

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club for 1905

January 5, 1905. Annual Meeting. Thirty-one members present. Mr. Frederick W. Stack was elected a Corresponding member. The old officers were re-elected for the ensuing year, as follows: President, Dr. Spencer Trotter; Vice-President, William A. Shryock; Secretary, Wm. B. Evans; Treasurer, Stewardson Brown.

This being the fifteenth anniversary of the founding of the club, the Chairman Mr. Shryock gave a brief review of its history and Messrs. Serrill, Pennock and Stone spoke of different phases of the club's work and of early reminiscences. The meeting then adjourned to the annual collation.

A committee was appointed to consider the collecting of data on the distribution, habits, etc., of the birds of Pennsylvania and New Jersey with a view to future publication.

January 19, 1905. Twenty-four members present. Mr. Chreswell J. Hunt was elected an Active member.

Mr. Stone made a communication on "Immature Plumages, what they are, and what they mean."

In the discussion which followed Mr. Pennock stated that in two instances of the breeding of the Marsh Hawk that had come under his notice, the male bird was in neither case in the blue-gray plumage.

Mr. J. Harold Austin reported a Kingfisher near Lansdowne January 14.

February 2, 1905. Twenty-one members present. "A Trip to the Florida Keys" was the communication of the evening, presented by Messrs. Stewardson Brown and Henry W. Fowler. While birds were only incidental to other observations they

noted quite a number of species during the two weeks spent in cruising in a steam launch between the Marquesas on the west and Vaca Key on the east, the Great White Heron (*Ardea occidentalis*) being the most interesting species seen.

February 16, 1905. Twenty-six members present. Clark J. Peck read a paper on "The Overbrook Grackle Roost." (See *antea*, p. 36.)

A Snowy Owl captured recently at West Chester, Pa., was reported by Mr. Stone, and Mr. Hunt stated that he had noticed fresh Woodpecker holes in an orchard at Overbrook.

March 2, 1905. Thirty-two members present. Mr. Baily presented a number of excellent lantern slides illustrating his communication on "Work with the Camera at Pocono and Elsewhere." A series of portraits of young Turkey Vultures, a sitting Woodcock which permitted herself to be stroked with the hand and a Chipping Sparrow feeding her young on the photographer's hand were among the best of the pictures.

An epidemic in a Crow roost at Ogontz, Pa., was described by Mr. Harlow, who had counted thirty-five dead crows, while blindness and irregular flight were noticed in others.

Five Snow Buntings (*Passerina nivalis*) were reported by Mr. Baily at St. Davids, and on a recent visit to Mt. Pocono large numbers of the same species were observed. Dr. Trotter and Mr. Palmer also reported a flock of about thirty-five at Swarthmore, Pa., on February 23, and Mr. Harlow saw fifteen or twenty at Oak Lane, Phila., on February 26.

Mr. Lorrilliere reported Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) at Collingdale, Delaware county, Pa., on February 23.

March 16, 1905. Twenty-six members present. Dr. Trotter read a paper entitled "Type Birds from Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey" in which he spoke of some twenty-nine species of which the original type specimens had been discovered in the neighborhood of Philadelphia, and commented on the exact localities where some of them had been shot, and circumstances connected with their capture.

Dr. Fellows spoke of a small Crow roost about two miles south of Swarthmore and Mr. Morris who had visited Baltimore on March 5 remarked on the large numbers of migrating Robins, Red-winged Blackbirds, Bluebirds and Flickers in that vicinity. Mr. DeHaven, who had been gunning at Cape Charles, Va., stated that on February 27 and 28 during eight hours no less than one hundred flocks of Pintail Ducks had passed overhead, flying northward.

A large section of tree trunk showing elaborate excavations by the Pileated Woodpecker (*Ceophloeus pileatus abieticola*) had been collected by Mr. Otto Behr at Bellasylva, Wyoming county, Pa., and was on exhibition at the meeting. The work was done during December last.

April 6, 1905. Twenty-five members present. Mr. Emlen read a paper entitled "A Ten Days Visit to the Adirondacks," describing birds observed about a camp at Raquett Lake during August, 1904. Two nests of the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*), were observed, and the Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata pallasii*), was still in song on August 8. Other interesting species observed were Arctic and American Three-toed Woodpeckers (*Picoides arcticus* and *americanus*), Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*), Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*), Spruce Grouse (*Canachites canadensis*), and Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*). Mr. Pennock commented further upon the bird-life of this region which he had visited in June, 1878, on which occasion he found Black Duck (*Anas obscura*), Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), and Red-breasted Merganser (*Merganser serrator*), on the lake and had seen the Wild Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*), nesting. An egg that he had collected was given to the collection of Princeton University.

Mr. Steele stated that a Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) had recently struck the City Hall tower.

Mr. Stone read a letter from Mr. J. G. Dillen, describing the injury done by Woodpeckers (presumably this species) to hickory trees, which resulted in the wood being stained by moisture entering at the pits made by the bird and rendered unsalable for axe-handles for which purpose the timber was largely bought up.

April 20, 1905. Twenty-five members present. Messrs. Charles H. Rogers, Wayne B. Morrell and William Johns were elected Associate members.

William B. Evans made a communication on "Birds of Cape Ann, Mass.," observed during the latter part of June, 1902. Fifty-four species were observed.

Mr. Morris reported Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*), as common on Rancocas creek, near Medford, N. J., April 16, and Mr. Keim observed them at Tullytown, Pa., on the same day and also a number of Titlarks (*Anthus pensilvanicus*). Mr. Fowler stated that several Snow Geese presumably (*Chen h. nivalis*), had been taken at Edgewater Park, N. J., during the winter. Mallard, Black Duck, Widgeon were rather common, and during the fall Blue and Green-winged Teal and Pintail. During the present spring Canvas-backs and Red-heads had been reported taken by gunners and all three species of Mergansers. Mr. Carter described the singular attitude of a Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) observed perching on a tree.

May 4, 1905. Twenty-five members present.

Mr. Paul Vossburg and Prof. A. L. Wheeler were elected Associate members.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads addressed the meeting on the "Birds of the Colorado Delta in Midwinter," describing a trip taken in February last in an open boat from Yuma, Arizona, to the mouth of the Hardy river and up that stream for about sixty miles and thence overland to Calexico on the California-Mexican boundary. Owing to the unprecedented floods, the trip was one of considerable hardship, and was less successful than was expected. The habits of the White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*), Gambel's Quail (*Callipepla gambeli*), Abert's Towhee (*Pipilo aberti*), Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*), and other species were described. (See Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., 1905, pp. 676-690.)

Mr. Carter read a letter from Syracuse, N. Y., describing the habits of a Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus migrans*), which had a nest with eggs on April 30. It was observed to carry a small bird-victim in its claws.

Mr. Morris reported a Blue-winged Teal at Olney, Philadelphia, April 22.

May 18, 1905. Thirty-two members present.

The resignations of Messrs. J. Harris Reed and James L. Stanton, Jr., were accepted with regret, and Mr. Wm. E. Hannum was transferred to the corresponding list.

Mr. Samuel C. Palmer reviewed at length the distribution of the American Robin and its several races, tracing the winter and breeding ranges from data compiled from the published records.

Mr. Morris presented a list of eighty-seven species of birds observed at Eagle's Mere, Sullivan Co., Pa., May 12-14. He was impressed with the fact that while the progress of vegetation was much behind Philadelphia, perhaps two or three weeks, the difference in the migration was but a few days, resulting in the presence of many birds in leafless tress which do not occur with us until the foliage is well expanded.

Two pair of White Crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) were observed, and Black Duck and Bufflehead Ducks were seen on the streams.

Mr. Stone reported a Veery singing in the swampy woods at Medford, N. J., early on the morning of May 14.

Messrs. Baily and Rogers had identified seventy-one species of birds on the 14th, along Darby Creek, Delaware Co., Pa.

October 5, 1905. Nineteen members present.

Mr. John D. Carter was elected an Active member.

Mr. Stone described a trip to Fulton county, Pa., undertaken in June last, in company with Dr. W. E. Hughes and Mr. Wm. L. Baily (see *antea*, pp. 40-44).

Mr. Harlow stated that the birds seen by him in Franklin county during 1903 and 1904 corresponded closely to those seen by Mr. Stone. He added that he had in addition noted the Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*) August 12, 1903, near Monterey, Franklin county, within half a mile of the Maryland boundary. He said :

"The fauna here was carolinian, being marked by an abundance of such birds as the Cardinal, (*Cardinalis cardinalis*,) Tufted Titmouse, (*Baeolophus bicolor*,) etc. I was attracted to the Nuthatch by hearing a note which was entirely new to me. Following the sound I found the bird on the dead limb of a chestnut tree, not twenty feet above me, and was able to identify it in a moment. I spent half an hour watching it, and during this time heard the note frequently. It seemed to me to be best described as a shrill chirp, but possessed some of the Nuthatch characteristics. Twice the bird left the tree in pursuit of passing insects, each time it was head down and swooped off, describing an arc and returning to a nearby tree. It did not appear at all shy, but its movements were quick and nervous, and quite different from the deliberate action of the White-breasted Nuthatch. On a second trip to the vicinity, August 8-14, 1904, I saw none of this species, and I should regard it as a straggler."

Mr. Rehn reported Wild Turkeys as rather common in Diamond Valley, Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania.

October 19, 1905. Seventeen members present.

Mr. Albert Linton was elected an Associate member.

Mr. Harlow read a paper on the birds of southern Pike county, Pennsylvania, observed August 15 and October 2. His observations covered the valley of the Wallenpaupack Creek. One of the most interesting records was that of a Solitary Sandpiper with young barely able to fly, indicating the breeding of the species in the vicinity.

Mr. Stone referred to differences in the names occurring on some of the first ten plates of Audubon's *Elephant Folio*, showing that there were two editions of the first two parts of the work.

Mr. Hunt reported a Coot (*Fulica americana*) on Pensauken Creek, N. J., on October 14.

November 2, 1905. Twenty members present.

Mr. Thomas C. Desmond was elected an Associate member.

Mr. Pennock described the bird-life of the Indian river district of Delaware.

November 16, 1905. Twenty members present.

Mr. David E. Harrower was elected an Associate member.

Mr. Hunt read a paper entitled "Gleanings from a Bird Lover's Note Book." A Barn Swallow had been seen to snatch flies from a cow's back, and a Spotted Sandpiper had been noted walking upon a railroad track engaged in catching spiders. The song of a Field Sparrow was described which varied so much from the usual strain that it was quite unrecognizable. A caged Red-winged Blackbird had been seen to rob a Cardinal, which was his fellow prisoner, of seeds crushed by the latter. It had been noticed that Tree Sparrows instead of feeding directly from the weeds as did the Goldfinches, dislodged the seeds by their shaking and then gleaned them from the snow.

Messrs. Stone and Wright reviewed the recent A. O. U. Congress in New York.

Mr. Rehn exhibited a Corn Crake (*Crex crex*) shot on November 11, at Dennisville, Cape May Co., N. J., by H. Walker Hand.

Mr. Harlow reported a Saw Whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica*) captured at Oak Lane, Philadelphia.

December 7, 1905. Nineteen members present.

The resignations of Messrs. William D. Carpenter and Samuel M. Freeman were accepted with regret.

Messrs. Baily and Carter spoke of "Characteristic Rarities of Pocono Lake," supplementing the contribution from Mr. Carter in the last CASSINIA. The Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii alnorum*), and Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*), were observed, and also the Thrush previously reported, and which Mr. Baily felt convinced was Bicknell's. As, however, the bird had not been satisfactorily seen, and opinions differed as to the resemblance of its song to the published description of that of *Hyllocichla alicix bicknelli*, the status of this species as a breeder in Pennsylvania is still in doubt. Mr. Baily had also heard what he took to be the song of the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), but its occurrence in the Pocono Mountains was so unlooked for that it was considered to require further verification.

December 21, 1905. Twenty-two members present. Mr. Charles H. Rogers was transferred from Associate to Corresponding membership owing to his removal from the vicinity of the city.

A paper prepared by Mr. Richard L. Miller entitled : "Breeding of the Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) in Philadelphia County," was read by Mr. Rehn, (see *antea* pp. 24-32).

Mr. Harlow reported quite a number of birds at Tinicum, Delaware county, Pa., on December 18, including several Swamp Sparrows, Fox Sparrow, a Chewink, a few Robins, and a flock of fifteen Horned Larks.

Mr. DeHaven who had just returned from Cape Charles, Va., had noticed Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*), Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Ereunetes pusillus*), and seven or eight Ipswich Sparrows (*Passerculus princeps*). A large flock of birds possibly Red Phalaropes were wheeling over the bay.

Mr. Stone reported a young Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), shot December 18, on the Perkiomen creek, near Norristown, and a Snow Owl shot November 20, in Richmond, Phila., was exhibited. Several others of the latter species had been shot near Philadelphia during the present month.