

## OUTLINE OF REPORT TO COUNCIL ON ATTENDANCE AT XIV INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS AND PRE-SESSIONAL SCOTTISH BIRD STUDY CRUISE, JULY, 1966

Following attendance at the 9th General Assembly of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature held in Lucerne, Switzerland, June 24th - July 3rd, I was able to join the Scottish cruise on 16th July. This was a most successful event, well organised by the Scottish committee, and conducted throughout with remarkable efficiency. A contributing factor to success was the fine weather experienced throughout; and the result was that some 900 participants were unanimous in their expressions of satisfaction.

The M.V. *Devonia* (12,000 tons) left Greenock at noon on 16th July, passing close to Ailsa Craig during the afternoon. On 17th all passengers were landed early in Loch Scoresort on the island of Rhum, and spent an interesting day, some climbing to the twin peaks of Askival and Hallevel to see high altitude nesting Manx Shearwaters. On the following day a running coastal survey was made of the remote outer isles of St. Kilda, the Flannans, Sula Sgeir, and North Rona. On 19th the ship worked close in to the coast of Shetland, from Foula, round Muckle Flugga and anchored at Lerwick in the evening. July 20th was spent ashore, one party of 250 landing on the isle of Noss which has a high concentration of breeding seabirds, including Great and Arctic Skuas. "*Devonia*" then sailed for Orkney via Fair Isle and another interesting day (21st) was spent ashore in the neighbourhood of Kirkwall. Next was a daylight run down the east coast of Scotland, close to the Isle of May and the Bass Rock before berthing at Leith late on 22nd. Passengers disembarked on 23rd for a day of hospitality and entertainment in Edinburgh before joining a night express for Oxford.

### OXFORD, 24th - 30th JULY, 1966

The Congress was well organised in the matter of accommodation and information services, with a centre at Rhodes House. Main excursions were as far afield as Slimbridge and Whipsnade, and included visits to the British Trust for Ornithology and the Edward Grey Institute. There were exhibitions of books, and of bird art, and a particularly varied programme of ornithological films. Ten New Zealand ornithologists participated, five travelling to Britain to attend and five being already working or studying there. My co-delegate will have reported on aspects of the programme. We all found the pressure of six concurrent sessions of papers frustrating, but the plenary sessions included some important topics.

The proposal for an agreed world list drafted by Dr. Lack was not adopted. The "Committee of 100," the continuing body held two meetings, filled vacancies, and accepted the invitation of Holland to meet there in 1970. The new president is Dr. N. Tinbergen, of Oxford, and the Secretary-General Dr. K. H. Voous.

— R.A.F.

The Fourteenth International Ornithological Congress was held at Oxford from 24th to 30th July. The President was Dr. D. Lack, Oxford, and the Secretary-General Dr. N. Tinbergen.

The Congress Office at Rhodes House opened for registration on Sunday, 24th July, at 11 a.m., and every participating member at registration received a folder containing information on his (or her) accommodation, Congress programmes and all the relevant information leaflets, guides, etc.

Accommodation for most of the over 900 participants was provided at several university colleges throughout the city, and Rhodes House was open every day for social gatherings and provided a good centre for informal contacts with other participants. Accommodation allocated to me was at Jesus College, where I made myself at home for the week during the early afternoon on Sunday, and was able to study all the important literature obtained in a relatively comfortable and quiet atmosphere.

The official opening of the Congress took place on Sunday at 8.15 p.m. in the Sheldonian Theatre.

Plenary sessions of the Congress, at which four important papers were given each time, were held every day of the week, except on Wednesday, when all day excursions were organised for members.

Every afternoon except again for Wednesday, five sectional meetings were held simultaneously in different lecture rooms in the University science area. At each of these sectional meetings five papers were read every day.

I attended all plenary sessions, and tried to attend as many of the afternoon sessions as possible, especially those at which papers dealing either with pelagic birds or of special interest to the South West Pacific Region and the Antarctic were read. Unfortunately several interesting sessions had to be missed because of the fact that five separate sectional meetings were going on simultaneously, and often times at which papers of special interest were read coincided with each other.

In addition to the meetings mentioned above, specialists' and committee meetings were organised in the late afternoons following and in addition to the official programme. Of these I attended the following:

- (a) 24th July: Meeting on seabird research
- (b) 26th July: International bird ringing committee.
- (c) 28th July: Proposal by Dr. D. Lack for an internationally agreed world list of birds.
- (d) 28th July: International Antarctic Bird Banding Committee.

Every evening of the week, except on Saturday, two film sessions, one in a city cinema and the other in the University Museum, were held simultaneously at which many excellent bird films were shown.

The most outstanding lectures attended were the following:

- E. Stresemann, Evolutionary problems offered by the mode of wingmoult.
- G. Zink, Population dynamics of the White Stork.
- D. B. Wingate, Conservation of the Bermuda Petrel.

Whenever time permitted every effort was made to meet as many overseas ornithologists as possible, with many of whom problems of mutual interest were discussed. With others, working in similar positions to my own at overseas museums, experiences were exchanged and numerous useful contacts were established which will be followed up in the future. The most important contacts in this respect were made with Dr. R. D. Etchecopar, Dr. J. Dorst and Dr. J. Prevost of the Natural History Museum, Paris; Mr. H. J. Disney, Australian Museum, Sydney; Mr. A. McEvey, Melbourne; Dr. G. Neithammer, Bonn; Prof. K. Voous, Rotterdam, and Dr. G. Watson and Dr. P. S. Humphrey of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington.

I was unfortunately unable to participate in any of the organised excursions on Wednesday, 27th July, as this was the only day I was able to arrange a meeting with Dr. J. Prevost, France, Mr. W. L. Tickell, England, and Dr. W. L. Sladen, U.S.A., at which useful discussions were held on Antarctic research in general, and on a planned joint publication with Dr. Sladen in particular.

Very useful discussions were also held with Dr. W. Ryzdewski, the editor of the international bird banding magazine, "The Ring," and with Mr. K. Ohman, our bird band manufacturer in Bankeryd, Sweden.

At the last plenary session on Saturday morning it was announced that the next (XV) International Ornithological Congress will be held in Holland in 1970, and the Congress ended with the now traditional garden party in the grounds of Trinity College on Saturday afternoon.

My attendance at the Congress was not only an unforgettable experience for me, but, and this is probably the main object of any such conference, provided the opportunity of meeting and establishing personal contacts with top ranking ornithologists of the world, which should prove of great benefit for the Dominion Museum.

— F.C.K.



#### INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR THE STUDY OF ENERGY FLOW THROUGH SPARROW POPULATIONS

A special meeting was held on 27th July, 1966, at the XIV International Ornithological Congress, to organize international co-operation in the study of geographic and climatic variations in the morphological, physiological and ecological adaptations of the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and Tree Sparrow (*P. montanus*) throughout the world. Special attention will be paid to the measurement of energy flow through sparrow populations and the economic meaning in various regions in connection with the International Biological Programme.

Correspondence from persons interested in the project will be welcomed.

International Biological Programme  
Warszawa, Nowy Swiat 72, Poland.

10/10/66.

Chairman of Committee  
Dr. Jan Pinowski