



WILLIAM L. BAILLY

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1861-1947

WILLIAM J. SERRILL

William L. Baily was born in Philadelphia, and died at Haverford, Pennsylvania. His entire life was spent in the city or its suburbs. His wife, two sons and a daughter and three grandchildren survive him.

Mr. Baily graduated from Haverford College in the Class of 1883. Architecture was his profession. Many beautiful and useful buildings testify to his skill. He was active in athletics from the time of his youth, excelling in the games of bowling, cricket, tennis and golf. He took an important part in the associations that were connected with his profession and his activities.

Mr. Baily was a birth-right member of the religious Society of Friends, and was an active member throughout his long life. A sterling character, an attractive talker, a faithful friend, he was respected and beloved by all who knew him.

His interest in birds began early in his undergraduate days; it lasted as long as he lived; if anything, becoming more intense in the latter years. He soon became a member of the A. O. U., and in the course of his life became an intimate friend of, and took bird trips with, several well-known ornithologists of an early date. At the start, as was the general practice at that time, he began to make a collection of bird skins, which, in the course of a few years grew to as many as eight hundred skins—a collection which is now, by the gift of Mr. Baily, the property of the Academy of Natural Sciences. Later he was strongly opposed to the shooting of specimens by collectors, and became a vigorous conservationist.

He was one of the earliest (1895) photographers in America to take pictures of birds in their natural haunts. He took hundreds of such pictures, and used self-colored slides in numerous lectures. Being skillful in sketching, he made many beautiful hand sketches of birds, which in recent years he took pleasure in passing around among the members of the D. V. O. C. at club meetings. Mr. Baily not only sketched and photographed birds but wrote about them. He contributed articles to *Cassinia*, *The Auk* and *Bird Lore*.

In the year 1900, Mr. Baily received a government appointment as Inspector of Birds and Mammals at the Port of Philadelphia, and during the past forty-five years he inspected over a million birds, mammals and reptiles, which were imported into the United States from foreign countries.

In the year 1890 Mr. Baily founded the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club. He was not only one of the founders, but he was par excellence the founder; he invited a group of friends to his home, then in the city, and proposed the formation of a bird club. Dr. Witmer Stone, then a professional

ornithologist with the Academy of Natural Sciences, attended the second meeting, and at once became a leading member.

One of Mr. Baily's principal activities during the last two or three years of his life was the preparation of a list, with dates, of all the birds that have been recorded as having been seen on the spacious, beautiful campus of Haverford College since the date of his graduation, a space of over sixty years. He worked persistently for many months in the effort to make this list complete and the dates correct. When completed the list, comprising 207 varieties, was published in the Haverford College Review, and a type-written copy, with heavy binding, is hung where undergraduate bird lovers may easily consult it.

To be his companion in the field was a real privilege. His senses were so acute, his interest so intense, that every moment was vitalized. His ear was remarkable for the ability with which it could pick out, in the midst of a loud chorus of bird song, a nearly inaudible song, like that of the Blue-winged Warbler. A slim figure, of upright carriage and easy step, he was a tireless walker, always reluctant to leave the field.

And so he remained almost until his death. In a sense, his passing marked the close of the first era of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club.