

Introduction to plenary papers

A central feature of the scientific programs of international ornithological congresses is a series of plenary lectures, which include the Presidential Address. The 2nd Congress in 1890 in Budapest contained several major addresses by well-known ornithologists such as J. A. Palmèn, A. Newton, R. B. Sharpe and M. Fürbringer. The tradition of the Presidential Address began at the 4th Congress in London in 1905 when R. Bowdler Sharpe presented a detailed history of the bird collections in the British Museum. From that time, all ornithological congresses have begun with the Presidential Address immediately following the Opening Session, the Beijing Congress being the one exception because Professor Bock had lost part of his voice due to a paralyzed left vocal chord (resulting from an operation at the end of April, 2002; he can talk normally now); his written address is included herein.

It has been a tradition for plenary lectures to provide overviews of major advances in the research fields of the lecturers chosen: Heinroth on the ethology of ducks and Lucanus on avian physiology at the 5th Congress; Lambrecht on avian paleornithology and Dunker on avian genetics at the 7th; Meise reviewing progress in systematics and Nice on the life history of the Song Sparrow at the 8th; and Mayr on avian speciation, Dorst on migration, Tinbergen on behavior and Lack on ecology at the 10th. Presidential addresses, in addition, sometimes reviewed historical aspects of ornithology, such as the contribution of amateurs in biology, the role of museum development and, as at the 23rd Congress, histories of the international ornithological congresses themselves.

Most plenary lectures have been published in the Proceedings of congresses, together with presidential addresses, and for the 1994 and 1998 congresses also separately as an issue of a major international journal to increase circulation. So we are pleased that the plenary lectures from the 23rd Ornithological Congress in Beijing, 2002, will be published in a separate issue of *Acta Zoologica Sinica*. Unfortu-

nately, one lecturer at Beijing, Roberto Cavalcanti (Brazil, Bird Conservation in South America), did not provide a manuscript of his talk. Henri Weimerskirch's paper on seabird ecology was submitted too late and just as an enlarged abstract. Due to the editorial policy of *Acta Zoologica Sinica*, it will now be published among the general records of the Proceedings, together with the RTDs and symposia. The other papers provide a diverse picture of current research topics in avian biology.

An additional plenary event was held for the first time at the Beijing Congress: a Presidential Debate. Two eminent protagonists were asked to present their cases for opposing views on an important topic in avian biology, in this case the origin of birds from reptilian ancestors. The two papers, from Larry D. Martin (An early archosaurian origin for birds) and Paul Sereno (Birds as dinosaurs), provide divergent interpretations on the evolutionary origin of birds, together with a wealth of citations from this vast literature. While neither author may convince a majority of ornithologists, we feel that these two presentations will provide much material for further thought on what is a core issue in avian biology.

We wish to thank all of the plenary speakers for their efforts in contributing to this volume, as well as the members of the Chinese Local Committee and the editors of *Acta Zoologica Sinica* for their assistance in organizing the Congress and publishing this volume. And through it we trust that all readers will discover many new and fascinating aspects of biology in the discipline that binds us together, ornithology.

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Presidential address: three centuries of international ornithology

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Abstract Science is always claimed to be international; and perhaps the best way to achieve that goal is through international meetings in which individuals attending have the opportunity to meet many others. But international congresses in science were slow in starting, and the 1st International Ornithological Congress in 1884 was one of the earliest of them. Fittingly, this Congress started because of a problem in avian biology that was in itself without borders, namely avian migration. One of the most fascinating aspects of avian biology is the annual north/south movement of many species of birds, about which little was known in the late 19th century. In multi-country Europe, the study of avian migration obviously had to be an international effort. Rudolf Blasius and Gustav von Hayek developed a grand plan for a multi-nation program on avian migration in Europe, obtained the support of Crown Prince Rudolf of Austria-Hungary, and announced the 1st International Congress of Ornithology in Vienna, April 1884 which was dedicated largely to migration studies. An elaborate scheme was established to collect and publish migration data from Europe which subsequently collapsed under a great mass of unanalyzed data in the 1890s.

The 2nd Congress in Budapest in 1891 was also devoted largely to avian migration, but had expanded to other areas of avian biology such as a major summary of avian classification contributed by R. B. Sharpe. The 3rd Congress in Paris in 1900 covered the gamut of ornithological research, its scope followed in London, 1905 and Berlin, 1910, where the next congress, set for Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, in 1915, became prophetic for the oncoming First World War. E. Hartert was largely responsible for re-establishing the congress in Copenhagen in 1926, with future ones set at every four years. The *Règlement des Congrès Ornithologiques Internationaux*, adopted in 1932, was only published at the Rouen Congress, 1938, formalizing the operation of the International Ornithological Committee. World events again interfered with the 1942 Congress scheduled for the USA, and the next congress to be held was in Uppsala in 1950.

The first non-European congress was held at Ithaca, New York, in 1962, and the first for the southern hemisphere was in Canberra in 1974. Modern congresses started with Berlin, 1978 where Donald Farner established the first International Scientific Program Committee, and formulated a new organizational Statutes and By-laws to replace the *Règlement*. A pattern of plenary lectures, symposia, contributed papers and round table discussions was established there too. By 1986 it became clear that the tasks of the Secretary-General had become too great for one person, and that more organizational continuity was needed in the IOC, leading to the creation of the position of a Permanent Secretary at the Ottawa Congress.

Ornithological congresses have continued to increase in size and complexity, and most importantly in cost to members, making it difficult for many interested ornithologists to attend. So the future of such congresses as a primary means of international contact among ornithologists is no longer entirely clear, and much effort needs to go into solving major organizational and programming problems so that ornithologists can look forward to another century of these valuable and pleasant meetings [*Acta Zoologica Sinica* 50 (6): 880-912, 2004].

主席致辞：国际鸟类学的三个世纪

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摘 要 科学需要国际交流, 国际会议也许是国际交流和认识其他同行的最好方法。然而, 国际科学会议起步较晚, 于 1884 年举办的第一届国际鸟类学大会即是最早的国际科学会议之一。召开那次国际会议的起因是探讨鸟类生物学中一个超越国界的自然现象, 即鸟类的迁徙。许多鸟类每年一次的南北迁移运动是鸟类生物学中最具魅力的问题之一, 但 19 世纪的人们对鸟类的迁徙了解甚少。在由多国组成的欧洲, 如果研究鸟类迁徙则必须进行国际合作。Rudolf Blasius 和 Gustav von Hayek 制定了一个欧洲多国合作研究鸟类迁徙的宏伟计划, 并得到了匈牙利-奥地利王储的支持。与此同时, 二人发表了一项公告: 于 1884 年 4 月在维也纳召开第一届世界鸟类学大会, 会议主题是鸟类迁徙。会议制定了详细的收集和出版鸟类迁徙资料的方案。在 19 世纪 90 年代, 由于大量

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的数据没有分析,因而这项计划被迫终止。

第二届世界鸟类学大会于 1891 年在布达佩斯举行。会议的主题仍然是鸟类迁徙,但增加了鸟类生物学中其它方面的议题,包括对 R. B. Sharpe 鸟类分类系统的总结。第三届世界鸟类学大会于 1900 年在巴黎举行,会议内容涉及到鸟类学研究的各个领域,随后,世界鸟类学大会于 1905 年在伦敦举行,于 1910 年在柏林举行。在第一次世界大战前夕,于 1915 年在南斯拉夫的萨拉热窝举行了第六届世界鸟类学大会。第一次世界大战后,在 E. Hartert 的积极倡导和努力下,世界鸟类学大会于 1926 年在哥本哈根再次组建,提议将来每四年举行一次世界鸟类学大会。“国际鸟类学会议准则”于 1932 年被采纳,并在里昂会议上公布,1938 年世界鸟类学大会执行委员会正式成立。然而,世界大战再次干扰了计划于 1942 年在美国和 1950 年在乌普萨拉召开的世界鸟类学大会。

第一次欧洲以外区域的世界鸟类学大会于 1962 年在纽约的伊萨卡举行,1974 年首次在南半球的堪培拉举行世界鸟类学大会。现代世界鸟类学大会始于 1978 年的柏林会议,在这次会议上,Donald Farner 建立了第一个国际科学会议程序委员会,拟定了新的组织原则,运用议事程序代替了 *Règlement*; 并在这次会议上规定了全体会议、座谈会、会议论文和分组讨论等模式化会议程序。在 1986 年的渥太华世界鸟类学大会上,组委会意识到大会秘书长的任务量太大,另外大会需要更多的组织性和连贯性,因此大会开始聘任专职秘书。

世界鸟类学大会规模和复杂性不断增加,特别是与会人员的费用也与日俱增,这使一些鸟类学家难以参加会议。因此,将来国际会议是否是鸟类学家交流的基本方式不再十分明了,我们需要投入更大的努力去解决组织和程序问题,使鸟类学家们在另一个世纪期待到既有价值又令人愉快的国际会议 [动物学报 50 (6): 880 - 912, 2004]。

1 Introduction

Although the 21st century has just begun, now the third for International Ornithological Congresses, the history of the activities of those congresses since their founding in 1884 has been fragmentary. Erwin Stresemann (1938), in his presidential address to the 8th Congress, presented a history of what had happened before and provided some brief comments on the founding actions. But there has been almost no further discussion; and such analyses are difficult because of the absence of archival material and problems in obtaining complete sets of congress proceedings. Even when all proceedings are collated, a historical review is difficult because of a frequent lack of comments on decisions reached in official reports. As I progressed with the analysis and drafting of this history, it became ever clearer that much needed information in published proceedings was often inadequate, if not missing altogether. So considerable 'reading-between-the-lines' was required in putting together this account, as well as the recall of personal memories back to the 13th Congress in 1962.

The lack of a history of the international ornithological congresses has been most unfortunate because they are one of the earliest of world-wide international scientific meetings still operative. In this review, I will deal essentially with the history of the congresses themselves, without paying much attention to details of presented papers and the trends generated. After careful consideration, I chose to present this history congress by congress, despite the dullness from necessary repetition. Congresses are known by the name of

the city in which they are held; hence the 1974 Congress is the 16th or Canberra Congress, not the Australian Congress. A list of the congresses, the major officers, and citations to the proceedings is added in an appendix. The abbreviation IOC is properly used, as here, for the International Ornithological Committee, not for the International Ornithological Congress. In recent years some workers have gotten around this confusion by using the terms IOCommittee and IOCongress.

In the mid-1980's an archive was established for the papers of the International Ornithological Committee, its congresses, and its standing committees at the Smithsonian Archives of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., USA. Although the existence of the IOC archive has been published in the reports of several successive congresses, wherein congress members have been urged to deposit papers relating to their work at different congresses, few such papers have been deposited. Most archivists and historians of science argue that it is best to keep all of the papers of a person together in a single archive which makes it most difficult to gather the papers of an organization such as the IOC and its congresses into a single location. Consequently, the papers of past congress Presidents and Secretaries-General, if available, have been scattered in archives all over the world. No attempt has yet been made to locate such papers, so that at this time it is impossible to know, in any comprehensive way, what materials are available on which to analyze the history of the IOC and its congresses. I strongly urge members of past and future congresses to either deposit their papers in the

IOC archives, or to inform the person responsible for the IOC Archive at the Smithsonian Institute of the location of the papers of congress officers and members. Ornithologists should consult Gephardt (1964 and supplements) for information on many of the central European ornithologists, now little known to present-day workers.

I will not comment here on the Ladies' (= accompanying member) Program and very little on congress excursions. Both have been standard components of all congresses ever since the 2nd Congress in Budapest. Moreover, I will omit discussion of most of the resolutions passed by the congresses.

2 The beginning—the 1st Congress, Vienna, 7 – 11 May 1884

Of all groups of organisms, birds are special in that a large number of species migrate annually between their breeding and non-breeding areas. Only a few other animals, such as whales, pinnipeds, some bats and a few insects (such as the Monarch Butterfly of North America) make such movements as part of their life cycle. Migratory birds are especially characteristic of those regions where modern ornithology developed; and early in the second half of the 19th century a number of ornithologists in Europe and North America turned their attention to this central aspect in the life of birds. At this time inquiries centered on the migration routes of species, such as whether the spring and autumn routes were the same (see Stresemann, 1951; 1975: 332 – 338). Work progressed much faster in North America (Rowan, 1933) because most of the work could be accomplished in the United States under the auspices of US federal agencies and the newly established American Ornithologists' Union. In Europe the problem was far more difficult because of a complex geomorphology and the diversity of countries in which recordings had to be made; more than individual cooperation was required. This led to the formation, in 1875, of an overseeing committee in Germany, followed in 1877 by similar ones in the United Kingdom and Austria-Hungary (Stresemann, 1975).

Out of this, Rudolf Blasius (Brunswick) and Gustav von Hayek (Vienna) conceived a grander scheme for organizing broad international cooperation in migration studies, and pushed for an international meeting to discuss it. Crown Prince Rudolf of the Austro-Hungarian Empire (who was fascinated with ornithology and hunting since childhood) approved the plan which led to the announcement of the first International Ornithological Congress in Vienna in April 1884. Prince Rudolf was the patron of the 1st Congress. This meeting was predominantly a European one; ornithologists mainly from Austria and

Germany attended, with only a scattering from other European countries, and none from Hungary, the United Kingdom or North America. Fortunately this first international meeting of about 150 delegates was called the "International Ornithological Congress" and not the "European Ornithological Congress", even though that is what it really was; hence our birth date is 7 April 1884. The International Ornithological Congress was the first such meeting in the biological sciences (and possibly all sciences), and preceded the first International Zoological Congress (1889) by 5 years and first International Entomological Congress (1910) by 26 years. At the opening of the 1st Congress, Dr. Gustav F. R. Radde (Tbilisi [= Tiflis], Georgia) was elected President, and Dr. Gustav von Hayek (Vienna) Secretary. A Permanent International Ornithological Committee (PIOC) was established with 130 members.

Discussions at the 1st Congress fell under three topics: (a) recommendations for international conservation laws; (b) the history of domestic fowl; and (c) establishment of bird observation stations worldwide, the last being the most important to members of the Congress. Emphasis was placed on the establishment of avian observation stations to record the migration of birds in different parts of Europe, as well as on the publication of the results (see Blasius and Hayek, 1885; Merrian, 1885). It is unclear from the Congress reports whether papers on other subjects of avian biology were presented. A journal, *Ornis* (14 volumes published, 1885 – 1907) was established for this purpose, with the long-term object of understanding the routes and timing of bird migration in Europe. Unfortunately, no system was established for analyzing the data, and the project eventually collapsed in the early 1890's under the weight of the disordered mass of information (Stresemann, 1975: 334 – 335). Even so, this initial push by the 1st International Ornithological Congress led to the establishment of a number of bird stations in Europe and to a great interest by European ornithologists in all aspects of avian migration, a preoccupation that has continued to this day (Bock, 2001: 101 – 103).

3 The next step—the 2nd Congress, Budapest, 17 – 20 May 1891

The decision was reached at the Vienna Congress to hold congresses every four years; and so the next congress was voted for Budapest in 1888 under the presidency of Otto Herman (Hungary). The congress thus remained in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, under the continued patronage of Crown Prince Rudolf, but was postponed to 1889, and was delayed further by the unfortunate death of Crown Prince Rudolf in January 1889. At the urging of Victor Fatio

(Switzerland), the 2nd Congress finally opened on 17 May 1891 at the National Museum of Hungary. Considerable effort went into inviting ornithologists from many countries; hence the Budapest meeting moved quite far toward the format of an international congress as we know it today, with members from more countries, including Louis Bishop and Arthur Chadbourne from New York, United States, and several ornithologists, including R. Bowler Sharpe and Philip Lutley Sclater, from the United Kingdom. A rather full program of contributed papers was offered, as well as a series of major lectures by well-known ornithologists such as R. B. Sharpe, M. Fürbringer, J. A. Palmén and A. Newton. Those by Sharpe (1891) and Fürbringer (1891) were published as separate monographs, the former independent of the congress proceedings while that of Fürbringer (who could not attend at the last minute because of serious illness of his son) was issued as an integral part of the Proceedings.

As usual in early congresses, the election of officers was held at the meeting. Professor Victor Fatio and Dr. Otto Herman were elected as Co-Presidents and Dr. Geza von Horváth (Hungary) as Secretary-General. Somehow in the proceedings of later congresses, the existence of a Secretary-General for the 2nd Congress has been overlooked, and it is time to give Dr. Horváth his proper due. It should be noted that the position of the Secretary-General (sometimes simply listed as Secretary) in the early congresses differed from its role in post-World War II congresses in which the Secretary-General was responsible for all aspects of organizing and running the congress and for publishing the proceedings. In earlier congresses, the duties of the Secretary-General are not very clear, and may not have involved much more than editing congress proceedings. Early congresses were also served by a *Schriftführer*, in the sense of Recording Secretary; this position differs from that of Secretary-General insofar as the *Schriftführer* records the actual proceedings of the meeting, as still done today at the annual meetings of the Deutschen Ornithologen-Gesellschaft. The change from the earlier role of the Secretary-General may have begun at the 6th Congress in Copenhagen, 1926, but it appears to have been completed only from the 9th Congress in Rouen, 1938. Since World War II, the Secretary-General has been responsible for the organization and running of the congress and for the publication of proceedings.

Most interesting at the 2nd Congress was the election of S. de Xántus as Sergeant-at-Arms—an event unique for international ornithological congresses. It is difficult to understand why such an official would be needed at a scientific meeting, although

there have been instances at congresses when a Sergeant-at-Arms would have been useful. I can recall one at the 1978 Congress in Berlin, where a Sergeant-at-Arms might have been needed had not an overly crowded lecture hall kept the two adversaries apart. And possibly with some of the strong differences of opinion at the 2nd Congress on the organization and future of congresses, a Sergeant-at-Arms might definitely have been needed. Thirty Honorary Members of the Congress, headed by Fürsten [Prince] Ferdinand of Bulgaria, were also elected. Prince and later King Ferdinand of Bulgaria (and following his abdication in favor of his son in 1919—he was known as Graf Murany of Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha) attended all international ornithological congresses, often in honorary positions, from the 1st in 1884 until the 9th in 1938.

Aside from its delay, considerable problems surfaced at the 2nd Congress, most arising from a clash in personalities and ideas about congress structure and content (see Stresemann, 1938:10–13). The discord is reflected in the publication of a separate report on the Congress by Blasius (1891), who was the President of the PIOC but not of the 2nd Congress. Some of it lay in the planning of future congresses which was affected by difficulties in on-going migration studies as a central theme and the lack of finance to continue it. But a large part of the discord came from a push by newer members of the PIOC to introduce a program of papers on a broad spectrum of topics covering all aspects of avian biology, not just migration. As noted by Stresemann (1938:13), further problems resulted from the lack of a clear, workable set of statutes and of a governing body between congresses. A Permanent International Ornithological Committee existed, but it was too large a body to operate efficiently between congresses.

Furthermore, the President of the PIOC, who at that time was Professor Rudolf Blasius, was not the President of the Congress itself. Clearly this awkward arrangement of officers may have been responsible for some of the problems in the 2nd Congress. A new and more broadly based Permanent International Ornithological Committee was elected. Moreover, the potentially confusing arrangement of officers was resolved when Professor Emile Oustalet was elected President of the 3rd Congress, in advance. Professor A. B. Meyer presented a detailed organizational plan and set of statutes, but these were not acted on, and I am unaware that they were ever published. Yet in spite of these shortcomings, the communal spirit of ornithologists prevailed and the decision was reached to schedule the next congress in 1895, four years in the future under the presidency of Dr. Oustalet. Even then, because of the timing of the world fair in

Paris, the 3rd International Ornithological Congress was delayed until 1900.

Two further consequences of the second Congress were first the establishment of the Hungarian Ornithological Society in 1893 and its journal *Aquila*, and secondly the adoption of new rules of ornithological nomenclature (Blasius, 1891: 300 – 308). This saw the Strickland Code replaced by one drawn from the Code of the American Ornithologists' Union (Stresemann, 1938:12). The new rules were based on an absolute application of priority, and in the opinion of some congress members "no greater blow at the much desired uniformity of nomenclature was ever delivered" (Alfred Newton). Adoption of these rules at the 2nd Ornithological Congress took place just prior to the adoption of the Rules of Zoological Nomenclature at the Fifth International Congress of Zoology in Berlin, 1901, the latter having authority to supersede the rules accepted at the Budapest Congress. Lastly, an excursion was available for congress members for the first time. To my knowledge, all subsequent congresses have included excursions for the members, becoming an important part of the meeting for many members and permitting them to see interesting and often unique environments and birds in the congress region.

4 A new direction—the 3rd Congress, Paris, 26 – 30 June 1900

After a long delay of five further years, the 3rd Congress finally met in Paris under Dr. Emile Oustalet (France) as President, G. Jean de Claybrooke (France) as Secretary-General, and with a larger number of members, most from France, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, but also including William Brewster (Boston) and a Miss Juliette A. Owen (St Louis) from the United States. This Congress set new directions and established the basic format for all future congresses. A large number of contributed papers were presented. The Proceedings still contained a long official report (pp. 1 – 140); but the remaining pages (141 – 495) were devoted to papers presented. And the work of the Congress went smoothly, a broader representation of ornithologists attended, and the difficulties experienced by the previous meeting were either solved or caused no problems. The 3rd Congress was also the first one in which "lantern slides" were used.

No question arose about planning for the next congress, the decision being made to hold them every five years. Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe (United Kingdom) was elected President of the following 4th Congress, to be held in London in 1905; and new members were elected to the Permanent International Ornithological Committee. The necessary organiza-

tion for the 4th Congress was established with cordial relationships maintained between Professor Oustalet, President of the 3rd Congress, and Dr. Sharpe. Because of his ill health, Sharpe persuaded Oustalet to continue as President of the Permanent International Ornithological Committee and as editor of the *Ornis*. Dr. Sharpe was able to assume his duties as president only late in the autumn of 1904, but still in time to be able to organize the 1905 London Congress with his co-workers. The Paris Congress was the first attended by Dr. Ernst Hartert who played a central role in re-establishing the congresses in the aftermath of World War I.

Basic organizational problems were finally solved at the Paris Congress with the adoption of Statutes for the Permanent International Ornithological Committee (Proceedings, pp. 101 – 109). With such a well-defined set of rules, and, more importantly, with the good will of the international community of ornithologists and a strong impetus for ornithological congresses, problems besetting the continuity and growth of congresses fell away*. The difficulties of the 2nd Congress became a thing of the past and can be attributed to the usual problems faced by the forming of any new scientific organization, especially one that is international. By the end of the 3rd Congress, strong traditions had been established which were sufficient to guarantee continuity for the next century, in spite of the disruptive effect of two world wars.

5 Ongoing development—the 4th Congress, London, 12 – 17 June 1905, and the 5th Congress, Berlin, 30 May – 4 June 1910

The Secretaries-General Dr. Ernst. J. O. Hartert (United Kingdom) and J. Lewis Bonhote (United Kingdom), with the assistance of an efficient local committee, planned the London Congress in a reasonably short time. A detailed summary of all sessions of the Congress is included in the Proceedings, as well as the papers presented. As to be expected, a large number of members came from the United Kingdom, and they were augmented by a good representation from the rest of Europe, five from the United States and 3 – 4 from South America, though none from Canada. Carl Hellmayr was listed from Tring, England. Interesting is that no less than 8 Misses Sharpe

* But see the comments of Stresemann (Proceedings, 1938: 12 – 13) on the difficulties of adopting and using governing statutes for the PIOC and congresses, and his uncertainty as to whether the statutes employed at one congress, the 8th, would remain in force until the next, the 9th. They did, and remained in effect until new statutes and by-laws were enacted in Berlin in 1978.

were members of the 4th Congress, of which at least five must have been unmarried daughters of R. Bowdler Sharpe as they were entered with the same address.

On the opening day following welcoming formalities and the election of a series of vice-presidents, the Congress was organized into five sections under formal officers (a procedure that lasted until the 9th Congress, 1938). President Sharpe gave the first presidential address for ornithological congresses, a tradition that has continued to the present day (Proceedings, pp. 90 – 143). He presented a detailed history of the bird collection of the British Museum, to be followed next day by Frank M. Chapman's lecture on the nature of museum collections of birds, based on that of the American Museum of Natural History, New York City. Needless to say, many papers dealt with avian systematics and nomenclature. Professor R. Blasius presented a detailed analysis of nomenclature (pp. 35 – 37; 275 – 288) which was discussed fully, though no resolutions were passed in deference to the pending action of the International Zoological Congress (see Bock, 1994:33 – 34).

Economic Ornithology and Bird Protection was another major topic raised and involved a general discussion at the General Meeting of 17 June (pp. 31 – 32). At that meeting, Walter Rothschild called attention to the slaughter of nesting penguins on islands south of Australia and New Zealand; the birds were "boiled down for oil." If continued, the penguin populations of these islands would be doomed to extinction. Rothschild proposed the following strongly-worded resolution, seconded by Sir Walter Buller: "That telegrams be sent in the name of the Fourth International Ornithological Congress to the Commonwealth of Australia and the Governments of Tasmania and New Zealand, appealing to them most strongly to pass legislation to prevent the destruction of Penguins and all other birds which were boiled down for oil on the islands under their rule."

If anything could be said about the 4th Congress, it would be that it was opulent. Members of recent congresses would have scarcely recognized it. I quote from the report of the general meeting (Proceedings, p. 30):

"Thursday, June 15th."

"This day was devoted to an excursion to Tring, the members of the Congress, being the guests of the Hon. Walter Rothschild, M.P."

"A special train left Euston Station at 9 o'clock. The members of the Congress were conveyed from the station to Mr. Rothschild's museum in brakes. An hour was devoted to a walk through the Museum, and then the party proceeded to the Victoria Hall in Tring where Mr. Rothschild delivered his lecture on

'Extinct and Vanishing Birds.' The hall was decorated with flowers and plants, and along the walls was exhibited a large collection of birds either extinct or more or less in danger of extinction, as well as skeletons, bones, and drawings."

"Luncheon followed, after which photographs were taken on the lawn, and the party divided, some to see the birdskins or eggs at the Museum, under the guidance of Dr. Hartert and Mr. Hellmayr. Others, led by Mr. Rothschild, visited the park, to see the Rheas, Emeus and Kangaroos, others again driving to the 'Tring Reservoirs,' where they saw numerous wild Ducks and other Water-fowl. At 5 o'clock tea and light refreshments were served at the Bungalow, and at 7:10 the special train left Tring station again for London."

Not having an OED at hand, I have no idea what type of vehicles "brakes" were, but presumably they are horse-drawn carriages or wagonettes considering the date of the London Congress. The "Bungalow" was most likely a wooden building with a veranda around the front and sides as found in many of the British colonies. Hopefully the day for the excursion to Tring was a sunny one. In the evening of 14 June, "... a conversazione was held at the Natural History Museum"; in the afternoon of 16 June, a reception was given by the Lord Mayor of London at Mansion House; and that evening a dinner for Congress members was hosted by the British Ornithologists' Union at Frascati's Restaurant. Excursions occupied three days at the conclusion of the Congress: on the 19th to Woburn Park in Bedfordshire, the home of the Duke of Bedford, on the 20th to Cambridge and the university where they were hosted by Professor A. Newton, and finally on the 21st to Bempton with its cliffs of nesting birds. Climbers brought up a number of eggs which were purchased by some members of the Congress for their collections, an event that would not only eschewed by future congresses in the later 20th century, but roundly condemned.

At the final General Meeting in London, President Sharpe presented a resolution from the Permanent International Ornithological Committee that the next Congress be held in Berlin in 1910, with Professor Anton Reichenow as President; and if that was not possible, the Congress was to be held in Belgium, with Professor A. Dubois as President. The Proceedings of the 4th Congress constituted the final volume, number 14, of *Ornis*. It should be noted that Dr. G. Radde, President of the 1st Congress, had passed away in 1903, and that Dr. Victor Fatio, Co-President of the 2nd Congress, and Professor E. Oustalet, President of the 3rd Congress, were members of the 4th Congress but died before the Proceedings were published. Dr. Sharpe himself did not live to see the

5th Congress, passing away on 25 December 1909.

The Berlin Congress in 1910 took place as planned and was as successful as the 4th in London. This time most members were from Germany; but though there were still very few, possibly only three, from North America, the first Canadian member, J. H. Fleming, attended. The 5th Congress was the first attended by Erwin Stresemann, a prominent member of all successive congresses until the 15th Congress in The Hague in 1970, perhaps the longest running record for any ornithologist attending successive congresses. King Ferdinand of Bulgaria (after 1919, known as Graf Murany of Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha) attended all congresses from the first to the ninth over a period of 54 years. Again, the official report of the Congress was long, 114 pages; but another 1 000 pages were devoted to papers presented. These included an important presentation by O. Heinroth on the ethology of ducks, and a major paper by Lucanus on avian physiology. Innovations at the 5th Congress were the first movie film on birds and the first sound recording, which was of a nightingale. Films of birds became an important part of later congresses until the 21st Congress in Vienna, 1994 when they were dropped from the program. Hopefully, films will again become a part of future congresses, from the next one in Hamburg, 2006.

The projection of the 6th Congress in 1915 was prophetic in a sad way. Sarajevo, Bosnia, was chosen as the congress site under the Presidency of Dr. Otmar Reiser. But the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand in Sarajevo, 28 June 1914, precipitated World War I—and the end to plans for the Congress. The resulting gap of 16 years until the next congress in 1926 was the longest in the history of international ornithological congresses.

6 A new beginning—the 6th Congress, Copenhagen, 24–29 May 1926

After the end of World War I, the major problem facing the revival of international ornithological congresses was that most leading ornithologists in Europe lived in countries on opposite sides of the past conflict; and no ornithologists outside of Europe had been deeply involved in the activities of earlier congresses. The decision reached at the 5th Congress to hold the next one in Sarajevo was no longer viable. The Permanent International Ornithological Committee was in disarray, as were its Executive Committee and the officers elected at the 5th congress in 1910. Nor did the existing Statutes of the PIOC provide any solution to the impasse. A country that was neutral during WW I had to be found; and more importantly a person acceptable to ornithologists generally had to come forward to take charge. The latter was Dr.

Ernst Hartert, originally a German ornithologist but who had worked in Walter Rothschild's museum at Tring, England, since the last years of the 19th century. Hartert was highly respected in ornithology because of his far-sighted systematic work and monumental treatment of the birds of the Palaearctic region (Hartert, 1903–1922). Moreover he had played a major role in both the 4th and 5th Congresses, chairing the meeting of the PIOC at the latter. With the assistance of Danish ornithologists, he now pushed forward to organize the long delayed 6th Congress in Copenhagen. His work, as well as the great efforts of Danish ornithologists, was recognized in glowing tributes in the Congress Proceedings by Schiöler and Lönnberg (pp. 17–19).

The Copenhagen Congress proved a great success and brought together once again ornithologists from many European countries, as well as from North America (Fleming from Canada and 5–6 from the United States, including Carl Hellmayr who was now in Chicago) and a scattering of members from other countries. The presidential address by Hartert, "On the development and progress of ornithology since 1910" (Proceedings, pp. 35–51), stressed systematics and mentioned only briefly the fields of animal behavior, anatomy and breeding biology, with slightly longer statements on avian migration and conservation. He also listed a large number of ornithologists who passed away since the last congress in 1910. No mention was made of the International Council for Bird Protection which was founded in 1922 in London.

The Proceedings of the 6th Congress differed from those preceding it in that much less space (35 out of 641 pages) was devoted to official reports, including summaries of the sections and papers. The decision was reached to hold international ornithological congresses every four years. For the next in 1930, invitations were received from The Netherlands, Finland and Tunis, the vote going to The Netherlands, with Professor E. Lönnberg as President. The 6th Congress had revived the ornithological congresses after the long hiatus of 16 years, a great initiative that, although drawing on the strong international interests of many ornithologists, would not have been possible without the major efforts of Ernst Hartert. The credit for the continuation of the congresses must go, in the final analysis, to him.

7 Continuing Progress—the 7th Congress, Amsterdam, 1–7 June 1930, 8th Congress, Oxford, 2–7 July 1934, and 9th Congress, Rouen, 9–13 May 1938

The 7th Congress in Amsterdam with Professor A. J. E. Lönnberg (Sweden) as President and Pro-

fessor L. F. de Beaufort (The Netherlands) as Secretary-General took place without problems and, as far as I can find, without innovations. It was smooth-sailing after the successful 6th Congress. Several major lectures were given, much in the nature of the plenary lectures of later congresses. These included E. Stresemann (pp. 53 – 72) on the “Progress of anatomical and physiological studies of birds,” K. Lambrecht (pp. 73 – 99) on “Progress in paleornithology,” and H. Duncker (pp. 215 – 243) on “Avian genetics,” the last not mentioned by Birkhead (2003) in his history of Duncker’s work. The official report of the Congress was short, covering pages 1 – 50, of which pages 6 – 29 comprised the presidential address. Four resolutions were passed: (1) for removal of bounties on birds of prey, (2) against discharge of oil at sea, leading to the destruction of sea birds, (3) for protection of the quail *Coturnix coturnix*, and (4) for protection of *Egretta alba* in southern Europe.

The 8th Congress was set for England in 1934, thereby fixing a four-year cycle for congresses, with Professor E. Stresemann (Germany) as President and the Reverend Francis C. R. Jourdain (United Kingdom) as Secretary-General. Although it was originally scheduled for London, the Local Committee, under the new Congress Statutes, voted to change the venue to Oxford where the facilities of the University were available. It is most interesting to compare the 4th, the 8th and the 14th congresses, all held in the United Kingdom and all reflecting their times. The 4th was simply lavish compared to the 8th which was austere and much closer to the experiences of present-day ornithologists attending post-WW II congresses, including the 14th Congress at Oxford in 1966.

The first item of importance (Proceedings, p. 1) is that a small committee, consisting of P. R. Lowe, W. L. Sclater and F. C. R. Jourdain, met to draw up “a code of rules for the congress.” It was submitted to the members of the International Ornithological Committee, approved by a large majority, and then printed and circulated prior to 1933. However, to my knowledge, this set of rules was never published at that time which may have contributed to the concern expressed by Stresemann in his presidential address (Proceedings, p. 13). A Permanent Executive (= Permanent Executive Committee [PEC]) was established under the new rules, consisting of the President (Stresemann), and five elected members (Lönnerberg, Sclater, Wetmore, van Oordt and Berlioz); it was increased to six members (de Beaufort) at the Oxford Congress itself. The Secretary-General (Jourdain) was not a member of the Permanent Executive, but served as its secretary, an arrangement that lasted until the 17th Congress in

1978. Graf Murany, Admiral H. Lynes and Professor E. Lönnerberg were elected Vice Presidents.

The red grouse *Lygopus scoticus* was adopted as the emblem for the 8th Congress, the first designation of a congress symbol. The Congress was arranged in four sections (Proceedings, p. 23): (1) systematics, biogeography, paleontology and general biology; (2) anatomy, physiology, embryology and genetics; (3) migration and locomotion; and (4) aviculture, protection and agricultural ornithology. The sections met concurrently on the four congress days. As usual, formal officers for each section were established at the beginning of the Congress. There was a meeting on 5 July of the International Committee (presumably, Council) for Bird protection, but no report appeared in the Congress Proceedings.

The Official Report for the 8th Congress, as for the previous two, was short, of only 48 pages in the Proceedings, of which the Presidential Lecture by E. Stresemann covered pages 6 – 23. His address reviewed the history of the first 50 years of International Ornithological Congresses, and was useful to me in compiling this narrative. Individual papers covered pages 49 to 761, and included several important ones. W. Meise (1938) examined progress in systematic ornithology since 1920 in the longest paper ever published in a congress proceedings (141 pages). In it, he reviewed the status of new species described since that date. Collations of new avian species have been continued since by Mayr and his associates, beginning with Zimmer and Mayr (1943) up to Vuilleumier, LeCroy and Mayr (1992), in six updates. A new up-date is overdue. K. Lorenz presented his first observations on the social behavior of the jackdaw *Corvus monedula*, J. Delacour reviewed the classification of the Anatidae based on courtship behavior, M. M. Nice discussed the life history and population dynamics of the song sparrow *Melospiza melodia*, J. S. Huxley addressed threat and warning coloration in birds, and B. Stegmann gave a thoughtful assessment of possible biogeographical dispersal of tropical avian groups across the present-day Atlantic Ocean.

New members were elected to the International Ornithological Committee, and the “Permanent” was dropped from the title. Membership of the new IOC was set at 100 which is large, given that only 198 members attended the Copenhagen Congress (1926), 291 the Amsterdam Congress (1930) and 311 the Oxford Congress (1934). The size of the International Ornithological Committee (IOC) of post-World War II congresses became significantly smaller in proportion to congress membership as the number of ornithologists attending increased greatly up to the present time; but the IOC retained its traditional size of

100 members until the adoption of the new statutes and By-laws at the 1978 Congress in Berlin. Invitations for the 9th Congress were received from France and Switzerland, and France was accepted, with Professor Alessandro Ghigi as President and Jean Delacour as Secretary-General. The Permanent Executive Committee then consisted of the President, the Secretary-General, and five elected members representing Germany, Great Britain, France, the Scandinavian countries and middle-European countries. Majority representation on the PEC from specific countries in Europe lasted into the 1980s, even after the addition of members to cover North America, South America and Australasia.

At the Oxford Congress, resolutions were passed on the pressing matter of oil pollution at sea, and to urge the study of avian biology "as leading to the development of the sense of observation and in consequence to the development of the spirit of protection of birds."

A committee was also appointed (Proceedings, pp. 28–29) under the chair of Professor E. Stresemann "to deal with the question of nomenclature and fixation of names where strict adherence to the law of priority would result in greater confusion than uniformity." This committee was the precursor of the present-day Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature which was reconstructed at the Basal Congress in 1954. It is unclear whether the committee appointed in 1934 ever acted on any questions of ornithological nomenclature; no such actions were published in the Congress Proceedings.

Excursions followed the formal sessions of the Congress with a unique event, namely a long excursion to the islands of Skokholm, Skomer and Grassholm in two Royal Navy destroyers, the *Wolfhound* and the *Windsor* which were made available to Congress members. The weather was good, the seas calm and all comforts were made available for the sea-faring ornithologists, including deck chairs. At one point shortly after leaving Grassholm, the uncharacteristic signal for the British navy was made from the *Windsor* to the *Wolfhound*: "Alter course to line ahead to engage *Puffinus puffinus puffinus*." (Proceedings, p. 33). Landings were possible on the islands, and the party was able to lunch on Skokholm.

The 9th Congress in Rouen, with Professor Alessandro Ghigi (Italy) as President and Jean Delacour (France) as Secretary-General, met successfully on schedule in 1938, with post-congress tours to Paris and then the Camargue at the delta of the Rhone River in the south of France. Dr. A. Wetmore was added to the Permanent Executive Committee. The organization and running of the Rouen Congress went

very smoothly, as testified by a very brief report in the Proceedings. The Congress itself was again divided into four sections, namely (1) taxonomy and zoogeography, (2) anatomy, physiology and embryology, (3) general biology, and (4) applied ornithology. The International Council for Bird Protection (ICBP) met in Rouen on 6–8 May immediately before the 9th Congress. The Proceedings for the 9th Congress were published very quickly, dated 1 October 1938, in the same year as the publication of the Proceedings of the 8th Congress. It included a very brief official report and the texts or abstracts of papers presented.

The most important achievement of the 9th Congress was the publication of statutes for the IOC and its congresses under the title *Règlement des Congrès Ornithologiques Internationaux* (Proceedings, pp. 535–536). These were the rules approved in 1932–1933 by a majority of the members of the IOC and mentioned in the Proceedings of the 1934 Congress as printed and approved but not published then (Proceedings 1934:1). Although these rules are always cited as the Rouen *Règlement*, they were not adopted at the Rouen Congress as usually stated or implied. The *Règlement* established the size of the IOC at 100 members, hence the traditional name of "the Committee of One Hundred." The Permanent Executive Committee consisted of the President, and six elected members (but not the Secretary-General who remained as secretary for this committee); it acted for the IOC during the inter-congress periods. Little is said about the duties of the President and the Secretary-General. An assessment (? = subscription) was levied on the members of the IOC, but it is unclear whether it was ever collected, unless "assessment" meant "registration fee", in which case the amount subsequently rose rapidly above the amount stated.

The 10th Congress was set for the United States in 1942 (although this decision was not stated definitely in the Proceedings of the 9th Congress); Alexander Wetmore (USA) was appointed President and L. Griscom (USA) Secretary-General. But this Congress was not to be; World War II began in Europe in September 1939. Although another interruption to the congresses ensued, it turned out to be nowhere near as long as the lapse after World War I.

8 A second 'new' beginning—the 10th Congress, Uppsala, 10–17 June 1950

Re-establishing international ornithological congresses after the break caused by World War II was much easier than after World War I because of the existence of a Permanent Executive Committee which

could act for the IOC under the Rouen Règlement. It was clear to everyone that it would not be possible to hold the 10th Congress in the United States as decided at the Rouen Congress because of the economic difficulties faced by European members traveling to North America. In lieu, the Swedish Ornithological Association was asked if they would host the 10th Congress in 1950; and they accepted on 5 March 1949 with the assurance of financial support from the Swedish Government. Sweden was one of the few neutral European countries during World War II and hence a congress there was readily acceptable to all ornithologists. The PEC appointed Professor Sven Hörstadius (Sweden) as the Secretary-General; Dr. Alexander Wetmore (USA) continued as President. An Organizing Committee was established and the decision made to hold the Congress at Uppsala where it would be possible to use the facilities of the university. About 6 500 invitations were sent out between July and September 1949 to individual ornithologists, museums of natural history and ornithological societies, announcing the Congress in June, 1950, providing information about the program, information about Congress costs and information on registration for the Congress and the various tours. Response was good, with 377 ornithologists fully registered and 337 attending.

And although no mention was made in the Proceedings, the raven *Corvus corax* was evidently chosen as the symbol of the Congress, as indicated by the pair shown on the title page of the Proceedings. The ICBP also held its first meeting since World War II at Uppsala in the days just preceding the Uppsala Congress on 8–9 June.

In addition to the Presidential Address and a special lecture on "Introduction to Swedish ornithology" by Secretary-General Hörstadius, four special lectures were presented by Dr. Ernst Mayr (avian speciation), Professor Jean Dorst (migration), Dr. Niko Tinbergen (behavior) and Dr. David Lack (ecology). These were in the form of plenary lectures that became established at later congresses. Ernst Mayr's lecture was read by Dr. R. C. Murphy as Mayr was unable to attend because he could not to obtain his new US passport in time and he would not travel on his old German passport. Following each of these special lectures were series of papers in the form of a symposium on the general topic of the major lecture; but no mention was made in the proceedings on the exact nature of these supplementary lectures and the lectures were not published together as symposia. Three full evening film programs were presented, as well as a full-day Round Table Conference (= the Round Table Discussion of modern congresses) on Friday, 16 June.

Following a paper on the nomenclatural controversy over the generic name *Colymbus* Linnaeus 1758 by Finn Salomonsen (pp. 148–134), a special session of the Congress was arranged at which a committee (= the future Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature) was established to inquire into such intricate cases, and to propose ways of stabilizing avian nomenclature by establishing *nomina conservanda*. Apparently the decision to establish such a committee at the 1934 Oxford Congress had been forgotten.

Wednesday, 14 June was a free day, celebrated by a bus excursion to a coniferous forest and fen region north of Uppsala, from which the first group of buses left at 12:00 midnight on Tuesday evening and the second at 2:00 pm on Wednesday afternoon so that congress members could experience the long twilight in northern Europe close to Midsummer's Day. A series of pre- and post-congress tours had also been organized, from the southern tip of Sweden to northern Swedish Lapland.

Invitations for the 11th Congress in 1954 were received from India, Italy and Switzerland, of which that from Switzerland was accepted. Dr. A. Landsborough Thompson (United Kingdom) was elected President. In addition to the president, seven members were elected to the Permanent Executive Committee; the Secretary-General elect, Professor A. Portmann (Switzerland), was its secretary, but not a member of the committee. The Uppsala Congress proved a great success, organized at short notice and run without any signs that 12 years had elapsed since the 10th Congress in Rouen. The greatest change was language; a majority of papers in the Proceedings were in English which had become the international language in science after 1945. It was a trend that was to continue ever more strongly in ensuing congresses.

9 Continuing in Europe—the 11th Congress, Basel, 29 May–5 June 1954 and the 12th Congress, Helsinki, 5–12 June 1958

Drawing on experience from the successful 10th Congress, the organization and running of the next two congresses went very smoothly. A decision was reached to hold the 11th Congress in Basel, with Professor Adolf Portmann appointed as the Secretary-General under whom efficient National and Local Committees were established. In 1953 some 6 000 invitations were sent out around the world, with the result that 616 ornithologists registered for the Congress from 40 countries. The seriously endangered northern bald ibis or waldraap *Geronticus*

eremita was chosen as the emblem for the Congress. In addition to the Presidential address by Dr. Lansborough Thompson, special lectures on "The World of Birds in the Alps" (Dr. U. Corti) and "The evolution of the avifauna of Switzerland" (Dr. P. Géroutet) were presented, together with a series of five plenary lectures and three symposia in addition to a large number of contributed papers in 6 sections and a number of films. Clearly a pattern of plenary lectures and symposia was emerging for the scientific program of ornithological congresses.

As in previous congresses, the ICBP met just before the Basel congress in 23–28 May 1954. A meeting of the International Committee for Bird Ringing took place during the Congress, as did a Conference on Classification and Nomenclature of European Birds (p. 45). The latter generated considerable controversy because the charge to this committee was to consider the classification of birds to be followed in European publications. One outcome was the forming of a subcommittee to decide on the sequence of families within the Passeriformes; this subcommittee included only European-trained ornithologists. Even so, the editors (see Mayr and Greenway, 1956) of Peters' *Check-list of Birds of the World* (see vol. IX: vii, 1960) pledged to follow its recommendations for the Oscines. The resulting sequence differed considerably from the "American system" advocated by Wetmore and followed by most New World ornithologists, and aroused considerable argument and opposition (Bock, 1990). Such actions, together with the resulting controversy, show that care must be taken in reaching and advocating decisions at international ornithological congresses; decisions will not necessarily be accepted by all ornithologists, no matter how carefully the committee is appointed and does its work. A second subcommittee was also established at the conference to decide on genera, species and subspecies of European birds, but it is not certain whether this group ever took action.

The standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature was reappointed, although without a report of their activities in the Congress Proceedings. Their decisions were published instead in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 9 (1952): 1–106 (Salomonsen, 1960:30).

Changes were made in the composition of the PEC, expanding it to eight members in addition to the President. It was determined that no more than two members could be elected from any one country, and that no elected member could serve for more than two successive terms. The Secretary-General was to be appointed by the country hosting the congress and to serve as the secretary of the PEC, but without being a member. A proposal was also put forward for

the IOC to become a *Sub-Section of the Section of Zoology of the International Union of Biological Sciences* jointly with the International Council for Bird Protection. The IOC became a subsection of the Section of Zoology, but it is not clear whether the ICBP has participated as well.

Two all day excursions were held on mid-congress free days, as well as a series of 11 pre- and post-congress tours to all parts of Switzerland.

Invitations for the 12th Congress in 1958 were received from South Africa and Finland, with the IOC voting to accept that from Finland because of continuing problems of travel costs for most European ornithologists. Professor Jacques Berlioz (France) was elected President. Work started quickly on the 12th Congress, the Finnish Ornithologists' Union deciding that the congress was to be held in Helsinki, appointing a Finnish Executive Committee and nominating Professor Lars von Haartman (Finland) as Secretary-General. His wonderful dry sense of humor can be found throughout the official Report of the congress.

The Helsinki Congress opened with the Presidential Address by Professor Jacques Berlioz—the fourth emphasizing the role of museum collections in the study of ornithology—followed by a lecture on the distribution of Finnish birds by Professor P. Palmgren and another by Professor C. A. Willemsen on the falcon book (actually an early treatise on avian biology) written by the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, Kaiser Friedrich II); unfortunately the last paper was not published in the Proceedings. No additional plenary lectures were given, but three symposia were organized, the first by E. Mayr on "Adaptive evolution of birds" (Proceedings, pp. 10–11, 495–498), the second on "Avian classification" (Proceedings, p. 11), and the third on "Nocturnal migration" (Proceedings, p. 11–12). A series of papers on the physiology of migratory birds by Schildmacher, Merkel, Odum and Wolfson (Proceedings, p. 12) could be considered a fourth symposium. Because the papers in the Proceedings were arranged alphabetically by author, it is not easy to determine the contributions to each symposium. The heading on left hand pages does give the subject of each paper, but these are not always accurate, e.g. J. M. Cullen's paper on adaptive evolution is listed under behavior and life history. I could not find any papers from the symposium on avian classification. The paper by Ernst Sutter was not published, but it must have been similar to the one he presented the following fall at the 75th anniversary of the American Ornithologists' Union in New York City on the use of radar to observe avian migration—a technique which radically changed the study of nocturnal avian movement.

A long meeting of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature was held and fully reported (Salomonsen, 1960). Professor Salomonsen had taken over as chair of this committee from Professor Stresemann in 1955 when the latter was overly occupied with other work. In anticipation of changes to appear in the imminent second edition of the Code of Zoological Nomenclature, in which family-group names were to be covered by rules of nomenclature, the SCON proposed that a large number of avian family-group names affected be placed on the Official List of Names in Zoology (Proceedings, p. 38–39). Unfortunately, this proposal was not acted on by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, leading to many years of hand-wringing by the SCON (Bock, 1994).

As mentioned by Professor von Haartman (Proceedings, p. 11): “the crowded programme of the congress did not allow of any rest in the evening, films being shown as usual.” Three evenings of films formed an interesting part of the program. Two full day excursions, on Sunday, 8 June, and on Tuesday, 10 June, were scheduled, one by bus to Porvoo and the other by boat to the archipelago of Kyrslätt; congress members were divided into two groups so that everyone could experience both. In addition, a series of 9 pre- and post-congress tours were available to all parts of Finland. As usual, the ICBP met on 1–5 June immediately before the Helsinki Congress. A meeting of the Bird Ringing Committee (Proceedings, p. 11) took place in the evening of 10 June, but no report was published. Likewise, a meeting of the International Union for Applied Ornithology (IUAO) (Proceedings, p. 12) took place in the afternoon of 12 June, and again no report appeared. It is not clear from any of the congress proceedings who the IUAO, and their goals, were.

Only a few copies of the two-volume Congress Proceedings were distributed before a major fire at the printers destroyed the remainder. A second printing started at once, in which a few misprints in the first printing were corrected.

After these three most successful congresses, the IOC felt that the general European economy had recovered sufficiently to permit a meeting outside of Europe, and voted to hold the 13th Congress in 1962 in the United States under the presidency of Professor E. Mayr. This decision reaffirmed the earlier decision at the 9th Congress in 1938 to hold the 10th in the United States in 1942. The IOC also maintained the PEC at 8 elected members, without change in the status of the Secretary-General. further it elected new members to bring its strength back to 100 members. It also voted to encourage “... more restrictive international ornithological meetings in the years between

the main international congresses...” These would take the form of continent-wide congresses, of which the first and most successful has been the Pan-African Ornithological Congress. Later the Neotropical Ornithological Congress came into being and has been very successful for all Neotropical countries.

A further comment is needed concerning the decision to accept the invitation of North American ornithologists to hold the 13th Congress in the United States. The invitation offered at the 11th Congress for South Africa to host the 12th Congress was possibly repeated at the 12th for the 13th Congress in 1962, although there is no mention of it in the Proceedings of the 12th Congress. The decision to hold the 13th Congress in the USA instead was very likely a major factor in promoting Pan-African Ornithological Congresses (Crowe, 1998, 1991). It must be said, however, that, contrary to claims by some South Africans, that the decision to accept the invitation from the United States and not South Africa was taken completely independently of the then recently adopted policy of Apartheid by the government of South Africa. Rather, the IOC felt that it was necessary to honor first its earlier decision to hold a congress in the United States before considering any other invitations. Moreover there was a general feeling that interaction with the large and diverse group of American and Canadian workers was important at this time for the development of international ornithology at the beginning of the 1960's.

By the close of the first 75 years of their history, the international ornithological congresses had gained such strength and importance to students of avian biology that the disruption of World War II caused scarcely a ripple in their continuity. The three post-war congresses were well organized and run without any problems, with progressively increasing attendances. Moreover, an increasing diversity of interesting papers was being presented, with an ever growing coverage of all aspects of avian biology.

10 Out of Europe—the 13th Congress, Ithaca, 17–24 June 1962

The three major ornithological societies in North America, the American Ornithologists' Union, Cooper Ornithological Society and Wilson Ornithological Society, joined in inviting the 13th Congress to the United States, with Professor Ernst Mayr (USA) as President and the US and Canadian members of the IOC forming a General Committee for its organization. The first decision was to set the site of the 13th Congress at Ithaca, New York and appoint Professor Charles Sibley (USA) as Secretary-General. A Scientific Program Committee and other committees were quickly established and set to work. As

to be expected, the great auk *Pinguinus impennis*, the symbol of the AOU, was chosen as the symbol for the 13th Congress as well.

Aside from the Presidential address by Professor Mayr, there were no plenary lectures or symposia; all papers were contributed. A special symposium on Birds and Arthropod-borne Viruses was organized by T. S. Work, with a series of contributed papers. Three concurrent sessions were needed to accommodate the papers. The papers presented were grouped under related subjects (Proceedings, p. 4), but the groupings did not correspond exactly with the headings used in the Proceedings. Nor were all papers published. Evenings were devoted to the film program and special discussions (= Round Table Discussions of later congresses). The members of the PEC were elected, as well as new members of the IOC; and the SCON was reappointed for the period of 1962–1966 with Dr. C. Vaurie as the chair. No report was published of their activities for the preceding four years.

Two long excursions were planned, one before and one following the Congress, plus several short ones in the northeastern part of the United States. The short excursions were poorly attended, and two had to be cancelled. An all-day tour was held on Wednesday, 20 June, the free-day, which was followed by a barbecue supper at Taughannock State Park; the weather that day was excellent.

Unfortunately, the Congress report in the Proceedings is so brief that it is particularly difficult to ascertain important actions taken. Of the 1 246 pages in the two volumes of the Proceedings, only 26 pages were devoted to the Official Report of the 13th Congress; and 18 of these pages list committee members, Congress members and delegates. Mention is made that both the IOC and the PEC met twice, but it is not possible to determine which of these bodies reached decisions, such as the vote on the next Congress and its president; clearly they had to have done so. One notable addition to the Report is an account of the finances of the Congress (Proceedings, pp. 5–6), with a reference to more details in the AOU Treasurer's Report for 1961–1962. Financial accounts of congresses are most useful, but such information is commonly lacking in reports of the congresses. As a result there is no way, at present, to compare the costs of the congresses, either as total costs or the cost per member, or to estimate the finances needed for future congresses.

Despite the dearth of official documentation, this first non-European Congress was a great success, attended by 614 regular members out of a total of 879 (Proceedings, p. 6). Probably a majority of the regular members were from the United States and Cana-

da, but a total of 37 countries were represented. At its end, the decision was reached to accept the invitation from the United Kingdom to hold the 14th Congress there in 1966 under the presidency of Dr. David Lack (United Kingdom).

11 Back to Europe—the 14th Congress, Oxford, 24–30 July 1966 and the 15th Congress, The Hague, 30 August–5 September 1970

As was the case for the 13th Congress, Official Reports for the 14th and 15th Congresses are very brief, making an analysis of their happenings difficult. A British Executive Committee, its core formed by the British members of the IOC, was convened immediately after the 13th Congress and appointed Dr. Niko Tinbergen (United Kingdom) as Secretary-General. Oxford University was again chosen as the venue for a congress in Britain because of the considerable ornithological research being done there, the numerous smaller rooms for sessions, and the facilities for housing at the various colleges. The robin *Erithacus rubecula*, a bird studied intensively by President David Lack, was chosen as the Congress symbol. The tradition of a mid-congress free day, with several planned excursions, was maintained. A problem of timing, however, existed because of a decision reached at the 13th Congress that congresses in future need “not be held in the breeding season”—though this decision was never mentioned in the Proceedings of the 13th Congress. An offer from the Scottish Ornithologists' Club to host a week-long cruise circumnavigating Scotland from Greenock on the west coast to Leith on the east to observe the seabird colonies finally settled the date of the Congress. The cruise on the *Devonia* took place from 16 to 23 July, with participants traveling by train on the night of 23 July to Oxford in time to register on the first day (Proceedings, pp. xix–xxiii).

Following the Presidential Address “Interrelationships in breeding adaptations as shown by marine birds” by Dr. David Lack, and an equally interesting lecture on the “Adaptive features of the black-headed gull *Larus ridibundus* L.” by Secretary-General Tinbergen, five plenary symposia were held in the mornings and contributed papers given in the afternoons. Only the papers of the plenary symposia were published in the Proceedings. Of contributed papers, not even an indication of the titles and authors is given; these are available only in the abstract volume for the Congress. The congress free-day, Wednesday, 27 July, was devoted to excursions; good weather made these tours pleasant. A film program of two concurrent sessions was held every evening. Meetings of the

following specialist groups were also held: European Ringing Committee, Sea-bird Research, Ornithology of the Western Palaearctic, Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature, International Bird Ringing Committee, International Union of Applied Ornithology (IUAO) and a proposal by the President, Dr. Lack, for an internationally agreed world list of birds.

The last meeting was well attended and generated considerable "fireworks": there was considerable disagreement about the purpose of such a list, how it should be established, whether it should be authorized, and if so, by whom. The meeting was reported anonymously (Proceedings, pp. 365 – 367), concluding that insufficient agreement prevented a resolution to the Congress. It was mentioned that "various leading European ornithologists were making a proposal for an agreed European list, and that in this connection they were entering into correspondence with the editors of the North American checklist." To my knowledge, nothing further came from this proposal, with the result that today there are diverse world lists of birds, most of them generated for the use of bird watchers.

A report of the SCON is also presented (Proceedings, pp. 369 – 374), summarizing their work over the preceding four years. One major unresolved problem involved avian family-group names affected by the rules in the second edition of the International Code for Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN). The ICZN required a full bibliographic search to ensure correct authorship for each name. Such information on avian family group names and of their priority did not exist in 1966; and none of the members of the SCON felt that they were in the position to undertake such a project. Hence the SCON recommended that ornithologists continue to use all well-established family-group names until such an analysis could be done and well-supported decisions reached. No reports were issued for the other meetings. Nor was any mention made of a meeting of the ICBP in connection with the 14th Congress. One outcome, however, was that the meeting on sea-bird research led to the establishment by the IOC of a Standing Committee on Sea-bird Research (Proceedings, p. xiv, with its initial membership given on page xviii).

Another noteworthy event was the presentation of an Honorary Degree of D. Sc. to Professor Ernst Mayr by Oxford University. Professor Mayr was also honored with an honorary degree by the University of Vienna at the 21st Congress in Vienna, 1994. To my knowledge, he is the only ornithologist to receive such academic honors during an ornithological congress.

In a final paragraph of the Proceedings, we are

told that "As usual, the Permanent Executive Committee met twice, as did the International Ornithological Committee. It was decided that the XV International Congress should be held in The Netherlands in 1970 and Dr. Niko Tinbergen (United Kingdom) was elected as its President." A listing of the members of the committees of the IOC, and of the IOC itself followed. A brief mention is also made at the beginning of the list of members that those who had not attended the past two congresses, except when prevented by illness, were dropped from membership. The Official Report of 15 pages (over half did not pertain to the work of the IOC or of the Congress), followed by 47 pages of reports from the SCON, the meeting on a world list of birds and lists of delegates and members, is even much too brief to allow any reading between the lines; the lines are simply not there.

Preparations for the 15th Congress started rapidly with a Netherlands Executive Committee selected early; this committee included Professor L. de Beaufort who was the Secretary-General for the 7th Congress in Amsterdam in 1930. The Hague was chosen as the Congress site, and Professor Karel Voous (The Netherlands) appointed as Secretary-General. Other committees, including the Scientific Program Committee, were established. A rapidly expanding membership at the 1962 and 1966 Congresses provided increasing work loads for the Secretary-General and local organizing committees. Even with a large and energetic staff assisting him for the Oxford Congress in 1966, his overall duties, as well as attending to the needs of the International Ornithological Committee and his other work, simply exhausted Secretary-General Niko Tinbergen (Kruuk, 2002: 251 – 252), and led to increased bouts of depression. In spite of his success at the Oxford Congress, Tinbergen was never again a full congress attendee and had to resign his presidency of the 1970 Congress in the autumn of 1969. Professor Finn Salomonsen (Denmark) was elected in his place by the PEC. The change of presidents created no problems for the planning of the Congress and indeed, in 1970, when the 15th Congress was held, it had "two" presidents even though Dr. Tinbergen could not attend. The Eurasian spoonbill *Platalea leucordia* was chosen as the Congress emblem; two birds are depicted in the Congress Proceedings, in a design used for an enamel brooch given to all Congress members.

The Congress program was a very full one, comprising the Presidential Address, six symposia, 33 sectional sessions, 8 special meetings (= Round Table Discussions), 9 committee meetings, and 11 film sessions. The mornings were devoted to plenary sessions — the Presidential address and five of the

symposia. One symposium was held concurrently with the contributed papers in the afternoon; all sessions were held concurrently in the afternoons (Proceedings, pp. 6–10), and 34 films were shown in the evenings. Four satellite meetings, including that of the ICBP, were also held. The mid-week day of Wednesday, 2 September, was a free day, spent on a series of 8 different excursions mostly to view the diverse water-, marsh- and shore- bird fauna of The Netherlands.

Both the PEC and the IOC held two meetings during the Congress. A new By-law was adopted that: "Past-Presidents shall be lifetime members of the IOC, shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of such membership, but shall not be counted when enumerating the 100 members of the IOC." Two resolutions to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) were proposed by the SCON and adopted by the IOC to speed the decision on proposals dealing only with names for birds, namely support for the fifty year statute of limitations and to create the SCON as a formal subcommittee of the ICZN, thereby ratifying the decisions of the SCON. To my knowledge, neither recommendation was accepted by the ICZN. A further proposal was adopted to develop a formal relationship with the International Union of Biological Sciences in which the IOC would become a Section within the Zoological Division. Apparently the proposal made during the 11th Congress in Basel, 1954 was not successful. A committee consisting of J. Dorst, C. S. Sibley and K. H. Voous was appointed to formulate better relationships with the IUBS, as well as bringing the Rules of the IOC up to date; but to my knowledge this committee did not act. The Rules governing the IOC and its congresses, passed by mail vote prior to the 8th Congress in 1934 and first published in the Proceedings of the 9th Congress, Rouen, 1938, remained in effect.

The IOC also voted to accept an invitation from the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union to hold the 16th Congress in Canberra, Australia, with Dr. Harry J. Frith (Australia) as the Secretary-General and Professor Jean Dorst (France) as the President. Following tradition, the Secretary-General was not a member of the PEC for the congress in which he served, but was elected to this committee for the ensuing period. This system began at the 8th Congress, Oxford, with the election of Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain to the PEC and continued until the 17th Congress when new Statutes were adopted. The Proceedings for the 15th Congress included the papers of the six symposia and the abstracts of the contributed papers, plus the Official Report for the Congress. All papers in the Proceedings volume, except for the very last abstract by J. Zettel (Switzerland), were published

in English, setting the standard for the future. The antiquated policy of having "Official Delegates" appointed to congresses and listed in proceedings, a practice continued to the 14th Congress, 1966 and which no longer served any purpose, was abandoned permanently at the 15th Congress.

With almost 700 members at the 14th Congress and over 800 at the 15th, and a very full program of morning plenary sessions and a number of concurrent sessions in the afternoons, these two Congresses set the stage for "modern" ornithological congress. Moreover, the 15th Congress set the pattern for holding future congresses outside of the Northern Hemisphere avian breeding season. To this there have been only two exceptions: the 17th Congress in Berlin, 1978 and the 19th in Ottawa, 1986, though the latter was held at the very end of the season.

12 To the antipodes—the 16th Congress, Canberra, 12–17 August 1974

The first 15 congresses having been held in the Northern Hemisphere, it was now time to move to the Southern; and so the invitation to hold the 16th Congress in Australia was accepted at The Hague in 1970. President Jean Dorst (France) appointed Dr. Harry Frith (Australia) as the Secretary-General who established the necessary committees for organizing and running the Congress, using many members of the staff of Frith's CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research. The Congress symbol was the magpie goose *Anseranas semipalmata* in a vignette showing three birds to indicate that many males have two females which lay their eggs in the same nest. The Congress was held at the Australian National University in Canberra, ACT. Strikes in the fuel and transport industries caused critical problems for the start of the Congress, leaving many members, including President Dorst, temporarily stranded in various locations around Australia. These problems were dealt with by Secretary-General Frith and his staff in a most expedient way which included a rearrangement of the Congress schedule. The free day was shifted to the first day of the meeting and the opening of the Congress to the second day, by which time the President had reached Canberra from Alice Springs in central Australia.

Despite the distant location of the venue, just over 800 persons attended, including over 500 full members. Complaints were raised by a few European members of the IOC claiming that because of the "remoteness of the Northern Hemisphere countries from Australia many members have been unable to attend the meeting in Canberra". Accordingly, they felt, absence of northern hemisphere members from the 16th Congress should not count toward the rule that

membership of the IOC lapses after two successive congresses are missed (Proceedings, p. 5). Australian members pointed out, quite correctly, that the distance from Northern Hemisphere countries to Australia was just the same as that from Australia and New Zealand to the Northern Hemisphere, and thus such a modification of the rule should apply equally in reverse. Fortunately these petty proposals were never enacted.

The Proceedings of the 16th Congress are entirely in English, following the trend in international scientific meetings since World War II. In addition to the plenary Presidential Address, the Congress presented 11 symposia containing 61 papers and 130 papers in 9 general sessions. The symposium papers were published in the Congress Proceedings and the abstracts for the contributed papers in *The Emu*, volume 74, supplementary issue. The symposia placed emphasis on aspects of Australian and Southern Hemisphere ornithology, with special stress on the differences in avian biology in the northern and southern continents under the general theme of "The Two Hemispheres." No film program was advertised, but several round table discussions, as well as the meetings of the SCON and the Standing Committee for Seabird Research (SCSR) took place; both committees submitted their reports which were included in the Proceedings. The ICBP also met in Canberra in connection with the Congress.

An important resolution on the scientific collecting of birds for research was passed by the IOC (Proceedings, p. 6), which concluded that the IOC: "*recommends* that Governments allow scientific institutions to collect material they need for research with the requirement that applying institutions, in need of material of endangered species, must ensure that such material is necessary for this research and will not threaten the existence of that population; *invites* the ICBP to endorse this recommendation through its XVI World Conference and also invites the IUBS to consider this recommendation." The Section of Ornithology in the Division of Zoology of the IUBS was established, based on the IOC. The Chair of this Section is the President of the IOC and its secretary is its Secretary-General, the first being Professor J. Dorst and Dr. H. J. Frith. No mention was made in the Official Report of the IOC and its PEC of further work on the Statutes of the IOC as foreshadowed in the report of the 15th Congress.

The IOC also accepted the invitation of the Deutsche Ornithologen-Gesellschaft to hold the 17th Congress in the Federal Republic of Germany, with Professor Donald Farner (USA) as its President. The great success of the 16th Congress demonstrated that ornithological congresses could be held in any part of

the world with a large number of members attending and with a full and diverse program, an essential requirement if congresses are to be truly international.

13 Back to Europe—the 17th Congress, Berlin, 4 – 11 June 1978

Soon after the close of the 16th Congress, the German National Committee voted to hold the 17th Congress in Berlin, the site of the 5th Congress in 1910, and to appoint Dr. Rolf Nöhring (Germany) as Secretary-General. Dr. Nöhring started work on the Congress immediately with Frau Regine Damm as his main assistance and Frau Ingeborg as assistant treasurer. Due to the activity and insight of President Donald S. Farner (USA), the structure of the IOC and the nature of the International Ornithological Congresses changed significantly into the organization that we know today. Significant modifications were the development of a new set of Statutes and By-laws, and the institution of an International Scientific Program Committee (SPC) responsible for the organization of the entire scientific program of the congress.

President Farner, who also held several key positions in the IUBS, had a broad understanding about how international scientific groups should be organized and run. It was clear to him that the existing Rules for the IOC, those adopted in the early 1930s and first published in the Proceedings of the 9th Congress in Rouen, 1938, had become altogether inadequate for specifying the structure of organization and duties of officers and committees of the IOC and its congresses. He formulated a new set of Statutes and By-laws for the International Ornithological Committee, assisted mainly by Walter Bock. These new regulations were the major topic of discussion at a special meeting of the PEC, 11 – 12 March 1978, at the Airport Hotel, Frankfurt a. M., Germany, and were subsequently adopted by the IOC at its first meeting at the Berlin Congress on 6 June 1978; they became effective immediately. The new Statutes and By-laws (Proceedings, pp. 55 – 60) then governed the actions taken at the second meeting of the IOC.

At some point, either at the 15th or probably the 16th Congresses, a decision was reached to assign the responsibility for the scientific program for congresses to an international Scientific Program Committee, independent of the Secretary-General and Local Committee. The first such SPC was appointed by President Farner for the Berlin Congress, with Professor K. Immelmann (Germany) as Chair. This committee met for two days in Berlin in October 1975 to formulate the program. Because the Congress was to meet in Berlin, the city where Erwin Stresemann and Oskar Heinroth had worked, and because their lead-

ing students, E. Mayr and K. Lorenz, were still active, the German members of the SPC requested that the Congress include a Stresemann Memorial Lecture and a Heinroth Memorial Lecture to be presented by Mayr and Lorenz respectively. This proposal was agreed to immediately; and in addition to the two Memorial Lectures and Presidential Address, three further plenary lectures were scheduled. Other oral presentations were restricted to symposia, of which 36 were scheduled.

The SPC decided on the subject and the conveners of the symposia, and then turned the work of organization and running of the symposia over to the conveners. The only stricture imposed on conveners was that they were to make every effort to get speakers from different countries, and that no speaker should present a paper in more than one symposium. All contributed papers were restricted to Poster Papers, a decision that caused some controversy, and although all future congresses included poster papers, only the 18th and 21st Congresses restricted contributed papers to this category. A small number of Special Interest Discussions (= RTDs) were held. And there was an excellent and full film program, with many films shown from morning to evening in a designated room.

The Congress was held in the Berlin Kongresshalle, which was located in a large park that permitted quiet walks for congress members during the daily sessions. The building had many rooms suitable for all of the needs of the Congress but lacked sufficient access to restaurants for midday and evening meals. A series of pre- and post-congress excursions were arranged through Europe, extending from southern Spain to Lappland and east to the Danube delta; mid-congress excursions on Thursday, 8 June were restricted to around Berlin. A number of congress members took the opportunity to visit East Berlin.

The IOC adopted the new Statutes and By-laws at its first meeting at the Berlin Congress, as mentioned above. Further, it decided that a member of the PEC should be designated to act as President should the elected President be unable to carry out his duties. In these circumstances, Professor L. von Haartman (Finland) was elected as President and Professor J. Ashoff (Germany) as the designated President for the 18th Congress. An invitation to hold that Congress in Moscow in 1982 had been presented to the IOC at some time prior to the 17th Congress. In their discussion of this invitation in March 1978, the PEC decided that an "emergency" invitation be sought in case the Soviet ornithologists could not present their invitation formally in June at the Berlin Congress. Such a request was made to the

Belgian ornithological community. Both Russians and Belgians presented competing invitations to the IOC at the 17th Congress; the Russians gave strong assurances from the Soviet Government that all foreign ornithologists would be allowed to attend the Congress and its excursions. A spirited discussion followed with a very close vote of 19 for Moscow, 17 for Brussels and 10 abstentions. Immediately following this vote, Secretary-General Nöhring resigned in protest from the IOC, creating history as the shortest tenured Secretary-General in the PEC. New members of the IOC and of the PEC were elected for the term 1978–1982. The Standing Committees for Cooperation of Seabird Research and International Committee for Bird Ringing were voted as official committees of the IOC (pp. 48–49), but to my knowledge the latter did not convene and had to be re-established at the 21st Congress in Vienna in 1994.

There was no formal closing to the Berlin Congress, President Farner saying flippantly at the start of the last day that the last person to leave the congress hall should make certain that the door was closed and locked. The two volume Proceedings of the 17th Congress contained the Official Reports, the papers of the 36 symposia (not all were submitted), the abstracts of the special interest groups, poster papers and films, and the reports of the Standing Committees. It also included an overview of the program, an innovation recommended for all future congress proceedings. With the successful 1978 Berlin Congress, the nature of international ornithological congresses changed markedly to meet the demands of an increasing number of avian biologists attending and the ever broadening areas of research in ornithology. Credit for these progressive changes must go to Donald Farner who worked hard and productively on modifying ornithological congresses and the organization of the IOC into a more modern and efficient format.

And now, I would like to add a final message for the members of the 17th Congress who stood or walked everyday without fear or concern under the large concrete canopy hanging over the main entrance of the Berlin Congress Center Building. Sometime in the autumn of 1978, I saw a photograph of the Congress Center in the New York Times, after its canopy had collapsed but fortunately at a time when the area beneath was empty of people. My immediate reaction was that the collapse had been induced by the meeting of ornithologists during the previous summer; perhaps the structure had been weakened by some of the heated disagreements at meetings of the IOC or at the symposium on "Recent trends in biogeographic analysis" where only the packed lecture room kept feuding speaker and a listener from physi-

cally attacking one another. Or was it the talk on "Reconstructing the curse of speciation" (Proceedings, p. 16) that had the effect. Unfortunately Herr Nöhring missed his chance to include a picture of the collapsed marquee as the frontispiece in the Congress Proceedings, as a memento of such a volatile Congress.

14 Behind the 'Iron Curtain'—the 18th Congress, Moscow, 16 – 24 August 1982

The 18th Congress was particularly important as an international event because there had been little communication between the ornithologists of the Soviet Union and most of the rest of the world for many decades, especially since the end of World War II. A congress in the Soviet Union would facilitate direct contact between of these two estranged groups of scientists. But the Congress was equally controversial, as shown by the very close vote at the 17th Congress and immediate resignation of its Secretary-General, Dr. R. Nöhring. Moreover, a letter protesting the Moscow Congress by H. Mueller (1981) was published in *The Auk* with an outstandingly positive answer by D. Farner (1981) who pointed out the immense value of this Congress for building bridges and mutual stimulation of ideas between two such large groups of ornithologists. One convener, S. T. Emlen cancelled his symposium in response to Mueller's letter, but this symposium, on "The origin and evolution of cooperative breeding in birds", was rescued by Professor Russell P. Balda (USA). Professor Lars von Haartman (Finland) proved to be an excellent choice as President, being from a country that was obliged to interact both with the Soviet Union and the West since the end of World War II. The importance of international cooperation in ornithological research was emphasized in the opening statement of the Secretary-General Valery D. Ilyichev (Proceedings, pp. 8 – 14). Accordingly, the symbol for the 18th Congress was the red-breasted goose *Branta ruficollis*, shown in flight against a globe; it is a threatened species migrating from the Soviet Union to winter in Eastern Europe and sometimes northeastern Africa.

Following the 17th Congress, President von Haartman immediately appointed Professor Valery Ilyichev as Secretary-General and the Soviet Organizing Committee with its appropriate subcommittees. He then appointed the Scientific Program Committee under the chair of Professor J. Aschoff (Germany). Some of the non-Soviet members of this committee were able to meet in Frankfurt a. M. in September, 1979, at the annual meeting of the Deutsche Ornithologen-Gesellschaft; Dr. C. Perrins arrived late,

delayed because of the frequent autumn fog in Western Europe. A second, week-long meeting of the SPC was held in Moscow in December, 1979. The Congress was to be held in the Moscow State University which had many suitable lecture and other rooms which were inspected by the SPC. At the final dinner of the SPC meeting, Professor Aschoff made the point that the language of international science was now English and that if the Soviet hosts were to participate in international science, they had three years before the Congress to learn it; many took his advice, which greatly enhanced the exchange of ideas between Eastern and Western ornithologists.

President von Haartman interacted closely with the Soviet organizers in planning for the Congress and made at least one additional trip to Moscow in connection with this work. In the fall of 1981, Professor D. Farner spent two weeks in Moscow and Professor W. Bock two months to assist in preparations for the Congress, partly to arrange details of meetings, but mainly to assist in editing the abstracts. Bock spent the second part of his time working in the anatomical laboratory of Professor F. Ya. Dzerzhinsky in Moscow State University, and also attended a meeting of Socialistic Morphologists. On his homeward journey, he stopped in Helsinki, Finland and briefed President von Haartman on the progress of the Congress. Upon being informed of the recent death of Dr. E. Eisenmann (USA, and chair of the SCON), von Haartman asked Bock if he would take over the chair of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature which he accepted.

The 18th Congress opened with a greeting by President von Haartman in a dazzling series of languages. The scientific program of the 18th Congress followed that of the 17th closely. In addition to the Presidential Address, there were five plenary lectures, 17 morning symposia, 24 afternoon symposia, poster papers and Round Table Discussions. An important feature of the scientific program was the large number of contributing Soviet and Eastern block ornithologists, providing a good insight into the diversity and depth of research in avian biology in those countries.

Papers appeared in the Proceedings of the 18th Congress as follows: Official Reports (prepared by Walter Bock), the plenary lectures, full papers of morning symposia, abstracts of afternoon symposia, abstracts of most poster papers, some full poster presentations, and reports of RTDs (only a few were received by the editors of the Proceedings). It is interesting that rather long abstracts of a poster and of an RTD from one of the editors appeared in the Proceedings. In its report, the SCON stated that it would begin a project on the history of avian family-group

names, an essential task before nomenclatural decisions could be reached on these names as required by the current Code of Zoological Nomenclature; this rather large project would be accomplished in 1994 (see the 21st Congress, 1994). Unfortunately the Proceedings do not include any details of the large series of tours held on the congress free-day or of the many outstanding post-congress excursions to diverse parts of the Soviet Union.

With extensive changes to the IOC Statutes and By-laws from the 17th Congress, a number of questions were raised at both the meetings of the PEC and the IOC to clarify their implications. Most importantly, it was emphasized that former Presidents are now permanent members of the IOC and that emeritus members of the IOC (those over 65 years of age) are not counted toward the specified total number of members or as representatives of their home countries in the IOC. In either case, additional members can be elected. Further, it was suggested that former Secretaries-General be made permanent members of the IOC so that their most useful knowledge about the organizing and running congresses could be tapped. A small committee was established to examine these and other matters arising from the new Statutes, and to consider any required resolutions to present to the IOC for adoption. However, no resolutions were presented to the IOC for action at its second meeting, and a motion was put forward to ask the committee of Professors von Haartman, Farner and Ilyichev to approve the resolutions. It is not clear from the Congress Proceedings whether this action was undertaken.

Several important amendments to the By-laws were passed at IOC meetings during the Congress, but were not noted in the Official Report or elsewhere in the Proceedings. These changes can be found by comparing the Statutes and By-laws published in the Proceedings of the 17th Congress with those published in the 19th Congress; the Statutes and By-laws were not included in the Proceedings of the 18th Congress. One change was the addition of a Vice-President to take over the reins of the IOC should the elected President become unable to continue in his/her duties. Another was a change in Article I of the By-laws in which was added the sentence: "Members of the IOC must be residents of the country that they represent." (Proceedings 19th Congress, p.88). These major omissions in official reports of the IOC and its PEC, often the result of abridged accounts of what happened at their meetings at congresses, demonstrated clearly the need for an additional officer of the IOC, namely a Permanent Secretary. This issue was resolved at the 19th Congress.

Attention was now given to the election of new

members of the IOC. The procedure had not been worked out carefully, and only one person was nominated by the PEC. President von Haartman proposed that the IOC form a committee to nominate and then elect new members. The result could best be described as semi-controlled chaos; Professor Farner became discouraged and departed in protest. At this point, President von Haartman blocked the door with a chair to prevent other IOC members from leaving. Individual ornithologists were quickly nominated one after the other with no additional information than their name and country of residence. It quickly became clear that a recording secretary was needed, and President von Haartman asked Walter Bock to undertake this task. A long list of nominees was put together and they were promptly elected as new members. I was then asked to contact these new members after the Congress (some of whom I did not know), informing them of their election. My suspicion is that at least one person who was not on the list was so informed because of similarity of names. Nor was it certain whether more new members of the IOC were elected than permitted under the Statutes and By-Laws. But these proved minor issues, and the IOC continued to survive and function properly.

Approval was given for the establishment of a permanent archive for the IOC and a committee was established to look into this matter. Agreement was reached with the Smithsonian Archive in Washington, DC, as storage venue, with the papers signed by Donald S. Farner, Henri Ouellet and Walter J. Bock for the IOC (Proceedings, XIXth Congress, p. 60). But few members of the IOC have yet forwarded their papers to it. Members are urged to do so wherever possible.

A discussion on the nature of the congress scientific program was held because of concern that ornithologists did not have time for individual discussions and that talks presented at the congresses, especially in the symposia, tended to deal with matters of past importance rather than new discoveries and ideas of future significance. The last point is indeed real. For most ornithologists after World War II, speed of publication and a broad dissemination of new findings and ideas are of importance, and these needs are not guaranteed by publication in congress proceedings. Most members did agree that the combination of the plenary lectures and symposia conveying ideas from specialized areas of avian biology to the general ornithologist, individual contributions in the form of poster or other papers providing a way for any ornithologist to convey his/her work to the international community, and the RTD's as a forum for detailed discussion among specialists in any field, provide a sound and appropriate format for the scientific pro-

gram of ornithological congresses. Attention has also to be given to the issue of providing sufficient time during the congress week for contact between individual ornithologists.

Concern was also raised on the matter of invitations for future congresses, and whether the IOC should act on any other than those submitted for an ensuing congress. It was pointed out that the work to prepare a congress invitation took several years, and hence it was useful for ornithologists in different countries to propose intended invitations as early as possible, e.g., work for an invitation for the 19th Congress should start before the end of the 17th Congress, even though the final invitation is not made until the 18th Congress. The IOC then voted to accept the invitation from Canada for the 19th Congress, 1986, in Ottawa, to complete the first 100 years of international ornithological congresses. Professor Klaus Immelmann (Germany) was elected President, with Dr. Henri Ouellet (Canada) appointed the Secretary-General and Professor J. Ashoff serving as the designated replacement President for the 19th Congress.

The 18th Congress was a great success for a number of reasons, foremost among which was the getting together of ornithologists from two estranged blocks of nations to interact as is proper in international science. To my knowledge, no ornithologist was denied a visa to attend the Congress, though some were delivered at the last moment in line with the ways that some governments interacted during the cold war. The 18th was also the first congress to operate under the effective new Statutes adopted at the 17th Congress in Berlin—a tribute to the work and vision of Professor Farner.

15 Back to the New World—the 19th Congress, Ottawa, 22–29 June 1986

Under the direction of an efficient Secretary-General, Henri Ouellet, the Canadians started immediately on the organization of the 19th Congress, establishing a series of committees to deal with all aspects of the meeting. President Klaus Immelmann appointed the Scientific Program Committee, with Professor Bruce Falls (Canada) as its chair. The Canada jay *Perisoreus canadensis* was, not unexpectedly, chosen as the Congress emblem. Planning for the congress went well, all committees meshing properly in doing their tasks and reporting to the two meetings of the entire Local Committee held in Ottawa. The SPC met once in Ottawa, in October 1983, with its North American members also attending later meetings of the Local Committee. The 19th Congress met in the newly constructed Ottawa Congress Centre which has excellent facilities for a

large international meeting, with numerous dining and other facilities both in the building and nearby. Day to day planning and running of the 19th Congress were contracted out to Lemmex and Associates—professional conference organizers; this was the first ornithological congress in which such arrangements were made and it set the pattern for the future.

The 19th Congress was larger than any of the previous congresses, with a total of 1 338 members representing 65 countries (1 154 full members, of which 68 did not attend). The scientific program comprised the Presidential Address, a lecture by the Secretary-General on the history of Canadian ornithology, five plenary papers, 50 symposia, 150 oral and 380 poster presentations, and 43 RTD and other special interest meetings. In recognition of the 100 anniversary of the founding of the international ornithological congresses in Vienna in 1884, a display was prepared by Herbert Schifter (Austria) and Walter Bock (USA) using materials from the archives in Vienna. Professor Charles Sibley presented a special exhibit of his findings on interrelationships of birds based on his studies of DNA-DNA annealing along the side of the large room of posters and exhibits. His results were shown on a 10 meter long, 1 meter wide strip of paper that was labeled by one congress member as “the tapestry.” Although it cannot be confirmed, it was reported that Professor Sibley spent almost his entire time at the Congress sitting next to his tapestry, ready to speak to every one wishing to discuss diverse aspects of avian relationship. The film program contained 85 films, some of which were shown more than once. A total of 13 pre- and post-congress excursions were held, reaching almost all corners of Canada, together with early morning bird walks and a series of tours on the congress free-day of Thursday, 16 June. Members went home exhausted.

Unfortunately, the Official Report of the Congress was customarily brief, so that considerable reading between the lines was necessary to tease out its events. Two excellent invitations for the 20th Congress in 1990 were received, one from Japan and the other from New Zealand. Dr. H. Morioka, in presenting the Japanese invitation, informed the delegates that all languages would be acceptable at a congress held in Japan—Japanese English, German English, French English, and even American and Australian English. After their presentation and discussion, the IOC voted to accept the New Zealand invitation for the next congress in Christchurch. Professor Charles G. Sibley (USA) was elected President and Professor Jan K. Pinowski (Poland) Vice President. Further, Dr. N. K. Kuroda (Japan) was elected as the Honorary President and Professor Walter J. Bock (USA) as the first Permanent Secretary. Three

of these positions resulted from changes to the Statutes proposed by an Advisory Committee on Statutes (Proceedings, p. 59). First, it was decided at the Moscow Congress that it was advisable to have a position of Vice-President of the IOC, and hence of the congress, who could serve as President should the elected President not be able to continue in office; accordingly, that position was added to the Statutes. Secondly, although the Statutes did not prohibit the election or nomination of honorary officers for a congress, such action was agreed to in principle although has not been so specified in the Statutes and By-Laws. From the 20th congress onward, an Honorary President was elected, generally to recognize a senior ornithologist.

Still more importantly, it had become clear to President Immelmann and Secretary-General Ouellet that two major difficulties confronted the organization of the IOC and its congresses. One involved the responsibilities of the Secretary-General. These had become too heavy for any one person, diverting the Secretary-General from his/her primary obligations in organizing and running the congress. One Secretary-General, Niko Tinbergen, had already broken down under the strain after the 1966 Congress at Oxford. For modern congresses, such tasks required the full attention of the Secretary-General, preventing him/her from devoting the time needed to record the discussions and decisions of the PEC and the IOC, and to report these fully in congress proceedings. The task of securing invitations for future congresses had also become a major task both for ornithological groups interested in hosting a congress and for the IOC because the requirements for preparing an invitation had increased in complexity.

The other major difficulty concerned long-term "institutional memory", or, more importantly, the lack of it among the officers of the IOC. The President and Secretary-General of any congress serve only one term. Even their additional service, as past officers, in the PEC for an additional term and the general service of elected PEC members for two terms, members of the PEC did not provide sufficient institutional memory. Immelmann and Ouellet felt the need for smoother operational continuation, and hence a better institutional memory. So they recommended a new position, that of a Permanent Secretary whose duties were to run the IOC and PEC both at and between congresses, and to plan for future congresses, leaving the Secretary-General free to focus unfettered on running the congress current. This approach was accepted unanimously by members of the IOC of the 19th Congress, and Professor Walter Bock, who had, in effect, served in this capacity at the 18th Congress, was elected as the first Permanent

Secretary and charged with providing the necessary modifications to the Statutes for consideration at the 20th Congress in 1990.

An amendment to the Statutes was proposed and passed by the IOC that new members of the IOC must have attended at least one ornithological congress to be eligible, even if it was the one at which they were elected. Unfortunately this change was not recorded in the Congress Proceedings, again demonstrating the need for the new position of Permanent Secretary to oversee such matters. The omission was finally noted at the 22nd Congress in Durban and re-adopted there. The number of elected members of the IOC was increased to 120, and five new members were elected (Proceedings, p. 59). As well, a new Standing Committee on Applied Ornithology was appointed (Proceedings, p. 60) under the co-chairs of Professor V. Ilyichev (Soviet Union) and Dr. P. Peterson (USA).

The 19th Congress ended with a formal closing Ceremony in the late afternoon of Saturday, 28 June, possibly the first post-World War II congress to have a definite closing, despite its omission from the daily printed program; all subsequent congresses included a formal closing Ceremony. The 20th Congress in New Zealand was announced at the same time, as well as the new officers and members of the IOC and the PEC. The 19th Congress was clearly the largest International Ornithological Congress to date in terms of members, number of presentations and size of its Proceedings. Moreover, it was an exceedingly well organized and excellently run congress, setting the standard for the future. Unfortunately, President Klaus Immelmann died just over a year after closing a congress over which he had presided so well; a memorial is included in the Proceedings (pp. 7-9).

Following the 19th Congress, the Permanent Secretary prepared a many-paged set of instructions for the preparation of invitations and for organizing future congresses. These instructions are available from the current Permanent Secretary to any group of ornithologists interested in hosting a congress.

16 Back to the Antipodes—the 20th Congress, Christchurch, 2-9 December 1990

Immediately following the close of the 19th Congress, President Charles G. Sibley (USA) appointed Dr. Ben Bell (New Zealand) as the Secretary-General of the 20th Congress who then arranged the membership of the necessary New Zealand Organizing Committee and its subcommittees. The yellow-eyed penguin *Megadyptes antipodes* was chosen as the Congress emblem, representative of the "South-

ern Perspective" theme for the 20th Congress. As for the 19th Congress, organizational details were arranged by a professional conference organizer, Conference Makers Limited. Sibley also appointed Professor Peter Berthold (Germany) as chair of the Scientific Program Committee, despite a major protest from the New Zealanders who wanted a New Zealand ornithologist to chair it. This matter was straightened out by letters to the New Zealand organizers from Professors Donald Farner and Walter Bock at the request of President Sibley. Over the next four years, the New Zealand Organizing Committee met about 80 times, sending all reports to me and I assume also to President Sibley; one wonders what they discussed during so many meetings. The SPC met in November, 1987 in Tiburon, California, the home of Professor Sibley. This had serious disadvantages because the SPC was unable to see the actual congress site, depriving it of an appreciation of the arrangement of the meeting rooms which is most useful in formulating the scientific program of a congress, such as appreciating the arrangement of doors and seating in each room and knowing the time required to move from one session to another, etc. At its meeting, the SPC decided on a program of four plenary lectures in addition to the Presidential Address, a New Zealand evening with two lectures, 48 symposia, and contributions in the form of oral (276) and poster papers (233) papers, as well as round table discussions (31), special interest groups (10), and films (39). President Sibley was able to visit New Zealand prior to the Congress and discuss progress and arrangements with the Local Committee.

With the agreement of the Permanent Executive Committee, President Sibley appointed Professor Hsu (= Xu) Wei-Shu (China) and Professor Helmut Sick (Brazil) as Honorary Vice-Presidents of the 20th Congress.

The 20th Congress was part of New Zealand's 150th Year Celebration of the founding of their modern government, and was held under the banner of the "The World of Birds—a Southern Perspective". It also included the 20th World Conference of the ICBP in Hamilton, the Pacific Festival of International Nature Films in Dunedin, and the BirdPex '90 Stamp Exhibition in Christchurch. The Congress opened at the Christchurch Town Hall with a traditional Maori challenge involving a Maori warrior at the head of the procession of the official party, walking backwards and jabbing at President Sibley with a spear, cheered on by the congress members. Set in a large and attractive parkland on the outskirts of Christchurch, the campus of the University of Canterbury was the venue for all other congress activities, the first time that a university site had been used

since the 16th Congress in 1974, and possibly the last. A major problem in universities is the lack of large lecture auditoriums, essential for plenary lectures for large international congresses. The solution used in Christchurch, that of dividing the audience into two halls, the second of which was fed by a video system, did not work well. Another problem stems from the distances between lecture rooms in universities; such distances are usually between buildings, and even if short, still cause problems for congress members wishing to change sessions, as happened at the Christchurch Congress.

The Christchurch Congress was large, attended by 883 regular members, 135 accompanying persons, and 285 student members and staff volunteers. Unfortunately New Zealand did not abide with the strict regulations of the International Union of Biological Sciences on freedom of movement of scientists to international congresses under the auspices of the I-UBS; no ornithologists carrying South African passports were issued visas to attend the 20th Congress.

Diverse tours on the mid-congress free day converged at the Mount Hutt Station where an excellent High Country Fair was held, followed by a barbecue. A comprehensive series of pre- and post-congress excursions visited a broad range of New Zealand habitats, allowing congress members to see a great diversity of the unique New Zealand avifauna and its environment. The 20th Congress had also planned a unique post-congress sub-Antarctic cruise on the new M. V. Frontier Spirit. Unfortunately this ship was damaged in a November cyclone off Fiji, and the cruise had to be cancelled. In its place, however, 77 congress members were able to arrange a substitute cruise on the M. V. World Discovery, and this was most successful.

The PEC met five times during the Congress, largely to deal with modifications to the Statutes concerning the establishment of the position of Permanent Secretary. In the end, the changes as proposed by Walter Bock were accepted and forwarded to the IOC where they were adopted. Basically, the duties of the Secretary-General are concerned with the running congress for which he/she is appointed by the President, while those of the Permanent Secretary are concerned with the operation of the IOC and interacting with prospective hosts in the preparation of invitations for future congresses. The Secretaries-General and Permanent Secretaries are both permanent members of the IOC. In addition, provision was made for the appointment of Honorary Presidents and Vice-Presidents who are *ex officio* members of the IOC during their term of office. It was also proposed that the membership of the IOC be raised to 140, and that for the Permanent Executive to ten; with the 5 *ex*

officio members, the total membership of the PEC now became 15. Senior members of the IOC were no longer subject to Art II.4 of the Statutes (= automatic resignation from the IOC following absence from two successive congresses).

These changes in the Statutes and the By-Laws were adopted at the IOC meeting of the 20th Congress. Further, the IOC voted to accept the invitation from Austria to hold the 21st Congress in Vienna in 1994. Dr. Christopher M. Perrins (United Kingdom) was elected President of the 21st Congress, Svein Haftorn (Sweden) as Vice-President, Walter J. Bock as Permanent Secretary and Karel H. Voous (The Netherlands) as Honorary President. Dr. John Dittami (Austria) was appointed by President Perrins as its Secretary-General. Three members of the PEC were re-elected and seven new members elected (Proceedings, pp. 69–70), and a large slate of 62 new members and 3 re-elected members of the IOC were proposed by the Nominating Committee (Proceedings, pp. 69–70). Resolutions were passed concerning ornithological nomenclature, the need for scientific posts in the Sub-department of Ornithology at the British Museum (Natural History), and possibly serious detrimental effects on migrating birds by construction of the large Voice of America relay station in the Arava Valley, Israel. In response to the report of the RTD on Standardization of English Bird Names, the IOC established an international committee under the chair of Professor B. Monroe to develop such a list. An international group to standardize French bird names was also established under the chair of Dr. H. Ouellet.

In conclusion, the IOC gave a strong vote of appreciation to all persons involved in the successful 20th Congress in Christchurch.

17 Back to our roots—the 21st Congress, Vienna, 20–25 August 1994

Ideas for a second congress in Vienna had been in the air before the 1986 Congress and came to fruition with the acceptance of an invitation from Austria at the Christchurch Congress. Several early discussions were held between Walter Bock and various Austrian ornithologists for preparing the invitation. He did not meet with the future Secretary-General John Dittami then because on the one occasion that Bock was in Vienna just prior to 1990, Dittami was brutally mugged the night before at the railroad station in the small suburban town outside Vienna where he lived.

The emblem for the 21st Congress was the grey-lag goose *Anser anser*, the bird much studied by Konrad Lorenz. At the suggestion of Professor Dittami, President Perrins appointed Professor John C.

Wingfield (USA) as chair of the 12 member Scientific Program Committee. The SPC met in late August of 1992 in a small resort hotel west of Vienna and agreed on the usual program of plenary lectures, symposia (52), poster papers (over 500) and round table discussions. One notable change was an increase in the number of plenary lectures, including the Presidential Address, to ten to enable a better coverage of the ever-widening spectrum of ornithological research.

The increased number of plenary lectures at the 21st Congress proved a great success, but their consecutive arrangement, one after the other at the start of the morning session, was heavy going. Many congress members favored one plenary lecture at the beginning of the morning and one at beginning of the afternoon, as was to become standard practice at subsequent congresses. Several special evening lectures were also organized by the Secretary-General. Unfortunately there was no film program. Moreover, because the congress program was scheduled over only six days, the traditional mid-congress free day was not held either.

Although the original site suggested for the Congress was the new Vienna Convention Center, which has excellent facilities, it was rather isolated, located well away from the center of Vienna and most hotels. Subsequently, the convention facility at the Hofburg in the city center was chosen, a much more convenient site in spite of its poorer appointments. Air conditioning was non-existent and, as it turned out, meeting rooms became stifling during a heat wave in Vienna at the time of the Congress. President Perrins was able to visit Vienna to inspect the convention facilities at the Hofburg in the early fall of 1992 after the suggestion to change venues had been made by Secretary-General Dittami. Because of continuing organizational problems, a special two-day meeting was held at Oxford, U. K. in November 1993, with Perrins, Bock, Dittami and Dr. Hans. Winkler present to work them out.

The 21st Congress was attended by over 1 300 members from 70 countries, a huge increase from the 1st Congress in 1884. Its opening in the Arcades of the University was very pleasant, most informal and was followed by a buffet supper. Notable among the members were Wilhelm Meise (Germany), Max Nicholson (UK) and Ernst Mayr (USA) whose attendance at ornithological congresses dated back to the late 1920's or early 1930's, before most members of the 21st Congress were born. Professor Mayr was awarded an honorary doctoral degree from the University of Vienna and the Godman-Salvin Medal from the British Ornithologists' Union during the Congress. It should also be noted that immediately

prior to the Congress, he was chosen as the winner of the 1994 International Prize for Biology presented by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science; it was awarded to him by the Emperor of Japan in November, 1994.

The ICBP held its World Conference immediately prior to the Congress, and every effort was made at the Congress to accommodate ICBP attendees as well. Plenary lectures and symposia of interest to members of the ICBP were scheduled to take place on a single day, but it is not clear whether this plan enticed many ICBP members to attend. Because of the extensive re-organization of the ICBP after 1994, and its decision to terminate its World Conferences, this was the last time that these two groups met in conjunction, the end of a tradition that starting at the first congress after WW II.

Meetings of the PEC and the IOC covered considerable ground efficiently (Proceedings, pp. A130 – 133). Finances had become a major problem, both for congress organization and for travel for many ornithologists from poorer countries. As one solution for the latter, it was agreed that the IOC could send to all ornithologists wishing to attend congresses a letter of invitation which could then be used to support applications for funds from their home country. Another related problem was the publication of the Proceedings, which had grown greatly in size such that its costs now constituted a sizeable part of the registration fee. Shortage of funds had already produced a skimmed volume of abstracts, in which text was simply guillotined off in a make-shift page trimming process. Other significant costs incorporated into the registration fee had come from the hiring of convention centers and of travel/convention companies to assist in the running of congresses now that the congresses had become so large. The days of undertaking congresses with only the help of the congress committees and a corps of volunteers, as happened before 1986, had passed. International ornithological congresses have become increasingly successful and well attended; with such success and numbers of congress members have come increased organizational problems and costs.

A further nagging problem concerned the composition of the IOC. Its representation by country, according to the Statutes, should be in proportion to the relative size of the country's ornithological activity. Assessment of the amount of ornithological working different countries had never been attempted, and still has not been done. Concern was also expressed about increasing competition from the growing number of regional ornithological congresses and special interest groups.

The reports of the Standing Committees on Or-

nithological Nomenclature, Seabird Research and Applied Ornithology were submitted to the IOC (Proceedings, pp. 133 – 141). The SCON announced that the major project on avian family-group names was finally completed (Bock, 1994), a project that dated back to 1962. At the 18th Congress in 1982, the SCON stated that it would tackle this major nomenclature project for birds. Its completion provides the first thorough analysis of the history and nomenclature of family-group names for any major group of animals. The death of Burt Monroe brought the complicated project for a standardized list of English names for birds to a temporary halt. It was restarted soon after the Vienna Congress when Dr. Frank Gill (USA) agreed to serve as the chair of the English Bird Name Committee, and the project is now close to completion.

Following the recommendations of the PEC, the IOC voted to accept an invitation from South Africa for the 22nd Congress in 1998 and elected Peter Berthold (Germany) as its President, Janet Kear (United Kingdom) as Vice-President, Walter Bock as Permanent Secretary and Cheng Tso-Hsin (China) as Honorary President. Members of the PEC and new members of the IOC were also elected. Dr. Aldo Berruti (South Africa) was appointed by President-elect Berthold as the Secretary-General for the 22nd Congress.

After five days of clear hot weather, a strong cold front went through Vienna just after the formal close of the Congress and immediately before the beginning of the final reception and evening banquet at the Vienna Zoo in Schönbrunn—an event that will be long remembered by all congress members attending. But I cannot provide any first hand comment because I, together with Hans Winkler and our wives, left the zoo early for a quiet dinner in the city. Although the event was carefully planned, the first mistake was to separate congress members into different parts of the zoo as noted carefully on their tickets. Then came the rain and wind, drenching uncovered seating areas and blowing away table ware. There was no plan B. What followed was a metaphor for Robbie Burns' line: "the best laid plans o' mice and men gang aft a-gley." I only learned later of the intermittent loss of electricity and the uneven distribution of food and people because many members had become confused about the seating areas stated on their tickets. Finally, the coup de grâce was delivered by a locked exit gate, preventing members from leaving the zoo at the end of the banquet. The crowd milled around it in bemused frustration. Directions and zoo attendants were conspicuous by their absence. Some of the younger members, it was reported to me, attempted to get over the gate by climbing the fence of the enclosure

next to it without realizing that the enclosure was the zoo's lion cage. Fortunately, there were no serious accidents, and a small alternative exit was eventually found, allowing the crowd to leave and return safely to their hotels.

Funds were not available to publish a Congress Proceedings of more than the available plenary lectures and the Official Report of the Congress. The 21st Congress Proceedings were published by the BOU in *The Ibis*, volume 138 (#1), 1996 and then reissued as an undated separate, *Acta XXI Congressus Internationalis Ornithologici*, which will cause some bibliographic problems, even though the pagination of the plenary lectures in the two publications is the same; the second Acta contains additional pages in the back of the volume containing the official reports of the congress. The difficulties confronting the publishing of congress proceedings came to a head at Vienna; yet it took only the next Congress in Durban to reach a reasonable solution.

18 South again—the 22nd Congress, Durban, 16–22 August 1998

Interests by South African ornithologists to host an international ornithological congress had been long standing, starting formally with an invitation at the 11th Basel Congress, 1954 for the 12th Congress in 1958. Unfortunately, the world economy could not support an ornithological congress outside of Europe then. Records in the proceedings of the 12th Congress do not indicate whether there was a repeat invitation from South Africa, but it is clear that when the decision was taken to set the venue of the 13th Congress, 1962 outside of Europe, it was necessary to honor the vote of the 9th Congress, 1938 to hold the 10th congress in the USA, then scheduled for 1942. It should be mentioned that the first invitation for an ornithological congress from Africa came from Tunis at the 6th Congress, 1926 for the next one in 1930. After 1962, the apartheid policy of the government of South Africa largely precluded hosting a congress in this interesting ornithological region, with its long-active group of avian biologists.

Occasional discussions had been held between Walter Bock and Dr. Tim Crowe (Cape Town: South Africa) on the possibilities of a South African congress, and these intensified in 1991 as soon as it became clear that South Africa was moving to a new government based on fully democratic elections. I believed that the congress would be held in Cape Town, the major center of ornithological activities in South Africa. But in November 1992, Crowe suggested Durban to me and recommended Dr. Aldo Berruti as Secretary-General. After the necessary introductions, correspondence started between Berruti and Bock

which resulted in an invitation for Bock to visit Durban in early May 1993. I was able to meet and talk with Durban city officials, members of Durban's new convention center, representatives of the African National Congress and the Inkata Freedom Party, and officers of the Southern African Ornithological Society. The result of this trip was a formal invitation presented to the IOC at the 21st Congress by Aldo Berruti on behalf of southern African (not just South African) ornithologists to host the 22nd Congress in Durban in August 1998. This invitation was accepted with enthusiasm.

The symbol for the 22nd Congress was Gurney's sugarbird *Promerops gurneyi*, a most appropriate choice of an avian group endemic to southern Africa. After President Berthold had appointed Dr. Berruti as Secretary-General and the necessary National and Local Committees were established, he appointed the Scientific Program Committee under the chair of Dr. Lukas Jenni (Switzerland). This committee met in early October 1995 in one of the lovely national parks in Kwazulu-Natal Province after inspecting the convention site and hotels in Durban. The SPC decided to maintain the system of 10 plenary lectures, but arranged them so that a plenary lecture opened each morning and afternoon session of the five working days of the Congress. This system worked very well, the plenary lectures serving as inducements for members to be on time for both morning and afternoon sessions. In addition, there were 10 symposia a day, five in the morning and five in the afternoon with two South African Lectures in the evening of the first working day. At the 1995 meeting of the SPC, 45 symposia were accepted with five symposia slots left open for later suggestions; a total of 51 symposia were presented in the end. Contributed papers were divided into oral and poster papers, those for the 120 oral slots (in 15 sessions) being selected by members of the SPC on the request of the speaker. As for earlier congresses, RTDs were not to be organized as symposia. Also as in earlier congresses, any one person could only convene or speak in one symposium; only one exception had to be made to this rule. All abstracts were to be submitted electronically, as was most of the registration. The change to the Internet medium saved a great deal of time and expense for this and successive congresses.

The problem of publishing congress proceedings was then considered, although it was not within the responsibility of the SPC. The singular difficulty was the cost of publication of the full symposia papers, in contrast to the alternative of publishing no more than a longish abstract of each. Eventually a proposal was made to and accepted by the South African Local Committee to publish the entire congress proceedings

as a CD-ROM disk which included the reports of the congress, the full texts of the plenary lectures and of the symposium papers, the abstracts of the contributed papers and reports of the RTD's. Subsequently the decision was made to publish the plenary lectures in an issue of *The Ostrich* as well. The entire Congress Proceedings eventually ran to the equivalent of 3 672 printed pages in the *The Ostrich* format, the symposium papers themselves occupying 3 164 pages. Without a question, the Proceedings of the Durban Congress are the largest of all congresses so far, a result made possible only with electronic publishing in CD-ROM format.

Announcements of the Congress were made in the usual way by placing advertisements in many leading ornithological journals, but a congress home page was also established on the World Wide Web. Registration and most correspondence for the Congress, including submission of abstracts and use of credit cards for payments, was carried out almost entirely electronically, saving a great deal in postage and speeding up correspondence time. President Berthold was able to visit Durban the year before the Congress to further inspect the site and to discuss arrangements with Secretary-General Berruti and members of the Local Committee. The newly constructed International Congress Center in Durban and its proximity to hotels, as well as the overall planning and running of the Congress, were outstanding and on par with the excellent facilities and organization at the 19th Congress in Ottawa. Most interesting, as well as a complete surprise to members, was a barrier of concrete road traffic dividers placed around the Congress Center the day after the Congress opened, in the direct path of most members walking to the meeting and over which they had to climb to reach and leave the Congress Center. The concrete dividers, it transpired, were not installed to protect the good citizens of Durban from the assembled ornithologists, but for a major meeting of Non-aligned Nations which was to take place at the Congress Center the following week.

One major and unexpected problem was created by the large number of persons who submitted an abstract early without further registering or attending the Congress. Whether this action was intentional, thereby providing the person with another title in their bibliography, or caused by shortage of funding to attend the Congress, could not be determined. As a result, many empty poster boards stood empty, at a major cost to the Local Committee for their rent and to the chagrin of congress members.

The attendance at the Durban Congress totaled 1 083 registered members, far fewer than had been estimated and barely two-thirds of the rather conservative estimate of full members by Berruti and Bock

Clearly finances had been a major factor, even in the first-world countries. Even more disappointing was the dearth of African ornithologists attending the Congress. The small number of members placed serious strains on the finances of the 22nd Congress, because every congress has a fixed minimum cost regardless of the number of attending members. This raises a dilemma for international ornithological congresses. A survey of attendance records shows that congresses held outside of Europe and North America have been much smaller than those within such hubs of ornithological activity. Yet, if the ornithological congresses are to be truly international, they must meet in all parts of the world.

A British Ornithologists' Union day took place on Sunday, 16 August prior to the Welcoming Ceremony, with special lectures on ornithology in Africa. Although no further details of this satellite meeting are given in the Proceedings, an account was provided by Bucknell (1999). The meeting of the World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls (headed by Dr. B.-U. Meyburg, Germany) took place in Midrand, South Africa immediately before the Congress, but independently. Unfortunately few members of this working group attended the Congress.

The Welcoming Ceremony took place in the evening of Sunday, 16 August, followed by a reception. An account of the scientific program of the Congress can be obtained by examining the full Proceedings which lists all of the papers and provides the abstracts for the contributed papers and the Round Table Discussions, as well as references to all of the abstracts which were published in *The Ostrich*, Vol. 69, 1998. Following the Closing Session in the late afternoon on Saturday, 22 August, the congress banquet was held in a large tent attached to the back of the Congress Centre. After a week of excellent weather for the congress, there was a heavy downpour during the banquet, fulfilling the Congress slogan: "Making rain for African ornithology." The tent held except in a couple of places where different segments overlapped and allowed water to pour in without, fortunately, dampening anyone or their spirits.

A full set of pre-and post-congress tours had been arranged, as well as excursions on the mid-congress free day, Thursday, 20 August. Most of the interesting avifaunal areas of southern Africa were covered. Unfortunately no reports of the tours were included in the Proceedings.

Much business was completed at the meetings of the PEC and the IOC which are best treated together. Nominating Committees were established for candidates for offices and membership of the PEC and

IOC Although President Berthold had communicated with all members of the PEC and obtained full agreement on the slate of candidates for the offices, a new candidate was introduced without any warning at the first meeting of the PEC. This unexpected nomination led to considerable argument which became quite heated at times, and led to a long extra meeting of the PEC. The final vote supported the original slate that had been worked out prior to the Congress, and this was then passed by the vote of the IOC. It was decided that in the future a nominating committee for the officers be established under the chair of the immediate Past-President. A nominating committee had often been appointed for ensuing congresses, but not always with the immediate Past-President as the chair. Voting for the officers of the 23rd Congress resulted in the election of Walter J. Bock (USA) as President, Jacques Blondel (France) as Vice-President, Dominique G. Homberger (USA) as Permanent Secretary, and Ernst Sutter (Switzerland) as Honorary President.

Two excellent invitations for the 2002 congress were received and presented to the PEC, one from Israel and one from China. Professor Bock had visited both sites and discussed each invitation with the ornithologists from the prospective host countries. After a full review of the two invitations, the PEC accepted and forwarded both to the IOC, asked the ornithologists from both host countries to present their invitation there, and opened the floor for a full evaluation. After long discussion, the vote was strongly in favor of China. So the first congress in Asia would begin the third century of ornithological congresses. Subsequently Professor Xu Wei-Shu (China) was appointed as Secretary-General for the 23rd Congress. Not unexpectedly, the Israeli members of the IOC were most disappointed that their invitation lost. In the years between 1998 and 2002, unfortunately, the security situation in Israel had degenerated so much that in July 2002, shortly before the opening of the 23rd Congress, Yossi Leshem of the Israeli delegation sent President Bock a message expressing relief that Israel was not hosting the 23rd Congress and wishing the Beijing Congress great success.

Nominations for elected members of the PEC were formulated at the meeting of the PEC, as well as a slate of nominations for new members of the IOC prepared by a committee headed by Professor Cynthia Carey (USA). Both slates were presented to the IOC which approved them with one deletion. During the PEC's discussion of the slate of IOC members it was realized that the amendment to the Statutes passed at the 19th Congress, which required new members of the IOC to have attended at least one congress, had not been included in the published Statutes or men-

tioned in the Proceedings of that Congress. Hence this amendment was proposed once more by the PEC and passed by the IOC [see Art. II (3)]. In addition, the size of the IOC was increased to 200 national representatives.

A number of organizational matters of congresses, including the work of the SPC, were discussed on the basis of a full report on the SPC submitted by its Chair, Lukas Jenni. It was recommended that, as far as possible, all correspondence for future congresses should be electronic. Using this medium, meetings of the SPC could be delayed to within two years of congresses instead of the usual three. A fee should also be charged for the submission of abstracts to cover the cost of publishing the abstract and presenting the contribution at the congress; the submission fee would be subtracted from the congress fee when the person registered for the congress.

Reports of the Standing Committees on Ornithological Nomenclature and Applied Ornithology were submitted. Further, the IOC established three new Standing Committees on Avian Anatomical Nomenclature, Raptor Studies and Ringing. A Standing Committee for Ringing of the IOC had been established at the 17th Congress, Berlin, 1978, but this committee apparently never met and was defunct. The chairs of the existing and the new Standing Committees were requested to submit the lists of their members to Bock for appointment in the 1998–2002 period. Unfortunately most of these committees, with the notable exception of the SCON, were inactive through that time.

Financing remained a continuing problem for the IOC, affecting start-up funds for congress organization and funds to allow ornithologists from developing countries to attend congresses. The IOC is a tax-free organization in that it does not use operating funds. The work of officers in inter-congress periods had always been supported by the officers themselves, a situation that cannot be depended upon in the future. Additional costs were being incurred as well, such as the maintaining of a WWW home page, now essential for the work both the IOC and congresses. Moreover, the Local Committee for each congress needs start-up funds, much of it required to cover expenses for the meeting of the SPC which takes place before any registration fees are received. To date, the raising of such funds has been the responsibility of Local Committees of host countries, placing an unfair demand on them. Perhaps the greatest effort to raise funds for supporting ornithologists to attend a congress was made by Canada for the 19th Congress in Ottawa. Various Canadian ornithologists went all out to obtain support; but such activity cannot be expected for all countries or every time. Complicating

understanding of these financial matters is that, aside from the report of the finances of the 13th Congress in Ithaca (which was included in the financial report of the AOU for that year), almost nothing is known about the actual finances of congresses, either the income or the costs; to my knowledge no detailed financial report has been published in the proceedings for any congress. As a result, President Bock arranged to appoint a committee that would assess all aspects of these questions and report to the 23rd Congress.

The 22nd Congress was the first since World War II at which the ICBP (now BirdLife International) did not hold a conjunctive World Conference, its demise drawing attention to the need for increased attention on scientific aspects of avian conservation at international ornithological congresses. The related questions of holding other international meetings independently of international ornithological congresses, and of satellite meetings in association with them, were examined. Accordingly, the IOC urged the Chinese hosts of the 23rd Congress to associate all satellite meetings as far as possible with that Congress; members of satellite meetings, it was felt, should be registered members of the Congress.

19 The third century and Asia—the 23rd Congress, Beijing, 11 – 17 August 2002

Prior to the 1998 Congress, Permanent Secretary Bock visited Israel in the spring of 1996 to discuss the projected invitation from Israeli ornithologists; his host was Professor Yossi Leshem. His visit followed previous correspondence with Leshem; and at that time, the invitation from Israel was the only one in the offering. Bock was shown the projected Congress site in Jerusalem and met with a number of ornithologists who would be involved with the Congress. Because of the important migratory pathway over Israel well studied by Dr. Leshem, especially of large soaring birds, and because of Leshem's interest in working with students and ornithologists from neighboring countries, the theme of a congress in Jerusalem would be "Birds without boundaries." In the late fall of 1997, Bock also received an inquiry about a possible invitation from the People's Republic of China, with an invitation to visit Beijing in December 1997 to discuss this possibility with the large group of Beijing ornithologists who would be central to organizing and running the Congress. I did so and had extensive and detailed talks with those ornithologists who would be responsible for the Congress, as well as with Mr. Liu Feng who would serve as Assistant Secretary-General. I also had the opportunity to visit Professor Cheng Tso-Hsin, the guru of modern

Chinese ornithologists, but unfortunately in his hospital room. Professor Cheng gave me a greeting to the members of the 22nd Congress which was read at the opening of that Congress.

Immediately following the close of the Durban Congress, President Bock appointed Professor Xu Wei-Shu (China) as Secretary-General and Mr. Liu Feng (China) as Assistant Secretary-General of the 23rd Congress. Mr. Liu is a member of the Conference Section of the Chinese Academy of Sciences which is responsible for the running international meetings such as the ornithological congresses; Liu was the person designated for attending to all of the details for organizing and running the Beijing Congress. A National Committee was established under the chair of Professor Zheng Guang-Mei, with the necessary subcommittees to attend to all aspects of the Congress. President Bock visited Beijing for a third time early in January 2002 as the guest of Beijing Normal University to work with the central members of the Local Committee, and especially the remarkably efficient Mr. Liu, on many of details of organization, including the arrangement of sessions for the scientific program. The crested ibis *Nipponia nippon* was chosen appropriately as the symbol of the Congress in view of the free-living breeding colonies found of this endangered species in China and the very successful captive breeding program at the Changqing Nature Reserve. A set of postage stamps illustrating some Chinese birds was issued for the Congress, as was an excellent book, *Birds in China*, by Zheng Gaung-Mei and Zhang Cizu.

The SPC under the chair of Dr. Fernando Spina (Italy) was then appointed and set to work immediately. The committee met in June 2000, immediately following the meeting of the Society of Avian Evolution and Paleontology that was scheduled in Beijing in late May so that those members of the SPC interested in attending this meeting could do so. The SPC planned a program of 10 plenary lectures, 40 symposia, oral (limited to 200) and poster contributions and Round Table Discussions. In view of the problem with no-show poster papers at the 22nd Congress, the decision was made that submitted abstracts would be published in the program of the 23rd Congress only if the full congress registration was paid by 31 May 2002. Yet in spite of this arrangement, a number of persons withdrew at a late date, resulting in considerable work for Dr. Spina rearranging oral and poster sessions. A better system needs to be established for future congresses. The Chinese Local Committee decided to publish the plenary lectures as an issue of *Acta Zoologica Sinica* and the Congress Proceedings as a CR-ROM disk, and, if finances allowed, also as hard copy in the same journal.

Special emphasis was placed on the extraordinary Mesozoic fossil birds found in China, with one of the plenary lectures devoted to this topic. A request was also made to exhibit some of these fossil specimens at the Congress, which was done to the great advantage of the members. In addition, it was suggested that a special evening symposium in the form of a plenary *Presidential Debate* be held on the topic of the origin of birds, whether from early archosaurs or from later dinosaurs; President Bock was asked to invite the participants. The scientific program proved to be so full that overlaps between competing presentations could not be entirely avoided even by carefully planned concurrent sessions, a circumstance which in the end could not satisfy everyone. Although the debate on the origin of birds was held in the evening of the congress free day, when many members were tired from the field trips, it was still well attended, with many members expressing the view that it was one of the high points of the Congress.

The Beijing International Convention Center proved to be remarkably well set up for large congresses, with rooms of all sizes available for the different sessions. Movement between the different sessions was easy, within the same building; and a series of hotels with a range of prices were available nearby. Unfortunately, but not unexpectedly, the membership in the Congress was small, partly because the site was far from the main ornithological centers in Europe and North America and partly because fewer than anticipated ornithologists from eastern Asia were able to attend. Nevertheless there was much valuable interaction between Chinese ornithologists and those from the rest of the world, akin to that between Soviet and other ornithologists at the Moscow Congress in 1982.

The Welcoming Ceremony and Reception was held in the Convention Center on the evening of Sunday, 11 August, with greetings from Professor Zheng Gaung-Mei, Chair of the Chinese National Committee, Secretary-General Xu Wei-Shu, and several members of the academic community and government. But the highpoint came was a greeting from Mrs. Cheng, the widow of Professor Cheng Tso-Hsin who was truly the father of modern Chinese ornithology but who did not live to realize his dream of an international ornithological congress in China. Following the Closing Ceremony on the late afternoon of Saturday, 17 August, the final banquet was held in the Beijing Continental Grand Hotel in the evening. For the first time since the 4th Congress, the Presidential Address was not presented at the meeting because my vocal cords were still partly paralyzed as a result of an operation at the end of April, 2002 to repair an aneurysm in my descending thoracic aorta.

However, I was lucky to have recovered enough to be able to attend the Congress just four months after leaving the hospital, and to greet Congress members in the strangest of voices.

The major tour on the mid-congress free day of Thursday 15 August started with a pre-overnight stay at Songshan (northwest of Beijing) so that participants could get an early morning start to birding in the pine forest and then return to Beijing in time for the Presidential debate in the evening. A series of pre- and post-congress excursions were arranged to many different areas within China, including Tibet. For the group on the tour to the Changqing Nature Reserve, the high points were observing the roosting flight of herons and crested ibis *Nipponia nippon* in the evening after a day-long bus ride from Xi'an, followed by a visit to the captive breeding colony the next day, and seeing native dawn redwood trees (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, spotted by Richard Schodde) in the Qingling Mountains in Shaanxi Province far outside of their reported range.

The 23rd Congress hosted three satellite meetings that were announced in the Congress circular, namely the 2002 International Crane Workshop on 9–10 August, the International Pheasant Workshop on 15 August, and the 9th International Grouse Symposium on 18–24 August. Arrangements enmeshed very well with the program of the Congress, and satellite meetings should be encouraged for future congresses. With the termination of World Meetings by the restructured International Council of Bird Protection under BirdLife International, a regular international forum for presenting scientific studies concerning avian conservation has disappeared. The PEC discussed this matter, and recommended to the IOC that future congresses enlarge the program to include this field. This recommendation was accepted by the IOC which in turn directed the SPC for the 24th Congress to include topics of scientific study for bird protection in the scientific program of the Congress.

The meetings of the PEC and IOC were dominated by discussions of the future nature of the Congress and of the IOC, especially with respect to their financing. The *ad hoc* Financial Committee established by President Bock shortly after the 22nd Congress was unable to reach solutions, which was not surprising because such solutions are rarely clear and never simple. Another issue of concern was the role of the Vice-President. For good reasons, these are not specified in the Statutes except that his/her taking over the duties of the President if he/she is unable to carry on. It was recommended that the President assign specific tasks to the Vice-President, such as overseeing the activities of the Standing Committees, several of which had not operated over the past

four years. Also raised was the on-going lop-sidedness of the "membership classes" of the PEC, between experienced second-term renewals and novice first-term members, which had stemmed from the increase in numbers of elected members at the 20th Congress. These classes result from the arrangement whereby members can serve for two consequent terms, which most do. It had been assumed that the two "classes" would balance out rapidly to five old and five new due to turnovers, but this had not happened. Professor Fred Cooke, who could have served a second term, resigned to help restore the balance.

The slate of officers and elected members of the PEC was collated by Past-President P. Berthold for the nominating committee. Its recommendations included Professor Jacques Blondel (France) for President, Professor Dominique Homberger (United States) for Permanent Secretary, and Professor Jiro Kikkawa (Australia) for Honorary President, all of whom were recommended to the IOC and elected. Several excellent nominations were available for Vice-President and it was decided that the PEC would advance the names of Dr. Richard Schodde (Australia) and Professor John Wingfield (United States) to the IOC for their vote. At the second meeting of the IOC, Professor Wingfield was elected as Vice-President, together with the nominees for the other positions. The slate of new members of the IOC had been presented by Professor Cooke, chair of the nominating committee, to the PEC. After some discussion, including the recommendation that several persons be elected contingent on their attendance at the 2006 Congress, the slate was approved and forwarded to the IOC which accepted it at the same meeting.

Professor Franz Bairlein (Germany) presented to the PEC an invitation from German ornithologists to host the 24th Congress in Hamburg, which the PEC recommended in turn to the IOC; this invitation the IOC accepted with enthusiasm at its first meeting. Following the end of the 23rd Congress, President Blondel appointed Professor F. Bairlein as Secretary-General of the 24th Congress.

After the 23rd Congress in Asia, the only continent with resident ornithologists yet to stage an international ornithological congress is South America, the richest of all continents for birds. Efforts have been ongoing since the 18th Congress to elicit an invitation from a Neotropical country, but so far without success. During the meetings of both the PEC and the IOC at the 23rd Congress, considerable discussions were held on ways and actions to maximize the possibilities of holding a congress there in the near future, perhaps in 2010.

20 Closing

With the 23rd Congress, the International Ornithological Congresses entered its third century, developing from a small European colloquium with a primary focus on migratory pathways of birds into a major international conference covering a broad spectrum of avian biology. The increase in size and complexity can be readily appreciated if one compares the past five congresses with the first five congresses. Diverse aspects of the lives of birds have been covered in the last congresses that are far beyond the wildest imagination of ornithologists attending the 1st Congress. With a well-developed organizational system and a devoted group of international ornithologists, the future of these congresses appears strong. But there are several serious problems, some of which are the result of the success of the congresses themselves.

The first is that the congresses have grown large, with very full five working days. It is simply not possible for a person to experience everything that she/he would like to in that time; nor is it realistic to extend the length of the meetings much. If anything, many members are exhausted by the end of a congress, even given a free day at the middle of the week and a relaxing post-congress tour. A common complaint is that there is not sufficient time for one-to-one contact other congress goers. Many persons prefer smaller meetings on specialized topics, which certainly have the advantage of making it is easier to contact other members working in the field and to attend most if not all papers in the absence of concurrent sessions. Yet such meetings lack the depth, breadth and gravitas of full congresses.

Second is the problem of the increase in the number of additional international or major national meetings. Some of these are regional meetings, such as the Pan-African Congress, the Neotropical Ornithological Congress and the meetings of the more newly formed European Ornithologists' Union, which are necessary to permit regular interaction in areas where professional ornithologists are too few to hold viable meetings within their own country. It should be noted that the annual meetings of the American Ornithologists' Union serve this purpose for North America. Such regional meetings are especially valuable for educating and training younger workers. But a large number of specialist meetings have developed over the past several decades, such as the recently announced International Symposium on Ecology and Conservation of Steppe-Land Birds, many of which are restricted in scope. Most ornithologists have limited time and finances which constrain the number of international meetings that they can attend. All workers would be better served if such spe-

cialist meetings were attached, as satellites, to international ornithological congresses or appropriate major regional meetings. This certainly worked well at the 23rd Congress.

Third is the termination of the World Conferences of the International Council for Bird Protection with that organization's change to BirdLife International, resulting in a void for international discussion of scientific approaches to avian conservation. This need should be taken up by the international ornithological congresses because all aspects of bird protection and conservation have become a major component of ornithological endeavor throughout the world. Indeed most, if not all, ornithological activity in many countries is focused on conservation work, driven by the global decline in birdlife.

Fourth are the congress proceedings which have become increasingly large and expensive to publish. It must be noted that the Statutes state only that the Official Reports of congresses have to be published in some form. Moreover, there is the question about publishing new, exciting, ground-breaking material in congress proceedings. Most members feel, quite rightly in my view, that the proceedings are not the appropriate vehicle for publishing new ideas and findings, partly because of the long time required for collation and publication and partly because of the limited distribution of the proceedings. What the proceedings do so well, however, is to provide comprehensive overviews of the state of knowledge in the diverse fields of ornithology at the time, whether expressed in plenary lectures, symposia or even round table discussions. This is a role that has been advocated at the past several congresses. The expense of publication can be reduced considerably by using electronic methods to submit and edit manuscripts, and to publish the proceedings, as on CD-ROM disks, a method pioneered at the 22nd Congress in Durban. It allowed not only the publication of full plenary lectures but also full papers from symposia instead of longer abstracts which would have to be shortened even further because of publication costs. In the Durban Proceedings, an equivalent of 3 672 printed pages in *The Os-trich* format was published as a CD-ROM, far outstripping the size of any previous Congress Proceedings. Moreover, CD-ROM disks can be distributed to non-congress members at a reasonable price, thereby alleviating the problem of limited distribution. In present circumstances, if congress members wish to have a comprehensive and meaningful congress proceedings published, the use of CD-ROM disks may to be the only way to achieve it.

Fifth is perhaps the most important issue of all: the growing problem of financing the IOC and especially the congresses. This has been a, if not the,

major topic of discussion for the PEC and the IOC at the 22nd and the 23rd Congresses. To date, the expenses incurred by the President and the Permanent Secretary have been generously absorbed by their own institutional or research funds; but there is no assurance that such support can continue indefinitely. In addition, new costs have arisen from maintaining an IOC home page on the WWW. For the congresses, it has always necessary for Local Committees to raise funds to make up shortfalls in registration fees, and this can be particularly difficult in the first three years of operations, before registration fees begin to trickle in; the cost of the SPC meeting, in the middle of that period, is an especially large and critical drain. Although the Statutes of the IOC state that any funds left over from one congress should be passed to the next, this has never happened. In addition, funds are needed to support ornithologists with limited financial capacity to attend congresses. This is really an international responsibility, and should fall, not to the host country, but to the IOC itself. Unfortunately, almost no information is available on the finances of international ornithological congresses, as the financial operations for the congresses are run by local committees which are not required by the Statutes to publish them. Yet such information is needed before a sound financial plan can be established for the IOC.

In closing, I would like to add three personal notes. First, against the background of increasing specialization within biology, I am ever more strongly convinced of the importance of understanding the total biology of an entire group of organisms such as birds. Such analysis can be achieved only through the exchange of information among specialists in all areas of avian biology; and this exchange is best done in forums, such as the international ornithological congresses, which are devoted to all aspects of the biology of these organisms.

Secondly, my admiration is boundless for the groups of ornithologists who have organized and run the 23 international ornithological congresses we have had to date. In my duties as the Permanent Secretary of the IOC, I was always embarrassed when I urged different national groups of ornithologists to undertake the huge task of preparing the necessary invitation for a congress and then, if successful, having to plan and arrange it. The thanks of all ornithologists must go to these hard workers. I would like to single out several for special recognition: Rudolf Blasius (Brunswick) and Gustav von Hayek (Vienna) who were responsible for founding the first congress in 1884, Ernst Hartert (United Kingdom) who got the congress going once again in 1926 after World War II, and Donald Farner who established the modern form of the congress in 1978.

Thirdly, the preparation of this history was difficult because of a lack of information on many aspects of congress functions and events, due to skimpy Official Reports. I would plea for more detailed reports in the future and for members involved to deposit any congress-relevant papers, either in the IOC Archive at the Smithsonian Archives in Washington, D. C., or in some other well-established archive. At the same time, writing this history provided me with an excellent insight into international ornithology and the development of the congresses through all of their trials and tribulations from 1884 to 2002. Their great and consistent success is truly a tribute to the many, many ornithologists who have worked so hard for them. And now we can look forward to other groups who will continue this excellent tradition of the International Ornithological Congresses into the future.

Finally, I would like to thank most gratefully and sincerely the work of Dr. Richard Schodde who is serving as the general editor of the 23rd Congress Proceedings for his careful and thorough work in editing my manuscript.

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Appendix

List of Congresses and Proceedings

- 1) Vienna, 1884. President: Dr. Gustav F. R. Radde (German at Tbilisi, Georgia); Secretary-General: Professor Gustav von Hayek (Austria); Patron: H. R. H. Crown-Prince Rudolf of Austria-Hungary.
1884–1886. Sitzungs-Protokolle des ersten internationalen Ornithologen-Congresses, der vom 7 bis 11 April in Wien abgehalten wurde. Verlag des Ornithologischen Vereines in Wien, 1884. Mittheilungen des Ornithologischen Vereines Wien, Band. vols. 8–10, numerous separate short articles.
- 2) Budapest, 1891. Presidents: Professor Victor Fatio (Switzerland) and Otto Herman (Hungary); Secretary-General: Dr. Geza von Horváth (Hungary).
1891. [Bericht]... Zweiter internationaler Ornithologischer Congress. Edited by Geza von Horváth and Otto Herman, Budapest. Hungarian National Museum, Hungarian Committee of II International Ornithological Congress, Pt. 1 [Official Reports], 1–227 pp, Pt. 2 [Papers Presented], 1–238 pp, Pt 3 [Anatomie der Vögel by Fürbringer M] 1–48 pp.
- 3) Paris, 1900. President: Dr. Emile Oustalet (France); Secretary-General: G. Jean de Claybrooke (France); Honorary Presidents: Professor Alphonse Milne-Edwards (France, who passed away a four weeks prior to the Congress) and Baron Edmond de Selys-Longchamps (Belgium).
1901. IIIe Congrès Ornithologique International Paris, 26–30 juin 1900. Compte rendu des séances publié par Éoustalet... et J. de Claybrooke... Masson et Cie, Paris, xii + 503 pp. [= *Ornis*, vol. 11].
- 4) London, 1905. President: R. Bowdler Sharpe (United Kingdom); Secretary-General: Dr. Ernst. J. O. Hartert (United Kingdom) & J. Lewis Bonhote (United Kingdom); Patron: H. R. H. Prince of Wales George of the United Kingdom; Honorary Presidents: H. R. H. Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria and Alfred Russell Wallace (United Kingdom).

1907. Proceedings of the IVth International Ornithological Congress, London, June 1905. Edited by Hartert EJO, Bonhote JL, Dulau & Co., London, 696 p. [= Ornith, vol. 14]
- 5) Berlin, 1910. President: Professor Anton Reichenow (Germany); Secretary-General: Herman Schalow (Germany); Schriftführer: Heinroth O (Germany), Kothe K (Germany); Honorary Presidents: H. M. King Ferdinand of Bulgaria and H. R. M. Princess Dr. Therese of Bavaria.
1911. Verhandlungen des Vth Internationaler Ornithologen-Kongresses. Berlin 30 Mai bis 4 Juni 1910. Herausgegeben von Herman Schalow. Deutsche Ornithologische Gesellschaft, Berlin, x + 1 186 pp.
- 6) Copenhagen, 1926. President: Dr. Ernst J. O. Hartert (United Kingdom); Secretary-General: E. Lehn Schiøler (Denmark); Honorary Presidents: H. R. H. Prince Knud of Denmark, Graft Murany of Coburg [former King of Bulgaria], Lord Walter Rothschild (United Kingdom).
1929. Verhandlungen des VIth Internationalen Ornithologen-Kongresses in Kopenhagen, 1926. Edited by F. Steinbacher. Berlin, vi + 641 pp.
- 7) Amsterdam, 1930. President: Professor A. J. E. Lönnberg (Sweden); Secretary-General: Professor L. F. de Beaufort (The Netherlands).
1931. Proceedings of the VIIth International Ornithological Congress at Amsterdam. Amsterdam, vii + 527 pp.
- 8) Oxford, 1934. President: Professor Erwin Stresemann (Germany); Secretary-General: Reverend Francis C. R. Jourdain (United Kingdom).
1938. Proceedings of the VIIIth International Ornithological Congress, Oxford, July 1934. Edited by F. C. R. Jourdain. Oxford University Press, Oxford, x + 761 pp.
- 9) Rouen, 1938. President: Professor Alessandro Ghigi (Italy); Secretary-General: Jean Delacour (France).
1938. IXe Congrès Ornithologique International Rouen, 9 au 13 Mai 1938. Edited by Jean Delacour. Rouen, 543 pp.
- 10) Uppsala, 1950. President: Dr. Alexander Wetmore (United States); Secretary-General: Professor Sven Hörstadius (Sweden).
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