

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

EARLY in 1892 an "Abstract of the Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club for the years 1890 and 1891" was published. The present publication is intended as a continuation of the previous number, and covers the years 1892 to 1897 inclusive. In future the Club proposes to issue a yearly number covering the Proceedings with much greater detail.

Many of the papers quoted in the following pages have been published in full in the *Auk*, *Science*, and *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, to which references are made.

Many of the local records for 1892-1894 have also been included in the "Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey" published by the Club in December, 1894.

January 5, 1892.—Seventeen members present. Mr. Samuel Wright was elected an Associate Member.

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

President—WITMER STONE.

Secretary—CHARLES J. RHOADS.

Treasurer—WILLIAM L. BAILY.

Mr. Baily read an interesting and humorous account of the origin and early years of the Club, and Mr. Stone summed up the results of

Gallinule (*Jonornis martinica*) on March 28, near Cape May N. J., by C. F. Gardiner.

Mr. Stone described a series of Myrtle Warblers taken at Atlantic City, N. J., which showed the spring molt in progress, and read a short paper on the relationships between the Black Cap and Carolina Chickadees (*Parus atricapillus* and *carolinensis*) in which he considered that the two were distinct species—the Black Cap breeding as far south as the Blue Ridge, the Carolina throughout the New Jersey Pine Barrens. In the intervening country Chickadees seem scarce in the breeding season, but such as he was able to examine proved to be the Carolina. He was quite prepared however to find in the face of additional material that the two forms intergraded in this intermediate area especially in northern central New Jersey.

May 3, 1892.—Eleven members present.

Mr. Joseph Tatum was elected an Associate Member.

General discussion on the spring migration.

May 17, 1892.—Ten members present.

Messrs. Stone and Wright described a trip to Clementon, N. J., May 6, where they found Pine and Prairie Warblers (*Dendroica vigorsii* and *discolor*) evidently preparing to breed.

Mr. Wright reported the capture of a White Crowned Sparrow and a Cape May Warbler (*D. tigrina*) May 13, at Conshohocken. Mr. Baily also secured a White Crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) May 10, and Mr. Stone recorded two Golden Winged Warblers (*Helminthophila chrysoptera*), May 12, shot by C. A. Voelker at Collingdale, Del. Co., Pa.

June 7, 1892.—Sixteen members present.

Mr. Reed read a paper on "A Collecting Trip to Dennisville, Cape May Co., N. J., May 21-23." Nests of the Parula (*Compothlypis americana usneæ*) Hooded (*Wilsonia mitrata*) and Prairie Warblers (*Dendroica discolor*) were obtained.

Mr. Stone described a trip to Cape May, N. J., where he also found the Parula Warbler breeding, and saw a Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), which led him to believe that this bird also nested there.

Mr. Voelker recorded a Yellow Crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax violaceus*), shot near Phoenixville, Pa., which contained a well developed egg; also a Northern Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*), shot on the Delaware.

Mr. Forsythe reported the capture of a White Crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) and Mr. DeHaven a Nelson's Finch (*Ammodramus c. nelsoni*) at Atlantic City, May 9, 1892, the first record for the state.

September 6, 1892.—Business meeting of active members. Five members present.

September 20, 1892.—Thirteen members present.

Mr. I. N. De Haven was elected an active member and Mr. D. N. McCadden an associate.

The death of Mr. William Wharton Smith, associate member, was announced, and the following resolution adopted :

Resolved, That since God in His mercy has been pleased to take from among us our friend and fellow-member, Wm. Wharton Smith, one who during his life had by his manly qualities and kindly unassuming manners won the esteem of all and the affection of those of us who knew him best, and since Mr. Smith as a member of this organization had proved himself to be a true lover of nature and a close and careful observer of her beauties and phenomena, we do hereby, with sincere regret as individuals and as an organization, express our sorrow for the loss which we and all who knew him have sustained through his sad death.

A number of nests and eggs collected during the summer were on exhibition. Most interesting among these was a nest of the King Rail (*Rallus elegans*), taken at Repaupo, N. J., July 15, 1892, by Dr. J. B. Brinton. The date was very late and the eggs were unusually small.

Another interesting specimen was a Chewink's nest (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), collected in Chester Co., Pa., which was situated in an oak sprout four feet from the ground.

October 4.—Nine members present.

Messrs. De Haven and Stone described their experience among the Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Atlantic City, N. J., on October 1 and 2. They found the *A. caudacutus* by far the most abundant form, though not a few *A. c. subvirgatus* were taken and two *A. c. nelsoni*, the latter being decidedly the rarest of the three. (*Auk*, 1893, p. 85.)

Mr. Morris read a paper on a "Trip through the Cascade Mts. of British Columbia," taken by himself and Mr. J. W. Evans during the past spring.

The resignation of Mr. Chas. J. Rhoads as Secretary was tendered and accepted with regret, Mr. G. S. Morris being elected for the unexpired term.

October 18, 1892.—Sixteen members present.

Messrs. Mark L. C. Wilde and John Bissegger were elected associate members.

The committee on publication was authorized to issue a circular calling for information on our water birds for distribution among gunners and sportsmen.

Mr. De Haven exhibited a White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia*

leucophrys), shot at Morristown, N. J., Oct. 17, 1892, and Mr. Young a Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*), secured at Meriden, N. H., last month.

Mr. Stone called attention to a Western Sandpiper (*Ereunetes occidentalis*) in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences, taken in Cape May Co., N. J., Sep. 14, 1880, and suggested that the species was doubtless of regular occurrence but had been overlooked.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads presented the paper of the evening on Hybrid Flickers (*Colaptes auratus* × *cafer*) (see *Science*, Dec. 9, 1892), illustrating his remarks by a large series of specimens.

November 1, 1892.—Twelve members present.

Mr. Raymond Kester was elected an associate member.

Mr. Voelker reported a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), shot near Cape May by Mr. J. Milford Oct. 20, 1892.

A wild Turkey Gobbler (*Meleagris gallopavo*), was reported shot for the Academy collection by Mr. McKeehan near Ferguson, Perry Co., Pa., last week.

Mr. Rotzell announced that he had seen and watched a Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*), at Narberth, Montgomery Co. Pa., on July 3. The specimen was not secured.

Messrs. Stone and S. N. Rhoads described a recent trip to May's Landing N. J.; the most interesting specimen secured was a Short-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus stellaris*), taken Oct. 25.

November 15, 1892.—Five members present.

Mr. Reed read a paper on the American Barn Owl (*Strix pratincola*), in which he discussed the habits and distribution of the species. He found it still a common resident of Delaware County, and exhibited a series of eggs and a number of cast-up pellets which he had collected.

December 6, 1892.—Twelve members present.

Mr. Baily exhibited a specimen of Saw-Whet Owl (*Nyctala acadica*), which he had secured at Haverford, Pa., Nov. 20, 1892.

Mr. Voelker showed a very peculiar Gull which he considered must be a hybrid. It proved however to be a young plumage of the Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*). It showed black patches on the sides of the neck and a longitudinal blackish strip on each wing. It was shot near Mt. Holly, N. J., November 12, 1892.

Mr. Stone read the paper of the evening on "Arctic Bird Life," in which he traced the distribution and relationships of the various polar species.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads presented a list of birds seen by him at May's Landing, N. J., December 2, in which he recorded the capture of a

Saw-Whet Owl (*Nyctala acadica*), Northern Shrike (*Lanius borealis*), and Yellow Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*), the last being the first winter record for the species in New Jersey.

Mr. S. Brown reported an Albino Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), observed on the Susquehanna river near York Furnace, Pa. Red-bellied Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*), were reported as very plentiful during the fall migration.

December 20, 1892.—Sixteen members present.

Mr. De Haven described a large roost of Purple Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) on an island in the Susquehanna river near Peach Bottom, Lancaster Co., Pa.

He then read a paper on a recent trip to Cape Charles, Va.

He secured several specimens of the Ipswich Sparrow (*Ammodramus princeps*), which was found to be not uncommon, on Smith's Island, and on Dec. 8 saw a Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*).

Mr. S. N. Rhoads exhibited two specimens of a new Chickadee which he secured in the Rocky Mts. of British Columbia, and compared it with the Hudsonian Chickadee. The new bird he proposed to call *Parus hudsonicus columbianus*, the Columbian Chickadee. (See *Auk*, 1893, p. 23.)

Mr. Stone exhibited a large series of Grackles (*Quiscalus*), explaining the distribution of the three races, and pointed out the importance of ascertaining the nature of the Grackles of Cape May and of the Pennsylvania mountains; the latter are probably nearly typical *Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*.

January 3, 1893.—Annual Meeting. Twenty-four members present and one visitor.

The election of officers for the year resulted as follows:

President—GEO. SPENCER MORRIS.

Secretary—SAMUEL N. RHOADS.

Treasurer—WILLIAM L. BAILY.

Mr. Stone spoke briefly of a recent trip to Cape May, N. J., stating that the birds were very scarce compared with last season. Immense numbers of Titlarks (*Anthus pensilvanicus*) were seen, however, which were entirely absent in January, 1892. Two Ipswich Sparrows (*Ammodramus princeps*) were also secured on January 2.

Mr. Stone then followed with a paper on the Change of Plumage in Birds, limiting his remarks, however, to the Passeres. (See *Science*, Jan. 27, 1893.)

The Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Zamelodia ludoviciana*) he took up in detail, and stated that in its molt it apparently afforded a parallel case

to the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), already well described by Mr. F. M. Chapman.

Mr. Morris recorded a Brown Thrasher (*Harporhynchus rufus*) at Olney, Phila., Dec. 24, 1892, and several Hermit Thrushes (*Turdus aon. pallasii*).

Mr. S. N. Rhoads secured a Catbird (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*) at Atlantic City, N. J., Dec. 25.

January 17, 1893.—Fourteen members present.

Mr. William L. Whitaker was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads read a paper on "Economic Relations of Birds to Agriculture."

Mr. Stone called attention to a specimen of *Junco hyemalis* taken at Haddonfield, N. J., in which the greater coverts were tipped with white.

Mr. De Haven called attention to the two plates of Savanna Sparrow (*Ammodramus sandw. savana*) in Wilson's Ornithology, and suggested that the figure of the male was taken from the Ipswich Sparrow (*A. princeps*), which it strikingly resembles, being much lighter than the other figure.

February 7, 1893.—Sixteen members present.

Mr. William Rodgers was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Morris read a paper on "Birds of Bermuda," based on notes made in March and April, 1886.

Mr. De Haven exhibited a series of beautifully prepared bird skulls representing our common species.

February 21, 1893.—Sixteen members present.

Mr. Stone read a paper on "Birds of the Atlantic City Marshes," in which he described the present aspect of bird life on the New Jersey coast and contrasted it with the time of Wilson and Audubon.

Mr. De Haven followed with some remarks on the changes which have been brought about during the past twenty years in the bird life of the coast.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads spoke of the mortality in the Crow Roosts near Camden, N. J., and referred to a recent paper on the same subject by Mr. Ridgway in *Science*. He believed that the blindness there referred to might be epidemic, due to starvation and the enforced eating of poisonous or infected food.

Mr. McCadden exhibited a number of photographs taken from live birds at the Zoölogical Garden.

March 7, 1893.—Twenty-one members present.

Mr. William B. Scheuing was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Shryock read the paper of the evening on the "Merchantville, N. J., Crow Roost," describing a visit made during the past month.

March 22, 1893.—Seventeen members present and one visitor.

A paper on "Birds of the Caloosahatchee River" was read by Mr. S. N. Rhoads, in which he related his experiences during a boat-journey from Fort Myers to Lake Hicpochee in South Florida in 1891. He spoke especially of the Florida Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia floridana*), a large colony of which he visited (See *Auk*, 1892, p. 1).

April 4, 1893.—Sixteen members present.

Dr. Trotter read a paper on "Summer Birds of the Beaverkill, N. Y.," several specimens were exhibited, among which was an interesting first plumage specimen of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Zamelodia ludoviciana*).

Mr. Stone spoke of a recent trip to the "Barrens," near Cedar Bridge, N. J. The extremely arid character of the county and the absence of trees over three feet in height resulted in a great scarcity of bird-life. Pine Warblers (*Dendroica vigorsii*) were abundant a few miles to the west where the trees were higher.

A specimen of the European Widgeon (*Anas penelope*) was recorded, shot at Havre De Grace by Mr. W. D. Winsor.

April 18, 1893.—Twenty members present.

Mr. Morris read the paper of the evening on "Birds of Puget Sound," based on his experiences in Washington during the spring of 1892, illustrated by specimens collected on the trip.

Mr. Voelker exhibited a first-plumage specimen of the Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) which had the head thickly spotted with red over the entire crown.

Mr. De Haven recorded the capture of several Gnatcatchers (*Polioptila caerulea*) at Atlantic City, N. J., April 16, 1893.

May 2, 1893.—Seventeen members present.

Dr. Hughes read a paper on the "Breeding of the Night Heron" (*Nycticorax n. naevius*), referring especially to the Valley Forge Heronry, Montgomery Co., Pa. He considered that the birds raised but a single brood in a season.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads described a recent trip to the Cumberland Mountains of Pennsylvania. The Large-billed Water Thrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) he found evidently preparing to breed near Pine Grove Furnace. Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) bred there commonly, and Ravens (*Corvus corax principalis*) were reported by hunters to be frequently seen.

Mr. Serrill read extracts from Kalm on the torpidity of Swallows, and a general discussion ensued on the faith of some in this alleged phenomenon.

May 16, 1893.—Seventeen members present.

Mr. Baily described a recent trip to Asheville, N. C., April 28 to May 3, and exhibited a number of nests secured by him, among others those of the Blue Gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila cærulea*), and Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia mitrata*.)

Mr. Stone exhibited a specimen of Labrador Duck (*Camptolaimus labradorius*), which he had found in the collection of the late Geo. W. Carpenter of Mt. Airy, Phila., and which had been presented to the Academy of Natural Sciences. Nothing was known of the history of the specimen, which is an adult male, and makes the fourth example in the Academy's collection, and the fortieth in existence (*Auk*, 1893, p. 363).

Mr. Morris read an old letter from Edward Harris to Dr. John Spencer in which he described part of his journey with Audubon and Bell up the Missouri River (See *Auk*, 1895, p. 225).

June 6, 1893.—Twenty members present.

Messrs. Reed and Wilde described a collecting trip taken during the previous week through parts of Cape May Co., N. J.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads stated that he had taken a trip to Lake Hopatcong, N. J., and noticed many Alleghanian birds breeding in the vicinity, as Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) Red Start (*Setophaga ruticilla*), Chestnut Sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*), etc.

Mr. Stone exhibited a Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) taken at Germantown, Pa., April 13, 1886, with red feathers in the malar stripe, also two Prairie Horned Larks (*Otocoris a. praticola*), taken by Mr. August Koch at Williamsport, Pa.

September 19.—Special Business Meeting of Active Members.

October 3, 1893.—Sixteen members present.

A number of mounted groups for the collection were on exhibition and were commented on by the members.

October 17, 1893.—Fifteen members present.

Mr. W. W. Justice, Jr., was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Stone made a communication on the *Rallidæ* or Rails, exhibiting examples of the various forms and sketching their distribution (See *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci.*, 1894, p. 130).

Mr. DeHaven spoke of the minute hook or claw seen on the wings of young rails still in the down.

It was decided to change the time of meeting from Tuesday to Thursday evenings.

November, 2 1893.—Nineteen members present.

Mr. Morris read a paper entitled "A Day in the Salt Marshes," dealing with the bird life near Atlantic City, N. J.

A paper on "Rare Birds near Bethlehem, Pa.," contributed by Dr. J. W. Detwiler, was read.

November 16, 1893.—Ten members present.

Mr. Morris spoke briefly of bird life near Richmond, Indiana, as observed by him on a recent trip.

December 7, 1893.—Thirteen members present.

Mr. Stone spoke of the "Lost Species of Wilson and Audubon."

Mr. S. N. Rhoads spoke of birds seen near Tuckerton, N. J., stating that the Raven and Black Duck were reported to breed in the neighborhood by Messrs. Jillson of that town. He recorded an Oystercatcher (*Hæmatopus palliatus*) shot by Mr. Jillson, May, 1894.

December 21, 1893.—Fourteen members present.

A general discussion was held on "Ducks."

Mr. Whitaker reported the capture of a Whistling Swan (*Olor. columbianus*) on the Delaware River opposite Bridesburg.

January 4, 1894.—Annual Meeting. Eighteen members present.

The election of officers resulted in the choice of the following:

President—GEORGE SPENCER MORRIS.

Secretary—CHARLES J. RHOADS.

Treasurer—WILLIAM L. BAILY.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads exhibited a copy of Ord's Zoölogy, the property of Dr. Solis-Cohen, and the only known copy of this rare work extant. He spoke of a reprint* which he proposed to issue of this volume, and called attention to several species of North American birds which here first received binomial names.

January 18, 1894.—Twenty-three members present.

Mr. Shryock read a paper on "Summer Birds of the Pocono Mountain, Pa.," in which he described a trip taken during the latter part of June and early July, 1893, to Mt. Pocono. Quite a number of northern birds were nesting there, such as Hermit Thrush (*Turdus aon. pallasii*), Canadian Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*), Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*), but this element in the fauna had been greatly reduced by the almost total destruction of the hemlock forest.

Mr. S. Brown followed with some remarks on the birds of another section of the Pocono Plateau at Tobyhanna. In a small tract of hemlock he found the Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra minor*), Winter Wren (*Troglodytes hiemalis*), and Junco (*J. hyemalis*), and heard the unmistakable note of a White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) in the same vicinity. His observations were made July 3 and 4, 1893. (*Auk*, 1894, p. 182.)

* A Reprint of the North American Zoölogy by George Ord, etc. Edited by Samuel N. Rhoads, Haddonfield, N. J., 1894. 8vo, pp. 290-361+90 pp. Appendix.

February 1, 1894.—Seventeen members present.

Mr. J. Francis Stokes was elected an Associate Member.

Dr. Hughes read a paper on "Breeding Habits of the Snow Bunting," (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) based on his observations in Greenland while accompanying the West Greenland Expedition of 1891 which established Lt. Peary at Whale Sound preparatory to his journey farther north. Dr. Hughes stated that the birds occupied the same nesting site year after year. He took one set of six eggs, though five was the usual set. The bird was most abundant about the native settlements, where it filled the air with its pleasant song.

February 15, 1894.—Fifteen members present.

Mr. Serrill read a paper entitled "Some Bird Experiences in the South." He dealt principally with a remarkable roost of Purple Martins (*Progne subis*), observed near Atlanta, Ga., June 15, 1892. The flocks congregated in an immense flight and performed interesting evolutions before settling into some willow trees for the night.

Mr. Stone exhibited a specimen of the Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata*) taken by Mr. Geo. B. Benners at Laredo, Texas, the first record of the species for the United States (see *Auk*, 1894, p. 177).

Mr. Voelker reported a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) shot at New Egypt, N. J.

March 1, 1894.—Twenty-four members present.

Mr. Baily described a trip to Holly Beach, N. J. He noted only twenty-one species, most interesting of which was a Brown Thrasher, (*Harporhyuchus rufus*) Feb. 22.

Mr. Justice recorded a Holboell's Grebe (*Colymbus holboëllii*) shot on the Delaware River by John Reese, Feb. 21.

A general discussion followed on "The Best Methods of Preparing Skins."

March 15, 1894.—Seventeen members present.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads made a communication on a recent trip to Barrel Island, near Tuckerton, N. J. He located a roosting-ground of the Short-eared Owls (*Asio accipitrinus*) where there were numerous ejected pellets, each containing a single unbroken meadow-mouse skull, together with odd bones and hair. A number of mice-skins scattered about led him to think that the Owls sometimes skinned their prey before devouring it.

Mr. Reed stated that this was not the case with such owls as he had studied in captivity. They always devoured their prey head foremost without skinning it.

A newspaper clipping presented by Dr. Rotzell reported a Golden

Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) shot, Mar. 5, 1894, by P. De Haven on Conestoga Creek, near Lancaster, Pa.

April 5, 1894.—Fifteen members present.

Dr. Trotter's resignation as an Active Member was read, and accepted with regret.

Mr. Stone read a paper on "Ornithology at Philadelphia in the Past."

April 19, 1894.—Twelve members present.

Dr. Wm. E. Hughes was elected an Active Member.

A number of specimens of birds, nests and eggs recently contributed to the Club collection were on exhibition, and were commented on by the members.

May 5, 1894.—Fourteen members present.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads read a paper entitled "Leaves from a Catbird's Diary," in which he set forth in popular style many points relative to bird migration.

Mr. Stone called attention to some errors in Dr. Warren's "Birds of Pennsylvania" which he had recently been investigating. There seems no satisfactory evidence for the occurrence of the Black Guillemot (*Cephus grylle*) in the State, while correspondence with Prof. Roddy showed that the record of Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandi*) with young was entirely erroneous.

May 17, 1894.—Nineteen members present.

Dr. A. P. Fellows was elected an Associate Member.

The following resolutions were adopted on the death of J. Farnum Brown, one of the Active Members:

WHEREAS, We have learned with sincere sorrow of the sudden death of our late member, J. Farnum Brown; and

WHEREAS, We are deeply sensible of the loss sustained in his decease by this organization and all who knew him; therefore be it

Resolved, That we do hereby acknowledge our deep regret on account of his sad death, and extend our sympathy to his family in their great bereavement.

Mr. Morris read a paper on "Bird Life of Vancouver Island, B. C.", describing a trip to this region in company with Messrs. S. N. Rhoads and J. Wister Evans in 1892.

Specimens of Ostrich, Emu and Cassowary, recently mounted for the Academy collection, were exhibited by Mr. McCadden; also a series of Flamingoes (*Phœnicopterus ruber*) from the Bahamas, collected by D. P. Ingraham.

October 4, 1894.—Eighteen members present.

Dr. W. E. Rotzell read a paper on "The Effects of Poke-berries (*Phytolacca*) on Birds." It was a generally accepted theory that these

berries acted as an "anti-fat" agent, but the results of his experience proved that birds which were gorged with them were always in good condition, and frequently quite fat (*Hahnemannian Monthly*, 1894, p. 790).

A Yellow headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) was on exhibition, secured near Fish House, N. J., some years ago.

October 18, 1894.—Thirteen members present.

Messrs. Henry W. Fowler and John Reese were elected Associate Members.

Mr. Stone gave an account of the birds at present in the Zoölogical Garden, calling especial attention to the Barren Ground Geese (*Cereopsis novæhollandiæ*) from Australia, the Nicobar Pigeon (*Calanus nicobarica*), Trumpeter Cranes (*Psophia*) and Turaco (*Turacus*).

Dr. Fellows spoke of his experience with the Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus americanus*) in Kansas some years since and its gradual decrease.

A specimen of Arkansas Flycatcher (*Tyrannus verticalis*) was exhibited, taken near Princeton, N. J., by Mr. Phillips, Sept. 29, 1894; also a Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*), obtained at Stone Harbor, N. J., by Chas. A. Voelker, April 24, 1894.

November 1, 1894.—Twelve members present.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads gave a resumé of two trips through Pike Co., Pa., during September last.

Messrs. Stone and De Haven described a trip to Atlantic City, N. J., during the recent high tides when the meadows were flooded and the Clapper Rails (*Rallus crepitans*) compelled to swim about in the water.

Mr. Whitaker stated that he had recently observed the Crow Blackbirds (*Quiscalus quiscula*) eating chestnuts which were exposed in opened burrs, and exhibited some of the partly-eaten nuts.

Mr. Morris read several interesting extracts from letters of Mr. Edw. Harris written from the upper Missouri while accompanying Audubon on his memorable trip (see *Auk*, 1895, p. 225).

November 15, 1894.—Eleven members present.

Mr. Morris read a paper entitled "Æsthetic and Scientific Natural History," in which he made a plea for the importance of the former side of the study, especially on the part of those who were unable to devote the requisite time to scientific investigation. He followed with a short sketch of a May day among the Warblers at Tinicum, Del. Co., Pa., and recorded the capture of a Golden-winged Warbler (*Helminthophila chrysoptera*).

Mr. De Haven reported a Red-throated Loon (*Urinator lumme*) shot at Atlantic City, N. J., Nov. 5, 1894.

December 6, 1894.—Eighteen members present.

Mr. Stone read a resumé of our present knowledge of the water birds of the New Jersey coast, based on the notes he had compiled for the club's work on the "Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey." He deplored the lack of definite knowledge of many species, but was convinced that the coast was very poor in water birds compared with the region from Long Island northward.

Dr. Hughes spoke of the occurrence of barren birds noted by him in the Arctic regions, especially among the Murres (*Uria lomvia*).

December 20, 1894.—Eighteen members present.

Mr. Baily read an account of a trip to Raselas, Elk Co., Pa., June 18 to July 2, 1894. He found most of the birds reported to breed at Harvey's Lake by Mr. Stone, and a number of additional species, as *Vireo solitarius*, *Empidonax minimus*, *Seiurus noveboracensis*, *Otocori alpestris praticola*, *Carpodacus purpureus*, *Zamelodia ludoviciana* and *Nyctala acadia* (see *Auk*, 1896, p. 289).

Mr. Fowler exhibited an Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus borealis*), shot at Holmesburg, Pa., Sept. 5, 1894, and Mr. Whitaker reported a Barred Owl (*Syrnium nebulosum*) taken at Crescentville, Phila., Dec. 7, 1894.

The first copies of the "Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey," by Witmer Stone, published by the Club, were on the table for distribution.

January 3, 1895.—Annual Meeting. Seventeen members present.

Mr. A. M. Githens was elected an Associate Member.

The election of officers resulted as follows :

President—WM. E. HUGHES, M. D.

Secretary—CHAS. J. RHOADS.

Treasurer—WM. L. BAILY.

Messrs. Stone, Baily and Hughes were appointed a Committee to draft a new Constitution.

Dr. Hughes read the paper of the evening on the "Food Birds of the Eskimos," drawing upon his experience in Greenland in 1891.

Two Fish Crows (*Corvus ossifragus*) were recorded shot at Holmesburg by Mr. Fowler, last week ; proving their winter occurrence in this neighborhood.

January 17, 1895.—Thirteen members present.

Mr. De Haven made a communication on the "Wild Fowl of the Susquehanna Flats," describing this famous ducking ground, and comparing the former and present abundance of the game birds.

Mr. Wilde recorded the capture of a Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia*

mitrata) near the city, Sept. 5, 1894, and the finding of nests and eggs of the Least Bittern (*Ardetta exilis*) and Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) in the vicinity of Camden, N. J., during the summer of 1894.

February 7, 1895.—Seven members present.

Messrs. Frederick Clark and Harry L. Graham were elected Associate Members.

Mr. Morris read a paper on the "Winter Birds of Cape Charles, Va.," describing a ducking trip taken during the last week of December, 1894. The most interesting of the smaller birds observed was a Short-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus stellaris*). Seventy-three species were listed.

The prevailing blizzard and its relation to winter birds was discussed.

February 21, 1895.—Sixteen members present.

Mr. Morris re-read his paper of last meeting by request.

Mr. Whitaker reported the capture of a King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) near Olney, Philadelphia, on Jan. 3, 1895, in the stomach of which were found a bull-frog and a small turtle.

Mr. Stone exhibited a Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*), shot from a flock of Snow Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) on the New Jersey shore of the Delaware opposite Tinicum, Feb. 14, 1895. The specimen belonged to Mr. Isaac Reiff, of Phila., and is the third positive record for the species in this vicinity, the others being taken in 1849 and 1864.

Mr. Justice reported a small flock of Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator*) at Germantown, Feb. 7; and Horned Larks (*Otocoris alpestris*) were noted at Olney and Tinicum.

March 7, 1895.—Eleven members present.

A new Constitution, presented for consideration at the last meeting, was adopted.

Mr. Stone read a paper on American Crows, illustrated by a large series of specimens. Among these were fifteen Fish Crows (*C. ossifragus*) taken at Holmesburg during the winter by Mr. Fowler. Mr. Stone failed to see any tangible specific difference between the Northwest Crow (*C. caurinus*) and the Common Crow (*C. americanus*) and advocated treating the former as a sub-species. Its affinities were clearly with *C. americanus*, from which it does not differ more than does *C. a. floridanus*, and it is in no sense a "Fish Crow," allied to *C. ossifragus*, as some writers seem to have thought.

March 21, 1895.—Thirteen members present.

The following were elected Corresponding Members: Josiah Hoopes, Thos. H. Jackson, Sam'l B. Ladd, H. Justin Roddy, Dr. M. W. Raub, August Koch, Dr. J. W. Detwiler, Hugh E. Stone, W. E. Clyde Todd,

J. Warren Jacobs, W. H. Buller, Henry Hales, Thos. J. Beans, Wm. Patterson.

Mr. I. N. De Haven was elected to the office of Vice-President created by the new constitution.

A discussion was held on the extermination of the Wild Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*). Mr. Baily quoted Capt. Clay, of Rasselas, Elk Co., on the history of the bird in that vicinity; and Mr. Stone stated on the authority of J. G. Dillen that large quantities of Pigeons had been drowned and washed up on the northern shore of Lake Huron about twelve years ago.

The last known capture in this vicinity was a bird of the year secured, Sep. 9, 1887, in Chester Co., Pa., by Thos. H. Montgomery, Jr.

Dr. Hughes reported one seen in Chester Co. in 1873 or 4, which from its action he thought must have been breeding in the neighborhood.

April 4, 1895.—Fifteen members present.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads read a paper on "Crows of Philadelphia County." He reviewed his paper on Crows published in 1886 (see *Amer. Nat.*, 1886, pp. 691 and 777), and dwelt upon the establishing of the Fish Crow as a permanent resident by Mr. Fowler. He also described the methods of netting crows on the snow for trap-shooting, which is practiced extensively at Holmesburg. Mr. Fowler stated that many hawks, mostly Red-shouldered Hawks (*Buteo lineatus*), were also caught in the net.

April 18, 1895.—Twelve members present.

Mr. Stone read a paper on "Irregular Migrants," in which the Red-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) and Connecticut Warbler (*Geothlypis agilis*) were especially considered.

May 2, 1895.—Fifteen members present

Mr. Stone exhibited a series of Palm Warblers and suggested that some of the fall specimens recorded as *Dendroica palmarum* might be young *D. p. hypochrysea*; he did not consider that the plumage of the birds of the year of the latter race was well understood.

May 16, 1895.—Eighteen members present.

Mr. Stone exhibited the original diary of William Bartram covering the years 1802 to 1822, which had recently come into the possession of the Academy of Natural Sciences, and read some extracts relative to the migration of birds.

Mr. Serrill reported that Dr. Thomas, of Quakertown, had found the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Zamelodia ludoviciana*) nesting along Tohicon Creek, Bucks Co., Pa., and called attention to the existence of a Crow Roost at Fort Washington.

October 3, 1895.—Nineteen members present.

Mr. Wilde recorded a Swamp Sparrow's nest (*Melospiza georgiana*) at Pavonia, N. J.

Mr. Young described the finding of a nest and eggs of the Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus borealis*) near Hazleton, Pa., and exhibited the specimens along with a skin of the female (see *Auk*, 1896, p. 278.)

Mr. Baily reported several Pectoral Sandpipers (*Tringa maculata*) shot at Holly Beach, N. J.

Mr. Stone read a letter from Mr. Aug. Koch, describing the spring migration at Williamsport, and described the habits of some Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) which he had been able to examine at close quarters while they were devouring a dead horse. He counted seventy-nine in the immediate vicinity at one time. The location was in central Chester Co., Pa.

October 17, 1895.—Eighteen members present.

Mr. Wm. E. Chapman was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads read a paper on the "Birds of Tennessee" (see *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci.*, 1895, p. 463), which embodied the results of his trip through the state during the past spring.

November 7, 1895.—Nineteen members present.

Mr. Wilde read a paper on the "Nesting of the Parula Warbler (*Compothlypis americana usneæ*) in Southern New Jersey" (see *Auk*, 1897, p. 289).

A specimen of Northern Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*), shot at Beach Haven, N. J., by Mr. A. P. Willets, and presented to the Club, was exhibited.

Mr. Stone exhibited a series of Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) taken at Tinicum, which illustrated the fall molt of this species. An exhibition of lantern slides of birds and nests by Messrs. Baily, McCadden and Wilde followed.

November 21, 1895.—Twelve members present.

Mr. Stone read a paper on "Henslow's Bunting (*Ammodramus henslowii*) nesting at Pt. Pleasant, N. J.," in which he described a trip taken, May 30, 1895, in company with Dr. Hughes and Messrs. Baily and McCadden, with the object of verifying the reported occurrence of this species. A number of the Buntings were found, but diligent search failed to discover the nests, though the birds were unquestionably breeding.

December 5, 1895.—Fifteen members present.

Amendments to the constitution were adopted, raising the Active Membership limit to fifteen and providing for the transference at the discretion of the meeting of an Active Member to the Associate list when he is absent from four consecutive meetings without explanation.

Mr. Young read a paper on the "Summer Birds of the Pennsylvania Coal Region" (*Auk*, 1896, p. 278).

December 19, 1895.—Fifteen members present.

Mr. M. L. C. Wilde was elected an Active Member and Mr. Francis R. Cope, Jr., an Associate.

Mr. De Haven described a trip to Cape Charles, Va. Thirty-five species were noted, the most interesting of which was a Brünnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*), the second capture for this locality.

Mr. Stone gave a critical review of Gätkes' "Heligoland," commenting adversely upon his theories of migration and molting.

January 2, 1896.—Annual meeting. Twenty-four members present, and one visitor.

The old board of officers were re-elected, viz:

President—WILLIAM E. HUGHES, M. D.

Vice-President—I. NORRIS DE HAVEN.

Secretary—CHAS. J. RHOADS.

Treasurer—WILLIAM L. BAILY.

Messrs. Wm. A. Shyrock and Robt. T. Young were elected Active Members.

Mr. Voelker exhibited a hybrid between the Mallard (*Anas boschas*) and Pintail (*Dafila acuta*) secured in market.

Dr. Benj. Sharp was present by request and gave an account of his recent trip to Alaska, illustrating his remarks by lantern slides and specimens of birds secured by him and now in the Academy's collection.

January 16, 1896.—Fourteen members present.

Dr. Hughes read a paper on "Birds observed in Somerset Co., Maine," describing a trip taken in August, 1895.

Mr. Wilde exhibited and presented a nest and set of eggs of the Least Bittern (*Ardetta exilis*) from Newton Creek, N. J., taken July 4, 1895.

February 6, 1896.—Nine members and two visitors present.

Mr. Chas. A. Kellog, the professional whistler, was present by invitation, and gave imitations of various bird songs.

Mr. Baily read several extracts from his ornithological journal for the past year. He described a twelve-days' experience in trying to raise a young Hummingbird (*Trochilus colubris*), which he had taken from the nest and managed to keep alive for twelve days. He also recorded the capture of a young Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) in the first plumage at Holly Beach, N. J., and a number of Western Sandpipers (*Ereunetes occidentalis*) at the same place (see *Auk*, 1896, p. 174).

Mr. McCadden exhibited two Golden Eagles, taken in Craig Co., Va., Dec. 18, 1895 (see *Auk*, 1896, p. 256).

Mr. S. N. Rhoads reported several Black-backed Gulls (*Larus marinus*) seen by gunners at Tuckertown, N. J., Feb. 1st.

February 20, 1896.—Fourteen members present.

Mr. Morris read a paper entitled "European Bird Notes," in which he spoke of the species noted by him during a recent trip through Great Britain and the Continent; and contrasted the bird-life with that of America.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads reported a Northern Shrike (*Lanius borealis*) at Haddon Heights, N. J., a few days since.

March 5, 1896.—Fifteen members present.

Mr. Stone spoke on the "Structure of Feathers," illustrating his remarks by some selected specimens and drawings. He also called attention to the nomenclature of the Horned Owls. The type of *Bubo subarcticus* in the Academy collection proves to be a typical *arcticus*. Mr. Stone proposed the name *occidentalis* for the old "*subarcticus*," and proposed to separate the southern Californian race as *pacificus* Cassin. (See *Auk*, 1896, p. 153; also *Amer. Nat.*, 1897, p. 236.)

A number of birds collected by Dr. A. Donaldson Smith on his recent expedition through Somali Land, N. E. Africa, were exhibited, from the Academy's collection.

March 19, 1896.—Ten members present.

A general discussion was held on "Bird Protection."

April 2, 1896.—Twelve members present.

Mr. Guy Myers was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads read a paper on the "Real and Apparent Decrease in Our Native Birds," which was followed by a general discussion on the subject.

April 16, 1896.—Fifteen members present.

Mr. Stone read a letter from Mr. A. W. Anthony describing the destruction of Egrets for the millinery trade along the Gulf of California.

Mr. De Haven spoke of shore birds at Atlantic City, comparing the spring migrations for several years past.

Mr. Fowler followed with some observations on water birds of the Delaware River near Bristol, Pa.

May 7, 1896.—Seventeen members present.

Mr. Whitaker read a paper on "A Recent Trip to Florida," illustrating his remarks by a series of photographs.

Mr. Stone described a trip to a heronry of the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), near Salem, N. J., on May 2, in company with Dr. Hughes, Messrs. Justice and Young. There were upwards of thirty pairs of birds breeding in the tops of some tall pin oaks. Mr. Young

succeeded in securing a nest and set of eggs for the collection, which were on exhibition. Mr. Stone had just returned this evening from a second trip with several other members, and reported that most of the eggs had apparently hatched, judging from the shells on the ground.

May 21, 1896.—Eighteen members present.

Several nests and eggs mounted with natural surroundings for the collection were on exhibition. Notable were the eggs of the Night Hawk (*Chordeiles virginianus*) and Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus*), collected by Mr. Wilde, and resting on exactly the same ground surfaces upon which they were found.

October 1, 1896.—Nineteen members present.

Mr. Baily read a paper on "Gulls and Terns of Five-Mile Beach, N. J."

Mr. Stone described a colony of Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*), which were breeding back of Brigantine Beach, N. J., in June, 1896.

Mr. De Haven reported that large quantities of Clapper Rails (*Rallus crepitans*) had again been killed at Atlantic City during the high tides, and estimated that 10,000 had been slaughtered.

October 15, 1896.—Seventeen members present.

Messrs. Albert Whitaker and Samuel M. Freeman were elected Associate Members.

Mr. Stone read a paper entitled "The Salt Marsh Finches."

November 5, 1896.—Fifteen members present.

Mr. Henry Warrington was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Cope read a paper on the "Summer Birds of Susquehanna Co., Pa.", in which he summarizes his observations covering several years. Owing to the denudation of the forests the fauna is not so purely Canadian as had been supposed, though a number of Canadian forms still remain (see *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci.*, 1898, p. 76).

A specimen of Purple Sandpiper (*Tringa maritima*) was exhibited, which was secured, Oct. 31, 1896, at Beach Haven, N. J., by Mr. A. P. Willets.

November 19, 1896.—Nineteen members present.

Mr. Edmund J. D. Coxe was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads described a trip taken through the northern counties of New Jersey in October last, commenting on the birds noticed.

Dr. Hughes reported a Goshawk (*Accipiter atricapillus*) killed recently near Downingtown, Pa.

This meeting was held in the ornithological room of the Academy, which is to be the meeting-place in the future, the specimens, etc., being more accessible for reference.

December 3, 1896. Sixteen members present.

Mr. Stone read a paper on "Birds of Prince Edward's Island" by Mr. Young, who was unable to be present.

Mr. Baily spoke of a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) taken some two years ago at Devon, Pa., and now in captivity.

Mr. Brown reported finding two Coots (*Fulica americana*) dead near Wayne Junction, Philadelphia, apparently killed by striking telegraph wires.

December 17, 1896.—Eighteen members present.

Mr. Thomas L. Hammersley was elected an Associate Member.

The resignation of Mr. John J. Bissegger was accepted with regret.

Mr. Justice read a paper on "Some Impressions of European Birds," and Mr. Tatum followed with one entitled "Ornithological Experiences along the Miramichi, New Brunswick," in which he described a year's residence at a lumberman's camp.

A Goshawk (*Accipiter atricapillus*), secured at Paterson, N. J., and presented by Chas. A. Shriner, was on exhibition. Seven other individuals of the same species were reported shot at the same locality.

Mr. Stone called attention to the recently organized Pennsylvania Audubon Society for the protection of birds.

January 7, 1897.—Annual meeting. Twenty-two members present.

Messrs. Stewardson Brown and William L. Whitaker were elected Active Members, and Mr. J. Wistar Evans, Associate.

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

President—I. NORRIS DE HAVEN.

Vice-President—CHAS. J. RROADS.

Secretary—WM. A. SHRYOCK.

Treasurer—WM. L. BAILY.

A paper by Mr. A. B. Vanderwielen, entitled "Three Days with Bicknell's Thrush" (*Turdus aliciae bicknelli*), was read by Mr. Stone, which dealt with the occurrence of this bird in the White Mountains, N. H.

Mr. Stone then made a communication on the Meadow Larks (*Sturnella magna* subsp.), illustrating his remarks with large series of skins of the various races. He pointed out the difference between the resident Larks of Mexico and the Rio Grande Valley, and proposed to separate the latter as a new form, *Sturnella magna hoopesi* (see Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1897, p. 146).

Dr. Fellows distributed copies of an etching of "Gulls," executed by himself.

Mr. Whitaker exhibited a Brünnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*) shot by

him at Cape Charles, Va., December 17, 1896 (see *Auk*, 1897, p. 202).

January 21, 1897.—Eighteen members present.

Messrs. Francis R. Cope, Jr., and Wm. W. Justice, Jr., were elected Active Members, and Messrs. Gilbert H. Moore, Robert T. Moore, and John Hutchinson Associates.

Mr. H. L. Graham was transferred to the Corresponding List, he having removed permanently to California.

Mr. De Haven read a paper on the "The Hunting of Brant," which he supplemented with considerable valuable information on the distribution and abundance of the species.

Mr. Stone exhibited a specimen of the Brant (*Branta bernicla*) from Whale Sound, N. Greenland, 1892, which was evidently breeding.

Mr. Whitaker exhibited a specimen of King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) taken at Cape Charles, Va., Jan. 2, 1897, which extended the known winter range of the species some miles southward, the previous southernmost record being Cobb's Island, Va., (*Auk*, 1897, p. 202).

Mr. Stone called attention to a nest of Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) received from Mr. J. D. Winsor, which had been built in the back of a sofa in his parlor and from which a brood had been raised, the bird entering by the window.

February 4, 1897.—Twenty-seven members present.

A general discussion was held on the articles in the January number of the *Auk*.

Mr. Reed exhibited a specimen of Black-throated Blue Warbler taken on Cobb's Creek, Delaware Co., Pa., in 1878, which exhibits all the characters of *Dendroica coerulescens cairnsii* recently described from North Carolina by Dr. Coues, and questioned the validity of the new race.

Mr. Reed also reported a number of Brünnich's Murres (*Uria lomvia*) near Beverly, N. J., Dec. 15 and 16, 1896 (see *Auk*, 1897, p. 202).

February 18, 1897. Seventeen members present.

Mr. Stone exhibited some specimens of Horned Owls (*Bubo*) and explained that inadvertently he had erred in selecting a type for the new form "*occidentalis*," which he had described, and, this becoming a synonym, he would propose the name "*pallescens*" for the Western Horned Owl (*Am. Nat.*, 1897, p. 236). He also spoke of the death of Major Charles Bendire, and his valuable work on the "Life Histories of North American Birds."

March 4, 1897.—Nineteen members present.

The resignation of Mr. Wilde as an Active Member was accepted with regret.

Mr. Baily read a paper on "Beach Birds and Plover," based upon his experience with them for several consecutive years on Two, Five and Seven Mile Beaches, N. J.

Mr. Young reported taking a set of Great Horned Owl's eggs (*Bubo virginianus*) at Betterton, Kent Co., Md. The birds were breeding in an old eagle's nest.

March 18, 1897.—Twenty members present.

Mr. Morris read a paper on "Local Reminiscences of Audubon."

Mr. Baily exhibited a series of plates of Humming Birds, painted about 1855 by his uncle, Wm. L. Baily, a contemporary of John Cassin.

April 1, 1897.—Twenty-two members present.

Mr. W. L. Whitaker read a paper on "Ornithological Photography," followed by an exhibition of lantern slides of bird's nests taken by him from nature.

A Wood Ibis (*Tantalus loculator*), collected in Lancaster County, Pa., July 17, 1896, was exhibited, presented to the Club by Dr. Park P. Breneman.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads had observed Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) in large numbers at Port Norris, N. J., the last week of March, and Mr. Fowler reported the same species as well as Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) at Bristol, Pa., March 26. These records are unusually early.

April 15, 1897.—Twenty members present.

The following resolution, presented by Mr. Stone, was unanimously adopted:

"The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club has heard with profound regret of the death of Prof. Edward D. Cope. The Club recognizes that in the death of Prof. Cope the scientific world has lost one of its brightest lights, a recognized authority in four distinct branches of zoölogical science, as well as one of the leading exponents of the doctrine of evolution. We also recognize, many of us from our personal experience, that young students entering upon a scientific career have lost in Prof. Cope a friend who, in spite of the demands of his own researches, was ever ready to assist them and give them the benefit of his profound knowledge."

Mr. Reed read a paper on the "American Barn Owl" (*Strix pratincola*), outlining his experience with the species in this vicinity. (*Auk*, 1897, p. 374.)

May 6, 1897.—Sixteen members present.

Mr. Justice described a trip taken to Salem, N. J., and another to Susquehanna County, Pa. On the former occasion he reported finding a nest and eggs of the Barred Owl (*Syrnium nebulosum*), and described

the habit of the Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*) of boring through the wooden sides of the old ice-houses. Inside one of these holes he found a pair of sparrow hawks (*Falco sparverius*) nesting in hay which was stored within. In Susquehanna County three nests of the Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis*) were found, and Snow Birds (*Junco hyemalis*) were noted building on April 24.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads stated that five Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) had wintered in a wood near Haddonfield, N. J., and two pairs were now breeding there. Mr. De Haven stated that four or five had wintered at Overbrook, Pa.

May 20, 1897.—Thirteen members present.

Some notes on "Birds of Wolfville, Nova Scotia," prepared by Mr. Harold F. Tufts, were read.

Mr. Fowler reported the capture of a Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) at Tinicum, Delaware Co., Pa., May 15. (*Auk*, 1897, p. 410).

A nest and set of two eggs of the Goshawk (*Accipiter atricapillus*) from Lopez, Sullivan Co., Pa., the gift of Otto and Herman Behr, was on exhibition (*Auk*, 1897, p. 317).

May 21, 1897, 3:30 p. m.—Nineteen members and a large number of visitors present. An adjourned general meeting held in the lecture hall and open to the public.

The following program was presented :

"Some Early Anglo-Saxon Bird Names," Spencer Trotter, M. D.

"The Aid of Ornithologists needed in the Determination of Certain of the broader Morphological Problems," Thos. H. Montgomery, Ph. D.

"Modern Tendencies of Ornithology," Witmer Stone.

"A Resumé of the Work of the D. V. O. C.," Wm. A. Shryock.

"Exhibition of Photographs of Birds and Nests," W. L. Whitaker.

October 7, 1897.—Sixteen members present.

Mr. J. R. Moon was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Stone read a paper on the "Molting of the Sanderling" (*Calidris arenaria*), in which he showed that the flight feathers were in many cases not molted until after the birds reached this latitude in the fall migration. Specimens taken by W. L. Baily, at Cape May, August 4th, were exhibited as illustrations. (See *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci.*, Phila., 1897, p. 368.)

Mr. De Haven exhibited several pellets cast up by a caged crow (*Corvus americanus*) which consisted entirely of raspberry seeds.

October 21, 1897.—Eighteen members present.

Messrs. Otto Behr and Herman Behr were elected Corresponding Members.

A paper entitled "Great Gull Island during 1897," was read by Mr. Reed, in which he described the destruction of a colony of Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) which formerly bred on the island. The island has been fortified by the United States government and the breeding ground practically destroyed.

Mr. Fowler reported a Red-throated Loon (*Urinator lumme*) shot from a flock of fifteen at League Island, Philadelphia, and Mr. Baily recorded a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) seen at Cape May, N. J., last August.

November 4, 1897.—Twenty-three members present.

Messrs. Morris and Hughes discussed a trip taken to several points on the Virginia coast of Chesapeake Bay, June 12 and 19, 1897, and described the nesting of the several species of birds observed. Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), Skimmers (*Rynchops nigra*), and Black-headed Gulls (*Larus atricilla*) and a few Forster's Terns (*S. forsteri*) were the only kinds left breeding on the islands along the bay so far as they could ascertain.

November 18, 1897.—Sixteen members present.

A general discussion was held on the proceedings of the Fifteenth Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union by the members who had been in attendance.

December 2, 1897.—Twelve members present.

Mr. Arthur Cope Emlen was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Stone read some notes on Mexican birds made during his trip of 1890.

A specimen of Gannet (*Sula bassana*) in the mottled young plumage was exhibited, shot at Holly Beach, N. J., Nov. 22, 1897.

December 16, 1897.—Eighteen members present.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads read a paper entitled "Fossil Birds and their Living Allies," in which he carefully reviewed the subject as treated by the leading writers on the subject and exhibited many specimens from the Academy's collection.

Errata in Abstract Proceedings D. V. O. C., 1891-2.

Page 2. Empidonax pusillus traillii proved to be E. minimus.

Page 4. Corvus corax sinuatus. Specimen was taken in Fulton Co., Pa.

Page 5. Chen hyperborea nivalis should read C. hyperborea.