

## Abstract of the Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, 1929

*January 3, 1929.* Annual Meeting (Thirty-ninth Anniversary). Forty-five members and five visitors were present. Officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows:

*President*—John D. Carter.

*Vice-President*—Dr. Samuel C. Palmer.

*Treasurer*—Henry T. Underdown.

*Secretary*—Julian K. Potter.

Mr. Anthony Robinson was elected an Active Member and Mr. George M. Sutton a Corresponding Member.

Dr. Stone spoke in a reminiscent manner of the foundation and early history of the Club and discussed its present status and future work. A plea was made for individual bird study, rather than mere bird listing.

Messrs. Stuart and Rehn spoke appreciatively of Dr. Stone's tactful and successful leadership of the Club throughout the years since its inception.

Mr. Potter gave an account of "The Combined Bird Census for Cape May County, New Jersey." On December 23, 1929 twelve observers recorded eighty-one species of birds within seven and one-half miles of Rio Grande.

*January 17, 1929.* Twenty members and four visitors were present.

Auditing Committee appointed by the chair—James A. G. Rehn and Henry W. Fowler.

Mr. C. Brooke Worth spoke on "Birds on a Montana Sheep Ranch." This was an interesting account of the birds observed on a ranch at Wilsale, Montana, during the summer of 1928. The Sage Grouse and Ferruginous Hawk noted. Eighty-eight species were observed in the ranch district.

*February 7, 1929.* Thirty-four members and two visitors were present. Dr. Samuel C. Palmer gave an account of the birds noted in various parts of Europe during a year's sojourn,

beginning July 23, 1928. In France and Italy birds were common only in reservations. Elsewhere they were shot and trapped without regard to species.

The communication was illustrated by lantern slides.

*February 21, 1929.* Twenty-two members and three visitors were present. Mr. William Jenks Woolston spoke on "Canoeing Across the Arctic Rockies." This was a description of a trip taken (from June nineteenth to October first, 1928) to the Arctic Ocean by way of the Athabasca and McKenzie Rivers, returning by way of the Rat River and down the Porcupine to the Yukon. Birds appeared to be rather scarce throughout the region traversed. The Golden Eagle and the Harlequin Duck were noted. Lantern views of the country were shown.

*March 7, 1929.* Twenty-nine members and five visitors were present. Mr. John D. Carter spoke on "Glimpses of Promised Lands," describing in detail various collecting trips taken to a number of localities during the spring of 1928. The finding of a Raven's nest in Pennsylvania; a Prothonotary Warbler's nest in Delaware and a Ruddy Duck's nest in Minnesota were the outstanding "finds of this season."

*March 21, 1929.* Thirty-four members and two visitors were present. Dr. Stone's talk on "Through Yucatan and the Volcanic Peaks of Mexico in 1890," was the first description of this trip ever given to the Club. Characteristic birds and the difficult and antiquated methods of travel were dwelt upon. Many of the birds collected were on exhibition. Communication was illustrated by lantern slides. Those showing the scenery about Orizaba being of particular interest.

*April 4, 1929.* Twenty-eight members and one visitor were present. Choosing as his topic "Bird Experiences in Holland," Mr. John T. Emlen gave an account of a two-day visit in August, 1928 to Texel Island, one of the bird sanctuaries of Holland. On this particular island, of 2900 acres, some 300,000 eggs were collected annually. After a certain date, the birds are not disturbed and egg collecting is not permitted. Literally clouds of Oyster-catchers, Godwits, Avocets and

other shore birds were observed besides various Ducks and a number of Spoonbills. Several slides taken with the aid of binoculars used as a telephoto lens were shown.

*April 18, 1929.* Thirty-seven members and six visitors were present. Mr. Samuel Scoville gave an entertaining account of a trip to "Lost Island," November 1928. This was Mr. Scoville's name for one of the islands in the least known section of the Okefinokee Swamp, Georgia. The Ivory-billed Woodpecker, which is supposed to inhabit this island, was not seen.

*May 2, 1929.* Twenty-four members and three visitors were present. The following were elected to Associate Membership: Evarts Loomis, Jr., Lewis M. Smith, J. J. Bently, Joseph M. Cadbury, Albert K. Smiley, and Francis Evans.

Mr. Benjamin C. Hiatt told of "Finding and Photographing the Nest of a Great-horned Owl." He gave an accurate and interesting account of the observations that he and John T. Emlen, Jr. made of the home life of the Great-horned Owl during the spring of 1929. The Horned Owl's nest was located in the top of a dead chestnut tree in the midst of the famous Delaware City Great Blue Heron colony. Notes and photographs were taken from a blind erected eighty feet up in a neighboring tulip poplar. A number of very interesting slides were shown.

*May 16, 1929.* Thirty-two members and two visitors were present. Dr. Francis Harper of the Boston Museum of Natural History gave an interesting résumé of the ornithological wonders of the Okefinokee Swamp. On his way to visit this swamp again, he had stopped in Philadelphia.

Members of the Club discussed "May Bird Notes" and agreed that the May migration had been rather long drawn out with few distinct waves of migrants.

Conrad K. Roland exhibited a number of his sketches and paintings of birds and animals.

*October 31, 1929.* Thirty-six members and eleven visitors were present. Committee was appointed to urge Mr. A. At-

water Kent to make his estate at Ardmore a bird sanctuary, provided that the property be suitable for such a purpose. The following members served on the committee—Messrs. Way, Baily, Stone, Scoville, Woolman and Serrill.

Dr. Stone spoke of the death of Waldron De Witt Miller, August 7, 1929 and his early association with the Club.

Dr. Stone told about the "The Roosting of Herons and Martins at Cape May in 1929." His remarks pertained to a Heron roost near Bennet, Cape May County, N. J. On August 21, the largest number of birds came into the roost—25 Egrets, 124 adult Little Blues and 400 immature Little Blues. On September 6, the roost was visited but not a Heron appeared. Purple Martins which had long occupied a group of trees on the main street of Cape May City, deserted this roost this year and roosted in bayberry bushes on the fill back of the Hotel Cape May. From ten to fifteen thousand Martins occupied the roost.

*October 17, 1929.* Forty-seven members and nine visitors were present. Dr. Joseph Grinnel, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, California, gave a short talk on his "Ornithological Experiences from Berkeley to Philadelphia."

Messrs. Gillespie and Potter were appointed a committee to forward a letter concerning the gunner's attitude toward Hawks and Owls to President Hoover.

James Bond discussed "More Observations of West Indian Birds." He told of birds collected during the past year in the various islands of the Lesser Antilles. The most important feature of his trip was the rediscovery of the St. Lucia Black Finch (*Melanospiza richardsoni*). Specimens of this Finch together with those of other birds obtained were shown.

*November 7, 1929.* Thirty members and five visitors were present. Committee reported that Mr. A. Atwater Kent had written that he would be glad to cooperate with the Club in making his estate a bird sanctuary.

Members commented on "The A. O. U. Meeting." This meeting was held in Philadelphia, October 21-24, 1929 and the attendance was the greatest of any ever held.

*November 21, 1929.* Twenty-seven members and four visitors were present. Mr. C. Elliot Underdown's topic for technical discussion was "A Review of Recent Investigations on the Avifauna of Tropical America." The speaker gave a résumé of numerous papers by various ornithologists on this rich field.

*December 5, 1929.* Twenty-one members and four visitors were present. Messrs. Rehn, Gillespie and A. Emlen were appointed a committee on annual meeting, "Fortieth Anniversary of the Founding of the Club."

Mr. C. Brooke Worth spoke on "Birding by Buick Through Tropical Texas." This was a very interesting account of a trip taken during the summer of 1929. Birds noted were Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Long-billed Curlew, Hudsonian Godwit, Reddish Egret and Roseate Spoonbill.

Dr. Francis Harper followed with a few brief remarks concerning Botteri's Sparrow which he had collected near Brownsville, Texas. Information as to the habitat of this bird had been supplied to Dr. Harper by Mr. Worth from a sight record made while he was there.

*December 19, 1929.* Thirty-seven members and seven visitors were present. "With MacMillan in Labrador and Baffin Land" was the title of Dr. Samuel C. Palmer's interesting description of a trip to the Arctic region during the past summer. Eighty species of birds were noted. The Fulmar was the most common bird seen on the more northern part of the ocean. Lantern slides were shown.

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Attendance at meetings has been as follows:

1929. Sixteen meetings; attendance, twenty-four to fifty-six; average, thirty-six. Sixty-three attended at least one meeting and twenty-three made communications.

## Abstract of the Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, 1930

*January 2, 1930.* Annual Meeting (Fortieth Anniversary) Banquet, held at the Franklin Inn Club, with fifty-six members and six visitors in attendance. Invited guests included, Dr. A. K. Fisher, Dr. J. T. Nichols, Dr. J. P. Chapin, Chas. Urner, Ludlow Griscom and Dr. Francis Harper. A movie of pre-historic life followed.

*January 16, 1930.* Thirty-three members and five visitors attended. Officers elected for the current year were as follows:

*President*—Dr. Samuel C. Palmer.

*Vice-President*—Julian K. Potter.

*Treasurer*—Henry T. Underdown.

*Secretary*—John A. Gillespie.

Report of Auditing Committee (Messrs. Huber & Rehn) accepted as read. Elected to Active Membership, John T. Emlen, Jr. Mr. Henry Carey suggested Starling "shoots,"—the matter being turned over to an appointed committee. Dr. Stone gave an interesting and instructive talk on, "Check-lists of North American Birds."

*February 6, 1930.*—Attended by thirty-five members and three visitors. Field Trip Committee for the current year appointed by the President included,—Messrs. Potter, Weyl, Worth and the Secretary.

Mr. Stuart called attention to Bills at Washington proposing protection for the Bald Eagle, urging members to write their senators and representatives requesting support for these Measures.

"A Dash to Southern Alaska,"—was Mr. John D. Carter's topic, describing a trip taken during the summer of 1929 to this interesting region. Forty-five Bald Eagles were observed, practically all adults. A pair of Harlequin Ducks was an added feature.

*February 20, 1930.* Thirty-three members and six visitors were present.

On a motion made by Mr. Carey, the Secretary was instructed to write to the Biol. Survey, Wash., D. C., urging that a careful study be made of Starling control, in view of their enormous increase and harmful effect upon native species.

Mr. Benj. C. Hiatt spoke on, "A Summer with the Florida Pelicans." Visits were made to Merritt's Island and Pelican Island, where the Brown Pelicans breed during February and August. About five thousand individuals were seen; twenty adults and one hundred and thirty young birds being banded. Interesting slides were shown.

*March 6, 1930.* Twenty-eight members and five visitors attended.

Mr. Stuart again urged the members to write to their congressmen asking them to support the Eagle protection bill in congress. Attention was also called to the proposed Bald Eagle habitat group for the Academy. The suggestion was made that D. V. O. C. members present this group to the Academy, in return for the use of the building for D. V. O. C. meetings.

"South Carolina in January," was the subject for the evening. Mr. James R. Gillin described a motor trip to Georgetown early in 1930. A visit was made to Mr. Arthur T. Wayne's home in Charleston. Some of the species observed were, Hooded Merganser, Wayne's Clapper Rail, Worthington's Marsh Wren, etc. Duck and Wild Turkey shooting were excellent.

*March 20, 1930.* Twenty-eight members and eight visitors attended. Elected to Associate Membership: Francis Harper and W. Wedgwood Bowen.

Contributions to the Bald Eagle habitat group to be presented to the Academy by the D. V. O. C. total \$800.00, according to Mr. Stuart, who stated that \$200.00 more was required.

Mr. Henry W. Fowler, the speaker of the evening, spoke on the "Birds of Java." Some of the interesting species seen

were the Shrikes, Rollers, Nightjars, Sunbirds, Mynas, etc. Interesting slides were shown of the tree-ferns, flowers, curious fish, Budda temples, etc.

*April 3, 1930.* Twenty-eight members and two visitors were present. Mr. Street announced that the Eagle habitat group had been fully subscribed by D. V. O. C. members.

A joint contribution by Messrs. Stone and Erskine, entitled "To Florida and Back by the Buick Route," was the topic of the evening. Many interesting Carolinian species were observed, such as Pelicans, Cormorants, Ground Doves, Wood Ibises, etc. Louisiana Herons and Snowy Egrets were common and quite tame. Dr. Stone recorded two new LIFES,—the Florida Jay and the Caracara!

*April 17, 1930.* This meeting was attended by thirty-four members and eight visitors.

A specimen of a hybrid duck in the Academy collection, was on display, and proved to be a cross between a Canvas Back and a Red Head.

Mr. Wharton Huber, speaker of the evening, described "A Winter in the Mountains of New Mexico." Some of the western forms seen were, Harris's Sparrow, Scissor Tailed Flycatcher, Swallow-Tailed and Mississippi Kites, White-Necked Ravens, Long-Billed Curlew, etc. Excellent still pictures and movies were shown of the bird life of that interesting region.

*May 1, 1930.* Thirty members and one visitor attended.

For the topic of the evening, Dr. Francis Harper chose "Natural History Explorations in the Great Slave-Athabasca Lake District." Three hundred miles of practically unexplored territory along the Athabasca River in Canada were traversed by the speaker and companions, via scow and canoe. Ross's Snow Goose, a rare species, was collected. The flora and fauna of this interesting country were seen to advantage in a series of slides.

*May 15, 1930.* Final spring meeting of the year attended by thirty-four members and nine visitors.

Mr. Francis R. Cope, Jr., spoke on "The Birds of New Zealand," an extremely interesting and instructive talk, illustrated by a series of slides and movies. Birds observed included Bell Birds, Parson Birds, Pigeons, Parakeets, Gulls, Albatrosses, etc. The feature of the evening was undoubtedly a movie of a pair of Blue Mountain Ducks paddling along a swift moving stream juttied with boulders, said to be the first movie of this species ever taken.

*October 2, 1930.* The opening fall meeting was attended by forty members and eleven visitors.

Mr. Anthony W. Robinson, the speaker of the evening, chose "In and about Cape Breton and Madame Island" for his subject. An auto trip through Nova Scotia, illustrated by a series of fine slides and movies, was described. Terns were common on the water, while the Savannah Sparrow was plentiful on land. Movies were also shown of the A. O. U. Field Trip at Cape May last fall.

*October 16, 1930.* Meeting attended by twenty-eight members and five visitors.

Mr. Carey called attention to a circular entitled, "Compromised Conservation," in which the Nat. Assn. of Audubon Socs. is denounced because of their apparent indifference to bird protection. Mr. Carey was later appointed a special delegate to the annual meeting of the Audubon Soc., to present a resolution, to the effect that the D. V. O. C. endorses the sentiment of those who insist that the charges of indifference and inefficiency against the Audubon Soc. be openly and thoroughly discussed at the said annual meeting.

Mr. W. W. Bowen was the speaker of the evening. "Bird Life of the Red Sea" was the topic, which described a series of three trips taken to this interesting region, the land of the "Fuzzie Wuzzie." Birds observed were the Crab Plover, which digs a hole in the sand in which to nest,—the Palm Swift, which fastens its eggs to the bottom of its nest with saliva and plant fibre,—Hoopies, Storks, etc. Slides were shown and specimens exhibited.

*November 6, 1930.* Regular meeting, attended by thirty-six members and four visitors.

Elected to Associate Membership: Woodruff J. Emlen, W. Burritt Wright, Jas. C. Butt, R. M. Gummere, Jr., Harry G. M. Jopson, Thos. Carpenter. Elected to Corresponding Membership: C. G. Kriebel, W. A. Dunmore.

"The Pine Warbler's Song," an interesting account of this species, was read by the author, Mr. Chreswell J. Hunt, former secretary of the D. V. O. C.

The principal subject of the evening was, "Further Voyages in the West Indies, with Impressions of the Birds of Panama and Costa Rica," by Mr. James Bond. Among the interesting birds observed, were the Black Billed Streamer, White Winged Crossbill, and various Wrens, Orioles, Jays, Warblers and Parrots.

Dr. Stone reported on the recent A. O. U. meeting at Salem, Mass.

*November 20, 1930.* Thirty-one members and three visitors were present.

An Eagle nest in the vicinity of Wildwood, N. J. last spring was reported by Dr. Stone as having been carted off by collectors.

"The Oil Birds of Trinidad" was the title of a very interesting paper read by Mr. M. A. Carriker. Expeditions to the caves in which these birds nest were described by the speaker, who endeavored to collect specimens and eggs of the Guacharos for the Academy.

*December 4, 1930.* Meeting attended by thirty-seven members and seven visitors.

In the main auditorium, "The 1930 Academy of Natural Sciences S. African Expedition" was described by Mr. R. M. deSchauensee. Commencing at Cape Town, this trip was made via Ford, working northerly over the desert region. Several reels of film showed the ceremonial dances of the natives, the wild animals observed, as well as the birds, which included Shrikes, Hornbills, Ostriches, Sea Eagles, Bustards, etc. The beautiful Victorian Falls were well worth seeing.

*December 18, 1930.* Twenty-six members and two visitors attended.

Mr. Middleton reported some interesting banding returns secured at Norristown, including a Lincoln's Sparrow banded Oct. 9.

Dr. Stone reported that five Clay-colored Sparrows had been trapped in New England this fall by Messrs. Austin.

Mr. J. Fletcher Street was the speaker for the evening. "An Ornithological Century Run" was his topic. The speaker actually described three "runs," taken on May 11, 12 and 18, respectively, of three separate years. Mr. Street also read an interesting paper entitled "A Day on the Havre de Grace Flats,"—a gunning trip, in which he participated. Canvasbacks, Redheads, Swans, Baldpates, Ruddy Ducks and Old Squaws were observed.

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Attendance at meetings has been as follows:

1930. Sixteen meetings; attendance, twenty-eight to sixty-two; average, thirty-five. Seventy-eight members attended at least one meeting and twenty-eight communications were heard.