

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

BY T. S. PALMER.

THE Forty-second Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was held at the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa., November 10-13, 1924. It was the first time that the Union had met in Pittsburgh and it proved to be one of the most successful meetings thus far held. The transaction of business, discussion of scientific papers, and the enjoyment of various social features provided by the local Committee of Arrangements fully occupied five days and evenings. One of the chief attractions of the meeting was the exhibit of bird paintings depicting the best work of many of the bird artists of the present day.

*Attendance.*—The Fellows numbered 26 and included a single founder, Dr. A. K. Fisher, and five others who were elected at the first meeting, viz, Ruthven Deane, Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Dr. Thos. S. Roberts, John H. Sage, and W. E. Saunders. The Honorary Fellows were represented by Dr. C. E. Hellmayr of Chicago. The number of Members, 17, was smaller than usual, but the list of Associates brought the total up to about 140, slightly less than the attendance at Cambridge and Chicago, but still making the meeting one of the largest in the history of the Union.

Sixteen States and the District of Columbia were represented and also a number of the principal museums, including those at Cambridge, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Scranton, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Chicago, Minneapolis, Berkeley, Ottawa and Toronto. Among the members who came from a distance were Dr. Joseph Grinnell of Berkeley, Calif.; Prof. T. C. Stephens and Mns. H. J. Taylor of Sioux City, Iowa; Dr. A. H. Cordier of Kansas City, Mo.; Dr. T. G. Ahrens of Berlin, Germany; and J. H. Fleming, W. E. Saunders, P. A. Taverner, Hoyes Lloyd, Harrison F. Lewis and L. L. Snyder from Canada.

*Business Meetings.*—Monday, as usual, 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 7:30 P. M. and

a meeting of the Fellows and Members at 8 P. M. The Council Meetings were held in the Laboratory of Education in the Carnegie Museum and the evening meetings at the Fort Pitt Hotel, corner of Penn Avenue and Tenth Streets, the headquarters of the Union. At the meeting of the Fellows the deed of gift of the Brewster Memorial was amended so as to permit the award of the medal to the author of the most meritorious work on American birds which has appeared during the six (instead of two) years, prior to the date of the award.

At the evening meeting 25 Fellows and 13 Members were present. 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 1640 and bequests and gifts amounting to \$3000. (For details see pp. —) The report of the Treasurer showed the finances of the Union in a satisfactory condition. The President reported on behalf of the Investment Trustees that the invested funds of the Union now amount to \$22,916.90. The election of officers resulted in the re-election of the officers for 1924: President, Jonathan Dwight, Vice-presidents, Joseph Grinnell and Alexander Wetmore, Secretary, T. S. Palmer, Treasurer, W. L. McAtee, Members of the Council, A. C. Bent, Ruthven Deane, J. H. Fleming, H. C. Oberholser, W. H. Osgood, C. W. Richmond and T. S. Roberts. On recommendation of the Council two Corresponding Fellows and about 290 Associates were elected. Two Members selected from the entire list of Associates were also elected, Mrs. Walter Wehle Naumburg of New York (Life Member) and Herbert Lee Stoddard of Beachton, Georgia.

As a result of the elections there are now no vacancies in the class of Fellows, only two in that of Honorary Fellows, nine in that of Corresponding Fellows, and two 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 progressed slowly and the material is now nearly ready for copying for the press. The Committee has given some attention to securing information regarding collections of birds in some of the larger museums and as a result of such efforts was able to present at this meeting two

special papers, on the collections of the Berlin Museum and of the Museo Nacional of Buenos Aires.

The Committee on Bird Protection, through its Chairman, Dr. A. A. Allen, made a report of progress and presented three resolutions which after some discussion and modification were duly adopted. These resolutions favored the complete protection of species on the verge of extinction, deplored the offering of bounties for control of so-called destructive species and favored greater protection for the Bobolink.

Resolutions were adopted expressing the thanks of the Union to the Director and Trustees of the Carnegie Museum, Mr. John M. Phillips, Mr. Dwight Winter, the H. J. Heinz Co. and the Carnegie Steel Co. for various courtesies extended to the Members.

*Public Meetings.*—The meetings devoted to the presentation of scientific papers occupied three days, November 11, 12 and 13, from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M., with an hour and a half for luncheon which was served each day in the cafeteria in the basement of the Museum. The regular sessions were held in the Lecture Hall of the Museum and the technical sessions in the Laboratory of Education on the third floor. Owing to the length of the program, which was a third longer than any heretofore attempted, it was necessary to extend the hours of meeting by beginning at 9 A. M., except on Tuesday, by holding simultaneous sessions on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, and to limit most of the papers to 30 minutes or less. Thus ample time was allowed for discussion at the morning sessions, although nearly 60 papers were presented.

The sessions on Tuesday were devoted to papers of general interest and opened with an address of welcome by Dr. Douglas Stewart, Director of the Museum. Response on behalf of the Union was made by Dr. Frank M. Chapman. The papers included an address by Dr. A. K. Fisher 'In Memoriam, Walter Bradford Barrows'; Forbush's discussion of whether migration is affected by weather conditions and Norman McClintock's 'Robin Study' based on a series of observations extending over ten years and revised to make a single connected picture of the habits of the bird. Two notable contributions comprised histories of the bird collection of the Museo Nacional by Dr. Roberto Dabbene and that of the Berlin Museum by Dr. T. G. Ahrens based on data furnished by Dr. Erwin Streseman.

As a whole the papers on the program covered a wide variety of subjects, easily grouped under a few main headings. Reports of recent expeditions were naturally of chief interest and included Dr. Murphy's 'Report of the Whitney South Sea Expedition'; Dr. Rea's statement of the progress of the Cleveland Museum South Atlantic Expedition; Brandt's account of his recent trip to Alaska, illustrated by unusually fine pictures and a description of the finding of nests and eggs of several rare shorebirds; Griscom's 'Bird Hunting in Unexplored Panama'; and Chapman's 'Ornithological Reconnaissance in southern Chile.'

The papers presented at the technical session on Wednesday morning were devoted mainly to the discussion of the status and relationships of certain species and genera of birds, including *Henricorhina*, *Palaeospiza*, *Larus kumlieni*, *Cyclarhis*, *Zonotrichia*, *Bubalornis*, *Dinemellia* and *Compsothlypis*. There were also communications on the Eastern Song Sparrows, notices of 'New Birds from Costa Rico,' and a discussion of the 'Color Relationships in Plumage.'

At the same time a bird banding session was considering various topics, including Lyon's description of his method of trapping tree-creeping birds; Grinnell's 'Bird Netting as a Method in Ornithology'; Ahrens' 'Report on The Bird Observation Station on Heligoland' in the North Sea where the method of marking birds by painting their plumage has been used on a larger scale than elsewhere; and Lincoln's 'Results of Bird Banding in Europe,' illustrated by several well-known species. Mrs. F. W. Commons' 'Report of the Tanager Hill Station' at Minneapolis reviewed the work of one of the most active stations of the Inland Bird Banding Association and one which has not only shown remarkable growth during the past year but has contributed valuable data on the bird waves observed during the autumn migration. Fletcher's comprehensive report on the activities of the Northeastern Bird Banding Association suggested special problems for investigation and summarized the results of banding Night Herons in Massachusetts based on several thousand reports. One of these Herons was taken as far south as Jamaica.

At the session on life histories Dr. Stone read extracts from his charming biographies of birds observed at Cape May, N. J.,

including pen pictures of the action of shorebirds on their feeding grounds and the habits of the Laughing Gull. Other contributors at this session described the 'Nesting of the Black Tern,' an 'Intimate Study of Quail Life,' 'Birds of a Brooklyn Swamp,' the life history of the Bank Swallow, the 'Daily Life of the American Eagle,' and Dr. Heinroth's methods of securing data for his studies of European birds.

Simultaneously with the life history papers were presented those on geographic distribution which were devoted to a discussion of the 'Birds of Cobb's Island, Va.,' the birds of the Rocky Mountain National Park, 'Our Migrant Shorebirds in South America,' 'The Interrelations of the Campo and Amazonian Faunas,' 'The Breeding Seasons of Birds in Tropical Africa,' and 'The Faunal Regions of the Western Hemisphere.'

Various phases of bird protection were presented in Pearson's review of 'Some Recent Efforts for Bird Protection,' Townsend's 'Conservation of the Herring Gull,' Shoffner's report on the investigation of the Common Crow conducted by the 'Farm Journal,' Packard's statement of 'The Bobolink Question,' Allen's 'Search for Vanishing Birds' and Jones' recent 'Revisit to Carroll Island in the Olympic Bird Reservation in Washington.'

The program also included a notable series of motion pictures, comprising a dozen or more films representing some of the best recent work in America. Of special interest in this series were Weiseman's pictures showing how birds may be tamed and brought close to the camera, Roberts' pictures of the Burrowing Owl in Minnesota, and a recent film of Canadian Sea-Fowl taken on the the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and exhibited by the courtesy of the Canadian National Parks Service.

*Exhibition of Bird Paintings.*—The chief feature of the meeting was the loan exhibit of bird paintings under the direction of George Miksch Sutton, exhibited through the courtesy of the Director, in the Department of Fine Arts of the Carnegie Institute. This collection was larger than either of those at the Washington or Chicago meetings and was displayed in a special gallery under ideal conditions. The paintings were all under glass, were hung under the supervision of the Art Department, and remained on exhibition three weeks. The arrangement, instead of being made

according to subject or author, was designed to produce the best artistic effect and the result was highly satisfactory. For the first time a printed catalogue of the exhibit was available and this catalogue showed the names of the following artists:

W. J. Belcher	Edward von S. Dingle	Edwin Richard Kalm-
Frank Weston Benson	Mary E. Eaton	bach
Frank Bond	Ottmar Fuehrer	Karl Plath
Wolfrid Rudyerd Boul-	Louis Agassiz Fuertes	Earl Lincoln Poole
ton, Jr.	Carl F. Gronemann	Conrad K. Roland
Courtenay Brandreth	Charles E. Heil	Edgar Roth
Paul Branson	Frank C. Hennessey	Edmund Joseph Sawyer
Rex I. Brasher	Henry Hintermeister	Robert J. Sim
Allan Cyril Brooks	Robert Bruce Horsfall	George Miksch Sutton
Charles Livingston Bull	Lynn Bogue Hunt	Henry Emerson Tuttle
Harry C. Denslow	Francis Lee Jaques	William Wells

The total number of contributors was 31 and the total number of pictures about 140. Although each artist was limited to six paintings, several contributed only one or two each, and the Hennessey pictures unfortunately were not released from customs custody in time for exhibition.

*Other Events.*—The social gatherings, included a *conversazione* and lecture at the Museum on Tuesday evening, the annual dinner at the Fort Pitt Hotel on Wednesday evening, the dinner of the Eastern Bird Banding Association at the Faculty Club on Thursday evening, and three excursions on Friday. On Tuesday evening an opportunity was afforded the members to inspect the exhibit of bird pictures and the study collection of birds of the Carnegie Museum. This collection of about 90,000 specimens, representing some 6,000 species, is well arranged and readily accessible, and the quality of the skins is far above the average. It is particularly rich in series of certain North American birds and contains important collections from northern South America and the valuable Buller collection of New Zealand birds. After examination of the paintings and specimens, the members were entertained by Norman McClintock, who gave an account, illustrated with excellent motion pictures, of his trip to the Upper Yellowstone region in Wyoming to secure films illustrating the life history of the Rocky Mountain Moose. At the annual dinner, attended by 130 Members and guests, Dr. Witmer Stone presided and brief talks were given by

several of the Members, the keynote of the evening being the young ornithologist and his opportunities for ornithological work.

At the dinner on Thursday, attended by about 25 Members and friends of the Eastern Bird Banding Association, addresses were made by the president, the secretary, and several of the guests, who presented various phases of recent bird banding work.

The outings on Friday were arranged to show some of the leading industries of Pittsburgh and the local points of interest. In the morning a trip was made to the establishment of the H. J. Heinz Company and the members were shown the methods used in the preparation of various food products. In the evening a party of twenty-four under the guidance of Messrs. John M. Phillips and J. M. Lazear went by automobile to the plant of the Carnegie Steel Company at Duquesne, where they were shown the process of manufacturing steel and rolling steel rails. In the afternoon a trip was made to inspect the collections of birds in two local aviaries, both of which contained a number of rare species. The private collection of Mr. Dwight Winter contained among other interesting birds an unusually fine example of a very rare Fijian Parrot (*Pyrrhulopsis taviunensis*). This bird is probably the only living specimen in the United States at present and belongs to a species which is represented by comparatively few specimens even in our largest museums.

*Results.*—Among the results of the Pittsburgh meeting were the modification of the conditions governing the award of the Brewster Medal, provision for continuing work on the 'Ten Year Index of The Auk' and for cooperating with the Zoological Society of London in the publication of the 'Zoological Record' for 1923, and reorganization of the Committee on Nomenclature with a view to speeding up preparation of the new Check List of North American Birds. The various ways in which bird banding may be made to contribute more effectively to bird study were demonstrated, and the progress in bird illustration was clearly brought out by the exhibition of bird paintings and by the series of motion picture films.

Invitations to hold the next annual meeting were received from a number of organizations, including one from the Cooper Ornithological Club to meet in Los Angeles and one from the American

Museum of Natural History to meet in New York. It was finally voted to accept the invitation of the American Museum of Natural History and the Forty-third Annual Meeting will be held in New York City, November 9-12, 1925.

#### 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.

Address of Welcome. DR. DOUGLAS STEWART, Director Carnegie Museum.  
Response on behalf of the Union. DR. FRANK M. CHAPMAN, New York City.

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

1. Progress of the Whitney South Sea Expedition. ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, New York City. (15 min.)
2. In Memoriam: Walter Bradford Barrows. A. K. FISHER, Washington, D. C. (30 min.)
3. Egging and the Conservation of the Herring Gull. CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, Ipswich, Mass. (15 min.)
4. The Ornithological Collection of the Museo Nacional, Buenos Aires. ROBERTO DABBENE, Buenos Aires, Argentina (presented by the Secretary). (15 min.)
5. Is Migration affected by Weather Conditions? EDWARD H. FORBUSH, Boston, Mass. (20 min.)
6. The Status of the Crow. CHAS. P. SHOFFNER, Philadelphia, Pa. (20 min.)

#### TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

7. \*Experiences with Birds. T. WALTER WEISEMAN, Pittsburgh, Pa. (20 min.)
8. The Bird Collection in the Berlin Museum. T. G. AHRENS, Berlin. (15 min.)
9. \*Some Recent Efforts for Bird Protection. T. GILBERT PEARSON, New York City. (30 min.)
10. \*The Birds of Gaspé County, Quebec. JOHN B. DE MILLE, New York City. (40 min.)
11. \*Glimpses of Alaskan Bird Life. HERBERT W. BRANDT, Cleveland, Ohio. (40 min.)
12. \*The Status of the Ruffed Grouse in Southeastern New York. ALFRED O. GROSS, Brunswick, Me. (25 min.)



WEDNESDAY MORNING—BIRD BANDING SESSION.

13. Bird Netting as a Method in Ornithology. JOSEPH GRINNELL, Berkeley, Calif. (20 min.)
14. \*Some Results of Bird Banding. WILLIAM I. LYON, Waukegan, Ill. (20 min.)
15. \*The Bird Observation Station on Heligoland. T. G. AHRENS, Berlin. (10 min.)
16. \*Results of Bird Banding in Europe. FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, Washington, D. C. (25 min.)
17. \*Report of the Tanager Hill Bird Banding Station, Minn. MRS. FRANK W. COMMONS, Minneapolis, Minn. (Presented by THOS. S. ROBERTS.) (20 min.)
18. \*Activities of the Northeastern Bird Banding Association. LAURENCE B. FLETCHER, Brookline, Mass. (40 min.)
19. \*A Revisit to Carroll Island, Washington, in the Olympic Bird Reservation. LYNDS JONES, Oberlin, Ohio. (15 min.)
20. The Bobolink Question. WINTHROP PACKARD, Boston, Mass. (15 min.)

WEDNESDAY MORNING—TECHNICAL SESSION.

21. Mutation in *Hemicorhina*. Illustrated by maps. FRANK M. CHAPMAN, New York City. (15 min.)
22. Some Color Relationships in Bird Plumage. WITMER STONE, Philadelphia, Pa. (10 min.)
23. \*Systematic Position of the Fossil *Palaeospiza bella*. ALEX. WETMORE, Washington, D. C. (10 min.)
24. The Status of Kumlien's Gull (*Larus kumlieni*). JONATHAN DWIGHT, New York City. (10 min.)
25. Geographic Variation in the Eastern Song Sparrow. W. E. CLYDE TODD, Pittsburgh, Pa. (10 min.)
26. A Few Remarks on *Cyclarhis*. Illustrated by diagrams. MRS. WALTER W. NAUMBURG, New York City. (20 min.)
27. Distribution and Relationships of the Genus *Zonotrichia*. RUDYERD BOULTON, New York City. (20 min.)
28. Descriptions of New Birds from Costa Rica. JONATHAN DWIGHT and LUDLOW GRISCOM. (5 min.)
29. The Systematic Position of *Bubalornis* and *Dinemellia*. JAMES P. CHAPIN, New York City. (10 min.)
30. Relationships and Distribution of the Warblers of the genus *Compsothlypis*. Illustrated by maps. FRANK M. CHAPMAN, New York City. (15 min.)

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

31. Progress of the Cleveland Museum South Atlantic Expedition. P. M. REA, Cleveland, Ohio. (5 min.)

32. \*A Search for Vanishing Birds. ARTHUR A. ALLEN, Ithaca, N. Y. (45 min.)
33. \*An Ornithological Reconnaissance in Southern Chile. FRANK M. CHAPMAN, New York City. (45 min.)
34. A Robin Study and the Spring Dance of the Heath Hen. NORMAN McCLINTOCK, Pittsburgh, Pa. (30 min.)

## THURSDAY MORNING—LIFE HISTORY SESSION.

35. \*Observations on the Nesting of the Black Tern. MILES D. PIRNIE, Ithaca, N. Y. (20 min.)
36. \*An Intimate Study of Quail Life. MRS. H. M. LYTLE, Library, Pa. (20 min.)
37. \*Life Studies of European Birds. T. G. AHRENS, Berlin. (40 min.)
38. Some Cape May Bird Biographies. WITMER STONE, Philadelphia, Pa. (30 min.)
39. Some Birds of a Brooklyn, N. Y., Swamp. GEORGE E. HIX, Brooklyn, N. Y. (15 min.)
40. Bird-hunting in Unexplored Panama. LUDLOW GRISCOM, New York City. (30 min.)
41. Bank Swallows—A Bit of Life History. MISS MAY T. COOKE. (Presented by FREDERICK C. LINCOLN.) (10 min.)
42. \*Daily Life of the American Eagle—Early Phase. FRANCIS H. HERICK, Cleveland, Ohio. (20 min.)

## THURSDAY MORNING—GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION SESSION.

43. \*The Recent Status of the Bird Life of Cobb's Island, Va. RUDYERD BOULTON, New York City. (20 min.)
44. \*A Few Notes on Rocky Mountain Birds. MRS. CHARLES B. GRAVES, New London, Conn. (20 min.)
45. \*Our Migrant Shore Birds in Southern South America. ALEX. WETMORE, Washington, D. C. (20 min.)
46. \*Breeding Seasons of Birds in Tropical Africa. JAMES P. CHAPIN, New York City. (20 min.)
47. The Designation of Birds' Ranges. JOSEPH GRINNELL, Berkeley, Calif. (15 min.)
48. The Interrelation of the Campo and Amazonian Faunas. Illustrated by maps. MRS. WALTER W. NAUMBURG, New York City. (20 min.)
49. The Faunal Regions of the Western Hemisphere. W. DE W. MILLER, New York City. (25 min.)
50. Some Problems of Geographic Distribution in Western Panama. Illustrated by maps and specimens. LUDLOW GRISCOM, New York City. (15 min.)
51. Avian Gonads and Migration. W. H. BERGTOLD, Denver, Colo. (Read by title.)

52. Naming Shore Bird Tracks. JOHN T. NICHOLS, New York City.  
(Read by title.)

THURSDAY AFTERNOON—MOTION PICTURES.

53. Bird Photography with an Amateur Motion-Picture Camera. A. H. CORDIER, Kansas City, Mo. (30 min.)  
54. Friendliness of Birds. T. WALTER WEISEMAN, Pittsburgh, Pa. (30 min.)  
55. Motion Pictures of Some West Virginia Birds. I. H. JOHNSTON, Charleston, W. Va. (30 min.)  
56. Canadian Sea-Fowl. (Film exhibited by the courtesy of the Canadian National Parks.) HARRISON F. LEWIS, Ottawa, Canada. (45 min.)  
57. Bird Studies in Motion Pictures. THOS. S. ROBERTS, Minneapolis, Minn. (30 min.)  
58. Bird Life in Texas and Florida. ARTHUR A. ALLEN, Ithaca, N. Y. (15 min.)

FELLOWS AND MEMBERS PRESENT.

FELLOWS.—A. A. Allen, J. P. Chapin, F. M. Chapman, Ruthven Deane, Jonathan Dwight, A. K. Fisher, J. H. Fleming, E. H. Forbush, L. A. Fuertes, Joseph Grinnell, Lynds Jones, W. L. McAtee, W. De W. Miller, R. C. Murphy, H. C. Oberholser, T. S. Palmer, C. W. Richmond, J. H. Riley, T. S. Roberts, John H. Sage, W. E. Saunders, Witmer Stone, P. A. Taverner, W. E. C. Todd, C. W. Townsend, Alexander Wetmore—  
Total 26.

HONORARY FELLOW.—C. E. Hellmayr.

MEMBERS.—Wm. L. Baily, Geo. L. Fordyce, Ludlow Griscom, Alfred O. Gross, F. H. Herrick, A. H. Howell, J. W. Jacobs, F. H. Kennard, F. C. Lincoln, Mrs. W. W. Naumburg, J. T. Nichols, T. Gilbert Pearson, J. L. Peters, S. N. Rhoads, C. H. Rogers, T. C. Stephens, B. H. Swales—  
Total 17.

ELECTION OF CORRESPONDING FELLOWS, MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES.

CORRESPONDING FELLOWS.—2.

Prince N. Taka Tsukasa, President of the Ornithological Society of Japan, Tokyo, Japan.

Tokutaro Momiyama, Imperial University, Tokyo, Japan.

MEMBERS.—2.

Mrs. Walter Wehle Naumburg, Hotel St. Regis, New York City (Life Member.)

Herbert Lee Stoddard, Beachton, Ga.

ASSOCIATES.—321.

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