

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

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*January 6th, 1898.*—Annual Meeting. Thirty-two members present. Mr. Henry W. Fowler was elected an Active Member.

The result of the election of officers for the year of 1898 was as follows :

*President*—I. NORRIS DE HAVEN.

*Vice-President*—CHAS. J. RHOADS.

*Secretary*—WILLIAM A. SHRYOCK.

*Treasurer*—WILLIAM L. BAILY.

Mr. Stone read a paper on the Genus *Ammodramus*. Mr. Baily showed two specimens of the Stilt Sandpiper, *Micropalma himantopus* taken on August 11th, 1897, at Wildwood, N. J. An exhibition of slides of live birds, nests, and eggs was given in the lecture hall by Messrs Baily and W. L. Whitaker.

*January 20th, 1898.*—Seventeen members present.

Mr. Henry W. Fowler read a paper on the Genus *Buteo*, giving a general outline of the genus and special mention of the three most common species, the Broad-winged, the Red-tailed, and the Red-shouldered Hawks; with notes on their food habits and dispositions during the mating season, and in captivity. He stated that in his experience, the Red-shouldered Hawk is the most numerous species in this vicinity. Mr. Baily made some remarks on the Hawks exhibited on the table, but considered the Red-shouldered Hawk rather rare at Wynnewood, though

abundance of the Ipswich Sparrow on the New Jersey coast led him to believe that it varied in different years. Mr. De Haven stated that his observations at Cape Charles, Va., showed these birds so be very irregular. Dr. Hughes gave a talk on "The Hawks of Tinicum, Delaware Co., Pa." The great abundance of mice in this locality accounting for the large number of hawks that congregate there. They begin to arrive in October—first the Red-tailed, then the Red-shouldered, and last the Rough-leg (*Archibuteo*). Of fifteen hawks shot the past winter, fourteen were Red-tails, the other being a Red-shouldered. Three of the Red-tails were in adult plumage. The birds roost in a patch of tall woods situated on the meadows; the time of coming in varies with the day. On dull days they come in much earlier than when bright. Rough-legs had been noted quite abundantly in former years, but this year there were very few. He thought there was no diminution in the other species over former years. Marsh Hawks were noted on every trip to the meadows, but were very variable in numbers. The recent comparative abundance of birds in the adult male plumage was commented on, the average in former years not being over one in fifty.

Dr. Hughes described the taking of a Carolina Wren's nest containing three eggs, at Perryville, Md., on April 6th, and the shooting of three Cedar Waxwings, all females, on which the wax tips to the feathers were unusually largely developed. Six birds of the same species recently shot from a flock at Avalon, N. J., were all males. He suggested the possibility of the sexes flocking separately at this season of the year.

*April 21, 1898.*—Nineteen members present.

Mr. George S. Morris gave a talk on a trip made May 30, 1897, to the region about the mouth of Pensauken Creek, N. J., on the Delaware River. The country for about a half mile up the creek is covered with a swamp of reeds and timber of medium growth. Bank Swallows (*Clivicola riparia*) were abundant, flying over the swamp, and bred in a large colony in the vicinity. During the day, eighteen nests of the Summer Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*) were found, as well as a number of the Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*). None of the latter, however, contained eggs. A male specimen of the Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphia*) was shot by Mr. Morris. A roost of Night Herons was found, containing about twenty-five birds. Nests of the Carolina Wren and Great Crested Flycatcher were found, and a Kingfisher's nest, all with eggs. Two Greater Yellow Legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) were seen along the river. The advantages offered by this locality as a field

for spring collecting and a general observation ground during the year were dwelt upon, especially as it is so readily accessible from the city. Mr. Stone called attention to two specimens of McKay's Snowflake (*Passerina hyperborea*) from Bethel, on the coast of Alaska. This is still a very rare species in collections. Both birds were females in the winter plumage. The breeding place of this species, Hall Island, Bering Sea, was commented on by Mr. Stone. Mr. Baily reported about one hundred Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) to have been shot within the last few weeks on the meadows around Ninety-Second Street Station, below Philadelphia.

*May 5th, 1898.*—Twenty members present. Mr. Alfred F. Satterthwait was elected an Associate Member.

Dr. Hughes gave a talk on the Ipswich Sparrow, (*Ammodramus princeps*) stating that his object was to define the winter distribution of the species. He had made a number of trips during the winter to Avalon and Seven Mile Beach, N. J., in company with several members of the Club, as well as having observed this bird at Cape Charles, Va., during the same period. Some of the birds were found on every trip this winter. On November 28th, 1897, about twenty-five were seen, and six secured; on December 30th, 1897, at Five Mile Beach, ten were seen and six shot; at Cape Charles Va., on December 6th, 1897, one bird was seen; at Avalon, January 16th, 1898, two birds secured; at Avalon, on March 13th, 1898, fifteen birds seen and two shot; and again at Avalon, on March 27th, 1898, six birds seen and three secured. The birds collected on the 13th of March, 1898, were molting extensively, especially about the head. Dr. Hughes expressed the conclusion that the bulk of the birds passed further south during the winter, as they were more numerous at Avalon during the fall and early spring migrations. Mr. A. T. Wayne, of Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, wrote him that he never saw the Ipswich Sparrow alive, though he has searched for it diligently. Messrs. Meyers and Hughes stated that they had collected eight sets of Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) eggs from a heronry near Pitman's Grove, N. J., the nests being situated in pine trees, at a considerable height.

*May 19th, 1898.*—Twenty-one members present. Mr. Anthony Robinson was elected an Associate Member.

The discussion for the evening was on "Recent Methods of Bird Illustration and Taxidermy." Following this Mr. Morris reported having shot a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) at Olney, Pa., on May 17th, 1898. Mr. Gilbert H. Moore presented a fine specimen of Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) to the Club, which he

had shot at Ocean City, N. J., on May 18th, 1898. The members showed great interest in this valuable addition to the collection. (See Auk, 1898, p. 268.)

*October, 6 1898.*—Twenty-four members present.

Mr. Stone called attention to the Josiah Hoopes Collection of North American land birds now in the possession of the Academy. The extreme value of the collection as a whole was commented on, and certain series of specimens were shown on the table to give an idea of the thorough way in which they were represented.

*October 20, 1898.*—Twenty-two members present.

Mr. William L. Baily read a paper entitled "William Penn as a Collector," referring to the statue of the early founder which surmounts the tower of the Public Buildings of Philadelphia. (See p. 15). Mr. Stone gave the result of recent investigations made by him and Mr. Tatum on the subject of "Crow Flights and Crow Roosts," and exhibited a map showing the various roosts in the surrounding country and the lines of flight followed by the crows in going to and from them. The roosts near Coatesville, Radnor, Doylestown, Salem and Merchantville were mentioned, with others of less importance. Mr. Stone noted a tendency on the part of the crows to roost in smaller numbers, and stated that the larger roosts seem to be gradually breaking up.

*November 3, 1898.*—Twenty-three members present.

Mr. Wm. B. Evans was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Edw. A. McIlhenny, by invitation, gave a most interesting account of his eighteen months' sojourn in Northern Alaska. Finding that the birds of the Northwest were very poorly represented in museums, he decided to make a trip North to collect in that section, and for this purpose arranged with the authorities at Washington for the use of the old whaling station at Point Barrow, Alaska. He took with him two assistants, and about fifty-three tons of baggage. The voyage from San Francisco to Point Barrow occupied forty-two days. On the Pacific, Albatross, both Black footed and Short-Tailed, were abundant, and the Eskimo method of catching the Fulmars was used on them with great success. A Flover, the species of which has not yet been determined, was taken on the Siberian coast. The spring migration at Point Barrow began on April 3d, when the male King Eider Ducks began to arrive. The females did not come until May 1st. Enormous flocks of these birds darkened the sky, and permitted the firing of six shots into their mass from a single gun before they were out of range. Almost all the males came before any females were

seen, and the former started on the return journey as the last of the females passed north. The King Eider breeds at Point Barrow around the small ponds on the tundra, using much black moss in the construction of the nests, and but little down. It is the most common duck of this region, the Black Brant occupying second place. About four thousand bird's eggs were collected on the trip, many of which were those of the Snowy Owl, which breeds at Point Barrow in large numbers, as many as sixty nests of this bird being found in one day. Mr. McIlhenny has counted as many as fourteen eggs and young in one nest together. Incubation begins with the laying of the first egg, which would otherwise freeze, and the male takes turns with the female in setting. The male Snowy Owl is almost pure white in the Arctic regions, while the females are always barred, the two sexes being thus readily distinguished. During the process of incubation the male is fed by the female, who will bring numbers of Lemmings and place them near him on the ground around the nest. When the young are first hatched they are pure white, afterwards getting darker, and eventually white again with the acquirement of the full plumage. Short-eared Owls were also taken. Sandpipers were very abundant, and numbers of their eggs were taken. Gray-checked Thrushes and a Myrtle Warbler were shot; and a Cormorant was taken. The capture of the Rosy Gull during a large migration of Sabine Gulls was described, two specimens of this rare species being taken on September 7th and 9th, and on July 9th another one was shot. Several Yellow-billed Loons were also secured. (See Stone Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1900, pp. 4-49, for full report on the collection). Mr. McIlhenny told of the hardships endured by wrecked sailors from the vessels of the whaling fleet which were caught in the ice, and spoke of the large supply of ducks which were killed and served them for food as well as specimens. The birds were packed in an old house excavated in the ground, where they would freeze within two hours, and five months afterward, during the dark season, they were worked up into skins at the leisure of the collectors.

*November 17, 1898.*—Eleven members present.

Mr. H. B. Fisher was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Stone gave an account of the sessions of the Sixteenth Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union, at Washington, D. C., from which he had just returned, and stated that it was the most successful meeting ever held by the Union. A short description of the various papers read was given. Mr. Baily gave a review of the papers not touched on by Mr. Stone, and spoke of the exhibition of lantern

slides. It was announced that the next session of the Union would be held in Philadelphia, November 13, 1899.

*December 1, 1898.*—Twenty-six members present.

Mr. Samuel N. Rhoads spoke on "The Birds of Clinton County, Pa.," reading extracts from his journal giving a general description of the topography of the country, forest growth, etc. A White-Crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) was shot on October sixth, and on October twentieth and twenty-first, Ruby Crowned Kinglets (*Regulus calendula*) were noted. A list of birds observed in the locality during May and June, 1896, was read, and each species commented on as to its abundance, etc. Photographs of the region were shown. Mr. Justice gave an account of a ducking trip which he took to Salem, N. J. The ducks were numerous, especially Black Ducks. He noted a Catbird on November 29, 1898, at Haverford, Pa. A Pomerine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) which was shot on October, 1898, on the Delaware River, was exhibited on the table.

Dr. Hughes reported that at Stone Harbor, N. J., on November 20th, 1898, he saw about twenty-five Ipswich Sparrows, (*Ammodramus princeps*) of which he secured nine specimens.

*December 15th, 1898.*—Seventeen members present. Mr. Chas. J. Pennock was elected an Active Member, and Mr. Nathan Kite an Associate Member.

Mr. Morris called attention to six pictures from Audubon's work which had been presented to the club by Mrs. E. J. Bartol, and which were exhibited on the walls of the Ornithological room. In the absence of Dr. Hughes, Mr. Stone spoke alone on "The Birds of Sullivan and Wyoming Counties, Pa.," where is found probably the largest tract of uncut hemlock forest in the State. The home of Herman and Otto Behr, corresponding members of the Club, was the headquarters of the party, and much of the success of the trip was due to their knowledge of the region explored. The birds were strictly Canadian. A breeding specimen of the White-throated Sparrow was taken on June 19th, 1898; and the nest, eggs, and male and female of the Olive-sided Flycatcher were collected. Young Winter Wrens in the first plumage, as well as several nests of the same species were secured, the latter being found under the roots of overturned hemlocks. Two nests and eggs of the Brown Creeper, a nest of the Red-bellied Nuthatch, one Acadian Owl, and an adult and two young of the Golden crowned Kinglet were also collected. (See pp. 19-23.) Mr. Brown stated that he had found the Mourning Warbler quite common in suitable localities at Lake Ganoga, Penna., a few miles further west.

January 5th, 1899.—Annual meeting, thirty-one members present. Mr. William D. Carpenter was elected an Associate Member. The resignation of Mr. Robt. T. Young from Active Membership was received and accepted with regret.

The officers chosen for the year were as follows :

*President*—CHARLES J. RHOADS.

*Vice-President*—CHARLES J. PENNOCK.

*Secretary*—WILLIAM A. SHRYOCK.

*Treasurer*—WILLIAM L. BAILY.

Mr. Stone addressed the meeting on the "Birds of the Philippines and Porto Rico," explaining the geographical position and relationship of the islands and commenting on the more interesting species recorded from them. He estimated that there were about 325 resident species so far noted in the Philippines, and about 25 native species in Porto Rico.

Mr. Henry Warrington exhibited a Lapland Longspur, (*Calcarius lapponicus*) shot at Salem, N. J., December 28, 1898, from a flock of Horned Larks. This is the second capture of this species in the Delaware Valley since the organization of the Club.

Mr. Albert Whitaker stated that he had reliable information of the shooting of two Wild Pigeons, (*Ectopistes migratorius*) by Mr. Frank Butterworth in Wayne Co. Pa., November 2, 1898.

The meeting closed with an exhibition of lantern slides of birds and nests by Messrs. William L. Baily and J. Harris Reed.

January 19, 1899.—Twenty members present.

Mr. Joseph W. Tatum was elected an Active Member.

Mr. W. Gordon Smith read a paper describing a locality at Merrydell, Maryland, on the Choptank Creek near the eastern boundary of the State, which he had visited July 13, 1898, in company with Mr. I. N. DeHaven, and where a specimen of Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) was obtained, and several others seen. The appearance of the specimen and the date of the occurrence gave every indication that the species was breeding in this vicinity, which is materially north of its regular range. The low wet woodland with plenty of fallen timber offered an ideal nesting locality for the bird.

Mr. H. W. Fowler remarked on the Ducks observed in the Philadelphia markets during the present winter. He found the Lesser Scaup the most abundant species, while the Greater Scaup had not been seen at all, although several hundred specimens had been examined. Black Ducks and Red Heads were plentiful; Canvas Backs, Pintails and Bald Pates, fairly common; Ruddy Ducks, common late in the season;

Mallard, not as abundant as last season; one Ring Neck, several Gadwalls, and two pair of Shovellers only were observed. Geese were abundant, but Brant scarcer than last season.

Mr. Morris stated that Audubon's original painting of the Black Cock formerly the property of Edward Harris was on exhibition at Linsay's Art Store, Philadelphia.

Mr. Stone described a recent visit to the Crow roosts near Salem, N. J., supposed to be the remnants of the old Pea Patch and Reedy Island Roosts (See Bird Lore, Dec., 1899.)

*February 2d, 1899.*—Twenty-three members present. Mr. Wm. M. Strang was elected an Associate Member, and the resignation of Mr. Harry Fox was accepted with regret.

Mr. Herbert L. Coggins read a paper entitled "The Heath Hen and other Birds of Martha's Vineyard," in which he summarized his observations of several summers. Seventy-seven species had been noted on the island. The Heath Hen was twice observed in the interior of the island and six individuals were seen. They are protected at all seasons under a penalty of \$25 fine.

Mr. Chas. A. Voelker exhibited a Black Guillemot (*Cepphus grylle*) shot on the Delaware River, near Chester, in December, 1898, from a flock of Buffle-heads. This is the first record of the bird in this vicinity since the time of Cassin, and in fact is the only definite record.

A Brünnichs Murre (*Uria lomvia*) was reported shot at Atlantic City, N. J., recently by Dr. J. F. Prendergast.

A letter from Mr. Gilbert H. Moore was read by the Secretary describing the breeding of the Rose-Breasted Grosbeak (*Zamelodia ludoviciana*) at Haddonfield, N. J., early in July, 1897, this being the most southern record of the nesting of the species in this vicinity. The nest and eggs have been added to the Club collection at the Academy.

*February 16, 1899.*—Six members present.

Dr. James F. Prendergast and Mr. Samuel Palmer were elected Associate Members.

Owing to the inclement weather no scientific session was held.

*March 2, 1899.*—Twenty-two members present.

Mr. W. L. Baily spoke of the "Spring Flight of Shore Birds at Holly Beach, N. J., in 1898." On May 16 and 17 he considered the migration at its height.

Notes were read from a number of members relative to the effect of the recent phenomenal blizzard upon local bird life. (See p. 13.)

Mr. Stone exhibited a live male Bobolink, the property of Mrs. Ed-

ward Robins, which was now about half changed from winter to nuptial plumage, the transformation having been effected entirely by molt.

*March 16, 1899.*—Twenty-three members present.

A letter was read from Mr. Wm. L. Whitaker, now at Juneau, Alaska, and another from Mr. Sam'l N. Rhoads from Miami, Florida, each dealing briefly with the bird life of their respective regions.

Mr. Fowler read a paper on the species of Apteryx, reviewing the history, classification and distribution of the genus.

Mr. Shryock spoke of the skeletal peculiarities of these birds, illustrating his remarks with specimens from the Academy's collection, and Mr. McCadden exhibited photographs from life of the Owen's and Mantell's Apteryxes recently living in the Zoölogical Garden.

*April 6, 1899.*—Twenty-two members present.

Mr. James A. G. Rehn was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Morris read a paper on the "Birds of Eaglesmere, Pa.," observed during August, 1898.

Dr. Hughes reported a Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) shot at Tinicum, Delaware Co., Pa., March 30, 1899.

Mr. DeHaven read an interesting letter from Mr. Chas. A. Long, of Paterson, N. J., describing a flight of Hawks which passed through a gap in the mountains near that place. Many were killed by local gunners—according to Mr. Long—"seventy-six assorted varieties of hawks, including an Eagle, were shot."

*April 20th, 1899.*—Twenty-four members present. Messrs. George B. Cresson, William J. Cresson, and Dr. Walter W. Maires were elected Associate Members.

An historic collection of skins made many years ago by W. P. Turnhill and Bernard Hoopes, and recently bequeathed to the Academy by the late Prof. Cope, was on exhibition. (See Osprey, 1899, p. 98.)

Dr. Hughes described a nesting site of Great Blue Herons near Pitman Grove, N. J., consisting of about thirty-seven nests. They were situated in pine trees from seventy-five to ninety feet from the ground. He found full sets of eggs on April 16.

A large flock of Crossbills (*Loxia c. minor*) were observed near the Heronry.

*May 4th, 1899.*—Eighteen members present. Mr. I. N. De Haven read a paper entitled "Life and Habits of the Clapper Rail," being a summary of a number of years' observation on this species on the Atlantic City meadows.

Mr. Baily described a Robin's nest which had been built on a tem-

porary scaffold. When the destruction of the scaffolding became necessary the workmen removed the nest to a near-by tree where it was supported on long nails driven into the trunk. The birds returned to it and laid a full clutch of eggs.

Mr. Baily also reported five Crossbills (*L. c. minor*) observed at Haverford, April 23, 1899.

*May 18th, 1899.*—Twenty-six members present.

Mr. Samuel N. Rhoads addressed the Club on "Glimpses of Bird Life in Northern Mexico," recounting his ornithological experiences in the vicinity of Uruapan and Monterey. His remarks were illustrated by a number of specimens obtained on the trip.

Mr. Baily commented on a recent trip to the Virginia coast, where he had found a nest of the Oyster Catcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) and had heard the Chuckwill's Widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*.)

*October 5th, 1899.*—Nineteen members present.

The death of Mr. Gilbert H. Moore, an Associate Member, which occurred in May shortly after the adjournment of the Club, was announced and the following resolution adopted:

*Resolved:* That the members of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club have heard with deep regret of the death of their fellow member, Gilbert H. Moore, and desire to place on record their appreciation of his active interest in Ornithology, and their recognition of the great loss which they, both as an organization and as individuals, have sustained in his death.

Mr. Stone described a trip to Sullivan and Wyoming Cos., Penna. taken by himself and Mr. Fowler in June, and reported a number of additions to the list of species noted by him on a previous trip in June, 1898. He also reported the capture of a Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) near Tom's River, by Mr. W. M. Swain, Sep. 8, 1899. Mr. Swain had previously obtained another specimen on Barnegat Bay, N. J., Sep. 1898. (Between the 7th and 21st.)

Several members commented upon the abundance of Little Blue Herons (*Ardea caerulea*) in this vicinity during the latter part of the summer.

Dr. Hughes reported a number at various points along the New Jersey coast, and exhibited one obtained at Stone Harbor and now in the Club collection. Mr. Rehn reported one shot on the Upper Darby Creek the latter part of August, and a flock had been frequently seen on the Delaware near Beverly. Mr. S. N. Rhoads observed a flock of 50 or 60 birds feeding on the marshes near Mt. Ephraim, N. J., and was enabled to approach near enough to obtain a good view of them.

All birds reported were in the white plumage.

Mr. Stewardson Brown described a nest of Long-billed Water Thrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) obtained by him in Somerset Co., Pa., along Laurel Hill Creek.

*October 19, 1899.*—Twenty members present.

Messrs. Ernest M. Evans and W. H. Trotter were elected Associate Members.

Mr. Baily reported on the birds killed by striking the City Hall tower during the fall, supplementing his previous paper on the subject, (See p. 15.) The matter was discussed at length.

*November 2, 1899.*—Twenty-one members present.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads spoke on "Some Notable Mexican Birds," treating more especially of the Thrushes and the Road Runner.

*November 13-16, 1899.*—The Seventeenth Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union was held at the Academy (See Auk., 1900, pp. 58-63), and the regular meeting of the Club was omitted.

The Congress was the largest yet held, seventy-two members being in attendance.

*December 7, 1899.*—Nineteen members present.

A general discussion was held on the "Relationship and Distribution of the Thrashers," the subject being introduced by Mr. H. W. Fowler.

Dr. Rotzell described a Crow roost located near Valley Forge, Pa., which he had recently visited several times.

*December 21, 1899.*—Sixteen members present.

Mr. Chas. J. Pennock read a paper on the "Birds of South Georgia and West Florida," recounting his experiences in that section during the winter of 1887-1888. He also described in detail the capture of a specimen of the Little Black Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*), and the securing of the unique egg figured in Captain Bendire's "Life Histories of North American Birds," and which is still in Mr. Pennock's possession.