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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.

* Life Associate.

Service.—In addition to answering a large number of inquiries and requests of various kinds, efforts have been made to render service to members and the public along several diverse lines:

(a) To members and public libraries in completing sets of 'The Auk.'

(b) To public libraries and individuals in furnishing full names and dates of birth and death of members (through the Committee on Biography).

(c) To arrange for an interchange of plastotypes of fossil birds of North America between some of the larger museums so that each institution ultimately will have a complete series of plastotypes of all species not represented by types in its own collection. The U. S. National Museum has already made casts of each of its types and is prepared to exchange as soon as other institutions have done likewise.

(d) To make a general survey of the principal bird collections of the world in order to secure for ready reference statistics regarding the number of specimens and also information concerning the character and special features of such collections.

Preliminary figures have been obtained from some of the larger public and private collections in the United States (those containing 5000 specimens or more) and data have also been secured regarding the principal collections of Argentina, Japan and Sweden.

Foreign Relations.—Last year the foreign members including Honorary and Corresponding Fellows numbered 75; at present the number is about 85. Several of the members in eastern Europe and at least two of those in Japan are out of reach.

During the year unusual opportunities have been afforded of meeting foreign ornithologists. At the last annual congress Mr. W. L. Sclater was present and as a result of his visit to America cooperative work on the 'Systema Avium' has been begun with prospects of overcoming many of the difficulties which previously seemed serious. During the spring Mr. F. E. Blaauw, of Gooilust, Holland, visited this country and made an extended trip through the southern and western States before returning home. Dr. T. G. Ahrens, of the Prussian Conservation Bureau, spent some time in Baltimore and Washington. During the summer Mr. W. B. Alexander, of Perth, Western Australia, a member of the

Council of the R. A. O. U., and later Dr. Karl Alwin Haagner, of Pretoria, Transvaal, visited New York, Philadelphia and Washington.

Notices of the annual meeting and copies of the Secretary's report have been sent to Corresponding Fellows and have brought in reply a number of interesting letters thus establishing closer relations with foreign workers.

Of a dozen or more Americans in foreign countries several are at present residing abroad, including Carriker in Colombia, Williams in Cuba, Mitchell in Ireland, Charles Miller in Ceylon, and Zimmer in British Papua. In addition to these, Field, Holt and Peters are now in Brazil, Wetmore in Argentina, Beebe in British Guiana, and Beck in Tahiti, while Bryan has recently returned from Juan Fernandez and Raven has crossed Africa from the Cape to Cairo.

DECEASED MEMBERS, 1919-1920.

- WILLIAM DUTCHER,¹ Fellow, died in his 75th year, at Chevy Chase, Md., July 1, 1920.
- DR. MAX FURBRINGER, Honorary Fellow, died in his 75th year at Heidelberg, Germany, March 6, 1920.
- DR. JOHAN AXEL PALMEN,² Corresponding Fellow, died in his 74th year at Helsingfors, Finland, April 7, 1919.
- RODERICK ROSS McFARLANE, Corresponding Fellow, died in his 87th year at Winnipeg, Man., April 14, 1920.
- FRANK SLATER DAGGETT,³ Member, aged 65, died at Redlands, Cal., April 5, 1920.
- JOSEPH STOCKDALE BRIGGS, Associate, of Norristown, Pa., died in his 73rd year, 1918.
- JOSEPH MOODY ACKERMAN, of Newburyport, Mass., died 1919.
- MISS NANCY P. H. ROBBEN, of Lowell, Mass., died 1919.
- THOMAS SILSBEE, of Boston, Mass., died April, 1919.
- ARTHUR S. ELDRIDGE, of South Lincoln, Mass., died November 6, 1919.
- ROYAL ELISHA ROBBINS, of Brookline, Mass., died in his 30th year, February 9, 1920.
- ARTHUR FARQUHAR, of York, Pa., aged 16, died at Ithaca, N. Y., February 21, 1920.
- JOHN HENRY FLANAGAN⁴ died in his 52nd year at Providence, R. I., February 23, 1920.

¹ For obituary notice, see Auk, XXXVII, p. 636.

² " " " see Auk, XXXVII, p. 511.

³ " " " see Auk, XXXVII, p. 508.

⁴ " " " see Auk, XXXVII, p. 639.

DR. CHARLES GORDON HEWITT,⁵ aged 35, died at Ottawa, Canada, February 29, 1920.

ROBERT LENOX MAITLAND⁶ died in his 66th year at New Rochelle, N. Y., March 11, 1920.

MISS CAROLINE GRAY SOULE, of Brookline, Mass., died April 27, 1920.

MISS FANNIE HUBERTA FOOTE, of Yonkers, N. Y., died 1920.

HORACE WINSLOW WRIGHT,⁷ aged 72, died at Jefferson Highlands, N. H., June 3, 1920.

MISS EMILY HINDS THOMAS, of Bryn Mawr, Pa., died October 17, 1920.

NELSON RUSH WOOD died in his 63rd year at Washington, D. C., November 8, 1920.

GENERAL NOTES

The Horned Grebe (*Colymbus auritus*) at Hatley, Stanstead County, Quebec. Since my last list of the birds of Hatley was written, the above species has been added, making a total in all of 177 species. In Knight's 'Birds of Maine,' 1908, p. 21, we read of the Horned Grebe as occurring rarely in spring and fall in the interior, whilst in the Province of Quebec the same thing seems to occur, judging from the literature on the subject. At Hatley the bird can safely be described as a not common migrant, for I have never seen it on my little marsh, nor yet on Lake Massawippi, and Mr. Greer tells me that in his fifteen or twenty years' experience as a taxidermist no examples have been brought to him to mount until the present season, when two birds were obtained by different parties on Lake Massawippi. One of these was shot on November 1, and the other on November 7, both of which I saw in the mounted state when calling on Mr. Greer on November 20. Apparently this has been somewhat of a 'Grebe' year, for my little marsh has produced several examples of the Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) a bird I had personally never seen there before.—H. MOUSLEY, *Hatley, Que.*

The Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) at Buffalo, N. Y.—On March 24, 1918, while walking along the southern shore of Lake Erie from the Lackawanna Steel Plant to the foot of Louisiana Street, my attention was arrested by the presence of a large, wholly-white gull. The bird was associated with four or five Herring Gulls near shore; it was noticeably larger than its companions, and appeared at a distance to be entirely white. The light was very good at the time, and I was able to

⁵ For obituary notice see Auk, XXXVII, p. 511.

⁶ " " " see Auk, XXXVII, p. 640.

⁷ " " " see Auk, XXXVII, p. 509.