

## ABSTRACTS OF PROCEEDINGS, 1944

COMPILED BY JOSEPH M. CADBURY

January 6, 1944. Forty-two members and three visitors attended the 54th annual meeting. The following officers and councillors were elected for the coming year:

Norman J. McDonald, *President*  
Edward S. Weyl, *Vice-President*  
Henry T. Underdown, *Treasurer*  
Joseph M. Cadbury, *Secretary*  
Ernest A. Choate, *Editor*  
James Bond, *Councillor*  
Dale R. Coman, *Councillor*

Dale R. Coman, Quintin Kramer, Edward H. Rigby, C. Chandler Ross, James L. Whitaker, and Courtland Y. White were unanimously elected to the classification of Fellows.

"Clifton Fadiman" McDonald conducted an ornithological "information please" with Street, Potter, Miller, Bond and Choate serving as the panel. Questions solicited from leading ornithologists failed to stump the experts.

At the close of the program Victor Debes presented the Witmer Stone award to Richard Miller for his paper on the pied-billed grebe.

January 20, 1944. Thirty members and three visitors present. John Gillespie was elected to fill the unexpired term of Joseph M. Cadbury on the council.

The following committees were appointed: *Field Trips*: Quintin Kramer, Edward Manners, Victor Debes and Joseph Jacobs. *Archives and Documents*: Charles Mohr, James Bond and Henry Underdown. *Planning Committee*: Dale Coman, Richard Miller, Robert Haines and Charles Mohr.

The Rigby brothers combined to describe a trip to the Dry Tortugas and the east coast of Florida. Many unusual Florida birds were seen. The talk was illustrated with maps, slides and photographs of birds and scenery.

February 3, 1944. Thirty-one members and five visitors present. James Fitzgibbon and David Cutler were elected to active membership.

Charles Rogers presented a discussion of the diurnal birds of prey. In his usual scholarly manner he described the characteristics of the group as a whole followed by more detailed descriptions of the various families of this large order of birds.

February 17, 1944. Twenty five members and two visitors present. The exchange speaker from the Linnean society was Mr. Irvin Cassoy who described his experiences studying barn owls at Pelham Bay Park and along the Bronx River in Bronx County, New York. Detailed studies were made of

the birds over a period of several years using special equipment. The result was a most interesting and instructive talk covering the whole life history of these nocturnal birds.

March 2, 1944. Thirty-two members and two visitors present. The following proposed amendment to the by-laws was passed at this meeting:

Article IV, Section 1, the first sentence shall read—All elections of officers and counsellors shall be by written ballot. Elections to membership may, at the discretion of the presiding officer, be by the show of hands.

“An Oologist’s Experiences” was the title of the talk presented by Mr. James Gillen. The speaker told many interesting stories of egg collecting in Pennsylvania and Alberta, Canada. The talk was illustrated by a large series of eggs from the speaker’s extensive collection.

March 16, 1944. Thirty-five members and five visitors present. George Sivel traced the development of birds from reptilian ancestors through a hypothetical proavian and archyornis up to present day birds. An excellent series of charts and drawings illustrated both similarities and differences between ancient and modern birds.

April 6, 1944. Thirty-three members and five visitors present. Experiences of a nest collector were vividly described by John D. Carter. Methods of nest hunting and a number of unique techniques for obtaining nests in difficult situations were pointed out. The talk was illustrated with several nests from the speaker’s collection. At the close of the meeting Norman McDonald introduced Lt. Commander Richard Harlow who told of some interesting studies of black-footed and Laysan albatrosses in the Pacific. He reported that many birds are being killed on Pacific islands but that every reasonable effort is being made to protect them and that few are in danger of extinction.

April 20, 1944. Twenty-seven members and three visitors present. At this meeting it was decided to raise the price of Cassinia from one dollar to one dollar and a half. With the aid of colored slides and movies Mr. Arthur La Dow described the flora and fauna of the Pine Barrens of New Jersey. The historical as well as the scientific interest of the region was pointed out. Geological reasons for the isolation of a number of forms in this area were discussed.

May 4, 1944. Nineteen members and eight visitors present. Under the title, “Camping on Popocatepetl at 14,000 Feet”, Mr. Francis Tomlin described his experiences on a trip to various parts of Mexico. An excellent kodachrome movie showed pictures of tropical plants and animals and closed with unusual shots of Mexico’s new volcano, Paracutin, in action.

May 18, 1944. Twenty-nine members and five visitors present. James Kercher, Joseph Corlies Hastings, Edward Earnshaw Hastings, Winston Sheppard and Ralph Preston were elected to active membership. Quintin Kramer reported on the results of the annual spring roundup on May 14 which produced a list of 173 species.

July 7, 1944. Informal meeting. Eighteen members and four visitors present.

August 6, 1944. Informal meeting. Fourteen members and one visitor present.

September 7, 1944. Informal meeting. Sixteen members and six visitors present.

The procedure at these meetings consisted of informal discussion as in past summers.

October 6, 1944. Thirty-four members and three visitors present. The death of J. Fletcher Street during the summer was announced at this meeting and the secretary was instructed to prepare a resolution on his passing to be included in the minutes. "St. Petersburg, Florida, Bird Notes for March and April 1943," was the subject of William E. Roberts who described his first experiences with Florida subspecies. A number of Florida birds were described and illustrated by skins from the Academy's collection.

October 19, 1944. Thirty-five members and six visitors present. Charles Rogers continued his series of talks on bird groups with, "The Shorebirds of the World." Particular emphasis was given to those species which do not occur in our region. As usual his talk was most interesting and instructive and was well illustrated by skins from the Academy's collection.

November 2, 1944. Thirty-seven members and seven visitors present. In, "Wild Plants and Animals in Natural Color," Dr. Edward S. Thomas of the Ohio State Museum took his audience on a tour of the Ohio countryside through the seasons. Fine kodachrome movies of frogs, insects and flowers were included with those of the native birds.

November 16, 1944. Thirty-three members and six visitors present. Dr. Morton McCutcheon was elected to active membership. Robert L. Haines was elected to fill the unexpired term of J. Fletcher Street on the council. Charles Mohr and James Bond were appointed to serve as the Witmer Stone award committee. Julian Potter led a general discussion on "The Fall Migration."

December 7, 1944. Thirty-two members and three visitors present. William H. Miller was elected to active membership. John H. Arnett Jr. read a paper entitled, "Origins of Bird Migration", in which he discussed the various theories as to the causes which instigated this phenomenon. He pointed out that many of these causes are obscure and probably no longer exist making their determination extremely difficult.

December 21, 1944. Twenty-five members and four visitors present. Since aerodynamics is his profession, James Rigby was particularly well fitted to discuss, "The Aerodynamics of Ornithology." By means of charts the motion of the wings and the forces acting upon them during flight were explained. Both aerodynamic and physiological aspects of flight were discussed.