

ABSTRACTS OF PROCEEDINGS

July 1, 1969, to June 30, 1970

Compiled by

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JULY 3, AUGUST 7, and SEPTEMBER 4 and 18. Informal summer meetings were held, with good attendance at each.

OCTOBER 2. Thirty-seven members and five guests were present.

Robert L. Garner was elected to active membership.

The program of the evening consisted of the annual color slide contest. Contestants entered slides in the following categories: 1) birds, 2) nature, and 3) scenery. Respective winners: 1) Stephen Mallanson, 2) Winslow Shaughnessy, and 3) William Middleton.

OCTOBER 16. This was the announced second annual dinner meeting. It was held at a private club in Camden, New Jersey, and was attended by approximately 53 members and guests.

There was no formal business meeting, and in the absence of the Secretary no formal minutes were recorded.

Dr. Ira Gabrielson, President of the National Wildlife Institute of Washington, D.C., gave a most interesting and informative presentation on current problems related to the preservation of our wildlife.

NOVEMBER 6. Forty-two members and six guests were present.

Howard Brokaw and Dr. Frank Gill were elected to active membership.

It was reported that Dr. Ira Gabrielson, guest speaker at the annual dinner meeting, had asked that, in lieu of an expense payment, the D.V.O.C. make a contribution to the Keep Cape May Point Green Committee. It was hoped that individual members would respond to Dr. Gabrielson's suggestion.

Edward R. Manners reported to the Club on his studies of Saw-whet Owls along the Delaware River in Gloucester and Salem Counties, New Jersey. Between 1961 and 1967 Manners handled 182 Saw-whets, all captured in pockets of woodland between Westville and Bridgeport, always within a mile or two of the Delaware River. Appreciable numbers of these owls were never found in similar habitats inland or along the river southwest of the favored locations. Manners recorded much data by measuring or weighing, but not one of these banded owls ever returned to be caught in a following season. This presentation was made with interesting slides and charts in graphic detail.

NOVEMBER 20. Thirty-eight members and two guests were present.

Peter A. Chamberlain and Steven L. Muttart were elected to active membership.

Donald S. Heintzleman discussed a proposal to increase D.V.O.C. participation in the annual hawk count at Bake Oven Knob. He expressed the opinion that this would be necessary if the Bake Oven Knob observations were to be continued at a meaningful level.

Various announcements were made concerning the forthcoming Christmas Counts.

Dr. Frank Gill launched his career in the D.V.O.C. with an interesting talk on his study of the White-eyes of the Mascarene Islands of the western Indian Ocean. Gill spent nine months on Mauritius with visits to the spectacularly rugged Reunion Island while making his study. He described also the recently discovered Barrow's Petrel, a relative of the Cahow, nesting in high inaccessible mountain cliffs. Mauritius and Reunion are unique in that there are two distinct species of White-eyes on each island. Gill believes that the White-eyes originally found an ample variety of ecological niches when they reached these islands and diverged into different species through specialization. He considered this a unique case of variation within a small confine.

DECEMBER 4. Forty-three members and two guests were present.

The Club's first "Tape-In" program brought out a polyglot collection of tape recorders and players. Many contestants offered sounds from distant places such as Africa or the Indian Ocean. Others offered sounds from birds around their feeding stations. William Middleton was awarded first place for his taped songs and calls of a dozen less common native American birds. Arthur Bergey placed second with his fine reproductions of some African birds, recorded without benefit of a parabola. George Reynard rounded out the program with especially interesting recordings of lesser known species of the West Indies.

DECEMBER 18. Fifty-one members and eleven guests were present.

Donald S. Heintzelman presented an interesting 70-minute film which he had produced. The film featured the hawks, owls, ravens, and other wildlife studied in the salt marshes of New Jersey, the bogs and uplands of eastern Pennsylvania, and the forests of Vermont. Flight pictures of many birds of prey photographed along the Kittatiny Ridge were outstanding.

JANUARY 8, 1970. Fifty-eight members and two guests were present at the eightieth annual meeting.

The following officers and councillors were elected:

Joseph A. Jacobs, President

William R. Middleton, Vice President

Arthur H. Bergey, Secretary

James B. Woodford, Treasurer

J. d'Arcy Northwood and R. Dale Twining, Councillors

John R. Billings, Edward W. Graham, Winslow M. Shaughnessy, Harry Todd, and James B. Woodford were elected Fellows.

An especially interesting presentation was made by Robert Haines on the history of the D.V.O.C. as gleaned from *Cassinia*.

Ray Hendrick introduced a movie film entitled "So Little Time," shown through the courtesy of Congressman Edward G. Biester of Bucks County. The film dealt with the pressures of civilization on many species of birds and other wildlife.

The meeting ended with the traditional period of refreshment and fellowship.

JANUARY 22. Forty-nine members and ten guests were present.

Philip A. Livingston was the feature speaker of the evening, with "An Introduction to Peru" as his topic. A representative number of slides were exhibited depicting the rugged splendor of the country, the three essential geophysical areas, and its people. The ornithological literature pertinent to the area was reviewed. Photographically and verbally Mr. Livingston described a fabulously beautiful country which many Club members will some day want to visit.

FEBRUARY 5. Forty-nine members and three guests were present.

Donald Kirchoffer, Maxey Morrison, Dr. Keith Richards, and Winston Wayne were elected to active membership.

The scheduled speaker of the evening was ill, and George Reynard presented an alternative program on very short notice. An interesting and representative variety of bird songs which he had recorded in Jamaica was played. The songs had been recorded with his usual professional quality.

FEBRUARY 19. Forty-seven members and three guests were present.

Harry Goldstein, a former member of the D.V.O.C., was reelected to active membership in the Club.

President Jacobs announced the recent death of two Club members, George F. Ingersoll and Richard Ludwig.

Charles A. Wonderly spoke on the subject of "Our Vanishing Wildlife." The presentation included a description of the extinction of the Dodo, Great Auk, Labrador Duck, Carolina Paroquet, and Passenger Pigeon, and then covered species that are on the endangered list, including the Whooping Crane and California Condor. The presentation included photographs of a number of animals which are either on the extinct list or among the endangered species.

MARCH 5. Forty-eight members and four guests were present.

Stephen Harty's program for the evening was entitled "Birds and Birdmen." Commencing his talk with old photographs from *Cassinia* and from Club archives, Mr. Harty induced a feeling of nostalgia in many of the members. Many of these men contributed much to the Club and created an image of the D.V.O.C. which has carried down to the present day. Mr. Harty also showed a number of beautiful photographs he had taken of a wide variety of birds in the United States, in Puerto Rico, and on Barro Colorado Island in the Panama Canal Zone. It was a most interesting program enjoyed by everyone present.

MARCH 19. Forty-six members and four guests were present.

Dr. Ernest Choate spoke on birds of the western United States. His program was a photographic record of some of the sights, scenery, animals, and birds he observed on a tour made in late summer and early fall of 1968. He saw 223 species of birds, of which 67 were additions to his life list. Dr. Choate's thoroughly enjoyable presentation was climaxed by and concluded with a "shot" of the California Condor.

APRIL 2. Twenty-eight members and three guests were present.

J. Spencer Holm was elected to active membership.

William Middleton presented an interesting program in identification of recorded bird songs. This was conducted as a contest in identification of some eighteen bird songs. George Reynard correctly identified fifteen of the total and took first prize, with Alan Brady winning second prize. A program of this sort required considerable time to prepare, and thanks were extended to Mr. Middleton for his successful efforts.

APRIL 16. Fifty-one members and one guest were present.

Michael H. Levin and Robert J. Scheibner were elected to active membership.

Dr. Frank Gill spoke on the subject "Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers and their hybrids." His talk was illustrated by slide, motion picture, and tape recording. Dr. Gill drew from personal experience and demonstrated some of the interesting aspects of research into the subject of this hybridization and their parent species. The talk was well presented and was most informative and enlightening.

MAY 7. Forty-six members and four guests attended this meeting which was held in the Bird House at the Philadelphia Zoo.

William A. Brokaw was elected to active membership.

After the brief business meeting, the meeting was turned over to Mr. John Griswold. Mr. Griswold described the interesting development of the new Hummingbird House with its horticultural and avian occupants. He stated that to some extent the present bird residents of the Hummingbird House were somewhat experimental inasmuch as compatibility of the various species in this particular habitat had not yet been proven.

MAY 21. Forty-six members and one guest were present.

The meeting was devoted to reports of the Spring Roundup. Twelve parties reported 247 species. The party headed by David Cutler reported a total of 201 species, including the Harlequin Duck. The date of the Roundup (May 10) was generally considered to be excellent day for birding.

JUNE 4. The first of the informal summer meetings was held.