

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

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January 4, 1900.—Annual Meeting. Thirty-five members present. Mr. Charles H. Baker was elected a Corresponding Member. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

*President*—CHARLES J. RHOADS.

*Vice-President*—CHARLES J. PENNOCK.

*Secretary*—HENRY W. FOWLER.

*Treasurer*—WILLIAM L. BAILY.

Mr. G. S. Morris addressed the Club on "Winter Bird-life at Cape Charles, Va.," covering a recent visit of two weeks. Duck shooting in this neighborhood, he stated, had deteriorated very much during recent years, partially he thought from the increase in the oyster industry and the presence of numerous oyster boats from which the ducks are constantly shot. Black-headed Ducks (*Aythya affinis*) were noticed in numbers. Among land birds he secured specimens of the Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*), Ipswich Sparrow (*Ammodramus princeps*) and Pine Warbler (*Dendroica vigorsii*). The Ipswich Sparrow he regarded as a common winter species on the Virginia coast.

Mr. Witmer Stone read a humorous paper entitled "The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, its Nestling Plumage contrasted with its fully Adult Condition, with Comments on Several of its Molts." Mr. Wm. L. Baily exhibited a number of lantern slides from photographs of birds and their nests. The meeting then adjourned to a collation.

January 18, 1900.—Fourteen members and one visitor present. Messrs. Chas. W. Buvinger and Chas. S. Welles were elected Associate Members, and Mr. H. Walker Hand, of Cape May, N. J., a Corresponding Member.

Mr. Witmer Stone exhibited a series of Crossbills (*L. leucoptera* and *minor*) lately received from Mr. Otto Behr, of Lopez, Pa. Wm. B. Evans reported the Red Crossbill (*Loxia c. minor*) at Moorestown, N. J., Jan. 14th; and Saw-Whet Owl (*Nyctala acadica*) found dead Dec. 20, 1899, at Friendship, N. J.

Mr. A. C. Emlen noted a few Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) all winter at Germantown, and exhibited a White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) taken on Dec. 18, the first record of the species at Philadelphia for ten years.

Mr. Rehn reported Flickers (*Colaptes auratus luteus*) observed at Tinicum, and a Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla a. pallasii*) at Clifton, Del. Co., Pa.

Crossbills (*Loxia c. minor*) were reported from Germantown, Clifton and Kennett Square.

Other interesting records were:

Red-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*); Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*), and Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*), Kennett Square, Chester Co., Pa., January 1, C. J. Pennock. Cat Bird (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*), Germantown, Phila., Jan. 14, E. M. Evans.

February 1, 1900.—Twenty-one members and a visitor present Messrs. Frederick Sørensen and Walter G. Sibley were elected Associate Members.

A letter from Dr. Montgomery reported two White-winged Crossbills (*Loxia leucoptera*) at West Chester, Pa., Jan. 28.

Dr. Hughes made the communication of the evening on a trip to Palm Beach, Fla., covering the end of December and beginning of January. He found birds less abundant both in species and individuals than he had expected, and though a fairly representative collection was obtained, he secured nothing of especial interest. Bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was nesting, and had large downy young by the first of the year.

Mr. Pennock exhibited an adult male Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) received from Taylor Co., Florida, where it had been secured Jan. 12, 1900. (See below, p. 8.)

February 15, 1900.—Twenty-six members present.

Mr. W. L. Whitaker addressed the Club on his two years' sojourn in Alaska and British America, mostly in the Stickine River district. His

opportunities for ornithological observations were very limited and only a few specimens were prepared.

*March 1, 1900.*—Eighteen members present.

Mr. Witmer Stone made a communication on "The Earliest Describers of Our North American Birds and Their Works." He displayed copies of the works of Willoughby, Gesner, Catesby, Buffon, Pennant, Latham, Wilson, Bonaparte and Audubon from the Academy's Library, commenting upon them.

Mr. A. C. Emlen observed a White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) again at Germantown Mar. 1.

*March 15, 1900.*—Only six members present, owing to severe storm. No meeting was held.

*April 5, 1900.*—Twenty-five members present.

General discussion on bird protection.

Mr. H. W. Fowler reported Green Herons (*Ardea virescens*) at Holmesburg, Phila., April 1, and Mr. Kester observed a Thrasher (*Harporhynchus rufus*) at Lansdowne, Del. Co., Pa., March 30.

*April 19, 1900.*—Twenty-one members and one visitor present.

Mr. G. S. Morris read a paper on the "Life and Work of Alexander Wilson."

*May 3, 1900.*—Thirteen members present.

Messrs. Wm. Reinick and Joseph B. Lodge were elected Associate members.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads made a communication on "Resemblances in the Songs of Our Birds," which was followed by a general discussion.

Mr. Baily reported several species of birds which had struck the city hall tower during the autumn which were additional to his previous list, Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*), Water Thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) and Tennessee Warbler (*Helminthophila peregrina*). He also reported Crossbills (*Loxia c. minor*) at Ardmore, Pa., April 29, 1900.

*May 17, 1900.*—Twenty-one members present.

Mr. Allen H. Gosh was elected a Corresponding member.

Mr. Stone spoke of "Recent Additions to Our Knowledge of Ross's Rosy Gull," reviewing Nansen's account of the species and exhibiting three specimens secured by Mr. E. A. McIlhenny at Pt. Barrow, Alaska, and recently acquired by the Academy of Natural Sciences.

Dr. Hughes described a recent trip to the heronry of *Ardea herodias* near Pitman Grove, N. J. He found the birds less abundant than last year, and was of the opinion that owing to their gregariousness and conspicuousness they were slowly but steadily decreasing.

A fine specimen of Gadwall (*Chaulelasmus streperus*) secured early in March on Delaware Bay was exhibited.

October 4, 1900.—Twenty-one members present.

Mr. Morris reported the breeding of Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) at Olney, Phila., during the season, and the successful rearing of the young.

Mr. Pennock, on behalf of Mr. Samuel B. Ladd, placed on record the breeding of the Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) on the south valley hills not far from Frazer, Chester Co., Pa. Mr. Ladd wrote: "Nest found May 18th empty, no birds seen near it, but when I returned on 27th the female was on the nest, which was placed in a brier bush two feet up from the ground. This nest was lined with hair-moss. In shape and position it was somewhat similar to the nest of the Indigo Bird. The four well-marked eggs were slightly incubated. Collected May 27, 1900, south side of Chester Valley, on high ground in middle of woods, in rather open spot where timber had been cut off and grown up with briars."

Mr. Coggins described the occurrence of the Hermit Thrush (*Hyllocichla a. pallasii*) throughout the summer at Martha's Vineyard, Mass. [See *The Auk*, Jan., 1901.]

Nests *in situ* of the Small-billed Water Thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*), Hairy Woodpecker (*Dryobates villosus*), and White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) from Sullivan Co., Pa., collected by Mr. Otto Behr for the Club collection, were exhibited.

October 18, 1900.—Sixteen members present.

The resignation of Messrs. W. W. Justice, Jr. and Francis R. Cope, Jr., from Active Membership were accepted with regrets.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads read a paper on the "Life History of the Chimney-Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*)" based upon painstaking study of two pairs of birds which nested inside of a stable, the unusual location being peculiarly favorable for observation. His paper was replete with interesting and novel information. (Publication postponed for another season).

An interesting letter was read from Mr. Henry Hales, of Ridgewood, N. J.

November 1, 1900.—Twenty-three members present.

Messrs. H. L. Coggins and Arthur C. Emlen were elected to Active Membership and J. D. Carter to Associate Membership.

Mr. David McCadden made a communication on the "Birds Observed at Stone Harbor, N. J." during the past summer. He found Turnstone or "Calico backs" (*Arenaria interpres*), Curlew (*Numenius*

*hudsonius*), Willet (*Symphemia semipalmata*), Sanderling (*Calidris arenaria*), Lesser Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*), Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Tringa minutilla* and *Ereunetes pusillus*) and Ring-necks (*Aegialitis semipalmata*) were the most plentiful species, occurring regularly in flocks of 25 to 50. Robin-Snipe (*Tringa canutus*), Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*) and Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) were less abundant. Dunlin (*Tringa alpina pacifica*) and Dowitchers (*Macrorhamphus griseus*) were not observed during his visit (Aug. 4-18, 1899). The Black Terns (*Hydrochelidon n. surinamensis*) were abundant in flocks of about fifty, and were observed feeding like swallows over the meadows, probably on grasshoppers. Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*) and Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) were more plentiful than last year, but no Egrets (*Ardea caerulea*) were seen.

Dr. Prendergast supplemented Mr. McCadden's remarks and exhibited a Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) in immature plumage secured at Stone Harbor, Oct. 3d, a remarkably early date.

Mr. Stone exhibited another specimen taken at Atlantic City, N. J., June 20, 1900; also an unusual date.

Dr. Hughes described several trips to the Delaware river marshes below Philadelphia during the spring. Three nests of the Virginia Rail (*Rallus virginianus*) were found June 3, 11, and July 1, containing eight, seven and nine eggs respectively; three of the King Rail (*R. elegans*), June 11, contained eight, nine and ten eggs, and one of the Least Bittern (*Ardetta exilis*), June 3, contained two eggs. Swamp Sparrows (*Melospiza georgiana*) and Marsh Wrens (*Cistothorus palustris*) were breeding abundantly. Dr. Hughes thought that careful search would show that the Rails were more abundant breeders in this vicinity than had generally been supposed.

November 15, 1900.—Thirteen members present.

The resignations of Messrs. J. W. Tatum and W. L. Whitaker from Active Membership were accepted with regret.

Mr. A. C. Emlen spoke of a "Trip to Chincoteague, Va.," Aug. 1st, 1900. He noted large numbers of Sanderling (*Calidris arenaria*) and Lesser Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*). Pectoral Sandpipers (*Tringa maculata*), Curlews (*Numenius hudsonius*) and Dowitchers (*Macrorhamphus griseus*) were also taken. Piping Plover (*Aegialitis meloda*) were breeding on the beach, and Killdeers (*A. vocifera*) were associated with the Yellow-legs. A few weeks later Robin Snipe (*Tringa canutus*) and Greater Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) were abund-

ant. Sickie-billed Curlews (*N. longirostris*) were taken, but were not abundant. In an old pine tree seven pairs of Martens (*Progne subis*) were breeding.

Wm. B. Evans described "An Excursion to Hanover, Burlington Co., N. J.," the trip covering three days early in May, 1900. "The locality is well within the pine barrens, and two things were especially striking; first the absolute lack of migrating birds at a time of year when near Philadelphia we were daily greeting the arrivals which make this month a month of months. Of the 38 species recorded all appeared to be resident with the exception of the White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), which was heard but once, and the Crossbills (*Loxia c. minor*). The second point of interest was the presence of these Crossbills at so late a date [May 6th]." (See below, p. 7.)

Dr. Hughes stated that at Forked River, N. J., June 6, 1900, he had observed about two dozen Crossbills (*Loxia c. minor*) feeding on the pine cones. On May 10, 1894, in company with Messrs. Brown and Shyrock he had seen three Crossbills at Lewes, Delaware, these being the latest records of the occurrence of the species within his experience.

*December 6, 1900.*—Nineteen members and a visitor present.

Prof. H. A. Surface, of State College, Pa., was elected a Corresponding member and Wm. B. Evans an Active member.

Messrs. Stone and Baily reported on the Cambridge meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, which they, as well as Messrs. Cope and Pennock, had attended.

Mr. Philip Laurent exhibited a mounted specimen of the European Corn Crake (*Crex crex*) taken at Hursley, Worcester Co., Md., November 28, 1900, by John Livesey, while in company with Mr. Laurent. The stomach contained remains of small grasshoppers. The bird measured: wing, 5.25 ins.; extent, 16.75 ins.

*December 20, 1900.*—Seventeen members present.

Dr. Samuel W. Woodhouse, of Philadelphia, was elected an Honorary member, and Mr. Waldron D. W. Miller, of Plainfield, N. J., a Corresponding member.

Mr. Pennock described a visit to a rookery of the Florida Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax d. floridanus*) near St. Mark's, Florida, in April, 1889. The nests in this instance were in high cypresses, about thirty or forty nests in a tree.

Mr. Baily described his work during the past year in the interest of Gull and Tern protection on the New Jersey coast (see *Auk*, 1901, pp. 83-84).