

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

BY T. S. PALMER.

*Membership.*—At the close of the year 1926, the membership list shows a total increase of 110 over the number reported last year. The Union, however, in practicing rigid economy failed for the first time in many years to publish the usual list of members in the April number of 'The Auk.' The omission of this list has proved a serious inconvenience and in the absence of the usual careful revision of the rolls in preparation for printing, the total number of members at present is somewhat uncertain. These members are distributed in all of the States and Territories except Hawaii, and also in the Phillipine Islands and in a number of foreign countries and colonies in North America, South America, West Indies, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia.

The following tabular statement shows the figures for the present membership in comparison with those of last year and ten years ago:

	<i>Fellows</i>	<i>Retired Fellows</i>	<i>Hon. Fellows</i>	<i>Corresponding Fellows</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>Associates</i>	<i>Total</i>
1916	46	3	11	55	77	638	830
1925	48	5	24	88	96	1444	1705
1926	50	5	23	86	99	1552	1815

The comparison with 1916 shows substantial increases in all the classes but is somewhat misleading because in that year there had been a rigid revision of the list and many Associates in arrears were dropped with the result that the total membership was smaller than at any time for the preceding ten years. On the other hand in 1926 the list has not undergone as severe pruning as usual and consequently may show a reduction next year. The apparent gain of 110 during the year included the restoration of 1 Associate and the election at the last annual meeting of 2 Corresponding Fellows and 181 Associates, of which 157 qualified. This increase was offset by losses of 17 by death, 37 by resignation, some by failure to qualify and some by delinquency. The losses

by death included those of 1 Honorary Fellow, 4 Corresponding Fellows, 1 Life Associate and 11 Associates. While the losses by resignation are at the maximum for any year during the past decade the losses by death have been exceeded in five years during the same period. In the classes of restricted membership we have no vacancies in the class of Fellows, 2 in that of Honorary Fellows, 14 in that of Corresponding Fellows and 26 in that of Members.

*Activities of Members Abroad.*—Not since the days of Rheinhold Forster who accompanied Capt. Cook on his voyage around the world have ornithologists been so active as they have this year in circumnavigating the globe. At least four of our members have made the circuit in 1926, or will be on the way at the close of the year. Of our foreign members M. Jean Delacour who went out to Indo-China last year to collect live birds and specimens returned by way of the United States in May and made brief visits to Washington, Philadelphia and New York. An opportunity was thus afforded of entertaining for a few days one of our distinguished foreign members. Mr. W. B. Alexander, editor of the Australian Journal 'The Emu,' who was in America several years ago, returned to England and has honored us with a visit at this meeting thus completing his trip around the globe which has extended over several years. Dr. Casey Wood who spent several months last winter in Ceylon and several months during the summer in Kashmir, India, has now progressed as far as the Philippines on his way around the world and expects to return to America sometime in 1927. Mr. W. W. Grant, who undertook a similar voyage, was heard from early in the spring from a point in the Java Sea, but returned in time to attend this meeting. All of these members have made the trip from west to east, while Dr. Charles W. Townsend plans to reverse this course and leaves in October for the West Coast and the Philippines.

Africa has proved unusually attractive this year. Mr. Herbert Lang has continued his work in South Africa, Mr. James P. Chapin has revisited the Congo region to collect birds in the high mountains, while Messrs. H. B. Conover and J. T. Zimmer of the Field Museum have undertaken an expedition to South Africa. Recently the Field Museum has dispatched an African expedition in charge of Dr. W. H. Osgood, who is accompanied by

Messrs. L. A. Fuertes and A. M. Bailey. This party expects to explore the highlands of Abyssinia, a region largely unknown and one in which very little zoological work has been done since the days of Hemprich and Ehrenberg eighty years ago. On the west coast, Dr. Glover M. Allen has visited Liberia in the interests of the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

Tropical America as usual has been the scene of several collecting expeditions. George K. Cherrie has recently returned from the interior of Brazil, where he traveled for several months with a party from the Field Museum. Ernest G. Holt of the Carnegie Museum has left for Brazil on a business trip but may find opportunity to do some collecting. Dr. Frank M. Chapman made a brief trip into the interior of Venezuela in returning from the Canal Zone, Mr. F. H. Kennard has been in western Panama, and Dr. Thomas Barbour and Dr. Chapman visited Barro Colorado Island in the Canal Zone early in the spring. James Bond accompanied Rodolph M. deSchauensee to the lower Amazon in the Para region where collections were made for the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

In Central America, Harry Malleis is still collecting in Guatemala in the Province of Peten, and A. J. Van Rossem succeeded in making a very interesting collection in Salvador and secured material from some important type localities. He is planning to resume work in the near future in that little known region.

In Mexico, some work has been done by Ludlow Griscom and E. A. Goldman. The former visited eastern Yucatan and Cozumel Island with the Mason-Spinden Archaeological Expedition, while Major Goldman made a trip in February for the purpose of investigating the condition of Ducks and other migratory Waterfowl and the methods of hunting them on some of the lakes on the tableland. During the course of this work he secured much valuable information and incidentally the type of a new Rail which has recently been described by Dr. E. W. Nelson.

After an absence of nearly three years the expedition of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History to the South Atlantic in charge of George Finlay Simmons has returned with extensive collections. In the South Pacific, Rollo H. Beck is still collecting for the American Museum of Natural History. Dr. Hugh M.

Smith is engaged in fisheries work in Siam and has made collections of birds from time to time and N. Gist Gee is at his post in China, while Lacey I. Moffett remains at Kiangku, China where he is directing extensive collecting for the Philadelphia Academy.

Europe as usual has attracted several of the members and it was expected that a strong delegation would attend the Sixth International Ornithological Congress at Copenhagen in May. Unfortunately, at the last moment several members were prevented from making the trip so that the Union was represented only by Dr. Frank M. Chapman, J. H. Fleming, Dr. E. C. Hellmayr, and Dr. and Mrs. Robert Cushman Murphy. After the Congress, Dr. Murphy visited museums in several countries and during the summer Mrs. W. W. Naumburg found an opportunity of continuing her work at several of the foreign museums.

*Personnel of the Union.*—During the year the Committee on Biography and Bibliography, (through the chairman, assisted by the Treasurer), has published a complete bibliography of the papers of A. K. Fisher, 1876–1926, and has made an effort not only to assist the editor of 'The Auk' in the preparation of biographical sketches of deceased members but to correlate and summarize some of the biographical data which have been collected. The entire list of deceased foreign members has been examined and a number of notices prepared. Brief notices of all except one of the members on this list have been published or prepared, a complete list of the Life Members from the beginning has been made, and certain data tabulated for all classes of members except Associates. This tabulation has brought out some interesting facts both as to age and place of birth.

The ages of the Fellows have varied from 24 to 88. At present the youngest Fellow on the rolls is 34, the oldest 85, and 6 Founders and 6 others elected at the first meeting have held membership in that class for 43 years. Of those now in the list of Fellows 11 have passed three score and ten years, 16 joined the Union before they were of age and 10 attained the grade of Fellow before they were 30 years of age, namely, E. P. Bicknell, F. M. Chapman, and Joseph Grinnell at 24; Witmer Stone at 26; C. F. Batchelder, A. K. Fisher and C. Hart Merriman at 27; and Jonathan Dwight, E. W. Nelson and C. W. Richmond at 28. While the average

time of promotion from Associate to Fellow is about 10 or 12 years, three were advanced in 3 years, one each in 5, 6 and 7, while others have waited 20 to 32 years to reach the highest grade.

Wilson, Audubon and Nuttall were born abroad but took up their residence respectively in the states of Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts. By a curious coincidence all of the 10 or 12 most prominent ornithologists of the last century (except Coues, who was born in New Hampshire) and more than half of the present Fellows of the Union were born in these same states. The other half are scattered among 10 other states but only two of them west of the Mississippi. In the case of Members however, the distribution is somewhat wider as several of the younger men were born in the west, 10 per cent of them in Iowa.

*Bequests and Contributions.*—Since the last meeting the bequest of \$500 generously left the Union by John H. Sage has been received and invested, and contributions have been made by several members, notably by N. C. Brown and Miss A. R. Sherman. Several others have contributed toward the expense of publishing certain papers in 'The Auk' thereby enabling us to issue larger numbers than would otherwise have been possible.

In this connection it may not be inappropriate to suggest that members, who have enjoyed the benefits of the Union for some years, might assist in assuring these benefits permanently for others, by bequest, or by making provision for the permanent care of their sets of 'The Auk,' if they are no longer using them, in some appropriate institutions. Many public libraries still lack sets of the journal in whole or in part.

*Museum Collections.*—The Committee on Biography and Bibliography has already secured and published in 'The Auk,' brief accounts of the collections of birds in the museums of Berlin, Buenos Aires and Stockholm, and arrangements are being made for similar reports on other notable collections. American students will thus have ready access to accounts of the more important collections abroad.

The genera of birds of the world (as of Sharpe's 'Hand-List') still unrepresented in American museums has been reduced to about 80 and it is hoped to publish this list during the coming year.

*The Journal.*—At the beginning of the year another survey was made of the condition of complete sets of 'The Auk' in the hands of public libraries and private individuals. Information was collected regarding the condition of these sets, whether bound or not, and whether they included sets of the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club.' The returns have brought to light the fact that 10 or 11 additional sets have been completed or nearly completed during the year so that the total number of sets which are either complete or lack from 1 to 6 numbers is now about 240, of which 96 are in public libraries or museums.

*Papers of the New York Meeting.*—Only a few of the papers presented at the annual meeting in 1925 have thus far appeared in print. Those published in 'The Auk' include the following:

No. 2, Stone's Memorial of John Hall Sage; No. 4, Crosby's Memorial of Eugene Pintard Bicknell; No. 17, Stoner's 'Banding Notes on the Bank Swallow'; No. 20, Lincoln's Banding in Progress and Prospect'; No. 26, Lonnberg's account of 'The Ornithological Collection of the Natural History Museum in Stockholm'; No. 35, Christy's Engraved Portraits of Birds, under the title 'Alexander Lawson's Bird Engraving'; No. 39, Nicholson's 'Nesting Habits of the Everglade Kite'; No. 41, Henderson's 'Nesting of Bonaparte's Gull in Alberta'; and No. 51, Mrs. Naumburg's 'The Bird Fauna of North America in Relation to its Distribution in South America.'

Among the papers published elsewhere are No. 25, Todd's 'Study of Goldfinches,' which has appeared under the title 'A Study of the Neotropical Finches of the Genus *Spinus*,' in the 'Annals of the Carnegie Museum,' XVII, pp. 11-82, June, 1926; and No. 52, Allen's 'Ruffed Grouse Disease,' which has been elaborated by A. A. Allen and A. O. Gross as the 'Ruffed Grouse Investigation, Season of 1925-1926,' in 'American Game,' the Bulletin of the American Game Protective Association, XV, pp. 81-84, 86, Oct., 1926.

Besides these, two contributions presented at the Pittsburgh meeting in 1924, viz: No. 27, Boulton's paper on *Zonotrichia* has appeared in 'The Auk,' July, 1926, pp. 326-332, under the title 'Remarks on the Origin and Distribution of the Zonotrichiae,' and No. 51, Bergtold's 'Avian Gonads and Migration' has been published in 'The Condor,' May, 1926, pp. 114-120.

## DECEASED MEMBERS, 1925-1926.

- HERMAN SCHALOW,<sup>1</sup> Honorary Fellow, died in his 74th year at Berlin, Germany, Dec. 9, 1925.
- FRANK EVERS BEDDARD,<sup>2</sup> Corresponding Fellow, aged 67, died at West Hampstead, Eng., July 14, 1925.
- SANFORD BALLARD DOLE,<sup>3</sup> Corresponding Fellow, aged 82, died at Honolulu, Hawaii, June 9, 1926.
- MICHAEL JOHN NICOLL,<sup>4</sup> Corresponding Fellow, aged 45, died at Leeds, Eng., Oct. 31, 1925.
- HARRY KIRKE SWANN,<sup>5</sup> Corresponding Fellow, of Thorncombe, New Barnet, Eng., aged 55, died Apr. 14, 1926.
- ROBERT BARBOUR, Associate, of Montclair, N. J., died in 1926.
- WILLIAM STURGIS BIGELOW, Associate, aged 76, died at Boston, Mass., Oct. 6, 1926.
- JOHN BURNHAM,<sup>6</sup> Associate, aged 58, died at San Diego, Calif., Mar. 27, 1926.
- LABAN DENNIS, Associate, of Orange, N. J., died Nov. 18, 1925.
- MISS SARAH CHANDLER EASTMAN, Associate, of Portland, Me., died Jan. 18, 1926.
- JULIUS GARST, Associate, of Worcester, Mass., died Feb. 14, 1926.
- MRS. BAKER HULL, Associate, of Baltimore, Md., died May 31, 1925.
- AUGUSTUS SAYRE KIBBE,<sup>7</sup> Associate, died at Berkeley, Calif., Aug. 21, 1926.
- SAMUEL HENRY VANDERGRIFT,<sup>8</sup> Life Associate, aged 60, died at Washington, D. C., Sept. 21, 1926.
- BENJAMIN HARRY WARREN,<sup>9</sup> Associate, aged 68, died at West Chester, Pa., Oct. 10, 1926.
- FRANK MORLEY WOODRUFF,<sup>10</sup> Associate, aged 49, died at Chicago, Ill., July 21, 1926.
- LEWIS BARTHOLOMEW WOODRUFF, Associate, aged 57, died at Torrington, Conn., Nov. 27, 1925.

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<sup>1</sup> For obituary notice, see 'Auk,' XLIII, pp. 412-413.

<sup>2</sup> " " " " " " p. 413

<sup>3</sup> " " " " " " XLIV, p. 160.

<sup>4</sup> " " " " " " XLIII, pp. 414-415.

<sup>5</sup> " " " " " " pp. 415-416.

<sup>6</sup> " " " " " " XLIII, pp. 578-579.

<sup>7</sup> " " " " " " XLIV, p. 161.

<sup>8</sup> " " " " " " " p. 163.

<sup>9</sup> " " " " " " " p. 163.

<sup>10</sup> " " " " " " XLIII, pp. 577-578.