

ABSTRACTS OF PROCEEDINGS

1949—1950

COMPILED BY PHILLIPS B. STREET

January 6, 1949. Sixty-five members and eight guests attended the 59th annual meeting. The following officers and councillors were elected:

EDWARD S. WEYL, *President.*
ROBERT L. HAINES, *Vice-president.*
HENRY T. UNDERDOWN, *Treasurer.*
PHILLIPS B. STREET, *Secretary.*
ERNEST A. CHOATE, *Editor.*
JOSEPH M. CADBURY, *Councillor.*
NORMAN J. McDONALD, *Councillor.*

Henry W. Fowler was elected to Honorary membership. Dr. J. Harold Austin, John Dornan, Nelson D. Hoy, M. Albert Linton, Frank W. McLaughlin, Charles E. Price, Jr. and Edward Woolman were elected Fellows.

Richard F. Miller was presented with the Witmer Stone award for his Killdeer paper.

Reports of the various Christmas censuses were given by representatives of the participating groups.

Entertainment was provided by *Cassinova*, a miniature unscientific *Cassinia*, a demonstration of bird skinning by Miller, J. Cadbury and Lukens, and a short play entitled "The Cape May Follies", written anonymously by a member. Refreshments concluded the meeting.

January 20, 1949. Fifty-nine members and five guests present. W. Burritt Wright was elected a corresponding member. Choate, chairman, Bond, Coman, Groskin, Imsick, Lukens, Ross, Reimann, Street and Tracy were appointed as Publications Committee.

A Kodachrome slide photographic contest resulted in many excellent slides being shown, and J. Cadbury's Parula Warbler at the nest was adjudged winner. Dornan and Livingston took honorable mention.

February 3, 1949. Forty-eight members and eight guests present. Elected to active membership: Walter Corson, Emlen L. Cresson, Frank Edminster, Adolph F. Herzog, Richard May, George Reynard, and Charles F. Wurster, Jr.

John L. Elliott, exchange speaker from the Linnaean Society, spoke on "Sable Island, Home of the Ipswich Sparrow." He described a late summer trip to the island with colored slides. He estimates the total population at perhaps 1500 birds, and his report that some winter on the island was of interest.

February 17, 1949. Forty-five members and two guests present. W. Middleton, chairman, Finkel, Jacobs, Manners, E. Rigby and James Wright were appointed as the field trip committee.

Samuel Tatnall showed his excellent Kodachrome movies of western parks. Included were Yellowstone, Glacier and Waterton Lakes, Banff and Lake Louise, the Yoho, Mt. Rainier, and the canyons of southern Utah.

March 3, 1949. Forty-eight members and six guests present. Ulmer, chairman, Debes, Gillespie, Kramer and Wonderly were appointed as a conservation committee.

John A. Griswold, Curator of Birds at the Philadelphia Zoo, spoke on the problems of bird acquisition and care, feeding, nesting and longevity at the zoo.

March 17, 1949. Fifty members and five guests present. Elected to active membership: John A. Griswold, Donald J. Ottenberg, John A. Silver and Robert B. Taylor. Elected to corresponding membership: Egbert S. Cary, Jr.

Frank Edminster imparted some of his store of knowledge of the Ruffed Grouse to the club, discussing the curious cycles of abundance and scarcity. While excessively hot weather at nesting time seems to be the most constant factor in population decline, disease is also important, and the cycles cannot yet be fully explained. The various types of habitat were illustrated by Kodachrome slides.

April 7, 1949. Seventy members and eighteen guests present, a record attendance.

Maurice Broun brought to the club his unbounded enthusiasm for Hawk Mountain and hawk protection, describing the hardships of the early days and the progress since, the non-cooperation received at times from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and his plans for next fall to combat illegal shooting at other hot spots along the ridge. He asked for cooperation of the members in relieving him at Hawk Mountain on week days next fall so that he may go with a Game Commission representative to the various trouble spots. Two films were shown, one of Hawk Mountain and another of Evening Grosbeaks during a New England winter.

April 21, 1949. Forty-nine members and fifteen guests present. Hebard was appointed to the communications committee.

Charles H. Rogers continued his series of talks on bird families with the Terns and Skimmers, describing the various species through the use of specimens. The diversity of nesting sites was discussed, and the maximum number of eggs in a clutch evoked considerable discussion from the floor.

May 5, 1949. Forty-eight members and twelve guests present. F. Morse Archer, Jr. and Francis C. Stokes, Jr. were elected to membership.

Albert Conway presented an interesting talk on bird psychology and behavior, and a lively discussion period followed.

May 19, 1949. Forty-five members and eleven guests present. Twenty-two parties participated in the annual spring round-up on May 15th. Members of the various groups reported on the highlights of their respective observations.

June 2, 1949. Thirty members and four guests present at the first informal summer meeting.

July 7, 1949. Twenty-six members and six guests present at the informal meeting.

August 4, 1949. Twenty-four members and four guests present at the informal meeting.

September 1, 1949. Twenty-six members and five guests present at the last of the informal summer sessions.

October 6, 1949. Fifty-nine members and sixteen guests present.

Joseph B. McCall, Jr. showed a short motion picture taken in southeastern Georgia featuring a Red-cockaded and a Red-bellied Woodpecker nesting in the same tree and a rookery near St. Mary's, including an excellent shot of an alligator catching and swallowing a young White Ibis which had toppled from the nest. The principal film was of the Gaspe peninsula. The picturesque countryside, flowers, natives, fishing industry and the Gannet colony on Bonaventure Island were shown in all their splendor as taken by an obviously expert photographer.

October 20, 1949. Fifty-nine members and four guests present. The following were elected to membership: Albert Donaghy, Jr., Howard Donaghy, Leonard Fonaroff, Rufus A. Long and Paxton G. Seabury.

Potter and Coman were appointed as auditing committee. McDonald, chairman, Livingston and Robinson were appointed refreshment committee for the 60th annual meeting.

Charles Rogers continued his series on the birds of the world by tracing the beginning of birds as we know them through evolution and fossil remains, commencing with the first known feathered form, the Archaeopteryx, down to some of the more primitive of our present forms—the Ostrich, Rhea and Cassowary. Reconstructed drawings of the Archaeopteryx, Ichthyornis and Hesperornis were displayed. He described the largest known birds, the Moas of New Zealand, some of which did not become extinct until after the time of man. Other interesting primitive forms still in existence discussed included the Kiwis, Sun Bitterns, and Tinamous.

November 3, 1949. Fifty-one members and six guests present. The following were elected to membership: Thomas M. Barnett, David A. Cutler, Horace Drever, E. Archer Dillard and John K. Robinson.

A nominating committee was appointed consisting of Coman, chairman, Corn, J. Rigby, and J. Wright.

Richard Pough spoke on "The Amateur's Role in Scientific Ornithology." Pointing out that the stragglers and rarities which appear so frequently in our local notes are relatively unimportant scientifically, he made a plea for better documentation of population trends and changes through census studies of both migrants and breeding birds. Many drastic changes in population go unnoticed for too long, and the amateur could aid in spotting these before they have progressed too far. He suggested various projects which the amateur might undertake and touched briefly upon conservation, especially as it applies to nearby places.

November 17, 1949. Fifty members and four guests present. Paul S. Weirick was elected to membership.

George Reynard spoke on "Bird Songs." A bibliography of pertinent literature was discussed. Some of the Cornell records were played, with the audience attempting to record variations in song and in time between utterances. The speaker noted that some species sing regularly while others do not, urging that records be kept to include the date, temperature, status of moult and whether on migration or during nesting.

December 1, 1949. Fifty-nine members and ten guests present. Hoy reported that a tract of approximately one thousand acres at Tincum is being considered by the state as a wildlife refuge and urged the club to initiate action in furtherance of the plan. A motion of that effect was unanimously passed.

Nelson Hoy returned after two years with another fifty-nine duck skins for an identification contest in hopes that scores would now be higher. No albinos or trick specimens were included this time. Those scoring fifty or better were Street, Potter, Coman, J. Rigby, Miller, Seabury, H. Cutler and Finkel.

December 15, 1949. Fifty-eight members and eight guests present. Joseph B. McCall, Jr., August Sexauer and Clarence E. Stasz were elected to active membership. Franklin H. West and John H. Buckalew were transferred from corresponding to active membership.

A Tincum wildlife refuge committee was appointed consisting of Hoy, chairman, McDonald and Lukens.

Frank McLaughlin showed Kodachrome slides of "Nature's Crossroads Through New Jersey". With deep enthusiasm and excellent slides he depicted his favorite haunts from the coastal areas to the river. That such delightful pictures can be successfully taken with modest equipment was a revelation and a challenge.

January 5, 1950. One hundred and sixteen members and two guests attended the 60th annual meeting, breaking all previous attendance records.

Elections to the various classes of membership were as follows:

Active—W. Marshall DeHaven, Samuel E. Knisely, Dr. Baldwin Lucké, John T. McNeill, Jr., Bruce Oakley and Hugh A. Sargent.

Fellow—Herbert Cutler, James R. Gillin, Roy C. Imsick, William W. Lukens, Jr., Turner E. McMullen, William R. Middleton, Harvey Moore, George Regensburg and James H. Wright, 3rd.

Honorary—Herbert H. Beck, William Bacon Evans, Francis Harper and Charles H. Rogers.

The following officers and councillors were elected for the following year:

ROBERT L. HAINES, *President.*

JOSEPH M. CADBURY, *Vice-president.*

HENRY T. UNDERDOWN, *Treasurer.*

PHILLIPS B. STREET, *Secretary.*

C. CHANDLER ROSS, *Editor.*

EDWARD R. MANNERS, *Councillor.*

EDWARD S. WEYL, *Councillor.*

ERNEST A. CHOATE, *Councillor* (to fill the unexpired term of Joseph M. Cadbury to January, 1952).

Underdown presented his 23rd annual treasurer's report.

Dr. George Reynard was awarded the Witmer Stone Award for his paper and research on bird songs.

Cassinova again made its annual appearance.

Christmas Census reports were given by leaders of the various groups.

Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy addressed the meeting. "A Naturalist in Changing New Zealand" was a narrative accompanied by Kodachrome movies of the experiences of the speaker and his wife while spending the past two winters in the Antipodes collecting material for habitat groups and as a delegate to the Pacific World Congress. The pictures embraced scenery and bird life on North, South and Stewart Islands, the digging for remains of the extinct Moas, and the two weeks spent on the tiny subantarctic uninhabited Snares Islands with their host of penguins. The speaker described the islands and their comparatively young history to a spellbound audience.

All records for refreshments, both as to quality and quantity, were broken by the able refreshment committee and their wives.

January 19, 1950. Fifty-six members and four guests present. The following standing committees for 1950 were appointed: Field Trip—W. Middleton, chairman, Price, McLaughlin, Finkel, Tracy and Richards. Bird Migration—Lukens, chairman, and Manners. Conservation—Hoy, chairman, McDonald, Ulmer, Reimann and Lukens. Publication—Ross, editor, Bond, Weyl, Street, Lukens, Coman and Arnett. Librarian—McIlvain. Assistant Librarian—Kramer. Books—Livingston, chairman, and Schwalbe.

Dr. David E. Davis spoke on "Bird Populations". He considers the characteristics of a population more important than the individual and stressed the importance of keeping notes with numbers. Populations are determined by three main forces: reproduction, movements and mortality. Each was discussed in detail. Diagrams and charts of explanation were shown on slides by way of illustration.

February 2, 1950. Sixty-six members and five guests present.

Hobart M. Van Deusen, Linnaean Society exchange speaker, talked on his recent expedition to Cape York, Australia. With excellent Kodachrome slides and many specimens, especially of mammals, his specialty, he described the country and its fauna and traced the evolution of the Australian forms as compared with those of New Guinea to the north, which areas were at one time connected by a land bridge.

February 16, 1950. Sixty-seven members and seven guests present. Augustus S. Cobb was elected to active membership.

George Regensburg took us via his delightful Kodachrome movies to his favorite South Jersey haunts to watch the changing seasons with their accompanying birds, their nests, flowers and other wildlife, including unusual shots of a spider catching a Japanese beetle and a turtle laying and burying her eggs. The speaker's love of all that is nature was clearly demonstrated through the artistry of his pictures.

March 2, 1950. Fifty-four members and four guests present. James Rigby spoke on "Life Zones in California", using Kodachrome slides by way of illustration to show typical examples of each zone visited by him during his stay on the west coast. He described the physiography of the various divisions and named some of the typical birds, plants and mammals.

March 16, 1950. Forty-six members and six guests present. Robert Haines spoke on "Visual Bird Songs", reporting upon his experiments in recording songs graphically through the use of spectrogram slides. A series of slides was shown, particularly of thrushes and vireos, while the corresponding songs were played on a tape recorder at varying r.p.m.'s for comparison. The speaker's experiments, while admittedly very preliminary, open a new and interesting approach to the study of song.

April 6, 1950. Sixty-three members and ten guests present. Charles H. Rogers continued his series on the bird families of the world, presenting an interesting and educational description of "The Thrushes". He described with specimens many of the species which make up this almost cosmopolitan family.

April 20, 1950. Forty-eight members and five guests present. Feature of the evening was a photographic contest. J. Cadbury's "Osprey" was adjudged best in show. Best scenic slide was a Kodachrome of Billy's Lake in the Okefenokee Swamp by Livingston, and one of a sundew by Choate won the competition in the wild life other than birds category.

May 4, 1950. Fifty-seven members and two guests present. Dr. W. J. MacMurtrie was elected to active membership. The 1950 Witmer Stone Award committee was appointed, consisting of J. Cadbury, chairman, Debes and Manners.

Professor Herbert H. Beck spoke on his "Personal Reminiscences of the Passenger Pigeon and Recent Observations in the Susquahanna Valley" and described a recently completed trip to the West where he observed the Whooping Cranes in their winter home at the Aransas Refuge and the California Condor in the mountains near Sespe Canyon in California.

May 18, 1950. Sixty-one members and two guests present. McLaughlin presided at the recapitulation of the May 14th spring round-up, calling on the various team captains to report. 226 species were seen by all parties combined. A discussion of the reasons for the excellent spring warbler flight followed.

June 1, 1950. Thirty-four members and four guests present at the first of the informal summer meetings.

July 6, 1950. Thirty-six members and five guests present at the informal meeting.

August 3, 1950. Twenty-four members and one guest present at the informal meeting.

September 7, 1950. Thirty members and three guests present at the informal meeting.

October 5, 1950. Sixty-one members and seven guests present. The secretary was directed to send a message of condolence to the widow of Jacob Bates Abbott.

Joseph B. McCall, Jr. showed movies of a Cardinal nesting outside a window of his home and shorebirds along the New Jersey coast. Street showed a short reel taken at the Wilson Club meeting at Jackson's Mill, West Virginia.

October 19, 1950. Forty-eight members and five guests present. Charles W. Bancroft and J. Stanley Quickmire were elected to active membership. Hebard reported on the recent A. O. U. meeting and announced that Groskin had been elected a member and Street an investing trustee.

Charles H. Rogers continued his series of talks on the birds of the world with the ducks, illustrating with specimens from the Academy's collection many of the species described.

November 2, 1950. Sixty-five members and nine guests present.

John A. Griswold, Curator of Birds, was host to the club at the Zoo. He told of the problems confronted in the remodelling of the bird house and interesting features of the exhibits and the birds contained therein. The number of species exhibited has been curtailed in favor of fewer species in lifelike habitats featuring the showiest forms, and the speaker is to be congratulated on the results achieved.

November 16, 1950. Forty-six members and six guests present.

Joseph W. Lippincott showed his excellent color films of Florida birds and tarpon fishing. The bird pictures featured Lesser Scaup, Brown Pelicans and Florida Cranes, and the tarpon reel was especially praiseworthy.

December 7, 1950. Forty-six members and eight guests present. Daniel Hechler, of the Academy staff, was presented with a surprise gift of books in appreciation of his fifty years of service. Potter spoke on the death of Samuel Scoville, Jr. and the secretary was directed to send a resolution to his widow expressing the club's sorrow.

The following committees for the annual meeting were appointed: Nominating—Livingston, chairman, Ulmer, Price and Jacobs; Auditing—Weyl and Arnett; Refreshments—Kramer, Fowler and McDonald.

James Bond spoke on "Birds of Britain" with a comprehensive account of the common resident species. The talk was illustrated with skins.

December 21, 1950. Forty-seven members and five guests present. Mark Emerson was elected to active membership.

Gillin, McMullen and Miller conducted a discussion on nests and eggs. They described some of their interesting experiences and rare finds. Questions and answers accompanied the discussion.