

light on its complications, spent much of the summer studying and annotating the material at the herbarium.

Professor Liberty Hyde Bailey, whose first work on the genus *Carex* was published by the herbarium in 1886, made a visit to the herbarium in September, studying, in his eighty-first year, the intricate sources of cultivated plants. Professor Bailey is the only living associate of Asa Gray.

Dr. Kenneth F. Baker, of the experiment station of the Pineapple Producers Cooperative Association of the Hawaiian Islands, *en route* to tropical South America to study and collect wild species of the pineapple group, spent several days in consultation with Dr. Smith, one of the world's authorities on this family of plants, and will later have the assistance of Dr. Smith in interpreting his results. Ernest Rouleau, curator of the herbarium of the University of Montreal, spent the summer at the Gray Herbarium as a special research fellow, studying herbarium technique.

THE EASTERN SHADE TREE CONFERENCE

A MEETING will be held at the New York Botanical Garden in Bronx Park on December 8 and 9 to consider problems arising out of the damage done to trees during the hurricane of September 21. The call for the meeting is being issued by Dr. William J. Robbins, director of the Botanical Garden, at the request of a committee composed of W. O. Filley, forester at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station; Dr. B. O. Dodge, plant pathologist at the garden; and Dr. E. P. Felt, director and chief entomologist at the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories. Mr. Filley will serve as temporary chairman of the meeting, which will be opened with a short address by Dr. Robbins.

The loss of a million or more good trees in the eastern states during the hurricane which swept up the coast and across New England is the motive of the gathering, which is to be known as the Eastern Shade Tree Conference. The aim is to study the selection and culture of more sturdy, storm-proof trees; to propose a program of rehabilitation of damaged trees; and to endeavor to gain a greater control over tree diseases and pests for the protection of trees in future years.

Some of the special problems incidental to the damage wrought by the hurricane include more concentrated attention to the pests of trees which are increasing in this area. Of special importance is the Dutch elm disease, which is carried by a beetle which breeds in weak or unhealthy trees. Half a dozen other ravaging insect and fungous pests will be taken under consideration at the conference. The problems connected with them are outlined by Dr. Felt as follows:

The gipsy moth, a serious pest of shade and forest trees, has been slowly extending its range westward and has now become abundant in several localities in western New England close to or near the barrier zone. The control of this insect is becoming a general problem.

The European spruce sawfly, a recently introduced species established over much of New England, has caused serious damage to spruce forests in limited areas in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont and may develop as a destructive pest of Norway spruce.

The Japanese beetle has been steadily extending the range of serious infestation in New Jersey and adjacent areas and is now becoming extremely abundant and injurious in southeastern New York and southwestern New England.

The elm leaf beetle has defoliated many trees in the Hudson River Valley and in New England during the past 40 years. It is more than probable that this insect has played an important part in weakening many of the shade trees which were badly damaged by the hurricane. This is also true of canker worms and forest tent caterpillars.

The willow scab fungus is a disease which has killed many thousands of willow trees in the East. Its control is another of the serious problems for the tree owner. There are, in addition, the Sphaeropsis on Austrian pine and the Cytospora of the Norway and Colorado blue spruces.

THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

THE fifty-sixth annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was held at the U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., from October 17 to 21, 1938, with a registered attendance of two hundred and thirty-three. Fifty-nine scientific papers were read—many illustrated by color slides or films. The three days of program sessions included a like number of evening entertainments; open house at the museum, the annual dinner and business meetings of various sections. On Friday the more than two hundred ornithologists in attendance visited the agricultural research center at Beltsville, Md. Many remained on Saturday for a conducted tour of the National Zoological Park.

Officers elected for the new year were as follows: *President*, Dr. Herbert Friedmann, Washington, D. C.; *Vice-presidents*, Dr. J. P. Chapin, New York City; Dr. J. L. Peters, Cambridge, Mass.; *Secretary*, Dr. Lawrence E. Hicks, Columbus, O.; *Treasurer*, Ruderford Boulton, Chicago; *Council*, W. L. McAtee, Washington, D. C.; John T. Zimmer, New York City, and Robert T. Moore, Pasadena.

The Brewster Medal award was made to Dr. Thomas S. Roberts for his volumes on "The Birds of Minnesota." One fellow, Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Washington, D. C.; two honorary fellows, Eliot Howard, of England, and Jacques Berlioz, of France, and six corresponding fellows, K. A. Hindwood, Australia; Konrad Lorenz, Austria; Wilhelm Meise, Germany; R. E. Moreau, Tanganyika, Africa; Ernst Shuz, Germany; N. Tinbergen, Netherlands, were elected.

In addition to 337 new associate members, eight new members were named: Thomas T. McCabe, Harold Michener, Gayle B. Pickwell, E. Lowell Sumner, Jr.,