experiment of presenting the more technical papers at a special session seems to have been successful and aroused considerable interest. As a whole more opportunity was given for discussion of the various papers than has been afforded at recent meetings.

*Other Events.*—On Tuesday evening the members met at dinner in the cafe of the Library of Congress and the early part of the evening was devoted to an examination of the exhibit of bird paintings and photographs. Later, through the courtesy of the Library authorities, the party was conducted through the Divisions of Manuscripts and Maps and shown through the book stacks and the reading room for the blind.

On Wednesday evening the annual dinner was held at the Hotel Ebbitt, when Dr. Fisher entertained the members with a series of lantern slides illustrating the field activities of members of the Biological Survey.

On Friday morning after adjournment of the regular meeting a trip was made to the National Zoological Park, where, under the guidance of Superintendent Hollister, a party of about thirty was conducted through the bird houses and entertained at luncheon. On Friday evening the Committee on Nomenclature and Classification of Birds held a meeting and arranged for expediting work on the new 'Check-List' which is to form a part of the proposed 'Systema Avium.'

On Saturday a party of about thirty members visited Plummer Island, in the Potomac River a few miles above Washington, as the guests of the Washington Biologists' Field Club.

Besides the exhibition of bird paintings and photographs several special exhibits were arranged for the occasion in the United States National Museum. One of these, showing Government

work on birds, included copies of Government ornithological publications issued during the past two years by the National Museum, Biological Survey and the National Park Service and the various lines of activity in economic work, geographic distribution, bird banding, bird migration and bird protection under the direction of the Biological Survey. Another comprised specimens of birds discovered or described 100 years ago, and still another, specimens of the birds which have been added to the list of North American birds since the publication of the 'Check-List' of 1910.

*Results.*—In addition to opportunities for personal conferences and discussion and for comparison of specimens and consultation of books and records, several important results were accomplished during the meeting. Among these were the increase in the price of 'The Auk' to non-members, plans for the preparation of a decennial index to 'The Auk' for the years 1911 to 1920, and for prosecution of the work on the new 'Check-List,' and the transfer of the business office of the Union from New York to Philadelphia, where in future the records in connection with the collection of dues and subscriptions to 'The Auk' will be kept under the personal direction of the editor.

The next meeting will be held in Philadelphia, Pa., November 8 to 10, 1921.

#### PROGRAM.

(Papers marked with an asterisk (\*) were illustrated by lantern slides.)

##### TUESDAY.

1. Marriage Relations of the House Wren. S. PRENTISS BALDWIN, Cleveland, Ohio (20 min.).
2. In Memoriam—William Dutcher. T. S. PALMER, Washington, D. C. (30 min.).
3. Some Additional Notes on Birds of Cape May, N. J. WITMER STONE, Philadelphia, Pa. (20 min.).
4. The Later Flights of the Passenger Pigeon. FRANK BOND, Washington, D. C. (10 min.).
5. Notes on the Eclipse Plumage of Certain Waterfowl. ARTHUR A. ALLEN, Ithaca, N. Y. (15 min.).
6. \* The Use of Homing Pigeons in the World War. ERNEST HAROLD BAYNES, Meriden, N. H. (30 min.).

7. \* The Trained Fishing Cormorants of Japan.<sup>1</sup> H. M. SMITH, Washington, D. C. (20 min.)
8. \* The Temperate Zone in South America. FRANK M. CHAPMAN, New York. (20 min.)
9. \* Published Figures and Plates of the Extinct Passenger Pigeon. R. W. SHUFELDT, Washington, D. C. (25 min.)
10. \* Some Recent Experiences with Kirtland's Warbler. WALTER B. BARROWS, East Lansing, Mich. (30 min.)

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

11. Recent Returns from Trapping and Banding. S. PRENTISS BALDWIN, Cleveland, Ohio. (20 min.)
12. Roosting Habits of Migratory and Winter Birds in Middle Tennessee. A. F. GANIER, Nashville, Tenn. (20 min.)
13. Progress in Ornithology in 1920. Introduced by HARRY C. OBERHOLSER. General Discussion by the Members. (60 min.)
14. \* Birds of South Florida. ARTHUR H. HOWELL, Washington, D. C. (30 min.)

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON—MOTION PICTURES.

15. Bird Life on the Audubon Reservation at Orange Lake, Florida. NORMAN McCLINTOCK, Pittsburgh, Pa. (45 min.)
16. Trumpeter Swans. HOYES LLOYD, Ottawa, Canada. Presented by Allan Brooks. (10 min.)
17. Some Bird Studies in Motion Pictures. THOS. S. ROBERTS, Minneapolis, Minn. (25 min.)
18. Notes on the Summer Birds of Southeastern Texas. T. GILBERT PEARSON, New York. (45 min.)
19. The Ornithology of the Peruvian Guano Islands. ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, Brooklyn, N. Y. (45 min.)

THURSDAY.

20. \* The Pterylosis of *Monias benschi*. J. P. CHAPIN, New York. (20 min.)
21. \* The Pterylosis of the Avian Wing. W. DEW. MILLER, New York. (30 min.)
22. Post Mortem Changes in the Colors of Birds' Feathers. F. M. CHAPMAN and L. A. FUERTES. (10 min.)
23. \* Sexual Dimorphism in *Sula nebouxi*. ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, Brooklyn, N. Y. (10 min.)
24. \* The Primaries of the Juvenal Plumage of Woodpeckers. J. P. CHAPIN, New York. (10 min.)

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<sup>1</sup> A similar paper mentioned by Dr. Smith, 'On Cormorant Fishing in Japan,' was presented by P. L. Jouy at the Boston meeting of the Union in 1887 and published in the *Am. Naturalist*, XXII, pp. 1-3, Jan. 1888.

25. Notes on New or Little Known Birds from Nicaragua. W. DEW. MILLER and LUDLOW GRISCOM. (20 min.)
26. Some Notes on European Birds. HENRY OLDYS, Silver Spring, Md. (20 min.)
27. The Metallic Plumage of the Purple Grackle as correlated with Variation. JONATHAN DWIGHT, New York. (20 min.)
28. Nuptial Habits of the Sage Cock. FRANK BOND, Washington, D. C. (10 min.)
29. North American Shore Birds in Argentina. ROBERTO DABBENE, Buenos Aires. Presented by FRANK M. CHAPMAN. (15 min.)
30. Nesting of Mourning Doves at Norman, Okla. MRS. MARGARET MORSE NICE, Norman, Okla. (20 min.)
31. The Estimated Number of Long Island Shore Birds. J. T. NICHOLS, New York. (20 min.)
32. Breeding of the Evening Grosbeak in Northern Wisconsin. O. W. SMITH. Presented by FRANK M. CHAPMAN. (5 min.)
33. The History and Purposes of Bird Banding. F. C. LINCOLN, Washington, D. C. (Read by title.)
34. The Desirability of a Definite Method of indicating the Authorities for Scientific Names. FRANK M. CHAPMAN, New York. (Read by title.)
35. Present Condition of Waterfowl Breeding Grounds on the Great Plains. HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, Washington, D. C. (Read by title.)
36. The Pronunciation of the Scientific Names of Birds. FRANCIS H. ALLEN, Boston, Mass. (Read by title.)
37. Further Contributions to the Ornithology of New Brunswick. P. B. PHILIPP and B. S. BOWDISH. (Read by title.)
38. Some Interesting Records of South Carolinian Birds. ARTHUR T. WAYNE, Mt. Pleasant, S. C. (Read by title.)

#### ELECTION OF FELLOWS, MEMBERS, AND ASSOCIATES.

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## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

BY T. S. PALMER.

*Membership.*—The present membership of the Union is approximately 1140 with at least one representative in every State, in Alaska, Hawaii and the Philippines, in six Provinces of Canada and at least twenty foreign countries. In November, 1919, the total number of members was 1024. The distribution of the membership in each year is shown by the following statement:

Year	Fellows	Retired Fellows	Honorary Fellows	Corre- sponding Fellows	Members	Assoc.	Total
1920	49	3	19	75	86	910	1142
1919	48	3	19	63	84	807	1024

During the past year the Union lost 20 members by death, 16 by resignation and a number by delinquency. The net gain was 118, as compared with a gain of 71 during the previous year. The deaths (counting 6 which occurred in the previous year, news of which was delayed) included those of 1 Fellow, 1 Honorary Fellow, 2 Corresponding Fellows, 1 Member and 15 Associates.

An effort has been made to stabilize the membership by transferring ten per cent. of the members to a life basis. As a result of recent efforts on the part of several members the Union now has 45 life members, including 5 Fellows, 7 Members and 33 Associates.

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