

## Phillips B. Street



The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club lost one of its most noted and dedicated members when Phillips B. Street of Berwyn and Pocono Mountains Preserve passed away at age 85 on August 5, 2000. He died of cancer at his beloved Pocono vacation home.

Phil was born in Beverly, N.J., in 1914, in the same house in which his father, J. Fletcher Street, was born. Phil's association with birds came early, as his father, a DVOC member who joined the club eleven years before Phil was born and who was president from 1919 to 1921, took young Phil to meetings and on field trips.

Phil attended Moorestown Friends School and then went on to Cornell University, where he majored in ornithology under the legendary Dr. Arthur A. Allen. Classmates included Olin Sewell Pettingill and George Miksch Sutton.

A bit apprehensive about his ability to make a financial go of it in ornithology, Phil also took a number of business courses. He eventually joined the investment banking firm of First Boston Corporation in its Philadelphia office, retiring as a vice president at age 65. Finding that he couldn't stand the inactivity, Phil quickly unretired and became an investment counselor. After fifteen years in this profession, he retired again, this time for good.

For reasons unknown, Phil did not actually join DVOC until 1945, the year after his father died. On the night of his election, he gave a talk to the club on "The Birds of Trinidad." He had been stationed in that area as a Navy Supply Corps officer during World War II. He had earlier put in a tour of duty in Samoa.

President of DVOC in 1954–1955 and an honorary member, Phil was active in club affairs, frequently serving on Council. He often urged members to join and support the national ornithological organizations. He was president of the Wilson Ornithological Society from 1962 to 1964, an elective member of the American Ornithologists' Union, and editor of *The Auklet*, which was published for the AOU's annual meeting in 1957

in Cape May and 1976 in Haverford. He also published numerous articles in *The Auk*, the *Wilson Bulletin*, and *Cassinia*. Phil was a board member of the National Audubon Society and Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology. He served as an investing trustee for both AOU and the Wilson society.

Phil also headed the Pennsylvania Hawk Committee, which, in 1957, secured the passage of a law protecting migrating hawks along the ridges of the northeastern part of the state.

For a number of years, Phil led a January weekend trip to the Poconos, with winter finches the usual highlight. The Poconos were dear to Phil's heart, and he spent a considerable amount of time collecting records of bird sightings, both published and unpublished. He meshed these with his own and his "Birds of the Pocono Mountains, Pennsylvania" appeared in the 1954 *Cassinia*; DVOC later reprinted it as a 76-page book. Several updates of this work have appeared in *Cassinia*.

Phil organized several major DVOC trips — to Argentina, Australia, India, and Nepal. He was on other major birding trips as well, including one to Antarctica. For four years in the mid-1970s, about a dozen DVOC members took annual birding trips aboard a private DC-3. Destinations included Churchill, Alaska (including St. Lawrence Island), Texas, and Tikal in Guatemala. Phil participated in all these outings, and each was full of adventure.

Phil was one of the very few club members who successfully tracked down the rare, and most likely extinct, Bachman's Warbler.

He is survived by his wife, Berrell; a son, H. Fletcher; two daughters, Margaret Mitchell Wheeler and Berrell Mallery; three grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.  
— James K. Meritt