

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF  
THE NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union celebrated the completion of a quarter century of activity at its twenty-fifth annual meeting, which took place at Lincoln, Nebraska, on Friday and Saturday, May 9 and 10, 1924. The sessions opened with a public program on Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock in Room 201, Bessey Hall, University of Nebraska. Dr. R. H. Wolcott, President of the N. O. U., was in the chair. Mrs. G. A. Loveland of Lincoln recounted instances of how membership in the N. O. U. had been of value to her in meeting other bird students when traveling outside of the state. Rev. J. M. Bates of Red Cloud gave a very interesting recapitulation of the results of his twenty-one years of bird study at that place. Mrs. G. A. Loveland then told the story of the successful breeding of the scissor-tailed flycatcher near Lincoln in the summer of 1923. Mr. F. C. Collins of the University of Nebraska Museum staff then spoke on the plans of the Museum for furthering the study of Nebraska birds, and invited those present to accompany him in a tour of the bird exhibits at the Museum following the afternoon program. Mrs. C. W. McCaskill of Hastings, who had recently returned from a trip to Egypt, was called upon to give an account of her bird observations on the trip, and in response gave a very entertaining discussion of some of the English and Egyptian birds observed by her.

At this point President Wolcott suspended the program for a time in order to hold a business session. On motion, the reading of the minutes of the twenty-fourth annual meeting was dispensed with, they having been published in full in the June, 1923, number of the *Wilson Bulletin*. The President then appointed an auditing committee, consisting of Mr. C. K. Hart, Mrs. Addison E. Sheldon, and Rev. J. M. Bates, to examine and report upon the financial statement of the Secretary-Treasurer, and a nominating committee consisting of Mrs. Lily R. Button, Mr. Leonard Worley, and Mrs. H. F. Hole. These committees were asked to report before the end of the session.

In reporting for his office, President R. H. Wolcott urged that as soon as possible the N. O. U. place greater emphasis on its plans for encouraging high school work in bird study in the state and in sponsoring plans of bird protection and game conservation. He called on the members for volunteers to assume leadership along these lines within the organization. The Vice-President, Rev. J. M. Bates, stated that he had no formal report to make. The report of the Secretary-Treasurer was then presented, consisting of an analysis of the financial condition of the N. O. U., a statement concerning the present membership of the organization, and an extended report on the progress that had been made looking toward the publication of the first part of the proposed "Birds of Nebraska," which the Secretary had been authorized to start at the twenty-fourth annual meeting last year. The discussion which followed seemed to indicate that the members preferred a publication dealing rather exhaustively with the subject rather than any abridged treatment, and also preferred to have the publication illus-

trated, if possible, by colored plates. No motion, however, was made in this connection.

Election of new members being in order, the Secretary-Treasurer presented the names of nine persons who had applied for membership in the N. O. U., as follows: Mrs. A. Arnold of Inavale, Mr. F. C. Collins of Lincoln, Mr. Thomas D. Griffin and Mrs. Rosalind M. Griffin of Hardy, Mrs. A. H. Jones of Hastings, Mrs. W. H. McCoy and Mrs. Charles Richardson of Fairbury, Miss Mae Sturner of Beatrice, and Miss Louisa E. Wilson of Lincoln. On motion of Mrs. Addison E. Sheldon all of these persons were unanimously elected to membership in the society.

The Secretary-Treasurer then reported that the Executive Committee had submitted for action by the members of the N. O. U. the names of four persons proposed for honorary membership in the society, under the amendment to the Constitution which was adopted at the twenty-fourth annual meeting last year. The names that had been proposed were those of Professor Lawrence Bruner, the first President of the N. O. U. and active in the society until his removal to California and resignation in 1919; Dr. H. C. Oberholser of the Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., who has repeatedly been of service to the society in its scientific study of Nebraska birds; Mr. Louis Sessions, a charter member and past President of the N. O. U., active until his removal to California and resignation in 1920; and Mr. John T. Zimmer, a member of the N. O. U. and a past President, now on the staff of the Field Museum of Natural History at Chicago. The Secretary-Treasurer reported that the approval of more than the necessary three-fourths of the members voting had been given to each of these names, and then gave the exact figures of the vote. On motion, the ballot as recorded by the Secretary-Treasurer was accepted, and the four persons nominated by the Executive Committee were declared elected to honorary membership in the N. O. U.

New business being in order, Mrs. H. C. Johnston of Superior, extended the invitation of the Nature Department of the Women's Club of Superior to the N. O. U. that the next meeting of the society, in May, 1925, be held at that place. After a brief discussion, a motion by Mrs. Addison E. Sheldon, seconded by Mrs. H. F. Hole, that the N. O. U. accept the invitation of the Nature Department of the Superior Women's Club as expressed by Mrs. Johnston was unanimously carried.

The approaching publication of the first part of the proposed "Birds of Nebraska" brought up the matter of adjusting the income of the N. O. U. from its annual dues so that it might more largely serve in the support of this project. Discussion revealed differences of opinion among the members present as to what would be the best policy. It was moved that the members think over the question for a time, and that within the next few weeks the Secretary-Treasurer send out a mail ballot covering this point to all members of the N. O. U., and that the future policy of the society be in conformity with this referendum vote. The motion was seconded and carried.

A communication from Mr. L. O. Horsky of Omaha, proposing action by the N. O. U. endorsing the proposal to make a wild fowl sanct-

uary of Carter Lake, near Omaha, was read by the Secretary-Treasurer and discussed by some of the members. The discussion brought out that on general principles the members of the N. O. U. favored movements creating bird sanctuaries, but that because of the peculiar location of Carter Lake and the apparent necessity of securing state funds to enable the success of the project, more information was desirable before definite action was taken by the N. O. U. No motion was made on this matter.

The auditing committee then reported that the financial report of the Secretary-Treasurer had been examined and found to be correct. On motion the report was accepted. The nominating committee then reported, suggesting that Dr. R. H. Wolcott and Professor M. H. Swenk be continued in their offices of President and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively, for the coming year, and that Mrs. C. W. McCaskill be elected to fill the office of Vice-President. On motion it was voted that the Secretary cast the unanimous ballot of the society for these officers. The officers for 1924 were then declared as follows:

President—Dr. R. H. Wolcott, Lincoln.

Vice-President—Mrs. C. W. McCaskill, Hastings.

Secretary-Treasurer—Prof. M. H. Swenk, Lincoln.

Sixteen members were present at this business session of the N. O. U., as follows: Mesdames Lily R. Button, Margaret M. Corey, E. A. Holbrook, H. F. Hole, H. C. Johnston, G. A. Loveland, L. H. McKillip, Mary St. Martin, Addison E. Sheldon and Fred W. Tyler, and Messrs. J. M. Bates, Charles K. Hart, M. H. Swenk, Leighton Williams, Leonard Worley and R. H. Wolcott. Later in the sessions Mesdames E. H. Polley and T. H. Wake, and Messrs. L. O. Horsky, Wilson Tout and L. H. Watson were present, making a total representation of twenty-one members at the meeting. Adjournment of the business session at 5:05 p. m.

Following the business session the members, accepting the invitation of Mr. F. C. Collins, visited the University of Nebraska Museum and examined the bird exhibits there, under the leadership of Mr. Collins. Following this the members again reassembled at 6:30 p. m. at the Grand Hotel, 12th and Q Streets, for the quarter-centennial anniversary dinner. Fifty-nine persons, including members of the N. O. U. and of the Bruner Bird Club of Lincoln, and their guests, sat down to this dinner. Appropriate menu cards and the program of the evening had been printed and were distributed at each plate.

Following the dinner, at 7:45 p. m., a symposium was held on the subject, "Sounds and Songs of Nebraska Birds." Dr. R. H. Wolcott explained the structure of the vocal organs and other sound-producing organs of birds; Prof. M. H. Swenk explained the emotional meaning of bird utterances and the theories of the origin and development of bird songs; and Mrs. Lily R. Button explained the value of musical notation in recording bird songs, giving a number of illustrations. The symposium was concluded at 9:40 p. m. Dr. R. H. Wolcott then concluded the program with his President's address on the subject, "Ornithology in Nebraska," in which he gave a review of the twenty-five years of activity of the society, explaining its organization and the various crises and phases of development it had gone through. At the conclusion of the President's address announcement of the plans for the field day on Sat-

urday, May 10, were made, and an invitation from the Nebraska Audubon Society for the members of the N. O. U. and Bruner Bird Club to join with them in their annual field day on Saturday, May 17, was also read. Final adjournment at 10:15 p. m.

On Saturday, May 10, the twenty-second annual field day of the N. O. U. was held. One party started for Capital Beach at 6:00 a. m., and another party followed at 8:00 a. m. Other parties visited the marshes near Arbor, the woods along Salt Creek and Wyuka cemetery. The field day was a decided success in spite of the cool and threatening weather that prevailed during the greater part of the day, for by the end of the day 121 kinds of birds had been identified by members of the various parties, thus forming the largest list of birds as yet secured on a field day of the N. O. U. About forty persons participated in the various field parties. The composite list of the day follows:

Bluebird, Robin, Olive-backed Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Wood Thrush, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Long-tailed Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Western House Wren, Brown Thrasher, Catbird, Redstart, Maryland Yellow-throat, Oven-bird, Black-poll Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Bell Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Migrant Shrike, Rough-winged Swallow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Scarlet Tanager, Dickcissel, Lazuli Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Cardinal, Arctic Towhee, Towhee, Lincoln Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Western Field Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Gambel Sparrow, Harris Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, LeConte Sparrow, Western Grasshopper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Pine Siskin, Goldfinch, Bronzed Grackle, Baltimore Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Cowbird, Bobolink, Crow, Blue Jay, Saskatchewan Horned Lark, Traill Flycatcher, Phoebe, Crested Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Kingbird, Chimney Swift, Nighthawk, Northern Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Belted Kingfisher, Sparrow Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Mourning Dove, Turnstone, Piping Plover, Semi-palmated Plover, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Western Willet, Solitary Sandpiper, Yellow-legs, Hudsonian Godwit, Sanderling, Semi-palmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Baird Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Wilson Snipe, Avocet, Wilson Phalarope, Northern Phalarope, Coot, Sora, Virginia Rail, Black-crowned Night Heron, Bittern, Hutchins Goose, Blue Goose, Lesser Snow Goose, Ruddy Duck, Lesser Bluebill, Redhead, Pintail, Shoveller, Blue-winged Teal, Widgeon, Mallard, Red-breasted Merganser, White Pelican, Black Tern, Forster Tern, Franklin Gull, Pied-billed Grebe, and Eared Grebe.

At noon on Saturday the field parties assembled for lunch in Room 26 of the Home Economics Building of the University of Nebraska, at the College of Agriculture campus. The lunch was served cafeteria style, and just before starting out for the afternoon in the field the composite list stood at 96 species.

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER, 1923-24

*Receipts*

Cash on hand, May 1, 1923.....	\$ 40.89
Annual dues for 1923.....	60.00
Annual dues for 1924.....	36.00
Interest on investment.....	21.25
Sale of publications.....	3.13
	\$161.27

*Expenditures*

Wilson Bulletin (1 active at \$2.50 and 41 associates at \$1.50)....	\$ 64.00
Postage, Office of Secretary.....	5.70
Balance on hand, May 1, 1924.....	91.57
	\$161.27

## HISTORY OF THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

1923

Several bird-students from various parts of Kentucky met at the Seelbach Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky, on the afternoon of April 19, 1923, to discuss the plans for organizing a Kentucky Ornithological Society.

The Society was organized and the following officers were elected:

President: Dr. L. O. Pindar, Versailles.

Vice-President: Mr. Brache C. Bacon, Madisonville.

Secretary and Treasurer: Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green.

Plans were adopted to seek affiliation with the Wilson Ornithological Club. A membership campaign was planned.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in Louisville during the Spring meeting of the Kentucky Educational Association.

1924.

The first annual meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society was held in Leather Room of Seelbach at Louisville, Kentucky, at 9:30 a. m., April 25, 1924.

The present officers were re-elected.

Members of Executive Committees were elected as follows: Professor Frank L. Rainey, Centre College, Danville; Miss Emilie Yunker, Director of School Gardens, Louisville; Mr. J. B. Cox, Murray State Normal School, Murray; Mrs. Merit O'Neal, Louisville, Historian of K. O. S.

A fine program was rendered, those taking part being: Mr. Carl D. Herdman, Bowling Green; Mr. Ben J. Blincoe, Dayton, Ohio; Miss Yunker, Louisville; Professor Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green; Mrs. Merit O'Neal, Louisville; Dr. Pindar, Versailles.

The Constitution was read and adopted.

The Society voted to affiliate with the Wilson Ornithological Club under a specified agreement, the articles of this affiliation being perfectly agreeable to both parties.