

Activities of the D. V. O. C.

THE Delaware Valley Ornithological Club was founded February 3, 1890, after several preliminary meetings; the first January meeting being now regarded as the anniversary meeting. The founders were: William L. Baily, George Spencer Morris, J. Harris Reed, Samuel N. Rhoads, Witmer Stone, Spencer Trotter and Charles A. Voelker.

Since 1891, through the courtesy of the Academy of Natural Sciences, the meetings have been held in Dr. Stone's rooms at the museum, Nineteenth and Race Streets. In return for this privilege the Club has collected and presented to the Academy a local collection of the birds, nests and eggs of Pennsylvania and New Jersey to which additions are always being made. The Club also does its utmost to advance the interests of the Academy, and its members whenever able to do so become members of the Academy. Meetings of the Club are held on the first and third Thursdays of each month from October to May (inclusive). These are open only to members and specially invited guests. Any man, or boy over fifteen years of age, interested in Ornithology and recommended in writing by a member, is eligible to Associate Membership, elections occurring at the first meetings of November and March; but not more than eight members may be elected in any one year.

From the Associates who show the most interest in the Club are chosen the Active Members who transact the business of the Club and from whom the officers are selected, they are limited to twenty with the addition of the ex-presidents. In order not to waste the time of the meeting with business details the Active Members hold a brief preliminary meeting so that the regular meeting, in which all members participate, may be entirely devoted to ornithology.

A stated communication is announced on the cards but notes and short communications are always in order and general discussion is welcomed.

The following members have served as president of the Club:

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| 1890. | William L. Baily. |
| 1891-2. | Witmer Stone. |
| 1893-4. | George S. Morris. |
| 1895-6. | William E. Hughes. |
| 1897-8. | I. Norris De Haven. |
| 1899-1900. | Charles J. Rhoads. |
| 1901-3. | Charles J. Pennock. |
| 1904-6. | Spencer Trotter. |
| 1907-9. | William A. Shryock. |
| 1910-12. | Samuel N. Rhoads. |
| 1913-15. | Stewardson Brown. |
| 1916-18. | Henry W. Fowler. |

Since 1901 the Club has published an annual "CASSINIA," named after the famous Philadelphia ornithologist, John Cassin, which contains the proceedings of the meetings, migration reports and other matter relating to local ornithology. This is furnished free to Active and Associate Members and at 50 cents per number to others. Some of the early numbers are out of print and complete sets are difficult to secure.

A volume, "Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey," compiled by Witmer Stone, has also been published, and may be had at \$1.50.

There are also four small pamphlets covering the early years of the Club's proceedings.

Blank schedules are furnished to members and others who will keep a record of the spring arrival of birds at their locality and these are returned in June and a combined report prepared which is published and issued to each observer early in the following year.

On Washington's Birthday, Good Friday and Decoration Day field trips are arranged for members of the Club only, to points in the neighborhood of the city, which are announced by card.

The object of the Club is to further the study of ornithology in its widest sense. It stands for the teaching of absolute accuracy in observation, believing it better not to publish at all

than to publish an error. It stands for the preservation of wild life but with fair license both to the bona-fide sportsman and the scientific collector for securing such game and specimens as do not threaten the extermination of species. It aims to advance our knowledge of wild bird life both by original observation and by the instruction of others, and to publish the results of its studies for the benefit of the public at cost price.

The underlying principles of the Club are good-fellowship and coöperation, and these have been we think the secret of its success.

About every four years the national ornithological association, "The American Ornithologists' Union," holds its annual session in Philadelphia, which brings a notable gathering of bird men to the Academy. Everyone interested in birds is free to attend the meetings. Members of the D. V. O. C. are eligible to Associate Membership in the A. O. U., the dues being \$3.00 per year for which they receive the quarterly magazine, "The Auk," edited by Dr. Witmer Stone.

With "The Auk" and "CASSINIA" one can keep well posted on what is going on in ornithology throughout the world as well as in our immediate neighborhood.