

## Abstract of the Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, 1908

*January 2, 1908.* Annual Meeting. Thirty-three members present. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, William A. Shryock; Vice-President, Stewardson Brown; Secretary, Chreswell J. Hunt; Treasurer, Samuel Wright.

Dr. Trotter read a paper entitled "The Ornithological Background."\* Several Christmas day lists were read and some of the early days of the Club's history were discussed. A collation followed.

*January 16, 1908.* Twenty-one members present. Mr. Harlow read a paper on "The Fall Warblers," discussing the relative abundance and time of occurrence of the various species.

*February 6, 1908.* Twenty-one members present. Mr. Stone read a report on the Spring Migration of 1907 (see *Cassinia*, 1907, pp. 54-79). Starlings, *Sturnus vulgaris*, were reported from Vincenttown and Tuckerton, N. J. (*Auk*, 1908, p. 221).

*February 20, 1908.* Twenty-five members present. John D. Carter, under the title of "Marsh Nesting," described a trip to Stone Harbor, N. J., during May, 1907 in company with William B. Evans. The colony of Laughing Gulls was estimated at over 500, possibly 1000 birds. The speaker also described trips to the Tinicum meadows on the Delaware where he found the King Rail nesting.

*March 5, 1908.* Nineteen members present. This being the spring meeting for the election of members, the candidates were

\* Bird Lore.

discussed and election held with the following results; Thomas D. Keim, Richard C. Harlow and Cornelius Weygandt were chosen Active Members and William S. Essick, Richard F. Miller, Alfred C. Redfield, Leonard S. Pearson and George Abbott, Jr., Associates; Arthur C. Emlen was transferred to the associate class.

Mr. Street described the "Spring Bird Life of Rancocas Creek." He divided the stream into three sections: the tide-water marshes reaching up to Mt. Holly; the intermediate area from there to Pemberton; the pine-barren section to Brown's Mills; and commented upon the characteristic birds of each.

Mr. Hunt followed with some "Notes on the Birds of Northwestern Chester Co., Pa."

*March 19, 1908.* Twenty-five members present. The resignation of Mr. Douglas Macfarlan was accepted with regret.

Mr. Brown spoke on "Some Birds of Bermuda," describing a trip during February of the present year. Discussion followed upon the relationship of Bermuda birds. Species seen were the Cardinal, Catbird or "Blackbird" of the natives, Bluebird, White-eyed Vireo, Ground Dove, European Gold-finch, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Screech Owl, Bobwhite, Great Blue Heron, Killdeer, Tropic Bird and Crow.

Mr. Rehn exhibited a copy of Rothschild's "Extinct Birds" from the Academy Library and discussed specimens of extinct species in the Academy's collection. Mr. Harlow read a letter from Mr. R. B. Simpson reporting a Glaucous Gull (*Larus glaucus*) seen at Erie, Pa.

*April 2, 1908.* Twenty-one members present. Mr. S. N. Rhoads discussed the subject of "Birds as Weed Destroyers." His conclusions based on a practical experience in farming were that seed-eating birds were not as important a factor in the destruction of weeds as the Bulletins of the U. S. Department of Agriculture would have us believe. The production of weed seed is so enormous that the amount eaten by birds was considered to be really a negligible quantity in a discussion of the

weed problem. Furthermore, birds confine their feeding chiefly to uncultivated ground and neglected corners of the farm. Mr. Rhoads was glad that there were weeds to furnish food for our winter birds.

*April 16, 1908.* Nineteen members present. Dr. Trotter addressed the Club on "Brain and Organs in Birds" illustrating his remarks with diagrams.

Mr. Stone exhibited several specimens of parrots apparently referred to different genera on account of slight differences in bill contour and called attention to the striking similarity of coloration. He considered that color-pattern was in such cases an older character than bill contour and that by giving slight structural difference so much weight as generic characters, we often misrepresented the phylogeny of a group.

Mr. Morris described a canoe trip down the Egg Harbor River, March 25-26. He noted great numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*) and one Pileated Woodpecker (*Phlæotomus pileatus abieticola*).

*May 7, 1908.* Twenty-two members present. Mr. Harlow described the nesting of the Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) on the Nockamixon Cliffs on the Delaware river in Bucks Co., Pa., and his successful efforts to secure a set of eggs. The latter were deposited upon a bare shelf of rock with no vestige of a nest. Mr. Harlow was of the opinion that this species nested also on the Tammany Cliff, at the Delaware Water Gap, and Mr. Rhoads stated that he had seen the birds about the Gap on three different occasions. Mr. Harrower described several trips to Clementon, N. J. He saw a Hooded Warbler there on May 23 and a Redstart on June 9. Mr. Rhoads reported House Wrens as absent from Haddonfield this spring. This was the last meeting held in the old Ornithological room of the Academy, which is to be partially destroyed in the projected alterations to the building.

*May 21, 1908.* Thirty-two members present. Mr. Baily described a June trip to Mt. Pocono, Pa., illustrating his remarks with a series of beautiful lantern slides. He found nests of the

Black-and-White and Nashville Warblers, White-throated Sparrow and Hermit Thrush.

Mr. Harlow called attention to the variation in the markings of hawks' eggs. He was of the opinion that as the bird advanced in age its eggs became more heavily blotched.

Mr. Carter spoke of the unusual abundance of Bay-breasted Warbler during the present spring. Meeting held in the Academy Library.

*October 1, 1908.* Twenty-three members present. Mr. Stone announced that until the alterations to the building were completed the meetings would be held in the room of the Microscopical Section.

Mr. Brown described the birds seen by him during the summer on an extended trip from Laggan to the Saskatchewan and Athabaska rivers in British Columbia. As botany was his main object bird-observations were merely incidental.

*October 15, 1908.* Fifteen members present. Mr. Spaeth made an interesting communication on "Birds Observed in Wyoming" during a summer spent at Gillette, Crook Co.

A letter from Mr. Otto Behr, of Lopez, Sullivan Co., Pa., described the calling of the Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) after dark as it flew about overhead.

*November 5, 1908.* Twenty-five members present. This being the autumn election meeting, the following were chosen Associate Members, Thomas R. Hill, Edwin B. Bartram and Robert T. Moore.

Messrs S. N. Rhoads and J. D. Carter described the bird life of Raquette Lake in the Adirondacks where each had spent a portion of the summer, their trips following one another so as to be in a measure supplementary. The Rusty Blackbird, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Olive-backed Thrush, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Raven and Lincoln's Finch, were the most interesting species noted.

*November 19, 1908.* Eighteen members present. William B.

Evans was upon request transferred to Associate Membership having removed to Westtown, Pa.

Mr. Hunt described the "Bird Life of the Lower Maurice River, N. J." (see *antea* pp. 14-19).

*December 3, 1908.* Twenty members present. Thomas D. Keim was upon request transferred to Corresponding Membership, having removed to New York City.

Mr. Pennock read a paper entitled "Further Notes from Delaware." A Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca cærulea*) obtained May 16, at Rehoboth and a flock of American Crossbills (*Loxia c. americana*) seen May 18, 1908 at the same place were the most interesting records.

Mr. Stone followed with an account of the recent meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, at Cambridge, Mass., which he had attended.

*December 17, 1908.* Fourteen members present. Mr. Morris read a paper entitled "Modern Ornithologists" in which he reviewed the lives and work of the more prominent American Ornithologists from Prof. Baird to the present day.