

voluntarily already on a small scale. Systematic effort would doubtless increase their number many fold. The old apothecary weights might be completely abandoned if effort were expended in that direction. Finally, legislation making the use of metric units obligatory would come as a matter of course when the public understood that prejudice and the supposed interest of a few gage manufacturers was keeping us from the only rational system of weights and measures.

EUGENE C. BINGHAM

*Chairman, Metric Committee*

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

### THE BANDING OF BIRDS

ON the seventeenth of January, 1922, in response to an invitation from Mr. L. B. Fletcher and others interested in the banding of birds, over a hundred ornithologists, licensed bird-banders and candidates for licenses, met at the Boston Society of Natural History Building in Boston and organized a new ornithological society to be known as the New England Bird Banding Association. The meeting was addressed by S. Prentiss Baldwin of Cleveland, Ohio, who, during the last six years, by introducing bird-trapping as a means of banding birds, has done so much to show the scientific possibilities of the work. The Bureau of Biological Survey in Washington was represented by Major E. A. Goldman, who spoke of the bureau's plans in connection with the movement, strongly endorsing the organization of the new association and recommending the formation of other organizations of the same character at appropriate localities in the United States and Canada.

Members of Audubon societies and bird clubs in several states, and of the Nuttall and Essex County Ornithological clubs, and state ornithologists were present at the meeting, as well as a representative of the Canadian game warden service.

At this writing, January 24, 1922, the association has an enrollment of about three hundred members who are scattered over all parts of the territory covered by the organization, namely, New England, Quebec, and the maritime provinces.

The following officers and councilors were elected:

*President:* Edward H. Forbush, Westboro, Mass.

*First vice-president:* Dr. Charles W. Townsend, Boston, Mass.

*Second vice-president:* James MacKaye, Cambridge, Mass.

*Corresponding secretary and treasurer:* Laurence B. Fletcher, Brookline, Mass.

*Recording secretary:* Miss Alice B. Harrington, Lincoln, Mass.

*Councilors:* A. Cleveland Bent, Taunton, Mass.; Dr. John C. Phillips, Wenham, Mass.; John E. Thayer, Lancaster, Mass.; William P. Wharton, Groton, Mass.; Aaron C. Bagg, Holyoke, Mass.; Charles L. Whittle, Cambridge, Mass.

It may be of interest to ornithologists generally to read an outline of the purposes and plans of the new association which has been formed under the stimuli furnished by the national movement, administered by the Bureau of Biological Survey; by the more general appreciation of the scientific aspects of bird banding as shown, in particular, by Mr. Baldwin's recent work; and by the interesting and valuable data already obtained by previous bird-banding operations.

In the beginning it was felt that the somewhat disappointing results secured from bird banding in the United States to date were due to the workers being too scattered and uncoordinated; to a lack of national support of the plan and the too general character of the ornithological problems bird-banding operations were expected to solve.

From a study of the situation we came to believe that we could obtain the best results:

1. By organizing a regional association of bird banders, meaning by this, bringing together a membership from an area possessing one or more migration highways, along which trapping stations could be established to furnish, by intensive attack, fairly speedy answers to certain specific migration problems, thus early demonstrating to members the scientific value of bird banding with the consequent stimulus to continue the work which it is expected will ultimately solve more ornithological riddles, aid in the solution of others and create new problems not now anticipated;

2. By having the members meet together as often as possible to discuss results, methods and

future plans and to gather inspiration from their fellows after the manner of scientific societies generally, in this way using the combined knowledge of the association to advance the work;

3. By appealing for the support of Audubon societies all over the country on the ground that bird banding is a bird-protection movement, since to an important extent it will be possible in the future to substitute an examination of a live bird for the study of a dead one;

4. By ensuring as far as possible the *permanence* of the movement by means of institutional trapping stations operated by or in connection with Audubon societies, natural history societies, bird clubs, departments of ornithology or zoology at colleges and universities, bird sanctuaries, state and national parks, etc., in addition to stations operated by individuals; and

5. By establishing a convenient local depository of all bird-banding records made by members (an exact copy of the same of course being sent to the Biological Survey) in appropriate quarters where they may be studied by members of the association and others.

CHARLES L. WHITTLE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

#### CONFERENCE ON BUSINESS TRAINING OF THE ENGINEER AND ENGINEERING TRAINING FOR STUDENTS OF BUSINESS

THE United States Commissioner of Education is calling a second public conference on commercial engineering on behalf of a committee on commercial engineering appointed by him to investigate business training of engineers and engineering training for students of business.

The conference will be held May 1 and 2 at the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh. President Arthur Hamerschlag of this institution is a member of the committee which is composed of prominent deans of schools of engineering, and of commerce in our larger universities, and of engineers and business men who are nationally known for their interest in the reduction of the costs of production, distribution, transportation, etc., through better training in schools and colleges of the personnel of industry and commerce.

The conference will be open to the public. Invitations to appoint delegates to the Pittsburgh Conference, however, will be sent by the commissioner of education to commercial and trade organizations, engineering and scientific societies, educational institutions and other groups as well as to prominent individuals.

Owing to the timeliness of the subject, the conference in Pittsburgh will even have greater national significance than the first public conference on this question, which was held in Washington two and one half years ago under the direction of this committee on commercial engineering of which Dr. Glen Levin Swiggett of the Bureau of Education is chairman. He says:

The four major topics of the conference will be presented and discussed at general and round table sessions by business men, educators and engineers, contributing to the construction of a cooperative program between education and business for the better coordination of all productive and distributive processes in trade and commerce. It is planned to have the second conference even more constructive than the first, since which time the curricula of 29 of the 119 engineering colleges reporting to the Bureau of Education have been favorably modified to include one or more of the four committee recommendations. Outstanding topics at the Pittsburgh conference will deal with the new problems that have recently arisen in modern industries, the solution of which demands a more scientific approach to include job analyses and personnel specifications and a translation of these into a new and teachable content for use in our engineering and commerce schools; with the training of the engineer for a better understanding of problems relating to community development; and with the training of the engineer for management of overseas engineering projects.

#### GIFT OF THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION FOR A SCHOOL OF HYGIENE IN LONDON

ACCORDING to a press dispatch to the New York Times the British minister of health announced on February 21 that the Rockefeller Foundation had offered to provide \$2,000,000 toward the cost of building and equipping a school of hygiene in London. This offer is on the understanding that the British Government