

## ABSTRACTS OF PROCEEDINGS

COMPILED BY JOSEPH M. CADBURY

*January 4, 1945.* Forty members and six visitors attended the 55th 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*  
Julian K. Potter, *Councillor*  
John A. Gillespie, *Councillor*

The Witmer Stone award for 1944 was presented to Richard Miller for his article in "Cassinia" on the Great Blue Heron. At the same time the committee recommended a citation to Robert Newman for his contribution to the preparation of the article. Reports of the Cape May and other Christmas censuses were given by Dale Coman and other members.

President McDonald showed a series of slides culled from various sources including a series of Witmer Stone's showing early activities of the club. Mark Robinson then gave a thrilling account of a recent hunting trip climaxed by the shooting of a stuffed loon.

*January 18, 1945.* Thirty-two members and eight visitors present. The following committees were appointed: *Field Trips:* Jacobs, Manners, Coman and Kramer. *Planning Committee:* Haines, Miller and Mohr. *Archives and Documents:* Mohr, Bond and Woolman. *Publications* Choate, Mohr, C. Y. White, Kramer, Ross, Newman and Arnett.

Don Eckleberry addressed the club on the topic, "Afield with the Birds of California." He described the various habitats which he had visited and some of the birds to be found in each one. Altogether 254 species of birds were observed although subspecies caused considerable difficulty. Two reels of pictures were shown which had been taken on the Audubon Society's "Western Wildlife Tours."

*February 1, 1945.* Twenty-five members and one visitor present. A. F. Wendler, William R. Middleton, Waldemar H. Fries and Walter A. Freyburger were elected to active membership. Under the title "Some Bird Words—3000 B. C. to 1945 A. D." Ernest Choate proceeded to trace a number of bird words from their origins in the Ural Mountains through various languages up to their present derivatives. The talk showed careful research and preparation and was accompanied by gestures and vocal interpretations which added much to its enjoyment.

*February 15, 1945.* Thirty-four members and one visitor present. Edwin Finkel and John Register were elected to active membership. Eugene Eisenman, the exchange speaker from the Linnean Society, presented "Notes on the Birds of Panama." Because of its location at the junction of North and South America few countries of comparable size can claim as many species of birds as Panama. The speaker described the many varied habitats, song, courtship and nesting. He also described a number of unusual birds which he illustrated with skins from the Academy's collection.

*March 1, 1945.* Thirty-eight members and one visitor present. Jacobs reported on the field trip to Seaside Park, N. J. Forty-two species of birds were observed as well as ninety-two dead birds of sixteen species. William E. Roberts presented a talk entitled, "Ten Days in Yosemite National Park," in which he described a trip which he and his wife took to this area in the summer of 1943. The speaker told of the geology and scenery of this area as well as the birds and accompanied his talk with a fine series of Kodachrome slides.

*March 15, 1945.* Forty-three members and five visitors present. Lt. Commander John Hess, recently returned from "down under" presented an unusually fine talk entitled "Afield with the Birds of Australia." With the aid of local naturalists he obtained a remarkable series of motion pictures of the birds of this little known continent. Outstanding was a reel showing the life history of the Lyre-bird, photographed for the first time in color. Parrots, warblers, flycatchers, finches, pigeons, mynahs, bee-eaters and the famous kukuburra provided a continuous array of color. Also included were many of the unusual mammals of the region such as the echidna, platypus and koala bear. Most of the pictures were taken in the vicinity of Melbourne where Hess was stationed and many were of species never before photographed. This was an outstanding program which will long be remembered by those present.

*April 5, 1945.* Thirty-three members and four visitors present. James Gillen brought to the club an entertaining account of his experiences as an egg collector. His quest for new species took him to many unusual places. The talk represented reminiscences of many happy days spent in the field.

*April 19, 1945.* Thirty-six members and two visitors present. Allen W. Stokes brought to the club an interesting account of his experiences last summer working with Aldo Leopold under the title "Nest Studies at the University of Wisconsin." The studies were carried out on the University's arboretum where an attempt is being made to reproduce as many as possible of the habitats which are found in that part of the country. Although Stokes worked on both the goldfinch and the Alder Flycatcher he confined his remarks to the former species.

*May 3, 1945.* Twenty-five members and four visitors present. In the absence of James Bond, James Whitaker led a discussion on bird migration. Interest centered around the causes of migration and how birds find their way. Several theories of migration were presented and discussed.

*May 17, 1945.* Thirty-nine members and one visitor present. Edward Lukens, Robert Lockwood and Harry Brown were elected to active membership. This meeting was devoted to reports on the spring roundup led by Joe Jacobs. The consensus of opinion seemed to indicate a good variety of birds but rather small numbers of individuals. Warblers in particular were low in numbers. Twenty groups, comprising fifty-five individuals saw a total of two hundred and four species.

*June 6, 1945.* Nineteen members and three visitors present.

*July 5, 1945.* Thirteen members and four visitors present.

*August 2, 1945.* Thirty members and four visitors present.

*September 6, 1945.* Twenty-five members and six visitors present.

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

*October 4, 1945.* Thirty-eight members and seven visitors present. The speaker of the evening was James Gillen who described his experiences in searching for the nest of the elusive Swainson's Warbler in West Virginia. A nest was discovered which proved to be the second breeding record for the state as another one had been discovered three days before. Observations on the plants and other birds of the region added to the interest of the talk.

*October 18, 1945.* Thirty-five members and five visitors present. Duncan McIntosh was elected to active membership. William Bacon Evans addressed the club on, "Some Bird Portraits and Portrait Painters." Starting with the cave men and early Egyptian hieroglyphics the speaker traced the development of bird painting down to modern artists. He then told of his own experiences with bird painting and displayed a number of his pictures.

*November 1, 1945.* Thirty-six members and five visitors present. Edward Ward and Edwin Moul were elected to active membership. This meeting served as a memorial to our departed member, Fletcher Street. Samuel Scoville, his lifelong friend and companion, told of his first meeting with Fletcher and recounted numerous adventures which they shared together. Other members then went on to tell of their reminiscences. In closing Scoville expressed the feeling that the meeting had been conducted in the spirit which Street would have approved.

*November 15, 1945.* Thirty-three members and five visitors present. Julian Potter led a "Symposium on Hawk Migration." Members were asked in advance to keep a record of the fall flight and to come prepared to discuss their findings. The consensus of opinion seemed to indicate that there is a general flight of hawks throughout the east with certain areas of concentration such as Hawk Mountain and the New Jersey coast.

*December 6, 1945.* Thirty-one members and seven visitors present. Gillespie, Choate and White were appointed to the Witmer Stone Award Committee. The meeting consisted of several short talks by members entitled "Personal Experiences." Harry Goldstein started off by telling of the birds he had seen while at an Army hospital near Cape Henry, Virginia. Julian

Potter then identified a series of kodachrome slides of birds and flowers which had been taken by Dale Coman in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey. In conclusion Jim Bond presented a discussion of subspecies. This proved to be a very enlightening presentation of a very perplexing problem.

*December 20, 1945.* Twenty-four members and five visitors present. Phillips Street and Francis Trembley were elected to active membership. "Birding in the West Indies through the Courtesy of the U. S. Navy," was described by Phillips Street. During a period of nine months a list of one hundred and fifty species of birds were observed on the islands of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and the Bahamas. Kodachrome slides were shown of many of the places visited.