

CASSINIA

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

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FOREWORD

AN explanation of the form of the present issue of *Cassinia* is in order. The Publication Committee, after due consideration, decided to bring the field notes and proceedings up to date at once, since much of this material is of a timely nature and, as a five year digest, it can serve as an admirable aid to field enthusiasts.

Because of the bulk of this presentation, there was very little room for original articles by Members, but the Editor thought it better to sacrifice such contributions this year rather than postpone getting completely caught up in field work reports. Therefore no papers were solicited.

It is now proposed to avoid a future repetition of the lapse in publication of *Cassinia* by bringing out an issue once a year, the previous year's ornithological data being thereby made available to Members at each first October meeting. Through the practice of publishing *Cassinia* yearly, fewer pages will be required for abstracts and tabulations; it is therefore to be hoped that contributions in the form of finished papers—or even rough notes—will be placed abundantly in the Editor's hands, and that *Cassinia* may now become more than ever a medium for the dissemination of the Members' acquired knowledge of birds, and not merely a repository of avian statistics.

During the past five years the Club's membership has grown rapidly, and the attendance at Meetings has been

swelled by an ever-increasing number of guests. Ornithological field work is more popular than it has ever been before, and a good local journal is needed to unify our efforts into coöperative projects. Mr. Gillespie's annual "Delaware Valley Round-Up" has become a tradition among most of our Membership. Mr. Livingston's Delmarva drive also has drawn its quota of students. The results of these and other specific problems should be recorded from time to time in the pages of *Cassinia*.

As time goes on, the mere recording of migration dates or unusual occurrences of birds becomes a narrower and narrower field for the acquisition of new information. Modern field ornithology is concerning itself more and more with the problems of birds' daily lives. Our Club membership is slowly turning its attention to this new kind of investigation.

Members are therefore urged to undertake particular projects along these lines, and to announce in *Cassinia* the explicit instructions to volunteer coöperators which will define the scope of each problem and the methods to be used in working it out. As progress is made, reports on the results may appear through this same channel, *Cassinia* thereby becoming a forum of advanced ornithological thought in the D. V. O. C.

To ensure the appearance of a note or article in the October issue of any year, it should be submitted to C. Brooke Worth not later than the last May meeting previous.