

ABSTRACTS OF PROCEEDINGS

July 1, 1970 — December 31, 1971

Compiled by
ARTHUR H. BERGEY

JULY 2, AUGUST 6, and SEPTEMBER 3 and 17. Informal summer meetings were held at the Academy of Natural Sciences.

OCTOBER 1. Thirty-seven members and one guest were present.

Member F. Joseph Stokes, Jr. presented "Salt on the Bird's Tail," an account of how man has been catching and using birds over the centuries. Illustrated with numerous slides of old drawings, engravings, and woodcuts, the talk explored the various uses of birds, chiefly as food, from ancient Roman times to the present. The speaker's remarks were filled with fascinating ornithological tidbits, such as the intelligence that Romans dyed swallows the colors of the winning chariots, releasing them to return to their nests fifty to seventy miles away with the latest racing results. The speaker concluded by observing that there is no record of salt on a bird's tail having been efficacious in catching birds!

OCTOBER 15. Thirty-five members and three guests were present.

Announcement was made of the recent passing of Dr. Jesse Packer of Newtown, Pennsylvania. Dr. Packer had been a member of the D.V.O.C. since 1911.

Dr. C. Brooke Worth presented a fascinating program entitled "Some Aspects of Seaside Sparrows in Cape May County." Dr. Worth's field research has been conducted over the past four or five years on a sand spit off the Stone Harbor causeway, on property now owned by the National Wildlife Fund. His work with the sparrows started quite by accident since he originally set up mist nets in an effort to capture shorebirds but he started to recover Seaside Sparrows instead. Dr. Worth's most interesting presentation reviewed knowledge gained from prior research and then pointed out the additional knowledge which he had painstakingly developed. A long period of questions and discussions followed the formal presentation.

NOVEMBER 5. Sixty-one members and three guests attended the third annual dinner meeting held at the Academy of Natural Sciences.

Former Club member Dr. Charles Wurster, now on the staff of the University of the State of New York at Stony Brook, Long Island, and one of the founders of the Environmental Defense Fund, discussed the impact of DDT particularly and chlorinated hydrocarbons generally on many species of birds around the world. These chemicals have been found to have a dramatic detrimental effect on the reproductive ability of many species of generally carnivorous birds at the end of long food chains. In an interesting and expert manner Dr. Wurster described the way in which scientific evidence gradually was developed to prove conclusively the manner in which these chemicals affected the hormone and enzyme development in birds. Dr. Wurster concluded his talk by describing the current efforts and activities of the Environmental Defense Fund.

NOVEMBER 19. Forty-two members and two guests were present.

Member Arthur H. Bergey presented a program on "Glimpses of Southern African Wildlife" which was illustrated with slides and motion pictures taken in South Africa and Mozambique. A number of taped bird calls were played. The pictures included scenes from the Kalahari Desert in the west to the Eastern Transvaal, Kruger Park, and Gorongosa in the east. This was followed by slides of a few mammals. The highlights of the program, however, were the slides and motion pictures of a good sampling of the colorful birds to be seen.

DECEMBER 3. Thirty-eight members and five guests were present.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. Merrill S. Cottrell of Millville, New Jersey. Well-known as a wildlife photographer and lecturer, Mr. Cottrell's topic was "South Jersey Nature." He discussed and illustrated the wide variety of wildlife subjects that can be seen if one only goes out in the woods and searches. The highlight of the

program, however, were photographs of the nest of the Chuck-will's-widow. This is believed to be the first photographic record of the nesting of this species in New Jersey. As with all his photographs, his shots of the Chuck-will's-widow were remarkable.

DECEMBER 17. Fifty members and three guests were present.

E. Irving Wines was elected to active membership.

The program of the evening was presented by member Charles E. Mohr, Executive Director of the Delaware Nature Education Center in Greenville, Delaware. Mr. Mohr spoke on "Aloft at Hawk Mountain and Beyond." Illustrating his talk with slides, Mr. Mohr traced the history of Hawk Mountain to a great extent from personal experience starting a few years before it became a sanctuary and extending up to the present time. In addition to birds, Mr. Mohr's fascinating commentary included a number of mammals of the sanctuary and the geology of the region, notably the River of Rocks.

JANUARY 7, 1971. Sixty-three members and five guests were present at the eighty-first annual meeting.

The following officers and councillors were elected:

Joseph A. Jacobs, President
William R. Middleton, Vice President
Arthur H. Bergey, Secretary
James B. Woodford, Treasurer
Donald S. Heintzelman and Harry W. Todd, Councillors

Jesse Grantham was elected to active membership. Emil J. Berger, Jr. and Walter F. Lipski were elected Fellows. Philip A. Livingston was elected an Honorary Member of the Club.

The Club's annual Julian K. Potter award was presented to James K. Meritt.

Reports were made on a number of area Christmas Counts, and Dr. George Reynard played a few of his newer and more unusual tape recordings of bird songs.

The meeting ended with the traditional period of refreshments and fellowship.

JANUARY 21. Forty-three members and six guests were present.

Stephen R. Wylie was elected to active membership.

A Treasurer's report was presented for the Endowment Fund by Chairman Robert Sehl.

The program of the evening was presented by member Howard P. Brokaw who, with his three sons, took a six-week trip to Alaska in the summer of 1970. They covered 5,000 miles in Alaska, 250 of these on foot. In the course of the trip they observed some 168 species of birds and 26 species of mammals. The evening's talk was confined to the Clarence Rhoad National Wildlife Refuge and Cape Millingham National Wildlife Refuge portion of the trip. Mr. Brokaw's most fascinating slide and verbal presentation kept the audience spellbound throughout his talk.

FEBRUARY 4. Twenty-eight members and three guests were in attendance.

Harry J. Franzen, Duncan H. McIntosh, and Robert Walker were elected to active membership.

Treasurer James B. Woodford made a report to the membership on receipts and disbursements from the General Fund during the year 1970.

Member Horace Alexander presented the evening's program on birds of the southeast coast of England. Mr. Alexander spoke essentially on migration of birds, especially sea birds. His presentation was interesting and different, covering a part of the ornithological world that relatively few Club members have visited. Mr. Alexander's close first-hand knowledge of the ornithology of the area was readily apparent in his presentation.

FEBRUARY 18. Thirty-three members and six guests were present.

Robert Glendinning and H. C. Webster were elected to active membership.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. John T. Linehan of the University of Delaware who reported on bird censuses in the State of Delaware. Mr. Linehan kept the group's close attention as he reported on a variety of statistical information compiled from a number of sources. These included but were not confined to breeding bird surveys, singing male censuses, winter bird counts, Operation Recovery, and a number of

special studies. Significant efforts made by Mr. Linehan and a number of people assisting him in this surveys have contributed greatly to our knowledge of Delaware birds.

MARCH 4. Forty-one members and three guests were in attendance.

Paul G. DuMont, John C. Kulp, Jr., and John T. LaVia were elected to active membership.

President Jacobs announced appointments to the Witmer Stone Award Committee and also appointed three trustees for the Endowment Fund.

The program of the evening was the continuation and conclusion of Howard Brokaw's account of his Alaska trip last summer. In this segment of his talk he covered that part of the trip through Katmai National Monument, the Arctic National Wildlife Range, Mount McKinley National Park, a few roads of Yukon Territory, and the inside passage to Seattle. As with his first presentation, Howard's talk was liberally illustrated with a beautiful slide program depicting much of the outstanding and unusual scenery of areas visited.

MARCH 18. Thirty-seven members and one guest were present.

The speaker of the evening was Dr. Robert G. Wolk, exchange lecturer from the Linnaean Society. The title of his presentation was "Feeding Adaptations of the Black Skimmer." Using skins, bird skeletons, slides, and slow motion movies, Dr. Wolk presented a program both technical and interesting. He developed his reasoning behind this thesis and conclusion that the Skimmer's capture of small fish for food essentially is a matter of chance rather than by observation or one of the other senses.

APRIL. Fifty-four members and one guest were present.

Tribute was paid to the memory of Norman McDonald, who passed away on March 22. Norman was widely known and respected in ornithological and conservation circles, and he was instrumental in introducing many young people to the pleasures and beauty of nature in general and birds in particular.

Proposed amendments to the Club's Constitution and By-Laws were read and approved.

Arthur Bergey, as Chairman of the Audit Committee, reported that formal written reports had been submitted to Council covering the General Fund, the Endowment Fund, the Wharton Huber Fund, and the Julian Potter Fund.

The evening's program was presented by Dr. Ernest Choate, John McIlvain, and John Sawyer covering their trip to the Galapagos in late 1970. With interesting introduction and commentary, supplemented by both slides and motion pictures of the unusual and unique wildlife seen in these islands, the membership was well informed on the outstanding subjects observed. These included seals, iguanas, finches, gulls, boobies, the flightless cormorant, and other birds.

APRIL 15. Thirty-one members and one guest were present.

The speaker of the evening, Robert Ridgely, a senior at Princeton University, spoke on "Panama and Its Birds." During two years of service in Panama as an officer in the US Army, Mr. Ridgely devoted a major portion of his leisure time to birding. His list of birds observed in that region aggregates 630. In the course of his field studies in Panama he found birds which had previously not been identified there and has thus contributed to the ornithological knowledge of the area. The speaker is presently working on a book on the birds of Panama. Mr. Ridgely's talk, illustrated with a series of excellent slides, was well received by the group present.

MAY 6. Thirty-three members were present.

President Jacobs announced that the Wilson Ornithological Society had accepted an invitation from the D.V.O.C. to hold its annual meeting in June, 1972, at Cape May, New Jersey.

The program of the evening was a film on Tinicum produced by a number of young conservationists who, at the time of its preparation, were graduate students at the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. John Abrahall acted as spokesman for the group. The film reviewed the historical background of Tinicum and surrounding areas and emphasized present efforts to preserve and improve this vital marsh and stream habitat.

MAY 20. Forty-two members were present.

It was announced that Dr. Ernest Choate had accepted the position as Chairman of the Committee to prepare for the June, 1972, meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society at Cape May, New Jersey.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to verbal reports from participating groups on the May 9 Spring Roundup. A total of 242 species was recorded. This number was exceeded only by the Roundup totals in 1966 and 1970.

JUNE 3, JULY 1, AUGUST 5, and SEPTEMBER 2 and 16. Informal summer meetings were held at the Academy of Natural Sciences.

OCTOBER 7. Thirty-five members and five guests attended.

Mr. Ted Beckett of Charleston, South Carolina, was the guest speaker. He gave an interesting and knowledgeable presentation, aided with slides, on the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Mr. Beckett explained that little is known of the needs of this bird, which is unique in that it will nest only in a live tree and will abandon a nest if the tree dies. Fire is associated with this woodpecker's life history — fires that burn out the forest undergrowth but which do not destroy the woodland. Mr. Beckett was pessimistic about the future of this bird, believing that the population can only decline unless a concerted effort is made in the national forests to learn more about its living requirements. Suitable protected habitat should then be provided.

OCTOBER 21. Sixty-seven members and guests attended the Club's fourth annual banquet held in the African Hall of the Academy of Natural Sciences.

Following a delightful dinner the group adjourned to the auditorium for a brief business meeting and the address by the guest speaker, Dr. Peter Paul Kellogg of Cornell University.

Dr. Ira Joel Abramson, Frederick S. Schaeffer, and Charles Tracy were elected to active membership.

Dr. Kellogg, a renowned expert in the field of wildlife sound recording, shared with the group his experience this past summer in studying birds and recording bird songs in the Bahamas. His talk and recordings kept the audience spellbound.

NOVEMBER 4. Forty-eight members and five guests were in attendance.

Charles Conway was elected to active membership.

Member Howard Brokaw spoke on a trip which he and his family took to the Dry Tortugas this past summer. The Tortugas, although politically part of Florida, are geographically more closely associated with the West Indies. Bush Key is a sanctuary for nesting terns. Sooty Terns nest there by the thousands, and these were joined by Noddy Terns and about seventeen pairs of Roseate Terns. Nineteen species of birds were observed on the islands. Included also were the Black Noddy, Magnificent Frigate-bird, herons, shorebirds, and one Barn Swallow. Howard's talk, illustrated with a fine series of slides, also included an account of his trip to Key West. The entire program was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present.

NOVEMBER 18. Forty-six members and two guests were present.

The program of the evening was presented by Maurice Broun. In a most enjoyable presentation, Maurice told the group of his retirement farm in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, located just a few miles from Hawk Mountain. On the sixty acres which he owns Maurice has observed some 160 species of birds, 131 of these from a single picture window. Sixty species have been found nesting, and 23 species have wintered there. The most remarkable Maurice considers to be the Prairie Warbler, undoubtedly induced to nest there by the Christmas trees now being cultured on surrounding farms. The big bonanza for the Brouns, however, has been the plant life. Of some 1147 species of vascular plants recorded for Schuylkill County, Maurice has identified 360 on the farm, roughly one third of the vegetational cover species of the county. He has added 20 species of plants to the county list. Maurice's talk was liberally illustrated with excellent slides.

DECEMBER 2. Forty members and five guests attended.

Arthur M. Shapiro was elected to active membership.

The speaker of the evening was "Bucky" Reeves, wildlife photographer and lecturer from Palmyra, New Jersey. Shown were motion pictures taken this past summer principally at Avalon, New Jersey. Included were Skimmers and Gull-billed Terns on the

nest, and Skimmers, Willets, Gull-billed Terns, and Common Terns in flight. Mr. Reeves also displayed some of his fine work with the 35mm camera. Included were excellent shots of Brown Pelicans, Black-necked Stilts, Avocets, and Ospreys. Mr. Reeves' presentation was most interesting to everyone and of special interest to the wildlife photography "buffs" in the audience.

DECEMBER 16. Fifty-two members and seven guests attended.

Frederick Ulmer, Jr. was the speaker of the evening. He presented an excellent program, liberally illustrated with slides of birds and mammals, covering his visit in January, 1971, to Kenya and Tanzania, East Africa. Although the trip which Fred organized and led was directed primarily toward the observation of big game and other mammals, Fred did observe 184 species of birds and photographed many of them. Approximately 50 species of mammals were seen. With Fred's many interesting photographs and fine commentary and delivery, everyone present was most attentive throughout the program. His word pictures and photographs of the mammals and avifauna of the region brought back fond memories to those in the audience privileged to have visited Africa.