

OUR CLUBS — HOW OLD?

LILLIAN C. STONER

This is definitely not an article about birds, but it is a research paper on our Clubs which, with officers, carry on the business of our organization called The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc.

The purpose of this paper is to better acquaint all of us with our 35 Clubs. Yes, it is now 35 Clubs as this morning two new Clubs were voted Club members at the Council Meeting.

I also thought that the individual members of all classes of membership which totaled 466 in 1962, might like to know more about the different Clubs since many of them are active in their home bird organizations. Perhaps other bird-minded people may consider starting a new Society when they learn how some Clubs started with only a few members. In fact, one Club had only eight members the first year. Then as the years went by, more friends began to wish to know more about birds and joined with these small groups until a larger and more sizable group was formed.

Many of us today may be surprised to learn which Club has the largest membership and which one is the oldest Club in the State and that some are 25 and 50 or more years old.

My attention was first aroused in this subject when I learned that some Clubs planned to celebrate their anniversary this year. So I thought that "Our Clubs — How Old?" might be of interest to others. To obtain these records, I mailed duplicate postals to the Presidents of all Clubs for the requested information on the following five points:

Please give: 1. Date of first meeting; 2. Name of first president; 3. Number of members first year; 4. Name of President this year; 5. Number of members in 1962.

The answers are now given in tabulated form. I had hoped to have all members whether delegates or not arise as I named their Club, but that would be too time consuming. So here are the tabulated five points about our Clubs which are given in alphabetical order—A-W.

See Table

Our congratulations are extended to the Linnaean Society of New York which is now in its 85th year. Also we wish to congratulate the two Rochester Clubs which have celebrated anniversaries this year; the 50th anniversary for the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club and the 25th anniversary for the Genesee Ornithological Society. May we also say congratulations to the largest club — Buffalo Audubon Society which had a membership of 643 in 1962. We notice with pride that three other Clubs have been going approximately 50 years; namely, the Schuyler County Bird Club — formerly the Watkins-Montour Bird Club — is in its 49th year, the Elon Eton Bird Club is in its 50th year, and the Brooklyn Bird Club is in its 54th year. But I believe that we in this State Federation are proud of all Clubs, regardless of their age.

399 State Street, Albany 10, New York

Name of Club	Date of 1st Meeting	Name of First President	Members 1st Year	1963 President	1962 Mem- bers	Age of Club
Adirondack Bird Club	8/15/61	Dr. M. Kingsbury	25	Dr. M. Kingsbury	32	2
Alan Devoe Bird Club	4/4/57	Eleanor Radke	40-50	Dr. E. M. Riley	123	6
Baldwin Bird Club	6/5/38	E. D. Mogan	30	Cornelius J. Ward	150	25
Brooklyn Bird Club	1909	Dr. Viotor	10	H. J. Meyerdieks	100	54
Buffalo Audubon Society	5/10/09	Arthur H. Williams	40	Arthur H. Rosche	643	54
Buffalo Ornithological Society	11/13/29	Harold D. Mitchell	20	Frances M. Rew	158	34
Burroughs Audubon Nature Club	6/13/13	Wm. B. Hoot	25	Mrs. Frank A. Myers	300	50
Chemung Valley Audubon Society (Elmira Garden Club, Inc.)	3/50	Agnes Orbison	105	J. F. Campbell	97	13
Cortland County Bird Club	4/11/61	Mrs. Chase Wilkins	43	Dr. J. A. Gustafson	73	2
Elon Eaton Bird Club	3/26/13	John J. Dye	12	Mrs. John Dye	62	4
Elon Eton Bird Club	3/26/13	Glen F. Van Eseltine	53	Jayson A. Walker	30	50
Genesee Ornithological Society	5/9/38	Wm. L. G. Edson	10	Stephen B. Oresman	153	25
Greene County Bird Club	10/7/59	Elizabeth Feldhusen	13	Helen B. Gates	70	4
Jamestown Audubon Society	5/57	O. G. Burgeson	45	O. G. Burgeson	165	6
John Burroughs Natural History Soc.	11/8/50	Henry Dunbar	15	J. Sanford Cross	116	13
Keuka Park Conservation Club	Fall/34	Hazel Ellis (Loomis)	12	Rev. E. D. Van Dyke	69	29
Linnaean Society of New York	3/7/78	Dr. C. Hart Merriam	10	Emanuel Levine	360	85
Lyman Langdon Audubon Society	9/52	Mrs. Mary L. Bonnewell	10	Mrs. W. C. Dove	249	11
Naturalists Club of the Triple Cities	3/50	Mrs. Marcelle Schubert	25	Mrs. Newell Washburn	57	13
North County Bird Club	10/48	Mrs. Jas. A. Commons	14	Kenneth Mellon	70	15
Onondaga Audubon Society	4/50	Dr. Josiah Lowe	50	Herbert F. Ives	176	13
Queens County Bird Club	1932	Henry Kritzler	6-8	Dr. Klaus Kallman	77	31
Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club	9/8/58	Raymond Connelly	101	Bradford Whiting	121	5
Rockland Audubon Society	5/24/47	Mrs. Frances Irving	12	Dr. Marjorie Hopper	137	16
Sassafras Bird Club	3/33	Walter Elwood	50	Mrs. W. B. Powell	110	30
Saw Mill River Audubon Society	2/27/53	Wm. G. Fennell	140	Leon D. Nettleton	296	10
Scarsdale Audubon Society	1946	Jack Wolff	30	Simon Breines	300	17
Schenectady Bird Club	Spring/39	Nelle G. Van Vorst	100	Walton B. Sabin	141	24
Sullivan County Audubon Society	5/15/51	Kenneth D. Niven	17	Edward McBride	28	12
Tioga Bird Club	6/9/59	Mrs. Ruth Williams	12	Mrs. Mildred White	40	4
Watkins-Montour Bird Club						
now Schuyler County Bird Club	1914	Bessie Hope	11	Mrs. Betty Strath	33	49
Cayuga Club		Ornithology Students at Cornell University				
Natural History Section of the Staten Island Inst. of Arts and Sciences						
		Total	1098	Total	4536	
New Member Club since January 1, 1963 (not yet one year old)						
Lake Erie Bird Club	3/18/63	Mrs. Stanley Buck	25	Mrs. Stanley Buck		
Huntington Audubon Society	Information not available at this time		130			