

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, 1935

January 3, 1935. Forty-fifth Annual Meeting. Forty-two members and seven visitors present. At the Active Session, the following officers were elected for 1935:

President, Julian K. Potter.

Vice President, Arthur C. Emlen.

Secretary, John A. Gillespie.

Treasurer, Henry T. Underdown.

An auditing committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Huber and Roberts.

Dr. Witmer Stone gave an historical account of "Some Early Bird Students and Their Place in the Development of North American Ornithology: Catesby—Edwards—Brisson." The latter two, Edwards and Brisson, never visited America, but published descriptions of American birds from specimens sent to them by American friends, among them William Bartram. Catesby's work, "Natural History of Carolina," represented actual field work by this English ornithologist in America.

Mr. W. L. Baily showed moving pictures of birds taken by H. P. Baily, and Mr. Woolman followed with several reels of New Jersey Terns and Skimmers.

January 17, 1935. Thirty-three members and five visitors present. Mr. Francis R. Cope, Jr., discussed his ecological "Observations on the Summer Birds of the Virgin Forest Areas of Northern Pennsylvania." These areas, which he displayed in colored slides, are threatened with destruction unless public interest in conserving them is aroused. Eighty species of birds breed there in the following habitat groupings: 14 species in conifers, 11 in mixed forest, 12 in second growth, 22 in non-specific forest, 5 in deep forest, 8 in open forest, and 8 in water forest.

February 7, 1935. Thirty members and twelve visitors present. Dr. Stone proposed a resolution at the Active Session advocating one year's closed season on all ducks and geese.

It was unanimously passed, and the Secretary was instructed to forward it to the Audubon Society.

Mr. Norman J. McDonald gave a talk entitled "Wings Over Paradise." This was an account of two trips to Florida and the Gulf Coast in 1934. Slides and moving pictures, lent by the Audubon Society, illustrated many of the speaker's experiences with southern birds.

February 21, 1935. Thirty-five members and twenty-six visitors present. Mr. Alva Nye, of Washington, D. C., spoke on "Twentieth Century Falconry." Outlining the historical origin of the sport, which was largely discontinued with the advent of gunpowder, he displayed the necessary paraphernalia of the falconer and also exhibited two trained hawks—a Pigeon Hawk and a Cooper's Hawk. Mr. Nye is noted in this part of the country as a leader in reviving the "Sport of Kings."

March 7, 1935. Thirty-two members and two visitors present. The following Associates were elected:

Harry Matthews, Philadelphia, Pa.

E. Osborne Coates, Wayne, Pa.

Jack Abbott, Philadelphia, Pa.

Millard Lindauer, Philadelphia, Pa.

Robert Wolfe, Lenola, N. J.

J. K. Terres, Upper Darby, Pa.

Mr. Wharton Huber reported upon "Birds in the Vicinity of Monterey," which he observed on a recent mammal collecting trip. As usual the illustrations consisted of his own excellent slides and moving pictures. Noteworthy was one picture in which the Surf-Bird, Black Turnstone and Wandering Tattler appeared together.

March 21, 1935. Thirty-one members and fifteen visitors present. Mr. H. J. Lance spoke of his experiences "With Bob Bartlett in the Far North." Several years ago he accompanied this expedition, collecting birds for the Academy. Mr. Lance gave many details of the home life of the Esquimaux, as well as his encounters with Eider Ducks, Ptarmigans, Glaucous Gulls, Dovekies, Kittiwakes, Ivory Gulls, Jaegers, Arctic Terns, Puffins, Murres and various Sandpipers.

April 4, 1935. Thirty-two members and eight visitors present. Mr. Richard L. Burdsall gave an account of his adventurous "Ascent of Minya Konka," the 24,900 foot snow-capped peak in Szechwan Province, Western China. Chiefly gratified with the completion of this difficult ascent, his party was also delighted to collect a specimen of the Tibetan Grizzly Bear. Incidental were the birds, of which Mr. Burdsall had taken careful note, however. Lantern slides of alpine vistas illustrated this unusual presentation.

April 18, 1935. Twenty-eight members and sixteen visitors present. Mr. Lawrence Taylor reported on the Academy's expedition to "Galapagos and the South Seas," illustrating his comments with moving pictures. The peculiar reptilian fauna of the Galapagos was once more a cause for amazement, while the extraordinarily tame bird life again inspired the envy of city-anchored ornithologists. Birds observed were the Fairy and Sooty Terns, Man-o'-war Bird, Boobies, Mockingbird, Galapagos Hawk, Albatross and Flightless Cormorant.

May 2, 1935. Twenty-three members and eight visitors present. Mr. A. C. Emlen announced that Mr. F. J. Stokes of Darlington, Md., had once again invited the D. V. O. C. to make his home their headquarters on the May 19 field trip to the Susquehanna Valley.

Mr. Joseph Cadbury spoke on a recent trip he had taken, "Reptile Hunting in South Carolina." While he had observed many interesting southern birds, his engaging presentation of a herpetological subject so diverted the minds of his audience into this unaccustomed channel that the evening was devoted almost wholly to a discussion of salamanders, lizards, frogs, toads, snakes, turtles and alligators.

May 16, 1935. Twenty-eight members and five visitors present. Mr. John A. Gillespie again exhibited his industry by presenting a statistical analysis of the "Third Delaware Valley Round-Up." On May 12 there were 24 groups, comprising 37 individuals, afield. One hundred and forty-three species of birds were seen in the Philadelphia Region, 173 in the Delaware Valley Region and 186 in the entire territory covered. The total list for three years is now 216 species.

October 3, 1935. Forty members and twenty visitors present. Mr. A. C. Emlen presented the Club with a framed picture of Dr. Witmer Stone standing beside a sign recently erected at Cape May Point, N. J., bearing the inscription, "Witmer Stone Wild Life Sanctuary."

Dr. Robert M. Stabler spoke, "Introducing Sir Tom Peregrine," his trained Duck Hawk. Interesting as was his account of Falconry, ancient and modern, Dr. Stabler had to step aside as Sir Tom, himself, held the center of the stage, repeatedly flying across the room to the lure. Other trained hawks on display were a Swainson's Hawk, an immature Goshawk, and a Prairie Falcon.

October 17, 1935. Twenty-nine members and seventeen visitors present. Dr. Samuel C. Palmer mentioned many midwestern birds which he saw last summer while travelling "7232.4 Miles Through the Middle West and South" collecting ferns. Among these were the Black Tern, Yellow-headed and Brewer's Blackbirds, Western Meadowlark and Dickeissel. He was successful also in finding the rare Roberts' Oak Fern and Filmy Fern.

November 7, 1935. Twenty-seven members and sixteen visitors present. The following Associates were elected:

Chandler Ross, Chestnut Hill, Pa.

Robert M. Stabler, Ph.D., Wallingford, Pa.

Richard W. De Cou, Crosswicks, N. J.

President Potter appointed a committee composed of Messrs. Stuart, Street and A. C. Emlen to look into ways and means of publishing Dr. Stone's work on the birds of Cape May County.

Mr. Warren F. Eaton addressed the Club on "Problems in Public Education About Hawks and Owls," stating that the chief difficulty in New Jersey is in enforcing the law designed to prevent shooting from highways. Mr. Eaton said that 13,000 hawks had been seen at Cape May this Fall. He showed many excellent slides and moving pictures of raptorial birds.

November 21, 1935. Twenty-six members and eleven visitors present. The recent meeting of the A. O. U. in

Toronto, Canada, was reported upon by Dr. Stone and Messrs. McDonald, Underdown and Robinson. The opinion was unanimous that this had been one of the most enjoyable and worth-while meetings ever held. Attending D. V. O. C. members were fortunate enough to see a Magpie on the field trip.

December 5, 1935. Twenty-seven members and thirteen visitors present. Mr. Tatum announced that in the past five years he had observed 206 species of birds at Brigantine, N. J. The island is now a bird sanctuary, and through Mr. Tatum the D. V. O. C. has been given an invitation from Mr. L. M. Lindsey, Manager of the Brigantine Golf Club, to make the Club House its headquarters on local field trips.

Mr. James Bond spoke on "Birds of the Magdalen Islands," describing a trip taken early in June to this northern region. On Bird Rock there were Gannets, Puffins, Kittiwakes, Murres and Razor-billed Auks. Nesting land-birds of the Islands were many, among them the Fox Sparrow, White-winged Crossbill, Hudsonian Chickadee and Mourning Warbler. A colony of Lincoln Sparrows was discovered at Grand Manan.

December 19, 1935. Twenty-seven members and seven visitors present. Mr. Frederick V. Hebard spoke on "Sight Records and Unnecessary Collecting," making a plea for less shooting of birds where careful field observation could serve as a satisfactory record. This talk stimulated a general discussion. A letter on the subject from Dr. Stone, who could not attend the meeting, was read, while Messrs. Huber, Potter, Baily and Bond stated their opinions of bird collecting.

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January 2, 1936. Thirty members and seven visitors present. Forty-sixth Annual Meeting. At the Active Session the following officers were elected for 1936:

President, Arthur C. Emlen.
Vice President, Wharton Huber.
Secretary, John A. Gillespie.
Treasurer, Henry T. Underdown.

An auditing committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Rehn and Huber.

Mr. J. Fletcher Street reported on the Cape May Christmas Census, taken on Dec. 22. Thirty-seven observers in fourteen teams rounded up 111 species, a new record. The total list for the past five years is 133 species.

Dr. Witmer Stone officiated in a joint presentation by nine members called "Looking Backward—Incidents in the History of the Club." The following contributed reminiscences: Dr. Stone, and Messrs. Baily, Serrill, A. C. Emlen, Street, Stuart, Potter, Gillespie and McDonald.

A group photograph of attending members and guests was taken.

January 16, 1936. Thirty-four members and nine visitors present. The field trip committee for 1936 was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Potter, Pough and Weyl.

Mr. Harry Matthews described "September Bird Life of Cobb's Island." Outstanding were Common and Forster's Terns, Laughing Gulls, Wilson Plovers, Skimmers, Hudsonian Curlews, and 150 Oyster-catchers. Audubon Society moving pictures of breeding birds on this island were shown.

February 6, 1936. Twenty-five members and six visitors present. Dr. Witmer Stone described "A Visit to the McIlhenny Heron Colony in Louisiana." Mr. E. A. McIlhenny, an exponent of bird conservation, had protected herons during the years of their millinery persecution, and now was the happy guardian of a colony of 20,000 birds, mainly Snowy

Egrets, Louisiana and Little Blue Herons and a few American Egrets, Least Bitterns and Green Herons. Colored slides showed the details of this famous breeding colony.

February 20, 1936. Twenty-eight members and sixteen visitors present. Dr. Rodney H. True spoke of his "Early Recollections of the Passenger Pigeon in Wisconsin," stating that as a boy, in 1872, he had shot a dozen at one time. Large flocks were then still a familiar sight. Dr. True listed the following as causes for the birds' disappearance: epidemics, change in migration, destruction of forests where they roosted and fed, and Man.

March 5, 1936. Thirty-seven members and thirteen visitors present. The following Associates were elected:

H. Godwin Stevenson, Jr., Chestnut Hill, Pa.

Henry D. Mirick, Ardmore, Pa.

Hampton L. Carson, Jr., Bryn Mawr, Pa.

John Hess, Philadelphia, Pa.

Richard T. Darby, Philadelphia, Pa.

Ralph C. Peters, Haddonfield, N. J.

Harvey F. Peters, Haddonfield, N. J.

Horace Groskin, Ardmore, Pa.

The Publication Committee reported progress on Dr. Stone's "Birds of Cape May."

Dr. Ernest A. Choate explained many a jaw-breaking ornithological term with his "Bird Words—Ornithological Etymology of Shore Birds." Distributing mimeographed lists of the common and scientific names of birds from Grebes to Turnstones, he commented upon each species, tracing the origin of the bird's titles as far back as recorded language would permit. This carefully prepared talk represented many arduous hours of "field work" with the dictionary.

March 19, 1936. Twenty-nine members and ten visitors present. Major George D. Robinson read a paper on "The History and Purpose of Bird Banding," listing the release and return of Noah's Dove as the first experiment in this field. Mimeographed sheets, distributed among the members, presented "A Few of the Problems That Trapping Station Oper-

ators May Solve." These included birds' permanence of mating, longevity, homing instinct and migration.

An announcement was made of Mr. Richard Pough's appointment to the National Association of Audubon Societies, in charge of Predator Protection. The position was left vacant by the recent death of Mr. Warren F. Eaton.

April 2, 1936. Thirty-eight members and twenty-one visitors present. Mr. James A. G. Rehn described his experiences on the Academy's expedition which travelled "By Motor Truck Across Tropical Africa" in 1934. Mammals, reptiles, fishes, insects and 1300 birds were collected. Among the latter were Hornbills, Weavers, the Forest Guinea, Plantain Eaters, Rollers, Shrikes and Sunbirds. Slides and moving pictures of natives and scenery were shown, a panorama of Mt. Kenya being especially memorable.

April 16, 1936. Thirty-four members and thirteen visitors present. Mr. George H. Stuart, 3d, reported on "A Short Cruise Through the Caribbean to the Spanish Main." During the past winter he visited St. Thomas, Jamaica, Martinique, St. Lucia, and Trinidad. A large variety of Hummingbirds was ever the chief ornithological attraction on these islands. Mr. Stuart read selections from Kingsley's "At Last!" descriptive of the Spanish Main.

May 7, 1936. Thirty-nine members and two visitors present. In "Fifty Years After," Mr. Anthony Robinson compared conditions as seen by him in Florida in 1885 and in 1935. Transportation is such today that one may approach birds' resorts more easily, but many of the birds retreat at Man's advance. The Bok Bird Sanctuary, for example, was practically birdless! Of perennial interest were the Little Blue Herons, Ground Doves, Brown Pelicans and Black Vultures.

Mr. Pough called for coöperators to assist the Linnaean Society of New York in studying next Fall's Hawk flight in Pennsylvania.

May 21, 1936. Thirty-seven members and eight visitors present. Mr. Samuel Scoville made the startling announcement: "Ivory Bills and Carolina Paroquets—A Rediscovery."

Accompanying Messrs. Alexander Sprunt and H. Ravenell Sass into remote cypress swamps of the South, he had soon become convinced that the Ivory-billed Woodpecker still existed there, and finally he had seen one himself. He gave less credence to the natives' reports of having seen flocks of green parrots, although he glimpsed a bird which looked like "a green Mourning Dove."

The Secretary then proceeded to summarize the "Fourth Delaware Valley Round-Up" of May 10. This year eighteen groups, comprising thirty-two individuals, were afield. One hundred and seventy-five species of birds were recorded. Those not seen in previous round-ups were the Eastern Turkey, Pileated Woodpecker, Pine Siskin, Yellow-throated Warbler and Slate-colored Junco. This brings the four-year total to 221 species.

October 1, 1936. Thirty-three members and four visitors present. Mr. William B. Evans read his own "Bird Rhymes," composed in Syria during a long illness some years ago. These ditties, written for children, carried considerable ornithological appeal, particularly in the realm of onomatopoeia. By the mere use of the English language, for example, the speaker conveyed a surprisingly good idea of a House Wren's chattering. Colored sketches added to the attractiveness of this presentation.

Mr. Pough reported that E. J. Reimann, an Associate of the Club, was working as warden on one of the Audubon Society's sanctuaries in Florida.

October 15, 1936. Forty members and ten visitors present. Mr. J. Fletcher Street presented "The Case of the Oölogist." In his opinion most oölogists can be trusted to live up to the laws covering the collection of birds' eggs, whereas 90% of duck hunters will try to exceed legal limits. Mr. Street pointed out the numerous phases of birds' nesting, courtship, and behavior which could be investigated by the conscientious oölogist, but Dr. Stone said that the oölogical magazines contain very little matter of scientific value. Messrs. Stuart, Pough, Weyl, McDonald, Livingston, Carter, Gillespie and McMullen also commented on this interesting problem.

November 5, 1936. Twenty-seven members and five visitors present. The following Associates were elected:

Richard E. Bishop

Herbert Brown

A committee consisting of Messrs. Gillespie, Carson and Weyl was appointed to solicit a donation from the Club toward running expenses of Hawk Mountain for the current season.

"The 1936 A. O. U. Meeting at Pittsburgh" was discussed by Dr. Stone and Messrs. Weyl, Underdown and A. C. Emlen. Bird banding papers held their special interest, while an exhibit of bird paintings by Sutton was also commented upon enthusiastically. The meeting was signalized by Dr. Stone's completion of twenty-five years as Editor of the *Auk* and his retirement from this post.

November 19, 1936. Thirty-seven members and thirteen visitors present. Mr. Hampton L. Carson, Jr., described his impressions of a voyage, "Two Months on the Coast of Labrador." The expedition's primary objective was to collect a quantity of the mineral, Labradorite, a deposit of which is found on a small island. It is used in the manufacture of cheap jewelry. While concluding this business satisfactorily, Mr. Carson slapped at omnipresent mosquitoes and studied the local ornithology. A White-winged Crossbill flew aboard, while on shore were found Puffins, Black Guillemots, Eiders, Northern Phalaropes, Ravens, Willow Ptarmigans and Hudsonian Chickadees. Moving pictures of the trip were shown.

December 3, 1936. Thirty-one members and ten visitors present. Mr. Julian K. Potter gave the Club a lesson in "Bird Bookkeeping." Bringing with him his ornithological notes since 1900, he outlined the several systems of card-indexing and cross-checking which had enabled him to summarize his knowledge of birds in the comprehensive way which has been the envy of other Club members for years. He concluded his talk with a plea for bigger, better and more legible notes.

December 17, 1936. Twenty-seven members and twelve visitors present. Mr. Frederick V. Hebard spoke on "The Ornithologist and Conservation." Fearing that "the Sentimentalist is in the ascendency," and that this would lead to

unwise or impractical game policies, he urged Club members to study birds scientifically and to disseminate the knowledge gained thereby, so that the public could act intelligently in matters of conservation.