

ABSTRACTS OF PROCEEDINGS

Compiled by Sandra L. Sherman

1992

JANUARY 2. With forty-three members and two guests present, the club elected John Harding as president. Other officers elected unopposed were Judge W. Hart Rufe, vice president, and Barbara Haas, treasurer. In the club's first democratic election since Robert Sehl beat Alan Brady for secretary in 1958, Sandra L. Sherman bested Don Jones for the same position. Newly named as Councillors were Robert Mercer and Naomi Murphy. Also included in the secret-ballot election was a referendum to change the starting time of the meetings from 8 p.m. to 7:30, since meetings were ending quite late. That referendum passed. Trustee Robert Sehl turned over a check for \$2,832.20 to the treasurer. Chosen as Fellows this year were Dr. Erica Brendel, Ronald French, and Sidney Lipschutz. Ed Manners was named DVOC's ninth Honorary Member. Receiving the Julian Potter Award for Outstanding Field Ornithology was Tom Bailey for his work in preserving a tract of land in Palmyra, N.J. Sehl accepted a Devoc Award, the club's highest honor. National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count reports were featured as the program, followed by traditional refreshments in the foyer of the Academy of Natural Sciences' Auditorium.

JANUARY 16. Thirty-one members and one guest were present as Brenda Zeller was elected to membership. Prior to the First DVOC Birding Bonanza Auction, Ed Fingerhood reported that Keith Russell's Philadelphia County Winter Bird Census produced about 93 species. The auction, under the guiding hands of Robert Mercer and Chris Dooley, offered for sale more than 130 bird books and one Fuertes print of a White Gyrfalcon. More than \$700 was collected.

FEBRUARY 6. Fifty-two members and two guests attended. Club members Clay and Pat Sutton guided us on a fascinating tour of Jato Piñero, cattle ranch and World Wildlife Fund/Nature Conservancy project on the Llanos in northwestern Venezuela. During their week on the ranch, they had 239 bird species and forty-nine mammals.

FEBRUARY 20. To an audience of forty-six members and two guests, Randolph S. Little of Princeton, N.J., presented a highly informative program that combined technique for learning and remembering bird song with his research results and an exciting travelogue. The research dealt with work he did that figured into the decision to split Traill's Flycatcher into Willow and Alder based on songs and call notes. The travelogue took us to Baffin Island in 1984, where Little recorded what he says are the only known recordings of Common Ringed Plover in North America.

MARCH 5. Sixty members and five guest attended as club member Pete Dunne, director of natural history information for New Jersey Audubon Society, packed us all into his motorhome and took us with him, his wife, Linda, and their dog on a year-long adventure to the best birding spots in North America.. His account of the trip will forever be known as *The Feather Quest*.

- MARCH 19. Forty-two members and twenty guests were privileged to meet Sweetie, a nine-month-old female Peale's race Peregrine Falcon; a 40-ounce female Peregrine/ Gyrfalcon hybrid from Oklahoma; Scampie, a one-and-a-half-year-old female Goshawk from Warren County, N.J.; Marigold, a beautiful, 22-year-old erythristic Great Horned Owl; Edgar Allen Poe, a 25-year-old Common Raven who once was lost for seven months in Ohio but made it home again; and a 30-year-old male Golden Eagle who only had eyes for the man standing next to him: Earl Schriver, a bander, rehabilitator and falconer for 49 years from western Pennsylvania. The program was one of the most entertaining and provocative in recent memory.
- APRIL 2. Forty members and four guests were treated to a panel format for tonight's meeting. The topic: How to Run a Big Day. Participants were Greg Hanisek, team captain of the Bausch and Lomb team in the New Jersey Audubon World Series of Birding, which has won the competition four time in eight years; Allan Keith, president of the American Birding Association who presented the perspective of the Urner Club in North Jersey, with an update of ABA rules; Boy Wonder Dave Cutler, whose first Big Day was in 1939; and Frank Haas, Pennsylvania birder extraordinaire who reminded us of the knowledge of both breeding and migrant birds that is gained from such endeavors.
- APRIL 16. A mere twenty-six members and five guests attended the meeting. Bernice Koplin was accepted for membership. On the fourth anniversary of his first DVOC meeting, Colin Campbell took us to Paisley, Scotland, the birthplace of Alexander Wilson and his hometown. His "Highlands and Islands" tour was well-received.
- MAY 7. Addressing thirty-five members and two guests, DVOC member Betsy Crozier-Jones, director of development at the Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research Center in Wilmington, discussed the center's participation in the Workshop on Rehabilitation of Oil-Affected Wildlife, which took place in Bahrain in May 1991. She discussed some of the damage done to wildlife when Iraq intentionally released between 66 million and 240 million tons of oil during the Persian Gulf War that year, and Tri-State's role as the only team of rehabilitators invited to participate in the cleanup.
- MAY 21. Thirty-two members and one guest shared an evening of slides, as the annual slide contest introduced a new category: birders. First-place winners were: Birders, Phil Street, photo of Armas Hill, Ed Manners and John Miller on a 1978 Costa Rican boat trip; Natural History: Earl Harrison, Monarch Butterfly on Goldenrod, Moore's Beach, N.J.; Scenery: Dr. Erica Brendel, Coconut Palms on Trinidad at Dusk; and Birds: Earl Harrison, Swamp Sparrow at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge.
- JUNE 4. Seventeen members and two guests took part in a discussion, led by Field Trip Chairman Earl Harrison, of the May Run reports. Congratulations were offered to DVOC-1, the Nikon Team, which came in second (by one species) in the New Jersey Audubon Society's World Series of Birding.
- JULY 2, AUGUST 6, AND SEPTEMBER 3 AND 17. Informal meetings were held at the Academy of Natural Sciences.

OCTOBER 2. Forty members and four guests heard Don Freiday, a naturalist with the Hunterdon County (N.J.) Park System, present "The Fine Points of Raptor Identification," a timely refresher course to ready us for the ridges and coastlines.

OCTOBER 15. With the tunes of Andean folk music prominently playing, club member Armas Hill escorted 42 members and seven guests to the end of the earth — Tierra del Fuego — as he prepared for his sixth visit to Argentina and his third trip to Chile several days later. His professionally guided tour was a pleasure to watch.

NOVEMBER 5. Forty-eight members and seven guests attended, as Walter Peoples was elected to DVOC. Several By-Laws changes were voted on and approved. Former member Jim Stasz introduced the concept of National Birding Day. His vision is for the whole country to go out birding on the second Saturday in May and, by recording the results, to develop a snapshot — state by state, county by county — of spring bird migration. The concept was designed by Chandler Robbins in Maryland in 1948.

NOVEMBER 19. Approximately 100 members and guests enjoyed the camaraderie and fine food of the Annual Banquet, held at Ilona Keller's Dugan's Restaurant on Roosevelt Boulevard. A fine, highly entertaining program was offered by Peter Alden of Massachusetts Audubon. Ed Fingerhood was banquet chair, with assistance from Donna Calio and Freda Rappaport.

DECEMBER 3. Elected to active membership in the presence of thirty-five members and five guests were Karenne Snow, Megan Edwards, and Hugh Gallagher. Alan Brady reported on the Rock Wren that was found at Cape May Point. Also coming from Cape May was our speaker, club member Dr. Paul Kerlinger, director of the Cape May Bird Observatory, who discussed "The Economics of Birding." His picture of ecotourism was based on studies done by him and David Wiedner, also a club member. The results: birders are a strong lobbying force for conservation and we should not let the National Rifle Association decide how the national wildlife refuges manage open land. He also announced the New Jersey Audubon Breeding Bird Atlas, a six-year project due to begin in 1993.

DECEMBER 17. Author Scott Weidensaul of Lancaster County gave an excellent program on the Neotropics of Central and South America to the forty-one members and six guests. His informed adventures and wonderfully detailed slides were a treat for all of us.

1993

JANUARY 7. Re-elected officers at the Annual Meeting were Dr. John Harding, president; W. Hart Rufe, vice president; Sandra Sherman, secretary; and Barbara Haas, treasurer. Phillips B. Street and Ronald French were elected members of Council. Elected Fellows were Colin Campbell and Tom Bailey. Robert Sehl, acting on behalf of fellow trustees Steve Wing and Christopher Walters, turned over a check for \$2492.09 representing the year's interest from the Endowment Fund. Highlights and lowlights of the National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Counts, held between December 19, 1992, and January 3, 1993, were presented. The group then adjourned for the traditional round of refreshments.

- JANUARY 21. Thirty-four members and four guests were in attendance. Greg Budney, curator of the Library of Natural Sounds at Cornell University, made the trek down from Ithaca, N.Y., to present his program on the history of bird-song recording. He played for us some of the original field recordings made by Arthur Allen and Peter Paul Kellogg and paid tribute to our own George Reynard for his contributions to the library's collection of 90,000 sounds. Also at this meeting, Ed Fingerhood introduced us to the long-awaited *Atlas of Breeding Birds of Pennsylvania*, published by the University of Pittsburgh Press and edited by club member Dan Brauning.
- FEBRUARY 4. Forty-six members and seven guests heard about some of the good birds chased and found by DVOC members in the past two weeks, including the Cape May Point Rock Wren and the Flatbush Avenue (Brooklyn) Spotted Redshank. Speaking of chases, our speaker, Sandy Komito of Fair Lawn, N.J., detailed his Big Year in 1987, when he saw 725 species in North America. He logged about 300,000 miles by air, but No. 725, a Long-eared Owl, was delivered here in Bucks County by Chris Dooley on December 31.
- FEBRUARY 18. Kevin McGrath, an Albany, N.Y., transplant, was voted into membership. Thirty-five members and six guests attended. The club was in fine form tonight, harassing our speaker, Muddy Run biologist Bob Schutsky, as if he were a Great Horned Owl in a crow roost. Bob led a valuable discussion of the return of the Osprey and Bald Eagle to the Lower Susquehanna River.
- MARCH 4. Scheduled speaker Ed Kwater made a brave but futile attempt on an icy night to make it to Philadelphia from his home in Pittsburgh as 16 members and two guests managed to arrive. The meeting, which was dominated by discussion of reports of good birds, including Cinnamon Teal in Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Del., and Common Crane in Salem County, N.J. — both of which later were adjudged to be escapes.
- MARCH 18. Forty-two members and eight guests came to hear National Audubon Society's Steve Kress, who also works with the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, present an overview of his more than 20 years in restoring seabirds internationally. He is known primarily for his success in returning the Atlantic Puffin to islands off the Maine coast, where they had been extirpated since the 1880s.
- APRIL 1. Fifty-four members and four guests were in attendance. With the election of Dr. Susan Sehn to membership, it appears the club has topped out its quota of psychiatrists at five. Robert Sehl reported that member William Carr had died. Tim Kimmel presented a technical report on his studies of the Northern Goshawk in Pennsylvania. Much of his work was done in the Allegheny National Forest and the Bald Eagle State Forest. His project tripled the known nests of Goshawks by censusing only 30 percent of the habitat. His program was well-received, with an appreciable number of questions and comments following the lecture.
- APRIL 15. Immediate past president Brian Moscatello, now director of the Tenafly Nature Center, returned to an audience of forty-nine members and nine guests to introduce us, through the wonder of slides, to the architecture, fauna, and flora of Quebec and the Gaspe Peninsula.

MAY 6. The Blackpolls were there to greet us, as usual, at our biennial trip to the Philadelphia Zoo. Forty-nine members and sixteen guests heard John Finch, acting curator of birds at the Zoo, discuss the work the Zoo has been doing with endemic species in Hawaii, Guam, and the Marianas in the Pacific. The Food Committee — including Ron French, Naomi Murphy, and Chris Dooley — came through again with a veritable feast. Fred Ulmer placed our visit in perspective by acknowledging Gus Griswold, who died in 1991. Gus hosted the Zoo meeting for many years.

MAY 21. Thirty-one members and four guests attended. Don McClintock was voted into membership. The DVOC slide contest winners included Alan Brady, birders; Karenne Snow, scenery; George Reynard, natural history; and Joe Swertinski, birds.

JUNE 3. Field Trip Chairman Earl Harrison did a fine job in reporting results of May Runs to nineteen members and three guests. Seven groups turned in reports this year. Since he also served as acting secretary for the evening, Harrison noted an aggregate of 219 species among the seven groups.

JULY 1, AUGUST 5, AND SEPTEMBER 2 AND 16. Informal meetings were held at the Academy of Natural Sciences.

OCTOBER 7. Much news was disseminated at the first formal meeting of the season, which was attended by thirty-eight members and four guests. Frank Windfelder spoke of the finds in his New Jersey Breeding Bird Atlas Block in Burlington County, an area known as Taylor's Lane in which he confirmed Cooper's Hawk and had a probable breeding record of Red-Shouldered Hawk. In the area of migrant raptors, the excitement focused on the Broad-winged Hawk invasion of Sept. 19-20, when birds were reported from many locations in the area. Ruth Pfeffer reported, for example, that from Militia Hill Hawkwatch in Fort Washington, there were kettles all over the sky on September 19 and that on September 20, between 8:15 a.m. and 12:25 p.m., about 11,000 were counted. Our speaker, Dr. Steve Rannels, of Hershey Medical Center in Lancaster County, presented a well-rounded lecture on current and former living things in New Zealand, with emphasis, naturally, on the avian species.

OCTOBER 21. For a day that featured steady rain almost up until the starting time of Game Five of the World Series right here in Philadelphia, the turnout of 57 members and 11 guests was remarkable. But, then, so is the reputation of tonight's speaker, Dr. Noble Proctor. After Ruth Pfeffer and Dave Kautz were elected to membership, president Harding dispensed with much of the business portion of the meeting. Among the bird sightings deemed important enough to mention was the Variegated Flycatcher, a South American species, visiting an island near the Toronto Blue Jays' stadium where the other half of the World Series is being played. Dr. Proctor is a professor of ornithology, botany, and taxonomy at Southern Connecticut University. Known to many in the club as a guide in Alaska, he described this evening the joys and discomforts of birding, mammal-watching, and belly-botanizing in our 49th state. His program was very well received and appreciated by all.

NOVEMBER 4. Robert Mercer, with a bevy of helpers, ran a second successful book auction to benefit conservation efforts by the club. Bidding wars broke out among

the twenty-nine members and three guests over such treasures as Witmer Stone's two-volume *Bird Studies at Old Cape May* and the A.C. Bent volume on cardinals et al. Special finds this year included an 1804 first edition of Thomas Bewick's *Bewick's British Birds, Volumes 1 and 2*, a steal at \$41; autographed copies of a number of works; Gosse's *Jamaica 1844-45*; Elliott Coues' *Birds of the Colorado Valley* and Ludlow Griscom's *Modern Bird Study*. The auction raised more than \$750.

NOVEMBER 18. As provided for in a by-laws change, the club's annual awards were presented for the first time at the Annual Banquet, rather than at the Annual Meeting in January. The banquet, held for the second year in a row at Ilona Keller's Dugan's Restaurant on Roosevelt Boulevard, was ably chaired by Ed Fingerhood, with assistance from Donna Calio. Receiving the Witmer Stone Award were Fingerhood, for his chapter, "History of Pennsylvania Ornithology," published in the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania*, as well as his 16 species accounts, and George Reynard, for his role as lead author of "Taxonomic Revision of the Greater Antillean Pewee," which appeared in the June 1993 issue of the *Wilson Bulletin*. Sandra Sherman, chairing the Stone Award committee, also acknowledged the atlas itself and the important roles played in its publication by club members Frank Gill and Daniel Brauning. Bill Stocku, chairman of the Julian Potter Award Committee, presented Mike O'Brien with that award for his work in providing free bluebird boxes to club members. The club was then treated to an excellent program by Dr. Jerome Jackson, of Mississippi State University, who discussed "America's Endangered Woodpeckers: The Ivory-billed and the Red-cockaded." Jackson's belief is that there is so much habitat, and so much of it is swampy and impenetrable, that it is possible Ivory-billeds still exist in the United States.

DECEMBER 2. Forty-six members and ten guests were present as Conservation Committee member Jan Gordon announced that \$2000 would be donated to the National Resources Defense Council to be used to support its litigation efforts to clean up the Delaware River. Phillips B. Street has agreed to head the newly formed Archives Committee, with Ed Fingerhood and Earl Harrison assisting. Club members Tom and Margot Southerland took us on a fast-paced visit to southern Africa, including Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe. The Southerlands, who run Princeton Nature Tours, have been to Africa 15 times and to southern Africa four times in the past four years, and are most qualified to lead slide tours, as well.

DECEMBER 16. Fifty-two members and 18 guests were present as Herb Thompson was elected to active membership. Club member Pete Dunne fascinated all of us with his mix of little-known ornithological history and wild imagination, "Small-headed Flycatcher. Seen Yesterday. He Didn't Leave His Name." Without Dunne's using one slide to aid him, his audience was enraptured by a program of pure birding entertainment.

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