

Minutes of the Twenty-third Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union

The twenty-third annual meeting of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union was held at Lincoln, Nebraska, Friday and Saturday, May 19 and 20, 1922. The sessions included an open program Friday afternoon, a dinner Friday evening followed by a business session, and a field day on Saturday.

The open program was given in Room 207, Plant Industry Hall, College of Agriculture campus, University of Nebraska, beginning at 3 p. m. on Friday. Sixty persons were present at the program. The first paper was an account of the "Nesting of the Bell Vireo" by Rev. J. M. Bates of Red Cloud, Nebraska, and, in the absence of the author, was read by the Secretary. Mrs. Addison E. Sheldon of Lincoln, then presented a paper on the "Home Life of the Brown Thrasher," illustrated with lantern slides, in which was given a synopsis of the principal happenings observed in connection with the nesting of a pair of Brown Thrashers just outside the window of the Sheldon home, in a bridal wreath bush. These birds were kept under constant observation by Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon from the time of the first beginning of the nest until the last fledgeling had departed from it, and every movement of the birds was noted and recorded during this entire period, from sunup till nightfall, thus forming a remarkable biography of this pair of birds.

Following these papers a symposium on the shore birds (*Limicolae*) of Nebraska was held. Prof. M. H. Swenk exhibited specimens showing most of the thirty-nine species of shore birds known to occur in the State in their various plumages, and explained the characters by which they could be identified, both in the hand and in the field. Prof. R. W. Dawson followed with a discussion of the migratory movements of Nebraska shore birds, based on all of the available data. Dr. R. H. Wolcott concluded the symposium with a discussion of the nesting habits of the shore birds, especially of the ten species known to nest in Nebraska.

At the conclusion of the program at 6 p. m., the members of the N. O. U. dined at the College of Agriculture Cafeteria, following which the business session was held. In the absence of the President, Dr. H. Hapeman of Minden, the Vice-President, Mrs. H. C. Johnston of Superior, called the meeting to order. The reports of the officers were received, and the financial report of the Secretary-Treasurer was referred to a committee composed of Mrs. Addison E. Sheldon and Mrs. L. H. McKillip, for auditing. The names of Mr. Gayle B. Pickwell of Lincoln, Mr. J. E. Plank, Jr., of Kearney, Mrs. Alfred Tooley of Central City, Mrs. Fred W. Tyler of Lincoln, and Mr. Leonard Worley of Lincoln, were proposed for membership, and all were elected.

Nominations for new officers were then made from the floor, and as a result the following officers were elected for 1922:

President—Mrs. Addison E. Sheldon, Lincoln.
Vice-President—Mr. Lucius H. Watson, Lincoln.
Secretary-Treasurer—Prof. M. H. Swenk, Lincoln.

The matter of a revision of the articles of agreement of the affiliation between the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union and the Wilson Ornithological Club, made necessary by the recent increase in dues in the Wilson Club to \$1.50 for Associate members and \$2.50 for Active members, was presented by the Secretary-Treasurer, and debated by the members. The Secretary-Treasurer read the draft of a revised set of six articles of agreement to replace those adopted by both the N. O. U. and the W. O. C. in 1915, and upon motion the revised articles were adopted by the N. O. U. The Secretary was instructed to present the revised articles to the W. O. C. for action.

It was moved by Mrs. Addison E. Sheldon that inasmuch as under their present charters cities and villages of less than 5,000 inhabitants in Nebraska do not have the power to pass and enforce ordinances to protect the birds and their nests and eggs within the city or village limits, that the N. O. U. declare itself in favor of extending this power to such cities and villages, the same as is granted in their charters to cities of 5,000 to 25,000 inhabitants, and that it use its influence to attain that end. This motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

It was moved by Dr. R. H. Wolcott that inasmuch as shore birds of nearly all kinds are decreasing rapidly over the entire country, and quite noticeably in Nebraska, and as the present Nebraska law regards black-bellied Plover, Golden Plover, Yellowlegs and Greater Yellowlegs as game birds, that it join with a group of progressive sportsmen in an effort to have only the Wilson Snipe among the shore birds recognized as a game bird in this state, and that it use its influence to attain that end. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

The matter of the field trips on the following day was then discussed, and it was decided that one party should start around Capital Beach west of Lincoln the next morning at 6 o'clock under the leadership of Messrs. H. B. Lowry and L. H. Watson, and that a second party should start an hour later under the leadership of Prof. M. H. Swenk. Another party including Prof. R. W. Dawson and Mesdames L. R. Button and G. A. Loveland was to visit the flats near Arbor, Nebraska, north of Lincoln, while a fourth party under the leadership of R. H. Wolcott was to work in the woods along Salt Creek between Lincoln and Saltillo.

Fifteen members were present at this session of the N. O. U., as follows: Mesdames Lily R. Button, Margaret M. Corey, Blanche Garten, H. C. Johnston, G. A. Loveland, L. H. McKillip, E. H. Polley, Mary St. Martin and Addison E. Sheldon, and Messrs. R. W. Dawson, L. O. Horsky, H. B. Lowry, M. H. Swenk, L. H. Watson and R. H. Wolcott. Adjournment took place at 8 p. m.

On Saturday, May 20, the twentieth annual field day of the N. O. U. was held, according to the plans outlined the previous evening. The total list of the day included one hundred and five birds, the largest list ever obtained on any N. O. U. field day, as follows:

Bluebird, Robin, Olive-backed Thrush, Wood Thrush, Long-tailed Chickadee, White-bellied Nuthatch, Western House Wren, Brown Thrasher, Catbird, Mockingbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, Maryland Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, Bell Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Migrant Shrike, Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff

Swallow, Purple Martin, Scarlet Tanager, Dickcissel, Indigo Bunting, Western Blue Grosbeak, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Cardinal, Towhee, Lincoln sparrow, Song Sparrow, Western Field Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Goldfinch, Bronzed Grackle, Baltimore Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Cowbird, Bobolink, Crow, Blue Jay, Prairie Horned Lark, Traill Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Phoebe, Say Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, Arkansas Kingbird, Kingbird, Chimney Swift, Nighthawk, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Long-eared Owl, Broad-winged Hawk, Cooper Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Mourning Dove, Turnstone, Piping Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Western Willet, Solitary Sandpiper, Yellowlegs, Hudsonian Godwit, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Red-backed Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Baird Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson Phalarope, Northern Phalarope, Coot, Carolina Rail, King Rail, Green Heron, Great Blue Heron, Bittern, Lesser Bluebill, Shoveller, Blue-winged Teal, Mallard, White Pelican, Black Tern, Franklin Gull, Ring-billed Gull and Eared Grebe.

Two very interesting nests were observed on this field day, namely those of the Say Phoebe and Piping Plover. The Say Phoebe is a western flycatcher, not common even in migrations east of the 99th meridian, and heretofore rarely noted at Lincoln, yet a pair was found building a nest in characteristic fashion on this day. The nesting of the Piping Plover constitutes the second record for Lincoln, a nest with the full complement of four eggs being found. A newly finished nest of the Red-winged Blackbird with one Cowbird egg in it, but no eggs of the owner of the nest, was found.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER, 1921-22

Receipts

Cash on hand, May 13, 1921.....	\$93.96
Annual dues collected.....	68.00
Sale of publications.....	
Interest on investment.....	\$10.88
Cash on hand, May 13, 1921.....	\$ 93.96
Annual dues collected.....	54.00
Sale of publications.....	5.20
Interest on investment.....	10.88
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	\$164.04

Expenditures

Wilson Bulletin (subscriptions).....	\$ 54.00
Wilson Bulletin (donation).....	30.00
Postage	1.00
Balance on hand, May 19, 1922.....	79.04
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	\$164.04



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