

## ABSTRACTS OF PROCEEDINGS—1954

Compiled by John F. McIlvain

*January 7.* Seventy-four members and seven guests attended the sixty-fourth annual meeting.

The following officers and councillors were elected:

PHILLIPS B. STREET, *President*

PHILIP A. LIVINGSTON, *Vice-President*

RICHARD T. DARBY, *Secretary*

HENRY T. UNDERDOWN, *Treasurer*

JOHN H. ARNETT, JR., *Councillor*

DAVID A. CUTLER, *Councillor*

Dr. Samuel C. Palmer and Julian K. Potter were elected Honorary Members.

Joseph M. Devlin and Allston Jenkins were elected Fellows.

Underdown presented his twenty-seventh annual treasurer's report.

Lester S. Thomas was presented with the Witmer Stone Award for his paper, "Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Its Ornithological Status and Summary of Recorded Birds".

The program consisted of the presentation, analysis and discussion of the various Christmas counts.

Following the meeting, members and guests partook of the traditional sumptuous repast.

*January 21.* Forty members and eight guests present.

Chandler Ross was reappointed Editor.

The following committees were appointed:

Field Trip: McIlvain, chairman; Brady, Finkel, J. Miller and Stasz.

Communications: Kramer, chairman; Livingston.

Library: Reynard, chairman; Borst.

Frederick V. Hebard spoke on "Feigning in Wood Warblers", introducing a subject which is relatively new in that most of the observations have been made within the past two decades.

*February 4.* Sixty-one members and eight guests present.

Dr. Edgar T. Gibson was elected to active membership.

Mark Robinson addressed the Club on "Carnivorous Plants", discussing the ecology and physiology of these interesting plants and illustrating his talk with excellent Kodachrome slides taken in areas ranging from the Gaspé to the Everglades.

*February 18.* Sixty-one members and nine guests present.

Joseph M. Felix was elected to active membership.

The following committees were appointed:

Publications: Ross, chairman; Arnett, Bond and Weyl.

Book: Livingston, chairman; Weiss.

The program consisted of the showing of a superb color motion picture of wildlife, chiefly birds, by Angelo D'Angelo, featuring extreme close-ups made possible by the use of specially made telephoto lenses of up to seventeen-inch focal length.

*March 4.* Sixty-four members and eleven guests present.

The Ornithological Studies Committee was appointed as follows:

Arnett, chairman; Devlin and Manners.

Francis Harper spoke to the Club on his experiences from mid-May to mid-October, 1953, in the Ungava Peninsula, a land that was practically unknown from a biological standpoint. His talk was illustrated with Kodachrome slides and color motion pictures, including a remarkable sequence of the nuptial antics of the Spruce Grouse.

*March 18.* Thirty-eight members and fifteen guests present.

Frederick P. Poole was elected to active membership.

John Jubon showed three splendid color films on birds, the first of Machias Seal Island off the coast of Maine, the second of the Wilson Club meeting at Douglas Lake, Michigan, and the third of a Black Rail nest at Holgate, New Jersey.

*April 1.* Forty-five members and nine guests present.

Harold J. Saxon was elected to active membership.

The death of Joseph B. McCall was announced.

John H. Arnett, Jr., presented a review of current ideas about bird migration with emphasis on the several theories as to the causes of migration. A lively discussion followed the speaker's remarks.

*April 15.* Forty-four members and five guests present.

Arthur Bergey was elected to active membership.

Charles G. Sibley, of Cornell University, spoke on his specialty, "Hybridization in Mexican Rey-eyed Towhees". Through many years' study and several intensive collecting trips, Sibley has succeeded in establishing a hybrid index, a semi-quantitative measurement based on a gradient scale of twenty-four points determined by measuring the six principal variable characteristics.

*May 6.* Forty-four members and five guests present.

Maurice W. O'Connell, Jr. was elected to active membership.

The death of Baldwin Lucké was announced.

The Club's booklet, "A Field List of the Birds of the Philadelphia Region", was received from the printer.

Richard T. Darby presented a review of recent studies in the field of bird navigation, evaluating the several theories and summarizing the more important experimental work supporting them.

*May 27.* Sixty-one members and eleven guests present.

John F. McIlvain was elected Secretary to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Richard T. Darby.

A Conservation Committee was appointed as follows:

Jenkins, chairman; Archer, Hoy, Linton and McDonald.

McIlvain conducted the recapitulation of the 1954 annual D. V. O. C. Round-up, held on May 16. The leaders of each group spoke briefly on the day's highlights. Sixty-one observers in fourteen parties recorded a total of two hundred twenty-six species.

*June 3.* Members gave reports on their ornithological activities at the first of the informal summer meetings.

*July 1.* Twenty-five members and guests present. David Cutler presided and Reynolds acted as secretary. More informal reports.

*August 5.* Twenty-seven members and guests present. Sehl presided and Brady acted as secretary. More informal reports.

*September 2.* Twenty-six members and guests present. Lester Thomas presided and Stasz acted as secretary. More informal reports.

*October 7.* Forty-three members and fifteen guests present.

The program consisted of informal reports of the summer activities of members.

*October 21.* Forty-one members and eleven guests present.

The Witmer Stone Award Committee was appointed as follows:

Bond, chairman; Hebard and Ross.

Robert A. Zimmerman was elected to active membership.

It was announced that James Bond had won the Brewster Award of the American Ornithologists' Union for his work in the West Indies, the second time that this honor has been accorded a Club member.

John J. Elliott, exchange speaker from the Linnaean Society, returned to address the Club on "Bird Song in the Higher Adirondacks", illustrating his talk with Kodachrome slides of the various habitats discussed.

*November 4.* Forty members and nine guests present.

J. Kenneth Wright was elected to active membership.

Joseph M. Devlin spoke on the results of his five years' study of the nocturnal migration of land birds over West Philadelphia. With the aid of an excellent series of enlarged weather maps, the speaker built up a quite conclusive case for his theory that the chief weather factor involved in migration is the presence of a tail wind at the hour of departure. An unusually lively discussion followed.

*November 18.* Sixty members and nine guests present.

Frank P. Frazier, Jr. was elected to active membership.

James Bond addressed the Club on "Summer Birds of Mt. Desert Island". Between one hundred ten and one hundred twenty species nest on the island or on the nearby Duck Islands, including the largest colony of Black Guillemots in the East and some twenty-two species of Warblers, several of which are at or near the southern limit of their breeding range. On Mt. Desert, Bond found the only nest of the Cape May Warbler ever discovered in the United States.

*December 2.* Forty-six members and nine guests present.

Harry P. Bodley was elected to active membership.

Lester S. Thomas spoke on "Bucks County Ornithology", doing a thorough job of missionary work for birding in that area. The speaker emphasized the variety of habitat which has produced some two hundred eighty species thus far on the Bucks County list and decried the lack of ornithological effort in this fertile field so close to Philadelphia.

*December 16.* Fifty members and eleven guests present.

A Nominating Committee was appointed as follows:

Reynard, chairman; H. Cutler and Schwalbe.

The death of George B. Wood was announced.

Maurice Broun addressed the Club on "Forest Community", interpreting the ecology of the hill country with which he is so familiar. Two hundred five species of birds, ninety-six species of trees and shrubs and forty kinds of ferns have been identified at Hawk Mountain, with which Broun's name is synonymous. The excellent series of Kodachrome slides of Hawk Mountain with which he accompanied his talk showed clearly the speaker's sensitive approach to natural phenomena.