

A Message from the President

by **E. Manley Callin**, Fort San, Sask.



E. M. Callin, President, Saskatchewan Natural History Society

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society, I take great pleasure in extending a warm and hearty welcome to all those who are attending the A.O.U. convention in Regina. Some of you are from other parts of Canada and some of you are neighbours from the south. Wherever your home, our doors are open and we hope that you will feel at home in Saskatchewan. May your stay be most pleasant. We have much in common with our sister provinces and with our great neighbour to the south and appreciation of our precious wildlife heritage is yet another area of common ground. Through the miracle of migration,

mother nature even makes it possible for us in the north to enjoy the very same birds that you enjoy in the south.

We feel greatly honoured that Saskatchewan has been chosen as the site of this convention. May we be excused in humbly accepting this as some measure of recognition of Saskatchewan's interest and progress in the field of natural history. It will most certainly provide us with additional inspiration and incentive for further progress.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Callin is in the process of preparing a check-list of the birds of the Qu'Appelle Valley, based on personal observations recorded over a period of 32 years in that area.

The American Ornithologists' Union

The American Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1883, is the leading ornithological organization in the Western Hemisphere. Its aim — the advancement of ornithological science — is effected through the programmes of its annual meetings (held in various parts of the United States and Canada), its publications,

and the activities of its committees and members.

The Union publishes a quarterly journal, **The Auk**, received without charge by all members. Each issue contains major articles on birds, shorter general notes, reviews of new books, and a survey of recent periodical literature. At intervals, a com-

mittee of the Union prepares the "A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds" (fifth edition, 1957), which sets the standard for scientific and English nomenclature of our birds and indicates their known ranges. Other recent publications include such books as "Fifty Years' Progress of American Ornithology" (1933) and "Recent Studies in Avian Biology" (1955). A multi-volume "Handbook of North American Birds" is now in preparation.

Membership in the Union is open to all interested persons. For significant contributions to ornithology or to the Union, members may be advanced to the class of Elective Members, or be honoured further by election to the small class of Fellows. Annual dues are \$5.00. On payment of \$100.00 (which may be effected in four equal annual instalments) one may become a Life Member exempt from all further dues. A Patron is a member who has given \$1,000 or more to further the activities of the Union. As of September 1958, the total membership of the Union was 2,652.

As most New World residents with a scientific interest in birds — whether as professionals or amateurs — are members of the Union, it is here feasible only to give brief sketches of the present officers and of the living past presidents. This throws some light on the activities of those currently most active in the Union's affairs.

PRESENT OFFICERS

President: Ernst Mayr is not only an ornithologist, but one of the world's leading biologists. His range of interest is vast; his knowledge encyclopaedic. He is Agassiz Professor at Harvard College. For many years, he was associated with the American Museum of Natural History, where he published numerous papers, chiefly on the birds of the South Pacific, especially New Guinea. His most famous work is the lucid and brilliant book, "Systematics on the Origin of Species," which played a major role in the general acceptance of what is often called the "new systematics." As author or co-author he has written popular handbooks, "Birds of the Southwest Pacific," and "Birds of the Philippines." Dr. Mayr was honored last year at London by election as Vice-President of

the International Zoological Congress. He will serve as president of the next International Ornithological Congress.

First Vice-President: George H. Lowery, Jr., professor of ornithology at Louisiana State University, is well-known for his work on migration, notably the organization of continent-wide observations of birds migrating across the face of the moon. His wide ornithological interests are indicated by his book, "The Birds of Louisiana," his papers on Mexican birds, and his membership on the A.O.U. Committee which produced the 1957 "Check-list of North American Birds." He is Chairman of the new A.O.U. committee on Classification and Nomenclature.

Second Vice-President: Dean Amadon is Chairman of the Bird Department of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Dr. Amadon has written papers on a variety of ornithological subjects, but his best known work is probably "The Hawaiian Honeycreepers." His administrative duties and time-consuming hospitality to students visiting the great bird collection in his charge have not prevented his acting as co-author of a popular work "Land Birds of America" and undertaking a new book on the raptors of the world. He was a member of the committee that produced the recent A.O.U. Check-list.

Secretary: Herbert G. Deignan is Associate Curator of Birds at the United States National Museum. He is regarded as an expert on the avifauna of Asia. Among his many works is "The Birds of Northern Thailand." Few ornithologists have his grasp of the intricacies of zoological nomenclature.

Treasurer: Charles G. Sibley is professor of ornithology at Cornell University. His major papers have been on towhees and on the significance of hybridization in speciation. Recently he has published studies on the use of electrophoretic tracings of egg-white proteins in determining the relationships of birds. He is at present in England preparing a book on avian biology.

Editor of 'The Auk': Eugene Eisenmann, a lawyer, is a Research Associate at the American Museum of Natural History. His major interest is indicated by "The Species of Middle American Birds," perhaps

explained by the fact of his birth in Panama. More local activities are suggested by his former presidency of the Linnaean Society of New York and the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs.

LIVING PAST PRESIDENTS

1926-1929: Alexander Wetmore, one of the world's most distinguished ornithologists, was until recently executive head of the Smithsonian Institution. He has been president of the International Ornithological Congress. Remarkably productive, he has written on almost every phase of ornithology, contributing popular as well as technical books and articles. As Chairman of the committee that produced the 1957 A.O.U. Check-list, he had major responsibility for that book. If any specialities can be singled out, they are classification, avian paleontology, and neotropical bird distribution. Currently, Dr. Wetmore has been working on the avifauna of Panama, where every year he spends months in the field.

1937-1939: Herbert Friedmann is Curator of Zoology at the United States National Museum. He early achieved fame for his book on "The Cowbirds," and has continued the study of parasitic birds with many papers, including a recent monograph "The Honey-guides." He was author or co-author of the last three published volumes of "The Birds of North and Middle America," and co-author of the "Distributional Check-list of the Birds of Mexico." He is an authority on bird iconography.

1939-1942: James P. Chapin is Associate Curator Emeritus of Birds in the American Museum of Natural History. Though he has published on many subjects, his chief fame comes from the monumental four volume "The Birds of the Belgian Congo." After his retirement, he returned to live and do further field work in the Belgian Congo. He is now back in New York with a view to working up his new data.

1945-1948: Hoyes Lloyd, long an official of the Wildlife Division of the Department of Resources and Development of Canada, has played a leading role in conservation activi-

ties not only in Canada but on the international scene. He has served as Chairman of the Canadian Section of the International Committee for Bird Preservation and as Vice-President of the International Committee.

1948-1950: Robert Cushman Murphy is Lamont Curator Emeritus and former Chairman of the Bird Department of the American Museum of Natural History. He is the world's leading specialist on sea birds. His great work is the fascinating two volume "Oceanic Birds of South America." Dr. Murphy writes with extraordinary colour and charm; he has published popular books on his travels and is co-author of "Land Birds of America." He has been president of the National Audubon Society.

1953-1956: Alden H. Miller is professor of zoology at the University of California and director of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. Perhaps his major contribution has been the training of ornithologists, not only as a university teacher but as editor of **The Condor**. Despite these duties, he continues much original research in the field as well as in the laboratory, currently on the factors controlling breeding cycles. Among his many important works are "Speciation in the Avian Genus **Junco**," "The Distribution of the Birds of California," and "Distributional Check-list of the Birds of Mexico," Part 2 (co-author and editor-in-chief). He served on the committee which produced the recent A.O.U. Check-list.

BIRDS OF THE SASKATCHEWAN RIVER

The Saskatchewan Natural History Society is pleased to announce the publication of **The Birds of the Saskatchewan River, Carlton to Cumberland**, by C. Stuart Houston and Maurice G. Street. This is the Society's Special Publication No. 2, following W. H. Beck's **Guide to Saskatchewan Mammals** (Spec. Publ. No. 1, S.N.H.S., 1958) which was printed last fall. Copies of **The Birds of the Saskatchewan River** are available at \$1.50 from E. L. Fox, 1053 Gladmer Park, Regina.