

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, 1919

JULIAN K. POTTER

January 2, 1919. At the twenty-ninth annual meeting of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—J. Fletcher Street.

Vice-President—George H. Stuart, 3rd.

Treasurer—Samuel C. Palmer.

Secretary—Julian K. Potter.

Thirty-one members and two visitors present. Mr. J. Fletcher Street gave an interesting talk on "Pursuing Birds and Bird Pursuers," being an account of a number of field trips taken to points in Delaware and the mountains of Pennsylvania. Nests of the Bald Eagle, Great Horned Owl and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher were mentioned as among the rarities found. The communication was illustrated by lantern slides.

January 16, 1919. Twenty-nine members and five visitors present. The following committees were appointed: Field Committee, Messrs. Baily, Scoville and Potter; Publication Committee, Messrs. Trotter, Stone and Morris. The meeting was addressed by Mr. George H. Stuart, 3rd, on "The Nesting of the Cape May and Nashville Warblers in New Brunswick," describing the nesting haunts and habits of these birds as well as of the Myrtle Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher.

February 6, 1919. Twenty-three members and two visitors present. Mr. W. E. Hannum read a paper entitled "The Sign of the Wren's Nest." The paper included extensive observations about the vicinity of "The Wren's Nest"—the bungalow

of Joel Chandler Harris; and other points in the neighborhood of Atlanta, Ga. Special mention was made of the winter habits of some of our more common summer birds: large numbers of Robins congregated in a definite roost every night, Bluebirds are scattered about the country in small loose flocks, the House Wren returns to primitive habits and is solitary, secretive and shy, while Chipping Sparrows and Field Sparrows associate in flocks until the beginning of the song season.

Mr. DeHaven reported four large flocks of Red-backed Sandpipers and two of Black-bellied Plover at Cape Charles, Va., on January 29.

February 20, 1919. Four visitors and twenty-three members attended. Dr. C. E. Ehinger spoke on the subject "Birds of the Lower Susquehanna Valley," describing the unusual scenery and wealth of bird life found about Peach Bottom, Pa., during the spring migration season. Warblers were especially abundant, from fourteen to twenty-five species having been seen on each trip. Ninety-eight species of birds were noted during a few days' stay in the spring of 1917.

Mr. Louis Agassiz Fuertes was present and gave an interesting account of ancient and modern Falconry and exhibited a number of his superb paintings illustrating the principal Raptores used in Falconry. Mr. Fuertes stated that the modes of attack of the long-winged Falcon and the short-winged Goshawk, both of which were used in the art, were quite different; the Falcon relying on the force of the blow and the Goshawk on the grip of the talons to kill the prey.

March 6, 1919. Thirty-four members and three visitors present. Mr. Samuel Scoville, Jr. was elected to active membership and W. G. McDaniel, C. E. Tobias, Gurden T. Scoville, Prof. D. F. Lockwood to associate membership. The communication, "Bird Biographies," was by Dr. Spencer Trotter. The subject referred to biographies for the proposed club book on the birds of our district. The speaker stated that the biographies had been entirely finished for the groups, from the Thrushes to the Warblers, inclusive, and the accompanying data largely abstracted and compiled. He urged a continued and sustained

interest in the work, as the completion of the book is now in sight.

March 20, 1919. Thirty-eight members and three visitors present. Dr. Witmer Stone read a paper entitled "Searching for Eagles' Nests," giving an interesting biographical sketch of the Bald Eagle and a delightful account of an expedition taken to Delaware in search of Eagles' nests. Two nests were found, one of which contained a set of two eggs. Lantern views of the nests were shown.

April 3, 1919. Twenty-three members and three visitors present. The meeting was addressed by Prof. Herbert H. Beck upon the subject "Bird Notes from Lancaster County." His remarks were full of interest and pertained mostly to the distribution and relative abundance of birds in Lancaster County. Data which covered a number of years' field study showed that the forest-loving birds had disappeared or become rare, while birds of open farm land had for the most part increased. Since the passage of the Migratory Bird Law the Canvas-back Duck, Canada Goose and Whistling Swan had become much more abundant on the Susquehanna flats. Interesting notes regarding the Passenger Pigeon and the colonies of Black-crowned Night Herons were given.

April 17, 1919. Twenty-five members and one visitor present. The topic of the evening, "Scattered Observations," was delivered by Mr. John D. Carter. Accurate and entertaining observations of birds as noted by the speaker at different points during the spring of 1918 were the features of the communication. Five Bald Eagles were seen at Cape Henry, Va. at one time and the Rough-winged Swallow was found nesting in the sand dunes. A June trip to the Poconos yielded the nest and eggs of the Golden-crowned Kinglet, Black-throated Green Warbler and the Blackburnian Warbler, and in addition a nest with young of the Nashville Warbler was found and a Lesser Scaup Duck was noted.

May 1, 1919. Three visitors and nineteen members present. Mr. William L. Baily speaker of the evening being absent on

account of illness, Dr. Witmer Stone gave a short account of a trip to Cape May, N. J., April 20, when an unusual number of Fish Hawks were noted. The effect of the high wind on migrating Barn Swallows was observed, the birds settling on the ground in large numbers very much exhausted and permitting very close approach. A Fish Hawk was seen in a similar exhausted condition. Dr. Stone continued by giving a review of the April number of "The Auk." The articles were commented on by various members.

May 15, 1919. One visitor and sixteen members present. Mr. William L. Baily gave a biographical sketch of his uncle William L. Baily, author of "Our Own Birds." Extracts were read from a number of letters received by Mr. Baily, Sr., from John Gould, dealing especially with his method of producing iridescent effects on his paintings of the Hummingbirds. Four volumes containing paintings of the Hummingbirds were exhibited which demonstrated that William L. Baily, Sr., was an artist of great ability.

October 2, 1919. Twenty-six members present. Dr. Witmer Stone spoke on "The Life and Works of the Late William Brewster," his remarks were of a biographical nature and reviewed Mr. Brewster's ornithological activities and associations. A number of his works were shown and several letters read which had been received from him by Dr. Stone at different times during an acquaintance of thirty years.

October 16, 1919. Five visitors and twenty-four members present. Mr. Samuel Scoville, Jr. read a paper entitled "The Pileated Woodpecker," giving an interesting account of the habits of this shy Woodpecker as observed by him in the wilder parts of northern Pennsylvania as the guest of Mr. R. C. Harlow during the early part of May, 1919. Three occupied nests were found (see *antea*).

November 6, 1919. Twenty-eight members and two visitors present. The following were elected to associate membership: Franklin Cook, Atlantic City, N. J., and Asa P. Way, Lansdowne, Pa.

Mr. J. Fletcher Street addressed the members on "Our Little Beach Island Trip," describing his experiences with the Shore Birds on the New Jersey coast during August and September, 1919, and giving a detailed account of the environment and habits of the Black Rail which was found nesting on Little Beach Island July 4th of this year.

Lantern slides depicting scenery and birds were shown.

November 20, 1919. Twenty-one members and four visitors present. The topic of the evening was "Some Experiences in Bird-calling," by Mr. Philip E. Howard. The speaker illustrated his talk with striking imitations of the call notes of some of our more common birds and described in an interesting manner how various birds had been attracted to the caller by imitating their respective notes.

December 4, 1919. Twenty-two members present. Mr. John D. Carter addressed the members on the subject "Pocono and North Jersey Birds," describing in an interesting manner the nesting habits of the Nashville Warbler in the Poconos and the Short-billed Marsh Wren at Newton, New Jersey. Unoccupied nests of this Wren were found built of green material while those that contained eggs were built of dry grasses. A Marsh Hawk's nest, the Golden-winged Warbler and the Alder Fly-catcher were mentioned as other features of the trip to north Jersey.

December 19, 1919. Twenty-six members and two visitors present. Dr. Witmer Stone gave a very interesting communication on "Bird Observations in the Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona." Describing a collecting trip which he had taken from May 19 to August 1, 1919, to the camp of Mr. J. Eugene Law, established in Pinery Canyon, Chiricahua Mountains. Characteristic birds of the desert regions, foothills and higher mountain regions were dwelt upon. Specimens of the birds, mammals, reptiles, insects and plants collected were shown.

Lantern slides showing the difficulties encountered and the natural beauty of the country were an interesting feature of the communication.