

## SEVENTY-FIRST MEETING OF A.O.U.

At the meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in Los Angeles in October, the following officers were elected for 1953-1954: *President*, Alden H. Miller; *Vice-Presidents*, Ludlow Griscom and Ernst Mayr; *Secretary*, Harold Mayfield; *Treasurer*, Charles G. Sibley. *Elective Members of the Council*: John T. Emlen, Jr., A. W. Schorger, Albert Wolfson.

The Council re-elected Robert W. Storer, *Editor* of 'The Auk'; Frederick V. Hebard (Chairman), G. Ruhland Rebmann, Jr., and Phillips B. Street, *Investing Trustees*.

The 1953 Brewster Medal was awarded by action of the Council to Dr. Hildegarde Howard for her research on fossil birds.

The following were elected to the class indicated: Fellows: W. Lee Chambers, John Roy Pemberton, Francis Marion Weston. Honorary Fellow: Ernst Schuz. Corresponding Fellows: Edward M. Nicholson, Ludwig Schuster. Members: Paul Herbert Baldwin, Frederick Milton Baumgartner, Alexander William Blain, John Davis, Miguel Alvarez del Toro, Keith Lee Dixon, Henry Sheldon Fitch, Gordon W. Gullion, Thomas Raymond Howell, Carl Buckingham Koford, Robert Allen Norris, Kenneth Carroll Parkes, Kenneth E. Stager.

Albert Wolfson

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### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

So many requests for information as to the status of Peters' "Check-List of Birds of the World" have come to the Museum of Comparative Zoology that we think your readers would be interested in the matter.

We have been appointed joint editors to see that the work is completed. Probably seven volumes will be required to contain the families not treated by Mr. Peters. A volume has almost been finished by Dr. Zimmer of the American Museum in New York. Sixteen collaborators have most kindly agreed to contribute the families that remain to be done and each one will be the responsible author of his contribution. We hope by this means to assure that the work will be completed in as short a time as possible.

ERNST MAYR

JAMES C. GREENWAY, JR.

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY AT HARVARD COLLEGE

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### DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERSHIP

A study of the membership roll as published in the December, 1952, *Wilson Bulletin*, produced some interesting data regarding the distribution of our membership. While our roots are in the midwest, the present composition of the membership shows that we are today much more national in scope than one familiar only with the early days of the organization might realize. The membership includes persons from every state, most Canadian provinces, and many foreign countries. New York showed the greatest membership, 174, followed by Michigan, 143, Ohio, 131, Illinois, 82, California, 78, Pennsylvania, 73, Wisconsin, 70, Minnesota, 67, Massachusetts, 55, and Iowa, tenth with 45. The second ten showed New Jersey and Texas tied with 43, Indiana, 41, Maryland, 39, Kentucky and Missouri tied with 43, Kansas, 31, West Virginia, 30, and the District of Columbia and Ontario tied with 29. A line drawn through Columbus, Ohio, to the Gulf of Mexico east of Tallahassee, Florida, approximates the actual dividing line of the eastern and western halves of our membership.