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

BY T. S. PALMER.

For the first time in its history the American Ornithologists' Union met outside the United States and the forty-fourth stated meeting in Ottawa, Canada, in 1926, was a decided departure in several respects from any of its predecessors. Through the invitation extended by the Minister of Mines and Interior the meeting was made a semi-official affair and numerous courtesies were extended to visiting members by the Canadian Government. Special arrangements were made through the Immigration Department to facilitate crossing the border, the Museum where the meetings were held was made a temporary bonded warehouse thus permitting receipt and reshipment of exhibit material with a minimum of tariff restriction, and the general session was opened by an address of welcome by the Minister of Mines and Interior who also held a public reception for the members and attended the annual dinner.

The fortunate circumstance of the early date of the meeting made it possible for members to secure reduced summer transportation rates and a special car was arranged for the convenience of the party from Washington, Philadelphia and New York. The public sessions were held in the Victoria Memorial Museum and the business sessions at the Chateau Laurier, the most elegant headquarters ever provided for the Union. The meeting filled a full week, October 11-17 inclusive, the first day being given up to business and three days each to public sessions and excursions. Special exhibits installed in the Museum for the occasion were the most extensive ever arranged for any of the annual meetings.

Business Sessions.—The business sessions on Monday were held in the banquet room of the Chateau Laurier and included two sessions of the Council at 10 A. M. and 2 P. M., and a meeting of the Fellows and Members at 8 P. M.
At the evening meeting 21 Fellows and 18 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 1815. The report of the Treasurer showed total receipts of $8,213.01 and disbursements of $8,042.52 leaving a balance of $170.49 on hand. The disbursements included $4,882.47 for publication of 'The Auk,' $1,070.49 transferred to permanent funds, and $2,089.51 for miscellaneous expenses. The President reported on behalf of the Investment Trustees that the invested funds of the Union amounted to $28,553.38, including $7,250 in the Brewster Memorial Fund.

The elections resulted in the choice of the following officers for 1927: President, Alexander Wetmore; vice-presidents, Joseph Grinnell and J. H. Fleming; secretary, T. S. Palmer; treasurer, W. L. McAtee; Members of the Council: A. C. Bent, Ruthven Deane, E. H. Forbush, H. C. Oberholser, W. H. Osgood, C. W. Richmond and T. S. Roberts. On recommendation of the Council 9 Corresponding Fellows and 154 Associates were elected. Five Members were also elected from the list of Associates.

The general business transacted included authorizations for continuing work on the ‘Ten Year Index of The Auk,’ the ‘Check List of North American Birds’ and for assisting in the publication of the ‘Zoological Record.’ The plans of the committee appointed to raise a memorial fund for Robert Ridgway were approved and active work will be started in the spring. An amendment to the By-laws extending the privileges of Associate membership to residents of any country was formally proposed and will come up for final action at the next meeting.

Resolutions were adopted extending the thanks of the Union to the Minister and Deputy Minister of Mines and Interior, to the officials of the Victoria Memorial Museum, to the officers of the Canadian National Parks, and of the Ottawa Field Naturalists’ Club for courtesies extended during the meeting. The Union also went on record as opposed to the general destruction of birds of prey by adopting the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the American Ornithologists’ Union deplores the present tendency to wantonly destroy birds of prey as more likely to result in ultimate economic loss than in gain; and also
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deplores the use of the word 'vermin' for these birds as tending to produce an unwarranted prejudice."

Public Sessions.—The presentation of scientific papers occupied the three days, October 12, 13 and 14, from 9:30 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. with intermissions of an hour and a half each day for luncheon. The regular sessions were held in the auditorium of the Museum and technical sessions on Wednesday and Thursday mornings in Room 112 in the west wing of the Museum. On entering the Museum on Tuesday morning the members found on the landing of the main stairway, near the registration desk, a model of a Great Auk of heroic size, resting on three volumes of the Union, 'The Auk,' 'The Code,' and 'The Check-List.' (Plate IV.) Each member on registering was presented with a copy of Taverner's sumptuous work on the 'Birds of Western Canada,' provided by the courtesy of the Canadian Government as a souvenir of the occasion. The general sessions were opened by addresses of welcome by Hon. Charles Stewart, Minister of Mines and Interior and Mr. C. L. Patch, first vice president of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club. A brief response on behalf of the Union was made by the President, Dr. Alexander Wetmore. One of the leading papers was a review of 'Canadian Field Ornithology from 1750 to 1900,' by E. A. Preble, which was supplemented by one of the special exhibits of the more important publications on Canadian birds illustrated by portraits of the authors, the latter loaned from the unique collection of Ruthven Deane. Among the outstanding papers on the program were reports of field work presented by several members who had recently returned from distant regions. J. Dewey Soper had spent two winters in Baffin Land and gave a brief account of ornithological work on Baffin Island. W. E. Clyde Todd had also just returned from the north and presented a brief summary of his work along the east coast of Hudson Bay and in Hudson Strait in the northern part of New Quebec. George Finlay Simmons gave an illustrated account of the South Atlantic Expedition of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and Dr. Frank M. Chapman described an ornithological trip to Venezuela, illustrated by an interesting series of lantern slides. Four papers by members of the Baldwin Bird Research Laboratory at Cleveland
brought out clearly the variety of work now being prosecuted at this recently established laboratory. In illustration of one of these papers, on 'The House Wren on and off Duty,' by S. C. Kendeigh, was shown a ribbon seventy feet in length recording the activities of the House Wren during the nesting period. By an ingenious installation of an electrical device in the nest box, an automatic record was obtained of every movement of the sitting bird during the day and night and the restlessness of the Wren even at night was a revelation to most of the members.

Fifteen papers were presented before the technical sessions and several of them aroused considerable discussion, especially Swarth's 'Status of the Harlan Hawk' and Murphy's 'Adaptation among the Tubinares.' Other papers of special interest were Eaton's 'Fluctuations in the Abundance of Various Birds,' Stone's 'Comments on Recent Check Lists of Birds' and Wetmore's 'Present Status of the Fossil Bird List of North America.'

The moving pictures covered a wide diversity of subjects and, including those shown at the conversazione, numbered more than twenty reels. The most remarkable were Gromme's unique views of Loons taken in Wisconsin and the scenes in the National Parks presented through the courtesy of the Canadian National Parks Service. Lewis' pictures illustrated some of the economic phases of Eider Duck conservation, while Cordier's close ups of the Water Ouzel revived the discussion regarding the nictitating membrane of this bird.

Exhibits.—Several very instructive and interesting exhibits of paintings, photographs and publications were installed in the halls of the Museum. The most important of these were the exhibits of bird paintings. Since the first formal exhibit at the Washington meeting in 1920 similar exhibits have been held in 1922, 1924, 1925 and at the annual meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club in March, 1926, so that this was practically the sixth formal exhibit. In addition to the series of oil paintings, water colors, etchings and photographs should be mentioned the historical collection loaned by the E. S. Wood Library of Ornithology of McGill University, a Joseph Wolf collection of 16 water colors loaned by Dame Alice Godman, a collection of Ridgwayana, originally installed at the Cooper Club meeting in Los Angeles, including
a series of original drawings by Robert Ridgway showing his development as an artist from boyhood days to recent times, and two collections of water colors by Major Allan Brooks, one prepared for Taverner’s ‘Birds of Western Canada’ and the other a special collection of 32 Canadian bird pictures assembled by Wallace Havelock Robb. The catalogue of the exhibit of bird paintings and photographs included 444 entries representing the work of about 50 artists, including 3 unknown, and 13 photographers in addition to the 37 artists in the following list:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>William J. Belcher (Fiji)</th>
<th>Claude Edward Johnson</th>
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<td>Richard Evett Bishop</td>
<td>John Gerrard Keulemans, 1842-1912</td>
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<td>Allan Cyril Brooks</td>
<td>Bruno Liljeefors (Sweden)</td>
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<td>Charles Livingston Bull</td>
<td>George Edward Lodge</td>
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<td>F. Cheverlange (Fiji)</td>
<td>A. Miles</td>
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<td>Adrian Collaert (ca. 1580)</td>
<td>John Guille Millais</td>
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<td>John Templeman Coolidge, Jr.</td>
<td>R. C. Patterson</td>
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<td>Henry Carey Denslow</td>
<td>Roger Tory Peterson</td>
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<td>Edward von Siebold Dingle</td>
<td>Karl Plath</td>
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<td>Louis Agassiz Fuertes</td>
<td>Earl Lincoln Poole</td>
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<td>William Giles</td>
<td>W. E. Powell</td>
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<td>Henrik Gronvold</td>
<td>John Livsey Ridgway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lady Elizabeth Gwillim (fl. 1801-06)</td>
<td>Robert Ridgway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Hayes (fl. 1808-16)</td>
<td>Edmund Joseph Sawyer</td>
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<td>William Hayes, (ca. 1729-1799)</td>
<td>Will Simmons</td>
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<td>Frank Charles Hennessey</td>
<td>George Miksch Sutton</td>
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<td>Robert Bruce Horsfall</td>
<td>Albert E. Ward (Fiji)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynn Bogue Hunt</td>
<td>Joseph Wolf, 1820-1899</td>
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<td>Francis Lee Jaques</td>
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Series of photographs, some of them colored, were shown by the following contributors:

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<tr>
<th>Arthur Augustus Allen</th>
<th>Wright McEwan Pierce</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ralph Emerson De Lury</td>
<td>Harold Herbert Pittman</td>
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<td>John A. Gillespie</td>
<td>Napier Smith</td>
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<td>Warwick James Low</td>
<td>Percy A. Taverner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dan McCowan</td>
<td>Lewis McIver Terrill</td>
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<td>William Henry Mousley</td>
<td>Edward Royal Warren</td>
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<td>James Alexander Munro</td>
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Social Features.—The social gatherings were more varied than usual and included, in addition to the daily luncheon and the annual dinner, a conversazione on Tuesday evening, informal re-
exceptions at the homes of several of the resident members on Thursday evening and two field excursions. At the conversazione, which was opened by a reception by the Minister of Mines and officials of the Museum, Harrison F. Lewis gave a demonstration of the method of cleaning Eider down for market, moving pictures of the Canadian National Parks were shown, and music and refreshments closed the program of the evening.

The annual dinner on Wednesday evening at the Chateau Laurier was attended by about 180 members and guests. At each plate was a miniature model of a Great Auk prepared by P. A. Taverner and his assistants. Following the dinner a medal was presented by Wallace Havelock Robb to Major Allan Brooks in recognition of his work in bird painting, the usual edition of 'The Auklet' was distributed, and a special program arranged by the Local Committee was presented. On Friday the members were taken by motor-bus to Kingsmere, P. Q., the nearest part of the Laurentian Hills. From this point a walk to the top of Kings Mountain nearby, altitude 1,050 feet, afforded a view of the surrounding region and an opportunity of seeing the woods in their gorgeous autumn tints. The final event was a two day excursion which started Saturday morning for Blue Sea Lakes, about 80 miles north of Ottawa, on the Gatineau Division of the Canadian Pacific Railroad. The thirty-nine members who joined this excursion enjoyed a still better opportunity of observing the autumn tints of the Canadian woods in the highlands of Quebec.

As a record of the meeting two group photographs were taken, one of the entire membership and the other of the 48 Canadian members.

Invitations to hold the next annual meeting were received from various places but by unanimous vote the Union decided to accept the invitation from Washington, D. C., and the forty-fifth annual meeting will be held at the U. S. National Museum, November 14–17, 1927.

THE 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. HON. CHAS. STEWART, Minister of Mines.
Address of Welcome on behalf of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club. C. L. PATCH, First Vice-President.
Response on behalf of the American Ornithologists' Union. ALEXANDER WETMORE, President.
Roll Call of Fellows and Members, Report of Business Meeting, Announcement of Result of Elections.

1. Notes on the Courtship of the Lesser Scaup, Everglade Kite, Crow and Boat-tailed and Great-tailed Grackles. CHARLES WENDELL TOWNSEND, Ipswich, Mass. (15 min.)
2. Canadian Field Ornithology, 1750-1900. EDWARD A. PREBLE, Biological Survey, Washington, D. C. (30 min.)
3. Eider-down from the American Eider. HARRISON F. LEWIS, Canadian National Parks, Ottawa. (15 min.)
4. Tree Surgery and the Birds. JOSEPH GRINNELL, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, Calif. (10 min.)
5. The Decorations of the Bowers of Australian Bower-birds. W. B. ALEXANDER, R. A. O. U., Editor of 'The Emu.' (15 min.)
6. The International Ornithological Congress at Copenhagen. ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, American Museum of Natural History, New York. (30 min.)

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

7. A Visit to the Queen Charlotte Islands, B. C. C. J. YOUNG, Vancouver, B. C. (30 min.)
   Papers from the Baldwin Bird Research Laboratory (Nos. 8-11).
8. *Winter Shelter for Game Birds. S. PRENTISS BALDWIN, Cleveland, O. (10 min.)
9. Operating a Bird Research Laboratory. S. PRENTISS BALDWIN, Cleveland, O. (10 min.)
10. Nestling Plumage of the House Wren. RUDYERD BOULTON, JR., Pittsburgh, Pa. (20 min.)

WEDNESDAY MORNING—GENERAL SESSION

14. Misleading International Bird Names. WALLACE HAVELOCK ROBB, Belleville, Ont. (10 min.)
15. *Bird Songs enjoyed by other Species.  
   *Making a Swallow Bank and other Nesting Places.  Ernest Thompson Seton, Greenwich, Conn. (10 min.)
16. The Sparrow Hawks of Colorado.  W. H. Bergtold, Denver, Colo.  (Read by title.)
17. Results of Bird Banding in the Inland District.  W. I. Lyon, President Inland Bird Banding Association, Waukegan, Ill. (20 min.)
20. Tree Sparrow Returns and Migration.  Wendell P. Smith, Wells River, Vt. (15 min.)
22. An Interesting Case of Melanism in the Ruffed Grouse.  Arthur A. Allen, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.  (Read by title.)
23. *Nesting of the White-winged Crossbill.  Napier Smith, President Quebec Society Protection of Birds, Montreal, P. Q. (20 min.)

**Wednesday Morning—Technical Session**

27. Comments on Recent Check Lists of Birds.  Witmer Stone, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa. (20 min.)
29. The Island of San Luis de Maranhao, Brazil, and some of the Birds collected there by Emil Kaempfer.  Mrs. Elsie M. B. Naumburg, American Museum of Natural History, New York. (15 min.)
31. Remarks on the Classification of the Parrots.  Waldron de Witt Miller, American Museum of Natural History, New York. (Read by title.)
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON—MOTION PICTURES AND LANTERN SLIDES

32. Nesting Life of the Loon in Wisconsin—Motion Pictures. OWEN J. GROMME, Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wis. (20 min.)


34. *Some Observations on the Water Ouzel—Motion Pictures. A. H. CORDIER, Kansas City, Mo. (30 min.)


36. West Virginia and Florida Birds—Motion Pictures. I. H. JOHNSTON, Charleston, W. Va. (30 min.)

37. *The Blossom South Atlantic Expedition of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. GEO. FINLAY SIMMONS, Cleveland Museum, Cleveland, O. (45 min.)

THURSDAY MORNING—GENERAL SESSION

38. The Flicker Flight and other Migratory Movements at Cape May, N. J. WITMER STONE, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa. (15 min.)


41. Comparison of the Nesting Habits of Wright's and Hammond's Flycatchers. J. HOOVER BOWLES, Tacoma, and F. R. DECKER, Kiona, Wash. (Presented by Edward Arnold.) (15 min)


44. Conservation Gone Mad. ERNEST THOMPSON SETON, Greenwich, Conn. (15 min.)

45. Banding Redpolls. R. E. DeLURY, Ottawa. (10 min.)

THURSDAY MORNING—TECHNICAL SESSION

46. A Study of Adaptation among the Tubinares. ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, American Museum of Natural History, New York. (30 min.)


48. *Avifaunal Exploration in Lower California and what it shows. JOSEPH GRINNELL, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, Calif. (35 min.)

50. The Case of the Yellow Warbler. W. E. Clyde Todd, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa. (5 min.)


Thursday Afternoon—Motion Pictures


54. Ornithological Results of the Mason-Spinden Expedition to Eastern Yucatan and Cozumel Island. Ludlow Griscom, American Museum of Natural History, New York. (45 min.)

55. The Ridgway Memorial. O. M. Schantz, Chicago, Ill. (45 min.)

56. The Sport of Bird Banding. S. Prentiss Baldwin, Cleveland, O. (45 min.)


Attendance

The register showed the presence of 22 Fellows, 1 Corresponding Fellow, 24 Members and 88 Associates or a total of 135 Members. Among the number were one of the original Founders, Charles F. Batchelder, 3 Fellows elected at the first meeting, Ruthven Deane, Dr. Jonathan Dwight and W. E. Saunders, and a Corresponding Fellow from Australia, W. B. Alexander, formerly editor of 'The Emu.' Among the visitors were the Minister and Deputy Minister of Mines and Interior, and the Governor of Greenland.

Among the members who came from a distance were Dr. Joseph Grinnell, Miss M. E. McLellan and H. S. Swarth from California; Dr. A. H. Cordier from Kansas City, Mo.; Ruthven Deane, W. I. Lyon and O. M. Schantz from Illinois; Herbert R. Sass from Charleston, S. C.; and Major Allan Brooks, J. A. Munro and L. E. Taylor from British Columbia; Frank L. Farley and J. Dewey
Soper from Alberta; L. B. Potter from Saskatchewan, and C. L. Broley from Manitoba.

Representatives were present from eighteen States, the District of Columbia and 7 Provinces of Canada, including all the region from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Potomac and Ohio Rivers and from the Atlantic Coast to the Mississippi River except New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Rhode Island and Delaware. In addition representatives were present from 4 Provinces and 4 States in the west and south: Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and California, Missouri, South Carolina and West Virginia. The largest delegations outside of Ontario came from Quebec, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia. Although the total attendance was somewhat smaller than that in New York last year it was more generally distributed and represented one more State and 5 more Canadian Provinces than were present at the meeting of 1925.

Fourteen natural history museums were represented by one or more of their members, viz: American, Boston Society of Natural History, California Academy of Sciences, Carnegie, Cleveland, Comparative Zoology, Everhart, National, Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, Princeton, Royal Ontario, University of Michigan, Vertebrate Zoology and Victoria Memorial.

**Fellows and Members Present.**


*Corresponding Fellow.—* W. B. Alexander.

ELECTION OF CORRESPONDING FELLOWS, MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES.

CORRESPONDING FELLOWS—9
Prof. Stephen Alfred Forbes, Urbana, Ill.
Dr. Lieven Ferdinand de Beaufort, Amsterdam, Holland
Janusz Domaniewski, Warsaw, Poland.
Dr. Kurt Ehrenreich Floericke, Stuttgart, Germany.
Dr. Ivar Johannes Hortling, Helsingfors, Finland.
Jakob Schenk, Budapest, Hungary
Peter Skovgaard, Skovbo, Denmark
Dr. Johannes Thienemann, Rossitten, Germany.

MEMBERS—5
Miss May Thacher Cooke, Washington, D. C. (Life Member).
Maunsell Schieffelin Crosby, Rhinebeck, N. Y. (Life Member).
Stanley Gordon Jewett, Portland, Oregon.
William Henry Mousley, Montreal, P. Q.
James Alexander Munro, Okanagan, Landing, B. C.

ASSOCIATES—154.
The names of Associates who qualify will appear in the annual Directory of Members in 'The Auk,' for April.