

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Delaware
Valley Ornithological Club, 1931

January 8, 1931. Forty-second Annual Meeting. Forty-six members and one visitor attended.

Officers reelected for another year were:

President—Dr. Samuel C. Palmer.

Vice-President—Julian K. Potter.

Treasurer—Henry T. Underdown.

Secretary—John A. Gillespie.

Vice-President Potter spoke in detail about the Christmas Census at Cape May, N. J., taken on December 28, 1930, which yielded seventy-nine species.

“Bird Days in Retrospect and Prospect” was the subject of the evening. Dr. Stone spoke of the early meetings of the Club, as well as plans for the future.

January 15, 1931. Twenty-two members and three visitors present.

Mr. Francis R. Cope’s talk on “The Bower and Lyre Birds of Australia” was heard by a small but enthusiastic audience. Among the interesting species mentioned were the Tinamous, Birds of Paradise, Keewees, Crowned Pigeons, Bower and Lyre Birds, etc. Excellent slides were shown, as well as a reel of film, taken by Mr. Ray Littlejohns, believed to be the first ever secured of the Lyre Bird.

February 5, 1931. Twenty-seven members and four visitors present.

“Ornithology Tomorrow—A glimpse into the Future,” was the subject of an interesting talk by Mr. Henry H. Collins III. The speaker advocated the making of bird song reproductions for the phonograph for use in field identification, instruction in schools, saving for posterity the notes of vanishing species, etc., etc.

February 19, 1931. Thirty-one members and five visitors present.

Subject for the evening, “Canoeing through the Mississagi

Forest." The speaker, Mr. Edward S. Weyl, described a trip taken by Mr. P. A. Livingston and himself in Canada. About one hundred species were encountered, warblers of various kinds, White Throated Sparrows and Olive-backed Thrushes were in full song. Several reels of film showed to advantage the beautiful scenery along the Mississagi and Aubinadong Rivers.

March 5, 1931. Thirty-six members and six visitors present.

Elected to Associate Membership: Wm. P. Schoonmaker, Phila., Thos. Quay, Mt. Holly, N. J., Wm. Pepper, Jr., Wyncote, Pa., G. H. Tanner, Phila., J. Allen Baird, Beverly, N. J.

"The 1930 Academy of Natural Sciences Expedition to Honduras," was the subject of the evening, and the speakers, Messrs. C. Brooke Worth and John T. Emlen, Jr. Working under the supervision of Mr. James A. G. Rehn, several new forms were obtained, notably a Pewee, now known as *Myiochanes emleni*, and a Thrush, *Catharus melpomene worthi*! Other species encountered included, various Orioles, Jays, Toucans, Trogans, Motmots, Pigeons, Woodpeckers and Hummers. Interesting slides and movies were shown of the jungle and cloud forest.

A phonograph record of an English Nightingale in full song, played on a portable phonograph by Mr. W. W. Bowen, was an added feature.

March 19, 1931. Twenty-four members and three visitors present.

Mr. Wharton Huber, speaker of the evening, gave an interesting talk, entitled, "The Bird Life of the Queen Charlotte Islands." Accompanied by Messrs. Edward Woolman, H. S. Drinker (senior and junior) and F. W. Wood, such species as the Pigeon Guillemot, Tufted Puffin, Auklets, Murrelets, Petrels, Pelagic Cormorant, Sooty Shearwater were collected and skinned under adverse weather conditions. An interesting series of slides was shown of this region off the British Columbia Coast.

April 2, 1931. Twenty-four members and five visitors present.

"American Birds in Ireland," Mr. Alex. H. Leighton's paper, dealt with actual records, fortified by specimens, of American species recovered in Ireland, such as, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Goshawk, Hooded Merganser, Bittern, Eskimo Curlew, Sora Rail, Passenger Pigeon, etc., mostly old records, some of which dated back to 1840.

An interesting and humorous talk, "Odd notes from the Near East" was another subject related by Mr. Leighton, which dealt with experiences at Athens, Corinth and Olympia, Greece. Slides and movies were shown of many biblical sections of scientific interest.

April 16, 1931. Twenty-three members and four visitors present. Vice-President Potter in the Chair.

A letter from Mr. T. Gilbert Pearson, of the National Association of Audubon Societies was read by the Secretary. The Society offered to defray the expenses of a man to be stationed at Cape May during the fall Hawk migration, in an effort to stop the killing of Hawks and other birds protected by law. Mr. Weyl suggested that an active and alert Conservation Committee be formed to keep in touch with the Cape May situation, as well as for keeping the members posted as to legislative bills aiding or harming Conservation. At Mr. Livingston's suggestion, the Secretary was instructed to write to the Game Commission at Harrisburg, urging the repeal of the present bounty law on Goshawks.

At Dr. Stone's suggestion, the Secretary was instructed to write a letter of sympathy to Mrs. Spencer Trotter,—her husband, Dr. Spencer Trotter, one of the Charter Members of the DVOC, having passed away on April 10, 1931.

"A Canoe Trip down the Peace River" was the topic for the evening, as described by Mr. Edward Woolman. Sixty-seven species were observed—Townsend's Solitaire, Richardson's Grouse and Baird's Cormorants being the most noteworthy. Several reels of film, showing the latter species at nesting time were most interesting.

May 7, 1931. Thirty-four members and three visitors present.

A Conservation Committee appointed by the Chair in-

cluded: Messrs. Weyl (Chairman) Carey, Huber, Harper, McDonald.

"In Memoriam—Spencer Trotter" was the title of a paper read by Dr. Stone, who spoke feelingly of the Club's past-president.

Mr. Samuel Scoville was the speaker of the evening, and his subject, "By-ways and Sky-ways," in which he described various gunning and field-trips taken with Club members.

May 21, 1931. Twenty-eight members and four visitors present.

"May Ornithological Adventures," by members, provided the subject for the evening. The most noteworthy observations included, Gnatcatcher at Narberth, Apr. 25 to May 15; Lincoln's Sparrow trapped at Paoli, May 13; Wood Duck and seven young at Haddonfield, May 20; two Wood Duck nests and a Prothonotary Warbler at Weymouth, May 16; American Egrets seen at Canton and Tinicum; a Century Run, May 17, Troy Meadows and vicinity which yielded 162 species; A Ruffed Grouse nest and seventeen (17) eggs, twenty-five miles northeast of Norristown; Lincoln Sparrows at Whitemarsh and Glenolden, May 16 and 17; Grouse and Cliff Swallows at New Lisbon, Apr. 4.

Movies taken at Delaware City by John T. Emlen were of interest.

October 1, 1931. Thirty-eight members and six visitors present.

Several reels of excellent bird movies furnished the subject of the evening, taken and shown by Mr. Henry P. Baily. Species shown to advantage included Hummingbirds, Purple Finches, Herring Gulls, Crested Flycatchers, Chickadees and Leach's Petrels.

A letter from Dr. Francis Harper was read by the Secretary, urging all members to write to J. Clawson Roop, Director of the Budget, Wash., D. C., protesting against the million dollar appropriation for the Biological Survey's poisoning campaign.

October 15, 1931. Twenty-five members and five visitors present.

Dr. Stone exhibited a volume of letters presented to him by the Fellows and Members of the A. O. U. upon his completion of the Fourth Check List of North American Birds and twenty years of 'The Auk.'

Mr. James Bond was the speaker of the evening, and his topic, "Birds of Cuba and the Bahama Islands." Species of interest were a melanistic phase of the Sparrow Hawk, Larks, Cuban Quails, Solitaires, Green Woodpecker, a large Rail, etc. etc. The Speaker mentioned taking the first nest on record, from Jamaica, of the Arrow-headed Warbler.

November 5, 1931. Thirty members and ten visitors present.

Elected to Associate Membership: J. H. Reiter, Bryn Mawr, John Cadwalader, III, Phila., Wm. S. Child, Merion.

Prof. H. H. Beck was the Speaker of the evening. His topic, "Incidentals from a Hunter's Note-book, 1885-1931" was replete with items of interest and scientific value in Lancaster Co., Pa. January was noted for Fox Hunting; Snipe lured the sportsman in the spring; Bullfrogs were the attraction in June; July furnished Woodcock and Upland Plover; in September, Reedbirds were plentiful and easily secured; shore-birds and Quail finished the season. In the speaker's opinion, Woodcock, Upland Plover and Ducks have steadily decreased from year to year, and unless thoroughly protected, are doomed to certain extinction.

November 19, 1931. Twenty-eight members and six visitors present.

Dr. Cornelius Weygandt was the speaker of the evening. His subject, "Some New Hampshire Birds" dealt with observations made at his farm in the hills of New Hampshire. Some ninety-five species have been recorded by him on his estate, and one hundred and fourteen species observed in the general vicinity. Of interest also, were his account of the "Hills People,"—their unique dialect, manners and customs.

December 3, 1931. Thirty members and five visitors present.

Mr. H. H. Collins read a letter from Prof. H. H. Beck, addressed to the Biological Survey, advocating the removal of the Woodcock from the game-bird list.

"Ten Days in Nova Scotia" was the topic of the evening,

as related by Mr. John D. Carter. During the latter part of May and early June, 1931, the speaker toured this region by auto, finding nests of the Black-backed Gull, Myrtle Warbler, Savannah and Swamp Sparrows, Wilson's Snipe, Piping Plover, Raven and Acadian Chickadee.

December 17, 1931. Thirty-three members and twelve visitors present.

The President appointed Messrs. Stone, Street and Gillespie a Committee to draft a letter to the Biological Survey, advocating a closed season on Woodcock, as suggested by Prof. Beck. The Secretary was also instructed to write to the New Jersey Audubon Society regarding proposed bounties in New Jersey on Hawks, Owls, Crows, etc.

Mr. M. A. Carriker, spoke on "Peru and Peruvian Birds." Skins, collected by the speaker in this country included various Hummingbirds, Tanagers, Honeycreepers, Trogons, Tinamoos, etc.

Attendance at meetings has been as follows:

1931. Sixteen meetings; attendance, twenty-five to forty-seven; average, thirty-five. Eighty-nine members attended at least one meeting; eighteen communications were heard.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, 1932

January 7, 1932. Forty-third Annual Meeting. Forty-seven members and eleven visitors present.

Officers re-elected for the current year:

President—Dr. Samuel C. Palmer.

Vice-President—Julian K. Potter

Treasurer—Henry T. Underdown.

Secretary—John A. Gillespie.

Elected to Corresponding Membership: Samuel Mason, Jr., Darlington, Md., M. A. Carriker, Jr., Beachwood, N. J.

“High Lights of the 1931 Cape May Christmas Census” was discussed by Messrs. Scoville and Potter. Twenty-eight observers participated, eighty-eight species being observed.

“A little about Birds—a lot about Beaver” was Mr. Alex. Leighton’s topic for the evening. The home life of the Beaver, as studied in Nova Scotia by the speaker, was of much interest to all. The talk was illustrated by movies and slides. Birds observed during the investigation were mentioned and discussed at some length.

January 21, 1932. Twenty-two members and one visitor present.

Mr. R. J. Middleton spoke on, “Ten years of Bird-Banding at Jeffersonville.” Some 12,756 captures were made at the speakers station during this period, twenty-three species of Warblers being trapped.

Following the talk, Dr. Wm. Pepper related some interesting experiences and captures at his banding station at Melrose Park.

February 4, 1932—Twenty-two members and two visitors present.

Trip Committee appointed by the Chair: Messrs. Potter, Weyl and Gillespie.

The President called attention to a Circular put out by the National Association of Audubon Societies regarding the "Everglades National Park," and urged members to write to their respective Congressmen, requesting earnest support for this worthy movement.

"Birds on the Wing" was the subject for the evening. Mr. Rich. E. Bishop, the speaker, showed several reels of film taken along the Illinois River, at Chesapeake City, Annapolis, etc. Slow motion pictures of water-fowl in every conceivable attitude were shown, the species included, Mallards, Pintails, Blacks, Blue and Green Winged Teal, Swans, Geese, etc. etc.

February 18, 1932. Thirty-five members and five visitors present.

A letter from Mr. C. Brooke Worth, read by the President, disclosed the fact that an Osprey, banded at Avalon during the summer of 1929, had been found with a broken wing at Rosman, N. C., on September 18, 1929, at which time it was released. On January 2, 1932, it turned up again at Rockledge, Fla., caught in a steel trap, and again it was released!

The Secretary was instructed to write to the Audubon Home, Inc., to the effect that the DVOC heartily endorsed the Movement to complete the restoration and perpetuate the management of the last home of Audubon.

Mr. W. W. Bowen was the speaker of the evening, substituting for Dr. Stone, confined at home by illness. He spoke interestingly about, "Bird Life of the Nile Valley." Palm Swifts, Weaver Birds, Bee-eaters, Guinea-fowl, Storks, Hoopoes, Crocodile-birds, were among the interesting species mentioned. A series of beautiful skins was exhibited.

March 3, 1932. Thirty members and one visitor present. Vice-President Potter presided.

The following were elected to Associate Membership: Joseph Janney, Phila., James Irvin, Claymont, Del., H. R. Roberts, Villa Nova., E. A. Choate, Upper Darby, Richard Pough, Germantown, Wm. H. Alff, Camden, Samuel L. Cresson, Swarthmore, Charles Platt, Chestnut Hill.

The following Corresponding Members were elected: Stuart Cramer, Lancaster, Barton Sharp, Lititz.

Two Associate Members having passed away, viz.: C. Eliot Underdown and Howard P. Hottle,—the Secretary was instructed to write letters of sympathy to their respective families.

“European and Mediterranean Notes,” was the topic of the evening, and the Speaker, Mr. Philip E. Howard, Jr. Birds observed on various trips to Belgium, Arran Island, Palestine and Jerusalem were mentioned, and a series of skins exhibited. Mr. Howard concluded his talk with some excellent imitations of native bird calls.

March 17, 1932. Thirty-two members and six visitors present.

Owing to illness, Mr. Huber, the Speaker, was confined at home, Dr. Stone substituting, spoke on, “Bird Watching—the most Scientific Sport, and the most Sporting of Sciences.” The Talk was actually a review of, “The Art of Bird Watching,” a recent volume by E. M. Nicholson. An added attraction was the reading by Dr. Stone of two Cape May Bird Biographies on the Green Heron and Sanderling.

April 7, 1932. Forty members and five visitors present.

“Wild life among the Apaches of New Mexico,” was the topic of the evening; Mr. Wharton Huber was the speaker. With the aid of an Indian Guide, he traversed Sierra Blanca and other mountains of the Sacramento Range, encountering such species as the White-throated Swift, Pigmy Nuthatch, Black-headed Grosbeak, Bullock’s Oriole, Swainson’s Hawk, Western Kingbird, etc. Excellent slides and movies illustrated his talk.

April 21, 1932. Nineteen members and three visitors present.

Subject of the evening, “Looking Ahead”; Mr. H. H. Collins, the speaker advocated a central Clearing House, with a planning committee of nine A. O. U. members, with sub-committees for special work along various lines.

May 5, 1932. Twenty-six members and five visitors present.

Mr. James A. G. Rehn, spoke on “Some Impressions of Matto Grosso Bird-Life.” Working from Dos Calvades,

Brazil, as a base, as a member of the recent Matto Grosso Expedition some 150 species of birds were collected, which included various waterfowl, Spoonbills, Storks, Kingfishers, Macaws, Wood-hewers, Toucans, Cuckoos, Tanagers, Manakins, etc.

May 19, 1932. Thirty-six members and three visitors present.

Seventeen members contributed notes and discussions for the subject of the evening, "May Ornithological Adventures." Among the species observed of interest, were Pied-billed Grebes, Hooded Mergansers, Hooded Warbler, Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Red Crossbills, Cape May Warbler, Short-billed Marsh Wren, White-crowned Sparrow, etc.

Four reels of excellent movies shown by Mr. Pough, included nesting birds of Bird Rock, in the St. Lawrence, the Dickey Expedition to the head waters of the Amazon, etc.

October 6, 1932. Forty-five members and nine visitors present. Vice-President Potter presided in the absence of the President.

Mr. W. F. Eaton of the Hawk and Owl Society, spoke on "A Plea for our Raptores," giving an interesting account of Hawks and Owls, their relative abundance and scarcity, the aims and accomplishments of the Hawk and Owl Society, etc. Mr. Eaton stated that the Pole Trap and Bounty Laws in certain states were responsible for the rapid disappearance of our large Raptores.

The Club passed a motion, donating \$25.00 to the Society.

October 20, 1932. Twenty-four members and six visitors present.

Mr. N. B. Musser's interesting talk of the evening was entitled, "The U. S. S. Ortolan Expedition to the Revillagiedo Islands."

Acting in the capacity of passenger, chronologist and interpreter, Mr. Musser kept record of all happenings on the trip. Birds encountered included, Murrelets, Shearwaters, Cormorants, Tropic Birds, various Terns, Rock Wrens, Elf Owls, etc.

November 3, 1932. Thirty-nine members and five visitors present.

Mr. John D. Carter spoke on "Through Nova Scotia and Cape Breton Island." A trip taken during the summer of 1932, resulted in the finding of nests of Herring Gulls, Red Breasted Merganser, Common Tern, Goshawk, Bobolink, etc.

The recent A. O. U. meeting at Quebec was described by Dr. Stone.

December 1, 1932. Thirty-eight members and ten visitors present.

"Pennsylvania Mallards—Tanganyika Lions" was the subject of the evening, and the Speaker, Mr. Frank B. Foster. Using both the setting hen and the incubator, Mr. Foster has raised, banded and liberated about 1500 Mallards at his farm near Phoenixville, Pa. Recoveries from these banded birds have occurred as far north as New Brunswick and as far west as Minnesota.

The Speaker also described a hunting trip taken by him and his family to Africa during the winter of 1928-1929. The animals included Lions, Zebra, Giraffe, Wildebeest, Thompson's Gazelle, Buffalo, Rhinoceros, etc., a number of which were collected.

December 15, 1932. Twenty-six members and seven visitors present.

Mr. Harold T. Green spoke on, "Collecting Museum Exhibits in Angola." This trip, taken by the Speaker to Portuguese West Africa, was illustrated by a series of slides. A Cow and a Calf of the rare Giant Sable Antelope were collected for a Museum Group in the Academy of Natural Sciences. Skins were on display of birds encountered, viz., Hammerhead, Weaver Birds, Nightjar, Glossy Starlings, Plantain-Eaters, Parrots, Flycatchers, etc.

Attendance at meetings has been as follows:

1932. Sixteen meetings; attendance, twenty-two to fifty-eight; average, thirty-seven. Ninety members attended at least one meeting and fifteen made communications.

Field Trips

1931. *February 23*, to Avalon and Stone Harbor, N. J. Seventeen members and four visitors participated. Forty-two species observed, most noteworthy being Canada Geese, 100; Red Backed Sandpiper, 500; Barn Owl and Northern Shrike.

April 3, to Delaware City and Woodland Beach, Del. Twenty members and three visitors attended. Fifty-one species observed, including Hooded Merganser, 3; Bald Eagle; Great Horned Owl, nest with two young.

May 30, to Cape May, N. J. Seven members and five visitors on hand. Sixty-five species observed, among which were Roseate Tern, Virginia Rail, Henslow Sparrow, Mockingbird, with two young; Short Billed Marsh Wren and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

1932. *February 22*, to Delaware City, Del., and Perryville, Md. Thirty-five members and five visitors attended. Forty-four species observed. Whistling Swan, 2000; Canada Geese, 2000, feeding in field at Cecilton; Baldpate, Shoveller, Duck Hawk, Red Bellied Woodpecker being the most noteworthy.

March 25, to Brigantine and Barnegat, N. J. Twenty-six members and six visitors participated. Forty-nine species observed. Outstanding, were, Red Throated Loon, Brant, 10,000; Bufflehead, 40; Hooded Merganser, Rough Legged Hawk and Ipswich Sparrow.

May 30, to Mt. Holly, N. J. and vicinity. Seventy-seven species recorded by sixteen members and three visitors. Of interest, were two Red Shouldered Hawks, Upland Plover, 2, and a Barn Owl nest with six young.