

descriptions. For each species the range and vernacular name are given, and the subspecies are then listed, with author and date, in order from N.W. to S.E. The first two parts cover, in Mayr and Amadon's order, the sub-orders Eurylaimi and Tyranni, and the sub-order Passeres as far as the Timaliidae.

New name proposed :—P. 131, *Malacocincla abbotti voousi* for *M. a. büttikoferi*,  
pre-occupied. D. W. S.

YAMASHINA, Y. 1953. Phenotypical differentiation of endemic birds in relation to island size in Micronesia. Proc. Seventh Pacific Congr. 4 : 61–67.

The author discusses the 38 endemic species and five endemic genera of Micronesian land-birds in relation to the geological history of the individual islands on which they occur. He concludes that the smallness of the immigrant population is "more important than length of tenure and natural selection in the evolution of animals in isolated oceanic islands". R. E. M.

ZIMMER, J. T. 1953. Notes on tyrant flycatchers. Amer. Mus. Novit. 1605.  
Three new subsp.

ZIMMER, J. T. 1953. Studies of Peruvian birds.—No. 63 [hummingbird genera].  
Amer. Mus. Novit. 1604. No. 64 [Apodidae]. *Ibid.* 1609.

New subsp. :—*Myrtes fanny megalura*, *Chaetura brachyura ocybetes*.

## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union was held in the meeting room of the Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1, at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 16 March 1954. Sir Landsborough Thomson (President), was in the Chair, and there were fifty-two Members present.

1. The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 18 March 1953, were confirmed and signed by the President.

2. In presenting the Report and Accounts for 1953, the President brought to the notice of the meeting a new guide for the assistance of overseas ornithologists which was being prepared under the editorship of Major-General H. P. W. Hutson. The outline of the handbook was explained, and a general discussion took place as to its cost. It was suggested that the price should be lower for Members of the Union, and this was noted for consideration by the Committee.

The financial position of the Union was considered by the Treasurer to be satisfactory, and the Report and Accounts were approved without discussion.

3. No counter nominations having been received, the Committee's recommendations were adopted as follows :—

- (a) Dr. D. L. Lack, F.R.S., to be a Vice-President in place of Dr. W. H. Thorpe, F.R.S., who retires in rotation.
- (b) Mr. E. Cohen and Mr. A. B. Duncan to be Members of the Committee in place of Mr. A. G. S. Bryson and Colonel H. Morrey Salmon, C.B.E., M.C., who retire in rotation.

4. The President pointed out that the rate of increase in overseas membership during the past year was very satisfactory, but urged Members also to introduce more candidates resident in the United Kingdom.

5. The President proposed a vote of thanks to the Zoological Society of London for the use of their meeting room.

The Meeting was followed by a dinner, held in the Fellows' Restaurant of the Zoological Society, which was attended by 128 Members and guests.

After the dinner, at a meeting held jointly with the British Ornithologists' Club, Mr. John Barlee gave a lecture on "Some aspects of bird flight", illustrated by slides, and a film was shown on "The birds of the Coto Donana", with a commentary by Mr. Guy Mountfort.

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 1953.

##### THE YEAR'S WORK.

Volume 95 of the 'Ibis', consisting of xxxiv+751 pages, was published in the usual quarterly parts.

The original stock of 1,250 copies of the 'Checklist of the Birds of Great Britain and Ireland' (1952) having been reduced to about 250 copies within twelve months, it was decided to print a further 500 copies before distributing the type.

The Committee approved a project for the preparation of a guide book for the assistance of overseas ornithologists, to be published by the Union, and this is now in progress under the editorship of Major-General H. P. W. Hutson.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 18th March, 1953, in the meeting room of the Zoological Society of London ('Ibis' 95: 570). This was followed by a dinner in conjunction with the monthly meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club, after which the company returned to the meeting room to see colour films of the Puffin by Mr. R. M. Lockley, of East Anglian birds by Brigadier H. M. Stanford, and of Tristan da Cunha and its bird-life by Mr. H. F. I. Elliott.

The Annual Scientific Meeting was held on the 17th November, 1953, in the Lecture Hall of the British Museum (Natural History) by kind permission of the Trustees ('Ibis' 96: 171). Mr. Peter Scott gave a lecture on the ornithological results of an expedition to Tierra del Fuego and the High Andes, and showed a colour film taken in the former. Afterwards, a dinner was held at the Rembrandt Hotel in conjunction with the monthly meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club.

At its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting in 1953, the Committee reappointed the Publications Sub-Committee without change in membership. In December, the Committee appointed two new Sub-Committees with the following terms of reference and membership:—

British Records Sub-Committee—to advise on the authenticity of records of species or races proposed for inclusion in the British List: A. W. Boyd (Chairman), Dr. B. Campbell, P. A. D. Hollom (Secretary), M. F. M. Meiklejohn and Dr. K. B. Rooke.

Taxonomic Sub-Committee—to advise on taxonomic questions, more particularly the validity of species or races included in the British List or in communications submitted for publication in the 'Ibis': Colonel R. Meinertzhagen (Chairman), Dr. J. M. Harrison, D. W. Snow, R. Wagstaffe, K. Williamson and Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards.

Both Sub-Committees will report to the Committee of the Union. Questions of principle relating to nomenclature are not within the terms of reference of either of them,

Sir Landsborough Thomson continued to represent the Union on the British National Committee for Biology, Mr. R. A. H. Coombes and Mr. C. T. Dalgety on the British Section of the International Committee for the Preservation of Birds, Dr. Brian Roberts on the Advisory Council of the Edward Grey Institute of Field Ornithology, and Miss P. Barclay-Smith on the Wild Birds Advisory Committee of the Home Office.

#### FINANCE.

The Committee has pleasure in presenting the accounts for the year 1953. There are no new features of outstanding interest and the balance remains on the right side. It will be seen that sales of the Check-List have already practically covered expenses. It is only right to say that the Union, in company with very many scientific societies, might be adversely affected if any change is made in the present system by which tax is recoverable on covenanted subscriptions.

The subscription to the British Section of the International Committee for Bird Preservation was increased to £10 10s. 0d., the usual contribution of £15 15s. 0d. was made to the 'Zoological Record' Fund, a special donation of £25 0s. 0d. was given to the R.S.P.B. Flood Damage Appeal Fund, and £5 5s. 0d. towards the presentation to Miss E. P. Leach on her retirement from her voluntary post as organiser of the national Bird-Ringing Scheme.

#### MEMBERSHIP.

During the year there was a net gain of 32 in the number of Ordinary Members—to a total of 799.

The Committee regrets to note the deaths, reported to it during the year, of the following :—

George Thomas Arthur, Miss Mary Gertrude S. Best, The Rev. Francis Linley Blathwayt, The Marquess Hachisuka, Dr. Norman Humbert Joy, Mrs. Elsie Margaret Binger Naumberg, Alfred James Rhead, Miss Leonora Jeffrey Rintoul, Mrs. Lindsay Thacker, R. Vittorio Zambra, C. Dupond (Corresponding Member).

The following Ordinary Members resigned :—

Major J. M. Brockbank, V. S. Edwards, J. Fairfax-Ross, I. E. House, G. C. S. Ingram, J. R. Marshall, R. H. W. Pakenham, The Hon. Mrs. L. Russell, The Hon. L. J. E. Twisleton-Wykeham-Musgrave, J. A. Valverde Gomaz, W. E. Wait.

The following elections to Ordinary Membership were made :—

A. L. Archer, J. Barlee, P. Barruel, T. H. Bell, P. P. Borovsky, J. H. R. Boswall, W. R. P. Bourne, J. E. Breeze, D. R. Calder, S/Ldr. E. A. Chapman, Dr. N. W. Cusa, C. C. Doncaster, Dr. J. Dorst, A. H. da Fonseca, A. D. Forbes-Watson, P. Garston-Jones, H. C. Gatty, Dr. Y. Hagen, B. H. Harley, C. J. O. Harrison, G. A. C. Herklots, H. C. Holme, Miss L. Howard, T. R. Howell, G. J. Jamieson, R. F. Johnston, K. Kobayashi, A. Kreule, S. E. Linsell, J. D. Lockie, C. F. Lundevall, R. A. Moser, C. K. Mylne, Major J. A. Nesbitt, Mrs. C. K. Niven, C. Norgarb, W. H. Partridge, A. R. Phillips, A. Prigogine, Mrs. D. Proud, D. C. Purves, V. H. Reynolds, M. W. Ridley, C. P. Rose, H. J. C. Seymour, R. W. J. Smith, I. C. Tait, Major J. W. Tattersall-Wright, R. J. F. Taylor, A. Tewnion, R. F. Thearle, Dr. K. H. Voous, D. H. Wilkinson, J. J. Yealland.

BRITISH ORNITH-  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR

RECEIPTS					
1952					
£	£		£	s.	d.
		To THE 'IBIS'.			
		Sales and Subscriptions .....	760	9	9
		Advertisements .....	94	10	0
		Plates .....	60	0	0
		Separates .....	30	18	0
757					945 17 9
		„ MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS.			
1807		Current .....	1952	17	8
42		Arrears .....	67	7	10
60		In advance .....	61	3	4
		Income Tax recovered on Covenanted Subscriptions received during the year to 5th April, 1953	420	16	5
2207	298				2502 5 3
		„ LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND.			
		Compounded Subscriptions ( <i>per contra</i> ) .....			97 5 4
		„ INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS (gross).			
		GENERAL RESERVE FUND.			
	5	Investments .....	6	2	6
	17	National Savings Certificates .....	16	13	4
22 (gross)			22	15	10
45 (net)		„ SPECIAL RESERVE FUND. ....	89	10	0
27 (net)		„ LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND.....	47	7	7
					159 13 5
		„ RECOVERY OF INCOME TAX deducted from income of Special Reserve Fund and Life Membership Fund in respect of 1952 .....			
71					30 7 11
		„ CHECK LIST.			
		Sales .....			239 11 1
		„ MISCELLANEOUS.			
		Sale of Typewriter .....	9	0	0
		Surplus on Redemption of Defence Bonds .....	1	12	6
		Donation.....	3	0	0
					13 12 6
		„ TRANSFER FROM GENERAL RESERVE FUND to cover cost of the production of the 'Check List' .....			- - -
236					
<u>£3365</u>			<u>£3988 13 3</u>		

## ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1953.

		PAYMENTS					
1952							
£	£					£	s. d.
		By THE 'IBIS'.				£	s. d.
130		Paper .....	284	17	2		
1572		Printing and Binding .....	1638	17	7		
77		Illustrations .....	148	6	8		
118		Reprints .....	122	18	6		
26		Compiling Index .....	40	12	5		
120		Honorarium to Editor .....	120	0	0		
43		Editor's Expenses .....	20	0	0		
14		Editor's Postage .....	17	5	6		
—		Honorarium to Assistant Editor ...	75	0	0		
53		Distribution .....	105	0	0		
1		Insurance of Stock .....	7	7	6		
31		Removal Expenses of Stock .....	—	—	—		
—		Purchase of Back Numbers .....	163	15	0		
2185	—					2744	0 4
		„ LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND.					
—		Compounded Subscriptions ( <i>per contra</i> ) transferred to Balance Sheet .....				97	5 4
		„ ADMINISTRATION.					
		Clerical Assistance :					
179		Secretary .....	209	18	10		
10		List Sub-Committee .....	—	—	—		
107		Printing and Stationery .....	163	3	8		
50		Postage and Telephone .....	54	17	11		
4		Postage, List Sub-Committee .....	—	—	—		
22		Sundries .....	10	1	3		
13		Audit Fee .....	12	12	0		
16		Expenses of Meetings .....	4	17	0		
3		Trust Expenses .....	2	1	6		
40		Addressograph—cost of purchase ...	—	—	—		
—		Typewriter—cost of purchase .....	28	10	0		
444	—					486	2 2
		„ MISCELLANEOUS.					
36		Donations and Subscriptions .....				56	10 2
		„ CHECK LIST.					
		Repayment to General Reserve Fund, being cost of production incurred in 1952 .....	236	9	0		
		Type Rental .....	7	3	9		
						243	12 9
464		„ BALANCE, being excess of Receipts over Payments for the year .....				361	2 8
£3365						£3988 13 3	

*Balance Sheet,*

LIABILITIES						
1952			£	s. d.	£	s. d.
£	£					
		GENERAL FUND.				
	1975	Balance at 1st January, 1953 .....	2202	12 10		
		Add: Repayment from Receipts and Payments Account, being the cost of production of the 'Check List' in 1952.....	236	9 0		
	-236	Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year 1953, including subscriptions received in arrear and in advance, per the attached Account .....	361	2 8		
	464				2800	4 6
2203		SPECIAL RESERVE FUND.				
		(The capital of this Fund may be employed with the approval of two-thirds of the members present at a General Meeting. The income is General Revenue.)				
	2415	Balance at 1st January, 1953 .....	2425	5 7		
	10	Add: Amount transferred from Life Membership Fund .....	10	0 0		
2425					2435	5 7
		LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND.				
		(The capital of this Fund may not be used. The income is General Revenue.)				
	1447	Balance at 1st January, 1953 .....	1437	10 0		
	—	Add: Compounded subscriptions received during the year 1953 ....	97	5 4		
	1447		1534	15 4		
		Deduct: Amount transferred to Special Reserve Fund under Rule 9, being composition fee of member who died during the year .....	10	0 0		
	10				1524	15 4
1437						
		Note: There are unvalued assets which are not included in the above Balance Sheet, as follows:—				
		(i) Stock of the 'Ibis'.				
		(ii) Stock of the 'Check List'.				
		(iii) Office Equipment and Medal Dies.				
		LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON, <i>President</i> } On behalf of				
		C. W. M.-PRAED, <i>Hon. Treasurer</i> } the Committee.				
£6065			£6760 5 5			

*Report of the Auditors to the Members*

We have audited the above Balance Sheet, dated 31st December, 1953, and the Union. In our opinion, such Balance Sheet correctly sets forth the state of the to us and as shown by the books of the Union.

3 Great Winchester Street, London, E.C. 2.

23rd February 1954

31st December, 1953.

		ASSETS					
1952							
£	£	£ s. d.			£	s. d.	
		GENERAL FUND ASSETS.					
175		£175 3% Defence Bonds, at cost . . . . .					
		500 Units National Savings Certifi- cates, cost £400. Value at 31st December, 1953 . . . . .					
717		733 6 8					
298		28 8 9					
		Westminster Bank Ltd. Current Account . . . . .					
1010		2132 12 11					
3		3 1 6					
		<hr/>					
2203		2897 9 10					
—		97 5 4					
2203		<hr/>					
		Less : Due to Life Membership Fund					
		<hr/>					
		2800 4 6					
		SPECIAL RESERVE FUND ASSETS.					
1098		£1150 3% Redemption Stock 1986/96, at cost . . . . .					
		1097 17 8					
430		£175 Barclays Bank Ltd. 'A' Stock, at cost . . . . .					
		430 6 4					
431		£500 Watney Combe Reid & Co. Ltd. 3½% Perp. 1st Deb. Stock, at cost					
		431 6 6					
459		£400 Courtaulds Ltd. 5% Cum. Pref. Stock, at cost . . . . .					
		459 4 6					
		<hr/>					
2418		(Market Value 31st December, 1953, £2146.)					
		2418 15 0					
7		Cash held by Trustees . . . . .					
		16 10 7					
2425		<hr/>					
		2435 5 7					
		LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND ASSETS.					
763		£800 3% Redemption Stock 1986/96, at cost . . . . .					
		763 4 8					
325		£325 3½% Defence Bonds, at cost ..					
		325 0 0					
352		£430 3% Savings Bonds 1965/75, at cost . . . . .					
		352 3 3					
		<hr/>					
1440		(Market value 31st December, 1953, £1390.)					
		1440 7 11					
3		Deduct : Cash overdrawn on Trustees Account . . . . .					
		12 17 11					
		<hr/>					
1437		1427 10 0					
—		97 5 4					
1437		<hr/>					
		Add : Due from General Fund ....					
		<hr/>					
		1524 15 4					
		<hr/>					
£6065							
		<hr/>					
		£6760 5 5					

The membership of the Union is given below in comparison with previous years :—

	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
Ordinary Members	799	767	725	701	668	652
Honorary „	13	13	13	13	7	7
Corresponding „	27	28	28	28	25	25

Although these figures show steady progress, the attention of members is drawn to the desirability for continued growth of the Union if subscriptions are to be kept down to their present level in the face of rising costs of printing and overheads. The Committee is always glad to consider the election of suitable candidates sponsored by members, and it is hoped that a notable increase in membership may be effected in 1954.

---

## XI<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS.

The XI<sup>th</sup> International Ornithological Congress, held at Basle, from 29 May to 5 June, was attended by six hundred members, a record number, from thirty-seven nations. Great Britain provided 98 members, other large groups coming from Germany (148), Switzerland (92), the United States (50) and France (34).

The British Ornithologists' Union was officially represented by Mr. R. E. Moreau and Mr. Guy Mountfort.

Meetings took place in the spacious University of Basle, where admirable arrangements had been made to permit as many as four different sessions to be held simultaneously in the same building in complete comfort. Great credit was reflected on Professor Adolf Portmann, General Secretary of the Congress, and on the Executive Committees, for the faultless efficiency of the organization of the many meetings, exhibitions and excursions. Fair weather, beautiful surroundings and traditional Swiss hospitality, combined to provide a memorable occasion.

Sir Landsborough Thomson, in his Presidential address, described the important contribution ornithology had made to various branches of biological knowledge, citing systematics and behaviour as examples. Dr. Corti and M. Paul G  routet appropriately opened the long series of papers with excellent reviews of the history and present distribution of the birds of Switzerland.

Major sessions were devoted to symposia on visible migration, hearing and voice, biology of penguins, and to an exceptionally fine series of films.

Sectional meetings embraced such subjects as evolution, systematics, biology, behaviour, ecology, faunistics, anatomy, palaeontology and nomenclature. A special session was devoted to flycatchers.

It would be invidious to single out papers for particular mention in this brief report, but it was evident that great progress has been made in all branches of ornithology since the last Congress. Papers will be published in extenso in the Proceedings of the Congress at a later date.

Considerable interest and satisfaction were aroused by the unexpected attendance of four distinguished ornithologists from the U.S.S.R., Professors Dementiev, Ivanov, Roustamov and Judin, who contributed papers on the avifauna of the Soviet Union and exhibited a collection of recent publications. A recent survey has shown that there are now 693 breeding species within the area of the U.S.S.R. A number of books and separates were afterwards presented to the Hon. Secretary of the B.O.U. by Professor Ivanov and will be reviewed in a later issue of 'The Ibis'.



In the course of the Congress excursions were arranged to Mt. Pilatus and Lake Lucerne and through the Swiss Jura to Berne and Neuchâtel, where members had opportunities to enjoy the matchless scenery and flora of Switzerland and to see something of the variety of species of birds inhabiting the mountains and lakes. Capable guides from the Swiss ornithological societies conducted the excursions and dealt manfully with multi-lingual interrogation.

Supplementary early morning excursions in the neighbourhood of Basle were well attended and at least one member was able to boast of having seen seven species of woodpeckers within ten miles of the City. Other excursions to the Upper Valais, Geneva, South Tessin, Lake Constance, the Bernese Oberland, Upper and Lower Wallis and the Swiss National Park in the Lower Engadine, took place before and after the main programme of the Congress.

On Friday, 4 June, members were entertained by the Government of Basle at a dinner in the Congress Hall of the Mustermesse. Dinner was followed by a delightful demonstration of folk songs and music by a talented team in traditional costumes.

Exhibitions visited during the Congress included the Museum of Natural History and Ethnology, the Zoological Gardens and collections of ornithological literature, optical equipment and contemporary paintings of birds at Basle, and the Natural History Museum and bibliographical exhibit at Berne.

In his final speech closing the Congress, Sir Landsborough Thomson announced that it had been decided to accept the invitation of Finland to hold the XIIth International Ornithological Congress in that country in 1958 and that Professor J. Berlioz of France had been elected as the new President.

---

## CURRENT NOTES AND NOTICES.

### ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING.

The Annual Scientific Meeting of the Union will be held on Tuesday, 19 October at the British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7, at 6.0 p.m. The speaker will be Mr. H. N. Southern, whose paper will be on the subject of the Tawny Owl.

A dinner will be held afterwards at the Rembrandt Hotel jointly with the B.O.C., which will be followed by a meeting, details of which will be announced later.

---

### ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS.

Members are urged to read the notice convening meetings and, where a dinner is concerned, to inform the Secretary of their intention to be present. As the Union grows in numbers, the problem of seating accommodation becomes increasingly acute. Numerous instances have occurred at recent meetings at which members who have not notified the Secretary by the date requested of their intention to be present have had to be turned away. This circumstance is much regretted but can be avoided if members will co-operate.