

## Club Notes

### THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Although not strictly within the activities of the year 1914 it seems desirable to describe at this time the proceedings at the banquet held at the Roosevelt, on January 7, 1915, in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club. Sixty-six members were present and seven guests represented the notable organizations of the East. Avian decorations were conspicuous in all parts of the dining hall and in addition the Entertainment Committee secured a number of "hitherto undescribed birds," which were mounted on stands for the delectation of students of specciation. Mr. Stewardson Brown, President of the D. V. O. C., presided with genial dignity and Dr. Spencer Trotter acted as toastmaster in his usual inimitable style, introducing the speakers with happy allusion or appropriate story.

Responding to the toast, "When I was in Sing Sing," Dr. A. K. Fisher, President of the American Ornithologists' Union, defended his choice of habitat and referred to his abiding affection for the D. V. O. C. The Secretary of the A. O. U. was also with us, Mr. John H. Sage, who described the activities of his local Connecticut society. Mr. Chas. F. Batchelder presented a written testimonial of congratulation from the Nuttall Ornithological Club and greetings were brought by Dr. T. S. Palmer from the Biological Survey, and by Mr. John T. Nichols from the Linnæan Society of New York. Messrs. William Palmer and Alexander Wetmore, of Washington, D. C., were also honored guests.

A former member of the Club, Dr. Robert T. Young, of the University of North Dakota, related incidents in his career when he was associated with Dr. Wm. E. Hughes on several questionable escapades. Dr. Hughes was given an opportunity to defend himself, responding to the toast, "*The Oölogist*," and

announced his complete conversion to the spirit of the Audubon Society. Mr. Wm. L. Baily was then heartily acclaimed the "Mamma and Papa Bird" of the Club and related how *it* happened. Responding to the toast, "Cassinia," Mr. Robert Thomas Moore read extracts from an ancient manuscript, recently discovered and entitled "The D. V. O. C., or How a Great Egg was Hatched," and Dr. Witmer Stone, prime instigator of all Club activities, closed the evening with congratulatory remarks and telling verses.

The splendid attendance as well as the spirit of good-fellowship, which was a conspicuous feature of the banquet, drew from Dr. Fisher a memorable tribute. He said: "I believe that such another gathering of bird students could not be assembled to a local ornithological banquet in any other city of America or possibly on either side of the Atlantic."

We gather every fortnight from afar,  
To smoke and talk and keep our friendship green;  
And we join in Trotter's laughter,  
Both before we meet and after,  
For our appetite for humor still is keen.

When Brown calls us to order from the chair,  
And Fletcher Street has read the minutes through,  
We are all anticipation  
For Sam Rhoads' communication,  
For we never know just what he means to do!

But we know that at a meeting  
No matter who is speaking,  
'Tis well worth while for each one to be there.

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Sometimes Will Baily brings some lantern slides  
Or Billy Hughes a clutch or two of eggs;  
Or Morris has a paper  
On some canoeing caper,  
Or Shryock talks of bones in wings or legs.

Perhaps Bob Moore will bring his tuning-fork  
And tell us how the Chippy ought to sing;  
Or Stuart urge perfection  
In laws for bird protection,  
While De Haven tells what game is on the wing.

And we know that at a meeting  
 No matter who is speaking,  
 'Tis well worth while for each one to be there.

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When Weygandt reads a bird biography,  
 Each chair is filled and every man intent;  
 When Carter is the speaker,  
 Every member there is eager  
 For the novel observations he'll present.

Sometimes we have a general debate  
 On the origin of migratory flight,  
 On protective coloration,  
 Or the length of incubation—  
 And the argument continues half the night.

But we know that at a meeting,  
 No matter who is speaking,  
 'Tis well worth while for each one to be there.

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Once a year we have a little spread,  
 Some cheese and crackers, oysters and the like,  
 And no matter what the weather,  
 We gather there together  
 To plan for meeting, camping-trip or hike.

For five and twenty years our Club has thrived,  
 And still we see no sign of its decay;  
 And may its ties grow stronger,  
 Its list of members longer,  
 And may it live for many another day.

And at every future meeting  
 No matter who is speaking,  
 'Twill be well worth while for each one to be there !

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Fifteen meetings were held during the year, the average attendance being 23.67. This is so close to our high-water mark of 24 that it should be an incentive to make the average attendance for 1915 the highest in our history.

The first Club outing of the year was held at New Lisbon, N. J. February 23, 1915. Only ten members were in attendance, there being a heavy fall of snow during the entire day. The storm and cold was so intense as to render extended walking prohibitive. A tramp of four miles brought to light but six species of birds and ended with the accidental drenching of Dr. Peet. The walkers then repaired to a bungalow belonging to one of the members and passed the remainder of the day relating previous ornithological experiences.

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The Decoration Day outing of the Club was held at Rushland, Pa., May 30, 1915. Fifteen members attended. Fifty-two species were noted. The following were found to be nesting in the vicinity: Worm-eating Warbler, Bobolink, Grasshopper Sparrow, Red-eyed Vireo (singing upon nest).

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Two additions have been made to the Club collection of nests and eggs of Pennsylvania and New Jersey birds during the year. The nest and eggs of the Broad-winged Hawk were contributed by Robert P. Sharples, and those of the Warbling Vireo by George H. Stuart. Dr. E. Culver presented tree sections, one containing a nest of the Bluebird and the other a nest of the Tufted Tit. Many individual birds were also supplied from the Benner collection. The following species whose nests are still unrepresented should be kept in mind by our members on their outings this spring.

Pied-billed Grebe.	Black-billed Cuckoo.
Loon.	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.
American Bittern.	Pileated Woodpecker. <sup>1</sup>
Sora Rail.	Red-bellied Woodpecker.
Little Black Rail.	Traill's Flycatcher.
Coot.	Prairie Horned Lark.
Solitary Sandpiper.	Bobolink.
Bartramian Sandpiper (Field Plover).	Bronzed Grackle.
	Pine Finch.

<sup>1</sup> Only eggs desired.

Ruffed Grouse.	Cliff Swallow. <sup>1</sup>
Wild Turkey.	Black and White Warbler. <sup>1</sup>
Red-tailed Hawk.	Golden-winged Warbler.
Bald Eagle.	Nashville Warbler.
Duck Hawk.	Mourning Warbler.
Long-eared Owl. <sup>1</sup>	Mockingbird.
Short-eared Owl.	Bewick's Wren.
Great Horned Owl. <sup>1</sup>	Red-bellied Nuthatch. <sup>1</sup>
Barred Owl.	Golden-crowned Kinglet.
Saw-whet Owl.	Gnatcatcher. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Only eggs desired.