

Two Local Bird Record Collections Transferred

David B. Long

Over the past year I have been slowly organizing the archival records of the Bucks County Audubon Society (BCAS) in a professional manner. As part of this process, two separate manuscript collections of bird sightings and records, unrelated to the BCAS, have been transferred to more appropriate historical research institutions. This move will allow for better care of and public access to these two collections. Both of these collections were utilized by Ken Kitson when he wrote his *Birds of Bucks County* book, published by the BCAS (Kitson, 1998). Although neither of the creators of these two collections seem to have been members of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, knowledge of these two collections might prove useful to current and future DVOC members doing research on local bird populations.

The first collection was created by Winfred Bauer, who lived in the Torresdale section of Philadelphia for many years. It consists of 15 boxes of index cards and one box of field notebooks dating from 1934 to 1996. These materials contain over 50,000 individual bird sightings made in Philadelphia, Bucks County (particularly in the Penn Manor/Penn Warner lakes area), and Florida. This collection was transferred in May 2005 to the Ewell Sale Stewart Library at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

The MacReynolds notebooks hold many interesting sightings and a few are listed below to give the reader an idea of its scope and tone:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| May 6, 1904 | [saw] Blue-wing Warbler on tree in backyard |
| May 15, 1915 | Blue Grosbeak, seen by Miss Avis Buckman |
| Jan. 17, 1916 | [nesting] Starlings seen at Aldie [Mansion, Doylestown] |
| July 30, 1916 | Saw and heard Berwick's [sic] Wren [in town] |
| Dec. 25, 1916 | Saw large flock of Redpolls, third time this winter – 50 total for year so far |
| June 17, 1917 | Took trolley to Kintnersville, walked down to the "Narrows," saw nesting Louisiana Water Thrush, Black and White Warbler, and Duck Hawk [Peregrine Falcon] |
| March 1, 1918 | Saw mortal combat between a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a Pigeon Hawk [Merlin] |
| March 16, 1918 | Saw my first Ring-Necked Pheasant – a cock on the Hibbs property |
| July 21, 1918 | About 25 Nighthawks nesting at Stony Garden on Haycock Mountain. |
| Sept. 15, 1918 | Duck Hawk [Peregrine Falcon] again seen at the Narrows |

The second collection was created by George MacReynolds (1861–1950), a long-time resident of Doylestown, Bucks County, PA. He was an active birder (before there was such a word), and he wrote a weekly nature column in the Doylestown Democrat newspaper during the nineteen-teens and the nineteen-twenties entitled "Sunday Walks." Professionally, he was the head librarian of the Spruance Library of the Bucks County Historical Society (BCHS), also located in Doylestown. The collection consists of 87 field notebooks from 1901 to 1945 and 56 bird observation notebooks from 1915 to 1944. Also included are two sets of lecture notes and six miscellaneous bird-related notebooks and folders. This collection was transferred in March 2005 to the Spruance Library of the Bucks County Historical Society.

In the local birding world, MacReynolds is best known for his paper "*A List of the Birds of Bucks County with Annotations*," which was read before the Bucks County Historical Society at the May 1, 1937 Doylestown meeting (MacReynolds, 1937a). This paper was so well received that the BCHS published it as a small booklet the same year (MacReynolds, 1937b).

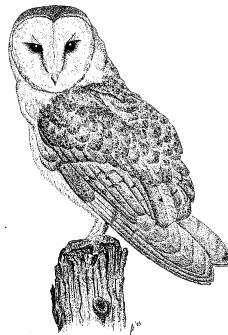
Two Local Bird Record Collections Transferred

- Aug. 7, 1919 Afternoon walk to Turk Dam to find the American [Great] Egret, said to have been seen there, but I did not find it. Saw two other Herons – Green and probably young of the Great Blue – but no *Ardea egretta*... Two white Herons were killed by a youth named Kletzing on the North Branch of the Neshaminy a few days ago, and he was fined by Game Warden Warren Fretz upon the supposition that the birds were the Snowy Heron [Egret], but they may have been the young of the Little Blue.
- Aug. 6, 1921 Saw Broad-wing Hawk in Beaver Falls ravine, probably nesting there.
- Dec. 29, 1921 Barn Owl shot on Burpee's Fordhook Farm
- Sept. 7, 1924 Green Heron attacked by a Coopers Hawk below Ewer's Mill Bridge, dived into the Neshaminy Creek to escape, also swam like a duck
- May 8, 1925 Nest and four eggs of Upland Plover [Upland Sandpiper] found in Robert Horn's truck patch, Doylestown Township
- Feb. 14, 1926 Dr. Fowler tells me that Dr. Witmer Stone, of the Academy of Natural Sciences, says that the Robins seen this winter in this section are Canadian Robins and that some banded birds which have been captured were tagged by Canadian ornithologists.
- Jan. 14, 1927 Large influx flight of Snowy Owls, 12 killed in Bucks County alone from Nov. 7 – Dec. 2, 1926
- Nov. 6, 1929 Bald Eagle, half grown – shot on Jericho Mountain by a young man named Smith
- Oct. 4, 1930 Tennessee Warbler – young – found dead on Herman Burgher's lawn – identified by Dr. Stone to whom it was sent
- Oct. 6, 1930 Sora Rail on Pine Run; one brought in by [Game Warden] Warren Fretz three weeks before, dead.
- Aug. 13, 1932 Mrs. Helen Barnes, Yardley, reported Bittern at lake there all summer; probably nested there (likely the Least Bittern)
- Nov. 19, 1932 Two Dovekies found by farm hand on Torbert Farm, Newtown Township, [actually Lower Makefield Township]; alive but bewildered and storm buffeted and driven in from the coast by severe storm; afterwards died, presented to Bucks County Fish, Game and Forestry Association. The association had them mounted.
- Nov. 27, 1932 [Found] Mockingbird young on south side of woods on Burpee Flower Gardens

Literature Cited

- Kitson, K., 1998. *Birds of Bucks County*. New Hope, PA: Bucks County Audubon Society.
- MacReynolds, G., 1937a. A List of the Birds of Bucks County with Annotations. *In*: Papers Read before the Society and Other Historical Papers, Vol. 7, May 1 1937, pp. 479-538. Doylestown, PA: Bucks County Historical Society.
- MacReynolds, G., 1937b. A List of the Birds of Bucks County with Annotations. Doylestown, PA: Bucks County Historical Society.

*3 Beechwood Lane
Yardley, PA 19067*



Barn Owl
© Adrian Binns

Cassinia