

ABSTRACTS OF PROCEEDINGS

JULY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 1963

Compiled by George B. Reynard

JULY 11, AUGUST 1, and SEPTEMBER 5. Informal summer meetings were held.

OCTOBER 3. Forty-four members and seven guests were present.

The sum of \$25.00 was contributed for use by the Philadelphia Conservationists.

The annual color slide contest was held, with contributions from Messrs. Altemus, Choate, Livingston, McDonald, Rice, Thomas, Wing, and Wonderly. Included were pictures of birds, flowers, snakes, a skunk, and general scenery.

OCTOBER 17. Fifty-one members and thirteen guests were present.

Barro Colorado – Tropical Laboratory was described by word and photos by Philip A. Livingston and Stephen T. Harty following a June-July trip this year. The varied fauna and flora, and the facilities of the research center operated by the Smithsonian Institution, were extolled as an excellent environment for introduction to tropical outdoors.

NOVEMBER 7. Forty-seven members and seven guests were present.

Mr. Robert A. Askins, Mr. Frank McCamey, Dr. Harold Rice, Mr. Rudolph F. Stoeck, and Mr. William M. Wade were elected to active membership.

Approval was given to allow the Dover Publishing Company to produce and sell reprints of Witmer Stone's "Bird Studies at Old Cape May."

Mr. Frederick A. Ulmer, Jr. presented an illustrated talk on "Mammals of the Delaware Valley," citing some fifty species or more found in local woods, meadows, or offshore waters.

NOVEMBER 21. Forty-six members and six guests were present.

Mr. Daniel P. Morslander was elected to active membership.

Approval was given to establish an endowment fund and an award for Meritorious Ornithological Field Work in honor of the late Julian K. Potter.

Stephen R. Wing spoke on "Birding in New Zealand," with commentary and slides of the many unusual species of birds and the varied scenery. There was a report on the mid-winter (July) roundup day.

DECEMBER 5. Forty-two members and six guests were present.

Donald S. Heintzelman presented information on "Nest Evolution in Sparrow Hawks." He presented the thesis that this species, now principally a hole-nester, once used open nests and that undertermined evolutionary influences resulted in the change.

DECEMBER 19. Forty-seven members and six guests were present.

Dr. Edward D. Greaves was elected to active membership.

Approval was given to use a portion of the Huber fund to finance publication of the proposed book by Dr. Earl L. Poole on birds of Pennsylvania.

John Sawyer was nominated to fill one of the two openings on Council in January, 1964.

Richard C. Davids presented a profusely illustrated travelogue, "Around the World in Sixty Minutes," which included many excellent and varied photographs taken in Egypt, Nepal, Pakistan, India, Burma, Bali, Hong Kong, Korea, and Japan.

ABSTRACTS OF PROCEEDINGS — 1964

Compiled by Lester S. Thomas

JANUARY 2. Sixty-six members and nine guests were present at the seventy-fourth annual meeting.

The following officers and councillors were elected:

Alan Brady, President
George B. Reynard, Vice President
Lester S. Thomas, Secretary
Edward L. Altemus, Treasurer
John Sawyer, Councillor
J. George Hitchner, Councillor

Dr. Robert F. Brodey, Ronald Logan, Dr. Frank B. Moody, Gene Stern, and Stephen R. Wing were elected Fellows.

Harry Todd was elected to active membership.

Announcement was made of a memorial fund honoring the late Julian K. Potter.

The leaders of eight Christmas Counts in which Club members participated discussed the highlights of their respective censuses.

Following entertainment in the form of quizzes and bird-watching cartoons by Lester Thomas and Ernest Choate, the meeting adjourned for refreshments and fellowship in the traditional manner.

JANUARY 16. Fifty members and two guests were present.

James K. Meritt was reappointed Editor.

The following committee appointments were made:

Membership: Arthur H. Bergey, Chairman
Communications: George B. Reynard, Chairman
Field Trips: John Sawyer, Chairman
Conservation: Frederick A. Ulmer, Jr., Chairman
Library: Stephen T. Hart
Book Club: Philip A. Livingston, Chairman

Charles H. Rogers returned to continue his series of outstanding talks on bird families of the world, taking as his topic "Hérons and Their Allies." Supporting his presentation with an array of study skins, he spoke in detail of the several families and many species of the cosmopolitan order of deep-water waders, the Ciconiiformes.

FEBRUARY 6. Fifty-one members and three guests were present.

Further committee appointments were made as follows:

Ornithological Studies: Clarence E. Stasz, Chairman
Publications: James K. Meritt, Chairman
Witmer Stone Award: Earl L. Poole and Albert E. Conway
Julian K. Potter Award: Robert H. Schl

Charles Wonderly gave an illustrated talk on birds' nests, showing several specimens with their various manners of construction and materials used. He noted that one usually has to acquire the knack of locating nests, and he cautioned photographers on exposing eggs and young and keeping parents away for long periods. A number of slides showed nests, eggs, and nesting sites.

FEBRUARY 20. Forty-one members and four guests were present.

John Evans and Bruce Carrick were elected to active membership.

Alfred Kronschnabel spoke on photographic equipment and its use. Several types of cameras were shown. Among subjects covered were film, shutters, focal length, depth of field, and telescopic lenses.

MARCH 5. Forty-seven members and ten guests were present.

The obituary of William Bacon Evans was read and suitable comments made by members who knew him best.

Charles Craig spoke on the history and development of the Tyler Arboretum from its inception over a century ago when the Painter brothers planted nearly a thousand trees and shrubs between 1845 and 1875, to the present day. It has become the largest arboretum in the East and one of the most picturesque.

MARCH 19. Fifty-two members and six guests were present.

Amendments to the By-Laws, establishing an Endowment Fund and Life Membership class, were adopted. Appointed to the Endowment Fund Board of Trustees were the following: Dr. Ernest Choate for one year, John F. McIlvain for two years, and Robert H. Schl for three years.

With officials of the Academy of Natural Sciences present, the first public presentation of "Birds of Colombia" was made with proper ceremony by Philip Livingston. Both the author, Rodolphe DeSchauensee, and the artist, Earl Poole, were present for the occasion and autographed many copies.

William Russell was speaker of the evening with the topic "Aspects of Avian Competition." With graphs and examples, he demonstrated that competition among birds is directly related to natural selection in the majority of cases, and that there are definite patterns in the competition for habitat, niches, food, and so on.

APRIL 2. Sixty members and five guests were present.

John Bull, exchange speaker of the Linnaean Society, spoke on the "Ornithological Enigmas of the New York Area." He covered a number of breeding birds and their varying ranges, citing withdrawals from the area and new species moving into the area. Some twenty species have moved into the New York - New Jersey area since 1942, and several have completely withdrawn or substantially decreased.

APRIL 16. Forty-one members and six guests were present.

Council approved the request of the Academy that the Passenger Pigeon skins in the Club collection be transferred to the locked Academy collection, provided that they did not lose their identity as D.V.O.C. skins.

Dr. H. F. Schryver was elected to active membership.

Honorary Member James A. G. Rehn gave a clear and complete account of the early days of the Club under the title "Reminiscences." He recalled many events and anecdotes from the days of bird collecting, through the oological phase of birding, down to the present day. Amusing incidents were told, and the various personalities among the early members were described with affection and nostalgia.

MAY 7. Forty-five members and seven guests were present.

Carl C. Eckel and John C. Kricher were elected to active membership.

The Club met at the Philadelphia Zoo, with John A. ("Gus") Griswold and Frederick Ulmer, Jr. as hosts. Mr. Griswold spoke briefly concerning the birds under his care as Curator of Birds, and then escorted the members on a tour through the Bird House. He pointed out the unusual species and the problems in maintaining them in good health. The Zoo has to its credit a number of "firsts" in breeding certain species in captivity and has the largest collection of waterfowl in the United States.

MAY 21. Fifty-one members and two guests were present.

Announcement was made that the library of the late Horace Groskin had been given to the Academy.

Frank Hubbard was elected to active membership.

Robert Schl announced that the Endowment Fund totaled \$1200.00.

Reports of fifteen Round-up groups were given by their respective leaders. Two hundred and twenty-four species were recorded, with ten groups tallying over one

hundred species. The highest count was 192 by the seven members who covered the territory from upper Bucks County to Cape May Point. Few hawks were seen, and no Bald Eagles.

JUNE 4, JULY 2, AUGUST 6, and SEPTEMBER 3. Informal summer meetings were held.

OCTOBER 1. Fifty-six members and fourteen guests were present.

Albert Linton showed the Club his films taken on two recent trips to Kenya and Tanganyika. Herds of wild animals and brilliantly plumaged birds moved across the screen in living color as Mr. Linton spoke of his interesting safaris. Using British Land Rovers for transportation, he was able to cover terrain not accessible to the average visitor to Africa.

OCTOBER 15. Thirty-two members and seven guests were present.

Everett K. Beals was elected to active membership.

R. Dudley Ross spoke on "How to Prepare for Birding in a New Territory." He emphasized that local experience is necessary before embarking in completely new areas. In order for one to get the most out of a trip, too much care cannot be given to preparing a detailed itinerary, studying the seasons, the weather, the flora and fauna, the topography of the territory, and making all possible contacts with local bird people.

NOVEMBER 5. Thirty-one members and five guests were present.

C. U. Atkinson and Warren Swank were elected to active membership.

The annual photographic slide contest was held. Sixty-seven slides from ten members were shown. Among the many excellent shots, the following were judged as winners: Birds — W. R. Middleton, General Nature — Frank B. Moody, and Travel and Scenery — Sumner G. Billings.

NOVEMBER 19. Thirty-one members and nine guests were present.

The following were elected to active membership: Walter Kaskan, Gilbert Merrill, and Albert J. Wallace, Jr.

Announcement was made of the Club's 75th Anniversary dinner and meeting to be held on April 1, 1965, at the Academy. Dr. Ernest Choate was appointed chairman of the affair.

F. Joseph Stokes, Jr. gave an illustrated talk on "Birds on Stamps," showing both symbolic and realistic portraits of many species on postage from a great many countries. Birds on stamps is one of the most popular topics for stamp-collecting specialists.

DECEMBER 3. Sixty-six members and ten guests were present.

Dr. Ernest Choate, Chairman of the 75th Anniversary Committee, announced plans for the dinner and entertainment on April 1, 1965.

James Bond spoke on "Project — Mount Desert Island, Maine". He emphasized the changes in bird life on the island since the great fire of 1947. Several species of more southerly habitat have moved into the burned areas, and birds such as the Blue and Gray Jays have increased. At least 110 species breed on the area at present.

DECEMBER 15. Fifty-two members and nine guests were present.

An addition to the By-Laws, incorporating the Julian K. Potter Award, was adopted.

The death of long-time member Edwin B. Bartram was noted.

Lester S. Thomas described his summer trip to Alaska, under the title of "Birding the Alaska Highway". He showed slides of bird habitats and sub-arctic flowers as found in British Columbia, the Yukon, and interior and coastal Alaska, giving brief commentaries on his experiences with bird and animal life, especially in the Mt. McKinley region.