

ABSTRACTS OF PROCEEDINGS, 1946

COMPILED BY JOSEPH M. CADBURY

January 3, 1946. Fifty-five members and nine visitors attended the 56th 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*
Edward J. Reimann, *Councillor*
Robert L. Haines, *Councillor*

Earle Poole was elected to honorary membership. Edward Manners and Joseph Jacobs were elected as Fellows.

The Witmer Stone award was presented to Dale Coman for his article "Ducks Along the Delaware." Honorable mention went to Horace Groskin for "Chimney Swifts Roosting at Ardmore, Pennsylvania."

James Rehn and Charles Mohr were appointed to serve as the auditing committee.

Reports of the Cape May and other Christmas censuses were given by those who participated.

The feature of the evening was an array of duck skins prepared by Nelson Hoy entitled "Ducks on Parade." These were held up for inspection and identification by those present.

The meeting concluded with the usual sumptuous repast.

January 17, 1946. Fifty members and ten visitors present. Alfred Nicholson, Jr. was elected to active membership.

Richard Bishop showed "Super Speed Pictures of Game Birds in Flight." These were mostly pictures of ducks including a shot of a green-winged teal flying upside down.

February 7, 1946. Fifty-seven members and eight visitors present. Daniel Batezel was elected to active membership.

The following amendment to the by-laws was passed at this meeting: Article V, Section 1 shall read, "The annual membership fee for Fellows and Active members shall be three dollars."

The following committees were appointed for the coming year: Field Trips: Joseph Jacobs, Lawrence Corn, Edward Manners, Herbert Manners and James Wright. Planning Committee: Julian Potter, Robert Haines and James Rigby. Program Committee: Ernest A. Choate, Fred Schmid, Edward Weyl and Charles Mohr. Publications Committee: Ernest A. Choate, Roy

Imstick, Courtland White, Chandler Ross, John Arnett, Dale Coman, Quintin Kramer and Charles Mohr. Archives and Documents: Edward Woolman, William Serrill, James Bond and Charles Mohr.

Charles Rogers returned to the club to continue his series on the families of birds with a discussion of the owls. Starting with a discussion of the group as a whole he went on to describe representatives of the many genera of owls from all over the world.

February 21, 1946. Forty-six members and eight visitors present. With the aid of colored motion pictures, Edward Woolman described a trip which he took with his family to the Pacific Northwest. The trip extended to the interior of Alaska and the pictures showed the rugged beauty of this area and included a number of shots of birds, animals and plants.

March 7, 1946. Forty-one members and five visitors present. The exchange speaker from the Linnean Society was Hustace Poor who described the results of a color banding project carried on by the society with herring gulls. Studies were made of migration and plumage changes with the age and origin known. A most interesting and carefully prepared discussion.

March 21, 1946. Fifty members and seven visitors present. Under the title "A Naturalist in Uniform," Fred Ulmer told of his birding experiences with the army in the British Isles. Birds in Britain were found to be numerous in individuals but comparatively few in species. The talk was illustrated with slides made from photographs taken in England.

April 4, 1946. Forty-five members and six visitors present. Dr. Edward E. Wildman was elected to honorary membership.

Ernest Choate discussed "The Birds of Ancient Egypt, An Armchair Adventure in Avian Curiosity." In his usual scholarly fashion he told of the ninety species of birds which have been identified from Egyptian hieroglyphics. The talk was illustrated with slides and a film strip showing tracings and drawings of some of the species found in early records.

April 18, 1946. Thirty-eight members and four visitors present. J. Russell Sprow and Irving Zeidman were elected to active membership.

Harry Goldstein described some of the difficulties of G. I. birding under the title of "European Birds." One hundred and sixty-one species of birds were observed during four and one-half months abroad. The speaker described many of the birds observed and illustrated them with an excellent series of sketches.

May 2, 1946. Fifty-two members and four visitors present. Chester Reagan was elected to active membership.

Another of our G. I. members returned to tell of his wartime experiences. Accompanied by an excellent series of Kodachrome slides, Fred Schmid described, "Four Seasons in the Yukon." In spite of snow and cold he managed to get afield all through the year to observe the birds and animals of the region. Two hundred and sixty species of plants were collected some of which were exhibited at the meeting.

May 16, 1946. Forty-six members and eight visitors present. Edward Manners led a discussion on the annual spring roundup. Twenty groups of observers saw two hundred and twelve species of birds as compared to two hundred and two last year.

June 6, 1946. Twenty-five members and eight visitors present.

July 11, 1946. Thirteen members and five visitors present.

August 1, 1946. Twenty-three members and five visitors present.

September 6, 1946. Twenty-six members and nine visitors present. The procedure at these meetings consisted of informal discussion as in past summers.

October 3, 1946. Thirty-two members and seven visitors present. Ernest Choate led a discussion on "Cassinia" entitled "Confessions of an Editor." He described the difficulty of getting suitable material and urged members to make contributions. He suggested a number of changes in the magazine.

October 17, 1946. Thirty-nine members and thirteen visitors present. J. D'Arcy Northwood illustrated his talk on "Familiar Hawaiian Birds" with slides from the plates of the book of which he is the author and with skins from the Academy's collection. Many species of birds have become extinct because of the introduction of the mongoose and of bird diseases. As a result many species of birds have been introduced after receiving careful study.

November 7, 1946. Thirty-nine members and six visitors present. Paul Schwalbe, Paul Martin, Hamilton Gilkyson and John Heaventhal were elected to active membership.

Charles Rogers returned to address the club on the "Goatsuckers." As in the past he gave a masterful presentation discussing life histories, relationships, habits and plumages of this interesting group of birds. The talk was illustrated with skins from his own and the Academy's collection.

November 21, 1946. George Spinner, the newly appointed warden, spoke to the club on "The Work of the Bombay Hook Wildlife Refuge." After a brief description of the area he went on to tell of his plans for future development. Although primarily a refuge for ducks and geese the refuge will provide protection and cover for many other species. The talk concluded with an interesting discussion of the ecology of a salt marsh.

December 5, 1946. Thirty-seven members and eight visitors present. The following committees were appointed: Nominating committee: Julian Potter, Edward Reimann and Victor Debes. Witmer Stone Award Committee: Ernest Choate, Waldemar Fries and Roy Imsick. Auditing Committee: James Bond and Charles Mohr.

Under the title "Tamarack" Edward Reimann described a trip which he and Dick Miller took through western Pennsylvania. Inspired by Todd's book they set out to explore some of the tamarack swamp areas of this section of the state. The talk was accompanied by a fine series of slides of birds, nests and flowers.

December 19, 1946. Fifty-three members and twelve visitors present. John B. Austin was elected to active membership. An amendment to the

by-laws setting up sustaining memberships at ten dollars or more was passed unanimously.

John Dornan again brought to the club a fine series of Kodachrome movies entitled "More Backyard Birds." These included some fine life history shots of local species as well as a number of views of winter feeding and of water and shore birds.

THE COVER

The new cover was drawn by Conrad Roland. The change of illustration for the cover is a new policy which we hope will continue with each issue. Our idea is that communication is not confined to the printed word. A new drawing or photograph on the cover each issue will give an opportunity to a member of the club to share his work with a wider audience.

The selection of the Philadelphia Vireo for the cover was made for two reasons. First, it was originally described in the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia in 1851. In the second place, while one other of our eastern North American birds, the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, was also first described in these proceedings; the Philadelphia Vireo is the only one for which John Cassin is responsible. As Cassinia was named in his honor, it seemed appropriate to depict a bird with which he was intimately connected on the journal which bears his name.

It is not without a pang that we bid farewell to our faithful crow. He has flown across or, perhaps more accurately, has been about to fly across the cover of over 14,000 copies in the course of the last 45 years. As he is composed of cork linoleum, his life span is about over. He might have made one more flight over 315 copies but we think he should retire with full honors while still in possession of all his most admirable parts.

Corvus, ave atque vale.