

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS—1953

Compiled By John P. McIlvain

January 8. Fifty-two members and three guests attended the 63rd annual meeting.

The following officers and councillors were elected:

JOSEPH M. CADBURY, *President.*
PHILLIPS B. STREET, *Vice-President.*
DR. JOHN H. ARNETT, JR., *Secretary.*
HENRY T. UNDERDOWN, *Treasurer.*
QUINTIN KRAMER, *Councillor.*
FREDERICK A. ULMER, JR., *Councillor.*

The following were elected to active membership: Harry T. Enssler, Paul J. McGonigal, Dr. Lewis G. Sterner, Louis W. VanMeter and Asa P. Way.

Underdown presented his 26th annual treasurer's report.

Announcement was made of the death of Samuel N. Rhoads, last surviving founder of the D. V. O. C.

Christmas census reports were made by the leaders of the various groups.

Ulmer presented the Witmer Stone Award to Joseph Devlin for his paper on land bird migration over West Philadelphia in the fall of 1952.

Following the meeting, members and guests partook of the usual sumptuous repast.

January 22. Fifty members and four guests present.

David Hickok, manager of the Bombay Hook Wildlife Refuge, spoke on the refuge, its past, present and future, outlined the policies responsible for the great increase in the wintering population of Canada Geese and showed a motion picture on waterfowl management activities of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

February 5. Fifty-nine members and ten guests present.

Jay B. Hurst, Jr. was elected to active membership.

The following committees were appointed:

Field Trip: D. Cutler, chairman; Donaghy, Finkel, McIlvain, Penniston and Wonderly.

Ornithological Studies: Reimann, chairman; Hebard, Jacobs, Manners, Reynard and Sehl.

Publications: Ross, editor; Arnett, Bond, Street and Weyl.

Communications: Kramer and Ulmer.

Book: Livingston and McIlvain.

Aaron M. Bagg, of Holyoke, Massachusetts, spoke on "Premature and Extra-limital Birds in Spring Migration along the New England Coast." The speaker's tentative conclusion was that strong winds blowing along the Atlantic Coast from the Gulf States were responsible for the appearance year

after year of several species long before their normal arrival dates or far north of their usual range.

February 19. Fifty-five members and five guests present at the meeting, held in the Bird House of the Philadelphia Zoological Garden.

William Jay was elected to active membership.

Dr. John A. Griswold, Curator of Birds at the Zoo, spoke on "Longevity in Birds," discussing chiefly the problems involved in keeping birds alive and healthy in captivity. Following the meeting, an inspection was made of the bird house.

March 5. Sixty members and five guests present.

P. F. McCoy was elected to active membership.

The following were appointed to the Conservation Committee:

Kramer and Linton, co-chairmen; H. Cutler, Hoy, Jenkins, Middleton and Price.

The feature of the evening was a remarkable Kodachrome motion picture on the Northern Raven in Pennsylvania, taken by Dr. William L. Rhein and shown by Walter Kohler.

March 19. Fifty-nine members and two guests present.

A color motion picture called "Island Oddities," produced by the Esso Company, was shown. Taken in the Bahamas, it included many good sequences of nesting birds and marine life. There followed a photographic contest in which some eighteen members participated, with the winners being as follows: plants—Lamplugh; birds—Arnett; landscape—Borst.

April 2. Forty-five members and three guests present.

A nominating committee consisting of Debes and Potter was appointed to fill the vacancy in the secretaryship caused by the expectation that the secretary would go into government service. Richard T. Darby was appointed acting secretary.

The President announced that a fund of \$2000 had been left to the D. V. O. C. by Mrs. Wharton Huber, widow of a former president of the Club.

Walter Corson showed a series of excellent Kodachrome slides entitled "Glimpses of the Pacific Northwest" and spoke of his experiences in that area.

There followed a symposium on bird life in the Tincum region during the past twenty years, presided over by Julian K. Potter.

April 16. Fifty-nine members and six guests present.

Homer F. Farrand was elected to active membership.

Dr. P. Paul Kellogg, of Cornell University, returned to demonstrate and instruct in the technique and application of bird song recording for the man in the street.

May 7. Fifty-three members and six guests present.

William Ithell, Jr. and Walter B. Cleary were elected to active membership.

The following committees were appointed:

Library: Devlin and Reynard.

Witmer Stone Award: Haines, chairman; Finkel, Freas and McIlvain.

The death of James P. Rigby was announced.

Dr. Ernest A. Choate spoke on "Wind, Weather and Birds at Cape May Point," summarizing his many years of experience in a region which the D. V. O. C. has come to consider its own special domain, and showing an excellent series of Kodachrome slides.

May 21. Forty-four members and two guests present.

Richard T. Darby was elected Secretary to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Dr. John H. Arnett, Jr.

David Cutler conducted the recapitulation of the 1953 annual D. V. O. C. Round-up, held on May 10, with the leaders of each group speaking briefly of the day's highlights. Fifteen parties observed a total of 228 species.

June 4. Twenty-nine members and one guest present at first informal summer meeting, with Kramer presiding and Ulmer acting as secretary. Members gave informal reports on their ornithological activities.

July 2. Sixteen members present. Street presided and Darby acted as secretary. More informal reports.

August 6. Twenty-eight members and five guests present. McIlvain presided and Reynard acted as secretary. More informal reports.

September 3. Sixteen members present. Because of the extremely hot weather, the meeting was held on the steps of the Franklin Institute with Middleton presiding and McLaughlin acting as secretary. More informal reports.

October 1. Sixty-one members and twelve guests present.

The program was devoted to a symposium on the Tinicum Wildlife Sanctuary Project. With Quintin Kramer as moderator, a panel consisting of Dr. Wendell H. Camp, Allston Jenkins, M. Albert Linton and Dr. Radclyffe Roberts took the Club through its history, its miraculous rescue in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles by the tireless Jenkins and his D. V. O. C. committee and prospects for its future development.

October 15. Forty-seven members and five guests present.

George H. Borst took the Club through Great Britain, Norway, Holland and Switzerland through the medium of his superb Kodachrome slides of the people, their countries, customs and birds.

November 5. Forty-seven members and six guests present.

Howard Kirkpatrick was elected to active membership.

Charles E. Price, Jr. was elected to Council to fill the unexpired term of Richard T. Darby.

Hebard and Street were appointed to the Auditing Committee.

The program consisted of a demonstration and discussion of bird skin preparation ably done by Charles H. Leibrandt, taxidermist for the Academy.

November 19. Fifty-two members and seven guests present.

Eugene Eisenmann, president of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, returned to address the Club on "Opportunities and Problems for the Bird Student in Panama." Illustrated with Kodachrome slides the talk was an informative discussion of a subject on which the speaker is an acknowledged expert.

December 3. Forty-eight members and eight guests present.

Hebard and Lukens were appointed as a Refreshment Committee for the annual meeting.

Frederick A. Ulmer, Jr., Curator of Mammals at the Philadelphia Zoo, spoke to the Club on America's Zoos, outlining recent developments in the techniques of exhibiting and caring for animals.

December 17. Forty-nine members and six guests present.

William J. Bailey was elected to active membership.

Phillips B. Street presented a progress report on his continuing study of the birds of the Poconos, an area which has been singularly neglected by D. V. O. C. members in recent years, with the result that there is now a need for much more field work in this region.