

the meeting and a discussion of the hosts and host reactions elicited much interesting information. Mr. Willett discussed the extension of the Cowbird range in the vicinity of Los Angeles, stating that 25 years ago it was rare. The first specimen taken in Los Angeles was probably collected by J. Eugene Law, but the eggs had already been found in Los Angeles County even though the bird itself was almost unknown. It was first reported as common on the Pacific slope from near Colton and San Bernardino where the eggs were common. Mr. J. McB. Robertson reported that the eggs have recently been found near Gilroy although the adults have not as yet been seen.

Mr. Pemberton described his search for nesting Piñon Jays near Idyllwild. Last year several nests and eggs were seen, while this year only one nest was found. The nest contained 2 eggs and 3 young. It was remarked that although the Piñon Jay has a marked preference for the piñon pine, the nests were found only in yellow pines. There seemed to be two distinct nesting sites, the most common type being in the tops of small, thirty to forty foot, pines; the second and less popular location is in the extreme ends of large limbs of the very big pines. From the numbers of nesting birds which were present in the one area it seemed probable that most of the Piñon Jays of the San Jacinto area nest near Idyllwild. Another nesting site was reported from the vicinity of Baldwin Lake. While watching the Piñon Jays a mature Golden Eagle was seen to swoop into a flock and capture a bird. The rest of the flock retaliated with such vigor as to force the eagle to drop its victim.

Mrs. Law reported a singing female Black-headed Grosbeak and described the song as quite unlike that of the male, being rather soft and sweet. It was suggested that the bird might have been a one-year-old male, but the identification seemed quite certain. Mrs. Clary discussed the seasonal activities of young and adults of the Arkansas Kingbirds and Hooded Orioles, and reported many interesting observations that have been made in the course of the past few years. Mr. John McB. Robertson called attention to Farley's "Birds of the Battle River Region, Central Alberta, Canada," published by the Institute of Applied Arts Ltd., Edmonton. Mr. Michener reported enthusiastically on the two volumes of Roberts' "Birds of Minnesota," published by the University of Minnesota Press.

Adjourned.—R. B. COWLES, *Secretary*.

THE QUEBEC MEETING OF THE A. O. U.

The fiftieth stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was opened at Laval University, Quebec, Canada, at 10:00 a. m., Tuesday, October 18, 1932. Cordial addresses of welcome were made by Monseigneur Camille Roy, Rector of the venerable University, his Honor Col. Henri Lavigueur, Mayor of the City of Quebec, and Mr. Adrien Falardeau, President of the Provancher Society of Natural History of Canada and chairman of the local committee of arrangements. Responses were made on behalf of the Union by Dr. Harrison Lewis and by Dr. T. S. Palmer. The Secretary then called the roll of Fellows and Members, and announced, as follows, the results of the elections held at Monday evening's general business session: President, J. H. Fleming; Vice-presidents, A. C. Bent and H. Friedmann; Secretary, T. S. Palmer; Treasurer, W. L. McAtee; new member of the Council, A. A. Allen; Fellow, Hoyes Lloyd; Members, Thomas D. Burleigh, Mary M. Davidson, Laurence M. Huey, S. C. Kendeigh and Jesse M. Shaver.

It is impossible in the brief space available, for the present reporter to do more than to try to reflect onto the printed page a very few of the highlights which will long remain in the memories of those who attended this second A. O. U. meeting ever held on Canadian soil. First of all should come an indication of our gratitude to our hosts of the Province of Quebec whose thoughtful care for our entertainment and comfort added immeasurably to the pleasures of the week. For the charming and fluent way in which, at the Annual Dinner, he expressed this gratitude to our hosts in the language of their own province we were indebted to James P. Chapin of the American Museum of Natural History.

Tuesday was given over to the presentation of papers treating of many phases of more or less technical ornithology. On Tuesday evening the special memorial session was held. Dr. Witmer Stone read the memorial appreciation of Charles W. Richmond, James L. Peters that of Outram Bangs, and Harry C. Oberholser that of Robert Ridgway. Into each of these papers was infused a quality which made the listener realize what a benediction has lain in comradeship with and study under these three leaders now gone. The evening closed with the showing of Alfred M. Bailey's fine series of motion pictures of "Birds of the Western Prairies".

Wednesday's sessions were three in number. Two of these were held simultaneously, one given in the French language, one in English. Of the six papers presented at the French session, Dr. Déry's contribution, "Premières Mentions et Descriptions originales de quelques

oiseaux de la Province de Québec par certains Découvreurs, Missionnaires, Colonisateurs, Amateurs et Avanturiers de la Nouvelle-France, Période de 1534 à 1730," was of especial interest to those of us who came from across the border, eager to add in one short week as much as possible to our slender knowledge of the language, the history, and the ornithology of the fascinating Province of Quebec.

The other sessions held on that day recorded the good fortune of the American Museum in securing the matchless Rothschild collection of birds; the contributions made to our knowledge of the distribution of ducks through the practice of banding; the present-day status of the Galápagos avifauna; and the marked advance made during the past year by A. R. Brand in the technique of phonographic reproduction of bird songs.

On Wednesday evening the Annual Dinner of the Union was held at Chateau Frontenac. The King of England and the President of the United States were toasted, speeches of welcome made and responded to, and the remainder of the evening given over to watching and listening, as a group of French-Canadians reproduced for our pleasure a happy evening of two hundred years ago. The costumes, the songs, the dances and the right good will with which each member, of the household portrayed, entered into the evening's program made us feel that in no other way could the committee of arrangements have given us so much delight in one short hour.

Thursday's papers sustained the high standards of the earlier days. Now, as our train bears us westward through the cornfields of Nebraska our recollection of the last session centers especially about Myron F. Westover's brief film of the "Flight of the Chimney Swift," which showed incontrovertibly the bird's wings beating in perfect unison, rather than alternately, as some have supposed. Thursday evening was spent in looking over the fine collection of bird skins belonging to Dr. Gustave Langelier of Cap Rouge, who with his talented wife received us most graciously. Carolina Parakeet, Passenger Pigeon and Eskimo Curlew vied in interest with things as recently acquired as the King Eider secured in May, 1932, by a collector at Point Barrow, Alaska.

On Friday morning between 8:00 and 9:00 o'clock we all left by auto or motor bus for Cap Tourmente to view the flock of Greater Snow Geese which gathers there each fall to feed along the northern shores of the St. Lawrence between high and low tide levels, remaining until the freezing over of this feeding ground drives the birds farther south. The flock numbered about eight thousand and represents,

we were told, the whole population of this race of water-fowl. Since 1908 and for 18 years to come the fate of these beautiful birds lies in the hands of the Cap Tourmente Fish and Game Club which holds the shore line to low water mark in lease from the Quebec Seminary. Too much cannot be said in praise of this thoughtful group of five true sportsmen who each spring and fall stand guard over the welfare of this unique flock. We wish we could name each man of this devoted group, but the only one whom we met personally was Charles Frémont, Quebec lawyer, and worthy descendant of the line which fathered our American general, John C. Frémont. To stand ankle deep in the gray ooze of the marsh, the fresh wind of a northern autumn blowing in our faces, and to let our eyes wander over the wide horizon, from the brilliant reds and yellows of the bluffs, where the deciduous trees stood out against a background of dark conifers, to the long shore line, the broad St. Lawrence and the sombre skies beyond was to know pure joy. Sections of the huge flock of geese rose, circled, and settled, again and again, as we lingered, each visitor seeking to photograph the scene indelibly for that "inward eye which is the bliss of solitude."

Reluctantly at last we turned away to enter the busses which conveyed us to the Quebec Seminary building, Chateau Bellevue, erected at Petit Cap in 1663, on land first tilled in 1615. Here we were the grateful guests of Father Odillon Gosselin, whose foresight had provided such an array of steaming pitchers of fragrant coffee and hot milk and such heaping platters of toothsome sandwiches that they partly withstood the attacks of appetites whetted by time, bracing wind, and good comradeship.

All through the week in odd moments stolen from other attractions, small groups of visitors found time to stroll in the hall at the Hotel Frontenac allotted for the showing of original paintings and photographs of birds. Here also was shown the interesting historical exhibit loaned by the new President of the Union, Mr. J. H. Fleming of Toronto. Could anything modern vie with the feather pictures of Dionisio Minaggio made about 1618 with extraordinary skill and patience? These were found in a London bookshop in 1923 and were exhibited through the courtesy of the Emma Shearer Wood library of Ornithology at McGill University. The hunting of the Dodo was the only one of the series on exhibit, but through the kindness of Mr. Henry Mousley those visitors who found time to stop at McGill University on their way to Quebec saw many others.—HILDA W. GRINNELL.

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