

THE SIXTY-SECOND STATED MEETING OF THE
AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

BY LAWRENCE E. HICKS

THE seventeenth meeting to be held in New York City took place October 25, 1944. Headquarters were at the American Museum of Natural History and all the business sessions were held there.

Due to the request of the Office of Defense Transportation, a regular meeting, involving presentation of papers, annual dinner, social gatherings and field trips, was not held. However, the by-laws of the A. O. U., and the regulations governing incorporated societies are such that it was found necessary to hold a 'streamlined,' one-day business session. This was similar to the Monday sessions of past meetings and, of course, was open only to members of the Council, Fellows and Members. The program sessions, open to Associates and the general public, usually arranged for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, were eliminated.

BUSINESS SESSIONS

The meeting on Wednesday, October 25, included two sessions of the Council, a meeting of the Fellows at 3:45 P. M., and a meeting of the Fellows and Members at 4:00 P. M. Twelve members of the Council, 17 Fellows and 27 Fellows and Members, were present at these three meetings. Ten members of the Council met again Thursday morning to complete business on the agenda.

Due to the lack of vacancies, there were no elections to the class of Fellows. Seven Members and 142 Associates were elected. On Sept. 30, 1944, the paid A. O. U. membership (as checked against the Treasurer's report) was as follows: Patrons, 3; Emeritus Fellows, 2; Honorary Fellows, 14; Fellows, 50; Members, 126; Associates (including 107 paid Associate-elects), 1463. Total (including 76 Corresponding Fellows who do not pay dues), 1734. This is a net increase of 85 members over the same date in 1943. In addition there were 208 subscribers, a net increase of 14.

There had been 12 resignations (of Associates) and 24 deaths of members during the year: 4 Honorary Fellows, 4 Members and 16 Fellows. As in 1943, 3 members met death while in military service. On Jan. 1, 1945, the known vacancies were as follows: Honorary Fellows, 6; Corresponding Fellows, none; Fellows, none; Members, 17; Associates, unlimited.

The Treasurer's report, prepared by Acting Treasurer Potter,

reviewed how various problems were met due to the long illness and subsequent death of Treasurer J. Fletcher Street. The report showed about \$543.00 more income from membership dues and subscriptions than during the previous year (1943), but less from contributions and endowment income. The total income was slightly more than during the previous year. Even though five issues of 'The Auk' were paid for during 1944, expenses were about \$182.00 less, mostly due to expenses contributed in the offices of Treasurer and Secretary. The total cash and inventory on hand amounted to \$2,178.05—about \$1,240.00 more than at the end of the preceding year.

The Treasurer's report was accepted, with a special vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Julian K. Potter for their outstanding services to the Union during the emergency created by the illness and death of Treasurer Street.

The Secretary reported that the accumulated surplus in the endowment Educational Fund had made it possible to grant 21 A. O. U. scholarship memberships to worthy students in 1943, 24 in 1944. The small surplus remaining, plus the new income, will make it possible to grant only about 14 in 1945. It would seem very desirable to solicit special gifts or endowment additions so that the A. O. U. could build its membership 'at the bottom' by granting no less than 40 to 50 free memberships each year to promising bird students able to qualify.

In regard to post-war planning, the Secretary pointed out that the Union will each year find it necessary to do more with an income of less purchasing power. The point was made that it is urgent to adopt a long-time plan for membership increase that would, in ten years or less, enlarge the Union from 1,700 members to 2,500 or 3,000. To do this it will be necessary to devise a plan for sharing the work burden and attain desired membership quotas in each state and province, as well as build a nucleus of A. O. U. members in many large areas not now represented. Since it now costs about 30 cents to print extra copies of 'The Auk' (\$1.20 per volume) and about 30 cents per year to service each member, each new associate paying dues of \$3.00 represents an annual profit of \$1.50 per member. The present membership size is little more than adequate to absorb the necessary 'overhead.' A sizable membership increase would enable the Union to greatly increase its services and publications.

The Council voted to publish each year in 'The Auk' the names of those responsible for new members, with the numbers obtained by each. The President was authorized to appoint a committee to prepare a design for a new A. O. U. membership certificate. The President was also instructed to appoint a Membership Committee of sufficient

size and geographic representation to canvass the field adequately each year for candidates to Associate membership. The Secretary's report was accepted with thanks for the various concrete suggestions made.

Mr. James Savage read the report of the Investing Trustees. This showed that the A. O. U. endowment funds, as of Sept. 30, 1944, totalled \$38,567.19, an increase of \$2,821.76 during the past year due to appreciation, and an increase of \$356.25 due to new funds received from the Treasurer. The income for the year ending Sept. 30, 1944, was \$1,694.48, representing average earnings of about 5%—a fine record. This report was accepted with especial thanks for the fine services rendered.

The report of the Canadian Membership Committee, given by Hoyes Lloyd, indicated that dues had been received from 6 Fellows, 9 Members, 58 Associates, and 1 Subscriber—a total of 74—with receipts (including a \$449.98 bank balance carried over from 1943) of \$716.22. Bank charges, minor expenses and the purchase of a Canadian 5th Victory Loan Bond (cost \$500.06) as authorized, had reduced the amount in the bank to \$205.38. This report was accepted with thanks.

The retiring members of the Council (Frederick C. Lincoln, Rudyerd Boulton and George M. Sutton) were replaced for three-year terms by J. Van Tyne, Ernst Mayr and Austin L. Rand. The 1945 officers elected were as follows: *President*, James L. Peters; *Vice-Presidents*, George Willett and Hoyes Lloyd; *Secretary*, Lawrence E. Hicks; *Treasurer* and *Business Manager*, Frederick C. Lincoln. The Union voted to decide the time and place of the next meeting by mail ballot of the Council.

Two new amendments to the By-laws, which had been passed in 1943 and laid on the table for final action in 1944, were given final and favorable action. These change Sections 4 and 5 of Article I to reduce the size of the class of Honorary Fellows from 25 to 20, and the class of Corresponding Fellows from 100 to 75 (with not more than four of the latter to be elected at any single meeting).

The Council recommended to the Editor that 'The Auk' be limited to 600 pages in 1945, plus not to exceed 24 additional pages of extra literature citations, plus such additional pages as special contributions make possible, and that no color plates be printed in 1945 unless the cost is entirely contributed. The edition of 'The Auk' was also limited to 300 copies in excess of current needs.

The 1944 award of the Brewster Medal was made to Roger Tory Peterson in recognition of his Second Edition of 'A Field Guide to the Birds.'

By special resolution, the Union expressed its appreciation of the kind hospitality of the American Museum of Natural History and of the arrangements made by the Chairman of the Local Committee (Dr. Robert C. Murphy), and to the anonymous donor of the delightful dinner arranged for 27 delegates at the University Club.

ATTENDANCE

The 1944 meeting, the 17th to be held in the New York City area, had an attendance of 27: 16 Fellows, 1 Honorary Fellow, and 10 Members. Members were present from 10 states and provinces: New York, 11; Washington, D. C., 4; Massachusetts, 2; New Jersey, 2; Ohio, 2; Michigan, 2; and one each from Pennsylvania, Ontario, Maine and Connecticut.

CONNECTICUT, 1—*Member*, Aretas A. Saunders, Fairfield.

MAINE, 1—*Fellow*, Alfred O. Gross

MASSACHUSETTS, 2—*Fellows*, Ludlow Griscom, James L. Peters, Cambridge.

MICHIGAN, 1—*Fellow*, J. Van Tyne, Ann Arbor. 1—*Member*, Joseph J. Hickey.

NEW JERSEY, 2—*Members*, B. S. Bowdish, Demarest; C. H. Rogers, Princeton.

NEW YORK, 5—*Fellows*, C. William Beebe, James P. Chapin, Ernst Mayr, Robert C. Murphy, John T. Zimmer, New York City. 1—*Honorary Fellow*, Jean Delacour, New York City. 5—*Members*, Lee S. Crandall, F. L. Jaques, Mrs. W. W. Naumburg, John T. Nichols, New York City. James Savage, Buffalo.

OHIO, 2—*Fellows*, Lawrence E. Hicks, Columbus; Harry C. Oberholser, Cleveland.

ONTARIO, 1—*Fellow*, Hoyes Lloyd, Ottawa.

PENNSYLVANIA, 1—*Fellow*, Rodolphe M. de Schauensee, Devon.

WASHINGTON, D. C., 3—*Fellows*, Herbert Friedmann, Ira N. Gabrielson, Alexander Wetmore. 1—*Member*, John W. Aldrich.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of officers for 1945 resulted as follows: *President*, James L. Peters; *Vice-Presidents*, George Willett and Hoyes Lloyd; *Secretary*, Lawrence E. Hicks; *Treasurer*, Frederick C. Lincoln; *Members of the Council*, (in addition to officers and ex-presidents) for three years, J. Van Tyne, Ernst Mayr and Austin L. Rand.

The Council re-elected John T. Zimmer Editor of 'The Auk'; Frederick C. Lincoln, Business Manager; Julian K. Potter, James Savage and Rodolphe M. de Schauensee, Trustees; and the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, Rodolphe M. de Schauensee, Ludlow Griscom and Robert T. Moore, Members of the Finance Committee.

ELECTION OF FELLOWS, MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES

FELLOWS, none (no vacancies).

MEMBERS, 7—Robert P. Allen, New York City; Richard M. Bond, Portland Oregon; Maurice Brooks, Morgantown, West Virginia; Amelia R. Laskey, Nashville, Tennessee; Eugene P. Odum, Athens, Georgia; William H. Phelps, Caracas, Venezuela; Charles F. Walker, Put-in-Bay, Ohio.

ASSOCIATES, 133—(See following list).