

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY IN THE FORMATION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS

Hartley Jackson's "dream that there should and could be a society of mammalogists" could not have come to fruition without the help of other people. The United States Bureau of Biological Survey provided such a group of people, and those active in the Survey at the time the new society was being organized included (in alphabetical order) Vernon Bailey, W. B. Bell, William Cheesman, A. K. Fisher, W. C. Henderson, H. W. Henshaw, Ned Hollister, A. H. Howell, H. H. T. Jackson, E. R. Kalmbach, Marcus W. Lyon, Jr., W. L. McAtee, E. W. Nelson, H. C. Oberholser, T. S. Palmer, E. A. Preble, C. Sheldon, Walter Taylor, Alexander Wetmore. Edward Goldman is not included because in 1918 he was overseas on military duty.

The Bureau of Biological Survey at this time held four kinds of meetings, according to a memo by Hartley Jackson. These were staff meetings, monthly Division meetings, scientific [staff] meetings, and annual social meetings. It was at the scientific staff meetings that the formation of a society of mammalogists was discussed and developed. At these meetings, those persons most active in such discussions and of special help to Jackson included Edward Nelson, Vernon Bailey, and Walter Taylor.

Edward W. Nelson was the oldest (1855–1934) of this group and as Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey at this time presided over the staff meetings. Nelson had a most varied life. Born in New Hampshire, he lost his father in the Civil War, and at age 13 moved with his mother to Chicago. There he became an avid collector, but lost his insect collection in the Chicago fire. By age 17, he joined Samuel Garman and Edward Cope in the Badlands of Wyoming. After returning to Chicago, his interest in bird collecting intensified. This brought him into contact with Henry W. Henshaw, Spen-

cer F. Baird, and Robert Ridgway. After spending several years exploring and collecting in Alaska, a severe case of tuberculosis forced him and his mother to move to the White Mountains of Arizona. His collecting skills became known to C. Hart Merriam, and now at age 35, and recovered from tuberculosis, was hired as a Special Field Agent to join the Biological Survey's Death Valley Expedition of 1893. Shortly thereafter, Nelson set off with Edward Goldman to collect in Mexico. He spent much of his time between 1890 and 1906 in the field, and between 1916 and 1927 served as Assistant Chief and then Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey.

Vernon O. Bailey (1864–1942) had worked for the Bureau of Biological Survey for 31 years by the time the mammal society was being discussed. Born in Michigan, Vernon grew up in Elk River, Minnesota, and was hired at age 23 by C. Hart Merriam as a Special Field Agent. Two years later, Bailey served as Merriam's only assistant when they did the survey of the San Francisco Peaks and the adjacent deserts of northern Arizona. Although Bailey spent a short time at the University of Michigan and George Washington University, he was trained primarily by Merriam. An astute field man, he was delegated to collect in many areas of the United States. At age 40, Bailey married Merriam's sister, Florence Merriam, and it was in their home in Washington that several of the scientific staff meetings were held.

Walter P. Taylor (1888–1972) was the youngest of the group assisting Hartley Jackson. A native of Wisconsin, Walter spent much of his early life in California, attending Pasadena's Throop Polytechnic Institute where he was a student of Joseph Grinnell, Stanford, and the University of California, receiving his Ph.D. in 1914.

Two years later he joined the United States Bureau of Biological Survey and almost immediately started to do field work in Arizona, usually in the company of Hartley Jackson. Back in Washington in 1918, he served as secretary of the "Committee on the Organization of a Mammal Society" as indicated in the minutes of that committee on 13 December 1918. Five more committee meetings, with Taylor as secretary, were held between that date and 21 March 1919. Taylor also corresponded with non-Survey people to determine their willingness to help with such a society and to get their input on a name for the organization. Walter Taylor continued to work for the Bureau of Biological Survey and its subsequent agency, the Fish and Wildlife Service, until 1951. He worked on a cooperative basis with wildlife research units at Texas A&M and Oklahoma State.

Edward A. Goldman (1873–1946) worked closely with Hartley Jackson between 1910 and 1917, both in the field and at the National Museum. It was Goldman who introduced Jackson to the machinations of the Biological Survey. Born in Illinois, his family moved to Nebraska and on to near Earlimart, Tulare Co., California.

As a teenager, Edward was interested in collecting, often making use of his muzzle-loading, single-barreled shotgun. A broken singletree on his wagon brought Edward Nelson to the ranch of the senior Goldman where he put up while the wagon was being repaired. Because Nelson needed a field assistant and senior Goldman thought his son was well qualified, he convinced the 18-year old Edward to give up his job as foreman in a grape vineyard and join Nelson. In October 1891, Edward was hired at \$30 per month as Nelson's personal assistant. By 24 January 1892, the two Edwards had finished field work in southern California and sailed off to Manzanillo, Colima, Mexico. Goldman spent most of his time in Mexico until the turn of the century. During World War I, he served overseas as sanitary officer in charge of rodent control.

These four persons not only assisted H. H. T. Jackson in the formation of a new society, but served The American Society of Mammalogists in a variety of ways: Nelson, Taylor, and Goldman were vice-presidents and presidents; Bailey was president; Taylor also served briefly as treasurer.

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