

## REPORT OF THE RIDGWAY MEMORIAL COMMITTEE.

BY HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

At the meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in New York, on November 12, 1925, there was authorized a committee for the purpose of raising a fund to establish a memorial to Robert Ridgway. This memorial was to take the form of a bird sanctuary and arboretum by preserving and maintaining the property then owned by Mr. Ridgway, called "Bird Haven," which is situated near Olney, in southern Illinois. This property had been developed by Mr. Ridgway over a period of several years, and and by reason of its association with him and the opportunities here presented for the preservation of birds and plants, it seemed to be the best kind of a memorial to the memory of a man who so greatly loved the out-of-doors. Bird Haven is a tract covering about eighteen acres, with a small stream on one side, and is mostly woodland. On it grow more than fifty species of native trees as well as a great number of shrubs and flowers. By reason of the diversity of its conditions, it is attractive to many birds. Mr. Ridgway offered to deed, free of incumbrance, this land to a properly constituted board of trustees, if sufficient funds could be raised for its maintenance.

An invitation was extended to the Wilson Ornithological Club and to the Cooper Ornithological Club for each to appoint a representative to act with a representative from the American Ornithologists' Union as a national committee for the purpose of raising the memorial fund. As a result of this action Dr. Harry C. Oberholser of Washington, D. C. was appointed for the American Ornithologists' Union; Mr. Percival B. Coffin, of Chicago, for the Wilson Ornithological Club; and Mr. Harry Harris, of Eagle Rock, California, to represent the Cooper Ornithological Club. Subsequently, Mrs. Gertrude Cox of Chicago was added as a special representative for Illinois.

Most of the following year, 1926, was occupied in organizing committees in each State of the Union and in Canada, preparatory

to the campaign for obtaining funds for the memorial. In order to provide an organization for the administration of the fund and of Bird Haven when the latter should be turned over, the Ridgway Bird Haven Association was incorporated under the laws of Illinois, on February 1, 1927, with the following trustees: Dr. Frank M. Chapman, Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, Mr. Harry Harris, Mr. O. M. Schantz, and Mr. Frank Brassie.

Actual canvass was begun early in 1927, and was continued until the summer of 1929, during which period approximately \$27,000 was obtained in cash and pledges. Mrs. Frances K. Hutchinson of Chicago then assumed the responsibility of increasing the fund to \$50,000, and thereby provided for the future maintenance of Bird Haven. Mrs. Hutchinson has also purchased and added to the Bird Haven sanctuary the adjoining farm of about 100 acres, which controls the stream that flows through a part of Bird Haven, and which will make possible the establishment of a much more satisfactory sanctuary on an area of approximately 120 acres.

In order more easily to administer the Bird Haven sanctuary, a new organization called the Bird Haven Memorial Association was in 1929 incorporated in Illinois with the following trustees, all of them from that State: Mr. Frank Brassie, Mr. Scott Harrison Eaton, Mr. Stephen S. Gregory, Jr., Mrs. Frances K. Hutchinson, Mr. Guy E. Summers, Mr. Noble Brandon Judah, and Mr. Charles J. Merriam.

This organization, which will replace the Ridgway Bird Haven Association, will take over the property and all funds raised, and will be responsible for the maintenance of the area as a bird and plant sanctuary in perpetuity.

This report would not be complete without mention of those who have aided in one way or another in the accomplishment of the Ridgway memorial. Unfortunately, it is not practicable here to mention all of these, but the chairman of the National Committee wishes to express to all of them his sincere appreciation of this cordial coöperation, without which the results obtained would have been impossible.

A list of the special committees, the chairmen of the State committees, and other donors is, however, subjoined.

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