

## ABSTRACTS OF PROCEEDINGS, 1943

*January 7, 1943.* Thirty-five members and one visitor were present. Officers and councillors were elected as follows:

John A. Gillespie, *President*  
Norman J. McDonald, *Vice-President*  
Edward S. Weyl, *Secretary*  
Henry T. Underdown, *Treasurer*  
Ernest A. Choate, *Editor*  
James A. G. Rehn, *Councillor*  
J. Fletcher Street, *Councillor*

Samuel N. Rhoads was elected to Honorary Membership, and Benjamin C. Hiatt, Clifford Marburger and Ed. Hill to Corresponding Membership. Joseph M. Cadbury, Ernest A. Choate, Robert L. Haines, Richard F. Miller, Charles E. Mohr, Edward J. Reimann and Frederick C. Schmid, Jr. were elected Fellows. The death of Isaac P. Miller, on December 21, 1942, was announced.

The "Witmer Stone Prize for Ornithological Research" was established for annual award. Reports on the annual Cape May and other Christmas censuses were given by J. Fletcher Street and other members. A National Audubon Society motion picture, "Birds of Field and Orchard," was shown.

*January 21, 1943.* Twenty-nine members were present. Dr. Earl L. Poole spoke of "More Lake Ontelaunee Experiences." He traced the changes in bird life caused by the construction of the Reading Reservoir. He advanced and supported a theory that migration flyways are subject to great variation. His talk was based upon carefully taken notes and was illustrated by colored motion pictures.

*February 4, 1943.* Twenty-nine members and two visitors were present. The By-Laws were amended to permit elections to Active Membership at any regular stated meeting. Dr. J. Harold Austin and J. Charles Tracy were elected to Active Membership. James Bond discussed "The Warblers." It was a presentation, encyclopedic in scope, of the New World warbler family. It combined exhaustive study with sound interpretation.

*February 18, 1943.* Thirty-five members and three visitors were present. Dr. Ernst Mayr, Linnaean Society exchange speaker, read a paper entitled "The Origin of Species in Birds." It was a brilliant study of the problems left unsolved by Darwin, the geneticists and the taxonomists. Partial answers were advanced by Dr. Mayr and gaps to be filled in by amateur field ornithologists were indicated by him. The paper produced an excellent discussion.

*March 4, 1943.* Twenty members and one visitor were present. Because of a blackout the scheduled subject was not presented and instead the Brand

Bird Song Recordings made by Cornell University were played by Charles Mohr.

*March 18, 1943.* Thirty-five members and one visitor were present. Arthur C. LaDow was elected to Active Membership; Dr. Hampton L. Carson, Jr. was transferred to Corresponding Membership; and Philip E. Howard, Jr. resigned. Dr. Robert M. Stabler presented "Observations on Molting in Captive Raptors" which consisted of studies of molting tail feathers. An obstreperous goshawk, one of three birds brought by the speaker, competed vociferously for the attention of the audience. The meeting was climaxed by a demonstration in the Academy Lecture Hall in which a peregrine dismembered a dead pigeon.

*April 1, 1943.* Twenty-four members and two visitors were present. Jerome Kessler spoke on "Personal Experiences with the Birds of North Africa." He described a solitary journey through Morocco and Algeria made by bicycle, on foot and sometimes by bus. The talk was crowded with adventure, anecdotes and wit.

*April 15, 1943.* Thirty-two members and four visitors were present. "A Symposium on the Woodcock" was led by Julian K. Potter. This was a highly successful experiment in programming in which all the members were speakers and contributed their personal observations of the Woodcock. The result was an excellent life history mosaic. There was a demand for more meetings of this type.

*May 6, 1943.* Thirty-four members and two visitors were present. Those attending, together with members of other organizations brought together by a blackout, were treated to an exhibition of magnificent Kodachrome motion pictures of birds, entitled "Flying Colors," photographed and presented by Randolph Ashton.

*May 20, 1943.* Twenty-four members and one visitor were present. Haskell B. Curry, James K. Meritt, and Oliver L. Smith were elected to Active Membership. The subject of the meeting was "Reports on the May 9th Round-up," compiled by Albert E. Conway and presented by members under his chairmanship. This round-up was distinguished from Club May round-ups of earlier years by a day of magnificent weather with an abundance of bird life rarely attained, and by the remarkable observations of men who had no aids to transportation other than shoe leather and no aids to identification other than their naked eyes. One hundred and eighty species were seen by twenty-one groups. Richard Miller, confining himself to a one mile radius and deprived of binoculars, recorded eighty-five species.

*June 17, 1943* (Nineteen members, two visitors); *July 15, 1943* (Nineteen members, one visitor); *August 19, 1943* (Twenty-four members); *September 16, 1943* (Twenty-three members, four visitors). The experiment of informal summer meetings, first undertaken in 1942, was repeated with even greater success. In these meetings all members participate and discuss observations and topics of their own choosing. Dozens of interesting notes

are recorded in the minutes of the proceedings. The death of Richard Erskine on July 7 was announced at the July meeting. Sketches by William Baily were displayed at the August meeting.

*October 7, 1943.* Twenty-six members and two visitors were present. No formal program was provided. Many members presented extemporaneous observations and the meeting generally had the character of an informal summer meeting.

*October 21, 1943.* Twenty-nine members and two visitors were present. A "Symposium on the Duck Hawk" was led by Dr. Ernest A. Choate.

*November 4, 1943.* Thirty-three members and five visitors were present. Frederick V. Hebard spoke under the title of "Goatsuckers and Woodpeckers of Southeast Georgia." His talk consisted chiefly of his own careful observations of the life histories of the birds of the families named and of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird and of the Eastern Belted Kingfisher. It was an interesting and excellent example of the value of thorough amateur field work.

*November 18, 1943.* Thirty members and three visitors were present. Dr. Morton McMichael was elected to Active Membership. George L. Harrison, Jr. resigned. Don Eckelberry, of the National Audubon Society, spoke on "Summer on the Rainey." Mr. Eckelberry, who served as warden of the Rainey Sanctuary in Louisiana, gave a vivid account of the summer birds of the area. Many of his observations were made by boat. He gave an equally vivid but less friendly account of the flies and mosquitoes he encountered. His talk was supplemented by colored motion pictures.

*December 2, 1943.* Twenty-six members were present. James Bond addressed the Club on "West Indian Highlights." The speaker, who is the outstanding expert on West Indian birds, spoke of the most interesting species and described many personal observations. He pointed out the similarity of many birds of that area to birds of the United States. He discussed the threats to West Indian species due to hunting and to the introduction of the mongoose. His talk was illustrated with bird skins from the Academy collection.

*December 16, 1943.* Twenty-one members and six visitors were present. John C. Knox and Ensign Thomas Quay were elected to Active Membership. The publication of "A Check-List of the Birds of Chester County, Pennsylvania," prepared by Albert E. Conway, a member, was announced. Norman J. McDonald spoke on "John Gould and 'The Birds of Australia'." Mr. McDonald gave one of his beautifully rounded talks. He pictured Gould as a prolific producer, indefatigable explorer and researcher, gifted artist, hard-headed business man, taxidermist, publisher and jack-of-all trades. The talk was illustrated by four of the folio volumes of "The Birds of Australia" and by the display of many of the century-old Gould bird skins from the Academy collection. Comparisons of the plates and skins were made.