

THIRTY-NINTH STATED MEETING OF THE
AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.¹

BY T. S. PALMER.

THE Thirty-ninth Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was held at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, Pa., November 7-10, 1921. The business sessions on the opening day were held in the council room and the library and the public sessions on the following days in the lecture hall of the Academy. The meeting was largely attended and with excursions on Friday and Saturday occupied the entire week.

Attendance.—The total attendance of Fellows, Members, Associates and visitors was about 125. The Fellows present numbered 25 and included two Founders, Charles F. Batchelder and Dr. A. K. Fisher; the Retired Fellows were represented by Dr. W. K. Fisher and Newbold Lawrence and the Corresponding Fellows by Dr. W. L. Abbott and Mr. H. Kirke Swann; the list of Members including those elected at this meeting contained 24 names (See p. —). Among those who attended from a distance were Dr. W. K. Fisher from California, Dr. T. S. Roberts from Minnesota, W. E. Saunders, P. A. Taverner, J. H. Fleming and Hoyes Lloyd from Canada, H. Kirke Swann from London, England, and included in the list of guests were Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Burdet and Miss Burdet of Overveen, Holland.

Business meetings.—The first day was devoted to two sessions of the Council at 10.15 a. m. and 2.15 p. m., a meeting of the Fellows at 4 p. m., and a meeting of Fellows and Members at 8.15 p. m.

By order of the Council Dr. F. A. Lucas, at his own request, was

¹This was the sixth meeting held in Philadelphia and many changes were apparent since the Union first convened there in 1899 in a meeting memorable on account of the presence of Dr. Samuel W. Woodhouse, the founding of the research fund, and the first visit paid by the members to the home of Audubon. The Union then had 744 members, including 48 Active, 17 Honorary, 66 Corresponding and 613 Associate. Outstanding features of the program were several papers on plumages and molt, 5 papers illustrated by lantern slides and the reports of the various members of the Harriman Alaska Expedition. (See 'The Auk,' Vol. XVII, pp. 58-63). Dr. Woodhouse and nine of the members, including three Founders, who presented papers or took part in the discussions are no longer living and the number of Founders now present at a meeting is so small as to be worthy of special comment.

transferred to the list of Retired Fellows. The report of the Committee on the Brewster Memorial Medal was read and after full consideration the medal was awarded to Robert Ridgway in recognition of his work on the 'Birds of North and Middle America,' volume VIII of which was in the judgment of the Council, the most meritorious publication on the birds of America which had appeared during the past two years.

At the meeting of the Fellows four of the five vacancies were filled by the election of Dr. Glover M. Allen of Boston, Dr. W. H. Bergtold of Denver, Allan Brooks of Okanagan Landing, B. C., and James P. Chapin of New York.

At the meeting of the Fellows and Members 23 Fellows and 16 Members were present. Following the roll call and reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, the report of the Secretary was presented showing that the total membership was about 1350. (For details see p. . . .) The report of the Treasurer which had been verified by the auditors was then presented and showed the finances of the Union in a satisfactory condition. The number of members in arrears was less than 6 per cent. of the total number and the amount of unpaid dues was the smallest in the history of the Union.

The election of officers resulted in the re-election, with a single exception, of the officers of 1921 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, A. C. Bent (vice F. A. Lucas retired), Ruthven Deane, Joseph Grinnell, H. C. Oberholser, W. H. Osgood, Charles W. Richmond, and T. S. Roberts.

On recommendation of the Council five Honorary Fellows, 14 Corresponding Fellows and 250 Associates were duly elected. In the election of 5 Members, Ohio was represented by S. Prentiss Baldwin and George L. Fordyce; Illinois by Dr. Casey A. Wood; New Jersey by Charles H. Rogers and the District of Columbia by F. C. Lincoln. Fellows, Honorary Fellows and Members are transferred from other classes while Corresponding Fellows and Associates being elected from candidates outside the Union made the actual increase in membership 264, one of the largest on record. As a result of the election there is no vacancy in the list

of Honorary Fellows, a condition which has not previously existed since 1890, the class of Fellows contains only a single vacancy, while there are 6 vacancies among the Corresponding Fellows and 8 in the class of Members.

The Committee on Biography and Bibliography through its chairman, Dr. Palmer, presented a brief report showing progress in various lines of work during the year. A bibliographical investigation of more than ordinary interest has been undertaken as a result of an inquiry from Lord Rothschild regarding the original 1848 edition of the report by Titian Peale on the Ornithology of the Wilkes Exploring Expedition. Of this celebrated work only 100 copies were published and of these only a few have been located in the United States and three abroad. Through the cooperation of Mr. Harry Harris a biographical index of 'The Ibis' covering the 60 volumes of the first ten series has been prepared and two copies in manuscript are in the hands of the Secretary. By means of this index it is possible to refer to any note in 'The Ibis' which contains biographical matter or which throws light on the activities of field collectors. The main efforts of the committee have been devoted to the preparation of the new 'Ten Year Index of The Auk,' a work which is in the hands of a special Auk Index Committee of eight members. Through the cooperation of the Biological Survey the material covering these volumes in the files of that office has been utilized as a basis. The slips containing the entries for each volume have been distributed to the members, independently checked and corrected, and most of them returned. When all of this material has been checked it will be arranged in a single alphabet and put in shape for publication.

Resolutions were adopted expressing the thanks of the Union to the Academy of Natural Sciences, the Zoological Society of Philadelphia, the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, and to Mr. Joseph Y. Jeanes of Philadelphia for the loan of a series of original Audubon paintings for exhibition at the meetings.

Public meetings.—The meetings devoted to the presentation and discussion of scientific papers occupied the three days, November 8, 9 and 10, from 10 a. m. to 5 p.m. with an hour or more of intermission for luncheon which was served each day in the library of the Academy. The meeting on Tuesday opened with an address

of welcome by President John Cadwalader of the Academy of Natural Sciences who referred to Philadelphia and the Academy as a center of early scientific work. A brief response on behalf of the Union was made by the President, Dr. Witmer Stone. The program included 41 papers on a wide range of subjects relating mainly to American birds, including their distribution, migration, life history and nomenclature. An interesting contribution relating to Old World birds was presented in motion pictures by Mr. Adolph Burdet showing the life history of birds on some of the reservations on the coast of Holland.

The contributions of chief interest were a number of papers on the birds of the Neotropical region, reports on recent work in banding birds, and the discussion of vernacular names and problems of field identification. R. N. Davis' illustrated account of 'Bird Collecting in Panama,' Chapman's 'Distribution of Bird Life in Ecuador,' Mrs. Reichenberger's 'Remarks on the Avifauna of Matto Grosso, Brazil,' and Wetmore's 'Bird Life of the Chaco' presented a series of pictures of birds of widely separated areas from Panama to Patagonia, Murphy's accounts of the condor, frigate bird and penguins, Miller's remarks on the Ramphocaenidae and Griscom's discussion on the House Wrens of South America directed attention to groups of special interest. Regional papers dealing with North America included Stuart's 'Breeding Birds of the Saskatchewan,' Street's 'Water Birds of the New Jersey Coast,' Harper's 'Birds of the Okefinokee Swamp' and Pennock's 'Habits of the Florida Burrowing Owl.'

The Reports of Lincoln and Baldwin presented summaries of recent work in banding birds and brought out some of the possibilities in this field of observation. Baldwin found in banding Towhees at Thomasville, Ga., that the colors of the eyes grade so imperceptibly from red through yellow to white that no sharp line of demarcation between the extremes could be drawn. His remarks on the mating of the House Wren and his conclusions that these birds normally remain mated for a period of only six weeks led to a general discussion on the subject of mating.

Nomenclature received perhaps less attention than usual. Oberholser exhibited the first part of the manuscript of the new Check List of African birds prepared by W. L. Sclater as one of

the parts of the 'Systema Avium,' and a list of names of Australian birds to be submitted at the annual meeting of the Royal Australasian Ornithologist's Union. Rogers in presenting some 'Suggestions in regard to Vernacular Names,' advocated the same designation for the same species in America and England, the suppression of pedantic names and questioned the utility of subspecific names in vernacular terminology. The general discussion which followed was summed up by the President who called attention to the fact that common names cannot be established unless they follow custom, cumbersome names should be simplified, and when no short vernacular designation is available the name which has the most usage in literature should be the one adopted.

The losses through death which the Union had sustained during the year were the occasion for an unusual number of memorial addresses. Osgood reviewed the life and work of Charles B. Cory; Chapman paid a tribute to Dr. J. A. Allen, his devotion to scientific work and his long service in behalf of the Union; and Richmond prepared a memorial on William Palmer which, however, was only read by title. Biographical sketches of Edwin Carter of Colorado and William A. Werner of Pennsylvania, two little known naturalists who died some years ago, were presented by F. C. Lincoln and H. S. Regar.

Moving pictures which were employed to illustrate seven different papers occupied the greater part of two afternoon sessions and served to show not only many important details in the life history of birds but new ways in which this form of illustration can be utilized in the study of ornithology.

Most of the technical papers were presented at the session on Thursday morning and proved of considerable interest. By restricting authors to the limits assigned on the program time was gained for discussion which was more general than usual, but even with long sessions it was necessary to read half a dozen papers merely by title.

Other events.—The social gatherings of the Union included a conversazione in the library of the Academy of Sciences on Tuesday evening, the annual dinner at 'The Roosevelt' on Wednesday evening, a visit to the Zoological Gardens on Friday and a trip to the Pine Barrens in the vicinity of New Lisbon, New Jersey, on Saturday.

At the Tuesday evening meeting a number of early unpublished drawings of Audubon, loaned for the occasion by Mr. Joseph Y. Jeanes, and some of the historic manuscripts and rarer illustrated works on birds belonging to the Academy were placed on exhibition for the benefit of the members. The entertainment at the annual dinner was furnished by members of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club and after dinner speaking began with remarks by Samuel Scoville, Jr., and some ornithological reminiscences by Dr. Spencer Trotter. The company was then entertained by the entrance of Alexander Wilson followed by John James Audubon and C. S. Rafinesque, each of whom clad in characteristic costume commented in turn on the progress in ornithology and the changes which had occurred since the days when they were active. At the meeting on Friday the members of the Union were guests of the Zoological Society at luncheon and a record was made of the visit to the Philadelphia Zoological Gardens by the first moving picture ever taken of the members. Rain on Saturday interfered somewhat with the outing to the Pine Barrens but in spite of the unfavorable weather a party of about 30 made the trip and were rewarded by seeing a number of characteristic autumn birds.

Results.—The tangible results of the business meetings included the first public award by the Union of a medal for meritorious scientific work in ornithology and a definite authorization of the new 'Ten Year Index of The Auk.' The results of the scientific meetings crystallize slowly and are more difficult to summarize. Data already obtained through banding birds indicate that some ideas now prevalent in regard to migration and mating require revision and a study of some of the films demonstrated the value of the moving picture camera in correcting certain erroneous ideas as to movements or functions of the feet or bill, particularly in woodpeckers and other species. Attention was called to the possibility of distinguishing the sex of birds in the field by habits and action even in such species as the House Wren in which distinguishing sex markings of the plumage are absent. Most important of all was the demonstration in several of the papers of the necessity of adopting modern methods and focusing every available source of information and mechanical device on the problem in hand whether it be a question of migration, distribution or the revision of a group.

Thanks to the efficiency of the local Committee of Arrangements the Philadelphia meeting was pronounced one of the most successful meetings of recent years in spite of the handicaps of Election Day, high railroad rates and unfavorable weather for the excursion which prevented the attendance of several members.

The next annual meeting will be held at the Field Museum, Chicago, in October 1922. This will be the first meeting in the Middle West and it is hoped to make it the occasion of bringing together many members in the Mississippi Valley who have been unable to attend the meetings in the East.

PROGRAM.

(Papers are arranged in the order in which they were presented at the meetings. Those marked with an asterisk (*) were illustrated by lantern slides.)

TUESDAY.

1. In Memoriam—CHARLES BARNEY CORY. W. H. OSGOOD, Chicago, Ill. (45 min.).
2. *Observations on some Water Birds of the New Jersey Coast. J. FLETCHER STREET, Beverly, N. J. (15 min.).
3. Paintings showing the Metallic Colors of Birds. FRANK BOND, Washington, D. C. (5 min.).
4. Notes on the Habits and Sex Plumage of the Florida Burrowing Owl. C. J. PENNOCK, Kennett Square, Pa. (15 min.).
5. *Birds of the Okefinokee Swamp, Georgia. FRANCIS HARPER, Ithaca, N. Y. (20 min.).
6. *On Some of the Breeding Birds of the Saskatchewan. GEO. H. STUART, 3RD, Philadelphia, Pa. (20 min.).
7. *Notes on Edwin Carter, a prominent Naturalist of Colorado. F. C. LINCOLN, Washington, D. C. (10 min.).
8. The Wild Life School at McGregor, Iowa. GEORGE BENNETT, Iowa City Ia. Presented by HARRY C. OBERHOLSER. (15 min.).
9. *Bird Life of the Chaco. ALEXANDER WETMORE, Washington, D. C. (20 min.).
10. *Bird Collecting in Panama. R. N. DAVIS, Scranton, Pa. (45 min.).
11. *The Andean Condor as a Coastal Bird. ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY. (10 min.).
12. *The Status of Cory's Shearwater. ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY. (15 min.).
13. *The Distribution of Bird-Life in Ecuador. FRANK M. CHAPMAN. (20 min.).

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

14. Progress in Bird Banding. F. C. LINCOLN, Washington, D. C. (20 min.).
15. Bird Banding Notes of 1921. S. PRENTISS BALDWIN, Cleveland, Ohio. (30 min.).
16. In Memoriam—Joel Asaph Allen. FRANK M. CHAPMAN, New York. (45 min.).
17. The Problem of Field Identification. LUDLOW GRISCOM, New York. (20 min.).

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON—Nos. 19-22, MOTION PICTURES.

18. *An Appreciation of William A. Werner, a little known Pennsylvania Naturalist. H. SEVERN REGAR, Norristown, Pa. (15 min.).
19. A New Use for Motion Pictures of Birds. ARTHUR A. ALLEN, Ithaca, N. Y. (40 min.).
20. Bird Life in Holland. ADOLPH BURDET, Overveen, Holland. (40 min.).
21. Studies of Some Familiar Birds in Motion Pictures. THOS. S. ROBERTS, Minneapolis, Minn. (40 min.).
22. Views of Western Bird Life, by Wm. L. Finley. Presented by T. GILBERT PEARSON, New York. (20 min.).

THURSDAY.

23. Some Remarks on the Avifauna of Matto Grosso, Brazil. MRS. ELSIE M. B. REICHENBERGER, New York. (20 min.).
24. The Classification of the Woodpeckers and their Allies. W. DE W. MILLER, New York. (30 min.).
25. The Distribution of the House Wrens of the Genus *Troglodytes*. FRANK M. CHAPMAN and LUDLOW GRISCOM, New York. Presented by MR. GRISCOM. (20 min.).
26. (a) A New Family of Neotropical Birds, the Ramphocaenidae. (10 min.).
*(b) A Suggestion as to the Origin of Diastataxy. W. DEW. MILLER, New York. (10 min.).
27. Yellowleg Skeletons. Illustrated by Chart. J. T. NICHOLS, New York. (15 min.).
28. Check Lists Abroad. HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, Washington, D. C. (15 min.).
29. Suggestions in regard to Vernacular Names. CHARLES H. ROGERS, Princeton, N. J. (20 min.).
30. Greetings from England. H. KIRKE SWANN, London. ((5 min.).
31. *Experience in Bringing up a Family of Bluebirds. MISS M. W. DALEY, Sleighton Farm, Pa. (15 min.).
32. Distributional Notes on American Water Birds. Motion Pictures and other Illustrations. ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY. (40 min.).
33. Motion Pictures illustrating the Home Life of Some Pennsylvania Birds. ERNEST COURTS, Buck Hill, Pa. (45 min.).

34. Bird Life in American Zoological Gardens. Illustrated by Motion Pictures. ARTHUR H. FISHER, Washington D. C. (45 min.)
35. Ten Summers' Observations of Birds near Slide Mountain in the Catskills. MISS M. W. DALEY, Sleighton Farm, Pa. (Read by title.)
36. In Memoriam—William Palmer. CHAS. W. RICHMOND, Washington, D. C. Presented by HARRY C. OBERHOLSER. (Read by title.)
37. Identifying the Ducks of the Eastern United States at long range. LUDLOW GRISCOM, New York. (Read by title.)
38. *Discontinuous Distribution as illustrated by the Species of the Genus *Diglossa*. FRANK M. CHAPMAN, New York. (Read by title.)
39. Our English Nomenclature. A. D. DuBois, Springfield, Ill. (Read by title.)
40. Some Observations on the Coast of Brazil. GEO. W. FIELD, Washington, D. C. (Read by title.)
41. *Notes on Nesting Habits of Some Massachusetts Duck Hawks. S. WALDO BAILEY, Pittsfield, Mass. (Read by title.)

FELLOWS AND MEMBERS PRESENT.

FELLOWS—Outram Bangs, W. B. Barrows, C. F. Batchelder, A. C. Bent, F. M. Chapman, Jonathan Dwight, A. K. Fisher, Geo. B. Grinnell, J. H. Fleming, E. H. Forbush, L. A. Fuertes, W. L. McAtee, W. DeW. Miller, R. C. Murphy, H. C. Oberholser, W. H. Osgood, T. S. Palmer, C. W. Richmond, T. S. Roberts, John H. Sage, W. E. Saunders, Witmer Stone, P. A. Taverner, W. E. C. Todd, Alexander Wetmore—Total 25.

RETIRED FELLOWS—W. K. Fisher, N. T. Lawrence.

CORRESPONDING FELLOWS—W. L. Abbott, H. Kirke Swann.

MEMBERS—A. A. Allen, Vernon Bailey, Mrs Vernon Bailey, W. L. Baily, S. Prentiss Baldwin, Thomas Barbour, Frank Bond, F. L. Burns, E. A. Goldman, Ludlow Griscom, Francis Harper, A. H. Howell, F. C. Lincoln, G. S. Morris, J. T. Nichols, T. G. Pearson, C. J. Pennock, J. L. Peters, J. C. Phillips, S. N. Rhoads, C. H. Rogers, B. H. Swales, C. W. Townsend, Spencer Trotter.—Total 24.

ELECTION OF FELLOWS, MEMBERS, AND ASSOCIATES.

FELLOWS:

DR. GLOVER MORRILL ALLEN, 234 Berkeley St., Boston Mass.

DR. WILLIAM HARRY BERGTOLD, 1159 Race St., Denver, Colo.

ALLAN CYRIL BROOKS, Okanagan Landing, B. C.

JAMES PAUL CHAPIN, Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City.

HONORARY FELLOWS:

ARCHIBALD JAMES CAMPBELL, "Bulgaroo," Broughton Road, Surrey Hills, Victoria, Australia.

DR. WILLIAM EAGLE CLARKE, Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, Scotland.

REV. FRANCIS CHARLES ROBERT JOURDAIN, Appleton Rectory, Abingdon Berks, England.

JOHN HENRY GURNEY, Keswick Hall, Norwich, England.

NAGAMICHI KURODA, Fukuyoshi Cho, Akasaka, Tokyo, Japan.

CORRESPONDING FELLOWS:

WILFRID BACKHOUSE ALEXANDER, Inst. Science and Industry, William St., Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

THOMAS CARTER, Wensleydale, Mulgrave Road, Sutton, Surrey, England.

ABEL CHAPMAN, care Zoological Society, Regents Park, London, N. W. 8, England.

TADEUSZ CHROSTOWSKI, Nacedova Museum, Przyodnieze, Krakowski-Przedmiescie 26-28, Warsaw 1, Poland.

HENRY JOHN ELWES, Colesborne, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England.

DR. ALESSANDRO GHIGI, R. Università, Bologna, Italy.

JOHN DAVID DIGUES LA TOUCHE, The Lodge, Glendalough County Wexford, Ireland.

GEORGE EDWARD LODGE, Hawkhouse, Park Road, Camberley, Surrey, England.

HERMANO APOLINAR MARIA, Instituto de la Salle, Bogota, Colombia.

ARTHUR HERBERT EVELYN MATTINGLY, Custom House, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

COL. RICHARD MEINERTZHAGEN, 63 Bedford Gardens, Kensington, W. S., London, England.

DR. ALIPIO de MIRANDA RIBEIRO, Therigopolis, Estado de Rio Janeiro, Brazil.

DR. VICTOR GURNET LOGAN VAN SOMEREN, care Medical Dept., Box 140, Nairobi, Brit. East Africa.

HUGH WHISTLER, care King, King & Co., Bombay, India.

MEMBERS:

¹SAMUEL PRENTISS BALDWIN, Williamson Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio.

GEORGE LINCOLN FORDYCE, 40 Lincoln Ave., Youngstown, Ohio.

FREDERICK CHARLES LINCOLN, Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.

¹CHARLES HENRY ROGERS, Nassau Inn, Princeton, N. J.

¹DR. CASEY ALBERT WOOD, 7 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

ASSOCIATES:

The list of Associates contains 250 candidates. These names are omitted here to save space as they will appear in the annual Directory of Members in 'The Auk' for April.

¹ Life members.