

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, 1911

January 5, 1911. Twenty-first Annual Meeting. Thirty members present. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President. Samuel N. Rhoads.

Vice-President. Stewardson Brown.

Secretary. J. Fletcher Street.

Treasurer. Samuel Wright.

The meeting was devoted to the reading of bird biographies by members. The life story of the Red-eyed Vireo was read by Mr. Morris, that of the Orchard Oriole by Mr. Rhoads, and that of the Fox Sparrow by Dr. Weygandt. The meeting adjourned to the annual collation.

January 19, 1911. Fifteen members and two visitors present. Mr. William E. Roberts addressed the Club on "A Trip across Canada," giving an interesting account of an extended trip among the mountains of British Columbia. His talk was supplemented by lantern slides.

February 2, 1911. Eleven members present. Mr. Baily first addressed the Club upon a subject entitled "Scraps," being a summary of his past summer's observations at Belgrade Lake, Maine, the Saguenay River, Quebec, and at Tuckahoe, N. J. Mr. Morris followed with an account of a canoe trip made during June of 1910 in the region of the upper Delaware. The unusual abundance of the birds of prey impressed the speaker, a number of Bald Eagles being observed. General discussion followed on the breeding of the Great Blue Heron in the mountain-regions of the East. Mr. Stone read a biographical sketch of William Gambel.

February 16, 1911. Fourteen members present. Mr. Rehn spoke concerning "Some Western Birds and Their Home Lands", describing a trip across the northern states, down along the mountains of the Pacific coast, over to the Catalina Islands, thence following the Mexican border into Arizona and New Mexico. The talk was illustrated by a series of interesting slides, showing the character of country traversed. Mr. Hill reported a Fox Sparrow and Field Sparrows at Rose Valley on January 9, 1911.

March 2, 1911. Sixteen members present. Julian K. Potter, J. D. Kuser, Stephen Fuguet, Frederick Oldack and Jesse Packer were elected to associate membership. E. Butler, S. W. Cole and M. A. Linton were dropped from membership for non-payment of dues.

Mr. Stone gave an instructive talk on the family of Thrushes (*Turdidae*), discussing their relationships, distribution, etc. Specimens from the Academy's collection were on exhibit.

Mr. Potter reported Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) associated with Red-winged Blackbirds near Camden on Feb. 19, 1911. Mr. Rehn reported a Bald Eagle observed at Stafford's Forge on Feb. 25, 1911. Mr. Otto Behr reported a flock of fifty Canada Geese seen at Lopez, Pa., on Feb. 14, 1911.

March 16, 1911. Eleven members present. The meeting was devoted to discussion on "Recording Bird Migration and Other Field Observations". Mr. Stone reviewed the method employed to determine correctly the bulk-arrival of the several species, impressing the members with the necessity of a large number of observers to properly carry this into effect.

Mr. Street made a few remarks on the causes of mortality among nest birds. Mr. Stone expressed himself as of the belief that in many instances color pattern was fundamentally more important than structural characteristics in determining relationships among the genera of birds.

April 6, 1911. Twenty-two members present. Mr. Stone read a letter from Mrs. Winebreuer describing the occurrence of Evening Grosbeaks and Bohemian Waxwings at Bushkill, Monroe Co., Pa. The Grosbeaks were observed from February 7th

to March 23d, 1911, and the Bohemian Waxwings on March 7th and 16th. Mr. Anthony W. Robinson entertained the Club with a communication describing a trip across the continent from Chicago to San Francisco. His remarks pertained principally to observations made in the Yellowstone Park and California. The talk was illustrated with lantern slides.

Mr. Hill reported a Chewink observed at Woodland Cemetery on March 26th, and Mr. Moore a Loggerhead Shrike at Blackwood, N. J., on April 6th.

April 20, 1911. Nineteen members present. Dr. Trotter read a biographical sketch of the late Alfred Newton written by Arthur Benson. The subject-matter related particularly to the associations of the author with Newton during the period of Newton's connection with Cambridge University. Under the subject "Some New Light on the Theory of Protective Coloration," Mr. Stone read extracts from an article in the current number of the "Auk" by Thos. Barbour and John C. Phillips in criticism of some of the theories of protective coloration in birds expounded by Mr. Abbott H. Thayer in his book, "Concealing Coloration." A letter from Mr. Sharpless, of West Chester, was read by Mr. Stone, which mentioned the procuring of a maimed Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*). Mr. Stone exhibited a specimen of an immature Yellow-bellied Sapsucker secured by Mr. R. E. Morris. The bird possessed a certain amount of red feathers at the base of the bill, an unusual characteristic in the plumage of the young of this species.

May 4, 1911. Fourteen members present. Mr. Robert T. Moore gave an illustrated talk on a trip to Florida during the past winter. The bird-life about Tampa and the neighboring keys was particularly described. Mr. Potter reported a flock of about forty Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) on the Delaware at Camden, N. J., on April 23. Mr. Moore reported the White-crowned Sparrow under date of May 1st, and the Golden-winged Warbler on May 3d, from Haddonfield, N. J. Mr. Rehn reported for Mr. Charles Liebeck a Northern Phalarope secured on the river below Philadelphia on May 22, 1910.

May 18, 1911. Twenty-nine members and two visitors pres-

ent. Mr. Brown addressed the Club on the subject "Birds of Northern Venezuela". His remarks were descriptive of an extended trip in the delta country of the Orinoco River and the neighboring savannas. The life and habits of such species as the Blue and Yellow Macaw, Hoatzin, Sun Bittern and Cacique were described. Mr. Stone reported a Lincoln Sparrow secured at Walnut Hill, Pa., on May 13th by Mr. Robert E. Morris, and a Northern Phalarope secured at Cape May, N. J., on May 16th by Walker Hand. Mr. Pennock reported Golden-winged Warblers observed at New Castle, Del., on May 6th, and Cape May Warblers on May 12th at Kennett Square, Pa.

October 5, 1911. Twenty-two members and two visitors present. The deaths of two associate members of the Club were announced and the following resolutions were adopted:

"The members of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club have heard with deep sorrow of the untimely death of their associate, Ernest M. Evans, and desire to extend to his family their sincere sympathy. Ernest was one of those young men whose love of outdoor life and appreciation of the spirit of good fellowship have made the Club what it is, while his sincerity and lovable disposition endeared him to us all."

"The members of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club have heard with deep sorrow of the death of their associate member, Francis W. Rawle, Jr. They realize that each, individually has lost a true friend and the Club a staunch supporter. Mr. Rawle's recent, valuable gifts to the Club's collection and his generous support of 'Cassinia' have benefited not only the Club but all those interested in local bird-study."

Under the general subject, "Some Summer Experiences", a number of the members described recent experiences of ornithological interest. Mr. Morris mentioned observing Loggerhead Shrike at Bridesburg during July. Mr. Stone announced that Mr. Robert E. Morris had obtained last spring a number of specimens of the Philadelphia Vireo and Mourning Warbler in the vicinity of Philadelphia. Mr. Moore reported that he obtained a nest of the Pine Warbler at East Hammonton on May 20th. Mr. Pennock and Mr. Carter observed the Lawr-

ence's Warbler in the vicinity of Nottingham Sta., Chester Co., Pa. on June 26th.

October 19, 1911. Twenty-three members and five visitors present. Mr. O. E. Baynard exhibited a series of slides, depicting "Life in Central Florida Heron Rookeries." These included many excellent views of the White and the Glossy Ibises, American Egrets and Snakebirds at home. Under the subject "A Preliminary Summary of a Trip to Ecuador", Mr. Rhoads gave a general survey of a trip to the western part of Ecuador. Specimens of birds were secured with difficulty and the absence of large mammals was marked. Mr. Moore reported a Cape May Warbler seen at Haddonfield on October 11th and another found dead by Miss Virginia Whitecar at the same station on October 14th.

November 2, 1911. Nineteen members present. Messrs. Robert T. Moore and Samuel C. Palmers were elected active members and Albert L. Baily, Jr., George Hallett and George Beatty, Jr., associates. William B. Crispin and O. E. Baynard were elected to corresponding membership.

Dr. Trotter spoke on "Some Summer Birds of St. Margaret's Bay, Nova Scotia". Dr. Trotter stated that the Hermit Thrush was the common Thrush of the burnt areas, while in the heavy timber it was replaced entirely by the Olived-backed Thrush. The Palm Warbler was the most common of the warbler group. Mr. Baily recorded the collection of a Connecticut Warbler at Mt. Pocono in September last.

November 16, 1911. The semi-monthly meeting was omitted on account of the convention of the American Ornithologists' Union in session at the Academy of Natural Sciences. The meetings of the Union were held daily from November 14th to 16th inclusive. These were open to the public, consequently a number of the club members availed themselves of this opportunity to hear interesting and instructive papers on the subject of general ornithology. On Wednesday evening, November 15th, under the auspices of the D. V. O. C., an informal reception and smoker was tendered to the visiting ornithologists in the ornithological rooms of the Academy.

December 7, 1911. Eighteen members and two visitors present, meeting held in conjunction with the Ornithological Section of the Academy. Mr. Stone made mention of the additions which had been made during the year to the Academy's collection of birds. Owing to ill health Mr. Samuel Wright presented his resignation as Treasurer, which was accepted with regrets. Mr. Samuel C. Palmer was nominated and duly elected to fill the vacancy. Mr. Stone exhibited a specimen of a young Franklin's Gull (*Larus franklini*) shot Oct. 22, 1911 in the lower part of Philadelphia by Charles Liebeck. This is the first record of the bird for Pennsylvania. Mr. Potter recorded a Mocking Bird from Fish House, N. J. on Nov. 6th.

December 21, 1911. Twenty-two members and two visitors present. Mr. Rhoads addressed the Club on the subject "Birds of the Tierra Caliente of Ecuador". His remarks were supplementary to a general survey of the subject made before the Club at an earlier session. Mr. Rhoads described the Tierra Caliente as a broad, coastal plain with an average width of fifty miles and an elevation of 1000 feet. The temperature is fairly moderate. Many birds of prey of various kinds and such species as the Toucan, Mot-mot, Parrot and a large number of the Formicariidae were observed. Mr. Rhoads' complete collection of birds secured upon this trip has been acquired by the Academy. Mr. Moore reported that he had found in his collection a specimen of Piping Plover, secured at Ocean City, N. J. on Aug. 3, 1899. This is believed to be the latest record for the state. Mr. Moore observed a Northern Shrike at Milford, N. J. on Nov. 30. Mr. DeHaven secured a Gannet at Cape Charles, Virginia on Dec. 12, 1911.