

THE FIFTY-FIFTH STATED MEETING OF THE
AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

BY LAWRENCE E. HICKS

THE second Charleston meeting, held November 15-19, 1937, was well attended by members and visitors from widely separated places. Headquarters were at the Fort Sumter Hotel and most of the business sessions were held there. The public sessions were held at the Charleston Museum.

Business Sessions.—The meetings on Monday, November 15, included two sessions of the Council, a meeting of the Fellows at 4 p. m., and a meeting of the Fellows and Members at 8 p. m. At the meeting of the Fellows, Ernst Mayr and Mrs. Margaret Morse Nice were elected to fill vacancies in the list and Dr. R. A. Falla of New Zealand was named as a Corresponding Fellow. At the evening meeting, attended by twenty-two Fellows and twenty-four Members, six Members were added to the list.

The elections resulted in the addition of two Fellows, one Corresponding Fellow, six Members and 238 Associates. Herbert Friedmann succeeded A. C. Bent as President. J. L. Peters became the second Vice-President. J. Van Tyne, Hoyes Lloyd, T. S. Palmer and Robert C. Murphy, were added to the Council. Dr. T. S. Palmer retired as Secretary of 'The Union' after twenty years of service. His report indicated that the list of members in 1937 was about double that in 1917 when he assumed office. No changes were made in the other officers.

The award of the Brewster Medal was made to Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy in recognition of his work on the "Oceanic Birds of South America." Hereafter, this award will be made annually, instead of every two years as heretofore. Authorization was voted for the appointment of an active committee to canvass the situation relative to the development of an endowment fund. The following delegates were appointed to represent the Union at the Ninth International Ornithological Congress at Rouen, France, in May 1938: Alexander Wetmore, Assistant Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, in charge of the United States National Museum, Chairman of the Delegation; James P. Chapin, Associate Curator of Continental Old World Birds, The American Museum of Natural History, New York City; James Cowan Greenway, Jr., Assistant Curator of Birds, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Lawrence E. Hicks, Bureau of the Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture, Columbus, Ohio; T. Gilbert Pearson, President Emeritus, National Association of Audubon Societies, New York City. Authorization was given to invite the Congress to meet in America in 1942.

It was voted to hold the 1939 meeting in California and the 1938 meeting

at Washington, D. C. The dates of the Washington meeting have since been set for October 17-21, 1938, with headquarters at the Hotel Raleigh. Hence, nominations for Members or Fellows to be voted upon at the 1938 meeting must be mailed to the Secretary before July 15, 1938. New nomination blanks have been printed and are available upon request.

The Union voted resolutions of thanks to the Director and staff of the Charleston Museum, to Hon. Burnet R. Maybank, Mayor of Charleston, to Dr. and Mrs. Buist, to the Society for the Preservation of Spirituals, and to the members of the Local Committee on Arrangements: E. Milby Burton, Chairman, E. Burnham Chamberlain, E. von S. Dingle, John B. Farrow, Peter Gething, D. E. Huger, Mrs. Alexander Martin, Mrs. Victor Morawetz, Dr. Eugene E. Murphey, Dr. John C. Phillips, Miss Josephine Pinckney, Herbert R. Sass, Aiken Simons, H. Jermain Slocum, Augustine T. Smythe, Alexander Sprunt, Jr., Simons V. H. Waring and Ellison A. Williams.

Public Meetings.—The public meetings opened on Tuesday morning with an address of welcome by Hon. Burnet R. Maybank, Mayor of Charleston, and a response on behalf of the Union by its President. The program included fifty-one papers, of which five were read by title, and as usual covered a wide range of subjects, both popular and technical. Twelve papers were illustrated with slides and an equal number with motion pictures. Classified as to content, the papers covered the following subjects: life history and behavior, 13; conservation, 6; waterfowl, 5; biography, 5; taxonomy, 4; fauna, 4; exploration, 4; song, 4; distribution and migration, 4; ecology, 3; management, 3; bird-banding, 3; population studies, 3; food habits, 1; and physiology, 1.

Exhibits.—An exhibit of birds for which South Carolina is the type locality, was displayed at the Museum. Exhibits of bird paintings by several contemporary artists were on view at the Museum and at the Gibbes Art Gallery.

Social Events.—On Tuesday evening an informal reception was given by the Charleston Museum in honor of those attending. An opportunity was given the large group present to inspect the Museum galleries, laboratories and collections. Wednesday evening was occupied by the annual dinner held at the Hibernian Hall. Those present considered the entertainment the finest ever witnessed at an annual dinner. This was provided by The Society for the Preservation of Spirituals.

On Thursday evening a tour of colonial Charleston homes was made. Six splendid mansions averaging about two hundred years of age, were opened especially for the members of the Union. This was a most pleasant experience in southern history, culture, beauty and hospitality.

Excursion.—Approximately two hundred persons participated in the

field excursion to Bull's Island, a part of the Cape Romain Waterfowl Refuge, on Friday, November 19. Motor boats and launches transported the party from the mainland by winding channels of salt marsh to a magic isle of live oaks festooned with Spanish moss, miles of lagoons through southern swamp forests, and immense expanses of marsh separated from the open sea by a thin barrier of sand dunes. An Arkansas Kingbird and Yellow-throated Warblers perched in the spreading live oaks under which a most welcome picnic dinner was served, including barrels of steaming oysters "on the whole shell." Shorebirds, waterfowl, and other wildlife were well represented in the area. Several observers listed more than a hundred bird species for the day—and more than 120 for the glorious week at Charleston.

THE PROGRAM

Papers are arranged in the order in which they were presented at the meeting. Starred papers were illustrated by lantern slides; those with a double star were illustrated by motion pictures.

TUESDAY MORNING

Welcome by HON. BURNET R. MAYBANK, Mayor of Charleston.

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

Report of the Local Committee on Arrangements, E. MILBY BURTON, Director, The Charleston Museum, *Chairman*.

1. Remarks on the function of the A.O.U. Check-list. JOSSELYN VAN TYNE, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
2. L. A. G. Bose, a Charleston naturalist. FRANCIS HARPER, Swarthmore, Pa.
3. The bird life of White Top and Mt. Rogers, Va. J. J. MURRAY, Lexington, Va.
4. Some unpublished letters of John Bachman. E. B. CHAMBERLAIN, The Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.
- 4a. Ornithological observations in Foxe Basin, Franklin. REYNOLD J. BRAY, British Canadian Arctic Expedition, 1936-37.
5. A reconnaissance of the Pacific Coast of Colombia. ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, American Museum of Natural History, New York.
6. Breeding bird populations in northeastern Ohio. JOHN W. ALDRICH, Cleveland Museum, Cleveland, Ohio.
7. *Homing instincts of birds. W. I. LYON, Waukegan, Ill.
8. *The fate of the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow. A. H. HOWELL, Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.
9. Notes on international bird protection. T. GILBERT PEARSON, National Ass'n Audubon Societies, New York. (Read by title.)
10. In memoriam: Richard Crittenden McGregor, ornithologist of the Philippines. JOSEPH GRINNELL, Museum Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California. (Read by title.)

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

11. **The life history of the Phoebe. MRS. HAROLD HIBBERT, Montreal, Canada.
12. **The first flight of the Tree Swallow. MRS. HAROLD HIBBERT, Montreal, Canada.

13. *Observations on the song of Kirtland's Warbler. HAROLD H. AXTELL, Cortland, N. Y.
14. **Bird life in the Uinta Basin, Utah. ARTHUR C. TWOMEY, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.
15. *Relative abundance of winter birds in Middle Tennessee. A. F. GANIER, Nashville, Tenn.
16. **Exhibition of motion pictures of Wild Turkeys, Anhingas and Herons by T. K. Ellis. ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., Charleston, S. C.

WEDNESDAY MORNING—GENERAL SESSION

17. Spring activities of the Spotted Sandpiper. RALPH S. PALMER, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.
18. Waterton versus Audubon. J. H. FLEMING, Toronto, Ontario.
19. Spring and fall migration at Lexington, Va. J. SOUTHGATE Y. HOYT, Lexington, Va.
20. Bird malaria and mosquito control. CARLTON M. HERMAN, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
21. The Gull Survey: an experiment in coöperation. J. J. HICKEY AND R. P. ALLEN, New York.
22. The biological significance of bird weights. MRS. MARGARET M. NICE, Chicago, Ill.
23. Critical remarks on the American Robin. W. E. CLYDE TODD, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.
24. Notes on the migration of South American birds. JOHN T. ZIMMER, American Museum of Natural History, New York.
25. Preliminary notes on the breeding season behavior of the Eastern Willet. WILLIAM VOGT, National Ass'n Audubon Societies, New York.

WEDNESDAY MORNING—TECHNICAL SESSION

26. *A study of the home life of the Eastern Belted Kingfisher. HENRY MOUSLEY, Montreal, Canada. (Read by title.)
27. *Bicknell's Thrush: its life history and ecology. GEORGE J. WALLACE, Lenox, Mass.
28. *The frequency of passerine bird song as revealed by the study of sound-recording film. ALBERT R. BRAND (presented by Paul Kellogg), Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.
29. Preliminary studies of the behavior of the Black-crowned Night Heron. R. P. ALLEN AND F. P. MANGELS, New York.
30. A preliminary study of the relationships of the grackles of the genus *Cassidix*. GEORGE H. LOWERY, JR., Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La.
31. *Colored bands: methods of using bands and arranging data. FREDERICK P. MANGELS, Brooklyn, New York.
- 31a. Notes on the distribution of the Caspian Tern. MISS M. T. COOKE, Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.
32. Leg color in Royal Terns. E. B. CHAMBERLAIN, The Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.
33. *Further observations on early drawings of American birds. MRS. ELSA G. ALLEN, Ithaca, N. Y.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

34. *Bird sanctuary magic. H. C. OBERHOLSER, Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.
35. **The Great Discovery of 1937. SAMUEL A. GRIMES, Jacksonville, Fla.
36. *The Congo Peacock (*Afropavo congensis*). JAMES P. CHAPIN, American Museum of Natural History, New York.
37. **Life history of the American Goldfinch. ALFRED O. GROSS, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Me. (Read by title.)

THURSDAY MORNING

38. The place of ornithologists in wildlife conservation. LEONARD W. WING, Norris, Tenn.
39. *Wildlife conservation by the Soil Conservation Service. ERNEST G. HOLT, Soil Conservation Service, Washington, D. C.
40. The food of some uncommon, rare, and extinct North American birds. CLARENCE COTTAM AND MISS PHOEBE KNAPPEN, Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.
41. A statistical study of the breeding habits of the English Sparrow. RICHARD WEAVER, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.
42. The North American flyways. FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.
43. **The northern breeding grounds of the Atlantic flyway. HAROLD S. PETERS, Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.
44. **The northern breeding grounds of the Mississippi flyway. CHARLES E. GILLHAM, Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.
45. Habitat improvement for migratory birds on federal refuges. W. F. KUBICHEK, Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.
46. Federal refuges and non-game birds. J. CLARK SALYER, II. (Read by W. F. Kubichek), Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

47. **Wilderness night filming (A new technique in wildlife photography). HOWARD H. CLEAVES, Staten Island, N. Y.
48. **The birds of the Machias Seal Island. OLIN S. PETTINGILL, JR., Carleton College, Northfield, Minn.
49. **Recording petrel and other bird songs by radio at the Bowdoin Kent's Island Scientific Station, Bay of Fundy. A. O. GROSS AND A. R. BRAND. (Read by title.)
50. **A season with camera and microphone. ARTHUR A. ALLEN, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

The second Charleston meeting was considerably larger than that held there in 1928, when 130 members were present. The list of those present in 1937 included one Patron, 23 Fellows, 31 Members, 97 Associates, and 82 visitors, making a total of 234.

Twenty-nine states and provinces were represented in the attendance. Excluding visitors, the five largest delegations were: District of Columbia, 25; New York, 24; Pennsylvania, 17; South Carolina, 10; and Illinois, 9.

Distant states and provinces represented included: Quebec, Ontario, Minnesota, Texas and California. Fifteen museums, twelve colleges and universities, and ten conservation organizations had delegates present.

CALIFORNIA, 1—*Member*, Robert T. Moore, Pasadena.

CONNECTICUT, 2—*Associates*, Margaret Brooks, Old Greenwich; Walter W. Naumburg, New Canaan.

DELAWARE, 1—*Associate*, C. B. Moseley, Wilmington.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 25—*Fellows*, Herbert Friedmann, Arthur H. Howell, F. C. Lincoln, W. L. McAtee, H. C. Oberholser, T. S. Palmer, Edward A. Preble; *Members*, H. C. Bryant, Miss May T. Cooke, Clarence Cottam, E. G. Holt, F. M. Uhler, Robert W. Williams; *Associates*, G. A. Ammann, Charles H. M. Barrett, Victor H. Cahalane, Mrs. Jane S. Elliott, H. H. T. Jackson, Miss Phoebe Knappen, W. F. Kubichek, Robert C. McClanahan, Mrs. T. S. Palmer, Harold S. Peters, L. W. Saylor, Clarence F. Smith.

FLORIDA, 3—*Member*, Francis M. Weston, Pensacola; *Associates*, S. A. Grimes, Jacksonville; Miss S. W. Partridge, Tallahassee.

GEORGIA, 6—*Fellow*, Herbert Stoddard, Thomasville; *Associates*, Mrs. Victor H. Bassett, Savannah; Earle R. Greene, Fargo; Mrs. Hugh H. Harris, Emory; E. E. Murphy, Augusta; Ivan R. Tomkins, Savannah.

ILLINOIS, 9—*Patron*, Mrs. Ruthven Deane, Winnetka; *Fellow*, Mrs. M. M. Nice, Chicago; *Members*, W. R. Boulton, Chicago; Edward R. Ford, Chicago; W. I. Lyon, Waukegan; *Associates*, Mrs. H. L. Baldwin, Chicago; C. E. Gillham, Edwardsville; Mrs. Hermon D. Smith, Lake Forest; Earl G. Wright, Chicago.

INDIANA, 1—*Associate*, S. E. Perkins, III, Indianapolis.

KENTUCKY, 2—*Associates*, Cleveland P. Grant, Covington; Burt L. Monroe, Louisville.

LOUISIANA, 1—*Associate*, George H. Lowery, Baton Rouge.

MAINE, 1—*Associate*, Ralph S. Palmer, Brunswick.

MARYLAND, 2—*Associates*, W. C. Henderson, Chevy Chase; C. M. Herman, Baltimore.

MASSACHUSETTS, 7—*Fellows*, Glover M. Allen, Cambridge; James L. Peters, Harvard; *Member*, John B. May, Cohasset; *Associates*, Carl W. Buchheister, Hingham; John H. Conkey, Ware; G. B. Hendricks, Pittsfield; Norman A. Preble, Wakefield.

MICHIGAN, 6—*Fellow*, Josselyn Van Tyne, Ann Arbor; *Member*, M. D. Pirnie, Augusta; *Associates*, Mrs. Edith K. Frey, Jackson; Harry W. Hann, Ann Arbor; Thomas D. Hinshaw, Ann Arbor; M. J. Magee, Sault Ste. Marie.

MINNESOTA, 1—*Member*, O. S. Pettingill, Jr., Northfield.

NEW JERSEY, 1—*Member*, B. S. Bowdish, Demarest.

NEW YORK, 24—*Fellows*, A. A. Allen, Ithaca; J. P. Chapin, New York; R. C. Murphy, New York; J. T. Zimmer, New York; *Members*, Verdi Burtch, Branchport; F. L. Jaques, New York; Mrs. W. W. Naumburg, New York; R. T. Peterson, New York; James Savage, Buffalo; William Vogt, New York; *Associates*, Harold H. Axtell, Cortland; Mrs. Arthur A. Allen, Ithaca; John H. Baker, New York; Howard H. Cleaves, Staten Island; George E. Hix, Brooklyn; Paul Kellogg, Cortland; F. P. Mangels, Bellmore; Mrs. Grace E. B. Murphy, Bronxville; Richard H. Pough, New York; E. J. Sawyer, Ithaca; Carl Tucker, New York; Mrs. Carl Tucker, New York; Lester L. Walsh, Bronxville; Richard Weaver, Ithaca.

NORTH CAROLINA, 3—*Associates*, Miss Ethel B. Finster, Asheville; Mrs. R. W. Green, Raleigh; C. E. Gregory, Morganton.

- OHIO, 7—*Fellow*, Francis H. Herrick, Cleveland; *Member*, Lawrence E. Hicks, Columbus; *Associates*, J. W. Aldrich, Cleveland; Herbert W. Brandt, Cleveland; Arthur B. Fuller, Cleveland; William C. Herman, Cincinnati; Frank M. Phelps, Elyria.
- ONTARIO, 5—*Fellows*, J. H. Fleming, Toronto; Hoyes Lloyd, Ottawa; W. E. Saunders, London; P. A. Taverner, Ottawa; *Member*, L. L. Snyder, Toronto.
- PENNSYLVANIA, 17—*Fellows*, Witmer Stone, Philadelphia; W. E. Clyde Todd, Pittsburgh; *Members*, Francis Harper, Swarthmore; Wharton Huber, Philadelphia; John F. Street, Philadelphia; *Associates*, J. M. Cairns, Scranton; Mrs. Francis H. Coffin, Scranton; Arthur C. Emlen, Philadelphia; Horace Groskin, Ardmore; Mrs. Wharton Huber, Philadelphia; Horace D. McCann, Paoli; N. J. McDonald, Philadelphia; Mrs. Witmer Stone, Philadelphia; Miss Ruth Trimble, Pittsburgh; Arthur C. Twomey, Pittsburgh; H. T. Underdown, Elkins Park; C. B. Worth, Swarthmore.
- QUEBEC, 2—*Associates*, J. D. Cleghorn, Montreal; Mrs. Harold Hibbert, Montreal.
- SOUTH CAROLINA, 11—*Member*, Alexander Sprunt, Jr., Charleston; *Associates*, E. M. Burton, Charleston; E. B. Chamberlain, Charleston; Edward S. Dingle, Huger; Mrs. Mary D. Dise, Charleston; Miss Louise P. Ford, Aiken; H. L. Harlee, Florence; Miss M. J. Pellet, Aiken; Herbert R. Sass, Charleston; E. A. Simons, Charleston; Ellison A. Williams, Charleston.
- TENNESSEE, 6—*Members*, A. F. Ganier, Nashville; J. M. Shaver, Nashville; *Associates*, John B. Calhoun, Nashville; Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey, Nashville; Harry C. Monk, Nashville; Leonard W. Wing, Norris.
- TEXAS, 1—*Associate*, J. J. Carroll, Houston.
- VERMONT, 2—*Member*, W. P. Smith, Wells River; *Associate*, George J. Wallace, Montpelier.
- VIRGINIA, 3—*Member*, J. J. Murray, Lexington; *Associates*, J. Southgate Y. Hoyt, Lexington; Otis B. Taylor, Richmond.
- WEST VIRGINIA, 1—*Associate*, John W. Handlan, Wheeling.
- WISCONSIN, 1—*Associate*, Elizabeth A. Oehlenschlaeger, Milwaukee.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of officers for 1938 resulted as follows: President, Herbert Friedmann; Vice-Presidents, J. P. Chapin and J. L. Peters; Secretary, Lawrence E. Hicks; Treasurer, W. L. McAtee; Members of Council (in addition to officers and ex-presidents), for two years, J. Van Tyne; for three years, Hoyes Lloyd, T. S. Palmer, Robert C. Murphy.

The Council elected Glover M. Allen, Editor of 'The Auk'; W. L. McAtee, Business Manager; George H. Stuart, 3d, C. H. Riker and Edward Norris, Trustees; and Herbert Friedmann, S. S. Gregory, Jr., Ludlow Griscom, W. L. McAtee, and Lawrence E. Hicks, members of the Finance Committee.

ELECTION OF FELLOWS, MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES

FELLOWS—2.

Ernst Mayr, New York City.

Mrs. Margaret Morse Nice, Chicago.

CORRESPONDING FELLOW—1.

R. C. Falla, Christchurch, New Zealand.

MEMBERS—6.

W. P. Brodkorb, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

James Moffitt, San Francisco.

M. D. Pirnie, Augusta, Michigan.
 O. S. Pettingill, Jr., Northfield, Minnesota.
 W. P. Smith, Wells River, Vermont.
 F. M. Uhler, Washington, D. C.

ASSOCIATES—238.

The names of Associates who have qualified will appear in 'The Auk' for April, 1938.

DECEASED MEMBERS

During the year the Union lost at least four members by death—1 Fellow, no Corresponding Fellows, 3 Members, and no Associates.

RICHARD CRITTENDEN MCGREGOR,¹ Fellow, aged 65, died at Manila, Philippine Islands, on December 30, 1936.

AMOS WILLIAM BUTLER,² Member, aged 77, died at Indianapolis, Indiana, Aug. 5, 1937.

FREDERICK HEDGE KENNARD,³ Member, aged 72, died at Brookline, Massachusetts, on February 24, 1937.

THOMAS E. PENARD,⁴ Member, aged 58, died at Cambridge, Massachusetts, Oct. 27, 1936.

¹ For obituary notice, see Auk, vol. 54: 234, 1937.

² " " " " " " 54: 573-574, 1937.

³ " " " " " " 54: 234, 1937.

⁴ " " " " " " 54: 232-234, 1937.