

ABSTRACTS OF PROCEEDINGS—1955, 1956, 1957

Compiled by JOHN F. McILVAIN

January 1, 1955. Seventy-four members and nine guests attended the sixty-fifth annual meeting.

The following officers and councillors were elected:

Phillips B. Street, President
Philip A. Livingston, Vice-President
John F. McIlvain, Secretary
Henry T. Underdown, Treasurer
George B. Reynard, Councillor
Robert H. Sehl, Councillor

Turner E. McMullen, Richard F. Miller and Henry T. Underdown were elected Honorary Members.

James A. Fowler, William Jay, Clarence Stasz and Charles A. Wonderly were elected Fellows.

Underdown presented his twenty-eighth annual treasurer's report.

The leaders of nine Christmas Counts in which Club members participated discussed the highlights of their respective censuses.

Following light entertainment, the meeting adjourned to the traditional sumptuous repast.

January 20. Fifty-four members and ten guests present.
Chandler Ross was reappointed Editor.

The following committee appointments were made:

Field Trip: Brady, chairman.
Communications: Livingston and Kramer.
Library: Fries.
Conservation: Jenkins, chairman.
Book: Livingston and Bancroft.

J. d'Arcy Northwood returned to address the Club on "Mill Grove — The Audubon Shrine", where he is now curator. He sketched the history of the estate and of Audubon's connection with it and illustrated his talk with kodachrome slides of Mill Grove and its birds.

February 3. Thirty-three members and ten guests present.

The following additional committee appointments were announced:

Conservation: Archer, Hoy, McDonald and McNeill.
Field Trip: William Middleton, Stasz and Lester Thomas.
Library: McDonald.
Ornithological Studies: Joseph Cadbury.
Publications: Ross, chairman, Arnett, Bond, Reimann, Lester Thomas and Weyl.

Jay B. Hurst, Jr., spoke on "Bird Pictures Without Blinds", demonstrating what can be done in this field by the amateur using comparatively modest equipment.

February 17. Fifty-one members and three guests present.

William Nixon was elected to active membership.

Albert E. Conway addressed the club on "The Psychology of Bird Watchers". As principal reasons why people study birds, the speaker listed esthetic enjoyment, competition, the fact that we all like the unexpected and the fact that some people merely like to keep lists. He deplored the lack of accuracy in field identification and urged the taking of full notes in the field while the bird is under observation.

March 3. Seventy members and fourteen guests present.

Jack N. Wykoff was elected to active membership.

Through the medium of his excellent kodachrome slides, Mark Robinson took the Club "From the Everglades to Key West" through seldom visited areas in the fast-diminishing everglades and through the keys, which, in their natural state, are also rapidly disappearing. Featured were camera studies of the less common orchids and Florida specialties in the bird line.

March 17. Fifty-nine members and nine guests present.

A Sight Records Committee was appointed, consisting of Arnett, chairman, David Cutler and Kramer.

Raymond J. Middleton spoke on "Thirty-three Years of Bird Banding at Norristown", where he has banded the remarkable total of more than forty thousand birds of one hundred thirty-three species, including thirty-five species of warblers. His talk was illustrated by an excellent series of kodachrome slides of his traps and well-planted grounds.

April 7. Thirty-nine members and nine guests present.

A symposium was held on how to make a breeding bird census, with Arnett, J. K. Wright and Joseph Cadbury outlining the methods used from the first such census in this country, made by Alexander Wilson in 1811, to the modern techniques employed in gathering data for the censuses published annually in *Audubon Field Notes*. It was decided that the Club would attempt a breeding bird census of a typical marsh area at Tinicum.

April 21. Fifty-three members and five guests present.

Kenneth B. Corbett was elected to active membership.

Horace Alexander addressed the Club on "Bird Watching in India". Within a twenty-mile radius of Delhi, where the speaker lived for some years, a half dozen part-time observers have in the last twenty years built up a list of three hundred seventy species, though this is an inland area. The total for all of India, including Ceylon and Burma, is some fourteen hundred species, of which the speaker has seen more than eight hundred. Visitors to India are impressed by the abundance and tameness of birds, probably due to the old Hindu tradition of not destroying life.

May 5. Fifty-six members and five guests present.

Angelo D'Angelo presented a color movie entitled "Winged Nature", a magnificent series of shots of birds, bees, butterflies and sundry bugs. This superb exhibition of nature photography included some of the finest pictures members of the Club have ever been privileged to see.

May 26. Fifty members and six guests present.

Arthur H. Saxon was elected to active membership.

Alan Brady summarized the twenty-third annual spring round-up, held on May 15. Eighty-five observers in twenty-one parties listed a total of two hundred forty species, exceeding by one the previous high for the roundup, despite an extreme scarcity of warblers.

Informal summer meetings were held on *June 2, July 7, August 4 and September 1.*

October 6. Fifty-nine members and eleven guests present.

President Street spoke to the Club on his trip with Livingston to the Rockport, Texas, area during the first week in April of this year and to the Wilson Club meeting in Oklahoma City immediately thereafter. Outstanding on the trip were the eight Whooping Cranes seen at the Aransas Refuge, but the speaker was also greatly impressed with the tremendous number of shorebirds and herons in the Rockport area. The talk was illustrated with an excellent series of kodachrome slides taken and shown by Livingston.

October 20. Sixty members and twelve guests present.

Raymond J. Brooke, Jr., Montgomery L. Lampe and Lewis C. Spencer were elected to active membership.

The Witmer Stone Award Committee was appointed as follows:

Arnett, chairman, Ross and Weyl.

Charles H. Rogers continued his series of talks on birds of the world with another scholarly presentation, this time on the rails and their allies. The order of cranes and rails is on the whole an old and declining one and the speaker held out little hope for the survival of the Whooping Crane, pointing out that the few remaining birds are not bringing back enough young from Canada each fall to warrant optimism over their chances.

November 3. Forty-four members and five guests present.

On behalf of Richard Harlow, President Street presented the late James Gillen's notes to the Club library.

President Street reported that he and Linton had invited the American Ornithologists' Union to hold the 1957 meeting either in Philadelphia or Cape May, with the D.V.O.C. and the Academy of Natural Sciences as hosts.

Robert H. Sehl gave the Club "A Glimpse of Mexican Birds", recounting his experiences on a trip taken the previous summer and illustrating his talk with a series of ektachrome slides. His colorful slides and descriptions gave his audience an excellent picture of the Mexican topography and his enthusiastic presentation was most refreshing.

November 17. Fifty-four members and seven guests present.

A Nominating Committee was appointed, consisting of Joseph Cadbury, chairman, and Weiss.

Robert Cotton was elected to active membership.

The feature of the evening was entitled "Meet the Fellows", with Quintin Kramer serving as moderator and sketching the growth of the Club in the past twenty years. Reminiscences of early days in the Club were given by Edward Woolman, Samuel Palmer, James Rehn, William E. Roberts, Richard Miller, Julian Potter, Turner McMullen, Nelson Pumyea, John Gillespie, Raymond Middleton, Ernest Choate and Hugh Stone.

December 1. Sixty members and seven guests present.

Harry G. Jones was elected to active membership.

The journals of Miss Anna Mickel of Moorestown, N. J., for many years a bird reporter to Witmer Stone, were presented to the Club library by President Street. They were a gift from Joseph J. Hickey.

Richard O. Bender addressed the Club on "Unsolved Ornithological Problems", with particular emphasis on projects to which D.V.O.C. members might put their leisure time to good advantage. He suggested a plethora of subjects about which not much is known.

December 15. Forty-four members and ten guests present.

Leslie Pearl, exchange speaker from the Linnaean Society, continued the excellent series of talks by members of that organization, addressing the Club on "British Birds". A native of England, but a resident of this country for thirty years and an advertising man, Pearl did a splendid job of advertising Great Britain and its birds.

January 5, 1956. Eighty-one members and seven guests attended the sixty-sixth annual meeting.

The deaths of Charles J. Rhoads and William A. Shryock, both of whom joined the Club in 1891, were announced.

James Rehn and Richard Harlow were elected Honorary Members.

Richard O. Bender, Alan Brady, Henry Matthews and Nathaniel C. Wyckoff were elected Fellows.

The following officers and councillors were elected:

Philip A. Livingston, President

Ernest A. Choate, Vice-President

John F. McIlvain, Secretary

Henry T. Underdown, Treasurer

Herbert Cutler, Councillor

Lester S. Thomas, Councillor

Underdown presented his twenty-ninth annual treasurer's report.

The Witmer Stone Award was presented to retiring president Street for his paper on "Birds of the Pocono Mountains, Pennsylvania".

The leaders of the various Christmas counts discussed the results in their respective areas.

By way of entertainment, Choate presented what he labelled a test of general culture, consisting of a series of references to birds in literature. Lester Thomas obtained the highest score and was suitably rewarded with a headgear of somewhat uncertain antecedents.

The meeting then adjourned to the traditional sumptuous repast.

January 19. Twenty-one members and two guests present, the smallest attendance in many years because of the season's severest snow-storm.

Those who braved the elements, however, were more than amply repaid by an exceptional talk by Logan J. Bennett, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, on "The Wild Turkey Management and Waterfowl Restoration Programs". Bennett outlined the history, present status and future prospects of each species of game bird found in Pennsylvania.

February 2. Thirty-five members and five guests present.

Charles Carter was elected to active membership.

John F. McIlvain spoke on "Massachusetts Birds and Birders", outlining the present status of ornithological societies in the Boston area, with emphasis on the Nuttall Club, the oldest bird club in America, members of which acted as leaders for both of the Club's highly successful field trips to the Cape Ann and Plum Island areas of northeastern Massachusetts in January 1954 and 1956.

February 16. Forty-nine members and four guests present.

Charles W. Craig, Ronald J. McCarthy and Ralph Wilson were elected to active membership.

The last of the notebooks of Henry Jamison was presented to the Club by Richard Miller, the others having previously been given by Richard Harlow.

It was decided that the Club would be one of the sponsors of the Pennsylvania Hawk Committee.

Feature of the evening was a photographic contest by members. Winners were: Birds - Lamplugh; Landscapes - Zeidman; Animals - Broun.

March 1. Forty-eight members and eight guests present.

Edward Reimann presented the first of a series of talks on field identification, choosing the gulls as the initial topic.

President Livingston spoke on an island-hopping trip to the Greater Antilles, illustrating his talk with an excellent series of travelogue-type koda-chrome slides.

March 15. Fifty-seven members and eleven guests present.

The death of past president John A. Gillespie was announced.

Finn Salomonsen of the Danish Royal Museum addressed the Club on "The Birds of Greenland", illustrating his talk with an interesting series of color and black-and-white slides. Members were afforded a rare opportunity to hear one of the world's top ornithologists, currently studying at the American Museum in New York, discourse on his favorite subject.

April 5. Fifty members and nine guests present.

Turner McMullen spoke to the Club on his seventy-one years of collecting eggs and examining nests under the title "Bird Nests, with Some Comments on Their Contents". Highlights included anecdotes culled from some nine hundred forty collecting expeditions, many of them with others of America's foremost egg collectors. Presented in his inimitable style, McMullen's stories convulsed the Club with laughter, yet increased the esteem in which his singular abilities are held by Club members.

April 19. Forty-seven members and five guests present.

Alfred J. Kronschnabel, Robert M. Robinson and Dale Sanville were elected to active membership.

A committee to investigate the purchase of a new projector was appointed, consisting of Herbert Cutler, chairman, Ross and Underdown.

David Cutler continued the series of talks on field identification, discussing the Sprague's and American Pipits.

Robert H. Sehl spoke on "A Glimpse of Western Birds", reporting on an extended trip touching virtually all sections of the western half of the country,

accompanying his talk with an extensive series of travelogue-type slides, including a number of bird pictures.

May 3. Fifty-two members and eight guests present.

Philip A. DuMont, of the Fish and Wildlife Service, addressed the Club on the Midway Islands and the gooney birds, the Black-footed Albatross or black gooney and the Laysan Albatross or white gooney, illustrating his talk with an excellent series of kodachrome slides and a motion picture of the dance of the albatross. The object of the speaker's trip to Midway was to attempt to find a method of dissuading the gooney birds and terns from nesting on and swarming over the Military Air Transport Service runways. He was completely unsuccessful, smoke, fire, noise and an egg removal program proving equally ineffective and the problem of collisions between birds and planes there and elsewhere throughout the world is still unsolved.

May 24. Forty-seven members and seven guests present. The death of Edward E. Wildman was announced.

Alan Brady conducted the recapitulation of the twenty-fourth annual spring round-up, held on May 13, which resulted in the observation of a record number of two hundred forty-one species, exceeding the previous high by one. Seventy-four observers in nineteen parties participated. The round-up was aided by what Potter called the best land bird migration he had ever experienced.

Informal summer meetings were held on *June 7, July 5, August 2 and September 6.*

October 4. Forty-eight members and nine guests present.

Former Club member Fred Schmidt returned to speak on the work of the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge near Laurel, Maryland, where he is now stationed. The files of the bird-banding section are now on the refuge, having been moved there from Washington during World War II. The disease laboratory is also there. The speaker showed a series of kodachrome slides of the refuge with particular emphasis on the research involved in attempting to control blackbird depredations in corn fields.

October 18. Thirty-nine members and two guests present.

The Witmer Stone Award Committee was appointed, consisting of Street, chairman, Haines and Lester Thomas.

David Cutler presented another in the series of talks on field identification, discussing the various plumages of the Clay-colored Sparrow.

Henry Matthews addressed the Club on the birds of the Pecos Valley of New Mexico. The speaker's remarks described his first encounters with the various specialties of this ornithologically productive area.

November 1. Thirty-five members and two guests present.

It was decided to purchase a Revere five hundred watt projector with a five inch lens.

Robert S. Brodey, Stuart W. Hughes, E. Matthew Miller, Paul J. O'Brien and Robert C. Stein were elected to active membership.

Edward Chandler, refuge manager, addressed the Club on "The Bombay Hook Wildlife Refuge - Looking Ahead". Bombay Hook is primarily a migratory and wintering refuge, with the emphasis increasingly on the wintering

refuge phase in recent years. The wintering population of Canada Geese has built up phenomenally during the last six years. Chief among the projects for future development of the refuge is an extensive impoundment program.

November 15. Thirty-nine members and eight guests present.

A Nominating Committee was appointed, composed of Haines, chairman, and Matthews.

Charles H. Rogers gave another in his series of informative talks, this one on the swallows. He divided swallows into four groups, depending mainly on their nesting habits and exhibited specimens of the various species found throughout the world.

December 6. Thirty-seven members and ten guests present.

Richard T. T. Forman was elected to active membership.

Robert C. Stein presented a scholarly address on his specialty, the two Alder Flycatchers. With the aid of a series of slides, tape recordings and nests, the speaker's excellently prepared talk illustrated the small but consistent differences in behavior, ecology and morphology which may eventually lead to his description of the birds as two distinct species.

December 20. Forty-three members and seven guests present.

Paul Schwalbe presented the recording "Symphony of the Birds". The songs and calls of a relatively small number of American birds, played at various speeds, were combined in such a fashion as to produce a symphony somewhat reminiscent of the works of certain modern Russian composers.

January 3, 1957. Sixty-nine members and nine guests attended the sixty-seventh annual meeting.

William E. Hannum, J. George Hitchner and John C. Miller were elected Fellows.

Norman J. McDonald was elected an Honorary Member.

The following officers and councillors were elected:

Philip A. Livingston, President

Ernest A. Choate, Vice-President

John F. McIlvain, Secretary

Henry T. Underdown, Treasurer

Henry Matthews, Councillor

Paul W. Schwalbe, Councillor

The death of John C. Knox was announced.

Underdown presented his thirtieth annual treasurer's report.

The leaders of the several Christmas Censuses reported on the results of the 1956 counts.

By way of entertainment, Choate presented an amusing but rather pointless quiz designed, he announced, to determine whether Pennsylvania or New Jersey has the Club's most eminent ornithologist. It was pointless because everybody knew to begin with that Potter is the Club's most eminent ornithologist. He won a book.

January 17. Thirty members and six guests present.

Chandler Ross was reappointed Editor.

The feature of the evening was a panel discussion on bird banding. Joseph Cadbury spoke about his interesting and unusual recoveries, especially

of cormorants, of which he has banded more than ten thousand. Jacobs discussed banding birds of prey. Harty demonstrated the use of a Japanese mist net to trap birds for banding purposes. William Craighead showed movies of his banding operations at the George School near Newtown, Pennsylvania and Griswold spoke about the facts which can be learned about birds' ages from banding captives, of which he has done a good deal in his work at the Philadelphia Zoo.

February 7. Fifty-nine members and eleven guests present.

The following committee appointments were made:

Field Trip: Brady, chairman, David Cutler, Frazier and Reimann.
Ornithological Studies: Stein, chairman, Bender and William Middleton.

Communications: Choate, chairman, Schwalbe and Street.

Conservation: Wonderly, chairman, Hoy, Jenkins, McDonald and Street.

Publications: Ross, chairman, Bond, Lester Thomas and Ulmer.

Library: McDonald, chairman, Bancroft and Taylor.

Witmer Stone Award: Ulmer, chairman, and Lester Thomas.

Books: Altemus.

Expeditions: Sehl, chairman, and Matthews.

Stephen Harty was elected to active membership.

Street announced that the bill to remove the Sharp-shinned Hawk, the Cooper's Hawk and the Goshawk from the list of unprotected birds in Pennsylvania is now before the state legislature. The Pennsylvania Hawk Committee, of which the D.V.O.C. is a sponsor, has been instrumental in getting the bill introduced.

Crawford H. Greenewalt lent the Club his spectacular motion pictures of hummingbirds in flight, using his new stroboscopic technique in which the pictures are taken at the rate of twelve hundred frames per second. Choate explained something about this remarkable development, the secret of which is the intense brilliance of the light used. Members were impressed with the hummingbird's complete mastery of the air which these pictures revealed.

February 21. Thirty-seven members and seven guests present.

Joel Abramson addressed the Club on "Some Avian Newcomers", discussing largely the arrival of the Cattle Egret, the Spotted-breasted Oriole and the Smooth-billed Ani in the United States. Although the material was not essentially new, the speaker, whose home is in Florida, presented a well-prepared and scholarly discussion of the present status of these interesting species.

March 7. Thirty-two members and two guests present.

Edmund T. Higgins was elected to active membership.

Henry Matthews gave the first section of a two-part presentation on birding in southern Mexico, recounting his experiences on a trip to that area the preceding March with Herbert Cutler. His travelogue-type talk was illustrated with skins, largely of orioles and flycatchers, from the Academy's collection and a color movie which, while hardly the closest approach to technical perfection exhibited to the D.V.O.C., was certainly the most hilarious shown in recent years.

March 21. Thirty seven members and seven guests present.

T. Norman Mason was elected to active membership.

Henry Matthews presented Part II of "Birding in Southern Mexico", continuing his account of his ornithological and other observations on his trip to that area and again illustrating his remarks with skins from the Academy's collection.

April 4. Thirty-seven members and nine guests present.

John Royal Moore addressed the Club on "The Avian Skeleton". In some detail he compared the skeleton of a crane with a human skeleton, pointing out the great changes which have taken place for purposes of flight. Birds have an extensive system of air sacs, a factor in the high respiratory rate and body temperature. A demonstration of this air sac system was the highlight of the talk. With the aid of his colleagues, Herbert Stauffer and Howard Steele, Moore performed a remarkable demonstration of pneumaticity on the carcass of a Laysan Albatross which he had secured from the Midway Islands especially for the occasion.

April 18. Forty-one members and three guests present.

Martin C. Michener was elected to active membership.

Richard Edes Harrison, exchange speaker from the Linnaean Society, addressed the Club on "The Use of Maps in Bird Study". He lamented the widespread lack of knowledge of maps, which he defined as a reduction of geography. The speaker displayed a large assortment of maps, indicated which types are especially useful in bird study and presented to the Club a handsome framed map-mold of New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania.

May 2. The meeting was held in the bird house at the Philadelphia Zoological Garden with fifty-four members and six guests present. Prior to the meeting John Griswold, curator of birds at the Zoo, led the members on a tour of the bird exhibits, featured by what may well be the finest collection of waterfowl in captivity.

Joel Abramson and John Sawyer were elected to active membership.

Griswold answered a series of questions from members and sketched the history of the bird house at the Zoo, explaining the methods used in heating and lighting the building and feeding the birds. He also showed a color motion picture of the nesting of the Bermuda Petrel, or Cahow, taken during several visits there to study this interesting species since its rediscovery in 1935.

May 23. Forty-three members and four guests present.

Announcement was made of the death of Conrad Roland.

Alan Brady led a discussion of the results of the twenty-fifth annual spring round-up, held on May twelfth, in which some fifty-seven members participated and listed a total of two hundred twenty-two species, the lowest since 1949. Brady praised the greatly increased use of numbers of individuals in reporting each species observed. Although the round-up makes no pretense of having true scientific value, it was felt that comparisons of the relative abundance of species thus obtained might in the future prove of interest.

Informal summer meetings were held on *June 6, July 11, August 1 and September 6.*

October 3. Fifty-two members and three guests present.

Summer observations by members were discussed. Vice-President Choate moderated a report by a number of members on the seventy-fifth stated meet-

ing of the American Ornithologists' Union at Cape May from September tenth to fifteenth, jointly sponsored by the D.V.O.C. and the Academy of Natural Sciences. Some three hundred eighty members and guests registered for the meeting, the second largest in A.O.U. history and the Club was represented by thirty-two members. Well received papers were delivered by Club members Bond and Devlin. Potter announced that a list of one hundred seventy-one species was compiled in Cape May County on the various field trips led by D.V.O.C. members.

October 17. Forty-one members and three guests present.

Elliott L. Bailey was elected to active membership.

The feature of the evening was a photographic contest by members. Although the entries were slightly fewer in number than in previous years, the slides were of such uniformly high quality that the decision of the judges was indeed difficult. Awards were made as follows: Birds — Choate; Other natural history subjects — Sehl; Landscapes — Rebmann.

November 7. Fifty-three members and five guests present.

George H. Lamb, manager of the Tinicum Wildlife Preserve, spoke on "Tinicum Present and Future". The object at Tinicum is to establish a wildlife sanctuary without making it a duck farm and the attempt will be made to retain its original flavor. The speaker showed a color motion picture of the story of Tinicum and a number of slides showing what has been done in recent months in one of the D.V.O.C.'s favorite areas.

November 21. Forty-six members and four guests present.

President Livingston announced that Harty had submitted a design for a Club bookplate which met with the enthusiastic approval of Council.

Street and Sehl were appointed to the Nominating Committee.

Norman J. McDonald presented a talk entitled "Feathers — Their Structure and Color, 1957 Edition". Bringing up to date a talk given to the Club many years earlier, he demonstrated through a series of interesting experiments how color in feathers can be caused either by pigment or by structure.

December 5. Thirty-one members and two guests present.

Richard T. Wright was elected to active membership.

Herbert Cutler spoke about recent developments in telephotography. He explained what constitutes a good binocular and what to look for in a telescope. He and Sehl demonstrated attachments which enable cameras to be used with telescopes to obtain close-up shots at a small fraction of what it would cost to obtain similar results using telephoto lenses.

December 19. Fifty members and four guests present.

The By-Laws were amended to authorize Council to establish the amount of the annual dues.

Charles H. Rogers continued his series on birds of the world, addressing the Club on "The Sturnidae". He illustrated his talk with specimens of the more than one hundred species in the family, discussing the characteristics of each in another of the highly-organized and scholarly presentations with which Club members have become so familiar.