

ABSTRACTS OF PROCEEDINGS

January 1, 1968, to June 30, 1969

Compiled by

WILLIAM R. MIDDLETON

JANUARY 4. Sixty-one members and eight guests were present at the seventy-eighth annual meeting.

The following officers and councillors were elected:

Lester S. Thomas, President

Joseph A. Jacobs, Vice-President

William R. Middleton, Secretary

John L. Evans and Ray Hendrick, Councillors

Horace D. Alexander and Waldemar H. Fries were elected Fellows.

Robert Sehl reported the financial reserves of the Club to include 122 shares of Wellington Fund. He then presented the Potter Award to David A. Cutler. John McIlvain announced that the annual Witmer Stone Award would go to George Reynard and Stephen Harty for their study of rail calls.

Following the summary accounts of nine local Christmas Counts in which the Club members participated, a Walt Disney film, *Islands of the Sea*, was enjoyed. The meeting was then adjourned for refreshment and fellowship.

JANUARY 18. Thirty-seven members and four guests were present.

Winslow Shaughnessy and William Bechtel were elected to active membership.

Dr. John T. Linehan spoke on "Birds versus Man." The speaker stressed the importance of man's attitudes towards birds and the problems that arise due to conflicting activities. Dr. Linehan's research on crop damage control touched on varied schemes and devices including light trapping with floodlights, which sometimes captured thousands of blackbirds at roosts in a few minutes.

FEBRUARY 1. Thirty-eight members and 12 guests were present.

A proposed cloverleaf intersection for new highway construction was reported to threaten the property of the Audubon Shrine near Norristown.

Malcomb B. Wells, architect conservationist, presented a fascinating lecture on man's threat to his environment and possible remedies. Wells proposed that we return the original clean forest cover to our living area, placing homes and shopping centers at least partly underground.

FEBRUARY 15. Fifty members and four guests attended.

D.V.O.C. Fellow Horace G. Alexander presented an account of his observations of the birds of the North Atlantic. Data were compiled from fifteen crossings made by ship, the first a leisurely seventeen-day crossing in convoy during March of 1945. Crossings made in the smaller merchant ship were favored.

MARCH 7. Fifty-four members and eight guests were present.

Ryan Walden of the Academy of Natural Sciences reported on current activities in raptor research, particularly as carried out by the Raptor Research Foundation, Inc. The philosophy of this group hinges on the concept that if many animals, such as the raptors, are to survive, their populations must be managed.

MARCH 21. Fifty members and five guests attended.

Fred Ulmer reported the formation of a joint Golden Eagle Project of the National Audubon Society, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Wool Growers Association.

Joseph Jacobs and Edward Manners spoke on "New Jersey Eagles-Past, Present and Future." Their research in the field revealed a peak population of 36 pairs near the end of World War II. Since about 1948 the eagle population has suffered such a

disastrous decline that by 1967 there were only two or three nesting pairs remaining. No firm conclusions were drawn as to the causes.

APRIL 4. Fifty-eight members and ten guests were present.

Mr. Wesley Wells was elected to active membership.

Charles H. Rogers of Princeton University presented a most interesting talk describing a two-month trip to Alaska during the summer of 1929. The inland passage was followed from Seattle to Juneau and beyond. Magnificent scenery was observed constantly from the ship which reached Kodiak Island and Seward. Anchorage and McKinley Park were reached by train. A family of Wheatears at McKinley, Fulmers, Fork-tailed Petrels, albatrosses, Glaucous-winged Gulls, 13 species of alcidæ, and numerous other water birds contributed to the ornithological interest.

APRIL 18. Thirty-four members and six guests attended.

Benjamin Cohen was elected to active membership.

D.V.O.C. Fellow Waldemar H. Fries of Providence, R.I., spoke on his research into the location of the Audubon Elephant Folios. During a period of 10 years he has accounted for 170 sets of which 92 are in America. In his search, Fries travelled as far as Russia, where he saw three of the sets. The fine program was enhanced by the speaker's abounding enthusiasm.

MAY 2. The meeting was held at the Philadelphia Zoological Gardens with 50 members present.

Members enjoyed a tour conducted by Mr. Griswold, Curator of Birds, and Fred Ulmer, Curator of Mammals. Outdoor exhibits and the Bird House were visited. Griswold, who will go to Brazil for special training in hummingbird care and breeding, described developments in the new hummingbird addition. The meeting adjourned with expressions of appreciation for the hospitality of the Zoo staff.

MAY 23. Fifty-three members and five guests attended.

Fred Ulmer reported current problems in conservation including the spraying of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary for Gypsy moth control. An attack upon the nesting Ospreys at New Jersey's Cedar Island by vandal archers was described by Herbert H. Mills.

The program of the evening consisted of oral reports and comments on the 36th May Roundup held on May 12. Sixty-six observers working in 14 groups spent 900 man-hours finding a total of 232 species. No eagle or Sharp-shinned Hawk was observed and the Marsh Hawk was on only two lists. The concentration of migrant warblers was again at a low level.

JUNE 6, JULY 5, AUGUST 1, and SEPTEMBER 5 and 19. Informal summer meetings were held with good attendance.

OCTOBER 3. Thirty-five members and three guests were present.

President Thomas reported that the A.O.U. had not responded favorably to the joint D.V.O.C. — N.J. Audubon Society invitation to meet in the Philadelphia-N.J. area in 1970. Thomas then gave an interesting report of the 1968 A.O.U. meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska, and their air-transported field trip to the Pribilof Islands.

The program of the evening consisted of the annual color slide contest. Contestants entered three slides in each of the following categories:

1-birds; 2-nature; 3-scenery. Respective winners:

1 — Martin Whitehead; 2 — Will Middleton; 3 — Steve Harty.

OCTOBER 17. This was the announced first annual dinner meeting. It was held at the Golden Horse Inn, Trevoise, Pa., with 48 members and three guests present.

Jacobs mentioned the poor condition of Alexander Wilson's tomb at old Gloria Dei Church in Philadelphia. The opinion was expressed that the D.V.O.C. had formerly assumed partial responsibility for the care of Wilson's tomb.

The announced speaker of the evening, Herbert H. Mills, Executive Director of the World Wildlife Fund, spoke informally on Current Problems in Conservation.

Mills invited his guest, Noel Smith, from Switzerland, Director of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), to speak to the meeting. Mr. Simon spoke in a very interesting manner on the Red Data Book and the Endangered Species Program. The meeting was adjourned after an enthusiastic discussion period.

NOVEMBER 7. Forty-four members and six guests attended.

Manners and Harty lead a somewhat controversial discussion of the reported recent sightings of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers in the Big Thicket of Texas.

Under the topic, "The Reckless Plunder of New Jersey", Frank W. McLaughlin spoke informally of the destruction of our natural environmental heritage in New Jersey. McLaughlin detailed the plunder of our sand dune and beach areas, the destruction of our salt meadows and its wildlife, e.g., the Osprey, Fiddler Crab, and Clapper Rail, due to insecticide sprays.

NOVEMBER 21. This meeting was held in the Bird Hall of the Academy of Natural Sciences with 57 members and 11 guests present.

Ernest A. Choate gave an interesting talk on East Africa and its birds. Illustrative slides were taken by the speaker. The program was outstanding in the number and variety of bird species that Choate had photographed from the 600 species recorded on the trip.

DECEMBER 5. Fifty-two members and ten guests attended.

The D.V.O.C. approved action to support the Guthrie No Dumping Resolution following a lengthy discussion lead by Jacobs, Sexauer, and Ulmer.

A thoroughly prepared and well received report on the June, 1968, D.V.O.C. field trip to Iceland was presented by Gene Stern and d'Arcy Northwood. Excellent nature and scenic slides taken by the party added much of interest to the report.

DECEMBER 19. Fifty members and five guests were present.

Donald S. Heintzelman presented a well-illustrated program, "In Search of Birds, Trinidad to the Gaspé", showing scenery and plants as well as birds. Photographs of the Oilbird, Tufted Coquette Hummingbird, Red-billed Tropic Bird, and a flight of Scarlet Ibis were outstanding.

JANUARY 2, 1969. Sixty-five members and twelve guests were present at the seventy-ninth annual meeting.

Robert Sehl, for the nominating committee, presented the following slate to serve for one year and it was elected:

President:	Lester S. Thomas
Vice-President:	Joseph A. Jacobs
Secretary:	William R. Middleton
Treasurer:	James B. Woodford

Councillors (three-year terms) : Dr. Dale Coman and Roy F. Frock, Jr.

President Thomas presented the five names, which follow, nominated by Council, as Fellows, and they were duly elected:

John L. Evans
Roy F. Frock, Jr.
Raymond R. Hendrick
Herbert H. Mills
R. Dale Twining

Andrew J. Steuer was elected an active member. Dr. E. A. Choate was elected as an Honorary Member.

Reports, statements, and comments concerning the financial status of the Club were received.

McIlvain announced that John C. Miller would receive the annual Potter Award.

In addition to the Cape May count, reports of eight Christmas bird counts supported by the D.V.O.C. were received.

A documentary film on the Wood Duck was enjoyed. Refreshments followed.

JANUARY 16. Fifty members and ten guests attended.

Thomas Dougherty of Philadelphia was elected to active membership.

Cornelius McFadden, Philadelphia falconer, exhibited three of his birds and presented a 16-mm color movie of a Gyrfalcon banding project at Disko Bay, Greenland, carried out in September, 1967. Seventeen years earlier McFadden and other falconers captured many Gyrfalcons migrating past this same spot.

FEBRUARY 6. Fifty-five members and ten guests were present.

Charles C. Pease of Pennsauken, N. J., was elected to active membership.

Once again the Club enjoyed an outstanding 16-mm color film by Dr. William Parker. Wintering birds of New England and less common shore birds of the New Jersey shore were featured. Previously shown photographic triumphs of nesting Dipper, Great Gray Owl, etc. were again enjoyed.

FEBRUARY 20. Twenty-eight members and three guests attended.

Charles E. Mohr, with the subject, "Owls I Have Known", delivered a scholarly, instructive, well-illustrated lecture on owls. He recalled the valuable studies of the Barn Owl by D.V.O.C. members early in this century.

MARCH 6. Fifty-nine members and ten guests attended.

Robert L. Weinstein of Philadelphia was elected to active membership.

The subject of the evening was the New Jersey Pine Barrens. A geographical and ecological description by Lester Thomas was followed by an interesting recollection of a D.V.O.C. study in the Barrens by Dale Coman. David Moore, Chief of the New Jersey Natural Areas Council, concluded with a description of the current economical and political status of the Barrens.

MARCH 20. Fifty members and six guests were present.

Jack Linehan stated that Delaware had finally passed an all-inclusive law protecting the hawks.

Vice-President Joseph Jacobs spoke on the declining Osprey population in southern New Jersey. He presented detailed information, based on banding, for the Osprey colony of Cedar Island near Avalon. Between 1945 and 1968 the production of young per nesting female decreased from 2.14 to 0.24. It was Jacob's conclusion that the environment was no longer compatible with the Osprey which will soon disappear as a breeding bird in New Jersey.

APRIL 3. Forty-five members and seven guests attended.

Honorary Member Charles Rogers spoke on the subject of Unusual Birds. The Ostrich, Egyptian Vulture, Satin Bower Bird, six tiny New Guinea parrots, and the Trogons were among many interesting birds described by Rogers with characteristic enthusiasm and authority. This was said to have been the thirty-eighth occasion Rogers had addressed the D.V.O.C.

MAY 1. Thirty-six members and six guests attended.

Samuel Orr, Frank L. Hamilton, and David Zumeta were elected to active membership. George Reynard played outstanding taped recordings made during the 1969 Pocomoke weekend which included calls of Yellow, Black, and Virginia Rails.

Linnaean Society exchange speaker, R. S. Arbib, Jr., spoke on "Estimating Numbers of Birds in the Field". The speaker trained himself by estimating patches of granular materials scattered on a table top. He urged that amateur ornithologists improve the value of their observations by perfecting their abilities to estimate numbers.

MAY 22. This meeting was held at Philadelphia's Schuylkill Valley Nature Center with 42 members and five guests present. The program consisted of a description of the Nature Center and its conservation and educational programs by Director Richard James followed by oral reports of the 37th D.V.O.C. Spring Round-Up. The round-up was notable for the scarcity of passerines, especially the warblers.

JUNE 4. The first informal summer meeting was held with a good attendance.