

ABSTRACTS OF PROCEEDINGS — 1959

Compiled by ROBERT H. SEHL

January 8. Sixty-eight members and six guests attended the sixty-ninth annual meeting. The following officers and councillors were elected:

Ernest A. Choate, *President*
John F. McIlvain, *Vice-president*
Robert H. Sehl, *Secretary*
Henry T. Underdown, *Treasurer*
Edward J. Reimann, *Councillor*
David A. Cutler, *Councillor*

Russell Fowler, J. d'Arcy Northwood, Samuel Bloom and Dr. Samuel Cresson were elected to active membership.

Henry Underdown presented his thirty-second annual treasurer's report.

Following the several Christmas counts which were presented and analyzed, entertainment was enjoyed. Henry Matthews conducted a "Can You Identify It?" quiz, and a panel of experts participated in an ornithological question session monitored by Lester Thomas. Questions both tricky and serious for the latter contest had been sent in from all corners of the country by ornithological friends.

Traditional refreshments were served.

January 22. Forty-two members and seven guests were present.

Dr. William E. Parker presented "Birds from Maine to the Florida Keys" in color motion pictures, a remarkable photographic essay portraying birds that can be encountered at many of the best birding spots on the eastern coast of the United States.

February 5. Thirty-three members and six guests were present.

R. Dudley Ross was elected to active membership.

Dr. Lewis G. Sterner presented "Birds in Shakespeare", an authoritative survey of the references to birds found in the works of the great bard. Ninety-six references included more than sixty species.

February 19. Thirty-eight members and five guests were present.

Robert Loveland was elected to active membership.

Alan Brady showed color motion pictures of local birds and a brief sequence on film of the Hawk Owl at Concord, Mass. The topic, "Some Interesting Examples of Avian Genetics" was presented by Joel Abramson. An account of the contributions of the earliest to the most recent geneticists was given.

March 5. Forty-five members and three guests were present.

Frank Carter was elected as an active member.

A symposium on "Orientation in Birds" was moderated by Dr. Ernest A. Choate. Several members presented recent findings and offered critical evaluations of some of the more startling proposals.

March 19. Fifty-one members and eleven guests were present.

Peter Ames and Jerome I. Oeste were elected to active membership.

Dr. Leslie R. Severinghaus, Headmaster of Haverford School, spoke on a "Schoolmaster's Holiday", describing his experiences as a participant in a black bear census in the Adirondack Mountains. A detailed account of the procedures followed was illustrated with color slides.

April 2. Forty members and five guests were present.

Charles H. Rogers of Princeton University Department of Zoology presented the topic, "Cuckoos of the World". In a scholarly manner he discussed the characteristics of Cuculiformes in terms of geographical distribution, physiological structure, adaptation to environment and behavior patterns.

April 16. Fifty-three members and ten guests were present.

Peter Davis and Charles A. Hetzel were elected active members.

William Forward, Assistant Refuge Manager at the Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey, spoke on the development of that area as one of a chain of nation-wide refuges. Although the area was acquired in 1939, it was not until 1952 that major improvements were undertaken. Today Brigantine offers one of the finest areas of its type in the East.

May 7. Forty-three members and four guests were present.

Dr. Ian Nisbet, exchange speaker from the Nuttall Club, presented, "Migration Patterns in Western Europe". An authoritative account showed the problems unique to western Europe and their relationship to the study of migration in general.

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

Henry T. Armistead was elected to active membership.

The passing of Dr. John Arnett, past Councillor, Fellow and Secretary of the Club was noted. The deaths of Edward Marshall and Harvey Moore were also announced.

The Spring Roundup reports were distributed and respective representatives of the several reports reviewed the counts.

October 1. Forty-six members and nine guests were present.

The revised "Field List of the Birds of the Delaware Valley Region", published by the Club, was announced as available. Henry Underdown's resignation as Treasurer of the Club after thirty-two years of meritorious service was accepted with regret. Charles Price was appointed temporary Treasurer.

Mr. Jordan Lederer, a professional aerial sprayer, gave a detailed report on his occupation, the results of his efforts, and opinions which he felt were frequently wrongly held. The case presented conflicted with many generally accepted beliefs but the data supporting these beliefs was considered inconclusive by the speaker.

October 15. Forty-three members and five guests were present.

Scott H. Verner was elected to active membership.

The annual Annual Color Transparency Symposium was held. Members showed the results of their best 35 mm. photographic efforts in categories which included not only birds, but other nature subjects and general subjects. Hughes, Sexauer and Hetzel were awarded prizes for their unusual shots.

November 5. Forty-eight members and nine guests were present.

Charles E. Mohr was re-instated as a Fellow.

Richard Ryan, Linnaean Society exchange speaker, presented "Practical Birding in Mexico". A geographical survey of the many habitats illustrated by color slides was followed by a review of the varieties of Mexican birds.

November 19. Forty-six members and four guests were present.

Gerald Weinstein was elected to active membership.

Dr. Ernest A. Choate gave a detailed account of an excursion to Europe with particular emphasis on the birds and historical landmarks encountered. Kodochrome slides enhanced his talk.

December 3. The death of Richard H. Miller, one of our older active Fellows, was announced.

Charles H. Rogers of Princeton presented "Albatrosses, Shearwaters, and Petrels", one of his series of lectures on the important bird groups of the world. A complete account of this universally distributed order was given.

December 17. Fifty-two members and ten guests were present.

Council announced an increase in the annual dues to \$5.00, effective January 1960.

The death of Nathaniel Wycoff was announced.

Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, President of the Wildlife Management Institute, spoke on "Pesticides". With his extensive background, he spoke with authority on the role of the government agencies in insect control and their frequent conflict with conservation agencies. His hypotheses were well substantiated by data, and the members were alerted to the need for strong legislative controls.

