

ABSTRACT  
OF THE  
PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
DELAWARE VALLEY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB  
OF  
PHILADELPHIA.

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THE organization of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club was suggested at a preliminary meeting held in Philadelphia January 22, 1890, the following gentlemen being in attendance: William L. Baily, J. Harris Reed, George S. Morris, Samuel N. Rhoads, and Spencer Trotter, M. D.. The club was finally organized, and a constitution adopted, on February 3 of the same year. The original membership and officers were as follows:

*President*—WILLIAM L. BAILY.

*Secretary and Treasurer*—SAMUEL N. RHOADS.

*Members.*

WILLIAM L. BAILY,	SAMUEL N. RHOADS,
GEORGE S. MORRIS,	WITMER STONE,
J. HARRIS REED,	SPENCER TROTTER, M. D.,
CHARLES A. VOELKER.	

The primary object of the Club during the first year of its existence was the recording and comparison of data relating to bird migration, as observed at several localities in the neighborhood of Philadelphia. Occasionally ornithological papers were read and discussed by the members, and later this became an important feature of the meetings.

The following abstract of the Proceedings of the Club has been prepared mainly for the purpose of furnishing the members with a record of the work accomplished during the past two years. In order to avoid repetition, wherever any papers or communications have appeared elsewhere, only a brief mention of them has been made here, and references to the periodicals in which they appear have been added in brackets. Brief reports of many of the meetings have been published from time to time in the Philadelphia *Public Ledger* and the *Ornithologist and Oöologist*.

Many of the meetings of 1890 were devoted entirely to the discussion of the local migration, which it has not been considered necessary to mention here.

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*March 7, 1890.*—Five members present.

Mr. Baily read a paper on the "Relationship between *Parus atricapillus* and *P. carolinensis*," illustrating his remarks with a large series of specimens from the collections of the members and from that of Mr. Philip Laurent.

The Carolina Chickadee (*P. carolinensis*) seems to be the only species found about Philadelphia in summer, though both species are common in winter.

*May 19, 1890.*—Six members present.

Mr. Stone exhibited a number of specimens recently collected by him in southern Mexico as ornithologist on the expedition sent out by the Academy of Natural Sciences, and gave an informal talk on his experiences in Yucatan and in the Mexican mountains. [For account of the Ornithological Results of the Expedition, see Proceedings Acad. Nat. Sci. of Phila. 1890, p. 201.]

*June 16, 1890.*—Five members present.

Mr. Charles J. Rhoads was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Morris read a paper on the "Flycatchers of the genus *Empidonax*," giving his experience with the species which are found in the eastern United States. He had taken all these in the vicinity of Philadelphia except Traill's Flycatcher (*E. pusillus traillii*); one specimen of this bird, however, was in Mr. Baily's collection, which was shot May 7, 1883, at Bryn Mawr, Pa.

The Acadian Flycatcher (*E. acadicus*) was the only species that was found breeding about Philadelphia, it being a common summer resident.

Mr. Stone stated that the Least Flycatcher (*E. minimus*) had recently

been reported to breed in Bucks Co., Pa., and near Trenton, N. J., though he had as yet no conclusive proof of the statement.

*October 6, 1890.*—Seven members present.

Mr. D. E. Pannepacker was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads read a paper on the "Probable Causes of Polygamy among Birds" [American Naturalist, 1890, p. 1024.]

A communication was also read from Mr. Harry Gordon White, of Wood's Holl, Mass., on the migration of the Red Phalarope (*Crymophilus fulicarius*), giving an interesting account of the occurrence of great numbers of these birds off the coast of Nova Scotia during the spring migration. Mr. White made his observations while on a cruise from Gloucester, Mass., to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. [The Auk, 1891, p. 233.]

*October 20, 1890.*—Six members present.

Mr. Stone read a paper on the "Spring Migration of 1890, at Philadelphia," which consisted of a general summary of the work done by the members, with suggestions as to the probable lines of flight of migrating birds in the Delaware Valley. The paper was based upon a careful study of individual records taken at the following stations during the spring: Tinicum, Delaware Co., Pa., J. Harris Reed; Haddonfield, N. J., Samuel N. Rhoads; Haverford, Delaware Co., Pa., Charles J. Rhoads; Wynnewood, Montgomery Co., Pa., William L. Baily; Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa., Witmer Stone; Olney, Philadelphia, Pa., George S. Morris. Charts were also exhibited showing a method by which the so-called "bird waves" could be illustrated in a graphic manner. [See The Auk, 1890, p. 298, and 1891, p. 194.]

*December 1, 1890.*—Six members present.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads read a communication from Mr. Caleb S. Cope, recording the occurrence of the Wild Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) in Washington, which seems to be the first mention of this species from west of the Rocky Mts. [The Auk, 1891, p. 310.]

A letter was also read from Mr. Pfluger, of Portland, Oregon, regarding the introduction of German Song Birds at that place. He stated that about 600 of these birds, including Chaffinches, Goldfinches, Linnets, Song Thrushes and Siskins had been liberated in the spring, and that all the species were seen during the following autumn, the finches having increased in numbers. They did not wander far from Portland during the winter, and a later communication stated that they were busy nesting in the parks and surrounding country in the spring of 1891. Next year another importation, including Blackbirds and Nightingales, will be liberated.

December 15, 1890.—Six members present.

Mr. Baily displayed a number of interesting specimens collected by him during the year, including a Bewick's Wren (*Thryothorus bewickii*) shot at Wynnewood, Montgomery Co., Pa., April 12, 1890, a Black-throated Bunting (*Spiza americana*) shot by a gunner on Maurice River, N. J., Sept. 18, 1891, and a partial albino Snow Bird (*Junco hyemalis*).

He also displayed the unique hybrid between *Junco hyemalis* and *Zonotrichia albicollis* shot by him at Haverford, Delaware Co., Pa., Dec. 12, 1882. [See Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, 1883, p. 78.]

Mr. S. N. Rhoads spoke of the capture of a Short-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus stellaris*) at Haddonfield, N. J., October 13, 1890. [The Auk., 1891, p. 244.]

Mr. Baily remarked on the rarity of the Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) only one having been noticed by the Club during the year i. e., on May 12.

January 5, 1891.—Annual meeting. Seven members present.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows :

President—WILMER STONE.

Secretary and Treasurer—SAMUEL N. RHOADS.

Mr. Baily declined re-election to the presidency, as he expected that business duties would prevent him from devoting the time to the Club that the office would require. A vote of thanks was tendered him for his energy in organizing the Club, and in presiding over it during the first year of its existence.

A discussion was held on the character of work to be carried on in connection with the study of Bird Migration during the coming year, and it was decided that for constructing charts to show the time of occurrence of bird waves, daily records of the abundance of a few well known birds were amply sufficient. The members, however, were recommended to keep a full record of the occurrence of other species, which would be available in case other lines of investigation should at any time be taken up.

Mr. Voelker displayed a specimen of Raven (*Corvus corax sinuatus*) still in the flesh, which had been shot on Darby Creek, Delaware Co., Pa., on December 30, 1890.

January 19, 1891.—Eight members present.

Mr. William V. Wilbank was elected an Associate Member.

Blue-print charts were distributed to the members, giving a complete list of the birds [204 species] that have come under the observation of

the Club during 1890, with notes on their abundance and time of occurrence. The dates of arrival of a number of common migrants at all the stations where observations were recorded during the spring, were also given on the chart, as well as a map showing the location of the stations along the Delaware Valley. [The Auk, 1891, p. 244.]

A general discussion was held on the relationship of the species of *Ammodramus*. Dr. Trotter called attention to the fact that the bills of the Seaside and Sharp-tailed Finches (*A. maritimus* and *A. caudacutus*) were much more attenuated than was the case in other species, and suggested that it was the result of the action of environment, these birds having been compelled to probe in the soft mud for their food. The development of their powerful feet he attributed to their habit of clinging to the upright reeds. [See Proceedings Acad. Nat. Sci. of Phila. 1891, p. 118.]

The general abundance of Snowy Owls (*Nyctea nyctea*) during the present winter was remarked upon, some twenty specimens having been reported from the vicinity of Philadelphia.

A communication from Mr. H. G. White, on "A New Method of Recording Bird Migration," was briefly discussed.

*February 2, 1891.*—Eight members present.

Messrs. J. Farnum Brown, George Forsythe, William W. Smith and Frank L. Burns were elected Associate Members.

Mr. Willbank displayed a specimen of the Lesser Snow Goose (*Chen hyperborea nivalis*), which he had shot at Tinicum, Delaware Co., Pa., on Dec. 18, 1890.

A recent article on the bills of Crossbills (*Loxia*), by Dr. Hans Gadow, was discussed. The fact that the mandibles cross differently in different individuals (the upper turning sometimes to the right and sometimes to the left of the lower), led to some interesting questions, whether mated birds always had the mandibles crossed in the same direction, and if not, whether the opposite tendencies of the parents in this respect would result in neutralizing the tendency to crossed mandibles in the young. It was considered that the habit of forcing the mandibles apart horizontally in opening cones as described by Gadow would tend to throw them out of the same plane on one side or the other, and when once the tips did not meet evenly, the curved ends would of necessity develop so that hereditary tendency might not have anything to do with it.

A large series of specimens of the genus *Tringa* from the members' collections was on exhibition.

*February 16, 1891.*—Eleven members present.

Messrs. Cornelius Weygandt, I. N. De Haven and Thomas Dewees were elected Associate Members.

A comparison of notes showed that sixty species of birds had been observed in the vicinity of Philadelphia during January. The most noteworthy were an Acadian Owl (*Nyctala acadica*), on the 15th, and a Red-necked Loon (*Urinator lumme*), on the 17th.

Mr. Morris recorded the capture of a Brunnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*), at Cape Charles, Va., on December 31, 1890. The specimen is now in his collection.

A letter from Mr. Philip Laurent recorded the capture of a female Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*), at Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, October 23, 1890, and a Virginia Rail (*Rallus virginianus*), at Gloucester, N. J., September 1, 1890. Neither of these species had been noted by the Club during the past year.

Mr. Stone exhibited a series of Red-winged Blackbirds, (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) to show the changes in plumage at different seasons of the year.

A discussion was held regarding the reasons for the male birds of many species preceding the females in the spring migration.

Permission having been obtained from the Academy of Natural Sciences for the Club to meet in the Council Room of the Academy Building, Logan Square, Phila., it was unanimously decided to hold all future meetings there, and a vote of thanks was tendered to the Academy. Most of the meetings of the Club have been held at 21 N. 7th St., though the earlier ones were held at 1624 Arch St., and at 31 South 15th St., Phila.

March 3, 1891.—Eleven members present.

Mr. Edwin Sheppard was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Stone read a brief paper on the Connecticut Warbler, (*Geothlypis agilis*) including a list of the recorded occurrences of the species.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads exhibited a specimen of this bird shot by him at Haddonfield, N. J., May 20, 1882, which seems to be worthy of notice, as there appear to be but two other records of the occurrence of this bird east of the Alleghanies in spring. With the exception of the above, none of the members had collected any adult males of this species, but there are two fine specimens in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences, taken by Dr. Wm. L. Abbott, at Chestnut Hill, Phila., September 23 and 25, 1880. These had the throat and chest clear gray, like spring birds.

Mr. Reed called attention to the occurrence of Field Sparrows

(*Spizella pusilla*) in this vicinity in winter, associated with flocks of Tree Sparrows (*S. monticola*) and suggested that they might winter here in greater numbers than had been supposed and have been hitherto overlooked.

*March 17, 1891.*—Nine members present.

Mr. Thos. H. Montgomery, Jr., was elected an Associate Member.

The office of Secretary-Treasurer was divided, and Mr. Wm. L. Baily was elected Treasurer.

Mr. Stone reported that the weekly migration schedules showed that 68 species of birds were under observation during February. The great bulk of migration during the month took place on the 18th, 23d, 24th and 25th. These were warm days following spells of rainy weather, and it was evident that the foremost groups of migrating birds having been checked in their journey by spells of cold and rainy weather, embraced the first opportunity offered by a bright warm day for continuing their migration, and having been increased by arrivals from farther south, caused a more concentrated movement on these days. In 1890, the first of these bird-waves occurred at Philadelphia on Feb. 14th, 26th and 27th.

Mr. Reed read a paper on the "Hawks of Pennsylvania and New Jersey," which was discussed by the other members. Black Hawks (*Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*) still occur in winter in considerable numbers on the Delaware marshes near the Lazaretto, but are seldom seen elsewhere in this vicinity.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads exhibited an Ipswich Sparrow (*Ammodramus princeps*) which he had found dead at Atlantic City, N. J., after the blizzard of March, 1888.

Mr. Morris recorded the capture of a Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) at Olney, Phila., shot by Mr. Edw. Van Artsdalen in the spring of 1888.

*April 7, 1891.*—Nine members present.

Mr. Morris exhibited a curious female Maryland Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas*), which had an unusually large bill. The specimen was shot at Olney, Philadelphia, September 19, 1883.

Mr. Stone displayed a curious Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) from the Academy collection, which had one side colored like the adult male while the other side was olive green like a bird of the first year [See Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, 1882, p. 181.] Mr. F. M. Chapman, of the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, has suggested that this specimen was probably an hermaphrodite, as had proved to be the case with a similarly colored *Fringilla coelebs* recorded in the Ibis.

A melanistic Meadow Lark (*Sturnella magna*) with the yellow breast entirely replaced by black was also exhibited. A short paper was read by Mr. Stone on the "Winter Distribution of Birds and its Relation to the Presence of Water-courses," which was afterwards discussed by the members.

A letter was read from Mr. S. N. Rhoads recording the capture of an Ipswich Sparrow (*Ammodramus princeps*) at Cape Charles, Va., on March 29.

Owing to the absence of Mr. Rhoads in the south, Mr. George S. Morris was appointed Secretary *pro tem*.

April 21, 1891.—Nine members present.

Mr. Stone gave a short account of a recent collecting trip to central Chester county, Pa. He stated that on the mica-slate ridge which crosses the county below the Chester Valley, he had found birds comparatively scarce, and that the great "waves" of the spring migration were never well marked there. He attributed this to the probable fact that the birds follow the valley of the Brandywine and the Chester Valley in their migrations.

A discussion was held on the species of American Warblers (*Mniotiltidae*), and a large series of specimens was exhibited. Among these was a female Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) shot by Mr. Montgomery at West Chester, Chester Co., Pa., in the spring of 1890.

Dr. Trotter stated that there was a fine specimen of Brewster's Warbler (*Helminthophila leucobronchialis*) in the collection of Swarthmore College, but no data whatever were attached to it.

May 5, 1891.—Ten members present.

Mr. Baily gave an account of the species of *Vireo* found in the vicinity of Philadelphia, illustrating his remarks with a series of specimens.

Mr. Morris exhibited a curious Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*), taken at Cape Charles, Va., May 11, 1886, which had the whole neck and upper breast of a rich orange hue. Mr. Ridgway, to whom the specimen had been sent, considered it a case of "hyperchromatism," or intensity of coloration, which sometimes occurs in the Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) and a few other species.

The migration during April was discussed in detail. Many species of birds had arrived much earlier than usual, but the prevailing "cold wave," it was considered, would act as a set-back to further migration for some days at least.

May 19, 1891.—Eleven members present.

Mr. Stone read a paper on the "Birds of Beaver Swamp, Cape May Co., N. J.," describing a trip recently made by Messrs. Voelker, Reed,

and himself in search of Hooded Warblers (*Sylvania mitrata*). These birds were found abundantly, and undoubtedly breed in several of the deep swamps of southern New Jersey. Among other birds seen on the trip were the Pine Warbler (*Dendroica vigorsii*), Prairie Warbler (*D. discolor*), Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus*), White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo noveboracensis*) Hummingbird (*Trochilus colubris*), and Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*), all of which were considered to be common breeders.

Mr. Montgomery read a paper on the "Summer Birds of the Maine Coast," illustrating it with a series of specimens. [See Ornithologist and Oölogist, 1890, p. 161.]

Mr. Baily reported the capture of a White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) at Wynnewood, Montgomery Co., Pa., on May 4, and Mr. Stone a Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) in Chester Co., Pa., May 12. He also mentioned that half a dozen Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) were seen flying over central Chester Co. during a storm on the evening of May 11, 1890. Mr. Morris reported seeing two of the same birds near Willow Grove, Montgomery Co., some years ago.

June 2, 1891.—Eight members present.

Mr. Stone spoke of the lack of definite knowledge of the birds of the central mountainous portions of Pennsylvania, and the importance of making a thorough ornithological survey of this section.

Mr. Baily exhibited a series of eggs of the English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) showing wonderful variation in size and coloration.

It was decided in view of the absence of many of the members during the summer to suspend the meetings until September.

September 1, 1891.—Four members present.

Messrs. J. Farnum Brown and Chas. J. Rhoads were elected Active Members.

Mr. Stone exhibited a series of birds collected during the summer at Cape May, N. J.

Mr. Voelker exhibited some beautifully mounted young Killdeers (*Aegialitis vocifera*) only a few days out of the eggs, and reported the capture of two young Rails in the black downy plumage, which had been taken on the river marshes in Delaware Co., Pa.; the species was probably *Rallus virginianus*.

September 15, 1891.—Six members present.

Mr. Samuel N. Rhoads gave a brief account of his recent trip through the southern and western States. He left Philadelphia on the 26th of March and reached Jacksonville, Florida, early in April, having stopped

off a few days at Cape Charles, Va., where some collecting was done. In Florida considerable work was done at Tarpon Springs and Myers, and a trip was taken some distance up the Caloosahatchee River, visiting on the way a large colony of the Florida Burrowing Owls (*Speotyto cunicularia floridana*). Mr. Rhoads then went to Corpus Christi, Texas, where he spent several weeks (May 16–June 6) collecting in the immediate vicinity of the town and along the Nueces River. He reached Tucson, Arizona, June 10th, and after collecting there for some days, traveled north to Oracle in the oak belt of the Santa Catalina Mountains, and then to a lumber camp near the summit. Mr. Rhoads has generously donated the entire collection, numbering about 1000 skins, to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. [Full accounts of the birds of the various localities visited will be published in the Proceedings of the Academy].

Owing to absence from home for the next few months, Mr. S. N. Rhoads resigned the office of Secretary, and Mr. George S. Morris was elected in his place.

*October 6, 1891.*—Seven members present.

Messrs. Stewardson Brown, Chas. E. Ridenour, and Dr. Wm. E. Hughes were elected Associate Members.

Mr. J. H. Reed read a paper on "The Birds Found Breeding in Beaver Swamp, Cape May Co., N. J." The trip described was made May 30 to June 1 of the present year, with the special object of finding the nest of the Hooded Warbler (*Sylvania mitrata*). In this Mr. Reed was successful, having obtained a beautiful nest, situated in the center of a holly bush. A nest of the Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) was found placed in a precisely similar situation. Large numbers of both these species, as well as the Parula Warbler (*Compothlypis americana*), were seen, and they are undoubtedly common summer residents in the swamps of Cape May county. Fifty-eight species of birds were noted by Mr. Reed during his stay.

A collection of the nests and eggs of the birds of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, which has been brought together by the members of the Club for the museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences, was on exhibition.

Mr. Morris called attention to three varieties of the nest of the Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax acadicus*), one made largely of oak and hickory catkins, another of grass, and another of the green-beard moss (*Usnea barbata*). The position of the three nests was precisely similar, all being hung from the fork of a slender branch.

*October 20, 1891.*—Eleven members present.

Mr. W. E. Rotzell was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Morris read a paper on "The Virginia Coast in Summer," describing a trip made to Cape Charles early in August, 1891. He treated mainly of the water birds, describing the nesting grounds of the Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricapillus*) and Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*) and giving accounts of the habits of other summer birds, such as the Black Skimmer, (*Rynchops nigra*), Least and Common Terns (*Sterna antillarum* and *S. hirundo*). Among the rarer species noticed were the Oyster Catcher (*Hematopus palliatus*), Little White Egret (*Ardea candidissima*), and some Terns which he took to be the Royal (*Sterna maxima*), though they might have been the Caspian, as he was unable to secure any specimens. Many migratory shore birds were already abundant.

Mr. Stone stated that he had noticed a Parula Warbler (*Compsolypis americana*) eating huckleberries. An examination of the berries failed to show the presence of any insect larvæ, and he was inclined to think that the bird was feeding on the juicy pulp.

Mr. I. N. DeHaven exhibited an albino Sharp-tailed Finch (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) which he had shot on the Atlantic City marshes.

November 3, 1891.—Thirteen members present.

Mr. Stone read a paper on the "Summer Birds of Cape May, N. J.," illustrating his remarks with specimens collected during July and August of the present year. Seaside and Sharp-tailed Finches, (*Ammodramus maritimus* and *A. caudacutus*) were found abundantly, breeding on the marshes, and one Savanna Sparrow (*A. sandwichensis savanna*) was shot on July 6. The late date would indicate that this bird might have been breeding, but its condition made it more probable that it was a diseased individual left behind in the migration. Least Bitterns (*Botaurus exilis*) and Virginia Rail (*Rallus virginianus*) were found throughout August, and it is probable that both species breed at Cape May. Loggerhead Shrikes (*Lanius ludovicianus*) were seen frequently during the summer, and are undoubtedly summer residents, while the capture of a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) on Aug. 27, near Cape May Point, would indicate that this species is still to be found breeding in New Jersey.

A specimen of Wilson's Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) was displayed which had been washed up on the beach at Point Pleasant, N. J., during the summer, and had been preserved by Mr. A. P. Brown.

November 17, 1891.—Seven members present.

In the absence of the President, Mr. Baily occupied the chair.

Mr. Voelker gave an account of the anatomy and habits of Wood-

peckers, illustrating his remarks with some partially dissected specimens. A general discussion was then held on the species of Woodpeckers which occur in the vicinity of Philadelphia. Mr. Voelker had several times seen the Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*), but it was considered a very rare bird in this vicinity. The diminution in the numbers of the Red-headed Woodpecker (*M. erythrocephalus*), within the past few years was remarked upon. Mr. Voelker had once seen an individual of this species near Clifton, Delaware Co., Pa., in January.

The first Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*), of the season was reported from Woodbury, N. J.

December 1, 1891.—Twelve members present.

Mr. William A. Shryock and Mr. William J. Serrill were elected Associate Members.

Dr. William E. Hughes, ornithologist on the West Greenland Expedition, recently sent out by the Academy of Natural Sciences, gave a detailed account of the birds observed on the expedition, illustrating his remarks with the series of specimens which he had collected. The route of the expedition was from Sydney, Nova Scotia, to Disko Island, and thence north to McCormick Bay and Whale Sound, returning on nearly the same track. The date of starting from Sydney was June 12, and in returning the expedition reached St. Johns, August 23. The only land birds noticed were the Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, Redpoll, Wheat-ear, Raven, and Ptarmigan. The first was by far the most abundant. The most conspicuous water birds were the Brunnich's Murre, Mandt's Guillemot, Little Auk, Puffin, Ivory Gull, Kittiwake, Long-tailed Jaeger, and Fulmar Petrel. [Full accounts of the Ornithology of West Greenland will appear in the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences.]

Mr. Voelker gave some statistics in regard to the relation of sex to the two phases of plumage in the Screech Owl (*Megascops asio*). In a series of 322 birds that he had skinned in the past ten years, there were 210 red, 104 gray, and 8 of mottled or intermediate plumage. Of the red birds, 16 were male and 194 female, while in the series of gray birds 93 were male and 11 female. The mottled specimens comprised 3 males and 5 females.

Mr. Voelker also reported the capture of a Little Auk (*Alle alle*), and a Razor Bill (*Alca torda*) at Pennsgrove, N. J., during the past week.

December 15, 1891.—Ten members present.

Mr. Stone read a paper on the "Summer Birds of Harvey's Lake,

Pa.," in which he described the avifauna of the mountainous region of the northwestern part of Luzerne county. A number of species were found there in the breeding season which are known only as transients, or winter visitants, in the southeastern portion of the State. The most prominent of these were the Winter Wren (*Troglodytes hiemalis*), Hermit Thrush (*Turdus a. pallasii*), Snow Bird (*Junco hyemalis*), Brown Creeper (*Certhia f. americana*), and many Warblers. [See Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. of Phila., 1891, p. 431.]

Mr. Weygandt stated that in the Berkshire Hills, Mass., he had found the Canada Warbler (*Sylvania canadensis*), a characteristic bird of the high, dry woodlands, and not a swamp bird, as had been Mr. Stone's experience.

Mr. J. F. Brown recorded the wintering of the Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) at Villa Nova, Delaware Co., Pa.

A collection of typical mountain plants, collected at Harvey's Lake by Mr. Stewardson Brown, was exhibited in connection with Mr. Stone's paper.

WITMER STONE,  
GEORGE S. MORRIS, } *Committee on Publication.*  
WILLIAM L. BAILY, }