

ABSTRACTS OF PROCEEDINGS

Compiled by William Hart Rufe, III

1990

JANUARY 4. Sixty-six members and seven guests attended the 100th Annual Meeting. The following officers and councillors were elected: President — Brian Moscatello; Vice President — John Harding; Secretary — Hart Rufe; Treasurer — Barbara Haas; Councillors — Rick Mellon, one-year term; Colin Campbell and Bill Stocku, three-year terms. The Club extended its thanks to out-going president Rick Mellon for his two years of excellent leadership. The Witmer Stone award was presented to David Ward for his ten-year seabird migration research at Avalon, New Jersey. The Julian Potter award was presented to John Miller for bird-banding work. This was John Miller's second Potter award. Paul Guris and Chris Dooley were elected Fellows of the Club. Armas Hill was presented with a special award in recognition of his eleven years as the voice of Birdline. The program consisted of 22 tri-state Christmas Bird Count reports. Members then adjourned to the lobby for the traditional refreshments.

JANUARY 18. Fifty-two members and one guest were present to hear William Konstin of the Wildlife Preservation Trust International describe the work the Trust is doing with the rare and endangered Pink Pigeon, Mauritius Kestrel, Golden Lion Tamarin, and the Brazil Thick-billed Parrot.

FEBRUARY 1. Sixty-two members and fourteen guests were present for Centennial Chairman Armas Hill's program, "100 Years of the DVOG," featuring a history of the Club, slides of past members and field trips, and recordings of past meetings and field trips by George Reynard.

FEBRUARY 15. Twenty-nine members and four guests attended the annual members' slide contest. Winners were: Rick Mellon (Birds); Colin Campbell (Natural History); and Sid Lipschutz (Scenery).

MARCH 1. Fifty-two members and twelve guests were on hand as David Foster, Leslie Birch, Louise Zemaitis-Smith and Mitch Smith were elected to active membership in the Club. Hart Rufe narrated his movie "Birding Alaska," documenting a 1988 Bucks County Audubon Society field trip to that state.

MARCH 15. Forty-six members and six guests heard Pat Sutton's excellent slide program, "Observation Flight Path — Back Yard Habitat," featuring ways to attract birds to your back yard.

APRIL 5. Thirty-nine members and four guests learned about the "Coastal Raptor Restoration" project, sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Endangered Species Program, from Larry Niles, Director of the project.

APRIL 19. Forty-eight members and five guests were present as Bill Hoehne and Jack Siler were elected to active membership in the Club. Dr. James Bednarz, Director of Research at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, presented a program on the "Raptors of Los Medanos, New Mexico," an emerging birding hot spot.

- MAY 3. Thirty-seven members and four guests were in attendance as David Jezyk was elected to active membership in the Club and Dr. Frederick Sheldon of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences described the "Birds of Borneo."
- MAY 17. Thirty-eight members and one guest enjoyed Clay Sutton's slide program on "The Birds of Cumberland County — The Delaware Bay Shore, A Place Time Forgot."
- JUNE 7. Thirty-three members heard Sid Lipschutz give an Ornithological Studies Committee report on the "nesting of Peregrine Falcons on bridges over the Delaware River," and Field Trip Chairman, Earl Harrison, report on the eight teams that undertook May Runs, including the two DVOC-sponsored teams that competed in the World Series of Birding.
- JUNE 9. The Centennial Picnic was held at the home of Dr. Kenneth and Dr. Janice Gordon.
- JULY 5, AUGUST 2, SEPTEMBER 6, and SEPTEMBER 20. Informal meetings were held at the Academy of Natural Sciences.
- OCTOBER 4. Forty-two members and five guests were present for Ed Fingerhood's Ornithological Studies Committee scholarly review of Little Stint identification, Alan Brady's exciting pelagic report of first New Jersey record Band-rumped Petrels (five), and an outstanding program by Dr. Frank Gill, Chairman of the Academy's Department of Ornithology, on his "Quest for Pere David's Tit in Szechwan, China."
- OCTOBER 18. Forty-two members and seven guests attended as Bruce Lantz, Ellen Short, and Joe Swertinski were elected as active members. Well-known pelagic birding expert Ron Naveen presented a superb slide show featuring the unique birds and wildlife of the rugged Antarctic, entitled "Wild Ice." He also graciously autographed copies of his newly issued book by the same name.
- NOVEMBER 1. Forty-six members and three guests were in attendance as Robert G. Rufe was elected into active membership in the Club. Dr. David Wilcove of the Wilderness Society presented an extremely interesting and informative report on "Forest Bio-diversity and the Spotted Owl."
- NOVEMBER 15. CENTENNIAL BANQUET. After a catered dinner at the Academy of Natural Sciences, President Brian Moscatello presented DVOC awards, the Club's highest honor, to four of our most distinguished members: Alan Brady, James K. Merritt, George B. Reynard, and Phillips B. Street, in recognition of their long and meritorious service to the DVOC. Phil Street then presented a "Lifetime Achievement Conservation Award" to Alston Jenkins, a long-time DVOC member and founder of the Natural Lands Trust, the organization which, along with the DVOC, was instrumental in saving Tinicum Marsh (now the John H. Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum). President Moscatello recognized the 100 years of close relationship between the DVOC and the Academy of Natural Sciences with a special plaque, which was accepted by Dr. Frank Gill on behalf of the Academy. Several special guests were recognized: Dr. Dean Amadon, representing the American Ornithologists' Union; Allan R. Keith, President of the American Birding Association, representing that organization; and Edward S. Weyl, a member of the Club since 1927, who was recognized for the longest membership. The Centennial program featured Paul Butler, Caribbean Program Director of the RARE Center for Tropical Bird Conservation, popularly known as "The Parrot Man of the Caribbean." Mr. Butler described the effects of his conservation work with island natives on Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and the Cayman Islands, by making them aware of the biological, cultural, and economic significance of their endemic rare and endangered species. Sandy Sherman and Armas Hill served as Centennial

Banquet Chair and Centennial Committee Chairman respectively. The Centennial was also celebrated with commemorative pins, plates, mugs, T-shirts, and a three-cassette tape set of the voices and bird recordings of DVOC members and field trips compiled by George B. Reynard.

DECEMBER 6. Fifty-four members and five guests heard Fred Ulmer read a 1937 letter from Witmer Stone to Norman McDonald, then Secretary of the DVOC. Phil Street narrated a slide program entitled "Birds of India and Nepal" featuring many of the birds, animals, scenes, and people of those countries.

DECEMBER 20. Fifty-five members and eight guests were present as Richard Guthrie was elected to active membership in the Club. Frank Haas and Ed Fingerhood reported on the Pacific Slope Flycatcher in Lancaster County, and discussed the differences between the Pacific Slope and Cordilleran flycatchers resulting from the split of Western Flycatcher. Dr. Russell Greenberg from the Washington Zoo delivered an excellent program on the "Effects of Yucatan Deforestation on Migratory Birds," describing studies that are still on-going documenting the decline of many of our migratory birds.

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JANUARY 3. Fifty-five members and one guest attended the 101st Annual Meeting. The following officers and councillors were elected: President — Brian Moscatello; Vice President — John Harding; Secretary — Hart Rufe; Treasurer — Barbara Haas; Councillors — Earl Harrison and Paul Guris, each to full three-year terms. Kate Braithwaite, Earl Harrison, Robert Mercer, Patricia Sutton, and Lee Yoder were all elected Fellows. John Miller was unanimously elected an Honorary Member of the DVOC. The Witmer Stone Award for outstanding non-professional ornithological research was awarded to Rick Mellon for his excellent article in *Cassinia* on the ornithological history of the Delaware Valley. The Julian K. Potter Award for excellence in field studies was awarded to Hart Rufe for his work in leading long-distance field trips for fifteen years. President Moscatello read a late-arriving letter from President Bush congratulating the DVOC on our 100th Anniversary. The program featured fifteen tri-state Christmas Bird Count reports. The meeting then adjourned to the lobby for the traditional refreshments.

JANUARY 17. Forty-three members and three guests were present as Steve Schnur was elected to active membership in the Club and Dr. James Lynch of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Washington delivered an outstanding slide program on "North American Forest Fragmentation and Its Effect on Songbirds."

FEBRUARY 7. Sixty-five members and five guests enjoyed an excellent slide program on "The Birds of Big Bend and West Texas" presented by Brian Moscatello.

FEBRUARY 21. Thirty-two members and four guests attended as John Freiberg was elected as an active member, and Conservation Committee Chairman Chris Dooley urged all members to write their legislators to oppose oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and Jack Stewart announced that Cape May Bird Observatory had acquired a site adjoining the Hidden Valley Ranch for its new nature center. Mario Ramos of the World Wildlife Fund described studies of wintering songbirds in Mexico.

MARCH 7. Thirty-nine members and three guests were present for Sid Lipschutz's report of a newly hatched California Condor chick, and his description of work at the Philadelphia Zoo

with the Guam Rail. Janet Jackson, of the Philadelphia Zoo, then took the Club on a "Photographic Safari of Kenya."

APRIL 4. Forty-eight members and five guests enjoyed a slide program entitled "Trans-Gulf Migration of Songbirds" presented by Dr. Paul Kerlinger, Director of Research for New Jersey Audubon Society at the Cape May Bird Observatory.

APRIL 18. Forty-one members and twenty-four guests toured the bird exhibits and enjoyed a buffet dinner at the Philadelphia Zoo. John Groves, Curator of Birds at the zoo, and John Finch, of the zoo staff, discussed their work with the Hawaiian Bird Project, the Guam Rail, and the Micronesian Kingfisher.

MAY 2. Thirty-three members and six guests attended the Annual Members slide contest. Winners were: Harry Todd (Natural History); Earl Harrison (Birds); and Earl Harrison (Scenery).

MAY 16. Forty-eight members and fourteen guests were present as Mary Ellen Krober and Carl Perretta were elected as active members. Kenn Kaufman, author of *Advanced Birding* and Associate Editor of *American Birds*, presented a slide program on "How to Deal With an Unidentified Bird in the Field."

JUNE 6. Thirty-seven members and nine guests were in attendance as Kate Somerville was voted into active membership in the Club. May Run reports were received from nine teams, including two DVOC-sponsored World Series of Birding teams.

JULY 11, AUGUST 1, SEPTEMBER 5, and SEPTEMBER 15. Informal meetings were held at the Academy of Natural Sciences.

OCTOBER 3. Forty-nine members and six guests were present as Bill Handley was elected an active member of the Club. Conservation Chairman Chris Dooley alerted members to the Environmental Protection Administration proposal to change the definition of "wetlands," effectively reducing wetlands by more than fifty percent. Armas Hill presented his program, "The Birds of Spain," featuring both slides and tape recordings.

OCTOBER 17. Forty-five members and seven guests heard Fred Ulmer report on Alston Jenkins' efforts to get Tinicum Wildlife Refuge cleaned up, and Allison Hoppman's program documenting the results of her five-year study on "The Social Behavior of Carolina Chickadees."

NOVEMBER 7. Forty-eight members and two guests enjoyed John Serrao's slide presentation "Wildlife in Winter." Mr. Serrao described the many ways that wildlife in general and birds in particular cope with the rigors of the harsh winter landscape.

NOVEMBER 21. The 101st Annual Banquet of the DVOC was held at the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein Club in Northeast Philadelphia. Daphne Gemmill, a native of Bucks County, and presently with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and a Director of the American Birding Association, presented a slide program entitled, "Earthwatch — Birding Opportunities." Ms. Gemmill shared her own experiences working in four Earthwatch programs which included: banding wintering warblers in the Bahamas; completing a census of nesting Manx Shearwater colonies in Scotland; studying the behavior of finches on the Galapagos; and studying the nesting habits of sub-arctic birds in New Zealand.

DECEMBER 5. Forty-four members and one guest were present as Sid Lipschutz introduced Dr. Alan Poole, Director of the "North American Bird Project," located at the Academy. Dr. Poole described the project, which is designed to update the Bent series on the life history of every North American bird. The ten-year undertaking contemplates completing seventy species accounts a year. President Moscatello reported that Council had awarded a \$500 grant to Joan Quinn of Palmyra, New Jersey, in support of her two-year effort to save a significant tract of excellent birding habitat. Dr. Matthew Perry's program on "Endangered American Species Research at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center" described the Center's work since the 1940s with the Bald Eagle, Whooping Crane, Black-footed Ferret, and the California Condor.

DECEMBER 19. Forty-seven members and one guest enjoyed Alan and Carol Gehret present their slide program on "Birding Belize." Alan Gehret is the Assistant Curator of the Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary at Mill Grove, Pennsylvania.