

NOTES ON THE A. O. U. MEETING IN NEW YORK CITY
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Ten distinguished foreign Ornithologists visited our State as they attended the 75th Anniversary meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union

at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, October 14 to 19, 1958. They came from Germany, England, Finland, Denmark, Switzerland, Canada, and Peru, South America.

Two of our New York Federated Club members, namely Eugene Eisenmann and Walter R. Spofford, were among the 15 New York residents who presented papers.

That birds, flying at night in their seasonal migration, use the stars and constellations to guide them, was the new theory on bird migration presented in papers by Dr. Franz Sauer of Germany and Dr. Ernst Sutter of Switzerland. These men working independently for the last few years came to the same conclusion on this subject. Dr. Sauer conducted his experiments in a planetarium. Here he first exposed some warblers to a section of an artificial sky which had stars in proper place for fall migration season in that locality of Germany. These birds had been raised from the egg stage and therefore had no previous migration experience. The warblers which normally migrated south immediately started in that direction, when he turned them about, changing their position, they at once righted themselves for the correct southerly direction. When the artificial sky pattern of stars was altered so as to be incorrect for fall migration time, the birds were confused. Other birds were tried out in a similar way.

Dr. Sutter in Switzerland carried on his experiments at an airfield, using the natural sky and a radar screen. When the sky was clear, the screen showed the birds all flying in the expected migratory direction. However, when the sky was entirely overcast by clouds, their flight pattern was confused.

Papers titled "Sea Water and Salt Utilization by Savanna Sparrows" and "Salt Excretion by a Nasal Gland in Marine Birds" brought out new and interesting research work showing that some migrating birds over salt water must take some of the salt water.

A timely subject on "Robin Population and Insecticides" brought up a discussion of the decreasing numbers of birds, due in part to increasing use of sprays of several kinds on shubbery, trees and fields. For several years, records were kept of numbers of Robins, both adults and young, found on the campus of Michigan State College. The numbers went from many down to a very few birds the last year.

Another paper on "Outlook for Florida Wading Birds" was along the same line as spraying of marshes and filling in of swamp land meant less food and resting places for wading birds in the south. The causes mentioned in this and the preceding paper could affect the avian population in New York State.

A Russian Scientist, who was unable to be present, sent a complimentary anniversary message which was read at the banquet meeting by Ernst Mayr, the President. One of the speakers introduced ^{by} John Kieran, toastmaster at the dinner, was Guy Montfort of England. Mr. Montfort along with P. A. D. Hollom and Rodger Tory Peterson wrote the book entitled "The Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe." This book has now been translated into eight languages and is often referred to as Peterson's European Guide book. Mr. Montfort said that Rodger Peterson could be considered one of U. S. best ambassadors.

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