

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

BY T. S. PALMER.

THE year 1923, marking the completion of forty years of existence finds the American Ornithologists' Union, in an active and prosperous condition. The experiment of holding a meeting in the Middle West last year proved unusually successful not only in affording many of the members an opportunity of attending for the first time the sessions of the Union, but also in building up the membership in the West. Every State in the Mississippi Valley with a single exception has shown an increase in members most marked in Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, Missouri and Minnesota.

*Membership.*—The Union now has members in every State except Wyoming, and also in Alaska, Hawaii, Porto Rico, the Philippine Islands and in 34 foreign countries and colonies including 6 in North America and the West Indies, 4 in South America, 14 in Europe, 4 in Asia, 4 in Africa, and also in Tahiti and Australia; 8 Provinces of Canada and 5 States of Australia being represented in the list.

Year	Fellows	Retired Fellows	Honorary Fellows	Corres- ponding Fellows	Members	Associates	Total
1913	49	2	15	57	77	792	992
1922	49	5	25	87	91	1200	1457
1923	49	5	23	87	95	1393	1652

The total gain during the past decade has been about 660 and the increase for the past year, 195. The gain during the year included the election at the last annual meeting of 6 Corresponding Fellows and 269 Associates. This apparent increase was offset by losses of 19 by death, 39 by resignation, 24 by failure to qualify and a number of delinquencies. The deaths included those of 1 Fellow, 1 Honorary Fellow, 4 Corresponding Fellows and 13 Associates. The effort to increase the life membership has made little progress and the record of the year includes the death of 1 Life Associate. The foreign list notwithstanding 6 new members elected at the last meeting is smaller than last year since it now

contains 2 vacancies in the Honorary list and 13 in the Corresponding list.

*Activities of Members abroad.*—During the year 1923 a number of members have been engaged in field work or have visited foreign countries. Tropical America and the South Pacific have been the scene of labors of several active workers. Dr. Paul Bartsch has visited Santo Domingo and Watling Island, James P. Chapin and C. H. Rogers have collected in Panama, Wm. Beebe and John Tee Van have visited the Galapagos collecting on several of the islands. In South America, Dr. W. H. Osgood, H. P. Conover and J. T. Zimmer have collected in Chile and Argentina for the Field Museum and the American Museum has maintained an expedition in Ecuador. In the South Pacific, R. H. Beck has continued explorations for the American Museum and has recently transferred his base of operations from Tahiti to Samoa; Dr. Spencer Trotter has visited New Zealand and Dr. Casey Wood has made an extensive trip through the South Pacific stopping at Tahiti, Samoa, New Zealand, Australia and the Fiji Islands. Dr. Alex. Wetmore has had charge of an expedition of the Biological Survey to Laysan, Midway and Wake Islands. On the visit to Laysan he was accompanied by Donald R. Dickey who was successful in securing moving pictures of the seabird life on the Hawaiian Bird Reservation. N. Gist Gee continues his residence in Pekin and Dr. F. P. Metcalf has recently accepted an appointment at Nanking, China. During the summer Mr. T. Gilbert Pearson visited Europe in behalf of international bird protection and succeeded in interesting workers in several countries on the continent in the work of the committee. The international organization now includes representatives of 11 countries—the United States, Canada, England, Australia, France, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Hungary, Luxemburg and Norway.

*The Journal.*—The total number of complete sets of 'The Auk' now known is 200. Of these only 86 are in public libraries and the remainder in private ownership. A number of other sets lack only a few of the early volumes and as these come on the market from time to time additional sets may be completed. Much interest has been aroused among some of the younger members in securing back volumes and several complete sets have been built up during the last two or three years.

*Museum collections.*—In the last report reference was made to the inquiry regarding the completeness of the collections of birds in American museums and it was estimated that about 250 of the 2810 genera recognized in Sharpe's 'Hand List' (not counting extinct groups) were unrepresented in the collections in this country. Work along this line has been continued with the result that the list of the genera not at present represented in museums in America has been reduced to about 130. The British Museum and the Tring Museum are apparently the only ones in the world which have a smaller number of desiderata.

*Papers of the Chicago Meeting.*—Only a small proportion of the papers presented at a meeting of the Union appear in 'The Auk'. Some are scattered in other publications and a few are incorporated with other material and are printed under different titles. To complete the record of the meetings it is desirable that references should be given to the place of publication of such contributions as have appeared in print. About one-fourth of those presented at the Chicago Meeting ('Auk', XL, pp. 112-114), have thus far been published. Four of these, No. 3, Sheak's 'Observations on Struthious Birds,' No. 16, Ahrens' 'Bird Banding at Rossitten,' No. 18, Mrs. Reichenberger's 'Remarks on Methods in Measuring Birds,' and No. 37, DeLury's 'Bird Arrivals in Relation to Sunspots' were published in 'The Auk' for 1923 and six others have appeared elsewhere:

1. Hankinson, T. L., 'Sketch of the Wilson Ornithological Club, Wilson Bull., XXXIV, No. 4, pp. 215-218, Dec., 1922.
5. Ganier, A. F., 'Notes from the Tennessee Cumberlands', Wilson Bull., XXXV, No. 1, pp. 26-34, Mar., 1923.
10. Cordier, A. H., 'Some Phases of Bird Photography', Material incorporated in his recent book, 'Birds, their Photographs and Home Life.'
20. Chapman, F. M., 'Distribution of the Genus *Momotus*, Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., XLVIII, pp. 27-59, 1923.
21. Chapman, F. M., 'A Possible Mutant in the Genus *Buarremon*', Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., XLVIII, pp. 243-278, 1923.
29. Cooke, Miss M. T., 'What can be learned from a Bird Census', Material incorporated in 'Report of Bird Censuses in the United States, 1916-1920,' Bull. 1165, U. S. Dept. Agriculture, 1923.

## DECEASED MEMBERS, 1922-1923

- WALTER BRADFORD BARROWS,<sup>1</sup> Fellow, aged 68, died at East Lansing, Mich., Feb. 26, 1923.
- JOHN HENRY GURNEY,<sup>2</sup> Honorary Fellow, aged 74, died at Keswick Hall, near Norwich, England, Nov. 15, 1922.
- TADEUSZ CHROSTOWSKI, Corresponding Fellow, died in Brazil in 1923.
- EDUARD BACHOFEN VON ECHT,<sup>3</sup> Corresponding Fellow, aged 92, died at Nussdorf, near Vienna, Austria, May 22, 1922.
- HENRY JOHN ELWES, Corresponding Fellow, died in his 76th year at Colborne, England, Nov. 26, 1922.
- DON JOSÉ CASTULO ZELEDON,<sup>4</sup> Corresponding Fellow, aged 77, died at Turin, Italy, July 14, 1923.
- WILLIAM W. ARNOLD,<sup>5</sup> Associate, died in his 80th year at Colorado Springs, Colo., Mar. 30, 1923.
- JOB BARNARD,<sup>6</sup> Associate, died in his 79th year at Washington, D. C., Feb. 28, 1923.
- MRS. JAMES C. BUZZELL, Associate, died at Bangor, Maine, in January, 1922.
- FRANK MALLARY CARRYL, Associate, died in his 70th year at Nutley, N. J., April 3, 1923.
- LEWIS DEXTER, Associate, aged 63, died at Boston, Mass., Aug. 19, 1923.
- MRS. WILLIAM FALGER, Associate, died at Modesto, Calif., Aug. 2, 1923.
- LANGDON GIBSON, Associate, died at Criehaven, near Rockland, Maine, Sept. 4, 1923.
- JOHN BROOKS HENDERSON, Life Associate, died in his 53d year at Washington, D. C., Feb. 4, 1923.
- JAMES HAYNES HILL, Associate, died in his 76th year at New London, Conn., Dec. 11, 1922.
- JAMES HIBBERT LANGILLE,<sup>7</sup> Associate, died in his 82d year at Forest Glen, Md., April 9, 1923.
- THOMAS LEO MCCONNELL,<sup>8</sup> Associate, died in his 40th year at Pittsburgh, Pa., Oct. 13, 1922.
- MRS. HERBERT BRUCE MCINTIRE, Associate, died in Cambridge, Mass., in May, 1923.
- HENRY ALBERT PATTINSON SMITH, Associate, aged 59, died at St. John, N. B., April 29, 1923.

<sup>1</sup> For obituary notice see 'Auk,' XL, pp. 376-377.

<sup>2</sup> " " " " " " pp. 718-719.

<sup>3</sup> " " " " " " p. 721.

<sup>4</sup> " " " " " " pp. 682-689.

<sup>5</sup> " " " " " " pp. 574-575.

<sup>6</sup> " " " " " " p. 377.

<sup>7</sup> " " " " " " pp. 572-573.

<sup>8</sup> " " " " " " pp. 721-722.