

Club Notes

The small size of the present issue is due to the heavy drain upon the Club's resources in getting out last year's CASSINIA owing to war prices. Next year it is our hope to issue the usual number of pages, but we must have outside support. If each present subscriber would secure an additional one or would buy up such back numbers as he needs, we should be helped materially. All but two issues can still be supplied at the original cost. The Club has published CASSINIA at a loss, in the interests of Ornithology, and all editorial services have been rendered voluntarily.

Thirteen meetings of the Club were held during the year ; only one a month during the autumn on account of war conditions. The average attendance was twenty-two.

Three field trips were taken during the year as follows :

February 22, 1918. In the vicinity of Mantua Creek at Wenonah, N. J. Members attending, twenty ; visitors, two. Intermittent snow all day. Twenty-six species of birds noted, including Long-eared Owl, Fox Sparrow, Myrtle Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird, Purple Grackle, Robin and Bluebird.

March 29, 1918. Clear and warm, light wind. Valley of Ridley Creek. Ten members and one visitor in attendance. Twenty-two species of birds noted, including American Bittern, Kingfisher, Phoebe and Fox Sparrow.

May 30, 1918. Clear and warm. Vicinity of Mt. Holly and New Lisbon, N. J. Twelve members attending. Sixty-eight species of birds noted, including the Great Blue Heron, Black-billed Cuckoo, Henslow's Sparrow, Pine Warbler ; nests of Rough-winged Swallow and Broad-winged Hawk secured.

ARCHIBALD BENNERS, an Associate Member of the D. V. O. C., died in the service of his country in France, July 3, 1918, aged twenty-one years.

Being away from home, at school much of the time, since his election he attended but few meetings of the Club, but was thoroughly interested in its work and in the study of Ornithology. He secured many of the specimens contained in the valuable collection of mounted birds recently presented to the Academy by his father George B. Benners, and aided him in bringing together the splendid oological collection which he possesses.

Archie Benners was born April 27, 1897, in Philadelphia, and attended the Virginia Military Institute at Lexington, Va., from which he was graduated in 1917, six months ahead of time to enable him to enter the War College at Washington in order to obtain his commission in the Marine Corps. He served at Paris Island, S. C., and at Quantico, Va., and sailed for France on January 19, 1917, as Second Lieutenant in the 6th Regiment of Marines.

He was wounded near Verdun in March, but soon recovered and went back to duty. Was wounded again in May and went back again, and finally on June 3 was mortally wounded at Belleau Wood when the 5th and 6th Regiments of Marines, composed of 8000 men, defeated nearly 30,000 of the Prussian Guards and saved Paris. Only 2000 men came through that fight, unwounded.

He died on July 3 in a hospital near Paris, and is buried in the Marine Cemetery in Belleau Wood, which has been named by the French government "Marine Wood."

A number of his superior officers, who have since been interviewed, state that Archie was a very brave man and always volunteered for dangerous duty. He had just been promoted to First Lieutenant and recommended for a decoration.

Those who knew Archie Benners appreciated the earnestness of his character and his high moral standard, and a few who saw him just before he sailed were struck with what a splendid figure of a soldier he made. In his death the Club loses a valuable member and the country a brave officer.—W. S.