

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club for 1904

January 7, 1904. Annual Meeting Twenty-seven members present. The resignations of Messrs. John H. Reese and William R. Reinick were accepted with regret

Mr. Clark J. Peck was elected an Associate member.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—Spencer Trotter, M. D.

Vice-President—William A. Shryock.

Secretary—William B. Evans.

Treasurer—Stewardson Brown.

The paper of the evening was by Wm B. Evans, entitled, "Among Strange Voices in England," in which the speaker's impressions of the Chaffinch, Swift, Rook and Skylark were dwelt upon at length.

Mr. Baily reported a Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), Mocking-bird (*Mimus polyglottos*) and Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata pallasii*) at Wildwood, N. J., December 27, 1903. Thirty-eight species in all were observed during the day.

Hermit Thrushes were also reported wintering at several other localities.

A resolution protesting against changing the New Jersey law to permit the shooting of Robins was adopted.

January 21, 1904. Seventeen members present.

Messrs. LaRue K. Holmes and J. J. Wisler were elected Corresponding members.

Mr. DeHaven entertained the club with an account of a visit to the Yellowstone Park during the past summer, speaking particularly of the birds and mammals.

Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) were observed on January 9, 16 and 17, and a Robin, at Olney, on January 21.

The death of Josiah Hoopes, a Corresponding member, was announced (See CASSINIA, 1903, p 82.)

February 4, 1904. Fifteen members present

A discussion was held upon the Shrikes of the neighborhood of Philadelphia, and a number of skins were exhibited. All of the "Loggerhead" Shrikes appeared to belong to the recently proposed race *Lanius ludovicianus migrans* W. Palmer, and only fall captures were on record.

A specimen of Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) from North Carolina was exhibited by Mr. DeHaven, which seemed to present an unusual amount of red in its coloration

February 18, 1904. Twenty members present.

Mr Morris read extracts from his journal covering a five-day trip to Cape Charles, Va., January 31-February 4. Forty-two species of birds were observed, among which were Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*), Robins (*Merula migratoria*), Myrtle Warblers (*Dendroica coronata*) and Hermit Thrushes (*Hylocichla guttata pallasii*). Of the last he estimated that at least one hundred and fifty were seen. Titlarks (*Anthus pensilvanicus*) were unusually abundant and it seemed that the Ipswich Sparrow (*Passerculus princeps*) was actually more plentiful on Skidmore's Island than the Song Sparrow.

March 3, 1904 Eighteen members present.

Some Delaware Notes contributed by Mr C J. Pennock were read by Mr. Stone in the author's absence. (See p 42) The most interesting records were Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*) and a flock of Snow Buntings (*Passerina nivalis*) at Lewes, February 5. Mr. Stone exhibited the original manuscript of John K. Townsend's "Narrative" and a number of letters received from Dr. Mahlon Kirk to be presented to the Academy of Natural Sciences.

March 17, 1904. Eighteen members present.

The resignation of Mr Robert T. Moore was accepted with regret.

Mr. Baily gave a resumé of his observations on the shore birds of the Cape May county coast, based upon numerous trips made during the past twenty years.

April 7, 1904. Nineteen members present

Dr. Hughes described the nesting of various Water-birds and Grouse in South Dakota. The increase in the numbers of the latter bird he attributed to the disappearance of the Coyotes and the development of the grain industry.

Mr Stone commented upon a collection of birds from California recently purchased by the Academy.

Mr. Emlen described a trip down the Egg Harbor river, N. J., in March and spoke of the birds observed

April 21, 1904. Twenty-seven members present.

Mr Samuel C Palmer was elected to Active membership, and Messrs James L. Whitaker and Frank A. Eaton to Associate membership.

The death of Edwin Sheppard, for many years an associate member, was announced

Mr. J. A. G. Rehn entertained the club with an account of a trip to the vicinity of Thomasville, Georgia, during March and early April, illustrating his remarks with specimens which he had secured.

The Mocking-bird was the only novel species to a northern visitor among those found commonly about the open ground, but in the pine woods were to be found Brown-headed Nuthatches (*Sitta pusilla*), Bachman's and Pine-woods Sparrows (*Peuceea aestivalis* and *a. bachmani*), together with Pine Warblers (*Dendroica nigrescens*), Myrtle Warblers (*D. coronata*) and Hermit Thrushes (*Hylocichla guttata pallasii*). The Yellow-throated Warbler (*D. dominica*) was seen March 15. Along the "branches" and in swamps there were noted the Parula Warbler (*Compsothlypis americana*), Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) and Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia mitrata*).

A single specimen of Bachman's Warbler (*Helminthophila bachmani*) was obtained just over the Florida line. (See *Auk*, 1905, p. 85).

A letter from Mr. Win. D Carpenter was read describing a

nest and four eggs of the Woodcock (*Philohela minor*), found near Paoli, Pa., April 17, 1904.

Mr. De Haven stated that he had observed Ducks drinking drops of rain water which collected on their backs as they sat on the salt water, and commented on the flight of Hawks through a gap in the hills near Paterson, N. J., which seems to occur annually between March 10 and 25. This year one hundred and twenty-six birds were shot by local gunners in one day.

May 5, 1904. Twenty-two members present.

Mr. Hunt read a paper describing the discovery of Henslow's Bunting (*Ammodramus henslowii*), at Cupola, Chester Co., Pa. On April 24, six pairs were observed in a high upland field overgrown with grass and weeds, on the 26th the spot was visited, and a specimen secured for identification. It was presumed that the birds would nest in the locality.

Mr. Coggins read a paper entitled, "Confessions of an Egg Collector," discussing the value to science of the work of the man who collects egg-shells. The rather limited compass of scientific truths which the study of egg-shells is able to contribute was reviewed. In the conclusions of the speaker and the discussion which followed, it was considered that the results obtained hardly justify the practice of indiscriminate collecting, but a stimulus to bird-study is produced which *might* otherwise never have been aroused. The most notable egg-collector present admitted frankly that, so far as he was concerned, he collected for the amusement and pleasure that it gave him.

Mr. Baily described the photographing of the Woodcock's nest reported at the previous meeting. The bird showed remarkable tameness and allowed a closer and closer approach until finally Mr. Baily was able to stroke her back with his hand.

Mr. Stone described the flight song of the Woodcock as heard by Mr. H. W. Fowler and himself at Speedwell, N. J., April 30.

May 19, 1904. Thirty-two members present.

Mr. Richard C. McMurtrie was elected an Associate member. Mr. Pennock spoke of some recent observations in Delaware;

he was inclined to think that the Mocking-bird (*Mimus polyglottos*) was on the increase in the upper part of the State. A general discussion on the progress of migration followed.

Mr. Hunt described the vocal performance of a female Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), which sang in captivity.

October 6, 1904. Thirty-seven members present

Messrs. Bruce P. Tyler and Kenneth Howie were elected Associate members

The death of Walter D. Bush, a Corresponding member, was announced.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads made a communication on "Song Periods of Some of Our Common Birds." His observations began on August 11, 1904, in the neighborhood of Audubon, N. J., and of twelve common species but one, the White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo noveboracensis*), remained in song to September 11. The House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) was the first to stop singing, not being heard after August 14. He suggested a generalization, that the finest singers have the shortest song periods, but noted some exceptions. Mr. Rhoads proposes to give the subject further careful study and solicited coöperation.

Mr. Hannum described the destruction of young Robins (*Merula migratoria*) and Blackbirds (*Quiscalus quiscula*) at Concordville, Pa., during the storm of last month and similar observations were made by Mr. Peck at Overbrook, Pa.

October 20, 1904. Twenty-one members present.

Mr. W. E. Hannum, who has been absent for over a year in Colorado, was re-elected to Active membership, and Messrs. Paul L. Louilliere, Richard C. Harlow and Stirling W. Cole were elected Associate members.

A paper on the Long-billed Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris*), "That Feathered Midget of our Tide-water Swamps," was read by Mr. Hunt (see p. 14).

Mr. Stone stated that two races of this bird had been recently distinguished; one inhabiting the Atlantic coast marshes, and the other the fresh marshes of the Mississippi valley. The question had been raised whether the birds found wintering at Cape May were not the latter.

Mr. S. N Rhoads exhibited a volume of the manuscript diary kept by Titian Peale on his trip to Florida in 1824 ; and Mr. Pennock a copy of the rare edition of Guthrie's Geography containing the Ord Zoology which he had purchased at an old book store in Wilmington, Del.

November 3, 1904 Twenty-six members present.

The death of Dr. Samuel W. Woodhouse, Honorary member of the club, on October 23, 1904, was announced, and the following resolution was adopted:

The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club has heard with deep regret of the death of Dr Samuel W. Woodhouse. The last of a generation of ornithologists, whose period of activity closed long before the birth of our Club, Dr Woodhouse had always shown the keenest interest in our work, and in our company renewed his familiarity with the study, to which he had been devoted years before. His kindly disposition and enthusiastic love of birds endeared him to us all, and in his death we recognize the loss not only of an honored member but of a true friend.

Dr. Hughes made the communication of the evening, "A Trip through Idaho," treating of his experiences near Orinphaeno, Moscow Co, Idaho, during September of the present year. Ornithology was not the primary object of the trip, and no specimens were collected, but forty-eight species were recorded, some of the more interesting being the White-headed Woodpecker (*Xenopicus albolarvatus*), Pinon Jay (*Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*) and Franklin's Grouse (*Canachutes franklinii*).

Mr. Carter described the efforts of a Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*) to escape from the attack of a Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), at Anglesea, N. J, October 2. The bird avoided his pursuer by dropping into shallow water, again by turning suddenly in the air, and finally sought shelter between two sand dunes.

November 17, 1904. Twenty-six members present.

Mr. Hannum addressed the Club on "Impressions of Colorado Birds," covering his residence at Bucna Vista, Col., 1903-4.

The country, climate and effect of altitude on distribution and migration were spoken of and sketches were given of the habits of several noteworthy western birds including the Long-crested Jay, Rocky Mountain Jay, Clark's Nutcracker and Water Ouzel.

A sketch of the late Dr. Woodhouse was read by Mr. Stone (see p. 1).

December 1, 1904 Twenty-one members present.

Mr. Carter gave an account of his observations upon the birds of Pocono Lake, Monroe Co., Pa. (see p 29).

Messrs. Baily and Rhoads made additional remarks on the birds of the Pocono region

Mr Stone remarked upon some of the features of the spring migration as shown by a comparison of the Club's schedules (see p. 46). He also called attention to Prof W. W. Cooke's report on the migration of Warblers, illustrating by charts the different winter habitats and migration routes of species which have approximately identical breeding ranges

December 15, 1904. Nineteen members present.

Mr. Keim read a paper on the "Summer Birds of Port Alleghany, McKean Co., Pa" (see p 36)

Mr. Spaeth spoke of birds observed in December, at Cape May Point, N J, among which were Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*), Robins (*Merula migratoria*), Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) and Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*)

Mr. Brown read a communication from Mr. Frederick W Stack, Plainfield, N J., relative to a Crow roost, in which he said: "I wish to take exception to the statement on page 11 of the last CASSINIA, relative to the Ash swamps being occupied as a Crow roost at the present time This is not so, and to my personal knowledge has not been so for at least the greater part of the past decade. Three years ago a roost near Netherwood Heights (Plainfield), was forsaken and the evening flights directed slightly southward and at a considerable distance beyond, toward Picton station where a large roost was discovered by Mr. W. D. W. Miller of this city and is known as the Picton roost."