

## Abstract of the Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, 1933

*January 5, 1933.* Forty-third Annual Meeting. Fifty-one members and five visitors attended.

Officers elected for 1933:

*President, Julian K. Potter*

*Vice President, Arthur C. Emlen*

*Treasurer, Henry T. Underdown*

*Secretary, John A. Gillespie*

Auditing Committee appointed for 1933: Messrs. Roberts and Way.

Mr. Julian K. Potter reported on the Christmas Census, Dec. 26, at Cape May.

Mr. J. Fletcher Street gave a brief talk, "Looking Backward," describing early days of the D. V. O. C. Dr. Witmer Stone spoke on "Two Kinds of Ornithology," contrasting the old collecting methods with modern field studies of birds. Mr. Julian K. Potter then followed with a prophetic "Looking Ahead," suggesting that more attention to birds' vocal activities would occupy the ornithologists of the future.

*January 19, 1933.* Thirty-one members and eleven visitors attended. Mr. Samuel Scoville spoke on "Birds of the South," describing a trip to Florida and the Okeefenokee Swamp in 1932. He encountered many rare Louisianian birds, as well as rattlesnakes and water mocassins. Recent fires in the swamp had destroyed much wild life, he said.

*February 2, 1933.* Thirty-three members and eight visitors attended. "Observations on Birds of New Mexico" was presented by Mr. Wharton Huber. He had spent the summer of 1932 in the upper reaches of the Rio Grande Valley, where many birds of the Far West were observed. Excellent moving pictures of birds, nests and Prairie Dogs were shown.

*February 16, 1933.* Twenty-five members and six visitors attended. Mr. M. A. Carriker, Jr., spoke of his "Ramblings in Peru," incident to his most recent collecting trip for the Academy. As usual he gave a competent ecological résumé

of each collecting station. Lantern slides showing typical habitats served further to relate the birds to their respective environments.

*March 2, 1933.* Thirty-one members and four visitors attended. Norman J. McDonald was elected to active membership. The following Associates were elected:

James N. Rice, Wayne, Pa.

Frederick Schmid, Germantown, Pa.

Wayne Marshall, Haddonfield, N. J.

John F. McIlvain, Mt. Holly, N. J.

Frederick V. Hebard, Chestnut Hill, Pa.

Jack M. Cadbury, Moorestown, N. J.

Benjamin Bartram Cadbury, Moorestown, N. J.

Herbert L. Seidelman, Philadelphia, Pa.

Thomas G. Appel, Lancaster, Pa., was elected to Corresponding Membership.

Mr. Edward Woolman described "The Grenfell Cruise to Labrador," taken last summer. Lantern slides, from the files of Mr. Woolman and Dr. Alfred O. Gross, showed many species of interesting boreal birds.

*March 16, 1933.* Thirty-one members and four visitors present. Mr. H. H. Collins, Jr., spoke on "Bolshevik Birds and Bolshevik Birders." Besides noting many species of mid-European birds, Mr. Collins visited museums in the principal cities and spoke to leading ornithologists there. Russia is advancing in bird-banding, and is also launching a five-year program of bird-book publishing in order to arouse the public to an appreciation of the importance of birds.

*April 6, 1933.* Thirty-two members and seven visitors present. Mr. F. R. Cope, Jr., spoke on "Problems in Distribution and Conservation, with Special Reference to New Zealand Birds." He presented an account of the new science of Ecology, suggesting numerous problems which an ornithological attack might illuminate.

*April 20, 1933.* Twenty-seven members and eleven visitors present. "West of the Mississippi—Bird Life from an Auto," was presented by Mr. W. E. Roberts. On this trip the speaker travelled to the Pacific Coast, stopping off at several National

Parks. Lantern slides illustrated the habitats of numerous western birds.

Mr. J. K. Potter discussed the Good Friday Field Trip to Delaware City, Delaware. Sixty-nine species of birds were observed.

Messrs. Woolman and Huber reported the complete disappearance of Eel Grass in Tuckerton Bay, N. J. This has markedly decreased the Brant population in that locality.

*May 4, 1933.* Thirty members and ten visitors in attendance. "Feathers; Their Structure and Color" was presented by Mr. Norman J. McDonald. This difficult subject was covered by him in a comprehensive way, indicative of careful and prolonged study of the literature. Demonstrations in the form of slides and exhibits aided in the clarification of minute structural details.

The intimate relationship between feathers and humans was humorously brought out by the introduction of two Boy Scouts, garbed in the full feathered regalia of yesterday's Indian Chiefs. Examination revealed that this was a hoax: the feathers were those of the Domestic Turkey.

*May 18, 1933.* Forty-one members and nine visitors attended. "Delaware Valley Round-Up" was ably presented by the Secretary, Mr. John A. Gillespie. This was an analysis of the reports of twenty groups, comprising fifty individuals, who canvassed Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware for birds on May 14. One hundred and thirty-six species were seen in the Philadelphia region, 181 in the Delaware Valley region, and 189 by the entire group in all localities.

*October 5, 1933.* Thirty-four members and five visitors present. Mr. Charles A. Urner, Corresponding Member of the D. V. O. C., spoke on "What Can the Amateur Birder Do?" He outlined various types of impulses which first draw the amateur afield after birds, and then tabulated the various kinds of study which these differently constituted amateurs might pursue. One of Mr. Urner's hobbies is the study of footprints of shore birds; he displayed placards upon which he had delineated prints of twenty-six species. The identification of unseen migrants in this way, he said, is often possible.

*October 19, 1933.* Thirty-three members and eight visitors in attendance. Dr. Ernest A. Choate spoke on "Ornithology and Education," giving an account of the work on bird study now being done in grammar schools. He distributed an ornithological questionnaire among the members—not, however, of the sort current in grammar schools. He also showed several educational moving pictures issued by the Canadian Government in its elementary school bird study program.

Mr. McDonald mentioned that about 200 hawks are being shot daily at Dreherstown, Pa.

*November 2, 1933.* Twenty-five members and two visitors attended. Elected Associates:

Walter Batezel, Collingswood, N. J.

Joseph Durkin, Germantown, Pa.

Elected Corresponding Members:

David Kerkheimer, Reading, Pa.

Herbert Buckalew, Milford, Del.

Mr. Richard Pough spoke on "Binoculars—Their Construction and Use in Bird Observation." His commercial experience with bird glasses enabled him to impart valuable hints on the choice of a suitable glass by the prospective buyer.

*November 23, 1933.* Twenty-seven members and four visitors in attendance. "The Semi-Centennial A. O. U. Meeting" in New York was reported upon by attending D. V. O. C. members: Messrs. Stone, Woolman, McDonald, A. Emlen, Street, Underdown, Weyl, and Potter. Besides the many scientific papers, field trips occupied the delegates, and several saw their first American Eider, Iceland Gull, and Razor-billed Auk at Jones Beach.

*December 7, 1933.* Thirty-two members and six visitors present. Dr. Francis Harper gave an account of "Bird Life of the Texas Coast." In the summer of 1929 he collected birds in this region for the Academy. Besides visiting rookeries of various Gulls, Terns, and Herons, he studied land birds of the coastal flats and was successful in "rediscovering" and collecting the rare Botteri's Sparrow (Auk, 1930, pp. 177-185).

*December 21, 1933.* Thirty-four members and four visitors present. "Plumages and Molts. Things that Field Ornithologists and Bird Banders Should Know" was presented by Dr. Witmer Stone. In a thorough way he discussed downy, juvenal, and adult plumages; seasonal differences among adults, including "eclipse" plumages of ducks; and irregular differences among such variable birds as Orioles, Black-bellied Plovers, and Sanderlings. Dr. Stone urged bird banders to study plumages and molts in detail, inasmuch as they are frequently able to handle an individual bird many times throughout its life and at different seasons of the year.

## Abstract of the Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, 1934

*January 4, 1934.* Thirty-nine members and three visitors present. At the 44th Annual Meeting, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

*President*, Julian K. Potter.

*Vice President*, Arthur C. Emlen.

*Secretary*, John A. Gillespie.

*Treasurer*, Henry T. Underdown.

The following committees were appointed:

Auditing Committee: Messrs. Way and Roberts.

Field Trip Committee: Messrs. Street, Weyl and Gillespie.

Conservation Committee: Messrs. Stone, Street and A. C. Emlen.

Membership Committee: Messrs. Weyl, Huber and Gillespie.

Publication Committee: Messrs. Stone, Street and Livingston.

Dr. Stone spoke briefly about the origin of the Club.

Mr. Street described the Cape May Christmas Census; 96 species were observed.

Mr. Earle L. Poole presented "Hunting Birds with a Pencil." This was not only an address but also a demonstration of skill, as the artist produced bird after bird from the tip of his magical crayon, tethering them neatly on the surface of square paper cages, where they might gape in arrested animation at the applauding members of the D. V. O. C.

*January 18, 1934.* Twenty-one members and two visitors present. Mr. C. Brooke Worth read a paper entitled "The Philosophy of Ornithology" in which he groped after some definition of the appeal which birds hold for the congenial ornithologist. He also criticized modern taxonomic work in ornithology for its allegedly antiquated methods, urging that comparative physiology be granted its proper use as a criterion in classification.

*February 1, 1934.* Thirteen members and two visitors

present. Mr. Woolman reported on the Game Conference in New York, where the proposed Duck Stamp Bill was advocated as a measure to meet the crisis among our depleted Water Fowl.

Dr. Samuel C. Palmer spoke of "Bird Observations in Nebraska." During the previous summer he had visited this flat country, observing 36 species of birds, including the Burrowing Owl, Arkansas Kingbird, and Western Meadowlark.

*February 15, 1934.* Thirty members and five visitors present. Mr. J. Fletcher Street gave a constructive talk on "Problems of Field Identification," illustrating his subject with bird skins from the Academy's collection. His reminder, which should be repeated perennially, that no one is infallible in field identification, was urged upon the members forcefully, albeit with an appropriate and mitigating grace.

*March 1, 1934.* Twenty-one members and two visitors present. The following were elected to Associate Membership: Ellwood Hannum, Philadelphia, Pa.  
John Bartram, West Chester, Pa.  
Edward J. Reimann, Philadelphia, Pa.

Professor H. H. Beck presented "A Birdman's Thrills," recapitulating his sensations on first meeting the Blackburnian Warbler, Redpoll and Swallow-tailed Kite. He spoke of the moving effect upon man of the Upland Plover's flight call. Among his reminiscences was a personal recollection of the Passenger Pigeon. Professor Beck's talk was enlivened by his vocal imitations of various birds' calls.

*March 15, 1934.* Twenty-four members and seven visitors present. "Bird Notes from an Alaskan Trip," by Mr. Charles Rogers, brought the birds of Kodiak Forest, Mt. McKinley, and other remote spots vividly before the members. The speaker discussed field characteristics of the Violet Green Swallow, Western Tanager, Rhinoceros Auklet, Pigeon Guillemot, Tufted Puffin, Marbled Murrelet and Black-footed Albatross.

*April 5, 1934.* Twenty-nine members and five visitors present. Mr. John T. Emlen, Jr., reviewed the thesis which

he is preparing for his doctorate in ornithology at Cornell, under the title, "Crow Roosts, Past and Present." This was an historical study which showed: (1) that Crows are only one-fifth as common as they once were in eastern United States; and (2) that Crow roosts are abundant in this part of the country. One roost which Mr. Emlen visited harbored 60,000 Crows.

*April 19, 1934.* Twenty-one members and five visitors present. Mr. Adolf Müller, President of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, spoke on "Game Policies and Regulations." Revenue from hunting licenses is used to purchase game for liberation in the state, although the Commission has recently found that native stock is superior to imported game. Pennsylvania's wild life population (i. e. game birds) has increased greatly since 1895.

*May 3, 1934.* Twenty-seven members and six visitors present. Mr. Edward Woolman recited his experiences "Along the Gulf with the Blue Goose." In company with Mr. Huber he visited the Sage, McIlhenny, Rainey, and Rockefeller Preserves this spring, where 40,000 Blue Geese spent the winter. Moving pictures showed these and other wild birds in their protected quarters.

Mr. A. C. Emlen expressed the Club's appreciation for the hospitality of Mr. F. J. Stokes of Darlington, Md., who acted as host to the D. V. O. C. Field Trip on April 29.

*May 17, 1934.* Thirty-three members and six visitors present. "The Second Delaware Valley Round-Up," held on May 13, was analyzed by the Secretary, Mr. John A. Gillespie. Twenty-four groups, comprising forty-five individuals, were afield. One hundred and forty-one species were observed in the Philadelphia region; 188 in the Delaware Valley region; and a total of 193 species was listed. The total list for 1933 and 1934 in the entire region amounted to 208 species.

Mr. Tatum reported that he was taking up a collection to pay for a painting of the Red-bellied Woodpecker by Mr. Conrad Roland, to be presented in the name of the D. V. O. C. to Mr. F. J. Stokes of Darlington, Md. This bird had been found nesting at this locality on the Club's recent visit.

*October 4, 1934.* Thirty-nine members and fourteen visitors present. Mr. Samuel Scoville reviewed his studies of "Connecticut Nests." His notes, beginning in 1893, included data on the family life of the Oven-bird, Blue-headed Vireo, Ruffed Grouse, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Hermit Thrush, Veery, Black-throated Blue Warbler and Canada Warbler. The latter two nests were built in Christmas Fern.

Mr. Pough reported that the Emergency Conservation Committee had obtained a lease, with an option to buy, on "Hawk Mountain" at Drehersville, Pa., and had engaged Maurice Broun and an assistant as wardens during the hawk migration. The Club agreed to contribute a sum of money toward this worth-while project.

*October 18, 1934.* Thirty members and eleven visitors present. "Recent Discoveries on the Pattern of the Feather," by Mr. H. Radcliffe Roberts, took the Club far from its accustomed study of field ornithology into the realms of endocrine physiology. Work by the Messrs. Lillie was adequately explained, the chief substantial fact being that the rate of deposition of pigment in the growing feather is dependent upon the concentrations of several hormones in the avian blood-stream. A feather of barred pattern therefore reflects fluctuations in these concentrations during the formative stages of that feather.

Mr. Pough reported progress in the move to purchase Hawk Mountain as a permanent sanctuary. Eight Golden Eagles, several Goshawks and two very large falcons have been seen there this Fall.

Mr. Hebard pointed out widespread violations of Game laws relating to ducks in the Chesapeake Bay region, and urged that the D. V. O. C. protest formally to the Biological Survey.

*November 1, 1934.* Twenty-eight members and seven visitors present. The following Associates were elected:

Albert E. Frost, Mt. Airy, Pa.

Edward A. Mechling, Moorestown, N. J.

William H. Mechling, Moorestown, N. J.

James E. Mechling, Moorestown, N. J.

John W. Lane, Jr., Collingdale, Pa.

The Conservation Committee was enlarged by the appointment of Messrs. Pough, Weyl, Foster and Woolman. It was decided to solicit funds from members of the D. V. O. C. toward the purchase of Hawk Mountain.

Dr. Witmer Stone reported on the recent A. O.U. meeting in Chicago. Messrs. Robinson and Underdown added comments on the same subject.

Mr. Pough reported on the recent Audubon Society meeting in New York. Baiting of wild fowl and trapping on the Society's sanctuaries were discussed.

Mr. Potter gave statistics on the D. V. O. C. Field Trip to Hawk Mountain on October 28. One hundred and thirty-five Red-tailed Hawks and one Golden Eagle were seen. Mr. Pough added that 22 Golden Eagles and 5359 hawks of all kinds have been observed by the warden, Mr. Broun, this Fall.

*November 15, 1934.* Thirty members and four visitors present. Mr. William Bacon Evans spoke of his "Impressions of Bird Life in Syria and Palestine." His work as an educator in that part of the world enabled him to give a splendid background—historical and geological—to his comments about the native birds. Many of the species he saw were migrants. Among those he mentioned were the Rock Pigeon, Rock Partridge, Crested Lark, Bee-Eater and Hoopoe.

Mr. Philip Howard added a few remarks on a visit he had made to the same countries.

*December 6, 1934.* Twenty-one members and ten visitors present. Mr. E. J. Reimann, in "Wild Ornithologists of the Road," gave a humorous account of a hitch-hiking trip across the United States which he took with Mr. Kessler in 1933. Covering 8000 miles in two months, the friends experienced many sorts of adventures, not all of them comfortable or pleasant. But the sight of 200 species of birds during their peregrinations compensated for the inconvenience of sleeping in freight cars or being detained by the police.

*December 20, 1934.* Thirty members and thirteen visitors present. Dr. Gardiner Bump, Superintendent of Game, New York State, spoke on "Progress in Bringing Back the Ruffed

Grouse through Management and Artificial Propagation.” Cycles in the grouse population were discussed from the standpoints of food, water, shelter, habits, reproductive capacity, weather, enemies, disease and parasites. The Fox and the Great Horned Owl are considered the worst enemies of the grouse. Seven hundred grouse have thus far been raised artificially in New York State.