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ABSTRACT
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
DELAWARE VALLEY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
OF
PHILADELPHIA.

THE organization of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club was suggested at a preliminary meeting held in Philadelphia January 22, 1890, the following gentlemen being in attendance: William L. Baily, J. Harris Reed, George S. Morris, Samuel N. Rhoads, and Spencer Trotter, M. D.. The club was finally organized, and a constitution adopted, on February 3 of the same year. The original membership and officers were as follows:

President—WILLIAM L. BAILY.
Secretary and Treasurer—SAMUEL N. RHOADS.

Members.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| WILLIAM L. BAILY, | SAMUEL N. RHOADS, |
| GEORGE S. MORRIS, | WITMER STONE, |
| J. HARRIS REED, | SPENCER TROTTER, M. D., |
| CHARLES A. VOELKER. | |

The primary object of the Club during the first year of its existence was the recording and comparison of data relating to bird migration, as observed at several localities in the neighborhood of Philadelphia. Occasionally ornithological papers were read and discussed by the members, and later this became an important feature of the meetings.

The following abstract of the Proceedings of the Club has been prepared mainly for the purpose of furnishing the members with a record of the work accomplished during the past two years. In order to avoid repetition, wherever any papers or communications have appeared elsewhere, only a brief mention of them has been made here, and references to the periodicals in which they appear have been added in brackets. Brief reports of many of the meetings have been published from time to time in the Philadelphia *Public Ledger* and the *Ornithologist and Oölogist*.

Many of the meetings of 1890 were devoted entirely to the discussion of the local migration, which it has not been considered necessary to mention here.

March 7, 1890.—Five members present.

Mr. Baily read a paper on the "Relationship between *Parus atricapillus* and *P. carolinensis*," illustrating his remarks with a large series of specimens from the collections of the members and from that of Mr. Philip Laurent.

The Carolina Chickadee (*P. carolinensis*) seems to be the only species found about Philadelphia in summer, though both species are common in winter.

May 19, 1890.—Six members present.

Mr. Stone exhibited a number of specimens recently collected by him in southern Mexico as ornithologist on the expedition sent out by the Academy of Natural Sciences, and gave an informal talk on his experiences in Yucatan and in the Mexican mountains. [For account of the Ornithological Results of the Expedition, see Proceedings Acad. Nat. Sci. of Phila. 1890, p. 201.]

June 16, 1890.—Five members present.

Mr. Charles J. Rhoads was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Morris read a paper on the "Flycatchers of the genus *Empidonax*," giving his experience with the species which are found in the eastern United States. He had taken all these in the vicinity of Philadelphia except Traill's Flycatcher (*E. pusillus traillii*); one specimen of this bird, however, was in Mr. Baily's collection, which was shot May 7, 1883, at Bryn Mawr, Pa.

The Acadian Flycatcher (*E. acadicus*) was the only species that was found breeding about Philadelphia, it being a common summer resident.

Mr. Stone stated that the Least Flycatcher (*E. minimus*) had recently

been reported to breed in Bucks Co., Pa., and near Trenton, N. J., though he had as yet no conclusive proof of the statement.

October 6, 1890.—Seven members present.

Mr. D. E. Pannepacker was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads read a paper on the "Probable Causes of Polygamy among Birds" [American Naturalist, 1890, p. 1024.]

A communication was also read from Mr. Harry Gordon White, of Wood's Holl, Mass., on the migration of the Red Phalarope (*Crymophilus fulicarius*), giving an interesting account of the occurrence of great numbers of these birds off the coast of Nova Scotia during the spring migration. Mr. White made his observations while on a cruise from Gloucester, Mass., to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. [The Auk, 1891, p. 233.]

October 20, 1890.—Six members present.

Mr. Stone read a paper on the "Spring Migration of 1890, at Philadelphia," which consisted of a general summary of the work done by the members, with suggestions as to the probable lines of flight of migrating birds in the Delaware Valley. The paper was based upon a careful study of individual records taken at the following stations during the spring: Tinicum, Delaware Co., Pa., J. Harris Reed; Haddonfield, N. J., Samuel N. Rhoads; Haverford, Delaware Co., Pa., Charles J. Rhoads; Wynnewood, Montgomery Co., Pa., William L. Baily; Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa., Witmer Stone; Olney, Philadelphia, Pa., George S. Morris. Charts were also exhibited showing a method by which the so-called "bird waves" could be illustrated in a graphic manner. [See The Auk, 1890, p. 298, and 1891, p. 194.]

December 1, 1890.—Six members present.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads read a communication from Mr. Caleb S. Cope, recording the occurrence of the Wild Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) in Washington, which seems to be the first mention of this species from west of the Rocky Mts. [The Auk, 1891, p. 310.]

A letter was also read from Mr. Pfluger, of Portland, Oregon, regarding the introduction of German Song Birds at that place. He stated that about 600 of these birds, including Chaffinches, Goldfinches, Linnets, Song Thrushes and Siskins had been liberated in the spring, and that all the species were seen during the following autumn, the numbers having increased in numbers. They did not wander far from Portland during the winter, and a later communication stated that they were busy nesting in the parks and surrounding country in the spring of 1891. Next year another importation, including Blackbirds and Nightingales, will be liberated.

December 15, 1890.—Six members present.

Mr. Baily displayed a number of interesting specimens collected by him during the year, including a Bewick's Wren (*Thryothorus bewickii*) shot at Wynnewood, Montgomery Co., Pa., April 12, 1890, a Black-throated Bunting (*Spiza americana*) shot by a gunner on Maurice River, N. J., Sept. 18, 1891, and a partial albino Snow Bird (*Junco hyemalis*).

He also displayed the unique hybrid between *Junco hyemalis* and *Zonotrichia albicollis* shot by him at Haverford, Delaware Co., Pa., Dec. 12, 1882. [See Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, 1883, p. 78.]

Mr. S. N. Rhoads spoke of the capture of a Short-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus stellaris*) at Haddonfield, N. J., October 13, 1890. [The Auk., 1891, p. 244.]

Mr. Baily remarked on the rarity of the Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) only one having been noticed by the Club during the year i. e., on May 12.

January 5, 1891.—Annual meeting. Seven members present.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:

President—WITMER STONE.

Secretary and Treasurer—SAMUEL N. RHOADS.

Mr. Baily declined re-election to the presidency, as he expected that business duties would prevent him from devoting the time to the Club that the office would require. A vote of thanks was tendered him for his energy in organizing the Club, and in presiding over it during the first year of its existence.

A discussion was held on the character of work to be carried on in connection with the study of Bird Migration during the coming year, and it was decided that for constructing charts to show the time of occurrence of bird waves, daily records of the abundance of a few well known birds were amply sufficient. The members, however, were recommended to keep a full record of the occurrence of other species, which would be available in case other lines of investigation should at any time be taken up.

Mr. Voelker displayed a specimen of Raven (*Corvus corax sinuatus*) still in the flesh, which had been shot on Darby Creek, Delaware Co., Pa., on December 30, 1890.

January 19, 1891.—Eight members present.

Mr. William V. Wilbank was elected an Associate Member.

Blue-print charts were distributed to the members, giving a complete list of the birds [204 species] that have come under the observation of

the Club during 1890, with notes on their abundance and time of occurrence. The dates of arrival of a number of common migrants at all the stations where observations were recorded during the spring, were also given on the chart, as well as a map showing the location of the stations along the Delaware Valley. [The Auk, 1891, p. 244.]

A general discussion was held on the relationship of the species of *Ammodramus*. Dr. Trotter called attention to the fact that the bills of the Seaside and Sharp-tailed Finches (*A. maritimus* and *A. caudacutus*) were much more attenuated than was the case in other species, and suggested that it was the result of the action of environment, these birds having been compelled to probe in the soft mud for their food. The development of their powerful feet he attributed to their habit of clinging to the upright reeds. [See Proceedings Acad. Nat. Sci. of Phila. 1891, p. 118.]

The general abundance of Snowy Owls (*Nyctea nyctea*) during the present winter was remarked upon, some twenty specimens having been reported from the vicinity of Philadelphia.

A communication from Mr. H. G. White, on "A New Method of Recording Bird Migration," was briefly discussed.

February 2, 1891.—Eight members present.

Messrs. J. Farnum Brown, George Forsythe, William W. Smith and Frank L. Burns were elected Associate Members.

Mr. Wilbank displayed a specimen of the Lesser Snow Goose (*Chen hyperborea nivalis*), which he had shot at Tinicum, Delaware Co., Pa., on Dec. 18, 1890.

A recent article on the bills of Crossbills (*Loxia*), by Dr. Hans Gadow, was discussed. The fact that the mandibles cross differently in different individuals (the upper turning sometimes to the right and sometimes to the left of the lower), led to some interesting questions, whether mated birds always had the mandibles crossed in the same direction, and if not, whether the opposite tendencies of the parents in this respect would result in neutralizing the tendency to crossed mandibles in the young. It was considered that the habit of forcing the mandibles apart horizontally in opening cones as described by Gadow would tend to throw them out of the same plane on one side or the other, and when once the tips did not meet evenly, the curved ends would of necessity develop so that hereditary tendency might not have anything to do with it.

A large series of specimens of the genus *Tringa* from the members' collections was on exhibition.

February 16, 1891.—Eleven members present.

Messrs. Cornelius Weygandt, I. N. De Haven and Thomas Dewees were elected Associate Members.

A comparison of notes showed that sixty species of birds had been observed in the vicinity of Philadelphia during January. The most noteworthy were an Acadian Owl (*Nyctala acadica*), on the 15th, and a Red-necked Loon (*Urinator lumme*), on the 17th.

Mr. Morris recorded the capture of a Brunnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*), at Cape Charles, Va., on December 31, 1890. The specimen is now in his collection.

A letter from Mr. Philip Laurent recorded the capture of a female Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*), at Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, October 23, 1890, and a Virginia Rail (*Rallus virginianus*), at Gloucester, N. J., September 1, 1890. Neither of these species had been noted by the Club during the past year.

Mr. Stone exhibited a series of Red-winged Blackbirds, (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) to show the changes in plumage at different seasons of the year.

A discussion was held regarding the reasons for the male birds of of many species preceding the females in the spring migration.

Permission having been obtained from the Academy of Natural Sciences for the Club to meet in the Council Room of the Academy Building, Logan Square, Phila., it was unanimously decided to hold all future meetings there, and a vote of thanks was tendered to the Academy. Most of the meetings of the Club have been held at 21 N. 7th St., though the earlier ones were held at 1624 Arch St., and at 31 South 15th St., Phila.

March 3, 1891.—Eleven members present.

Mr. Edwin Sheppard was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Stone read a brief paper on the Connecticut Warbler, (*Geothlypis agilis*) including a list of the recorded occurrences of the species.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads exhibited a specimen of this bird shot by him at Haddonfield, N. J., May 20, 1882, which seems to be worthy of notice, as there appear to be but two other records of the occurrence of this bird east of the Alleghanies in spring. With the exception of the above, none of the members had collected any adult males of this species, but there are two fine specimens in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences, taken by Dr. Wm. L. Abbott, at Chestnut Hill, Phila., September 23 and 25, 1880. These had the throat and chest clear gray, like spring birds.

Mr. Reed called attention to the occurrence of Field Sparrows

(*Spizella pusilla*) in this vicinity in winter, associated with flocks of Tree Sparrows (*S. monticola*) and suggested that they might winter here in greater numbers than had been supposed and have been hitherto overlooked.

March 17, 1891.—Nine members present.

Mr. Thos. H. Montgomery, Jr., was elected an Associate Member.

The office of Secretary-Treasurer was divided, and Mr. Wm. L. Baily was elected Treasurer.

Mr. Stone reported that the weekly migration schedules showed that 68 species of birds were under observation during February. The great bulk of migration during the month took place on the 18th, 23d, 24th and 25th. These were warm days following spells of rainy weather, and it was evident that the foremost groups of migrating birds having been checked in their journey by spells of cold and rainy weather, embraced the first opportunity offered by a bright warm day for continuing their migration, and having been increased by arrivals from farther south, caused a more concentrated movement on these days. In 1890, the first of these bird-waves occurred at Philadelphia on Feb. 14th, 26th and 27th.

Mr. Reed read a paper on the "Hawks of Pennsylvania and New Jersey," which was discussed by the other members. Black Hawks (*Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*) still occur in winter in considerable numbers on the Delaware marshes near the Lazaretto, but are seldom seen elsewhere in this vicinity.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads exhibited an Ipswich Sparrow (*Ammodramus princeps*) which he had found dead at Atlantic City, N. J., after the blizzard of March, 1888.

Mr. Morris recorded the capture of a Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) at Olney, Phila., shot by Mr. Edw. Van Artsdalen in the spring of 1888.

April 7, 1891.—Nine members present.

Mr. Morris exhibited a curious female Maryland Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas*), which had an unusually large bill. The specimen was shot at Olney, Philadelphia, September 19, 1883.

Mr. Stone displayed a curious Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) from the Academy collection, which had one side colored like the adult male while the other side was olive green like a bird of the first year [See Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, 1882, p. 181.] Mr. F. M. Chapman, of the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, has suggested that this specimen was probably an hermaphrodite, as had proved to be the case with a similarly colored *Fringilla coclebs* recorded in the Ibis.

A melanistic Meadow Lark (*Sturnella magna*) with the yellow breast entirely replaced by black was also exhibited. A short paper was read by Mr. Stone on the "Winter Distribution of Birds and its Relation to the Presence of Water-courses," which was afterwards discussed by the members.

A letter was read from Mr. S. N. Rhoads recording the capture of an Ipswich Sparrow (*Ammodramus princeps*) at Cape Charles, Va., on March 29.

Owing to the absence of Mr. Rhoads in the south, Mr. George S. Morris was appointed Secretary *pro tem*.

April 21, 1891.—Nine members present.

Mr. Stone gave a short account of a recent collecting trip to central Chester county, Pa. He stated that on the mica-slate ridge which crosses the county below the Chester Valley, he had found birds comparatively scarce, and that the great "waves" of the spring migration were never well marked there. He attributed this to the probable fact that the birds follow the valley of the Brandywine and the Chester Valley in their migrations.

A discussion was held on the species of American Warblers (*Mniotiltidae*), and a large series of specimens was exhibited. Among these was a female Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica carulea*) shot by Mr. Montgomery at West Chester, Chester Co., Pa., in the spring of 1890.

Dr. Trotter stated that there was a fine specimen of Brewster's Warbler (*Helminthophila leucobronchialis*) in the collection of Swarthmore College, but no data whatever were attached to it.

May 5, 1891.—Ten members present.

Mr. Baily gave an account of the species of *Virco* found in the vicinity of Philadelphia, illustrating his remarks with a series of specimens.

Mr. Morris exhibited a curious Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*), taken at Cape Charles, Va., May 11, 1886, which had the whole neck and upper breast of a rich orange hue. Mr. Ridgway, to whom the specimen had been sent, considered it a case of "hyperchromatism," or intensity of coloration, which sometimes occurs in the Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) and a few other species.

The migration during April was discussed in detail. Many species of birds had arrived much earlier than usual, but the prevailing "cold wave," it was considered, would act as a set-back to further migration for some days at least.

May 19, 1891.—Eleven members present.

Mr. Stone read a paper on the "Birds of Beaver Swamp, Cape May Co., N. J.," describing a trip recently made by Messrs. Voelker, Reed,

and himself in search of Hooded Warblers (*Sylvania mitrata*). These birds were found abundantly, and undoubtedly breed in several of the deep swamps of southern New Jersey. Among other birds seen on the trip were the Pine Warbler (*Dendroica vigorsii*), Prairie Warbler (*D. discolor*), Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus*), White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo noveboracensis*) Hummingbird (*Trochilus colubris*), and Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*), all of which were considered to be common breeders.

Mr. Montgomery read a paper on the "Summer Birds of the Maine Coast," illustrating it with a series of specimens. [See Ornithologist and Oölogist, 1890, p. 161.]

Mr. Baily reported the capture of a White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) at Wynnewood, Montgomery Co., Pa., on May 4, and Mr. Stone a Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) in Chester Co., Pa., May 12. He also mentioned that half a dozen Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) were seen flying over central Chester Co. during a storm on the evening of May 11, 1890. Mr. Morris reported seeing two of the same birds near Willow Grove, Montgomery Co., some years ago.

June 2, 1891.—Eight members present.

Mr. Stone spoke of the lack of definite knowledge of the birds of the central mountainous portions of Pennsylvania, and the importance of making a thorough ornithological survey of this section.

Mr. Baily exhibited a series of eggs of the English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) showing wonderful variation in size and coloration.

It was decided in view of the absence of many of the members during the summer to suspend the meetings until September.

September 1, 1891.—Four members present.

Messrs. J. Farnum Brown and Chas. J. Rhoads were elected Active Members.

Mr. Stone exhibited a series of birds collected during the summer at Cape May, N. J.

Mr. Voelker exhibited some beautifully mounted young Killdeers (*Aegialitis vocifera*) only a few days out of the eggs, and reported the capture of two young Rails in the black downy plumage, which had been taken on the river marshes in Delaware Co., Pa.; the species was probably *Rallus virginianus*.

September 15, 1891.—Six members present.

Mr. Samuel N. Rhoads gave a brief account of his recent trip through the southern and western States. He left Philadelphia on the 26th of March and reached Jacksonville, Florida, early in April, having stopped

off a few days at Cape Charles, Va., where some collecting was done. In Florida considerable work was done at Tarpon Springs and Myers, and a trip was taken some distance up the Caloosahatchee River, visiting on the way a large colony of the Florida Burrowing Owls (*Speotyto cunicularia floridana*). Mr. Rhoads then went to Corpus Christi, Texas, where he spent several weeks (May 16-June 6) collecting in the immediate vicinity of the town and along the Nueces River. He reached Tucson, Arizona, June 10th, and after collecting there for some days, traveled north to Oracle in the oak belt of the Santa Catalina Mountains, and then to a lumber camp near the summit. Mr. Rhoads has generously donated the entire collection, numbering about 1000 skins, to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. [Full accounts of the birds of the various localities visited will be published in the Proceedings of the Academy].

Owing to absence from home for the next few months, Mr. S. N. Rhoads resigned the office of Secretary, and Mr. George S. Morris was elected in his place.

October 6, 1891.—Seven members present.

Messrs. Stewardson Brown, Chas. E. Ridenour, and Dr. Wm. E. Hughes were elected Associate Members.

Mr. J. H. Reed read a paper on "The Birds Found Breeding in Beaver Swamp, Cape May Co., N. J." The trip described was made May 30 to June 1 of the present year, with the special object of finding the nest of the Hooded Warbler (*Sylvania mitrata*). In this Mr. Reed was successful, having obtained a beautiful nest, situated in the center of a holly bush. A nest of the Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) was found placed in a precisely similar situation. Large numbers of both these species, as well as the Parula Warbler (*Compothlypis americana*), were seen, and they are undoubtedly common summer residents in the swamps of Cape May county. Fifty-eight species of birds were noted by Mr. Reed during his stay.

A collection of the nests and eggs of the birds of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, which has been brought together by the members of the Club for the museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences, was on exhibition.

Mr. Morris called attention to three varieties of the nest of the Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax acadicus*), one made largely of oak and hickory catkins, another of grass, and another of the green-beard moss (*Usnea barbata*). The position of the three nests was precisely similar, all being hung from the fork of a slender branch.

October 20, 1891.—Eleven members present.

Mr. W. E. Rotzell was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Morris read a paper on "The Virginia Coast in Summer," describing a trip made to Cape Charles early in August, 1891. He treated mainly of the water birds, describing the nesting grounds of the Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricapillus*) and Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*) and giving accounts of the habits of other summer birds, such as the Black Skimmer, (*Rynchops nigra*), Least and Common Terns (*Sterna antillarum* and *S. hirundo*). Among the rarer species noticed were the Oyster Catcher (*Hematopus palliatus*), Little White Egret (*Ardea candidissima*), and some Terns which he took to be the Royal (*Sterna maxima*), though they might have been the Caspian, as he was unable to secure any specimens. Many migratory shore birds were already abundant.

Mr. Stone stated that he had noticed a Parula Warbler (*Compsothlypis americana*) eating huckleberries. An examination of the berries failed to show the presence of any insect larvæ, and he was inclined to think that the bird was feeding on the juicy pulp.

Mr. I. N. DeHaven exhibited an albino Sharp-tailed Finch (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) which he had shot on the Atlantic City marshes.

November 3, 1891.—Thirteen members present.

Mr. Stone read a paper on the "Summer Birds of Cape May, N. J.," illustrating his remarks with specimens collected during July and August of the present year. Seaside and Sharp-tailed Finches, (*Ammodramus maritimus* and *A. caudacutus*) were found abundantly, breeding on the marshes, and one Savanna Sparrow (*A. sandwichensis savanna*) was shot on July 6. The late date would indicate that this bird might have been breeding, but its condition made it more probable that it was a diseased individual left behind in the migration. Least Bitterns (*Botaurus exilis*) and Virginia Rail (*Rallus virginianus*) were found throughout August, and it is probable that both species breed at Cape May. Loggerhead Shrikes (*Lanius ludovicianus*) were seen frequently during the summer, and are undoubtedly summer residents, while the capture of a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) on Aug. 27, near Cape May Point, would indicate that this species is still to be found breeding in New Jersey.

A specimen of Wilson's Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) was displayed which had been washed up on the beach at Point Pleasant, N. J., during the summer, and had been preserved by Mr. A. P. Brown.

November 17, 1891.—Seven members present.

In the absence of the President, Mr. Baily occupied the chair.

Mr. Voelker gave an account of the anatomy and habits of Wood-

peckers, illustrating his remarks with some partially dissected specimens. A general discussion was then held on the species of Woodpeckers which occur in the vicinity of Philadelphia. Mr. Voelker had several times seen the Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*), but it was considered a very rare bird in this vicinity. The diminution in the numbers of the Red-headed Woodpecker (*M. erythrocephalus*), within the past few years was remarked upon. Mr. Voelker had once seen an individual of this species near Clifton, Delaware Co., Pa., in January.

The first Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*), of the season was reported from Woodbury, N. J.

December 1, 1891.—Twelve members present.

Mr. William A. Shryock and Mr. William J. Serrill were elected Associate Members.

Dr. William E. Hughes, ornithologist on the West Greenland Expedition, recently sent out by the Academy of Natural Sciences, gave a detailed account of the birds observed on the expedition, illustrating his remarks with the series of specimens which he had collected. The route of the expedition was from Sydney, Nova Scotia, to Disko Island, and thence north to McCormick Bay and Whale Sound, returning on nearly the same track. The date of starting from Sydney was June 12, and in returning the expedition reached St. Johns, August 23. The only land birds noticed were the Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, Redpoll, Wheat-ear, Raven, and Ptarmigan. The first was by far the most abundant. The most conspicuous water birds were the Brunnich's Murre, Mandt's Guillemot, Little Auk, Puffin, Ivory Gull, Kittiwake, Long-tailed Jaeger, and Fulmar Petrel. [Full accounts of the Ornithology of West Greenland will appear in the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences.]

Mr. Voelker gave some statistics in regard to the relation of sex to the two phases of plumage in the Screech Owl (*Megascops asio*). In a series of 322 birds that he had skinned in the past ten years, there were 210 red, 104 gray, and 8 of mottled or intermediate plumage. Of the red birds, 16 were male and 194 female, while in the series of gray birds 93 were male and 11 female. The mottled specimens comprised 3 males and 5 females.

Mr. Voelker also reported the capture of a Little Auk (*Alle alle*), and a Razor Bill (*Alca torda*) at Pennsgrove, N. J., during the past week.

December 15, 1891.—Ten members present.

Mr. Stone read a paper on the "Summer Birds of Harvey's Lake,

Pa.," in which he described the avifauna of the mountainous region of the northwestern part of Luzerne county. A number of species were found there in the breeding season which are known only as transients, or winter visitants, in the southeastern portion of the State. The most prominent of these were the Winter Wren (*Troglodytes hiemalis*), Hermit Thrush (*Turdus a. pallasii*), Snow Bird (*Junco hyemalis*), Brown Creeper (*Certhia f. americana*), and many Warblers. [See Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. of Phila., 1891, p. 431.]

Mr. Weygandt stated that in the Berkshire Hills, Mass., he had found the Canada Warbler (*Sylvania canadensis*), a characteristic bird of the high, dry woodlands, and not a swamp bird, as had been Mr. Stone's experience.

Mr. J. F. Brown recorded the wintering of the Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) at Villa Nova, Delaware Co., Pa.

A collection of typical mountain plants, collected at Harvey's Lake by Mr. Stewardson Brown, was exhibited in connection with Mr. Stone's paper.

WITMER STONE,
 GEORGE S. MORRIS, } *Committee on Publication.*
 WILLIAM L. BAILY, }



THE
 DELAWARE VALLEY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
 OF PHILADELPHIA.

OFFICERS, 1892.

<i>President</i>	- - - - -	WITMER STONE, Academy of Natural Sciences, Logan Square, Phila.
<i>Secretary</i>	- - - - -	CHARLES J. RHOADS, Bryn Mawr, Pa.
<i>Treasurer</i>	- - - - -	WILLIAM L. BAILY, 138 South 4th St., Phila.

ACTIVE MEMBERS.

WILLIAM L. BAILY,	CHARLES J. RHOADS,
J. FARNUM BROWN,	SAMUEL N. RHOADS,
GEORGE S. MORRIS,	WITMER STONE,
J. HARRIS REED,	SPENCER TROTTER, M. D.,
	CHARLES A. VOELKER.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

STEWARDSON BROWN,	CHARLES E. RIDGE,
FRANK L. BURNS,	W. E. ROTZEL,
I. N. DEHAVEN,	WILLIAM J. SER.
THOMAS DEWEES,	EDWIN SHEPPARD,
GEORGE FORSYTHE,	WILLIAM A. SHRYOCK,
WILLIAM E. HUGHES, M. D.,	WILLIAM SMITH,
THOMAS H. MONTGOMERY, JR.	CORNELIUS WEYGANDT,
D. ELMER PANNEPACKER,	WILLIAM V. WILBANK,
	SAMUEL WRIGHT.

The Club holds regular meetings in the Council Room of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Logan Square, Philadelphia, on the first and third Tuesdays of each month (except July and August) at 8 o'clock, p. m.

1892-97.

No. II.

ABSTRACT

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

DELAWARE VALLEY

ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

OF

PHILADELPHIA.

FOR THE YEARS 1892 TO 1897.

PUBLISHED BY THE CLUB.

1898.



NEST OF SONG SPARROW.
TAKEN BY WM. L. BAILY.

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OF THE
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OF THE
DELAWARE VALLEY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
OF
PHILADELPHIA.

EARLY in 1892 an "Abstract of the Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club for the years 1890 and 1891" was published. The present publication is intended as a continuation of the previous number, and covers the years 1892 to 1897 inclusive. In future the Club proposes to issue a yearly number covering the Proceedings with much greater detail.

Many of the papers quoted in the following pages have been published in full in the *Auk*, *Science*, and *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, to which references are made.

Many of the local records for 1892-1894 have also been included in the "Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey" published by the Club in December, 1894.

January 5, 1892.—Seventeen members present. Mr. Samuel Wright was elected an Associate Member.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows :

President—WITMER STONE.

Secretary—CHARLES J. RHOADS.

Treasurer—WILLIAM L. BAILY.

Mr. Baily read an interesting and humorous account of the origin and early years of the Club, and Mr. Stone summed up the results of

the work so far accomplished. Mr. S. N. Rhoads spoke of the large number of birds wintering this season in the vicinity of Haddonfield, N. J., and especially emphasized the fact that many of them were in full song.

Mr. Baily presented to the Club collection his unique hybrid finch, *Junco hyemalis* × *Zonotrichia albicollis*, shot at Haverford, Pa., Dec. 12, 1882, (see *B. N. O. C.* viii. p. 78 and *Auk*, 1893, p. 213.)

January 19, 1892.—Eight members present.

Mr. Morris read a paper on the "Birds of Tampa Bay and Manatee River, Florida, observed in December, 1890." Mr. Stone reported Rusty Black Birds (*Scolecophagus carolinus*) and Swamp Sparrows (*Melospiza georgiana*) wintering at Tinicum, Delaware Co., Pa.

February 2, 1892.—Twelve members present.

Messrs. Joseph D. Crawford and C. Few Seiss were elected Associate Members.

On motion of Mr. S. N. Rhoads a committee of three including the President was appointed to prepare for publication a complete list of the birds occurring in Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

(Committee—S. N. Rhoads, G. S. Morris, Witmer Stone.)

Messrs. Stone and S. N. Rhoads described a trip to Cape May, N. J., taken Jan. 25-29. A list of thirty-four species was observed, all of which may be considered of regular winter occurrence, as the weather was very severe this season. The more interesting species were Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phœniceus*), Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*), Savanna Sparrow, (*Ammodramus s. savanna*), Robin (*Merula migratoria*) and Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), all of which were plentiful; also a number of Long-billed Marsh Wrens (*Cistothorus palustris*), two Short-billed Marsh Wrens (*C. stellaris*), and two Ipswich Sparrows (*Ammodramus princeps*). The Marsh Wrens had never before been recorded from either Pennsylvania or New Jersey in winter. (*Auk*, 1892, p. 203.)

Mr. Smith reported the capture of a Raven (*Corvus corax principalis*) in Clearfield Co., Pa., the specimen being now in his possession.

February 16, 1892.—Fourteen members present.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads reported two Fox Sparrows (*Passerella iliaca*), five Hermit Thrushes (*Turdus a. pallasii*) and a number of Myrtle Warblers (*Dendroica coronata*) at the "Barrens," near Westtown, Chester Co., Pa., Feb. 7-8.

Mr. Weygandt read a paper on the "Birds of the Berkshire Hills," observed during June, 1891.

March 1, 1892.—Eleven members present.

The Committee on Publication of List of Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey presented a circular calling for information, which was ordered to be published.

Messrs. Stone and S. N. Rhoads reported a trip to Chester Co., Pa., but found very few birds.

Messrs. Baily and Shryock described a trip to Seaville, N. J., Feb. 20-23, on which they observed 33 species of birds, 19 being different from the Cape May list of Jan. 25-29. The occurrence of the Seaside Finch (*Ammodramus maritimus*) at this season was the most interesting record.

An account of a Crow Roost near Coatesville, Pa., was read from Mr. Hugh E. Stone.

Mr. De Haven exhibited a specimen of Sharp-tailed Finch, shot at Atlantic City, N. J., Jan. 6. It proved to be a typical example of *Ammodramus caudacutus*, proving that this bird wintered on the New Jersey coast.

March 15, 1892.—Thirteen members present.

Mr. J. F. Brown described a recent trip to Atlantic City, N. J. Twenty-six species were observed, the most interesting record being a Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) found dead on the beach. He also secured an Ipswich Sparrow (*Ammodramus princeps*).

Mr. Stone read a paper on "Bird-collecting in Yucatan," being extracts from his note-book of February and March, 1890, while on the Mexican Expedition of the Academy of Natural Sciences.

April 5, 1892.—Ten members present.

Mr. Geo. H. Sheridan was elected an associate member.

Mr. Stewardson Brown read a paper on "Summer Birds of Pt. Pleasant, N. J." He stated that this is about the northern limit of distribution of the Clapper Rail (*Rallus crepitans*) in the state, and it is by no means common. Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) occurs in small numbers, and a Wilson's Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) was found on the beach during the summer of 1891.

Mr. Wright read a summary of the history of the Ipswich Sparrow (*Am. princeps*), and also referred to the captures of the bird on the New Jersey coast. So far as known only seven have been taken in the state up to date.

April 19, 1892.—Thirteen members present.

Mr. Robt. T. Young was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Voelker exhibited a specimen of Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax violaceus*) taken at Woodbine, Cape May Co., N. J., March 23, 1892, by Mr. Ware. He also reported the capture of a Purple

Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*) on March 28, near Cape May N. J., by C. F. Gardiner.

Mr. Stone described a series of Myrtle Warblers taken at Atlantic City, N. J., which showed the spring molt in progress, and read a short paper on the relationships between the Black Cap and Carolina Chickadees (*Parus atricapillus* and *carolinensis*) in which he considered that the two were distinct species—the Black Cap breeding as far south as the Blue Ridge, the Carolina throughout the New Jersey Pine Barrens. In the intervening country Chickadees seem scarce in the breeding season, but such as he was able to examine proved to be the Carolina. He was quite prepared however to find in the face of additional material that the two forms intergraded in this intermediate area especially in northern central New Jersey.

May 3, 1892.—Eleven members present.

Mr. Joseph Tatum was elected an Associate Member.

General discussion on the spring migration.

May 17, 1892.—Ten members present.

Messrs. Stone and Wright described a trip to Clementon, N. J., May 6, where they found Pine and Prairie Warblers (*Dendroica vigorsii* and *discolor*) evidently preparing to breed.

Mr. Wright reported the capture of a White Crowned Sparrow and a Cape May Warbler (*D. tigrina*) May 13, at Conshohocken. Mr. Baily also secured a White Crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) May 10, and Mr. Stone recorded two Golden Winged Warblers (*Helminthophila chrysoptera*), May 12, shot by C. A. Voelker at Collingdale, Del. Co., Pa.

June 7, 1892.—Sixteen members present.

Mr. Reed read a paper on "A Collecting Trip to Dennisville, Cape May Co., N. J., May 21-23." Nests of the Parula (*Compsothlypis americana usneæ*) Hooded (*Wilsonia mitrata*) and Prairie Warblers (*Dendroica discolor*) were obtained.

Mr. Stone described a trip to Cape May, N. J., where he also found the Parula Warbler breeding, and saw a Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), which led him to believe that this bird also nested there.

Mr. Voelker recorded a Yellow Crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax violaceus*), shot near Phoenixville, Pa., which contained a well developed egg; also a Northern Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*), shot on the Delaware.

Mr. Forsythe reported the capture of a White Crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) and Mr. DeHaven a Nelson's Finch (*Ammodramus c. nelsoni*) at Atlantic City, May 9, 1892, the first record for the state.

September 6, 1892.—Business meeting of active members. Five members present.

September 20, 1892.—Thirteen members present.

Mr. I. N. De Haven was elected an active member and Mr. D. N. McCadden an associate.

The death of Mr. William Wharton Smith, associate member, was announced, and the following resolution adopted :

Resolved, That since God in His mercy has been pleased to take from among us our friend and fellow-member, Wm. Wharton Smith, one who during his life had by his manly qualities and kindly unassuming manners won the esteem of all and the affection of those of us who knew him best, and since Mr. Smith as a member of this organization had proved himself to be a true lover of nature and a close and careful observer of her beauties and phenomena, we do hereby, with sincere regret as individuals and as an organization, express our sorrow for the loss which we and all who knew him have sustained through his sad death.

A number of nests and eggs collected during the summer were on exhibition. Most interesting among these was a nest of the King Rail (*Rallus elegans*), taken at Repaupo, N. J., July 15, 1892, by Dr. J. B. Brinton. The date was very late and the eggs were unusually small.

Another interesting specimen was a Chewink's nest (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), collected in Chester Co., Pa., which was situated in an oak sprout four feet from the ground.

October 4.—Nine members present.

Messrs. De Haven and Stone described their experience among the Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Atlantic City, N. J., on October 1 and 2. They found the *A. caudacutus* by far the most abundant form, though not a few *A. c. subvirgatus* were taken and two *A. c. nelsoni*, the latter being decidedly the rarest of the three. (*Auk*, 1893, p. 85.)

Mr. Morris read a paper on a "Trip through the Cascade Mts. of British Columbia," taken by himself and Mr. J. W. Evans during the past spring.

The resignation of Mr. Chas. J. Rhoads as Secretary was tendered and accepted with regret, Mr. G. S. Morris being elected for the unexpired term.

October 18, 1892.—Sixteen members present.

Messrs. Mark L. C. Wilde and John Bisseger were elected associate members.

The committee on publication was authorized to issue a circular calling for information on our water birds for distribution among gunners and sportsmen.

Mr. De Haven exhibited a White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia*

leucophrys), shot at Morristown, N. J., Oct. 17, 1892, and Mr. Young a Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*), secured at Meriden, N. H., last month.

Mr. Stone called attention to a Western Sandpiper (*Ereunetes occidentalis*) in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences, taken in Cape May Co., N. J., Sep. 14, 1880, and suggested that the species was doubtless of regular occurrence but had been overlooked.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads presented the paper of the evening on Hybrid Flickers (*Colaptes auratus* × *cafer*) (see *Science*, Dec. 9, 1892), illustrating his remarks by a large series of specimens.

November 1, 1892.—Twelve members present.

Mr. Raymond Kester was elected an associate member.

Mr. Voelker reported a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), shot near Cape May by Mr. J. Milford Oct. 20, 1892.

A wild Turkey Gobbler (*Meleagris gallopavo*), was reported shot for the Academy collection by Mr. McKeehan near Ferguson, Perry Co., Pa., last week.

Mr. Rotzell announced that he had seen and watched a Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*), at Narberth, Montgomery Co. Pa., on July 3. The specimen was not secured.

Messrs. Stone and S. N. Rhoads described a recent trip to May's Landing N. J.; the most interesting specimen secured was a Short-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus stellaris*), taken Oct. 25.

November 15, 1892.—Five members present.

Mr. Reed read a paper on the American Barn Owl (*Strix pratineola*), in which he discussed the habits and distribution of the species. He found it still a common resident of Delaware County, and exhibited a series of eggs and a number of cast-up pellets which he had collected.

December 6, 1892.—Twelve members present.

Mr. Baily exhibited a specimen of Saw-Whet Owl (*Ayctala acadica*), which he had secured at Haverford, Pa., Nov. 20, 1892.

Mr. Voelker showed a very peculiar Gull which he considered must be a hybrid. It proved however to be a young plumage of the Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*). It showed black patches on the sides of the neck and a longitudinal blackish strip on each wing. It was shot near Mt. Holly, N. J., November 12, 1892.

Mr. Stone read the paper of the evening on "Arctic Bird Life," in which he traced the distribution and relationships of the various polar species.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads presented a list of birds seen by him at May's Landing, N. J., December 2, in which he recorded the capture of a

Saw-Whet Owl (*Nyctala acadica*), Northern Shrike (*Lanius borealis*), and Yellow Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*), the last being the first winter record for the species in New Jersey.

Mr. S. Brown reported an Albino Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), observed on the Susquehanna river near York Furnace, Pa. Red-bellied Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*), were reported as very plentiful during the fall migration.

December 20, 1892.—Sixteen members present.

Mr. De Haven described a large roost of Purple Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) on an island in the Susquehanna river near Peach Bottom, Lancaster Co., Pa.

He then read a paper on a recent trip to Cape Charles, Va.

He secured several specimens of the Ipswich Sparrow (*Ammodramus princeps*), which was found to be not uncommon, on Smith's Island, and on Dec. 8 saw a Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*).

Mr. S. N. Rhoads exhibited two specimens of a new Chickadee which he secured in the Rocky Mts. of British Columbia, and compared it with the Hudsonian Chickadee. The new bird he proposed to call *Parus hudsonicus columbianus*, the Columbian Chickadee. (See *Auk*, 1893, p. 23.)

Mr. Stone exhibited a large series of Grackles (*Quiscalus*), explaining the distribution of the three races, and pointed out the importance of ascertaining the nature of the Grackles of Cape May and of the Pennsylvania mountains; the latter are probably nearly typical *Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*.

January 3, 1893.—Annual Meeting. Twenty-four members present and one visitor.

The election of officers for the year resulted as follows:

President—GEO. SPENCER MORRIS.

Secretary—SAMUEL N. RHOADS.

Treasurer—WILLIAM L. BAILY.

Mr. Stone spoke briefly of a recent trip to Cape May, N. J., stating that the birds were very scarce compared with last season. Immense numbers of Titlarks (*Anthus pensilvanicus*) were seen, however, which were entirely absent in January, 1892. Two Ipswich Sparrows (*Ammodramus princeps*) were also secured on January 2.

Mr. Stone then followed with a paper on the Change of Plumage in Birds, limiting his remarks, however, to the Passeres. (See *Science*, Jan. 27, 1893.)

The Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Zamelodia ludoviciana*) he took up in detail, and stated that in its molt it apparently afforded a parallel case

to the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), already well described by Mr. F. M. Chapman.

Mr. Morris recorded a Brown Thrasher (*Harporhynchus rufus*) at Olney, Phila., Dec. 24, 1892, and several Hermit Thrushes (*Turdus aon. pallasii*).

Mr. S. N. Rhoads secured a Catbird (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*) at Atlantic City, N. J., Dec. 25.

January 17, 1893.—Fourteen members present.

Mr. William L. Whitaker was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads read a paper on "Economic Relations of Birds to Agriculture."

Mr. Stone called attention to a specimen of *Junco hyemalis* taken at Haddonfield, N. J., in which the greater coverts were tipped with white.

Mr. De Haven called attention to the two plates of Savanna Sparrow (*Ammodramus sandw. savana*) in Wilson's Ornithology, and suggested that the figure of the male was taken from the Ipswich Sparrow (*A. princeps*), which it strikingly resembles, being much lighter than the other figure.

February 7, 1893.—Sixteen members present.

Mr. William Rodgers was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Morris read a paper on "Birds of Bermuda," based on notes made in March and April, 1886.

Mr. De Haven exhibited a series of beautifully prepared bird skulls representing our common species.

February 21, 1893.—Sixteen members present.

Mr. Stone read a paper on "Birds of the Atlantic City Marshes," in which he described the present aspect of bird life on the New Jersey coast and contrasted it with the time of Wilson and Audubon.

Mr. De Haven followed with some remarks on the changes which have been brought about during the past twenty years in the bird life of the coast.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads spoke of the mortality in the Crow Roosts near Camden, N. J., and referred to a recent paper on the same subject by Mr. Ridgway in *Science*. He believed that the blindness there referred to might be epidemic, due to starvation and the enforced eating of poisonous or infected food.

Mr. McCadden exhibited a number of photographs taken from live birds at the Zoölogical Garden.

March 7, 1893.—Twenty-one members present.

Mr. William B. Scheuing was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Shryock read the paper of the evening on the "Merchantville, N. J., Crow Roost," describing a visit made during the past month.

March 22, 1893.—Seventeen members present and one visitor.

A paper on "Birds of the Caloosahatchee River" was read by Mr. S. N. Rhoads, in which he related his experiences during a boat-journey from Fort Myers to Lake Hicpochee in South Florida in 1891. He spoke especially of the Florida Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia floridana*), a large colony of which he visited (See *Auk*, 1892, p. 1).

April 4, 1893.—Sixteen members present.

Dr. Trotter read a paper on "Summer Birds of the Beaverkill, N. Y.;" several specimens were exhibited, among which was an interesting first plumage specimen of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Zamelodia ludoviciana*).

Mr. Stone spoke of a recent trip to the "Barrens," near Cedar Bridge, N. J. The extremely arid character of the county and the absence of trees over three feet in height resulted in a great scarcity of bird-life. Pine Warblers (*Dendroica vigorsii*) were abundant a few miles to the west where the trees were higher.

A specimen of the European Widgeon (*Anas penelope*) was recorded, shot at Havre De Grace by Mr. W. D. Winsor.

April 18, 1893.—Twenty members present.

Mr. Morris read the paper of the evening on "Birds of Puget Sound," based on his experiences in Washington during the spring of 1892, illustrated by specimens collected on the trip.

Mr. Voelker exhibited a first-plumage specimen of the Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) which had the head thickly spotted with red over the entire crown.

Mr. De Haven recorded the capture of several Gnatcatchers (*Polioptila cœrulea*) at Atlantic City, N. J., April 16, 1893.

May 2, 1893.—Seventeen members present.

Dr. Hughes read a paper on the "Breeding of the Night Heron" (*Nycticorax n. naevius*), referring especially to the Valley Forge Heronry, Montgomery Co., Pa. He considered that the birds raised but a single brood in a season.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads described a recent trip to the Cumberland Mountains of Pennsylvania. The Large-billed Water Thrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) he found evidently preparing to breed near Pine Grove Furnace. Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) bred there commonly, and Ravens (*Corvus corax principalis*) were reported by hunters to be frequently seen.

Mr. Serrill read extracts from Kalm on the torpidity of Swallows, and a general discussion ensued on the faith of some in this alleged phenomenon.

May 16, 1893.—Seventeen members present.

Mr. Baily described a recent trip to Asheville, N. C., April 28 to May 3, and exhibited a number of nests secured by him, among others those of the Blue Gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila cærulea*), and Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia mitrata*.)

Mr. Stone exhibited a specimen of Labrador Duck (*Camptolaimus labradorius*), which he had found in the collection of the late Geo. W. Carpenter of Mt. Airy, Phila., and which had been presented to the Academy of Natural Sciences. Nothing was known of the history of the specimen, which is an adult male, and makes the fourth example in the Academy's collection, and the fortieth in existence (*Auk*, 1893, p. 363).

Mr. Morris read an old letter from Edward Harris to Dr. John Spencer in which he described part of his journey with Audubon and Bell up the Missouri River (See *Auk*, 1895, p. 225).

June 6, 1893.—Twenty members present.

Messrs. Reed and Wilde described a collecting trip taken during the previous week through parts of Cape May Co., N. J.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads stated that he had taken a trip to Lake Hopatcong, N. J., and noticed many Alleghanian birds breeding in the vicinity, as Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) Red Start (*Setophaga ruticilla*), Chestnut Sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*), etc.

Mr. Stone exhibited a Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) taken at Germantown, Pa., April 13, 1886, with red feathers in the malar stripe, also two Prairie Horned Larks (*Otocoris a. praticola*), taken by Mr. August Koch at Williamsport, Pa.

September 19.—Special Business Meeting of Active Members.

October 3, 1893.—Sixteen members present.

A number of mounted groups for the collection were on exhibition and were commented on by the members.

October 17, 1893.—Fifteen members present.

Mr. W. W. Justice, Jr., was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Stone made a communication on the *Rallide* or Rails, exhibiting examples of the various forms and sketching their distribution (See *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci.*, 1894, p. 130).

Mr. DeHaven spoke of the minute hook or claw seen on the wings of young rails still in the down.

It was decided to change the time of meeting from Tuesday to Thursday evenings.

November, 2 1893.—Nineteen members present.

Mr. Morris read a paper entitled "A Day in the Salt Marshes," dealing with the bird life near Atlantic City, N. J.

A paper on "Rare Birds near Bethlehem, Pa.," contributed by Dr. J. W. Detwiler, was read.

November 16, 1893.—Ten members present.

Mr. Morris spoke briefly of bird life near Richmond, Indiana, as observed by him on a recent trip.

December 7, 1893.—Thirteen members present.

Mr. Stone spoke of the "Lost Species of Wilson and Audubon."

Mr. S. N. Rhoads spoke of birds seen near Tuckerton, N. J., stating that the Raven and Black Duck were reported to breed in the neighborhood by Messrs. Jillson of that town. He recorded an Oystercatcher (*Hæmatopus palliatus*) shot by Mr. Jillson, May, 1894.

December 21, 1893.—Fourteen members present.

A general discussion was held on "Ducks."

Mr. Whitaker reported the capture of a Whistling Swan (*Olor. columbianus*) on the Delaware River opposite Bridesburg.

January 4, 1894.—Annual Meeting. Eighteen members present.

The election of officers resulted in the choice of the following:

President—GEORGE SPENCER MORRIS.

Secretary—CHARLES J. RHOADS.

Treasurer—WILLIAM L. BAILY.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads exhibited a copy of Ord's Zoölogy, the property of Dr. Solis-Cohen, and the only known copy of this rare work extant. He spoke of a reprint* which he proposed to issue of this volume, and called attention to several species of North American birds which here first received binomial names.

January 18, 1894.—Twenty-three members present.

Mr. Shryock read a paper on "Summer Birds of the Pocono Mountain, Pa.," in which he described a trip taken during the latter part of June and early July, 1893, to Mt. Pocono. Quite a number of northern birds were nesting there, such as Hermit Thrush (*Turdus aon. pallasii*), Canadian Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*), Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*), but this element in the fauna had been greatly reduced by the almost total destruction of the hemlock forest.

Mr. S. Brown followed with some remarks on the birds of another section of the Pocono Plateau at Tobyhanna. In a small tract of hemlock he found the Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra minor*), Winter Wren (*Troglodytes hiemalis*), and Junco (*J. hyemalis*), and heard the unmistakable note of a White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) in the same vicinity. His observations were made July 3 and 4, 1893. (*Auk*, 1894, p. 182.)

* A Reprint of the North American Zoölogy by George Ord, etc. Edited by Samuel N. Rhoads, Haddonfield, N. J., 1894. 8vo, pp. 290-361+90 pp. Appendix.

February 1, 1894.—Seventeen members present.

Mr. J. Francis Stokes was elected an Associate Member.

Dr. Hughes read a paper on "Breeding Habits of the Snow Bunting," (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) based on his observations in Greenland while accompanying the West Greenland Expedition of 1891 which established Lt. Peary at Whale Sound preparatory to his journey farther north. Dr. Hughes stated that the birds occupied the same nesting site year after year. He took one set of six eggs, though five was the usual set. The bird was most abundant about the native settlements, where it filled the air with its pleasant song.

February 15, 1894.—Fifteen members present.

Mr. Serrill read a paper entitled "Some Bird Experiences in the South." He dealt principally with a remarkable roost of Purple Martins (*Progne subis*), observed near Atlanta, Ga., June 15, 1892. The flocks congregated in an immense flight and performed interesting evolutions before settling into some willow trees for the night.

Mr. Stone exhibited a specimen of the Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata*) taken by Mr. Geo. B. Benners at Laredo, Texas, the first record of the species for the United States (see *Auk*, 1894, p. 177).

Mr. Voelker reported a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) shot at New Egypt, N. J.

March 1, 1894.—Twenty-four members present.

Mr. Baily described a trip to Holly Beach, N. J. He noted only twenty-one species, most interesting of which was a Brown Thrasher, (*Harporhynchus rufus*) Feb. 22.

Mr. Justice recorded a Holboell's Grebe (*Colymbus holboellii*) shot on the Delaware River by John Reese, Feb. 21.

A general discussion followed on "The Best Methods of Preparing Skins."

March 15, 1894.—Seventeen members present.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads made a communication on a recent trip to Barrel Island, near Tuckerton, N. J. He located a roosting-ground of the Short-eared Owls (*Asio accipitrinus*) where there were numerous ejected pellets, each containing a single unbroken meadow-mouse skull, together with odd bones and hair. A number of mice-skins scattered about led him to think that the Owls sometimes skinned their prey before devouring it.

Mr. Reed stated that this was not the case with such owls as he had studied in captivity. They always devoured their prey head foremost without skinning it.

A newspaper clipping presented by Dr. Rotzell reported a Golden

Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) shot, Mar. 5, 1894, by P. De Haven on Conestoga Creek, near Lancaster, Pa.

April 5, 1894.—Fifteen members present.

Dr. Trotter's resignation as an Active Member was read, and accepted with regret.

Mr. Stone read a paper on "Ornithology at Philadelphia in the Past."

April 19, 1894.—Twelve members present.

Dr. Wm. E. Hughes was elected an Active Member.

A number of specimens of birds, nests and eggs recently contributed to the Club collection were on exhibition, and were commented on by the members.

May 5, 1894.—Fourteen members present.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads read a paper entitled "Leaves from a Catbird's Diary," in which he set forth in popular style many points relative to bird migration.

Mr. Stone called attention to some errors in Dr. Warren's "Birds of Pennsylvania" which he had recently been investigating. There seems no satisfactory evidence for the occurrence of the Black Guillemot (*Cephus grylle*) in the State, while correspondence with Prof. Roddy showed that the record of Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandi*) with young was entirely erroneous.

May 17, 1894.—Nineteen members present.

Dr. A. P. Fellows was elected an Associate Member.

The following resolutions were adopted on the death of J. Farnum Brown, one of the Active Members :

WHEREAS, We have learned with sincere sorrow of the sudden death of our late member, J. Farnum Brown; and

WHEREAS, We are deeply sensible of the loss sustained in his decease by this organization and all who knew him; therefore be it

Resolved, That we do hereby acknowledge our deep regret on account of his sad death, and extend our sympathy to his family in their great bereavement.

Mr. Morris read a paper on "Bird Life of Vancouver Island, B. C.," describing a trip to this region in company with Messrs. S. N. Rhoads and J. Wister Evans in 1892.

Specimens of Ostrich, Emu and Cassowary, recently mounted for the Academy collection, were exhibited by Mr. McCadden; also a series of Flamingoes (*Phanicopterus ruber*) from the Bahamas, collected by D. P. Ingraham.

October 4, 1894.—Eighteen members present.

Dr. W. E. Rotzell read a paper on "The Effects of Poke-berries (*Phytolacca*) on Birds." It was a generally accepted theory that these

berries acted as an "anti-fat" agent, but the results of his experience proved that birds which were gorged with them were always in good condition, and frequently quite fat (*Hahnemannian Monthly*, 1894, p. 790).

A Yellow headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) was on exhibition, secured near Fish House, N. J., some years ago.

October 18, 1894.—Thirteen members present.

Messrs. Henry W. Fowler and John Reese were elected Associate Members.

Mr. Stone gave an account of the birds at present in the Zoölogical Garden, calling especial attention to the Barren Ground Geese (*Cereopsis novæhollandiæ*) from Australia, the Nicobar Pigeon (*Calanas nicobarica*), Trumpeter Cranes (*Psophia*) and Turaco (*Turacus*).

Dr. Fellows spoke of his experience with the Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus americanus*) in Kansas some years since and its gradual decrease.

A specimen of Arkansas Flycatcher (*Tyrannus verticalis*) was exhibited, taken near Princeton, N. J., by Mr. Phillips, Sept. 29, 1894; also a Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*), obtained at Stone Harbor, N. J., by Chas. A. Voelker, April 24, 1894.

November 1, 1894.—Twelve members present.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads gave a resumé of two trips through Pike Co., Pa., during September last.

Messrs. Stone and De Haven described a trip to Atlantic City, N. J., during the recent high tides when the meadows were flooded and the Clapper Rails (*Rallus crepitans*) compelled to swim about in the water.

Mr. Whitaker stated that he had recently observed the Crow Blackbirds (*Quiscalus quiscula*) eating chestnuts which were exposed in opened burrs, and exhibited some of the partly-eaten nuts.

Mr. Morris read several interesting extracts from letters of Mr. Edw. Harris written from the upper Missouri while accompanying Audubon on his memorable trip (see *Auk*, 1895, p. 225).

November 15, 1894.—Eleven members present.

Mr. Morris read a paper entitled "Æsthetic and Scientific Natural History," in which he made a plea for the importance of the former side of the study, especially on the part of those who were unable to devote the requisite time to scientific investigation. He followed with a short sketch of a May day among the Warblers at Tinicum, Del. Co., Pa., and recorded the capture of a Golden-winged Warbler (*Helminthophila chrysoptera*).

Mr. De Haven reported a Red-throated Loon (*Urinator lumme*) shot at Atlantic City, N. J., Nov. 5, 1894.

December 6, 1894.—Eighteen members present.

Mr. Stone read a resumé of our present knowledge of the water birds of the New Jersey coast, based on the notes he had compiled for the club's work on the "Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey." He deplored the lack of definite knowledge of many species, but was convinced that the coast was very poor in water birds compared with the region from Long Island northward.

Dr. Hughes spoke of the occurrence of barren birds noted by him in the Arctic regions, especially among the Murres (*Uria lomvia*).

December 20, 1894.—Eighteen members present.

Mr. Baily read an account of a trip to Raselas, Elk Co., Pa., June 18 to July 2, 1894. He found most of the birds reported to breed at Harvey's Lake by Mr. Stone, and a number of additional species, as *Vireo solitarius*, *Empidonax minimus*, *Sciurus noveboracensis*, *Otocori alpestris praticola*, *Carpodacus purpureus*, *Zamelodia ludoviciana* and *Nyctala acadia* (see *Auk*, 1896, p. 289).

Mr. Fowler exhibited an Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus borealis*), shot at Holmesburg, Pa., Sept. 5, 1894, and Mr. Whitaker reported a Barred Owl (*Syrnium nebulosum*) taken at Crescentville, Phila., Dec. 7, 1894.

The first copies of the "Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey," by Witmer Stone, published by the Club, were on the table for distribution.

January 3, 1895.—Annual Meeting. Seventeen members present.

Mr. A. M. Githens was elected an Associate Member.

The election of officers resulted as follows:

President—WM. E. HUGHES, M. D.

Secretary—CHAS. J. RHOADS.

Treasurer—WM. L. BAILY.

Messrs. Stone, Baily and Hughes were appointed a Committee to draft a new Constitution.

Dr. Hughes read the paper of the evening on the "Food Birds of the Eskimos," drawing upon his experience in Greenland in 1891.

Two Fish Crows (*Corvus ossifragus*) were recorded shot at Holmesburg by Mr. Fowler, last week; proving their winter occurrence in this neighborhood.

January 17, 1895.—Thirteen members present.

Mr. De Haven made a communication on the "Wild Fowl of the Susquehanna Flats," describing this famous ducking ground, and comparing the former and present abundance of the game birds.

Mr. Wilde recorded the capture of a Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia*

mitrata) near the city, Sept. 5, 1894, and the finding of nests and eggs of the Least Bittern (*Ardetta exilis*) and Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) in the vicinity of Camden, N. J., during the summer of 1894.

February 7, 1895.—Seven members present.

Messrs. Frederick Clark and Harry L. Graham were elected Associate Members.

Mr. Morris read a paper on the "Winter Birds of Cape Charles, Va.," describing a ducking trip taken during the last week of December, 1894. The most interesting of the smaller birds observed was a Short-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus stellaris*). Seventy-three species were listed.

The prevailing blizzard and its relation to winter birds was discussed.

February 21, 1895.—Sixteen members present.

Mr. Morris re-read his paper of last meeting by request.

Mr. Whitaker reported the capture of a King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) near Olney, Philadelphia, on Jan. 3, 1895, in the stomach of which were found a bull-frog and a small turtle.

Mr. Stone exhibited a Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*), shot from a flock of Snow Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) on the New Jersey shore of the Delaware opposite Tinicum, Feb. 14, 1895. The specimen belonged to Mr. Isaac Reiff, of Phila., and is the third positive record for the species in this vicinity, the others being taken in 1849 and 1864.

Mr. Justice reported a small flock of Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator*) at Germantown, Feb. 7; and Horned Larks (*Otocoris alpestris*) were noted at Olney and Tinicum.

March 7, 1895.—Eleven members present.

A new Constitution, presented for consideration at the last meeting, was adopted.

Mr. Stone read a paper on American Crows, illustrated by a large series of specimens. Among these were fifteen Fish Crows (*C. ossifragus*) taken at Holmesburg during the winter by Mr. Fowler. Mr. Stone failed to see any tangible specific difference between the Northwest Crow (*C. caurinus*) and the Common Crow (*C. americanus*) and advocated treating the former as a sub-species. Its affinities were clearly with *C. americanus*, from which it does not differ more than does *C. a. floridanus*, and it is in no sense a "Fish Crow," allied to *C. ossifragus*, as some writers seem to have thought.

March 21, 1895.—Thirteen members present.

The following were elected Corresponding Members: Josiah Hoopes, Thos. H. Jackson, Sam'l B. Ladd, H. Justin Roddy, Dr. M. W. Raub, August Koch, Dr. J. W. Detwiler, Hugh E. Stone, W. E. Clyde Todd,

J. Warren Jacobs, W. H. Buller, Henry Hales, Thos. J. Beans, Wm. Patterson.

Mr. I. N. De Haven was elected to the office of Vice-President created by the new constitution.

A discussion was held on the extermination of the Wild Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*). Mr. Baily quoted Capt. Clay, of Rasselas, Elk Co., on the history of the bird in that vicinity; and Mr. Stone stated on the authority of J. G. Dillen that large quantities of Pigeons had been drowned and washed up on the northern shore of Lake Huron about twelve years ago.

The last known capture in this vicinity was a bird of the year secured, Sep. 9, 1887, in Chester Co., Pa., by Thos. H. Montgomery, Jr.

Dr. Hughes reported one seen in Chester Co. in 1873 or 4, which from its action he thought must have been breeding in the neighborhood.

April 4, 1895.—Fifteen members present.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads read a paper on "Crows of Philadelphia County." He reviewed his paper on Crows published in 1886 (see *Amer. Nat.*, 1886, pp. 691 and 777), and dwelt upon the establishing of the Fish Crow as a permanent resident by Mr. Fowler. He also described the methods of netting crows on the snow for trap-shooting, which is practiced extensively at Holmesburg. Mr. Fowler stated that many hawks, mostly Red-shouldered Hawks (*Buteo lineatus*), were also caught in the net.

April 18, 1895.—Twelve members present.

Mr. Stone read a paper on "Irregular Migrants," in which the Red-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) and Connecticut Warbler (*Geothlypis agilis*) were especially considered.

May 2, 1895.—Fifteen members present

Mr. Stone exhibited a series of Palm Warblers and suggested that some of the fall specimens recorded as *Dendroica palmarum* might be young *D. p. hypochrysea*; he did not consider that the plumage of the birds of the year of the latter race was well understood.

May 16, 1895.—Eighteen members present.

Mr. Stone exhibited the original diary of William Bartram covering the years 1802 to 1822, which had recently come into the possession of the Academy of Natural Sciences, and read some extracts relative to the migration of birds.

Mr. Serrill reported that Dr. Thomas, of Quakertown, had found the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Zamelodia ludoviciana*) nesting along Tohicon Creek, Bucks Co., Pa., and called attention to the existence of a Crow Roost at Fort Washington.

October 3, 1895.—Nineteen members present.

Mr. Wilde recorded a Swamp Sparrow's nest (*Melospiza georgiana*) at Pavonia, N. J.

Mr. Young described the finding of a nest and eggs of the Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus borealis*) near Hazleton, Pa., and exhibited the specimens along with a skin of the female (see *Auk*, 1896, p. 278.)

Mr. Baily reported several Pectoral Sandpipers (*Tringa maculata*) shot at Holly Beach, N. J.

Mr. Stone read a letter from Mr. Aug. Koch, describing the spring migration at Williamsport, and described the habits of some Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) which he had been able to examine at close quarters while they were devouring a dead horse. He counted seventy-nine in the immediate vicinity at one time. The location was in central Chester Co., Pa.

October 17, 1895.—Eighteen members present.

Mr. Wm. E. Chapman was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads read a paper on the "Birds of Tennessee" (see *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci.*, 1895, p. 463), which embodied the results of his trip through the state during the past spring.

November 7, 1895.—Nineteen members present.

Mr. Wilde read a paper on the "Nesting of the Parula Warbler (*Compothlypis americana usneæ*) in Southern New Jersey" (see *Auk*, 1897, p. 289).

A specimen of Northern Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*), shot at Beach Haven, N. J., by Mr. A. P. Willets, and presented to the Club, was exhibited.

Mr. Stone exhibited a series of Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) taken at Tinicum, which illustrated the fall molt of this species. An exhibition of lantern slides of birds and nests by Messrs. Baily, McCadden and Wilde followed.

November 21, 1895.—Twelve members present.

Mr. Stone read a paper on "Henslow's Bunting (*Ammodramus henslowii*) nesting at Pt. Pleasant, N. J.," in which he described a trip taken, May 30, 1895, in company with Dr. Hughes and Messrs. Baily and McCadden, with the object of verifying the reported occurrence of this species. A number of the Buntings were found, but diligent search failed to discover the nests, though the birds were unquestionably breeding.

December 5, 1895.—Fifteen members present.

Amendments to the constitution were adopted, raising the Active Membership limit to fifteen and providing for the transference at the discretion of the meeting of an Active Member to the Associate list when he is absent from four consecutive meetings without explanation.

Mr. Young read a paper on the "Summer Birds of the Pennsylvania Coal Region" (*Auk*, 1896, p. 278).

December 19, 1895.—Fifteen members present.

Mr. M. L. C. Wilde was elected an Active Member and Mr. Francis R. Cope, Jr., an Associate.

Mr. De Haven described a trip to Cape Charles, Va. Thirty-five species were noted, the most interesting of which was a Brünnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*), the second capture for this locality.

Mr. Stone gave a critical review of Gätkes' "Heligoland," commenting adversely upon his theories of migration and molting.

January 2, 1896.—Annual meeting. Twenty-four members present, and one visitor.

The old board of officers were re-elected, viz :

President—WILLIAM E. HUGHES, M. D.

Vice-President—I. NORRIS DE HAVEN.

Secretary—CHAS. J. RHOADS.

Treasurer—WILLIAM L. BAILY.

Messrs. Wm. A. Shyrock and Robt. T. Young were elected Active Members.

Mr. Voelker exhibited a hybrid between the Mallard (*Anas boschas*) and Pintail (*Dafila acuta*) secured in market.

Dr. Benj. Sharp was present by request and gave an account of his recent trip to Alaska, illustrating his remarks by lantern slides and specimens of birds secured by him and now in the Academy's collection.

January 16, 1896.—Fourteen members present.

Dr. Hughes read a paper on "Birds observed in Somerset Co., Maine," describing a trip taken in August, 1895.

Mr. Wilde exhibited and presented a nest and set of eggs of the Least Bittern (*Ardetta exilis*) from Newton Creek, N. J., taken July 4, 1895.

February 6, 1896.—Nine members and two visitors present.

Mr. Chas. A. Kellog, the professional whistler, was present by invitation, and gave imitations of various bird songs.

Mr. Baily read several extracts from his ornithological journal for the past year. He described a twelve-days' experience in trying to raise a young Hummingbird (*Trochilus colubris*), which he had taken from the nest and managed to keep alive for twelve days. He also recorded the capture of a young Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) in the first plumage at Holly Beach, N. J., and a number of Western Sandpipers (*Ereunetes occidentalis*) at the same place (see *Auk*, 1896, p. 174).

Mr. McCadden exhibited two Golden Eagles, taken in Craig Co., Va., Dec. 18, 1895 (see *Auk*, 1896, p. 256).

Mr. S. N. Rhoads reported several Black-backed Gulls (*Larus marinus*) seen by gunners at Tuckertown, N. J., Feb. 1st.

February 20, 1896.—Fourteen members present.

Mr. Morris read a paper entitled "European Bird Notes," in which he spoke of the species noted by him during a recent trip through Great Britain and the Continent; and contrasted the bird-life with that of America.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads reported a Northern Shrike (*Lanius borealis*) at Haddon Heights, N. J., a few days since.

March 5, 1896.—Fifteen members present.

Mr. Stone spoke on the "Structure of Feathers," illustrating his remarks by some selected specimens and drawings. He also called attention to the nomenclature of the Horned Owls. The type of *Bubo subarcticus* in the Academy collection proves to be a typical *arcticus*. Mr. Stone proposed the name *occidentalis* for the old "*subarcticus*," and proposed to separate the southern Californian race as *pacificus* Cassin. (See *Auk*, 1896, p. 153; also *Amer. Nat.*, 1897, p. 236.)

A number of birds collected by Dr. A. Donaldson Smith on his recent expedition through Somali Land, N. E. Africa, were exhibited, from the Academy's collection.

March 19, 1896.—Ten members present.

A general discussion was held on "Bird Protection."

April 2, 1896.—Twelve members present.

Mr. Guy Myers was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads read a paper on the "Real and Apparent Decrease in Our Native Birds," which was followed by a general discussion on the subject.

April 16, 1896.—Fifteen members present.

Mr. Stone read a letter from Mr. A. W. Anthony describing the destruction of Egrets for the millinery trade along the Gulf of California.

Mr. De Haven spoke of shore birds at Atlantic City, comparing the spring migrations for several years past.

Mr. Fowler followed with some observations on water birds of the Delaware River near Bristol, Pa.

May 7, 1896.—Seventeen members present.

Mr. Whitaker read a paper on "A Recent Trip to Florida," illustrating his remarks by a series of photographs.

Mr. Stone described a trip to a heronry of the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), near Salem, N. J., on May 2, in company with Dr. Hughes, Messrs. Justice and Young. There were upwards of thirty pairs of birds breeding in the tops of some tall pin oaks. Mr. Young

succeeded in securing a nest and set of eggs for the collection, which were on exhibition. Mr. Stone had just returned this evening from a second trip with several other members, and reported that most of the eggs had apparently hatched, judging from the shells on the ground.

May 21, 1896.—Eighteen members present.

Several nests and eggs mounted with natural surroundings for the collection were on exhibition. Notable were the eggs of the Night Hawk (*Chordeiles virginianus*) and Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus*), collected by Mr. Wilde, and resting on exactly the same ground surfaces upon which they were found.

October 1, 1896.—Nineteen members present.

Mr. Baily read a paper on "Gulls and Terns of Five-Mile Beach, N. J."

Mr. Stone described a colony of Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*), which were breeding back of Brigantine Beach, N. J., in June, 1896.

Mr. De Haven reported that large quantities of Clapper Rails (*Rallus crepitans*) had again been killed at Atlantic City during the high tides, and estimated that 10,000 had been slaughtered.

October 15, 1896.—Seventeen members present.

Messrs. Albert Whitaker and Samuel M. Freeman were elected Associate Members.

Mr. Stone read a paper entitled "The Salt Marsh Finches."

November 5, 1896.—Fifteen members present.

Mr. Henry Warrington was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Cope read a paper on the "Summer Birds of Susquehanna Co., Pa.", in which he summarizes his observations covering several years. Owing to the denudation of the forests the fauna is not so purely Canadian as had been supposed, though a number of Canadian forms still remain (see *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci.*, 1898, p. 76).

A specimen of Purple Sandpiper (*Tringa maritima*) was exhibited, which was secured, Oct. 31, 1896, at Beach Haven, N. J., by Mr. A. P. Willets.

November 19, 1896.—Nineteen members present.

Mr. Edmund J. D. Coxe was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads described a trip taken through the northern counties of New Jersey in October last, commenting on the birds noticed.

Dr. Hughes reported a Goshawk (*Accipiter atricapillus*) killed recently near Downingtown, Pa.

This meeting was held in the ornithological room of the Academy, which is to be the meeting-place in the future, the specimens, etc., being more accessible for reference.

December 3, 1896. Sixteen members present.

Mr. Stone read a paper on "Birds of Prince Edward's Island" by Mr. Young, who was unable to be present.

Mr. Baily spoke of a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) taken some two years ago at Devon, Pa., and now in captivity.

Mr. Brown reported finding two Coots (*Fulica americana*) dead near Wayne Junction, Philadelphia, apparently killed by striking telegraph wires.

December 17, 1896.—Eighteen members present.

Mr. Thomas L. Hammersley was elected an Associate Member.

The resignation of Mr. John J. Bissegger was accepted with regret.

Mr. Justice read a paper on "Some Impressions of European Birds," and Mr. Tatum followed with one entitled "Ornithological Experiences along the Miramichi, New Brunswick," in which he described a year's residence at a lumberman's camp.

A Goshawk (*Accipiter atricapillus*), secured at Paterson, N. J., and presented by Chas. A. Shriner, was on exhibition. Seven other individuals of the same species were reported shot at the same locality.

Mr. Stone called attention to the recently organized Pennsylvania Audubon Society for the protection of birds.

January 7, 1897.—Annual meeting. Twenty-two members present.

Messrs. Stewardson Brown and William L. Whitaker were elected Active Members, and Mr. J. Wistar Evans, Associate.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:

President—I. NORRIS DE HAVEN.

Vice-President—CHAS. J. RROADS.

Secretary—WM. A. SHRYOCK.

Treasurer—WM. L. BAILY.

A paper by Mr. A. B. Vanderwielen, entitled "Three Days with Bicknell's Thrush" (*Turdus alicie bicknelli*), was read by Mr. Stone, which dealt with the occurrence of this bird in the White Mountains, N. H.

Mr. Stone then made a communication on the Meadow Larks (*Sturnella magna* subsp.), illustrating his remarks with large series of skins of the various races. He pointed out the difference between the resident Larks of Mexico and the Rio Grande Valley, and proposed to separate the latter as a new form, *Sturnella magna hoopesi* (see Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1897, p. 146).

Dr. Fellows distributed copies of an etching of "Gulls," executed by himself.

Mr. Whitaker exhibited a Brünnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*) shot by

him at Cape Charles, Va., December 17, 1896 (see *Auk*, 1897, p. 202).

January 21, 1897.—Eighteen members present.

Messrs. Francis R. Cope, Jr., and Wm. W. Justice, Jr., were elected Active Members, and Messrs. Gilbert H. Moore, Robert T. Moore, and John Hutchinson Associates.

Mr. H. L. Graham was transferred to the Corresponding List, he having removed permanently to California.

Mr. De Haven read a paper on the "The Hunting of Brant," which he supplemented with considerable valuable information on the distribution and abundance of the species.

Mr. Stone exhibited a specimen of the Brant (*Branta bernicla*) from Whale Sound, N. Greenland, 1892, which was evidently breeding.

Mr. Whitaker exhibited a specimen of King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) taken at Cape Charles, Va., Jan. 2, 1897, which extended the known winter range of the species some miles southward, the previous southernmost record being Cobb's Island, Va., (*Auk*, 1897, p. 202).

Mr. Stone called attention to a nest of Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) received from Mr. J. D. Winsor, which had been built in the back of a sofa in his parlor and from which a brood had been raised, the bird entering by the window.

February 4, 1897.—Twenty-seven members present.

A general discussion was held on the articles in the January number of the *Auk*.

Mr. Reed exhibited a specimen of Black-throated Blue Warbler taken on Cobb's Creek, Delaware Co., Pa., in 1878, which exhibits all the characters of *Dendroica coeruleescens cairnsii* recently described from North Carolina by Dr. Coues, and questioned the validity of the new race.

Mr. Reed also reported a number of Brünnich's Murres (*Uria lomvia*) near Beverly, N. J., Dec. 15 and 16, 1896 (see *Auk*, 1897, p. 202).

February 18, 1897. Seventeen members present.

Mr. Stone exhibited some specimens of Horned Owls (*Bubo*) and explained that inadvertently he had erred in selecting a type for the new form "*occidentalis*," which he had described, and, this becoming a synonym, he would propose the name "*pallescens*" for the Western Horned Owl (*Am. Nat.*, 1897, p. 236). He also spoke of the death of Major Charles Bendire, and his valuable work on the "Life Histories of North American Birds."

March 4, 1897.—Nineteen members present.

The resignation of Mr. Wilde as an Active Member was accepted with regret.

Mr. Baily read a paper on "Beach Birds and Plover," based upon his experience with them for several consecutive years on Two, Five and Seven Mile Beaches, N. J.

Mr. Young reported taking a set of Great Horned Owl's eggs (*Bubo virginianus*) at Betterton, Kent Co., Md. The birds were breeding in an old eagle's nest.

March 18, 1897.—Twenty members present.

Mr. Morris read a paper on "Local Reminiscences of Audubon."

Mr. Baily exhibited a series of plates of Humming Birds, painted about 1855 by his uncle, Wm. L. Baily, a contemporary of John Cassin.

April 1, 1897.—Twenty-two members present.

Mr. W. L. Whitaker read a paper on "Ornithological Photography," followed by an exhibition of lantern slides of bird's nests taken by him from nature.

A Wood Ibis (*Tantalus loculator*), collected in Lancaster County, Pa., July 17, 1896, was exhibited, presented to the Club by Dr. Park P. Brenneman.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads had observed Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) in large numbers at Port Norris, N. J., the last week of March, and Mr. Fowler reported the same species as well as Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) at Bristol, Pa., March 26. These records are unusually early.

April 15, 1897.—Twenty members present.

The following resolution, presented by Mr. Stone, was unanimously adopted :

"The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club has heard with profound regret of the death of Prof. Edward D. Cope. The Club recognizes that in the death of Prof. Cope the scientific world has lost one of its brightest lights, a recognized authority in four distinct branches of zoological science, as well as one of the leading exponents of the doctrine of evolution. We also recognize, many of us from our personal experience, that young students entering upon a scientific career have lost in Prof. Cope a friend who, in spite of the demands of his own researches, was ever ready to assist them and give them the benefit of his profound knowledge."

Mr. Reed read a paper on the "American Barn Owl" (*Strix pratinecola*), outlining his experience with the species in this vicinity. (*Auk*, 1897, p. 374.)

May 6, 1897.—Sixteen members present.

Mr. Justice described a trip taken to Salem, N. J., and another to Susquehanna County, Pa. On the former occasion he reported finding a nest and eggs of the Barred Owl (*Syrnium nebulosum*), and described

the habit of the Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*) of boring through the wooden sides of the old ice-houses. Inside one of these holes he found a pair of sparrow hawks (*Falco sparverius*) nesting in hay which was stored within. In Susquehanna County three nests of the Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis*) were found, and Snow Birds (*Junco hyemalis*) were noted building on April 24.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads stated that five Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) had wintered in a wood near Haddonfield, N. J., and two pairs were now breeding there. Mr. De Haven stated that four or five had wintered at Overbrook, Pa.

May 20, 1897.—Thirteen members present.

Some notes on "Birds of Wolfville, Nova Scotia," prepared by Mr. Harold F. Tufts, were read.

Mr. Fowler reported the capture of a Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) at Tinicum, Delaware Co., Pa., May 15. (*Auk*, 1897, p. 410).

A nest and set of two eggs of the Goshawk (*Accipiter atricapillus*) from Lopez, Sullivan Co., Pa., the gift of Otto and Herman Behr, was on exhibition (*Auk*, 1897, p. 317).

May 21, 1897, 3:30 p. m.—Nineteen members and a large number of visitors present. An adjourned general meeting held in the lecture hall and open to the public.

The following program was presented :

"Some Early Anglo-Saxon Bird Names," Spencer Trotter, M. D.

"The Aid of Ornithologists needed in the Determination of Certain of the broader Morphological Problems," Thos. H. Montgomery, Ph. D.

"Modern Tendencies of Ornithology," Witmer Stone.

"A Resumé of the Work of the D. V. O. C.," Wm. A. Shryock.

"Exhibition of Photographs of Birds and Nests," W. L. Whitaker.

October 7, 1897.—Sixteen members present.

Mr. J. R. Moon was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Stone read a paper on the "Molting of the Sanderling" (*Calidris arenaria*), in which he showed that the flight feathers were in many cases not molted until after the birds reached this latitude in the fall migration. Specimens taken by W. L. Baily, at Cape May, August 4th, were exhibited as illustrations. (See *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci.*, Phila., 1897, p. 368.)

Mr. De Haven exhibited several pellets cast up by a caged crow (*Corvus americanus*) which consisted entirely of raspberry seeds.

October 21, 1897.—Eighteen members present.

Messrs. Otto Behr and Herman Behr were elected Corresponding Members.

A paper entitled "Great Gull Island during 1897," was read by Mr. Reed, in which he described the destruction of a colony of Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) which formerly bred on the island. The island has been fortified by the United States government and the breeding ground practically destroyed.

Mr. Fowler reported a Red-throated Loon (*Urinator lumme*) shot from a flock of fifteen at League Island, Philadelphia, and Mr. Baily recorded a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) seen at Cape May, N. J., last August.

November 4, 1897.—Twenty-three members present.

Messrs. Morris and Hughes discussed a trip taken to several points on the Virginia coast of Chesapeake Bay, June 12 and 19, 1897, and described the nesting of the several species of birds observed. Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), Skimmers (*Rynchops nigra*), and Black-headed Gulls (*Larus atricilla*) and a few Forster's Terns (*S. forsteri*) were the only kinds left breeding on the islands along the bay so far as they could ascertain.

November 18, 1897.—Sixteen members present.

A general discussion was held on the proceedings of the Fifteenth Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union by the members who had been in attendance.

December 2, 1897.—Twelve members present.

Mr. Arthur Cope Emlen was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Stone read some notes on Mexican birds made during his trip of 1890.

A specimen of Gannet (*Sula bassana*) in the mottled young plumage was exhibited, shot at Holly Beach, N. J., Nov. 22, 1897.

December 16, 1897.—Eighteen members present.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads read a paper entitled "Fossil Birds and their Living Allies," in which he carefully reviewed the subject as treated by the leading writers on the subject and exhibited many specimens from the Academy's collection.

Errata in Abstract Proceedings D. V. O. C., 1891-2.

Page 2. *Empidonax pusillus traillii* proved to be *E. minimus*.

Page 4. *Corvus corax sinuatus*. Specimen was taken in Fulton Co., Pa.

Page 5. *Chen hyperborea nivalis* should read *C. hyperborea*.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

Delaware Valley Ornithological Club.

LIST

OF

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

FOR

1898.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

The name of this Association is the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club.

ARTICLE II.

The object of this Club is the advancement and diffusion of ornithological knowledge.

ARTICLE III.

The members of this Club shall be persons who are interested in ornithology considered in its widest sense. There may be three classes of members: Active, Associate and Corresponding.

ARTICLE IV.

The officers of this Club shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. They shall be elected annually, and shall hold office until their successors are elected.

ARTICLE V.

This Constitution shall not be amended except by a unanimous vote of the active members present at an annual meeting, notice of such proposed action having been given to all active members, and the proposed amendment submitted in writing at the preceding regular meeting of the Club.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.—MEMBERS.

Section 1. Active members shall reside at the time of their election within twenty-five miles of Philadelphia, and shall have been Associate members of the Club for at least six months. Active members shall be

limited to fifteen in number, and they alone shall have the privilege of voting and holding office.

Sec. 2. Associate members shall be residents of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware or Maryland, and shall not be limited in number. They may take part in all the scientific meetings of the Club, and are entitled to all the privileges of membership except voting and holding office. An Active member who shall be absent from four consecutive meetings shall be transferred to the Associate membership, unless his absence be occasioned by sickness or other cause that may be deemed sufficient excuse by a majority of the Active members present at a regular meeting.

Sec. 3. Persons residing more than twenty-five miles from Philadelphia, capable of furnishing desirable ornithological information to the Club, may be elected Corresponding members. They may attend the scientific meetings of the Club and contribute notes or papers, but shall have no further privileges of membership. Upon removal of their residence to within twenty-five miles of Philadelphia they cease to be Corresponding members but may be elected to Associate membership.

ARTICLE II.—OFFICERS.

Section 1. The President shall preside at the meetings of the Club and shall appoint all committees.

Sec. 2. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in case of his absence or inability to act.

Sec. 3. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Club, shall send notices of time and place of meetings to all Active and Associate members, shall notify members elect of their election and shall acknowledge gifts or communications to the Club.

Sec. 4. The Treasurer shall collect all dues from members and shall have the care of all moneys belonging to the Club. He shall not make any disbursements unless so authorized by a majority vote of the Active members present at a regular meeting of the Club, and he shall present a report at each annual meeting of the Club.

Sec. 5. Vacancies occurring in any office may be filled at the next regular meeting of the Club.

ARTICLE III.—MEETINGS.

Section 1. The regular meetings of the Club shall be held at 7:30 p. m., on the first and third Thursday in each month, from October to May inclusive, at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

Sec. 2. Special meetings may be called by the President with the approval of two Active members.

Sec. 3. Four Active members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Sec. 4. Each meeting of the Club shall consist of a business and scientific session. The business session shall be open to Active members only, the regular order of business being as follows :

1. Reading of minutes of last business session.
2. Reports of committees.
3. Nominations and elections.
4. Miscellaneous business.

The scientific session of the Club shall immediately follow the business session, the order of procedure being :

5. Reading of minutes of last meeting.
6. Reports of committees or announcements.
7. Stated subject of the meeting.
8. Other papers or communications.
9. Adjournment.

Sec. 5. The order of business may be suspended at any time by a two-thirds vote of the active members present.

Sec. 6. The annual meeting and election of officers shall be the first stated meeting in January.

Sec. 7. Persons interested in ornithology may, upon invitation of a member, attend the scientific sessions of the Club.

ARTICLE IV.—ELECTIONS AND EXPULSIONS.

Section 1. All elections shall be by ballot.

Sec. 2. Nominations for membership shall be made at a stated meeting previous to the one at which they are to be balloted for. Nominations for officers shall be made at the annual meeting at which the election takes place.

Sec. 3. A unanimous vote of the Active members present and voting shall be necessary for the election of a member, and a two-thirds vote for the election of an officer.

Sec. 4. Any member may be expelled from the Club on satisfactory evidence that he is an improper person to be connected therewith. Such expulsion shall be by a two-thirds vote of the Active members present and voting at a stated meeting, one month's previous notice of such proposed action having been given to all active members and to the member accused.

ARTICLE V.—FEES AND ASSESSMENTS.

Section 1. An entrance fee of two dollars shall be charged to Active members and one dollar to Associate members. The annual assessment shall be for Active members two dollars, and for Associate members one dollar. The entrance fee shall cover all regular dues for the first year of membership, and any member elected on or after October first of any year shall not be assessed for the year in which he is elected. Corresponding members shall not be subject to dues of any kind.

Sec. 2. The annual assessment shall be due at the first stated meeting of each year.

Sec. 3. No Active member one year in arrears for dues shall be allowed to vote.

Sec. 4. The names of members two years in arrears for dues shall be dropped from the list of members, providing that they have been twice notified of their indebtedness by the Treasurer and their attention called to this By-Law.

ARTICLE VI.—AMENDMENTS.

Section 1. Amendments to these By-Laws shall only be made by a unanimous vote of the Active members present and voting at a regular meeting of the Club, the proposed amendment having been submitted in writing at a preceding regular meeting.

OFFICERS SINCE ORGANIZATION.

PRESIDENTS.

WILLIAM L. BAILY	1890.
WITMER STONE	1891-1892.
GEORGE SPENCER MORRIS	1893-1894.
WILLIAM E. HUGHES, M. D.	1895-1896.
I. NORRIS DE HAVEN	1897-1898.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

I. NORRIS DE HAVEN	March 21, 1895-1896.
CHARLES J. RHOADS	1897-1898.

SECRETARIES.

SAMUEL N. RHOADS	1890-Sept. 15, 1891.
GEORGE SPENCER MORRIS	Sept. 15, 1891-Jan., 1892.
CHARLES J. RHOADS	Jan., 1892-Oct. 4, 1892.
GEORGE SPENCER MORRIS	Oct. 4, 1892-Jan., 1893.
SAMUEL N. RHOADS	Jan., 1893-Jan., 1894.
CHARLES J. RHOADS	Jan., 1894-Jan., 1897.
WILLIAM A. SHRYOCK	Jan., 1897-1898.

TREASURERS.

SAMUEL N. RHOADS	1890-March 17, 1891.
WILLIAM L. BAILY	March 17, 1891-1898.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS
OF THE
Delaware Valley Ornithological Club.

1898.

PRESIDENT.

I. NORRIS DE HAVEN, Ardmore, Pa.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

CHARLES J. RHOADS, Bryn Mawr, Pa.

SECRETARY.

WILLIAM A. SHRYOCK, 823 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, Pa.

TREASURER.

WILLIAM L. BAILY, 421 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

ACTIVE MEMBERS.*

BAILY, WILLIAM L.	Founder.
421 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.	
BROWN, STEWARDSON	(Oct. 6, 1891.) Jan. 7, 1897.
Stenton Ave., Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.	
COPE, FRANCIS R., Jr.	(Dec. 19, 1895.) Jan. 21, 1897.
Awbury, Germantown, Phila., Pa.	
DE HAVEN, I. NORRIS	(Feb. 16, 1891.) Sept. 20, 1892.
Ardmore, Pa.	
FOWLER, HENRY W.	(Oct. 18, 1894.) Jan. 6, 1898.
Acad. Nat. Sci., Logan Square, Philadelphia, Pa.	

* Dates in parentheses indicate election to Associate membership, others denote election to Active membership.

- HUGHES, WILLIAM E., M. D. . . . (Oct. 6, 1891.) March 19, 1894.
3726 Baring St., West Philadelphia, Pa.
- JUSTICE, WILLIAM W., JR. (Oct. 17, 1893.) Jan. 21, 1897.
Clappier St., Germantown, Phila., Pa.
- MORRIS, GEORGE SPENCER Founder.
Olney, Philadelphia, Pa.
- RHOADS, CHARLES J. (June 16, 1890.) Sept. 1, 1891.
Bryn Mawr, Pa.
- RHOADS, SAMUEL N. Founder.
Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- SHRYOCK, WILLIAM A. (Dec. 1, 1891.) Jan. 2, 1896.
823 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, Pa.
- STONE, WITMER Founder.
Acad. Nat. Sci., Logan Square, Philadelphia, Pa.
- WHITAKER, WILLIAM L. (Jan. 17, 1893.) Jan. 7, 1897.
Cedar Grove, Philadelphia, Pa.
- YOUNG, ROBERT T. (April 19, 1892.) Jan. 2, 1896.
174 W. 126th St., New York City.

FORMER ACTIVE MEMBERS.

- BROWN, J. FARNUM,* . Associate Member, Feb. 2, 1891; Active Mem-
ber, Sept. 1, 1891—May, 1894.
- REED, J. HARRIS,† . . . Founder. Active Member to April 16, 1896.
- TROTTER, SPENCER, M. D.† . Founder. Active Member to April 5, 1894.
- VOELKER, CHARLES A.† . . Founder. Active Member to Dec. 3, 1896.
- WILDE, MARK L. C.† . Active Member Dec. 19, 1895, to March 18, 1897.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

- CHAPMAN, WILLIAM E. Oct. 17, 1895.
6408 Main St., Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
- CLARK, FREDERICK Feb. 7, 1895.
Conshohocken, Pa.
- COGGINS, HERBERT L. Dec. 16, 1897.
4547 McKean Ave., Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
- COXE, EDMUND J. D. Nov. 19, 1896.
1515 Spruce St., Philadelphia, Pa.
- CRAWFORD, JOSEPH D. Feb. 2, 1892.
Frankford Road and Hart Lane, Philadelphia, Pa.

* Deceased.

† See Associate Members.

- EMLÉN, ARTHUR COPE Dec. 2, 1897.
Awbury, Germantown, Phila., Pa.
- EVANS, J. WISIAR Jan. 7, 1897.
Church Lane, Germantown, Phila., Pa.
- FELLOWS, A. P., D. D. S. May 17, 1894.
4006 Chestnut St., Phila., Pa.
- FORSYTHE, GEORGE Feb. 2, 1891.
Westtown, Penna.
- FOX, HENRY Jan. 4, 1894.
4831 Main St., Germantown, Phila., Pa.
- FREEMAN, SAMUEL M. Oct. 15, 1896.
13 E. Penn St., Germantown, Phila., Pa.
- GITHENS, ALFRED MORTON Jan. 3, 1895.
1512 Pine St., Phila., Pa.
- GRAY, RUSSELL Feb. 17, 1898.
63d and Lansdowne Ave., West Philadelphia, Pa.
- HAMMERSLEY, THOMAS L. Dec. 17, 1896.
3616 Hamilton St., West Philadelphia, Pa.
- HUTCHINSON, J. B. Jan. 21, 1897.
Haddonfield, N. J.
- KESTER, RAYMOND Nov. 1, 1892.
Lansdowne, Pa.
- MCCADDEN, DAVID N. Sept. 20, 1892.
Acad. Nat. Sciences, Logan Square, Philadelphia, Pa.
- MONTGOMERY, THOMAS H., JR., PH. D. March 17, 1891.
West Chester, Pa.
- MOON, J. R. Oct. 7, 1897.
836 Broadway, Camden, N. J.
- MOORE, GILBERT H. Jan. 21, 1897.
Haddonfield, N. J.
- MOORE, ROBERT T. Jan. 21, 1897.
Haddonfield, N. J.
- MEYERS, F. GUY April 2, 1896.
4603 Cedar Ave., West Philadelphia, Pa.
- PENNELL, HOWARD Y. Jan. 4, 1894.
Wawa, Pa.
- REED, J. HARRIS (Active Member, Jan., 1890—April 16, 1896.)
Beverly, N. J.

- REESE, JOHN Oct. 18, 1894.
Riverton, N. J.
- ROTZELL, W. E., M. D. Oct. 20, 1891.
Narberth, Pa.
- SCHEUING, WILLIAM B. March 7, 1893.
3024 West York St., Philadelphia, Pa.
- SCULL, A. STEWART Feb. 3, 1898.
925 Broadway, Camden, N. J.
- SEISS, C. FEW Feb. 2, 1892.
1338 Spring Garden St., Philadelphia, Pa.
- SERRILL, WILLIAM J. Dec. 1, 1891.
Haverford, Pa.
- SHEPPARD, EDWIN March 3, 1891.
Acad. Nat. Sci., Logan Square, Philadelphia, Pa.
- SHERIDAN, GEORGE H. April 5, 1892.
Highland Ave., Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa.
- SMITH, WALTER GORDON Feb. 17, 1898.
Overbrook, Pa.
- STOKES, FRANCIS J. Feb. 1, 1894.
Locust Ave., Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
- TATUM, JOSEPH W. May 3, 1892.
843 N. 41st St., West Philadelphia, Pa.
- TROTTER, SPENCER, M. D. . (Active Member, Jan., 1890–April 5, 1894.)
Media, Pa.
- VOELKER, CHARLES A. . . (Active Member, Jan., 1890–Dec. 3, 1896.)
Adamsford, Pa.
- WARRINGTON, HENRY Nov. 5, 1896.
1700 Mt. Vernon St., Philadelphia, Pa.
- WEYGANDT, CORNELIUS Feb. 16, 1891.
79 Upsal St., Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
- WHITAKER, ALBERT Oct. 15, 1896.
Cedar Grove, Philadelphia, Pa.
- WILDE, MARK L. C. . Oct. 18, 1892. (Active Member, Dec. 19, 1895–
Merchantville, N. J. March 18, 1897.)
- WRIGHT, SAMUEL Jan. 5, 1892.
Conshohocken, Pa.

FORMER ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

BISSEGER, JOHN J.	Oct. 18, 1892-Dec. 17, 1896.
BURNS, FRANK L.	Feb. 2, 1891-Jan. 1, 1895.
DEWEES, THOMAS	Feb. 16, 1891-Jan. 17, 1895.
PANNEPACKER, D. ELMER	Oct. 6, 1890-Jan. 1, 1897.
RIDENOUR, CHARLES E.	Oct. 6, 1891-April 16, 1896.
RODGERS, WILLIAM	Feb. 7, 1893-Feb. 3, 1898.
SMITH, WILLIAM W.*	Feb. 2, 1891-July 3, 1892.
WILBANK, WILLIAM V.	Jan. 19, 1891-Jan. 1, 1894.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

BEANS, THOMAS J.	March 21, 1895.
Moorestown, N. J.	
BEHR, HERMAN	Oct. 7, 1897.
Lopez, Sullivan Co., Pa.	
BEHR, OITO	Oct. 7, 1897.
Lopez, Sullivan Co., Pa.	
BULLER, W. H.	March 21, 1895.
Marietta, Lancaster Co., Pa.	
BUSH, WALTER D.	Feb. 17, 1898.
French St. Wharf, Wilmington, Del.	
DETWILER, JOHN W., M. D.	March 21, 1895.
Bethlehem, Pa.	
EASTMAN, FRANK B.	Feb. 17, 1898.
1121 Market St., Wilmington, Del.	
GRAHAM, HARRY L.	(Associate, Feb. 7, 1895.) Jan. 21, 1897.
Redlands, Cal.	
HALES, HENRY	March 21, 1895.
Ridgewood, N. J.	
HOOPEES, JOSIAH	March 21, 1895.
West Chester, Pa.	
JACKSON, THOMAS H.	March 21, 1895.
West Chester, Pa.	
JACOBS, J. WARREN	March 21, 1895.
Waynesburg, Pa.	

* Deceased.

- KOCH, AUGUST March 21, 1895.
Williamsport, Pa.
- LADD, SAMUEL B. March 21, 1895.
West Chester, Pa.
- PATTERSON, WILLIAM March 21, 1895.
Salem, N. J.
- PENNOCK, CHARLES J. March 21, 1895.
Kennett Square, Chester Co., Pa.
- PHILLIPS, A. H. March 21, 1895.
Princeton, N. J.
- RAUB, M. W., M. D. March 21, 1895.
Lancaster, Pa.
- RODDY, H. JUSTIN March 21, 1895.
Millersville, Lancaster Co., Pa.
- STONE, HUGH E. March 21, 1895.
Coatesville, Chester Co., Pa.
- TODD, W. E. CLYDE March 21, 1895.
U. S. Dept. Agriculture, Washington, D. C.
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The Club holds regular meetings in the Ornithological Room of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Logan Square, Philadelphia, on the first and third Thursdays of each month, from October to May inclusive, at 8 o'clock p. m.

The D. V. O. C. collection of Pennsylvania and New Jersey birds and their nests is presented to the Academy, and is on public exhibition in the museum.

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1898-1899.

No. III.

ABSTRACT

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

DELAWARE VALLEY

ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

OF

PHILADELPHIA.

FOR THE YEARS 1898 AND 1899.

PUBLISHED BY THE CLUB.

1900.

ABSTRACT
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
DELAWARE VALLEY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
OF
PHILADELPHIA.

January 6th, 1898.—Annual Meeting. Thirty-two members present. Mr. Henry W. Fowler was elected an Active Member.

The result of the election of officers for the year of 1898 was as follows :

President—I. NORRIS DE HAVEN.

Vice-President—CHAS. J. RHOADS.

Secretary—WILLIAM A. SHRYOCK.

Treasurer—WILLIAM L. BAILY.

Mr. Stone read a paper on the Genus *Ammodramus*. Mr. Baily showed two specimens of the Stilt Sandpiper, *Micropalma himantopus* taken on August 11th, 1897, at Wildwood, N. J. An exhibition of slides of live birds, nests, and eggs was given in the lecture hall by Messrs Baily and W. L. Whitaker.

January 20th, 1898.—Seventeen members present.

Mr. Henry W. Fowler read a paper on the Genus *Buteo*, giving a general outline of the genus and special mention of the three most common species, the Broad-winged, the Red-tailed, and the Red-shouldered Hawks; with notes on their food habits and dispositions during the mating season, and in captivity. He stated that in his experience, the Red-shouldered Hawk is the most numerous species in this vicinity. Mr. Baily made some remarks on the Hawks exhibited on the table, but considered the Red-shouldered Hawk rather rare at Wynnewood, though

the Red-tailed Hawk was common. Dr. Hughes said that Cooper's Hawk was one of the most common breeders in the Chester Valley region, it being almost as common as the Sparrow Hawk.

February 3, 1898.—Nineteen members present.

Mr. Shryock read a paper entitled "The Hind Limb of a Bird," which he illustrated with a few prepared specimens and skins and mounted birds taken from the Academy collection. Mr. Stone gave a talk on the evolution of birds as indicated by the foot, and advanced some theories as to the cause of the various modifications referred to. The subject was further considered by Messrs. Stone, Morris, Baily and Hughes. Mr. S. N. Rhoads reported a Pine-Creeping Warbler, *Dendroica vigorsii*, observed by him on January 30th, 1898, at Haddonfield, N. J.

February 17, 1898.—Twenty-one members present.

Messrs. Walter Gordon Smith and Russell Gray were elected associate members, and Walter D. Bush and Frank B. Eastman, corresponding members.

Mr. Stone gave an account of a trip to Bear Swamp, N. J., which is located almost directly east of Haddonfield, about 20 miles from Philadelphia. He described the character of the country, and stated that Cardinals and Hermit Thrushes were wintering there in numbers, and feeding largely on the berries of the holly and greenbrier. Kinglets and Blue Jays were common, and Hawks numerous, mostly Red-tails. One Vesper Sparrow, several Winter Wrens, and a number of Bluebirds were seen, as well as a small flock of Goldfinches. Mr. Tatum read a paper entitled "Ornithology and Invention," in which he spoke of the recent development in the art of photography, and the possibilities it afforded as an accessory to the study of ornithology. The cinematograph, phonograph and color photography were treated in respect to their rendering it possible to reproduce the sights and sounds of our fields and woodlands in the lecture room. Mr. Wright reported that the Crows flying over Conshohocken to the Radnor roost now came from the northeast, and not from the northwest, as before. Mr. Wilde reported a Snowy Owl from Milford, Delaware, taken on October 1, 1897, by Joseph Rogers, of that place. Mr. De Haven reported Wilson's Snipe as abundant in North Carolina during the latter part of January, also Cow Buntings and Rusty Grackles. The region referred to lay about 30 miles south of Norfolk.

March 3, 1898.—Twenty-three members present.

Mr. Pennock read a paper entitled "The Brown-Headed Nuthatch."

The distribution of this species as recorded by previous observers was thoroughly reviewed, and illustrated by a shaded map. No pronounced preference for sites near water, as recorded by Mr. C. S. Brimley, of Raleigh, N. C. (*Orn. & Oöl.*, Oct., 1899), was found to be the case in Georgia, where he had observed them. The first eggs were taken on the first of March, and various sets were found until the 26th, most of the complete sets being taken between March 12th and 25th. Mr. Wilde read a paper entitled "The Final Report of Three Years' Work on the Inland Birds of Cape May County, N. J." He first treated of the swamps and ponds in their capacity as reservoirs for the streams which take their rise inland, and spoke of the growth usually found in them, observing that about three-quarters of the county was covered with forests. The common trees were enumerated. He then read a resumé of former collection trips made by various members of the club, and his own list of 102 species of birds observed in the county, was gone over and commented on.

March 17, 1898.—Twenty-two members present.

Mr. Henry Warrington read a paper entitled "Notes on Some Californian Birds," in which he described his ornithological experiences in the vicinity of Escondido, Cal., and presented a list of about 54 species observed by him, together with notes on their habits and relative abundance. Mr. Stone called attention to a Great Horned Owl secured by Mr. Gray from Central Mexico, which represented the pale-plumaged bird formerly known as *Bubo virginianus subarcticus* which he recently described as sub-species *palescens*, the old name being untenable. Mr. De Haven reported a Clapper Rail, *Rallus crepitans*, seen at Atlantic City, N. J., on March 16th.

April 7, 1898.—Seventeen members present.

Mr. Baily read a paper entitled "The Winter Homes of our Summer Birds." The localities around Holly Beach, Cape May Co., N. J., were described with special reference to their adaptability to the protection of our summer birds during the winter. In his visit to the region during the past winter the following birds were noted: Robin, very abundant; Myrtle Warbler, Tree Sparrow, Field, Song and White-throated Sparrows in abundance. Flickers were also common. The less common birds included Hermit Thrush, Carolina Wren, and a few specimens each of Brown Thrasher and Catbird. Associated with these birds were some winter species, notably the Ipswich Sparrow (*Ammodramus princeps*), which seemed very abundant along the coast this winter. Mr. Baily suggested that the bird might not be as rare as formerly supposed. Mr. Stone stated that his observations on the

abundance of the Ipswich Sparrow on the New Jersey coast led him to believe that it varied in different years. Mr. De Haven stated that his observations at Cape Charles, Va., showed these birds so be very irregular. Dr. Hughes gave a talk on "The Hawks of Tinicum, Delaware Co., Pa." The great abundance of mice in this locality accounting for the large number of hawks that congregate there. They begin to arrive in October—first the Red-tailed, then the Red-shouldered, and last the Rough-leg (*Archibuteo*). Of fifteen hawks shot the past winter, fourteen were Red-tails, the other being a Red-shouldered. Three of the Red-tails were in adult plumage. The birds roost in a patch of tall woods situated on the meadows; the time of coming in varies with the day. On dull days they come in much earlier than when bright. Rough-legs had been noted quite abundantly in former years, but this year there were very few. He thought there was no diminution in the other species over former years. Marsh Hawks were noted on every trip to the meadows, but were very variable in numbers. The recent comparative abundance of birds in the adult male plumage was commented on, the average in former years not being over one in fifty.

Dr. Hughes described the taking of a Carolina Wren's nest containing three eggs, at Perryville, Md., on April 6th, and the shooting of three Cedar Waxwings, all females, on which the wax tips to the feathers were unusually largely developed. Six birds of the same species recently shot from a flock at Avalon, N. J., were all males. He suggested the possibility of the sexes flocking separately at this season of the year.

April 21, 1898.—Nineteen members present.

Mr. George S. Morris gave a talk on a trip made May 30, 1897, to the region about the mouth of Pensauken Creek, N. J., on the Delaware River. The country for about a half mile up the creek is covered with a swamp of reeds and timber of medium growth. Bank Swallows (*Clivicola riparia*) were abundant, flying over the swamp, and bred in a large colony in the vicinity. During the day, eighteen nests of the Summer Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*) were found, as well as a number of the Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*). None of the latter, however, contained eggs. A male specimen of the Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphia*) was shot by Mr. Morris. A roost of Night Herons was found, containing about twenty-five birds. Nests of the Carolina Wren and Great Crested Flycatcher were found, and a Kingfisher's nest, all with eggs. Two Greater Yellow Legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) were seen along the river. The advantages offered by this locality as a field

for spring collecting and a general observation ground during the year were dwelt upon, especially as it is so readily accessible from the city. Mr. Stone called attention to two specimens of McKay's Snowflake (*Passerina hyperborea*) from Bethel, on the coast of Alaska. This is still a very rare species in collections. Both birds were females in the winter plumage. The breeding place of this species, Hall Island, Bering Sea, was commented on by Mr. Stone. Mr. Baily reported about one hundred Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) to have been shot within the last few weeks on the meadows around Ninety-Second Street Station, below Philadelphia.

May 5th, 1898.—Twenty members present. Mr. Alfred F. Satterthwait was elected an Associate Member.

Dr. Hughes gave a talk on the Ipswich Sparrow, (*Ammodramus princeps*) stating that his object was to define the winter distribution of the species. He had made a number of trips during the winter to Avalon and Seven Mile Beach, N. J., in company with several members of the Club, as well as having observed this bird at Cape Charles, Va., during the same period. Some of the birds were found on every trip this winter. On November 28th, 1897, about twenty-five were seen, and six secured; on December 30th, 1897, at Five Mile Beach, ten were seen and six shot; at Cape Charles Va., on December 6th, 1897, one bird was seen; at Avalon, January 16th, 1898, two birds secured; at Avalon, on March 13th, 1898, fifteen birds seen and two shot; and again at Avalon, on March 27th, 1898, six birds seen and three secured. The birds collected on the 13th of March, 1898, were molting extensively, especially about the head. Dr. Hughes expressed the conclusion that the bulk of the birds passed further south during the winter, as they were more numerous at Avalon during the fall and early spring migrations. Mr. A. T. Wayne, of Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, wrote him that he never saw the Ipswich Sparrow alive, though he has searched for it diligently. Messrs. Meyers and Hughes stated that they had collected eight sets of Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) eggs from a heronry near Pitman's Grove, N. J., the nests being situated in pine trees, at a considerable height.

May 19th, 1898.—Twenty-one members present. Mr. Anthony Robinson was elected an Associate Member.

The discussion for the evening was on "Recent Methods of Bird Illustration and Taxidermy." Following this Mr. Morris reported having shot a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) at Olney, Pa., on May 17th, 1898. Mr. Gilbert H. Moore presented a fine specimen of Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) to the Club, which he

had shot at Ocean City, N. J., on May 18th, 1898. The members showed great interest in this valuable addition to the collection. (See Auk, 1898, p. 268.)

October, 6 1898.—Twenty-four members present.

Mr. Stone called attention to the Josiah Hoopes Collection of North American land birds now in the possession of the Academy. The extreme value of the collection as a whole was commented on, and certain series of specimens were shown on the table to give an idea of the thorough way in which they were represented.

October 20, 1898.—Twenty-two members present.

Mr. William L. Baily read a paper entitled "William Penn as a Collector," referring to the statue of the early founder which surmounts the tower of the Public Buildings of Philadelphia. (See p. 15). Mr. Stone gave the result of recent investigations made by him and Mr. Tatum on the subject of "Crow Flights and Crow Roosts," and exhibited a map showing the various roosts in the surrounding country and the lines of flight followed by the crows in going to and from them. The roosts near Coatesville, Radnor, Doylestown, Salem and Merchantville were mentioned, with others of less importance. Mr. Stone noted a tendency on the part of the crows to roost in smaller numbers, and stated that the larger roosts seem to be gradually breaking up.

November 3, 1898.—Twenty-three members present.

Mr. Wm. B. Evans was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Edw. A. McIlhenny, by invitation, gave a most interesting account of his eighteen months' sojourn in Northern Alaska. Finding that the birds of the Northwest were very poorly represented in museums, he decided to make a trip North to collect in that section, and for this purpose arranged with the authorities at Washington for the use of the old whaling station at Point Barrow, Alaska. He took with him two assistants, and about fifty-three tons of baggage. The voyage from San Francisco to Point Barrow occupied forty-two days. On the Pacific, Albatross, both Black-footed and Short-Tailed, were abundant, and the Eskimo method of catching the Fulmars was used on them with great success. A Plover, the species of which has not yet been determined, was taken on the Siberian coast. The spring migration at Point Barrow began on April 3d, when the male King Eider Ducks began to arrive. The females did not come until May 1st. Enormous flocks of these birds darkened the sky, and permitted the firing of six shots in o their mass from a single gun before they were out of range. Almost all the males came before any females were

seen, and the former started on the return journey as the last of the females passed north. The King Eider breeds at Point Barrow around the small ponds on the tundra, using much black moss in the construction of the nests, and but little down. It is the most common duck of this region, the Black Brant occupying second place. About four thousand bird's eggs were collected on the trip, many of which were those of the Snowy Owl, which breeds at Point Barrow in large numbers, as many as sixty nests of this bird being found in one day. Mr. McIlhenny has counted as many as fourteen eggs and young in one nest together. Incubation begins with the laying of the first egg, which would otherwise freeze, and the male takes turns with the female in setting. The male Snowy Owl is almost pure white in the Arctic regions, while the females are always barred, the two sexes being thus readily distinguished. During the process of incubation the male is fed by the female, who will bring numbers of Lemmings and place them near him on the ground around the nest. When the young are first hatched they are pure white, afterwards getting darker, and eventually white again with the acquirement of the full plumage. Short-eared Owls were also taken. Sandpipers were very abundant, and numbers of their eggs were taken. Gray-checked Thrushes and a Myrtle Warbler were shot; and a Cormorant was taken. The capture of the Rosy Gull during a large migration of Sabine Gulls was described, two specimens of this rare species being taken on September 7th and 9th, and on July 9th another one was shot. Several Yellow-billed Loons were also secured. (See Stone Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1900, pp. 4-49, for full report on the collection). Mr. McIlhenny told of the hardships endured by wrecked sailors from the vessels of the whaling fleet which were caught in the ice, and spoke of the large supply of ducks which were killed and served them for food as well as specimens. The birds were packed in an old house excavated in the ground, where they would freeze within two hours, and five months afterward, during the dark season, they were worked up into skins at the leisure of the collectors.

November 17, 1898.—Eleven members present.

Mr. H. B. Fisher was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Stone gave an account of the sessions of the Sixteenth Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union, at Washington, D. C., from which he had just returned, and stated that it was the most successful meeting ever held by the Union. A short description of the various papers read was given. Mr. Baily gave a review of the papers not touched on by Mr. Stone, and spoke of the exhibition of lantern

slides. It was announced that the next session of the Union would be held in Philadelphia, November 13, 1899.

December 1, 1898.—Twenty-six members present.

Mr. Samuel N. Rhoads spoke on "The Birds of Clinton County, Pa.," reading extracts from his journal giving a general description of the topography of the country, forest growth, etc. A White-Crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) was shot on October sixth, and on October twentieth and twenty-first, Ruby Crowned Kinglets (*Regulus calendula*) were noted. A list of birds observed in the locality during May and June, 1896, was read, and each species commented on as to its abundance, etc. Photographs of the region were shown. Mr. Justice gave an account of a ducking trip which he took to Salem, N. J. The ducks were numerous, especially Black Ducks. He noted a Catbird on November 29, 1898, at Haverford, Pa. A Pomerine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) which was shot on October, 1898, on the Delaware River, was exhibited on the table.

Dr. Hughes reported that at Stone Harbor, N. J., on November 20th, 1898, he saw about twenty-five Ipswich Sparrows, (*Ammodramus princeps*) of which he secured nine specimens.

December 15th, 1898.—Seventeen members present. Mr. Chas J. Pennock was elected an Active Member, and Mr. Nathan Kite an Associate Member.

Mr. Morris called attention to six pictures from Audubon's work which had been presented to the club by Mrs. E. J. Bartol, and which were exhibited on the walls of the Ornithological room. In the absence of Dr. Hughes, Mr. Stone spoke alone on "The Birds of Sullivan and Wyoming Counties, Pa.," where is found probably the largest tract of uncut hemlock forest in the State. The home of Herman and Otto Behr, corresponding members of the Club, was the headquarters of the party, and much of the success of the trip was due to their knowledge of the region explored. The birds were strictly Canadian. A breeding specimen of the White-throated Sparrow was taken on June 19th, 1898; and the nest, eggs, and male and female of the Olive-sided Flycatcher were collected. Young Winter Wrens in the first plumage, as well as several nests of the same species were secured, the latter being found under the roots of overturned hemlocks. Two nests and eggs of the Brown Creeper, a nest of the Red-bellied Nuthatch, one Acadian Owl, and an adult and two young of the Golden crowned Kinglet were also collected. (See pp. 19-23.) Mr. Brown stated that he had found the Mourning Warbler quite common in suitable localities at Lake Ganoga, Penna., a few miles further west.

January 5th, 1899.—Annual meeting, thirty-one members present. Mr. William D. Carpenter was elected an Associate Member. The resignation of Mr. Robt. T. Young from Active Membership was received and accepted with regret.

The officers chosen for the year were as follows :

President—CHARLES J. RHOADS.

Vice-President—CHARLES J. PENNOCK.

Secretary—WILLIAM A. SHRYOCK.

Treasurer—WILLIAM L. BAILY.

Mr. Stone addressed the meeting on the "Birds of the Philippines and Porto Rico," explaining the geographical position and relationship of the islands and commenting on the more interesting species recorded from them. He estimated that there were about 325 resident species so far noted in the Philippines, and about 25 native species in Porto Rico.

Mr. Henry Warrington exhibited a Lapland Longspur, (*Calcarius lapponicus*) shot at Salem, N. J., December 28, 1898, from a flock of Horned Larks. This is the second capture of this species in the Delaware Valley since the organization of the Club.

Mr. Albert Whitaker stated that he had reliable information of the shooting of two Wild Pigeons, (*Ectopistes migratorius*) by Mr. Frank Butterworth in Wayne Co. Pa., November 2, 1898.

The meeting closed with an exhibition of lantern slides of birds and nests by Messrs. William L. Baily and J. Harris Reed.

January 19, 1899.—Twenty members present.

Mr. Joseph W. Tatum was elected an Active Member.

Mr. W. Gordon Smith read a paper describing a locality at Merrydell, Maryland, on the Choptank Creek near the eastern boundary of the State, which he had visited July 13, 1898, in company with Mr. I. N. DeHaven, and where a specimen of Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) was obtained, and several others seen. The appearance of the specimen and the date of the occurrence gave every indication that the species was breeding in this vicinity, which is materially north of its regular range. The low wet woodland with plenty of fallen timber offered an ideal nesting locality for the bird.

Mr. H. W. Fowler remarked on the Ducks observed in the Philadelphia markets during the present winter. He found the Lesser Scaup the most abundant species, while the Greater Scaup had not been seen at all, although several hundred specimens had been examined. Black Ducks and Red Heads were plentiful; Canvas Backs, Pintails and Bald Pates, fairly common; Ruddy Ducks, common late in the season;

Mallard, not as abundant as last season; one Ring Neck, several Gad-walls, and two pair of Shovellers only were observed. Geese were abundant, but Brant scarcer than last season.

Mr. Morris stated that Audubon's original painting of the Black Cock formerly the property of Edward Harris was on exhibition at Linsay's Art Store, Philadelphia.

Mr. Stone described a recent visit to the Crow roosts near Salem, N. J., supposed to be the remnants of the old Pea Patch and Reedy Island Roosts (See Bird Lore, Dec., 1899.)

February 2d, 1899.—Twenty-three members present. Mr. Wm. M. Strang was elected an Associate Member, and the resignation of Mr. Harry Fox was accepted with regret.

Mr. Herbert L. Coggins read a paper entitled "The Heath Hen and other Birds of Martha's Vineyard," in which he summarized his observations of several summers. Seventy-seven species had been noted on the island. The Heath Hen was twice observed in the interior of the island and six individuals were seen. They are protected at all seasons under a penalty of \$25 fine.

Mr. Chas. A. Voelker exhibited a Black Guillemot (*Cyphus grylle*) shot on the Delaware River, near Chester, in December, 1898, from a flock of Buffle-heads. This is the first record of the bird in this vicinity since the time of Cassin, and in fact is the only definite record.

A Brünnichs Murre (*Uria lomvia*) was reported shot at Atlantic City, N. J., recently by Dr. J. F. Prendergast.

A letter from Mr. Gilbert H. Moore was read by the Secretary describing the breeding of the Rose-Breasted Grosbeak (*Zamelodia ludoviciana*) at Haddonfield, N. J., early in July, 1897, this being the most southern record of the nesting of the species in this vicinity. The nest and eggs have been added to the Club collection at the Academy.

February 16, 1899.—Six members present.

Dr. James F. Prendergast and Mr. Samuel Palmer were elected Associate Members.

Owing to the inclement weather no scientific session was held.

March 2, 1899.—Twenty-two members present.

Mr. W. L. Baily spoke of the "Spring Flight of Shore Birds at Holly Beach, N. J., in 1898." On May 16 and 17 he considered the migration at its height.

Notes were read from a number of members relative to the effect of the recent phenomenal blizzard upon local bird life. (See p. 13.)

Mr. Stone exhibited a live male Bobolink, the property of Mrs. Ed-

ward Robins, which was now about half changed from winter to nuptial plumage, the transformation having been effected entirely by molt.

March 16, 1899.—Twenty-three members present.

A letter was read from Mr. Wm. L. Whitaker, now at Juneau, Alaska, and another from Mr. Sam'l N. Rhoads from Miami, Florida, each dealing briefly with the bird life of their respective regions.

Mr. Fowler read a paper on the species of Apteryx, reviewing the history, classification and distribution of the genus.

Mr. Shryock spoke of the skeletal peculiarities of these birds, illustrating his remarks with specimens from the Academy's collection, and Mr. McCadden exhibited photographs from life of the Owen's and Mantell's Apteryxes recently living in the Zoölogical Garden.

April 6, 1899.—Twenty-two members present.

Mr. James A. G. Rehn was elected an Associate Member.

Mr. Morris read a paper on the "Birds of Eaglesmere, Pa.," observed during August, 1898.

Dr. Hughes reported a Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) shot at Tinicum, Delaware Co., Pa., March 30, 1899.

Mr. DeHaven read an interesting letter from Mr. Chas. A. Long, of Paterson, N. J., describing a flight of Hawks which passed through a gap in the mountains near that place. Many were killed by local gunners—according to Mr. Long—"seventy-six assorted varieties of hawks, including an Eagle, were shot."

April 20th, 1899.—Twenty-four members present. Messrs. George B. Cresson, William J. Cresson, and Dr. Walter W. Maires were elected Associate Members.

An historic collection of skins made many years ago by W. P. Turnhill and Bernard Hoopes, and recently bequeathed to the Academy by the late Prof. Cope, was on exhibition. (See Osprey, 1899, p. 98.)

Dr. Hughes described a nesting site of Great Blue Herons near Pitman Grove, N. J., consisting of about thirty-seven nests. They were situated in pine trees from seventy-five to ninety feet from the ground. He found full sets of eggs on April 16.

A large flock of Crossbills (*Loxia c. minor*) were observed near the Heronry.

May 4th, 1899.—Eighteen members present. Mr. I. N. De Haven read a paper entitled "Life and Habits of the Clapper Rail," being a summary of a number of years' observation on this species on the Atlantic City meadows.

Mr. Baily described a Robin's nest which had been built on a tem-

porary scaffold. When the destruction of the scaffolding became necessary the workmen removed the nest to a near-by tree where it was supported on long nails driven into the trunk. The birds returned to it and laid a full clutch of eggs.

Mr. Baily also reported five Crossbills (*L. c. minor*) observed at Haverford, April 23, 1899.

May 18th, 1899.—Twenty-six members present.

Mr. Samuel N. Rhoads addressed the Club on "Glimpses of Bird Life in Northern Mexico," recounting his ornithological experiences in the vicinity of Uruapan and Monterey. His remarks were illustrated by a number of specimens obtained on the trip.

Mr. Baily commented on a recent trip to the Virginia coast, where he had found a nest of the Oyster Catcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) and had heard the Chuckwill's Widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*.)

October 5th, 1899.—Nineteen members present.

The death of Mr. Gilbert H. Moore, an Associate Member, which occurred in May shortly after the adjournment of the Club, was announced and the following resolution adopted:

Resolved: That the members of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club have heard with deep regret of the death of their fellow member, Gilbert H. Moore, and desire to place on record their appreciation of his active interest in Ornithology, and their recognition of the great loss which they, both as an organization and as individuals, have sustained in his death.

Mr. Stone described a trip to Sullivan and Wyoming Cos., Penna. taken by himself and Mr. Fowler in June, and reported a number of additions to the list of species noted by him on a previous trip in June, 1898. He also reported the capture of a Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) near Tom's River, by Mr. W. M. Swain, Sep. 8, 1899. Mr. Swain had previously obtained another specimen on Barnegat Bay, N. J., Sep. 1898. (Between the 7th and 21st.)

Several members commented upon the abundance of Little Blue Herons (*Ardea caerulea*) in this vicinity during the latter part of the summer.

Dr. Hughes reported a number at various points along the New Jersey coast, and exhibited one obtained at Stone Harbor and now in the Club collection. Mr. Rehn reported one shot on the Upper Darby Creek the latter part of August, and a flock had been frequently seen on the Delaware near Beverly. Mr. S. N. Rhoads observed a flock of 50 or 60 birds feeding on the marshes near Mt. Ephraim, N. J., and was enabled to approach near enough to obtain a good view of them.

All birds reported were in the white plumage.

Mr. Stewardson Brown described a nest of Long-billed Water Thrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) obtained by him in Somerset Co., Pa., along Laurel Hill Creek.

October 19, 1899.—Twenty members present.

Messrs. Ernest M. Evans and W. H. Trotter were elected Associate Members.

Mr. Baily reported on the birds killed by striking the City Hall tower during the fall, supplementing his previous paper on the subject, (See p. 15.) The matter was discussed at length.

November 2, 1899.—Twenty-one members present.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads spoke on "Some Notable Mexican Birds," treating more especially of the Thrushes and the Road Runner.

November 13-16, 1899.—The Seventeenth Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union was held at the Academy (See Auk., 1900, pp. 58-63), and the regular meeting of the Club was omitted.

The Congress was the largest yet held, seventy-two members being in attendance.

December 7, 1899.—Nineteen members present.

A general discussion was held on the "Relationship and Distribution of the Thrashers," the subject being introduced by Mr. H. W. Fowler.

Dr. Rotzell described a Crow roost located near Valley Forge, Pa., which he had recently visited several times.

December 21, 1899.—Sixteen members present.

Mr. Chas. J. Pennock read a paper on the "Birds of South Georgia and West Florida," recounting his experiences in that section during the winter of 1887-1888. He also described in detail the capture of a specimen of the Little Black Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*), and the securing of the unique egg figured in Captain Bendire's "Life Histories of North American Birds," and which is still in Mr. Pennock's possession.

BIRDS OF THE BLIZZARD OF FEBRUARY, 1899.

In consequence of the extremely cold weather which prevailed February 9 to 11, and the remarkable snowfall of February 12 and 13, it was generally expected that a marked effect would be noticeable in the character of the bird life in Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey. With the object of securing data on this point, circulars were issued by the Club to all its members and correspondents.

The returns show that Horned Larks and Redpolls were the only

northern species whose presence was due directly to the blizzard. Horned Larks were plentiful all through the Delaware Valley, coming even into Philadelphia, where open lots offered them opportunities for alighting. In the village of Rancocas, N. J., they came daily to feed on grain thrown out to them by the miller, together with Blue Birds, Meadow Larks, English Sparrows, and Juncos (Thos. J. Beans). In the vicinity of Olney, Philadelphia, quite a number of Prairie Horned Larks (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) were associated with the common form and specimens were obtained by Albert Whitaker and G. S. Morris.

The Redpoll records are limited to a flock of about twenty, observed at Marietta, Pa., by W. H. Buller, February 14 and 15, and three at West Chester, by Thos. H. Montgomery, Jr., February 14.

Meadow Larks and Crows were reported by several observers to be very tame, and fearlessly approached houses and yards in search of food and shelter. Juncos and Song-sparrows, while somewhat affected by cold and hunger, did not suffer nearly so much as the English Sparrows, large numbers of which perished. Quite a number of Quail were also frozen, and several Crows and a Carolina Wren were found dead. Dr. J. F. Prendergast reported two Clapper Rails found dead at Stone Harbor, N. J., a few days after the storm.

On North Mountain, Sullivan Co., Mr. Otto Behr reported that the Tree Sparrows, usually very common, seemed to disappear on the approach of the severe weather, and doubtless sought a lower altitude.

Mr. August Koch reported a single Herring Gull caught on the ice on the Susquehanna River at Williamsport.

At Waynesburg, Greene Co., Pa. Mr. J. Warren Jacobs states that a number of Old Squaw Ducks were seen, while Cardinals, Carolina Wrens, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, etc., were apparently little affected by the cold.

MIGRATION DATA ON CITY HALL TOWER.

BY WILLIAM L. BAILY.

(Read before the Seventeenth Congress American Ornithologist's Union, Philadelphia, November 14th, 1899.)

In the centre of the city of Philadelphia, five hundred feet and more above the pavement, on top of the City Hall Tower, stands the colossal bronze figure of William Penn, encircled with a ring of arc lights which burn the night long. Unintentionally this beautiful circle, crowning the highest point for miles around, has been the destroyer of many birds during their nocturnal migrations between their winter and summer homes. As much as we deplore this unfortunate destruction, we have been able at the same time to obtain some interesting data upon the subject of migration.

In 1897, August 28th, there appeared in the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin an account of a rare bird that was found on the balcony just below the lights of the tower. The discovery of a dead bird at such a great height was a curiosity indeed to the keeper of the tower and his assistants, and its correct identity even puzzled the mind of the learned reporter, who pronounced it a rare specimen; but why it had chosen this lofty spot to breathe its last was a mystery to all who were called into consultation. My attention was attracted to the article, and upon investigation, I found the bird to be a young Sora Rail. This was the first bird that had flown against the tower since the lamps had been lighted, on July 4th of the same year. I immediately took steps to interest Mr. Slaughter, the superintendent of the electrical department, and from that day to this, records have been kept of all birds that have been found, the species being noted and the sex when possible, as well as the conditions of the weather. More than a hundred specimens have been saved, about seventy of which Mr. Slaughter has had mounted and perched in a glass case made for the purpose. Each morning during the migrating periods, the tower, roofs and court below have been scoured and the specimens submitted to me for identification. Fifty-six species have been found, and at least one of each has been mounted or the skin saved. In all, five hundred and twenty-nine specimens have

been picked up, the number on any one night varying from one to one hundred and fifty-four birds, thirty-two species being found in one night's slaughter. A Red-tailed Hawk for a time made his home in the tower and has carried away a number of birds. There were also no doubt many birds lost among the numerous projections and lodging places on the tower and roof below, while others were picked up by strangers, cats, dogs, etc., in the streets and court.

My purpose in keeping these notes was not with any hope of discovering something new, but light-house or rather high-tower collecting was a novelty to me, and I was ready to record anything startling or interesting. Incidentally I have found it a most convenient, as well as fairly accurate, way of observing the fall migration without losing any time in the field, and believe the results have not been unprofitable. The electrician of the tower would merely push the button and the lights would do the rest. The weather data was taken from the newspapers, adding special notes as on the severity of the weather, sudden changes of temperature, moonlight, etc., etc., which struck me at the time as affecting the flights and number of victims.

In 1897, during the fall observations, nearly the whole month of September was clear and few birds were led astray into the light, and only thirty struck between August 23rd and November 8th. In the spring of 1898 Penn's collection only amounted to six birds. In the fall, the first two weeks of September were so warm that there was practically no migration until the 15th, when it was sudden and soon over, netting thirty-one victims.

This present year (1899) the great clock, with an illuminated face over twenty-five feet in diameter, made its appearance, but luckily for the birds, the lights around the tower were turned off from May 2 to 16, and all the birds escaped but ten.

This fall, however, the great parade and the Industrial Exhibition were special occasions for illumination, when four festoons of lamps were swung from the rim of Penn's hat to the balcony, and the gleanings from August 23rd to October 31st amounted to four hundred and fifty-two birds. If, like the light-houses, there was a cylinder of glass around the outside of the light this slaughter would have been enormous. As it is, many of the birds approach the tower without striking, and I have watched them fly between the lights, circle the tower and then disappear into the darkness without in the least endangering their lives.

The theory that the old birds pass south earlier than the young does not seem to compare favorably with the line of specimens obtained from

the tower. From first to last during the fall migration just passed, old birds mingled with the young. The number of Maryland Yellowthroats, for instance, which were killed right along from the beginning to the end of the migrating season, August to November, contained the same proportion of old birds. So it was with many other species, but there are many more young than old birds, of course. I think the reason that so few old birds strike the light in the fall is on account of their experience. They have taken the journey between the north and the south at least twice before, and they have become used to dangerous objects. In fact, they are experienced travelers, while the young are not much more than children, and the new experience is bewildering, especially on a dark, cloudy night, when the birds fly much closer to the earth, and, child-like, they are fascinated by the light and want to get right into it. Then they are possibly not so expert on the wing as their parents, or they might be able to recover themselves at the last moment when they have discovered their mistake. Thousands of birds pass close to the lights, while but few strike, and it is reasonable to suppose that the old birds are much more likely to escape than the young.

Threatening weather does not seem to prevent the birds from starting on their migration, but a hard rain stops them. For example, one night a large number of birds struck the tower when overtaken by a northeast storm, but a hard northeast wind and rain continuing the next day and night, not a bird struck, while from observations at another point on this second night no birds seemed to be moving.

On moonlight nights no birds strike, except toward morning after the moon has disappeared.

Another fact was noticed, that the birds not only migrate in the early evening, but all night until break of day. At five o'clock one morning the birds were going by in hundreds, while but few lost their lives.

Following is a list of the species and the number of each which have flown against the tower. A Sparrow Hawk on the list does not positively indicate that it was migrating at night, for it may have dashed itself against some projecting corner while in pursuit of a wounded bird in the early hours of the day.

LIST OF BIRDS COLLECTED FROM AUGUST 27, 1897, TO OCTOBER 31,
1899.

	Spring.	Fall.	Total.
1. Horned Grebe,		1 ♀ young	1
2. Ruddy Duck,		1 young	1
3. Sora Rail,		1 young	1
4. Mourning Dove,		2 young	2
5. Sparrow Hawk,		1 ♀	1
6. Yellow-billed Cuckoo,		4 (1 young)	4
7. Black-billed Cuckoo,		2 young	2
8. Yellow-bellied Woodpecker,		1	1
9. Flicker,	1	5	6
10. Phoebe,		2 young	1
11. Wood pewee,		1	1
12. Bobolink,		1	1
13. Savannah Sparrow,		2	2
14. Grasshopper Sparrow,		2	2
15. White-throated Sparrow,		1	1
16. Chipping Sparrow,		14 young	14
17. Field Sparrow,	1	5 young	6
18. Slate-colored Junco,		6 (2 old)	6
19. Song Sparrow,		1	1
20. Towhee,		2 (1 old)	2
21. Indigo-bird,		6 young	6
22. Scarlet Tanager,		2 young	2
23. Cedarbird,		4 young	4
24. Red-eyed Vireo,		16	16
25. White-eyed Vireo,	1		1
26. Blue-headed Vireo,		1 young	1
27. Black-and-white Creeper,		12 (4 old)	12
28. Parula Warbler,	3 ♀s	64	67
29. Black-throated-blue Warbler,		12 (3 old)	12
30. Myrtle Warbler,		34	34
31. Magnolia Warbler,		5	5
32. Chestnut-sided Warbler,		2	2
33. Black-poll Warbler,		23	23
34. Blackburnian Warbler,		10	10
35. Black-throated-green Warbler,		24	24
36. Palm Warbler,		1	1
37. Yellow Palm Warbler,		26	26
38. Prairie Warbler,		1 young	1

39. Pine Warbler,	1	4	5
40. Bay-breasted Warbler,		1	1
41. Cape May Warbler,		1	1
42. Nashville Warbler,		1	1
43. Connecticut Warbler,		12	12
44. Ovenbird,	2	5	7
45. Maryland Yellow-throat,	5 ♂s, 1 ♀	152 (15 old)	158
46. Yellow-breasted Chat,		3	3
47. Redstart,	1 ♂ young	15	16
48. Catbird,		3	3
49. Brown Thrasher,		1	1
50. House Wren,		1	1
51. Marsh Wren,		3	3
52. Brown Creeper,		1	1
53. Red-bellied Nuthatch,		6	6
54. Golden-crowned Kinglet,		1	1
55. Ruby-crowned Kinglet,		2	2
56. Wood Thrush,		1	1
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Fifty-six species. Totals,	16	511	527

The number of birds killed on the tower from August 23, 1899, to October 31, 1899, was four hundred and fifty-two. Special illumination on tower and several very stormy nights were responsible for the unusual number.

THE SUMMER BIRDS OF THE HIGHER PARTS OF
SULLIVAN AND WYOMING COUNTIES, PA.

COMPILED BY WITMER STONE.

From Personal Observations and those of Messrs. Otto and Herman Behr.

THE boreal element in the avifauna of Pennsylvania has been steadily decreasing for a number of years past as the primitive hemlock and spruce forest disappears before the advance of the lumberman. Several lists of birds of those parts of the State which possess a more or less typical Canadian fauna have appeared, but the present area seems to have had the most strongly marked Canadian fauna of any part of eastern Pennsylvania that I have visited, and a list of the birds will therefore prove of interest. This is especially the case since I have at my disposal the observations of Messrs. Otto and Herman Behr, of Lopez, Pa., two excellent ornithologists, who have spent their lives in the region under consideration. To their hospitality I owe the privilege of making a personal acquaintance with the birds of this vicinity in June, 1898 and 1899, and to Dr. Wm. E. Hughes and Mr. Henry W. Fowler, who accompanied me on these trips, I am indebted for many notes.

Eastern Sullivan county—Colley township—and western Wyoming county—Forkston and North Branch townships—comprise part of the main ridge of the Alleghanies, with an elevation of 2,200 feet. Except where the timber has been cut the country is covered with a forest of hemlock and birch, with here and there extensive patches of spruce, especially in the vicinity of Crane Swamp, in North Branch township, Wyoming county. Two streams drain this section, the Mahoopeny flowing east and the Loyalsock west, the watershed being nearly on the county line.

Porcupines, Red-backed Mice and Varying Hares are plentiful throughout the region, and doubtless other boreal mammals formerly occurred. The numerous Warblers, Thrushes, Junco, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Red-bellied Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Creeper and Kinglet are characteristic birds. Among the abundant butterflies were noted *Limenitis arthemis*, *Vanessa milberti*, *Argynnis atlantis*, *Melitæa harrisii*, and *M. phæton*, while boreal plants abound.

The cutting of the timber and the fires which so frequently follow totally change the aspect of the country and completely exterminate many of the boreal plants, while the altered conditions admit of the introduction of a more southern fauna, as evidenced by the presence of late years of the Cottontail Rabbit, Quail, Towhee, Indigo Bird, Yellow Warbler, Thrasher, Chat, etc. The absence of the Grackle and Orchard Oriole is interesting. The list of summer birds follows:

Colinus virginianus, BOB WHITE. Not common, more so since the timber has been cut.

Bonasa umbellus, PHEASANT. Abundant.

Ectopistes migratorius, WILD PIGEON. Formerly very abundant; not found now.

Zenaidura macroura, DOVE. Common.

Circus hudsonius, MARSH HAWK.

Accipiter velox, SHARP SHINNED HAWK.

Accipiter cooperi, COOPER'S HAWK.

Accipiter atricapillus, GOSHAWK. Breeds regularly. (See Stone, *Auk* 1897, p. 317).

Buteo borealis, RED-TAILED HAWK.

Buteo lineatus, RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.

Buteo latissimus, BROAD-WINGED HAWK.

Falco sparverius, SPARROW HAWK.

Asio accipitrinus, SHORT-EARED OWL.

Syrnium nebulosum, BARRED OWL. Common.

Nyctala acadica, SAW WHET OWL. Common; obtained young in juvenal plumage, June, 1898.

Megascops asio, SCREECH OWL.

Bubo virginianus, GREAT HORNED OWL.

Coccyzus erythrophthalmus, BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. Common.

Ceryle alcyon, KINGFISHER. Common along streams.

Dryobates villosus, HAIRY WOODPECKER. Common.

Dryobates pubescens medianus, DOWNY WOODPECKER. Less common than the preceding.

Sphyrapicus varius, YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER. Very common, and many trees, both birch and hemlock, attest its drilling abilities.

Ceophloeus pileatus abieticola, PILEATED WOODPECKER. Formerly common, rapidly disappearing during the last few years.

Melanerpes erythrocephalus, RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. Very rare, noted in the cleared ground east of Lopez in June, 1899.

Colaptes auratus luteus, FLICKER.

Antrostomus vociferus, WHIPPOORWILL. Common now; not found at all before the lumbering began.

Chordeiles virginianus, NIGHT HAWK. Not common.

Chaetura pelagica, CHIMNEY SWIFT. Abundant.

Trochilus colubris, HUMMINGBIRD. Common.

Tyrannus tyrannus, KINGBIRD. Common.

Sayornis phoebe, PHOEBE. Common.

Contopus borealis, OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. Rather common; scattered at intervals over the mountains, its penetrating call heard continually. Nest found June, 1898.

- Contopus virens*, WOOD PEWEE. Abundant.
- Empidonax flaviventris*, YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER. Mr. O. Behr describes a flycatcher observed some years ago, which was pretty certainly this species.
- Empidonax minimus*, LEAST FLYCATCHER. Common.
- Otocoris alpestris praticola*, PRAIRIE HORNED LARK. Occasional in the cleared open fields, but not regular.
- Cyanocitta cristata*, BLUE JAY. Abundant.
- Corvus corax principalis*, RAVEN. Rare.
- Corvus americanus*, CROW. Abundant.
- Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, BOBOLINK. In open, cleared ground east of Lopez; not common.
- Agelaius phoeniceus*, RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. In open, swampy ground, and consequently not widely distributed.
- Sturnella magna*, MEADOW LARK. Common in cleared ground.
- Icterus galbula*, BALTIMORE ORIOLE. Not common.
- Carpodacus purpureus*, PURPLE FINCH. Regular, but not very common.
- Loxia curvirostra minor*, CROSSBILL. Reported to have bred once; occurs in summer.
- Astragalinus tristis*, GOLDFINCH. Common.
- Spinus pinus*, PINE FINCH. Has bred, but not regularly.
- Poœcetes gramineus*, VESPER SPARROW. Abundant.
- Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna*, SAVANNA SPARROW. Abundant.
- Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*, GRASSHOPPER SPARROW? A bird shot some years ago in summer by Dr. B. H. Warren was thought to be the Henslow's Sparrow, but the locality seems quite out of the range of that species, and it was perhaps the Grasshopper Sparrow. Whichever it was, it is certainly of rare occurrence. [W. S.]
- Zonotrichia albicollis*, WHITE-THROATED SPARROW. A male of this species was found in full song on the edge of a high open pasture among a scattered growth of pines on June 19, 1898. It evidently had a nest near by, but a careful search failed to discover it. The Messrs. Behr assure me that they never saw the bird in summer previously, and a visit to the same locality the following year failed to discover any more. This species was probably of more regular occurrence in the summer in former years.
- Spizella socialis*, CHIPPING SPARROW. Common.
- Spizella pusilla*, FIELD SPARROW. Common.
- Junco hyemalis*, SNOW BIRD. Very common.
- Melospiza fasciata*, SONG SPARROW. Common.
- Melospiza georgiana*, SWAMP SPARROW. Fairly common.
- Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, CHEWINK. Formerly very rare, but increasing where the timber is cut, though not yet very common.
- Zamelodia ludoviciana*, ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK. Common.
- Cyanospiza cyanea*, INDIGO-BIRD. Not common.
- Piranga erythromelas*, SCARLET Tanager. Abundant.
- Petrochelidon lunifrons*, CLIFF SWALLOW. Common.
- Hirundo erythrogaster*, BARN SWALLOW. Common.
- Tachycineta bicolor*, TREE SWALLOW. Rather common.
- Clivicola riparia*, BANK SWALLOW. Not common.

- Ampelis cedrorum*, CEDAR BIRD. Common.
- Vireo olivaceus*, RED-EYED VIREO. Common.
- Vireo solitarius*, BLUE-HEADED VIREO. Very common.
- Mniotilta varia*, BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER. Abundant.
- Helminthophila rubricapilla*, NASHVILLE WARBLER. Not common; one obtained June, 1899.
- Compsothlypis americana usneae*, PARULA WARBLER. Abundant.
- Dendroica aestiva*, YELLOW WARBLER. Not common; only seen of late years.
- Dendroica coerulescens*, BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER. Abundant.
- Dendroica maculosa*, MAGNOLIA WARBLER. Abundant.
- Dendroica pennsylvanica*, CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. Abundant.
- Dendroica blackburniae*, BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER. Abundant.
- Dendroica virens*, BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER. Common.
- Seiurus aurocapillus*, OVEN BIRD. Abundant.
- Seiurus noveboracensis*, WATER THRUSH. Common.
- Geothlypis philadelphia*, MOURNING WARBLER. Common.
- Geothlypis trichas*, MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT. Common.
- Icteria virens*, CHAT. One seen in clearing near Lopez, June 18, 1898. Very rare, never seen formerly.
- Wilsonia canadensis*, CANADIAN WARBLER. Abundant.
- Setophaga ruticilla*, REDSTART. Very rare; not seen for a number of years.
- Galeoscoptes carolinensis*, CATBIRD. Abundant.
- Harporhynchus rufus*, BROWN THRASHER. Not common.
- Troglodytes aedon*, HOUSE WREN. Common.
- Anorthura hiemalis*, WINTER WREN. Very common.
- Certhia familiaris americana*, BROWN CREEPER. Abundant.
- Sitta carolinensis*, WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. Common.
- Sitta canadensis*, RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. Not rare.
- Parus atricapillus*, CHICKADEE. Very common.
- Regulus satrapa*, GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. Rather common.
- Hylocichla mustelina*, WOOD THRUSH. Rather common.
- Hylocichla fuscescens*, VEERY. Abundant.
- Hylocichla ustulata swainsonii*, OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH. Common.
- Hylocichla aonalaschkae pallasii*, HERMIT THRUSH. Abundant.
- Merula migratoria*, ROBIN. Common.
- Sialia sialis*, BLUEBIRD. Common.

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1900.

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The Club holds regular meetings in the Ornithological Room of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Logan Square, Philadelphia, on the first and third Thursdays of each month, from October to May, inclusive, at 8 o'clock p. m.

The D. V. O. C. collection of Pennsylvania and New Jersey birds and their nests is presented to the Academy, and is on public exhibition in the museum.

The "Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey," published by the Club, is for sale at the Academy. Price, one dollar.

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1900.

No. IV.

ABSTRACT

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

DELAWARE VALLEY

ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

OF

PHILADELPHIA.

FOR THE YEAR 1900.

PUBLISHED BY THE CLUB.

1901.

ABSTRACT
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
DELAWARE VALLEY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
OF
PHILADELPHIA.

January 4, 1900.—Annual Meeting. Thirty-five members present. Mr. Charles H. Baker was elected a Corresponding Member. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—CHARLES J. RHOADS.

Vice-President—CHARLES J. PENNOCK.

Secretary—HENRY W. FOWLER.

Treasurer—WILLIAM L. BAILY.

Mr. G. S. Morris addressed the Club on "Winter Bird-life at Cape Charles, Va.," covering a recent visit of two weeks. Duck shooting in this neighborhood, he stated, had deteriorated very much during recent years, partially he thought from the increase in the oyster industry and the presence of numerous oyster boats from which the ducks are constantly shot. Black-headed Ducks (*Aythya affinis*) were noticed in numbers. Among land birds he secured specimens of the Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*), Ipswich Sparrow (*Ammodramus princeps*) and Pine Warbler (*Dendroica vigorsii*). The Ipswich Sparrow he regarded as a common winter species on the Virginia coast.

Mr. Witmer Stone read a humorous paper entitled "The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, its Nestling Plumage contrasted with its fully Adult Condition, with Comments on Several of its Molts." Mr. Wm. L. Baily exhibited a number of lantern slides from photographs of birds and their nests. The meeting then adjourned to a collation.

January 18, 1900.—Fourteen members and one visitor present. Messrs. Chas. W. Evinger and Chas. S. Welles were elected Associate Members, and Mr. H. Walker Hand, of Cape May, N. J., a Corresponding Member.

Mr. Witmer Stone exhibited a series of Crossbills (*L. leucoptera* and *minor*) lately received from Mr. Otto Behr, of Lopez, Pa. Wm. B. Evans reported the Red Crossbill (*Loxia c. minor*) at Moorestown, N. J., Jan. 14th; and Saw-Whet Owl (*Nyctala acadica*) found dead Dec. 20, 1899, at Friendship, N. J.

Mr. A. C. Emlen noted a few Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) all winter at Germantown, and exhibited a White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) taken on Dec. 18, the first record of the species at Philadelphia for ten years.

Mr. Rehn reported Flickers (*Colaptes auratus luteus*) observed at Tinicum, and a Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla a. pallasii*) at Clifton, Del. Co., Pa.

Crossbills (*Loxia c. minor*) were reported from Germantown, Clifton and Kennett Square.

Other interesting records were:

Red-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*); Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*), and Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*), Kennett Square, Chester Co., Pa., January 1, C. J. Pennock. Cat Bird (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*), Germantown, Phila., Jan. 14, E. M. Evans.

February 1, 1900.—Twenty-one members and a visitor present. Messrs. Frederick Sørensen and Walter G. Sibley were elected Associate Members.

A letter from Dr. Montgomery reported two White-winged Crossbills (*Loxia leucoptera*) at West Chester, Pa., Jan. 28.

Dr. Hughes made the communication of the evening on a trip to Palm Beach, Fla., covering the end of December and beginning of January. He found birds less abundant both in species and individuals than he had expected, and though a fairly representative collection was obtained, he secured nothing of especial interest. Bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was nesting, and had large downy young by the first of the year.

Mr. Pennock exhibited an adult male Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campophilus principalis*) received from Taylor Co., Florida, where it had been secured Jan. 12, 1900. (See below, p. 8.)

February 15, 1900.—Twenty-six members present.

Mr. W. L. Whitaker addressed the Club on his two years' sojourn in Alaska and British America, mostly in the Stickine River district. His

opportunities for ornithological observations were very limited and only a few specimens were prepared.

March 1, 1900.—Eighteen members present.

Mr. Witmer Stone made a communication on "The Earliest Describers of Our North American Birds and Their Works." He displayed copies of the works of Willoughby, Gesner, Catesby, Buffon, Pennant, Latham, Wilson, Bonaparte and Audubon from the Academy's Library, commenting upon them.

Mr. A. C. Emlen observed a White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) again at Germantown Mar. 1.

March 15, 1900.—Only six members present, owing to severe storm. No meeting was held.

April 5, 1900.—Twenty-five members present.

General discussion on bird protection.

Mr. H. W. Fowler reported Green Herons (*Ardea virescens*) at Holmesburg, Phila., April 1, and Mr. Kester observed a Thrasher (*Harporynchus rufus*) at Lansdowne, Del. Co., Pa., March 30.

April 19, 1900.—Twenty-one members and one visitor present.

Mr. G. S. Morris read a paper on the "Life and Work of Alexander Wilson."

May 3, 1900.—Thirteen members present.

Messrs. Wm. Reinick and Joseph B. Lodge were elected Associate members.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads made a communication on "Resemblances in the Songs of Our Birds," which was followed by a general discussion.

Mr. Baily reported several species of birds which had struck the city hall tower during the autumn which were additional to his previous list, Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*), Water Thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) and Tennessee Warbler (*Helminthophila peregrina*). He also reported Crossbills (*Loxia c. minor*) at Ardmore, Pa., April 29, 1900.

May 17, 1900.—Twenty-one members present.

Mr. Allen H. Grosh was elected a Corresponding member.

Mr. Stone spoke of "Recent Additions to Our Knowledge of Ross's Rosy Gull," reviewing Nansen's account of the species and exhibiting three specimens secured by Mr. E. A. McIlhenny at Pt. Barrow, Alaska, and recently acquired by the Academy of Natural Sciences.

Dr. Hughes described a recent trip to the heronry of *Ardea herodias* near Pitman Grove, N. J. He found the birds less abundant than last year, and was of the opinion that owing to their gregariousness and conspicuousness they were slowly but steadily decreasing.

A fine specimen of Gadwall (*Chaulclasmus streperus*) secured early in March on Delaware Bay was exhibited.

October 4, 1900.—Twenty-one members present.

Mr. Morris reported the breeding of Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) at Olney, Phila., during the season, and the successful rearing of the young.

Mr. Pennock, on behalf of Mr. Samuel B. Ladd, placed on record the breeding of the Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) on the south valley hills not far from Frazer, Chester Co., Pa. Mr. Ladd wrote: "Nest found May 18th empty, no birds seen near it, but when I returned on 27th the female was on the nest, which was placed in a brier bush two feet up from the ground. This nest was lined with hair-moss. In shape and position it was somewhat similar to the nest of the Indigo Bird. The four well-marked eggs were slightly incubated. Collected May 27, 1900, south side of Chester Valley, on high ground in middle of woods, in rather open spot where timber had been cut off and grown up with briars."

Mr. Coggins described the occurrence of the Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla a. pallasii*) throughout the summer at Martha's Vineyard, Mass. [See *The Auk*, Jan., 1901.]

Nests *in situ* of the Small-billed Water Thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*), Hairy Woodpecker (*Dryobates villosus*), and White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) from Sullivan Co., Pa., collected by Mr. Otto Behr for the Club collection, were exhibited.

October 18, 1900.—Sixteen members present.

The resignation of Messrs. W. W. Justice, Jr. and Francis R. Cope, Jr., from Active Membership were accepted with regrets.

Mr. S. N. Rhoads read a paper on the "Life History of the Chimney-Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*)" based upon painstaking study of two pairs of birds which nested inside of a stable, the unusual location being peculiarly favorable for observation. His paper was replete with interesting and novel information. (Publication postponed for another season).

An interesting letter was read from Mr. Henry Hales, of Ridge-wood, N. J.

November 1, 1900.—Twenty-three members present.

Messrs. H. L. Coggins and Arthur C. Emlen were elected to Active Membership and J. D. Carter to Associate Membership.

Mr. David McCadden made a communication on the "Birds Observed at Stone Harbor, N. J." during the past summer. He found Turnstone or "Calico backs" (*Arenaria interpres*), Curlew (*Numenius*

hudsonius), Willet (*Symphemia semipalmata*), Sanderling (*Calidris arenaria*), Lesser Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*), Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Tringa minutilla* and *Ereunetes pusillus*) and Ring-necks (*Aegialitis semipalmata*) were the most plentiful species, occurring regularly in flocks of 25 to 50. Robin-Snipe (*Tringa canutus*), Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*) and Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) were less abundant. Dunlin (*Tringa alpina pacifica*) and Dowitchers (*Macrorhamphus griseus*) were not observed during his visit (Aug. 4-18, 1899). The Black Terns (*Hydrochelidon n. surinamensis*) were abundant in flocks of about fifty, and were observed feeding like swallows over the meadows, probably on grasshoppers. Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*) and Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) were more plentiful than last year, but no Egrets (*Ardea caerulea*) were seen.

Dr. Prendergast supplemented Mr. McCadden's remarks and exhibited a Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) in immature plumage secured at Stone Harbor, Oct. 3d, a remarkably early date.

Mr. Stone exhibited another specimen taken at Atlantic City, N. J., June 20, 1900; also an unusual date.

Dr. Hughes described several trips to the Delaware river marshes below Philadelphia during the spring. Three nests of the Virginia Rail (*Rallus virginianus*) were found June 3, 11, and July 1, containing eight, seven and nine eggs respectively; three of the King Rail (*R. elegans*), June 11, contained eight, nine and ten eggs, and one of the Least Bittern (*Ardetta exilis*), June 3, contained two eggs. Swamp Sparrows (*Melospiza georgiana*) and Marsh Wrens (*Cistothorus palustris*) were breeding abundantly. Dr. Hughes thought that careful search would show that the Rails were more abundant breeders in this vicinity than had generally been supposed.

November 15, 1900.—Thirteen members present.

The resignations of Messrs. J. W. Tatum and W. L. Whitaker from Active Membership were accepted with regret.

Mr. A. C. Emlen spoke of a "Trip to Chincoteague, Va.," Aug. 1st, 1900. He noted large numbers of Sanderling (*Calidris arenaria*) and Lesser Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*). Pectoral Sandpipers (*Tringa maculata*), Curlews (*Numenius hudsonius*) and Dowitchers (*Macrorhamphus griseus*) were also taken. Piping Plover (*Aegialitis meloda*) were breeding on the beach, and Killdeers (*Æ. vocifera*) were associated with the Yellow-legs. A few weeks later Robin Snipe (*Tringa canutus*) and Greater Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) were abund-

ant. Sickie-billed Curlews (*N. longirostris*) were taken, but were not abundant. In an old pine tree seven pairs of Martens (*Progne subis*) were breeding.

Wm. B. Evans described "An Excursion to Hanover, Burlington Co., N. J.," the trip covering three days early in May, 1900. "The locality is well within the pine barrens, and two things were especially striking; first the absolute lack of migrating birds at a time of year when near Philadelphia we were daily greeting the arrivals which make this month a month of months. Of the 38 species recorded all appeared to be resident with the exception of the White throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), which was heard but once, and the Crossbills (*Loxia c. minor*). The second point of interest was the presence of these Crossbills at so late a date [May 6th]." (See below, p. 7.)

Dr. Hughes stated that at Forked River, N. J., June 6, 1900, he had observed about two dozen Crossbills (*Loxia c. minor*) feeding on the pine cones. On May 10, 1894, in company with Messrs. Brown and Shyrock he had seen three Crossbills at Lewes, Delaware, these being the latest records of the occurrence of the species within his experience.

December 6, 1900.—Nineteen members and a visitor present.

Prof. H. A. Surface, of State College, Pa., was elected a Corresponding member and Wm. B. Evans an Active member.

Messrs. Stone and Baily reported on the Cambridge meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, which they, as well as Messrs. Cope and Pennock, had attended.

Mr. Philip Laurent exhibited a mounted specimen of the European Corn Crake (*Crex crex*) taken at Hursley, Worcester Co., Md., November 28, 1900, by John Livesey, while in company with Mr. Laurent. The stomach contained remains of small grasshoppers. The bird measured: wing, 5.25 ins.; extent, 16.75 ins.

December 20, 1900.—Seventeen members present.

Dr. Samuel W. Woodhouse, of Philadelphia, was elected an Honorary member, and Mr. Waldron D. W. Miller, of Plainfield, N. J., a Corresponding member.

Mr. Pennock described a visit to a rookery of the Florida Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax d. floridanus*) near St. Mark's, Florida, in April, 1899. The nests in this instance were in high cypresses, about thirty or forty nests in a tree.

Mr. Baily described his work during the past year in the interest of Gull and Tern protection on the New Jersey coast (see *Auk*, 1901, pp. 83-84).

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE HABITS OF CROSSBILLS
(*LOXIA C. MINOR*) OBSERVED AT HANOVER, N. J.,
MAY 4-6, 1900.

WILLIAM B. EVANS.

These birds we saw every day, but doubt whether there were more than a single pair. They evidently had no home cares, and wandered about over several acres of pitch pines, but rarely so far from a given locality that fifteen minutes of careful looking and listening would not reveal their whereabouts. One was in the red plumage (very bright on the rump) the other, olive.

On one afternoon I watched them carefully for three-fourths of an hour, as they fed in a pitch pine, the top of which was about 25 feet high.

They showed their tameness by descending lower and lower, until they were only about eight feet from my head, so that the field-glass was scarcely needed. In moving from cone to cone they progressed, a step at a time, along the connecting branch, and once when climbing from a lower to a higher twig the female (as I took the olive one to be) used her beak much as a parrot on his cage bars. They seemed to prefer to feed clinging to the cones with their heads downward, looking below with a knowing eye, each time they paused to nip the kernel of the seed they had withdrawn.

When the beak was pressed in between the scales, one could plainly see the imbricated rows separate and open, and the orange-colored tongue dart out, and all at once, as if by magic the seed was in the withdrawn beak, and the rejected wings were fluttering down. The Crossbill thoroughly understands the combination of the pine cone.

The mandibles of these two birds both crossed the same way, the upper one turning to the left, and the lower one to the right. The female bird more than once alighted on one of the short broken-off dead branches which project from the main stem of the pitch pine and worked away at the fractured end, darting out her tongue as she crushed off fragments, sometimes holding small pieces of wood in her beak a moment. But why she thus made kindling, I do not know. She also sometimes settled among the long pine leaves at the very end of a branch and nibbled away at the needles, and an examination of one such place showed that the inner fleshy part of the leaf had been eaten out, leaving the outer membrane only.

Suddenly, at a well understood signal call, the two would launch out into the air and undulate off to some distant tree.

RECENT CAPTURE OF IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKERS
(*CAMPEPHILUS PRINCIPALIS*) IN FLORIDA.

CHARLES J. PENNOCK.

While spending a few days collecting on the Gulf coast of West Florida, in April, 1889, near St. Mark's, I heard of a locality in that vicinity that was particularly wild and unfrequented. "A great place for game," etc., and from the various yarns spun I wondered if some of the rarer species of birds might not be found there, and at frequent intervals since that time had planned for a trip to investigate. Finally, giving up an immediate personal search, I obtained the address of a "cracker," and was assured that some of the species I hoped for were to be found and that the "Ivory-billed Woodchuck" was of the list.

Remembering the common experience in (not) obtaining desirable specimens said by natives to be "abundant" in certain localities, I anticipated no particular developments, and knowing the abundance of the bird, thought I might receive a specimen of the Pileated Woodpecker. I was therefore surprised and delighted to have sent me by mail during January, 1900, two specimens of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, a male and female, in the flesh and both in quite good condition. They were preserved by withdrawing the viscera and using common salt freely on the flesh.

A third specimen, male, was received later from another source, but unfortunately was not well cared for, the sender stating he had sent a "hide," an accurate term since the skin had been torn off by cutting the bird from tail to under mandible, was minus feet, and had evidently been dried by tacking on a board.

The measurements of the two better specimens, as taken when received were as follows:

	♂	♀
Length	19 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	20 $\frac{3}{8}$ "
Wing	10 $\frac{3}{8}$	9 $\frac{7}{8}$
Tail	7 $\frac{3}{8}$	7
Tarsus	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Bill	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$

The length of the female may have been over-extended, due to a difference in preparation before shipment.

BIRD LANGUAGE AN INDEX OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIP.

S. N. RHOADS.

Among those birds which we class low down in the scale of development it is easy to trace the similarity of language which characterizes them all, but as we rise from these to the higher groups, whose vocal powers rival even those of man's invention, the genetic relationship often seems to disappear. It takes no prophet to foretell that this new duck from the Philippines will quack or that new species of pigeon will coo, but give him a thrush or a finch whose voice has yet been unrecorded, and his predictions are useless. Perhaps there is no better way of recognizing a family resemblance in bird notes and songs and being impressed thereby than in the exploration of a distant region whose faunal relations have a more or less remote connection with the one in which you have lived. One of the most pleasing memories of my sojourn in the semi-tropic wilds of Texas and Arizona was to hear coming from the throats of strangely-colored birds the old home melodies of thrush, wren, oriole and tanager. At such a time our ears grow so sensitive to anything that savors of "auld lang syne" we begin to fully realize the possibilities that exist in bird language as an aid to the study of bird genealogy.

For the present it will suffice to merely suggest a course of research along this line. In the first place, the song or language of birds is a far more reliable index of family and genus than color, and in many cases more so than feather characters as often used in diagnosis. Again in the higher oscines, whose songs appear dissimilar to the less critical ear, there are certain foundation or basal notes used in common, as in the falsetto of the robin, wood thrush, hermit and veery. In these also there are resemblances, unmistakably thrushlike in their call and scolding notes. I am informed that the same is characteristic of the European song thrush and blackbird.

Among the wrens there is the best illustration of the constancy of song character, and their scolding notes are wonderfully alike, from that of the great Cactus Wren of the Mexican deserts to the startled cry of the tiny sprite that lives in the cold dark dells of the Alaskan

forest. Nor is it pure imagination to declare that many notes of the closely allied group of thrashers, especially some of those found in Southern California, bespeak their kinship to the wrens.

Among the flycatchers, when we consider their poor development as singers, there seems to be an unusual dissimilarity of language. Take for instance the notes of the Wood-pewee, King bird and Crested Flycatcher, belonging to three different genera. When at rest the notes of the first two have little in common, but in their aerial or flight-song there is a remarkable similarity not only in the circling, twisting, hovering manner of flight, but in the method of delivering the song, viz., a succession of single-syllabled notes terminating in a crescendo somersault, during which a climax double or compound note is uttered, the same performance being repeated several times before descending to the chosen perching place. The Crested Flycatcher does not indulge in a flight-song, but its warning notes as it stands sentinel over its nest are of the same character as those of all other American flycatchers. Its harsh exclamatory cry or single call, by which it is best known, seems to have little in common with the corresponding utterances of the king-bird or pewee, but it frequently relaxes into a double-syllabled modification of this which resembles in notation that uttered by both king-bird and pewee under similar conditions. There is also a tremulous twitter of apparent satisfaction uttered by all three species when they return to the perch after a successful foray. In the case of the Great Crest, however, it is more like a harsh laugh. In all three of these tyrant flycatchers the notes uttered while they are pursuing an enemy are unmistakably alike in their tyrannine character.

Another marked instance of family resemblance in song is seen in the *Tanagridae*. The scarlet, summer, hepatic, Louisiana and Cooper's tanagers with which I have made acquaintance have songs and call notes so closely resembling each other that it requires an exceedingly expert ear to distinguish some of them.

Among families which seem to contain exceptions to the rule of family song resemblance mention may be made of the *Vireos*, one aberrant member of which seems to delight in strange surprises of vocal mockery and jest, viz the White-eye. It has a distinct whistle, which, however, has its counterpart in bars of the song of the red-eye, solitary and yellow throated species. It is desirable that some one with an ear for music and a correspondingly wide knowledge of birds in their homes both in this and in foreign lands may follow up this subject. It is not impossible that our knowledge of the genealogy of families of birds far removed by the natural barriers of climate and

geography and dissociated in our minds by the systems of artificial classification may be greatly enlightened thereby.

THE D. V. O. C. COLLECTION.

In 1891 several members of the club presented to the Academy of Natural Sciences the nucleus of a collection of the nests and eggs of Pennsylvania and New Jersey birds, to be known as the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club Collection and to be kept separate as a local collection. In ten years this has grown until it occupies five large museum cases, while specimens of nearly all the birds known to occur in these states have been added. The nests are almost all *in situ*, the branches being supported on walnut bases. The woodpeckers, nut-hatches and other similar nests comprise an entire section of tree trunk, while ground nests are carefully mounted in plaster or papier-mache. At present there are represented the nests and eggs of 112 species, all taken within the boundaries of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Of three of these, however, only the eggs are shown and of five only the nests.

The club is very anxious to complete this collection as far as possible and asks the aid of its correspondents and ornithologists in general, in securing specimens of the nests or eggs of any of the following from within the above limits.

Some on the list should be easily obtainable, others are doubtful as breeders within the limits given, while many of the shore birds breed no more on our coasts. Eggs of these latter obtained in New Jersey are doubtless in many collections, and information relating to such will be gladly received. Communications should be addressed to Witmer Stone, Academy Natural Sciences, Logan Square, Phila.

Pied-billed Grebe,	Little Blue Heron,
Loon,	Sora Rail,
Gull-billed Tern,	Little Black Rail,
Roseate Tern,	Coot,
Least Tern,	Avocet,
Black Skimmer,	Black-necked Stilt,
Wood Duck,	Woodcock,
Black Duck,	Wilson's Snipe,
(Any other wild Duck),	Solitary Sandpiper,
American Bittern,	Willet,
White Egret,	Bartramian Sandpiper (Field Plover),
Snowy Heron,	Piping Plover,

- Wilson's Plover,
 Oyster Catcher,
 Ruffed Grouse,
 Wild Turkey,
 Wild Pigeon,
 Marsh Hawk,
 Red-shouldered Hawk,
 Broad-winged Hawk,
 Eagle,
 Duck Hawk,
 Long-eared Owl,
 Short-eared Owl,
 Barred Owl,
 Saw Whet Owl,
 Black-billed Cuckoo,
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker,
 Pileated Woodpecker (want eggs only),
 Red bellied Woodpecker,
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher,
 Traill's Flycatcher,
 Prairie Horned Lark,
 Raven,
 Bobolink,
 Bronzed Grackle,
 Purple Finch,
 American Crossbill,
 Pine Finch,
 Savanna Sparrow,
 Henslow's Sparrow,
 White-throated Sparrow,
 Dickcissel,
 Blue Grosbeak,
 Summer Tanager,
 Cliff Swallow (want eggs only),
 Loggerhead Shrike,
 Philadelphia Vireo,
 Warbling Vireo,
 Black and White Warbler (want eggs only),
 Prothonotary Warbler,
 Golden-winged Warbler,
 Nashville Warbler,
 Myrtle Warbler,
 Cerulean Warbler,
 Pine Warbler,
 Mourning Warbler,
 Mocking-bird,
 Bewick's Wren,
 Short-billed Marsh Wren,
 Red-bellied Nuthatch (want eggs only),
 Golden-crowned Kinglet,
 Gnatcatcher (want eggs only),
 Wilson's Thrush.

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Delaware Valley Ornithological Club.

1901 (Apr. 1.).

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The Club holds regular meetings in the Ornithological Room of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Logan Square, Philadelphia, on the first and third Thursdays of each month, from October to May, inclusive, at 8 o'clock p. m.

The D. V. O. C. collection of Pennsylvania and New Jersey birds and their nests is presented to the Academy, and is on public exhibition in the museum.

The "Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey," published by the Club, is for sale at the Academy. Price, one dollar.

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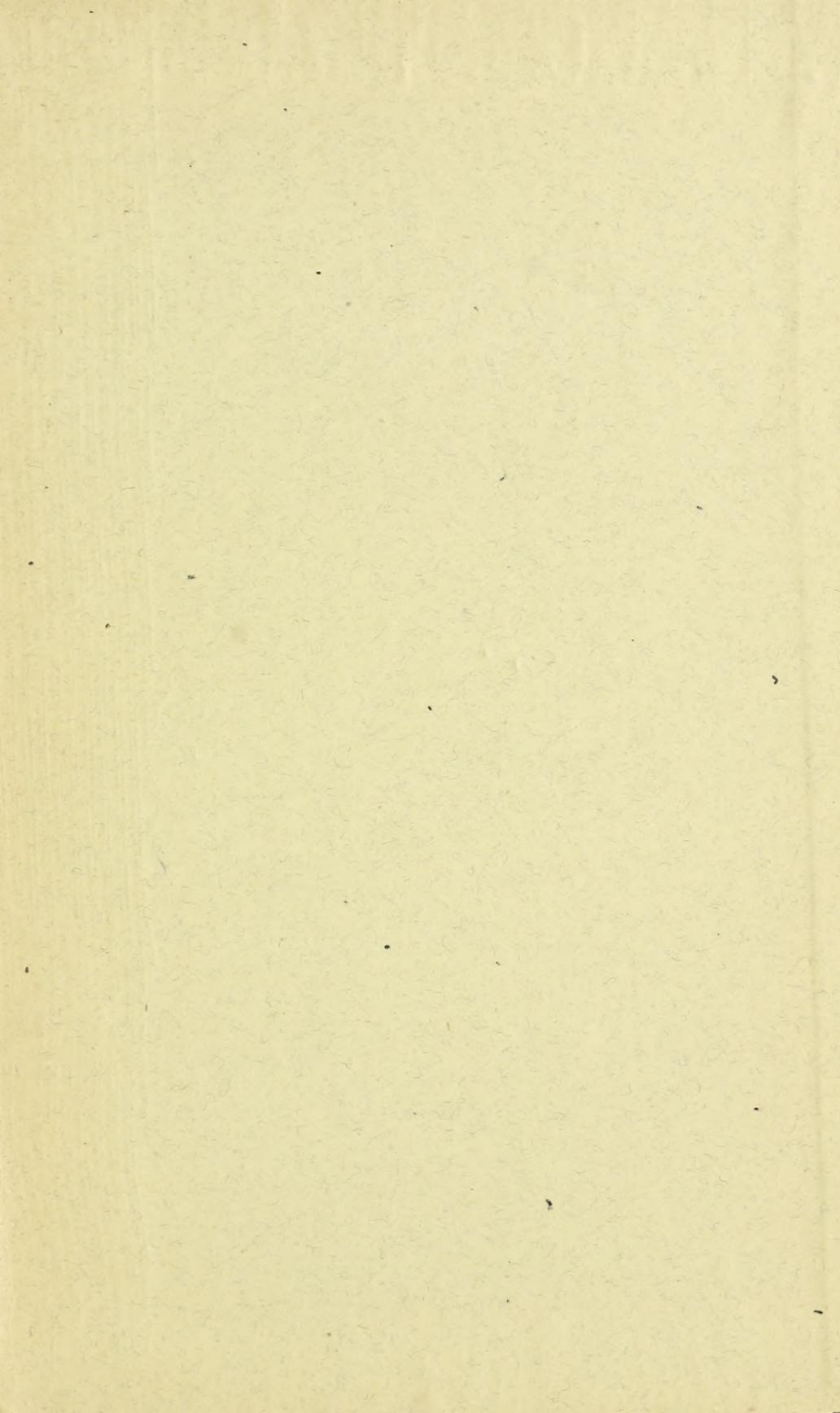
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