

THE FORTY-FIRST STATED MEETING OF THE
AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

BY T. S. PALMER.

THE Forty-first Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was held in Cambridge, Massachusetts, October 8-12, 1923. This was the ninth meeting of the Union in Cambridge¹ and it proved to be one of the largest and most successful on record. Five days and evenings were fully occupied in transaction of business, discussion of scientific papers and enjoyment of the various social features generously provided by the Nuttall Club and the local Committee of Arrangements.

Attendance: The Fellows numbered 25 and included a single founder, Charles F. Batchelder, and five who were elected at the first meeting, Ruthven Deane, Jonathan Dwight, Geo. Bird Grinnell, John H. Sage and W. E. Saunders. More Members than usual were present, the number being also 25, including John Murdoch elected in 1883, while the list of Associates brought the total up to about 150. Sixteen States and the District of Columbia were represented, including all of those east of the Mississippi River and north of the Ohio and Potomac Rivers except four—Delaware, West Virginia, Indiana and Wisconsin—and in addition South Carolina, Texas and Canada were represented. One-fourth of the membership from Rhode Island and one-sixth of that from Massachusetts and the District of Columbia were in attendance. Among those who came from a distance were Miss Marian J. Pellew of South Carolina, George Finlay Simmons of Texas, and J. H. Fleming, W. E. Saunders, P. A. Taverner and Hoyes Lloyd from Canada.

¹ The first meeting was really held in Boston, Oct. 11-13, 1887, at the Boston Society of Natural History, 17 Active Members and 12 Associates being present. On the afternoon of the third day the Union visited Cambridge to inspect the Museum of Comparative Zoology and the collection of William Brewster. The second meeting in November, 1893, was held in the Nash Lecture Room of the Museum of Comparative Zoology where subsequent meetings have also been held. Owing to lack of hotel accommodations in Cambridge it has always been necessary for most of the members to stay in Boston where the headquarters this year, as in 1917, were at the Copley Square Hotel.

Business meetings: As usual Monday was devoted to routine business which occupied two sessions of the Council beginning at 10 A. M. and 2 P. M., a meeting of the Fellows at 4 P. M., and a meeting of the Fellows and Members at 8 P. M. The Council met at the residence of Mr. Batchelder, 7 Kirkland Street, and the afternoon and evening meetings were held at the Colonial Club on Quincy Street. At the meeting of the Fellows the Brewster Medal awarded biennially for the most meritorious publication on American birds was awarded to Arthur Cleveland Bent of Taunton, Massachusetts, for his 'Life Histories of North American Birds,' the second, third and fourth parts of which were published during the two years ending June 30, 1923.

At the meeting of the Fellows the single vacancy was filled by the election of Dr. Charles W. Townsend of Boston, Massachusetts.

At the evening meeting 25 Fellows and 22 Members were present and following the roll call and reading and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, the report of the secretary was presented showing a total membership of about 1650 (for details see p. 135). The report of the treasurer showed the finances of the Union in a very satisfactory condition.

The election of officers for 1924 resulted as follows: President, Jonathan Dwight; Vice Presidents, Alexander Wetmore and Joseph Grinnell;¹ Secretary, T. S. Palmer; Treasurer, W. L. McAtee; Members of the Council, A. C. Bent, Ruthven Deane, J. H. Fleming, Harry C. Oberholser, W. H. Osgood, Charles W. Richmond and T. S. Roberts.

On recommendation of the Council one Honorary Fellow (transferred from the Corresponding list) 12 Corresponding Fellows and 173 Associates were elected. This increase of 185 members though less than that of last year was one of the largest recorded at any meeting. In the election of 3 Members selected from about 1450 Associates, California was represented by Joseph S. Dixon, Kansas, by Charles D. Bunker and Texas by Geo. Finlay Simmons. There are no vacancies now in the class of Fellows, only 1 in that of Hon-

¹ This is the first time that two new Vice Presidents have been elected at the same meeting since the election of Coues and Ridgway at the initial meeting in 1883. Both candidates were elected simultaneously on the third ballot; of the 44 votes cast, Dr. Wetmore received 36 and Dr. Grinnell 27.

orary Fellows, 1 in that of Corresponding Fellows, and 3 in that of Members.

The Committee on Biography and Bibliography through its chairman Dr. Palmer presented a brief report of progress. Work on the 'Ten Year Index of The Auk' has been continued, the cards have been roughly arranged in a single alphabet and detailed arrangement is now under way. As soon as this work is completed the material will be ready for copying for the press. The committee has given some attention to the larger aspects of bibliography, has had correspondence and conferences on the subject with the National Research Council, has examined reports of other investigators regarding the present status of bibliographical work in this country, and has under consideration a tentative plan of a bibliography of bibliographies based on the decimal system. This outline is intended merely as a scheme in which can be inserted references to existing bibliographies thus rendering accessible an immense number of bibliographical citations already published.

Resolutions were adopted expressing the thanks of the Union to the President and Fellows of Harvard University, the Director of the University Museum, the Nuttall Ornithological Club, and the Boston Society of Natural History for various courtesies extended to the Members.

Public meetings: The meetings devoted to the presentation of scientific papers occupied three days, October 9, 10 and 11 from 9:30 A. M. to 5 P. M. with an hour and a half for luncheon which was served each day at the Colonial Club. Most of the sessions were held in the Nash Lecture Room of the University Museum, some of the illustrated papers were given in the Geological Lecture Hall, the technical papers on Wednesday morning in the Zoological Lecture Room and the motion pictures on Thursday afternoon in Pierce Hall opposite the Museum. Owing to the length of the program it was necessary to extend the hours of meeting by beginning each day at 9:30 A. M., to hold two simultaneous sessions on Wednesday morning, and to curtail all papers to thirty minutes or less. In this way more time than usual was allowed for discussion, although 40 papers were presented and four others read by title, making a program of exactly the same length as that of the Chicago meeting.

The meeting on Tuesday morning was devoted to papers of general interest, opening with a description by Dr. Chapman of the 'Arrangement of a Study Collection of Birds' followed by a brief review of the history of the Union by the Secretary. Dr. Townsend then discussed 'Mimicry of Voice in Birds;' Henry Oldys compared European and American song birds; Miss Catharine A. Mitchell presented a brief account of the State Bird preserve on Sanibel Island, Florida and Mr. T. Gilbert Pearson gave an outline of the results accomplished during his recent European trip in the interests of International Bird Protection.

Probably the papers of most interest were those grouped in four sessions devoted to exploration, bird banding, technical papers and motion pictures. On Wednesday afternoon an unusual series of reports of explorations was presented: 'Birds of the Kasai District, Belgian Congo'; by James P. Chapin, containing some of the results of the Congo Expedition sent out some years ago by the American Museum; 'Field Observations in the Hawaiian Bird Reservation, by Alex. Wetmore, forming a report of the recent Biological Survey Expedition to Laysan Island; the 'Cleveland Museum Expedition to the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans,' by George Finlay Simmons; and a progress report on the Whitney South Sea Expedition of the American Museum, by Robert Cushman Murphy. Thus in a single afternoon were presented illustrated accounts of the more important features of field work in the north and south Pacific, in the Belgian Congo, and a proposed two year voyage to the Indian Ocean beginning in November, 1923. Bird banding activities occupied the attention of a session on Wednesday morning and one of the two excursions on Friday. The widespread interest in this feature of bird work was shown by the large number of bird banders in attendance and the attention with which they followed the details presented by the various speakers. Naturally much of the discussion related to traps and methods of work while several of the papers were devoted to recounting experiences. Any doubt that scientific results may be obtained from banding was effectually dispelled by the statistical study presented by Nichols and Boulton of the data furnished by a series of banded Song Sparrows. Lincoln's 'Migration of the Mallard' was a distinct contribution to present knowledge of the

subject while the papers of Lyon and Baldwin contained many new facts of interest. With the large membership in the New England, Eastern and Inland Bird Banding Associations, the way is open for the acquisition of data which should throw much light on the times of arrival and departure of birds and their routes of migration and also furnish material for detailed studies of moult and changes in plumage.

The session devoted to technical papers proved to be quite as attractive as any of the popular sessions and the six papers presented aroused considerable discussion. 'Remarks on *Thraupis sayaca* and Its Allies' by Mrs. E. M. B. Naumburg brought up the question of types and type localities and resulted in the discussion of the modern practice of designating exact type localities and type specimens and the method of fixing type localities when the original one is not mentioned or is uncertain. Griscom's 'Life Zone Problems of the New York City Region' aroused discussion as to life zones and their boundaries and the interpretation of local data and whether the present grouping of species is the result of development or is due rather to climate, temperature, and influence of swamps, proximity to the coast, and other local conditions. Miller's 'Remarks on the Classification of Birds' brought up an inquiry as to what has been done in securing international cooperation and also the suggestion that the names of orders should end in "*formes*" and superfamilies in "*oidae*" so that uniform endings would indicate the position of the groups in the same way that the termination "*idae*" does in the case of families. Chapman's 'Criteria for the Determination of Subspecies' elicited comments on the practice of European ornithologists of reducing all representative forms except those most strongly differentiated to the status of subspecies. Wetmore's discussion of 'The Affinities of *Lawrencia nana*' showed that this bird is oscine and a true Vireo. Discussion elicited the fact of the presence of an aftershaft and that the song is apparently unknown. Murphy's discussion of 'The Forms of *Calonectris kuhli*' brought forth expressions of opinion from some of the members that certain of the forms were worthy of specific rank.

The motion pictures included three subjects of unusual interest—the Heath Hen, Kirtland's Warbler and Laysan birds. The

film of the Heath Hen was made by Job on Marthas Vineyard, Massachusetts, during the past summer in connection with studies of the bird made by Dr. Gross under the auspices of the Director of Fisheries and Game of Massachusetts. The pictures of Kirtland's Warbler made by James MacGillivray of Oscoda, Michigan, and presented through the courtesy of the Conservation Commission of Michigan by Nathan F. Leopold of Chicago, depicted with great clearness the nesting and feeding habits of one of the rarest of our Warblers. So tame were the birds that a female was shown taking insects from a child's hand only a few feet from the camera, while close range studies of the nest and movements of the bird were secured. The final motion picture was a film made by Donald R. Dickey of Pasadena, California, and presented by Dr. Wetmore showing the wonderful bird life on Laysan Island in the Hawaiian Island Bird Reservation. Portions of the film by way of contrast were shown with a slow motion camera and brought out in a wonderful manner the graceful flight of Man-o-war-birds, Albatrosses, Shearwaters and the remarkable flexibility of their wings. It was indeed a treat to see moving pictures of such rare species as the Laysan Rail, Laysan Finch and Kirtland's Warbler and especially of birds which are nearing extinction such as the Heath Hen now supposed to be reduced to less than 40 individuals, and the Laysan Teal of which only 14 are left.

The wide range of subjects on the program was shown by Mrs. Sage's account of 'Junior Audubon Work,' Childs' 'Trapping Devices for Bird Banding,' Davis' account of the 'Scranton Starling Roost' on the one hand, and Miller's 'Classification of Birds' and Chapman's 'Mutation vs. Evolution' on the other. Herrick's 1923 observations made at his eagle observatory in Ohio, Howell's 'Everglade Kite in Florida,' Brandt's 'Short-tailed Hawk in Florida,' Crosby's 'Birds of Southeastern Texas' and Holt's 'Birds of Mt. Itatiaya' all brought forth discussion of the life histories of interesting species. But perhaps none of them equalled in general interest such papers as Griscom's 'Notes on the Summer Birds of Newfoundland' containing an account not only of the avifauna but also of the country and the characteristics of the people.

Other events: The social gatherings included a popular lecture and conversazione at the Boston Society of Natural History on Tuesday evening, the annual dinner at the Colonial Club on Wednesday evening, and two excursions on Friday, one to Plum Island north of Boston to observe migratory birds, and the other to Cohasset south of Boston to inspect the bird banding stations in that vicinity. At the evening lecture Dr. A. A. Allen showed some of the results of his recent photographic work on waterfowl and also spoke of his investigations of the internal parasites of the Ruffed Grouse, an investigation that may lead to results of considerable scientific and economic importance.

At the annual dinner, attended by 160 members and guests, Dr. Witmer Stone presided and the principal entertainment was furnished by Dr. Charles W. Townsend who presented a series of 'Portraits of Celebrated Avian Historians' with descriptions done in verse by one "Carolus Adexitumville" supposedly obtained from an old work in which the author displayed not only his keen perception of personal peculiarities but ingenuity in imitating the style of early authors. The veteran ornithologist C. J. Maynard also entertained the company with reminiscences of some of his early field experiences and described his first visit to Florida and that of Dr. J. A. Allen to the same State. Dr. H. C. Oberholzer presented greetings from some absent fellows whom he had recently met.—Henry W. Henshaw, Robert Ridgway and Otto Widmann.

The outings on Friday proved to be the most successful and largely attended of any of the excursions arranged for the annual meetings. The attendance of more than 100 was about equally divided between the two parties. Those who went to Plum Island had the pleasure of seeing such birds as Eider, Black-backed Gull, Lapland Longspur, Horned Lark, and Ipswich Sparrow, while at the banding stations at Cohasset were to be seen some of the most recent devices for trapping birds and the places where Whittle's observations on the change in plumage of the Purple Finch and other banding notes of special interest were made. On Friday evening a bird banding dinner was given at the Essex Hotel which was attended by about 75 members and guests of the New England Bird Banding Association. Several addresses were made including a review of the work of the association by

its president, Dr. Townsend, and a number of instructive pictures were shown by L. B. Fletcher illustrating recent bird banding activities.

Results accomplished: Among the results of the Cambridge meeting were the second award of the Brewster medal, provision for continuation of work on the 'Ten Year Index of The Auk' and for cooperation with the Zoological Society of London in the publication of the 'Zoological Record' for 1922, and demonstration of the various ways in which bird banding may be made to contribute valuable ornithological knowledge.

The Union has accepted the invitation of the Carnegie Museum to hold the next annual meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, November 10-13, 1924. This will be the first meeting in Pittsburgh and the central location promises to bring together a large number of members from the East, North and Middle West.

PROGRAM.

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

TUESDAY MORNING.

Roll Call of Fellows and Members, Report of Business Meeting, Announcement of Result of Elections.

1. The Arrangement of a Study Collection of Birds. FRANK M. CHAPMAN, New York. (10 min.)
2. Looking Backward. T. S. PALMER, Washington, D. C. (15 min.)
3. Mimicry of Voice in Birds. CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, Boston, Mass. (20 min.)
4. European and American Song Birds Compared. HENRY OLDYS, Silver Spring, Md. (15 min.)
5. The Status of Sanibel Island, Florida, as a State Bird Preserve. MISS CATHARINE A. MITCHELL, Riverside, Ill. (10 min.)
6. *European Ornithologists and International Bird Protection. T. GILBERT PEARSON, New York. (20 min.)

TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

7. *The Everglade Kite in Florida. ARTHUR H. HOWELL, Washington, D. C. (25 min.)
8. *Ecological Comparisons and Parallels: Panama and Congo. JAMES P. CHAPIN, New York. (25 min.)
9. *Effect of Cultivation upon Changing Bird Populations. HENRY E. CHILDS, E. Providence, R. I. (20 min.)

10. *Bird Banding Experiences. T. E. MUSSELMAN, Quincy, Ill. (30 min.)
11. *An Eagle Observatory: Record for 1923. FRANCIS H. HERRICK, Cleveland, O. (20 min.)

WEDNESDAY MORNING—Bird Banding Session.

12. *Notes on a Scranton Starling Roost. R. N. DAVIS, Scranton, Pa. (15 min.)
13. *Trapping Devices for Bird Banding. HENRY E. CHILDS, E. Providence, R. I. (20 min.)
14. Some Bird Banding Experiences. B. S. BOWDISH, Demarest, N. J. (20 min.)
15. Midsummer Song Sparrows: A Statistical Study of Banding Data. JOHN T. NICHOLS and RUDYERD BOULTON, New York. (20 min.)
16. *The Migration of the Mallard (as shown by banding data). FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, Washington, D. C. (15 min.)
17. *Experiences in Bird Banding. W. I. LYON, Waukegan, Ill. (30 min.)
18. *Scientific Results from Bird Banding. S. PRENTISS BALDWIN, Cleveland, O. (30 min.)

WEDNESDAY MORNING—Technical Session.

19. The Affinities of *Lawrencina nana*. ALEXANDER WETMORE, Washington, D. C. (10 min.)
20. Remarks on *Thraupis sayaca* and its Allies. MRS. ELSIE M. B. NAUMBURG, New York. (15 min.)
21. Life Zone Problems of the New York City Region. LUDLOW GRISCOM, New York. (20 min.)
22. Remarks on the Classification of Birds. W. DEW. MILLER, New York. (30 min.)
23. Criteria for the Determination of Subspecies in Systematic Ornithology. FRANK M. CHAPMAN, New York. (20 min.)
24. The Forms and Representatives of *Calonectris kuhli*. ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, New York. (10 min.)

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

25. *The Heath Hen on Marthas Vineyard. ALFRED O. GROSS, Brunswick, Maine. (30 min.)
26. *Birds of the Kasai District, Belgian Congo. JAMES P. CHAPIN, New York. (20 min.)
27. *Field Observations in the Hawaiian Bird Reservation. ALEXANDER WETMORE, Washington, D. C. (30 min.)
28. *The Cleveland Museum Expedition to the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans. GEO. FINLAY SIMMONS, Austin, Tex. (20 min.)
29. *Report on the Progress of the Whitney South Sea Expedition. ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, New York. (45 min.)

THURSDAY MORNING.

30. The Junior Audubon Work on Long Island. MRS. MARY S. SAGE, New York. (15 min.)
31. *Notes on the Summer Birds of Newfoundland. LUDLOW GRISCOM, New York. (30 min.)
32. *The Nesting of the Short-tailed Hawk in Florida. HERBERT W. BRANDT, Cleveland, O. Presented by ARTHUR H. HOWELL, Washington, D. C. (15 min.)
33. *Mutation vs. Evolution by Environment in Birds. FRANK M. CHAPMAN, New York (20 min.)
34. Notes on the Non-breeding Birds of Southeastern Texas. MAUNSELL S. CROSBY, Rhinebeck, N. Y. (20 min.)
35. The Birds of Mt. Itatiaya. ERNEST G. HOLT, Montgomery, Ala. Presented by MRS. ELSIE M. B. NAUMBURG, New York. (15 min.)
36. Notes on American Oystercatchers. ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, New York. (15 min.)
37. A Neglected Bird Paradise. HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, Washington, D. C. (Read by title.)
38. Experiences among the Breeding Shorebirds of Great Salt Lake, Utah. HERBERT W. BRANDT, Cleveland, O. (Read by title.)
39. Colorado Anatidae. W. H. BERGTOLD, Denver, Col. (Read by title.)
40. Vagaries of Bird Migration. P. B. PEABODY, Blue Rapids, Kans. (Read by title.)

THURSDAY AFTERNOON—Motion Pictures.

41. Kirtland's Warbler in its Summer Home. (Exhibition of film made by James McGillivray, Oscoda, Mich.) Presented by NATHAN F. LEOPOLD, JR., Chicago, Ill. (30 min.)
42. The Vanishing Heath Hen. HERBERT K. JOB, West Haven, Conn. (15 min.)
43. Home Life of Common Birds. HERBERT K. JOB, West Haven, Conn. (30 min.)
44. The Birds of Laysan. (Exhibition of film made by Donald R. Dickey, Pasadena, Calif.) Presented by ALEXANDER WETMORE, Washington, D. C. (30 min.)

FELLOWS AND MEMBERS PRESENT.

FELLOWS:—A. A. Allen, Glover M. Allen, Outram Bangs, Charles F. Batchelder, A. C. Bent, J. P. Chapin, F. M. Chapman, Ruthven Deane, Jonathan Dwight, J. H. Fleming, E. H. Forbush, L. A. Fuertes, Geo. Bird Grinnell, W. L. McAtee, W. D. W. Miller, R. C. Murphy, Harry C. Oberholser, T. S. Palmer, C. W. Richmond, John H. Sage, W. E. Saunders, Witmer Stone, P. A. Taverner, C. W. Townsend, Alexander Wetmore.
 —Total 25.

MEMBERS:—F. H. Allen, S. Prentiss Baldwin, Thomas Barbour, Frank Bond, W. Sprague Brooks, Hubert L. Clark, Walter Deane, John A. Farley, Ludlow Griscom, Alfred O. Gross, F. Seymour Hersey, A. H. Howell, Herbert K. Job, F. H. Kennard, F. C. Lincoln, John Murdoch, A. H. Norton, T. Gilbert Pearson, Thomas E. Penard, J. L. Peters, S. N. Rhoads, Charles H. Rogers, Geo. Finlay Simmons, B. H. Swales, Winsor M. Tyler.
—Total 25.

ELECTION OF FELLOWS, MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES.

FELLOW:

DR. CHARLES WENDELL TOWNSEND, 98 Pinckney St., Boston, Mass.

HONORARY FELLOW:

ROBERT HALL, Tasmanian Museum, Hobart, Tasmania.

CORRESPONDING FELLOWS—12:

MAX BARTELS, Pasir Datar, Halte Tjisaat, Preanger, Java.

J. BERLIOZ, Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, 55 Rue de Buffon, Paris, France.

MARCEL DE CONTRERAS, 52 Place Georges Brugmann, Brussels, Belgium.

CAPT. HUGH STEUART GLADSTONE, Capenoch, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, Scotland.

HERMANN GROTE, Wiesbadenerstrasse 4, Berlin-Friedenau, Germany.

DR. ALFRED LAUBMANN, Zool. Staatssammlung, Neuhauser-Strasse 51, Munich, Germany.

LOUIS LAUANDEN, Villa Jouvence, 12 Rue de Cronstadt, Tunis, Tunisia.

FRIEDRICH VON LUCANUS, Lessing-Strasse 32, Berlin, N. W. 23, Germany.

WALTER REGINALD BROOK OLIVER, Director Dominion Museum, Wellington, N. Z.

H. T. L. SHANNING, Stavanger Museum, Stavanger, Norway.

EUGENE LOUIS SIMON, 16 Rue Villa Said, Paris 16^e, France.

COUNT OTTO ZEDLITZ, Tofhult bei Kalfsjöholm, Västergötland, Sweden.

MEMBERS—3:

CHARLES DEAN BUNKER, Kansas University Museum, Lawrence, Kansas.

JOSEPH SCATTERGOOD DIXON, Museum Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, Calif.

GEORGE FINLAY SIMMONS, Austin, Texas.

ASSOCIATES—173:

The names of those Associates who qualify will appear in the annual Directory of Members in 'The Auk' for April.