

AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Founded 1883

Incorporated 1888

T. S. PALMER, Secretary

1939 Biltmore St., N. W.

Washington, D. C.

November 16, 1921.

Mr. Robert Ridgway,
1030 South Morgan St.,
Olney, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Ridgway:

I have the honor to advise you that at the Thirty-ninth Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union held in Philadelphia, Pa., November 7, 1921, by vote of the Council you were awarded the

BREWSTER MEMORIAL MEDAL

in recognition of your work on the Birds of North and Middle America, volume 8 of which work was, in the judgment of the Council, considered to be "the most important work relating in whole or in part to the birds of the western hemisphere" published during the past two years.

Recipients of the medal have the privilege of receiving a bronze or gold medal and the balance of the income of the Brewster Memorial Fund as an honorarium. If you will indicate your preference in the matter, instructions will be given at once for the preparation of the medal in order that it may be delivered at an early date.

Very cordially yours,

T. S. Palmer.

Secretary.

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1939 Biltmore St., N. W.

Washington, D. C.

November 23, 1921.

Mr. Robert Ridgway,
1030 South Morgan Street,
Olney, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Ridgway:

I am in receipt of your letter of November 20 in regard to the Brewster Memorial Medal and note your preference for a bronze medal. I have asked Dr. Dwight to attend to the details of having the medal struck in bronze and I hope that the work can be done and the medal forwarded at an early date.

Very cordially yours,

T. S. Palmer.

Secretary.

AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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T. S. PALMER, Secretary

1939 Biltmore St., N. W.

Washington, D. C.

December 8, 1920.

Mr. Robert Ridgway,
1030 S. Morgan St.,
Olney, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Ridgway:

At the meeting of the Council of the American Ornithologists' Union held on November 8, the Secretary was instructed to communicate with you and transmit the greetings of the Council. Since this meeting so many matters have demanded attention that it has been impossible to perform all the duties entrusted to the Secretary. I now take pleasure, however, not only in extending the greetings of the Council, but of adding their best wishes for your health and success during the coming year.

I am sure you would have been interested in the meeting and particularly in the exhibit of paintings and drawings of birds by American artists which was arranged in the Library of Congress and of which certain selected drawings of yours formed an important part. Each exhibitor was limited to six paintings or photographs and in all there were nearly 50 contributors, equally divided between artists and photographers. With this exhibit was installed a brief series showing the progress of illustration in birds from the earliest times down to date and this was supplemented by two special series of illustrations of the Great Auk and the American Eagle. The meeting was one of the most largely attended ever held in the history of the Union and as shown by the program enclosed herewith nearly 40 papers were presented.

With best wishes for the early completion of the next volume of Birds of North and Middle America, I remain,

Very cordially yours,

T. S. Palmer

Secretary.

To the members of the Committee on classification and nomenclature of North American Birds:

At the recent meeting of the A. O. U. our Committee was authorized to cooperate with a committee of the B. O. U. in the preparation of a proposed series of check lists of the birds of the world to be known as the "Systema Avium".

This increased responsibility and the opportunity for a renewal of activity offered by the closing of the war, make it desirable to consider the plan of work to be followed and the organization of our Committee.

At a meeting held in 1914 it was decided to organize as two sub-committees on ornithology and nomenclature respectively. Dr. F. M. Chapman was chosen chairman of the former sub-committee and of the committee as a whole and Drs. Stone and Richmond were chosen chairman and secretary of the latter sub-committee. Subsequently, Dr. Chapman resigned before any plan of work had been considered and Pres. Fisher appointed Dr. Stone acting chairman of the whole committee.

As the result of a vote on a proposed plan of work submitted to the members by mail the following resolutions were adopted.

(1). That questions of nomenclature should be drawn up and submitted to the members of the sub-committee on nomenclature by mail and that they should register their votes upon them.

(2). That an annual list of proposed changes in the Check-List involving questions of ornithology should be drawn up and published in "The Auk" and that further discussion of them should be solicited.

It was the general opinion that meetings of the committee such as were formerly held for deciding these cases were no longer feasible; that members had not the time to prepare themselves in order to vote intelligently and that it was impossible to get more than a portion of the committee together. Final disposition of the listed cases it was thought could be better arranged for when a new edition of the Check-List was to be prepared.

Following this plan a number of nomenclature cases have been decided by the sub-committee on nomenclature and three annual lists of proposed changes have been published. Before proceeding further and submitting questions relative to the proposed "Systema Avium" to a mail vote, it is important that there should be an expression of opinion by each member of the committee on the appended questions.

Very truly yours,

William Stone
Acting Chairman Com. on Classification
and Nomenclature of N. A. Birds