

ABSTRACTS OF PROCEEDINGS, 1947-1948

COMPILED BY JOSEPH M. CADBURY

January 2, 1947. Fifty-three members and eleven visitors attended the 57th annual meeting. The following officers and councillors were elected for the coming year:

Edward S. Weyl, *President.*
Robert L. Haines, *Vice-president.*
Henry T. Underdown, *Treasurer.*
Joseph M. Cadbury, *Secretary.*
Ernest A. Choate, *Editor.*
Frederick A. Ulmer, Jr., *Councillor.*
Joseph Jacobs, *Councillor.*

Frederick A. Ulmer, Jr. and Raymond J. Middleton were elected as Fellows.

The Witmer Stone award was presented to Courtland White for his article, "The Birds of Walt Whitman." Honorable mention went to Edward Manners for "Shore Birds Along the Delaware."

A copy of Pough's "Audubon Bird Guide" was presented to Henry Underdown in recognition of his twenty years' service as treasurer of the club.

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

Nelson Hoy staged a hawk quiz in which members attempted to identify twenty-eight hawks from skins. Nobody succeeded in naming them all correctly.

McDonald spoke of the three living founders of the club. Samuel Rhodes was not able to attend. A telephone message was received from Charles Voelker expressing his regrets at being unable to be present. The third founder, William Baily, showed some slides of his early photographs and drawings. He went on to tell of his many field trips in North and South America and concluded with some of his experiences as Federal inspector of birds and animals entering the Port of Philadelphia.

"Cassinova, A Bird of an Annual," made its appearance at this meeting. This proved to be a clever take-off of "Cassinia," lampooning members and activities of the club.

The meeting concluded with the usual sumptuous repast.

January 16, 1947. Forty-five members and eight visitors present. Norman J. McDonald was elected to fill the vacancy on the council. Horace McCann was transferred to honorary membership.

The following committees were appointed at this meeting: communications committee: Ernest Choate and Phillips Street. Field trips: Joseph Jacobs, Lawrence Corn, Herbert Cutler, James Wright, Edward Manners, and Waldemar Fries.

Joseph Cadbury presented "A Naturalist's Rambles Along the Maine Coast." The talk was accompanied by Kodachrome slides of birds, mammals, marine life and fishing scenes.

February 5, 1947. Forty-nine members and twelve visitors present. Charles Wonderly, Jesse Atkins, Andrew Stewart, Philip Marvin and William Reynolds were elected to active membership.

Livingston, Manners and Lukens were appointed to serve as the library committee.

Through the medium of kodachrome slides, Philip Livingston conducted a tour of "Bird Places." These included a wide variety of scenes of ornithological interest from Maine to Virginia.

February 19, 1947. Twenty-seven members and five visitors present. "Operation Gannet" proved to be an account of a trip which Norman McDonald took to Bonaventure Island last summer. The program opened with an innovation in the form of a sound transcription of the Zoo program over KYW on which McDonald was guest speaker. He then went on to describe the life history and morphology of gannets with the aid of charts and specimens. A series of Kodachrome slides showed scenes along the route and Bonaventure Island with its nesting colonies.

March 6, 1947. Forty-one members and seven visitors present. Dr. Warner F. Sheldon was elected to active membership.

Gillespie, Mohr, Ulmer, Corn, Kramer and Debes were appointed to serve on the conservation committee.

John Hess returned to the club with "More About Australia." With the aid of beautiful Kodachrome movies he described many of the interesting birds and mammals of this region where he was stationed during the war. A very fine sequel to his former talk.

March 20, 1947. Forty-six members and seven visitors present. Jack Roberge and Jesse Lamplugh were elected to active membership. Choate, Arnett, Coman, Kramer, Mohr, Imsick, Ross and White were appointed to the publications committee.

The evening's program consisted of an open forum led by a panel of experts who posed questions on nestlings and fledglings. The discussion brought out many little known facts about young birds.

April 3, 1947. Forty-one members and two visitors present. Richard Fischer of the Linnean Society discussed "Some Techniques and Results of Bird Banding." With a zeal that proved to be contagious he explained methods, problems and results of banding. He discussed types of migration and pointed out how banding had helped to solve some of the problems involved. Several color banding projects were mentioned. He concluded with the possible effect of supersonic vibrations on birds.

April 17, 1947. Forty-six members and ten visitors present. The death of William Baily, the last active founder of the club, was announced.

Clifton Lisle spoke on "Iceland," where he was stationed as liaison officer during the war. Although admittedly not an ornithologist, his interest in birds led to many interesting and unusual experiences. Birds proved to be exceptionally abundant around some of the interior lakes in summer but were almost absent in winter. The eiderdown industry, which has been carried on for hundreds of years, was discussed at some length.

May 1, 1947. Thirty-eight members and four visitors present. The feature of the evening was a Department of Agriculture sound film entitled "The Realm of the Wild," consisting of scenes of game birds and mammals in the national forests. The running commentary stressed the balance of nature and the use of wildlife resources based on sound principles of conservation. This was followed by a short film of a road runner battling a rattlesnake.

May 15, 1947. Fifty-one members and five visitors present. The death of John Carter was reported.

Manners summarized the annual spring roundup held on May 11. Fifty-three observers saw two-hundred and eight species of birds. Group leaders reported the highlights of the day.

The remainder of the meeting was taken up with the showing of three motion pictures. The first was a Fox Movietone reel entitled "Birds of the Sea," showing a wide variety of oceanic birds. The second was an excellent film entitled "Wild Wings," showing birds of Laysan Island. The last was a real Hollywood thriller in which two intrepid mountaineers capture a ferocious "King Vulture."

June 5, 1947. Twenty-three members and three visitors present.

July 3, 1947. Twenty-four members and two visitors present.

August 7, 1947. Twenty-five members and four visitors present.

September 4, 1947. Twenty-seven members and seven visitors present.

The procedure at the summer meetings consisted of informal discussion.

October 2, 1947. Fifty-seven members and six visitors present. The first part of the evening was given over to summer experiences of members. This was followed by a symposium on fall warblers led by James Bond and Quintin Kramer. Bond first described the sequence of moults. Then Kramer produced a series of questions on warbler identification. In conclusion a number of warbler skins were displayed and members asked to identify them.

October 16, 1947. Forty-three members and eight visitors present. Charles Rogers returned to the club to continue his series on birds of the world. This time he took up the "Icterids," a new world group comprising about ninety-six species. The talk was illustrated with skins from the Academy's collection and as usual left little to be desired.

November 6, 1947. Forty-seven members and nine visitors present. Herbert Mills, William B. Marx II and Edward J. F. Marx were elected to active membership.

Richard Miller presented "Notes on the Birds of San Luis Potosi." Leaving on April 12 he journeyed to Mexico where he joined Robert Newman to collect for the Louisiana State University museum. Three hundred and thirty-two species were observed during his four and a half month stay. Nests of sixty-five species were discovered. The talk was illustrated with skins from the Academy's collection and accompanied by imitations of calls of a number of species.

November 20, 1947. Forty-one members and five visitors present. Robert Bennett was elected to active membership. Frederick Hebard brought to the club a discussion of "Breeding and Other Warblers of South-eastern Georgia." He opened by pointing out that nine species of north-eastern warblers do not occur in southeastern coastal Georgia, indicating that they migrate around rather than across the Gulf of Mexico. He then went on to discuss the birds of the area. Most of the material was drawn from his own observations and represented the results of many hours in the field.

December 4, 1947. Forty-two members and eleven visitors present. The death of Dr. William Pepper was announced. Alan Crawford, Jr. was elected to active membership. McDonald, Jacobs and Ulmer were appointed to the nominating committee, Ross and Hebard to the auditing committee.

Sparmaker, Robinson, McDonald and Livingston presented "Bonnets, Bromeliads, and Beetles." This proved to be an account of a seventeen day, 3400 mile trip to Florida and the Okeefinokee swamp. One hundred and seventy-three species of birds were observed. The talk was illustrated by Kodachrome slides of many of the places visited.

December 18, 1947. Forty-six members and seven visitors present. Frank McLaughlin and George Regensburg were elected to active membership.

John Arnett entertained the club with "Altitudinal Birding—Its Ups and Downs." A summer job on a dude ranch near Dubois, Wyoming, provided the opportunity for a variety of birding experiences. Particular attention was given to the birds which occurred at different altitudes. The talk was illustrated with a beautiful series of Kodachrome slides and with skins from the Academy's collection.

January 8, 1948. Fifty-seven members and seven visitors attended the annual meeting. The following officers and councillors were elected for the coming year:

Edward S. Weyl, *President.*
 Robert L. Haines, *Vice-president.*
 Joseph M. Cadbury, *Secretary.*
 Henry T. Underdown, *Treasurer.*
 Ernest A. Choate, *Editor.*
 Julian K. Potter, *Councillor.*
 Dale R. Coman, *Councillor.*

Albert Conway, Lawrence Corn, Frederick Hebard and Phillips Street were elected as Fellows.

Jacob B. Abbott was elected to active membership.

The Witmer Stone Award was presented to Edward Manners for his article, "Shorebirds Along the Delaware."

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

The feature of the evening was an "Information Please" contest between representatives from Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The meeting then adjourned to partake of offerings of the refreshment committee.

January 22, 1948. Forty-one members and seven visitors present. Ernest Choate, John Arnett, Jr., James Bond, Dale Coman, Horace Groskin, Roy Imsick, Chandler Ross, Phillips Street and Courtland White were appointed to the Publication Committee.

Henry Woolman provided the entertainment of the evening with a series of Kodachrome movies entitled "Western Pack Trips." Also included were scenes from the Great Smokies and the Horseshoe Trail in Pennsylvania.

February 5, 1948. Fifty-three members and nine visitors present. Phillips Street was appointed to serve as the communications committee. Lukens and Ross were appointed to the committee on migration.

Julian Potter spoke on "Shore Birds Limited." He told of the increase of this group under protection and classified them according to size and to the amount of white in the plumage. He also emphasized the value of call notes in identification.

February 19, 1948. Forty-three members and seven visitors present. Ulmer, Debes, Gillespie, Kramer and Wonderly were appointed to the conservation committee. Livingston, Manners and Lukens were appointed to the committee for the sale of books. Potter, McDonald and Haines were appointed to recommend revisions to the by-laws.

James Fowler addressed the club on "Collecting Experiences of a Herpetologist." He described collecting trips on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and along the Potomac River. With the aid of Kodachrome slides he described many of the different habitats visited and some of the reptiles and amphibians to be found in them.

March 4, 1948. Fifty-four members and nine visitors present. Rex Thomas and James Fowler were elected to active membership.

Charles Rogers continued his series on birds of the world with a discussion of "Gulls." He first described the characteristics of the group and compared them to the terns, with which they are a subfamily. He went on to discuss the many species, illustrating his remarks with specimens from the Academy's collection.

March 18, 1948. Forty-six members and nine visitors present. With the aid of exceptionally fine motion pictures, Richard Bishop spoke to the club on "Goonys and Other Birds of Midway." White, Noddy and Hawaiian

Terns, boobies, frigate-birds and tropic-birds provided most of the action. The speaker concluded with a reel of duck films taken in Arkansas.

April 1, 1948. Forty-six members and seven visitors present. The death of Arthur LaDow was announced.

The exchange speaker from the Linnaean Society was Dean Amadon who presented an interesting discussion of "Hawaiian Birds and their Evolution." He discussed the origin, variation and development of this interesting group of birds.

April 15, 1948. Forty-two members and five visitors present. Jacob Abbott presented "Movies of Nesting White-tailed Kites and Red-bellied Hawks," taken by James Dixon in San Diego County, California. The kites, though still quite rare, seem to be increasing in this part of California. The speaker also discussed nesting sites of Duck Hawks in Pennsylvania and mentioned two areas where Ravens breed. In conclusion he gave hints for identifying hawks in flight. Some sketches and nests were on exhibit as well as a set of spotted Goshawk eggs.

May 6, 1948. Fifty members and five visitors present. Gerbert Rebell was elected to active membership. Amendments to the by-laws with reference to the Witmer Stone Award and the election of officers were passed at this meeting.

Samuel Scoville, in a reminiscent mood, presented "Refuges and Escapes." These proved to be accounts of numerous birding expeditions recounted in the inimitable Scoville style. The speaker urged his listeners to seek similar escapes and refuges.

May 20, 1948. Fifty members and eight visitors present. Edward Manners reported on the annual spring roundup held on May 9. Seventeen groups recorded two hundred and nine species, two more than last year. James Bond told of his recent trip to the West Indies. Migrants were scarce, indicating that they follow the coast of Central America rather than crossing the Gulf of Mexico.

June 3, 1948. Twenty-six members and three guests present.

July 1, 1948. Eighteen members and one guest present.

August 5, 1948. Twenty-eight members present.

September 2, 1948. Thirty-six members and two guests present at the last of the informal summer meetings.

October 7, 1948. Fifty members and nine visitors present. John Gillespie offered "Excerpts from Grandma's Diary." The acquisition of a grandchild necessitated a trip to California to view the heir, and Grandma kept a daily record of the trip. The speaker read excerpts from this account of birds, places, plants and people and added comments of his own.

October 21, 1948. Forty-three members and ten visitors present. Edward Altemus, Morris Weiss, Albert Zaid, Otto Gardiner, Charles Gibbons and Dr. Theodore Dehne were elected to active membership. The death of Dr. H. F. Tomlin was announced. Lukens was appointed to the publication committee.

The evening's program consisted of a demonstration of the art of preparing bird skins by Fred Ulmer and Nelson Hoy. Ulmer made up a Starling skin, describing the procedure as he went along. Hoy then followed with a Ruddy Duck.

November 4, 1948. Sixty-two members and twelve visitors present. A motion was passed authorizing the conservation committee to take over sponsorship of the Marshalltown heronry near Salem, N. J.

M. Albert Linton returned to the club to show movies of "Birds from the Gaspé to Florida." These included a wide variety of birds from New Jersey, Cobb Island, Va., Bombay Hook, Del., Hawk Mountain, Pa., Florida, Gaspé and California. An exceptionally fine film which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who saw it.

November 18, 1948. Forty-nine members and ten visitors present. Austin, Price, Marvin, Corn and Coman were appointed to the nominating committee.

Dr. Francis Harper told of his experiences "With the Caribou and Eskimos of Keewatin." Through the aid of the Arctic Institute he was able to realize a lifelong ambition to visit the barren grounds of northern Canada. The talk was accompanied by colored slides of birds, plants, fish and mammals. Particularly impressive were movies of migrating herds of caribou.

December 2, 1948. Thirty-nine members and eleven visitors present. The next in the fine series on birds of the world by Charles Rogers covered the "Alcids." Considered by some ornithologists to be the most numerous birds in the world, they are most abundant in the Arctic and Subarctic, where they are an important source of human food and clothing. The talk was followed by an active discussion.

December 16, 1948. Fifty-two members and twelve visitors present. Robert Campbell and Frederick Reamer were elected to active membership. Ross and Hebard were appointed to the auditing committee.

Ernest Edwards presented a fine series of Kodachrome movies of "Mexican Birds." In connection with his work for a doctorate at Cornell the speaker took three trips to Mexico which were summarized in the film. Many exotic species of birds were interspersed with pictures of flowers, insects, snakes and frogs, as well as scenes of sugar making and of the volcano Paracutin.