

THIRTEENTH INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS

One of the most important ornithological meetings to be held in the United States met at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York from June 17-24. This was the 13th International Ornithological Congress; these congresses are held every four years and this was the first time that it has taken place outside of Europe. About eight hundred ornithologists attended the meeting, some 230 were from outside the United States. To mention just a few of the delegates from aboard, Salim Ali from India, Broekhuysen from South Africa, Carrick and Serventy from Australia, Curry-Lindahl from Sweden, Finnur Gudmundson from Iceland, David Lack and Peter Scott from England, Niethammer and Stresemann from Germany, Dorst from France, Voous from Holland, Helmut Sick from Brazil and Phelps from Venezuela.

About one hundred and fifty papers were presented at the meeting. These were given in concurrent sessions which made it very difficult to decide which ones to attend. In an account of this length it is impossible to mention more than a few of the papers and in any case, I was only able to hear a quarter of the papers given. Many papers were presented on migration; George Lowery showed how much information could be obtained on broad-front migration with patience and a telescope. Eastwood, on the other hand, presented the picture of migration using a million dollars worth of radar equipment. On the experimental side of bird migration outstanding papers were given by Matthews and Sauer. There were symposiums on such technical matters as anthropod-borne viruses and the relationship of protein structure to systematics. The session on the biology of penguins and albatrosses gave much information on the lives of birds that manage to exist in the harsh climate of the Antarctic.

Three members of the Federation contributed papers to the meeting. Stephen Eaton talked on "Some Osteological Adaptations in the Parulidae" and both Walter Spofford and David Peakall gave papers in the protein structure symposium. Many members of the Federation served on the local committees.

One of the highlights of the congress were the films shown in the evenings. Heinz Sielmann's film on the birds of the Galapagos stole the show and was shown four times during the meeting. There were magnificent sequences on the courtship of frigate-birds, showing the inflation of the red pouch, and of albatrosses calling and bill-snapping. Perhaps the finest sequence was of a Darwin's finch using a catcus thorn to extract insects from their holes in a tree. Mrs. Waldhoer showed a fine film of the colorful Wall-creeper (like a huge Brown Creeper with scarlet wing-patches) nesting in the walls of a castle in Germany. Guy Mountford showed a film taken on the British expeditions to Hungary and Bulgaria, including many of the breeding herons, pelicans, and of such colorful species as the Bee-eater and Hoopoe.

The early morning field trips lead by Dr. Allen from the Laboratory of Ornithology proved to be highly popular. One morning Sally Hoyt had a hundred people to which she served a continental breakfast before they set out

to explore Sapsucker Woods. There was also a shuttle service run during the meeting to Sapsucker Woods. Visitors also inspected the bio-acoustical laboratory of Dr. Kellogg. Mid-week excursions were arranged to a number of places and the one to Montezuma was popular and successful. Besides the field trips, excursions were arranged before and after the meeting. Two of these, each of week in length, were made within the state. These were based on the Cornell University Biological Research Station at Shackleton Point on Oneida Lake. The excursions were organized by Dr. Swanson of Cornell University and several of the Syracuse birders served as local leaders. The itinerary was worked out by Miss Rusk and Dr. Spofford. Our guests, just over a dozen on each excursion, included Eric Hosking, the British bird photographer, Guy Mountford, Sir Landsborough Thompson, Dr. Niethammer, Rudebeck from Sweden, Brouwer from Holland and Schuz from Germany. The party visited Sandy Pond and Selkirk on the first day, Camillus Valley and Howland's Island on the next. Two days were spent in the Adirondacks, where we stayed at Covewood Lodge with Mr. and Mrs. Bowes. The Bowes lead bird trips to South America in the winter and run Covewood Lodge in the summer. They arranged a fine, and somewhat adventuresome, lake trip to see beavers and birds. These trips finished about midnight after having run aground. The last full day was spent in the Rome Sand Plains. Our total list for each week was about 130. Leading these excursions was great fun. The people were all experts in their own areas, but most of them had not been to North America before. We saw some twenty species of Wood Warblers, a purely new world family and several of another large new world family, the tyrant flycatchers. Some of the birds that impressed our visitors most were the Indigo Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Scarlet Tanager. Guy Mountford, who has clarified the range of many species in Europe, discovered a Tufted Titmouse in the central Adirondacks. Dr. Schuz stalking what he thought was a Pileated Woodpecker found that it was his fellow countryman, Dr. Niethammer tapping in an attempt to attract a woodpecker. All in all it was a most successful meeting; the next is to be held in England in 1966.

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CONSERVATION NEWS

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While the earth is still with us, conservationists are borrowing something from the stratagems of war to conduct a global rescue of vanishing species of birds and animals.

A "War room", resembling perhaps the hectic efficiency of some nuclear bombing command headquarters, is to be established in Switzerland. Instead of any orbiting missiles, the pins and flags probably stuck in the large-scale maps, would represent the Arabian Oryx, the Spanish Imperial Eagles, the African Rhinoceros, the California Condor and many more.

The proposed operations intelligence center, in which many organizations would participate, was described at the 13th international conference of the International Council for Bird Preservation held in New York City last June 1961. Thirty two nations were represented.