

of Executive Committee of National Irrigation Association, Washington.

RAYMOND A. PEARSON,
Secretary.

AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

THE Nineteenth Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union convened in New York City, Monday evening, November 11. The business meeting of the Fellows was held at the American Museum of Natural History, and the public sessions, commencing Tuesday, November 12, and lasting three days, were also held at the Museum.

Dr. C. Hart Merriam, of Washington, D. C., was reelected president; Charles B. Cory, of Boston, and C. F. Batchelder, of Cambridge, Mass., vice-presidents; John H. Sage, of Portland, Conn., secretary; William Dutcher, of New York City, treasurer; Frank M. Chapman, Ruthven Deane, E. W. Nelson, Witmer Stone, Drs. A. K. Fisher, Jonathan Dwight, Jr., and Thos. S. Roberts, members of the Council.

The ex-presidents of the Union, Dr. J. A. Allen and Messrs. William Brewster, D. G. Elliot and Robert Ridgway, are *ex-officio* members of the Council.

Outram Bangs, of Boston, Joseph Grinnell, of Palo Alto, Cal., Dr. T. S. Palmer and Professor F. E. L. Beal, of Washington, D. C., and Dr. Louis B. Bishop, of New Haven, Conn., were elected Fellows.

Montague Chamberlain, of Boston, was elected to corresponding membership. Fifty-five associates were elected to the new class known as members, and eighty-three new associates were elected.

By the adoption of certain amendments to the By-Laws, at the present Congress, the following classes of members are now recognized by the Union, viz., Fellows, Honorary Fellows, Corresponding Fellows, Members and Associates.

Dr. J. A. Allen, in his paper on 'The

Present Outlook for Stability in Nomenclature,' dwelt upon the American method and its gradual acceptance by foreign ornithologists as well as by workers in other branches of science.

Mr. E. W. Nelson described a collecting trip which he took through portions of Yucatan. In that country, occupied until recently by hostile Indian tribes, he discovered more than one hundred birds new to science.

Mr. Ruthven Deane exhibited books and other relics from his own library which were once the property of John James Audubon. What he had to say on 'Auduboniana,' was of historic interest.

The report of the Committee on Protection of North American Birds showed that satisfactory results had been obtained during the past year. Mr. Dutcher spoke of the great good for protection made possible by the 'Thayer Fund'—money raised through the efforts of Mr. Abbott H. Thayer. By its aid Dr. T. S. Palmer and Mr. Dutcher had been able to appear before legislative committees in many States, and new and better protective laws had been passed. Mr. Chapman referred to the present abundance of bird life on Gardiners Island, N. Y., the result of rigid protection.

Professor W. W. Cooke traced the routes of bird migration across the Gulf of Mexico, bringing out many new and interesting facts.

Excellent lantern slides from photographs of birds in life were shown by Rev. H. K. Job, and Messrs. Nelson, Chapman, Dutcher and Bailly.

The New York Zoological Society invited the members of the Union to visit its park, and many availed themselves of the privilege November 15. Director Hornaday conducted the party through the grounds.

Following is a list of the papers read at the sessions.

'The Present Outlook for Stability in Nomenclature': J. A. ALLEN.

'The Plumages of the American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*):' JONATHAN DWIGHT, JR.

'Routes of Bird Migration across the Gulf of Mexico': W. W. COOKE.

'On Methods in Museum Bird Exhibits': FRANK M. CHAPMAN.

'Ornithological Notes from Northern New Hampshire': JOHN N. CLARK.

'Some Impressions of Texas Birds': LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES and H. C. OBERHOLSER.

'The White-winged Crossbill in Captivity': JAMES H. HILL.

'The American and European Herring Gulls': J. A. ALLEN.

'Auduboniana': RUTHVEN DEANE.

'The Molts and Plumages of the North American Ducks (*Anatide*):' JONATHAN DWIGHT, JR.

'A Naturalist in Yucatan,' illustrated by lantern slides: E. W. NELSON.

'Photography in North Dakota Bird Colonies,' *et cetera*, illustrated by lantern slides: HERBERT K. JOB.

'A Reconnaissance in Manitoba and the Northwest,' illustrated by lantern slides: FRANK M. CHAPMAN.

'Are Humming Birds Cypseloid or Caprimulgoid?' HUBERT LYMAN CLARK.

'List of Birds of Wequetonsing, Mich.': OTTO WIDMANN.

'Notes on the Ornithological Observations of Peter Kalm': SPENCER TROTTER.

'Report of the Committee on the Protection of North American Birds': WITMER STONE.

'Results obtained under the Thayer Fund': WILLIAM DUTCHER.

'National Bird Protection—Its Opportunities and Limitations': T. S. PALMER.

'Gulls of the Maine Coast, and Miscellaneous Notes,' illustrated by lantern slides: WM. DUTCHER and WM. L. BAILY.

'Some Results of Bird Protection,' illustrated by lantern slides: FRANK M. CHAPMAN.

The next annual meeting will be held in Washington, D. C., commencing November 17, 1902.

JOHN H. SAGE,
Secretary.

JOSEPH HIRSCH.

THE biography of the late Joseph Hirsch, briefly sketched, is as follows:

Born May 22, 1836, of an old and well-known family, characterized in all its branches by taste, refinement, and ability, and with a strong proclivity toward both art and engineering, he studied at the *École Polytechnique* and became an engineer of the *Ponts et Chaussées*, standing at the head of his class in line of promotion from the first. He served in Marseilles, Algiers and Alsacia, and accepted missions in Germany and Austria. In 1861 he was engaged in the construction of the Houillères de la Sarre canal, inventing, meantime, the ingenious syphon arrangement by which its level is automatically maintained. In 1867 he was assigned to special service relative to the work of improvement of the navigation of the Saone, and presently, on his marriage with Mlle. Dreyfus-Dupont, whose distinguished relatives in this country are so well known to all engineers and army and navy men, he secured indefinite leave from the Government and devoted himself to the study and investigations which so liberally offered themselves in connection with the great iron and steel works of his father-in-law. After the close of the Franco-German war, one of these establishments, on then German territory, was sold, and Hirsch erected new and modern works at Pompey, near Fruard. In this construction he introduced every modern appliance and made it a model of its kind.

The children of this fortunate union growing up, it was decided to take up residence in Paris, and for many years, No. 1, rue de Castiglione, was a center of social,