

## The Ornithological Section

*President*—The Rev. F. L. BLATHWAYT, M.B.O.U., Dyrham Rectory, Chippenham, Wilts.

*Vice-Presidents*—Mr. BERNARD W. TUCKER, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., 9, Marston Ferry Road, Oxford; and the Rev. C. J. PRING, M.B.O.U., The Rectory, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Taunton.

*Secretary and Treasurer*—Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, O.B.E., Somerset County Museum, Taunton Castle.

*Committee*—The President, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary-Treasurer, Messrs. H. H. DAVIS, E. G. HOLT and W. R. TAYLOR.

THE Annual Meeting of the Section was held in the Wyndham Hall, Taunton Castle, on 26 April 1948, when Mr. B. W. Tucker, Vice-President, presided.

The Treasurer presented the annual statement for the year ended 31 December 1947, which showed a credit balance of £14 12s. 8d. The balance in hand on the special deposit account amounted to £6 6s. 11d.

The President, Vice-Presidents and the Secretary-Treasurer were re-elected; and the Editorial Committee was also re-elected.

The General Committee remained as before, except that owing to indisposition Mr. E. B. Whish had resigned and Mr. W. R. Taylor was elected to fill his place.

In the afternoon a meeting was held (in conjunction with the Taunton Field Club) to hear Mr. B. W. Tucker's talk on 'An Ornithological Holiday in Sweden', illustrated by lantern slides.

The autumn meeting was held at Taunton Castle on 14 October, when it was resolved to allow the Wild Birds Protection Committee to lapse.

The meeting in the afternoon was held in conjunction with the Taunton Field Club, when Dr. E. A. R. Ennion, warden of the Flatford Mill Field Centre, East Bergholt, gave a talk on 'Bird Sketching', which was illustrated by a large number of coloured drawings.

The Annual Meeting in 1949 was held at Taunton on 28 April, when the President, the Rev. F. L. Blathwayt, was in the chair.

The Treasurer presented the annual statement for the year ended 31 December 1948, which showed a balance in hand of £21 19s. 4d. The balance on the special deposit account amounted to £6 9s. 11d.

The President and Vice-Presidents were re-elected. Mr. St. George Gray consented to continue in the position of Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, but owing to his impending departure from Taunton later in the year he would be resigning from these offices. He had been Treasurer from 1917 and Secretary from 1918. Mr. Richard

Webster had been approached and he would be willing to become Treasurer.

Mr. Peter Hayman had consented to make the first draft of the Bird Report for 1948, and the Editorial Committee was re-elected.

In the afternoon a meeting was held in the Wyndham Hall (in conjunction with the Taunton Field Club) when Professor and Mrs. R. Milnes Walker showed their colour films, 'Some Cine Shots in the West Highlands'.

The autumn meeting was held at Taunton on 7 October, when Mr. W. Wadham Wyndham was elected a life member of the Section. Mr. Gray consented to remain in office until the close of the year. Mr. H. H. Davis accepted the suggestion that he should attend to the correspondence concerning the bird notes of the late Stanley Lewis.

At this meeting, which was held in the Tite Room, Mr. St. George Gray, on his retirement after 32 years of unremitting service in all the interests of the Section, was presented by the members with a cheque with which to buy books, etc., together with some printed book-plates bearing his name, etc. Mrs. Gray was presented with a handsome bouquet.

The President read an Address, phrased in charming and most attractive language, expressing the Section's deep sense of gratitude to both Mr. and Mrs. St. George Gray. In thanking the members, he said the work he had done for the Section, as in other departments of his life's work, had been intensely interesting and pleasurable—any reward being of quite secondary consideration.

In the afternoon a meeting was held in the Wyndham Hall, which was open to local members of the Parent Society, when Mr. Walter E. Higham, M.B.O.U., F.P.R.S., gave a film lecture on 'The Land of the Flamingo', which was highly appreciated.

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.