

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

BY T. S. PALMER.

THE Union closed its forty-sixth year in a prosperous and satisfactory condition as to membership and general activities.

*Membership.*—The total membership is only 117 more than reported last year notwithstanding the fact that 235 new associates were elected at the last meeting. Losses due to death, resignation, and delinquency cause a serious turn-over each year and prevent rapid increase in the membership. The members are distributed in all the States and Territories and in about forty foreign countries and colonies. The following tabulated statement shows the figures for the present membership in comparison with those of last year and of ten years ago:

	<i>Fellows</i>	<i>Retired Fellows</i>	<i>Hon- orary Fellows</i>	<i>Corres- ponding Fellows</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>Associates</i>	<i>Total</i>
1919	48	3	19	63	84	807	1024
1928	49	5	22	88	103	1474	1741
1929	46	4	24	80	103	1601	1858

The losses by death included 4 Fellows, 1 Retired Fellow, 1 Honorary Fellow, 5 Corresponding Fellows, 1 Member, and 18 Associates—a total of 30.

In spite of the wide distribution of its members there are still large areas in eastern Europe and in Asia in which the Union is unrepresented. It has no members in any part of Asia, except China, Japan, Siam, and the Federated Malay States. Efforts to establish contacts with workers in Siberia, to which reference was made last year, have not as yet met with success.

*Activities of Members Abroad.*—During the past year more than usual activity in field work in foreign lands has been manifested by several members of the Union. The MacMillan Arctic Expedition, accompanied by Dr. S. C. Palmer, visited Baffin Island. J. Dewey Soper, who spent the winter in survey work on Baffin Island, has at last brought back definite information regarding the long sought breeding grounds of the Blue Goose. P. A. Taverner accompanied the annual Arctic Patrol of the Canadian Government to Greenland

and the islands in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, reaching a latitude of about  $78^{\circ} 30'$  on Ellesmere Island. In Tropical America, James Bond, of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, visited some of the smaller islands of the British West Indies and Dr. Paul Bartsch of the National Museum also visited several of the more southern islands and those off the coast of Venezuela. Ernest G. Holt has continued his three years' survey of Venezuela in the interests of the Carnegie Museum. The Tyler-Duida Expedition of the American Museum, in charge of G. H. H. Tate, with R. S. Deck as ornithologist, left New York in July, 1928, for Venezuela. After touching at Pará and ascending the Amazon and the Orinoco they accomplished the ascent of Mt. Duida and spent about three months there, returning last May. Dr. Frank M. Chapman and Dr. Thomas Barbour both spent some time last winter at Barro Colorado Island in the Canal Zone, and later A. B. Howell and A. J. van Rossem also did some work at this station.

Several members as usual visited Europe, among them B. H. Christy, who devoted some time to observing the bird life of England and western Ireland.

Field work in Africa is still continuing actively. The expedition sent out by the Milwaukee Museum last year, which was accompanied by O. J. Gromme, returned some months ago after completing its work and brought back numerous specimens and pictures. The Gray Expedition in the interests of the Philadelphia Academy with W. W. Bowen as ornithologist obtained a large collection of birds from Angola and Tanganyika. H. C. Raven accompanied the Columbia University-American Museum Expedition which left during the summer expecting to spend six months in crossing Africa from east to west, principally in search of material illustrating gorillas and their anatomy. Undoubtedly the collections will include some birds. The American Museum has recently received about 600 birds collected by Murphy and Rockefeller in the Congo region. Farther south W. R. Boulton, who left last winter, has been collecting in Kenya Colony and in Nyassaland. The American Museum also dispatched an expedition early in the summer to the island of Madagascar, where in cooperation with M. Jean Delacour work has been progressing for several months.

In Asia the chief activity has been concentrated in the southeastern region from China to Siam. The National Museum has continued to receive material from D. C. Graham in China. M. Delacour has made another trip to Indo-China collecting birds not only for museums but also live birds for his aviary. The Kelley-Roosevelt Expedition to India and Indo-China in the interest of the Field Museum of Natural History has recently returned after a successful season and has brought back more than 4000 birds from western Tonkin and northern Laos. The Indo-China Division of the expedition left Hanoi, Annam, in February and proceeded westward and finally turned south down the Meong River and reached Hue in July. Rodolphe M. de Schauensee in charge of the expedition of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia has returned from a successful trip to Siam, and Dr. Hugh M. Smith, Commissioner of Fisheries of Siam, has continued to collect birds in that region as opportunity offered and has forwarded them to the National Museum. H. G. Deignan has taken up his residence at Prince Royal College at Chiangmai, Siam, and is collecting at every opportunity. In a letter received last May he stated that he had recently returned from a trip to the Shan States and to the southern border of China and had observed some 275 species of birds.

In the Pacific the New York Zoological Expedition to New Guinea returned Mar. 21, 1929, with a wonderful series of live birds including 40 Birds of Paradise, representing 9 species, and other forms not previously seen alive in this country. These birds are now on exhibition in the New York Zoological Park. R. H. Beck has returned after several years' work in the South Pacific, but the Whitney-Sanford Expedition of the American Museum is still actively at work in the field. Last March Dr. A. K. Fisher left with Gov. Gifford Pinchot on a cruise on the yacht 'Mary Pinchot.' After collecting on some of the islands in the Bahamas and off Yucatan the expedition passed through the Panama Canal, visited the Galapagos Islands, returned to Panama, and then went on to Tahiti collecting at all points. The party returned by steamer to San Francisco.

*Biography and Bibliography.*—The main work of the Committee during the past year has been the completion of the Ten-Year Index of 'The Auk', 1911-1920. Proof-reading occupied a large

part of the attention of the Secretary until May, although the Index itself was not published until July 5. Much assistance was rendered by Dr. Richmond in reading the proof and by Frank Bond in checking certain cross references. A special biographical list was prepared for the Introduction, giving the full names and dates for persons whose names appeared in the 'Index' and also of all members of the Union who died during this decade.

Assistance was rendered to the Editor of 'The Auk' in preparing obituaries of deceased members or securing aid in the preparation of appropriate notices. A separate department in 'The Auk' is now maintained for obituaries, and during the year twenty-three such notices were published in addition to two formal memorial addresses. By order of the Council names of members in the annual directory for 1929 were published in full for the first time. The collection of this information involved much extra correspondence but in spite of repeated efforts about seventy names still remain incomplete.

It has been the custom in recent years to publish names of deceased members in the list of members only once in five years. Preparations have been made for the appearance of this list in 1930, and it is contemplated to make it something more than a mere list by inserting after each name a reference to the obituary notice. It thus becomes not only a list of deceased members but also an index to biographies, and makes accessible a considerable amount of valuable biographical material.

On the appearance of the 'Index' efforts were made to place the volume in as many libraries as possible, both public and private, which possessed copies of 'The Auk' from 1911 to 1920. A revised list of the complete sets of the journal was published in 'The Auk' for October, 1929, and cards were sent to each of these libraries and to members who were likely to be interested. By October 15 the 'Index' had been distributed to about one half of the libraries which have complete sets and to about thirty others which have 'runs' for 1911-20.

As usual considerable time has been devoted to completing names for bibliographical entries chiefly for the Department of Agriculture, for Bent's 'Life Histories,' and for bibliographies for books on special subjects.

It is now comparatively easy to ascertain the important facts regarding the lives and activities of the principal American ornithologists, such as J. A. Allen, Audubon, Baird, Coues, and Wilson, but information regarding the early describers of North American birds is not so accessible, and ordinarily younger bird students are not familiar with the work of Boddaert, Brisson, Lesson, Pallas, Vieillot and many others. It is highly desirable that brief accounts of such men should be published from time to time in English, in journals that are generally accessible. Another important project is the collection of information, before it is too late, regarding some of the lesser known field collectors and the disposition of their material. During a trip to the Pacific Coast efforts were made to obtain such data regarding some of the field collectors and ornithologists in that region, and assistance in this project has already been extended by several members of the Cooper Ornithological Club.

*Papers of the Charleston Meeting.*—Of the fifty-four papers presented at the last annual meeting at least fourteen have been published, eight in 'The Auk' and six elsewhere. In the following list titles are given in the form in which the papers were finally published. Those which appeared in 'The Auk' include:

- No. 1. Stone's 'Mark Catesby and the Nomenclature of North American Birds.'
- No. 2. Fisher's 'In Memoriam: Harry Balch Bailey.'
- No. 6. Deane's 'Letters of Bachman to Audubon.'
- No. 7. Bishop's 'In Memoriam: Leverett Mills Loomis.'
- No. 21. Bergtold's 'Egg Weights from Egg Measurements.'
- No. 39. Breckenridge's 'Nelson's Sparrow Breeding in Minnesota.'
- No. 43. Lefevre's 'Birds of China.'
- No. 48. Decker & Bowles' 'Prairie Falcon in the State of Washington.' (Auk, 1930, pp. 25-31.)

Papers published elsewhere include:

- No. 10. Miss Cooke's 'Spread of the Starling in North America,' in Circular 40, U. S. Dept. Agriculture, pp. 1-9, Nov., 1928.
- No. 12. May's 'Results from Banding Black-crowned Night Herons,' in Bull. N. E. Bird Banding Assn., V, pp. 7-16, Jan., 1929.
- No. 28. Swarth's 'New Bird Family (Geospizidae) from the Galapagos Islands,' in Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., XVIII, pp. 29-43, Jan., 1929.
- No. 33. Chapman's 'Nesting Habits of Wagler's Oropendola (*Zarhynchus wagleri*) on Barro Colorado Island,' in Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., LVIII, pp. 123-166, Dec. 31, 1928.

No. 44. Lincoln's 'What Constitutes a Record?' in Bull. Audubon Society, New Hampshire, VIII, pp. 17-20, 1929.

No. 45. Chapin's 'Eye-Color as a Subspecific Character in *Colinus striatus*,' in Journ. fur Ornith., Festschrift Ernst Hartert, pp. 174-183, Oct. 29, 1929.

Since the Washington meeting, Friedmann's paper on 'Parasitism of the Cuckoos,' which was presented at that meeting, has been still further elaborated by a paper on 'Social Parasitism in Birds,' in the Quart. Rev. Biol., III, pp. 554-569, Dec., 1928.

#### DECEASED MEMBERS, 1928-1929.

- ROBERT RIDGWAY,<sup>1</sup> Founder and ex-President, died in his 79th year, at Olney, Ill., Mar. 25, 1929.
- JONATHAN DWIGHT,<sup>2</sup> Fellow and ex-President, aged 70, died at New York City, Feb. 22, 1929.
- EDWARD HOWE FORBUSH,<sup>3</sup> Fellow, died in his 71st year, at Westboro, Mass., Mar. 7, 1929.
- WALDRON DEWITT MILLER,<sup>4</sup> Fellow, died in his 51st year, at New Brunswick, N. J., Aug. 7, 1929.
- FREDERIC AUGUSTUS LUCAS,<sup>5</sup> Retired Fellow, died in his 77th year, at Flushing, N. Y. Feb. 9, 1929.
- ARCHIBALD JAMES CAMPBELL,<sup>6</sup> Honorary Fellow, died in his 77th year, at Melbourne, Australia, Sept. 12, 1929.
- ABEL CHAPMAN,<sup>7</sup> Corresponding Fellow, aged 77, died at Houxty, Northumberland, Eng., Jan. 24, 1929.
- JOHN JAMES DALGLEISH, Corresponding Fellow, of Brankston Grange, Alloa, Scotland, aged 85, died Dec. 29, 1921.
- JOHN ALBERT LEACH,<sup>8</sup> Corresponding Fellow, aged 59, died at Melbourne, Australia, Oct. 3, 1929.
- HERBERT CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON,<sup>9</sup> Corresponding Fellow, died in his 55th year, at Oxford, Eng., May 30, 1929.
- EILER LEHN SHIOELER, Corresponding Fellow, died in his 55th year, at Copenhagen, Denmark, Aug. 13, 1929.
- WIRT ROBINSON,<sup>10</sup> Member, aged 64, died at Washington, D. C., Jan. 20, 1929.

<sup>1</sup> For obituary notice, see 'Auk,' XLVI, pp. 280-281.

<sup>2</sup> " " " " " " p. 279; XLVII, pp. 1-6, por.

<sup>3</sup> " " " " " " pp. 279-280.

<sup>4</sup> " " " " " " pp. 577-580.

<sup>5</sup> " " " " " " pp. 281-282.

<sup>6</sup> " " " " " " XLVII, p. 133.

<sup>7</sup> " " " " " " XLVI, pp. 286-287.

<sup>8</sup> " " " " " " XLVII, p. 134.

<sup>9</sup> " " " " " " XLVI, pp. 578-579.

<sup>10</sup> " " " " " " pp. 282-284.

- ROBERT DESHAN CAMP,<sup>1</sup> Associate, aged 62, died at Brownsville, Tex., Aug. 6, 1929.
- FREDERICK MORTIMER CAPEN, Associate, died in his 57th year, at New York City, Feb. 27, 1929.
- CYRIL GUY HARROLD,<sup>2</sup> Associate, aged 33, died at New York City, Feb. 4, 1929.
- MRS. JAMES WILSON KIRKHAM, Associate, aged 71, died at Springfield, Mass., Nov. 1, 1928.
- ANTHONY RUDOLF KUSER,<sup>3</sup> Associate, died in his 67th year, at Palm Beach, Fla., Feb. 8, 1929.
- HOWARD GEORGE LACEY,<sup>4</sup> Associate, died in his 73d year, at Bournemouth, Eng., Mar. 5, 1929.
- FRANK ALEMAN LEACH, Associate, of Diablo, Calif., died in his 83rd year, June 19, 1929.
- MISS AGNES MAY LEARNED, Associate, of Hudson, Mass., died May 8, 1929.
- MRS. ANNE MAUD CHARLESWORTH LEVEY<sup>5</sup> (Mrs. William Marshall Levey), Associate, died at Brookline, Mass., Apr. 23, 1929.
- ALFRED MARSHALL,<sup>6</sup> Associate, died in his 62nd year, at Montrose, Ala., Mar. 24, 1929.
- CHARLES JOHNSON MAYNARD, Associate, died in his 85th year, at Newtonville, Mass., Oct. 15, 1929.
- FREDERICK SHAW MITCHELL,<sup>7</sup> Associate, died in his 79th year, at Hornshaws, B. C., Feb. 15, 1929.
- LEIGH HUNT PENNINGTON,<sup>8</sup> Associate, died in his 52nd year, at Washington, D. C., April, 24 1929.
- WILLIAM FLORIAN ROBERTS,<sup>9</sup> Associate, died in his 74th year, at Washington, D. C., Feb. 18, 1929.
- ARTHUR WALES SUGDEN, Associate, died in his 70th year, at Hartford, Conn., Sept. 25, 1928.
- WILLIAM LYMAN UNDERWOOD,<sup>10</sup> Associate, aged 65, died at Belmont, Mass., Jan. 28, 1929.
- MISS ANNA JACOBS VALENTINE, Associate, died at Bellefonte, Pa., Dec. 6, 1928.
- JUSTUS VON LENGERKE, Associate, aged 75, died at Orange, N. J., Oct. 7, 1929.

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<sup>1</sup> For obituary notice, see 'Auk,' XLVI, pp. 581-582.  
<sup>2</sup> " " " " " " " " pp. 285-286.  
<sup>3</sup> " " " " " " " " pp. 579-580.  
<sup>4</sup> " " " " " " " " p. 580.  
<sup>5</sup> " " " " " " " " p. 426.  
<sup>6</sup> " " " " " " " " XLVII, pp. 134-135.  
<sup>7</sup> " " " " " " " " XLVI, pp. 426-427.  
<sup>8</sup> " " " " " " " " p. 427.  
<sup>9</sup> " " " " " " " " pp. 580-581.  
<sup>10</sup> " " " " " " " " pp. 284-285.