

PROGRAMS (September-November)

- SEPT. 1 INFORMAL MEETING
- SEPT. 15 INFORMAL MEETING
- OCT. 6 SHOREBIRDS - Dr. Ernest Choate
- OCT. 20 ANNUAL BANQUET - (See below)  
Speaker - Dr. George F. Gee, U.S. Dept. of the  
Interior - Topic - "A Glimpse at the Endangered  
Species Research Program"
- NOV. 3 JULIAN K. POTTER - Symposium by Stephen Harty
- NOV. 17 WINTERING BIRDS IN THE SOUTHWEST - Elmer Rowley

All meetings will be at 8:00 at the Academy of Natural Sciences  
except for the Annual Banquet which begins at 6:00 PM.

ANNUAL BANQUET

Thursday, October 20, 1977

At the Academy of Natural Sciences

- 6:00 PM Refreshment Hour for all tastes
- 7:00 PM Dinner
- 8:30 PM Featured speaker: Dr. George F. Gee, Dept. of  
the Interior, Patuxent Wildlife Research  
Center.

"A Glimpse at the Endangered Species  
Research Program"

Price: \$12.00 per person

Please remit your check (payable to DVOC) by October 12 to:

Ronald Logan  
4639 Edgemont Street  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19137

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## January 30 (Shark River)

With the temperatures warming only to the low teens, the annual deep winter field trip to Shark River and adjacent New Jersey coastal areas was particularly challenging to this year's twelve participants. The trip's success was immediately ensured, however, by the continuing winter presence of Barrow's Goldeneye directly across from our meeting point at Shark River. Eighteen species of ducks were observed without any eider and only one scoter (Black) and merganser (Red-breasted). The deep freeze made for such unusual sights as Shovelers and Baldpates in the ocean and Wood Ducks mixed in with a raft of Canvasbacks. The great numbers of Redheads had to be the highlight of the day although the massed flocks of scaup and Canvasback also linger in the mind. A lone Iceland Gull further rewarded the efforts of trip leader Rick Mellon.

## February 19-21 (New England)

There is no simple way to give an accurate impression of the character of the DVOC's winter northern trip. Some three dozen members and friends in about ten vehicles may never have been all together in one location but did manage to cross paths at the various hot spots. It's a difficult trip for a newcomer, as each car goes off in its own direction with only occasional exchanges of information.

The general route and findings included:

Salisbury Beach: Razorbill, Red-necked Grebe, Common Eider, Black-headed Gull, Lapland Longspur.

Newburyport: Ivory Gull, Barrow's Goldeneye, Snowy Owl.

Parker River Refuge (Plum Island): Gyrfalcon, Northern Shrike, Snow Bunting, Iceland Gull (commonest here though seen everywhere).

Gloucester: Thick-billed Murre, Glaucous Gull.

Cape Ann: Thick-billed Murre, Black Guillemot.

The alcids are always such a treat that no one complained about Sunday's blizzard or the many hours of staring over water. There was, however, plenty of grumbling about the difficult walk through the snow at Plum Island without seeing a bird until a few of us got a fleeting glimpse of the Gyrfalcon.

What rarities! What a trip!

## March 5 (Pelagic trip out of Barnegat Light)

Although the sleeping conditions were a bit crowded and although there were more of us than usual hanging over the rail for non-birding reasons, once again Alan (get-your-tickets-while-they-last) Brady's "guaranteed sensational" pelagic trip was an unmitigated success. There were always some birds in view and at

one spot several thousand around our boat. The list speaks for itself: Skua (5), Kittiwake (7), Gannet (500), Manx Shearwater (1), Puffin (1), Razorbill (5), Glaucous Gull (3), Iceland Gull (6), Herring Gull (15,000).

### March 6 (West Jersey)

Will Middleton suffered through two of the basic frustrations of any trip leader: few members (8) showed up for this usually popular trip (many were recovering from an 18-hour sea trip the previous day), and the great numbers of birds he had staked out the day before employed the option always open to migrating waterfowl - they flew away. There was still a fine variety of birds even if they were not present in great flocks. Whistling Swans in migration are always the highlight of this trip, and Long-eared Owls (5), Saw-whet, and Great Horned Owls have come to be expected.

### May 8 (DVOC Spring Round-up)

Twenty-nine individuals in six groups seems to indicate a lagging of interest in what should be our biggest day of the year. Moreover, not all 29 participants were DVOC members! The composite total was 122 species (including the Blue Goose) with the Rigby, Miller, Richards et al. group leading the way with 175 kinds. Where is the spirit of competition? I know I have often belittled the sport of "birding-by-the-numbers," but the May Run is a tradition that should get everyone out into the field. Should we offer a prize (to the top group? to everyone with over 100 species?); should we set rules (is this year's top group of twelve too large?); should the editor impale himself on his telescope tripod and learn to mind his own business?

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### WITMER STONE AWARD

As specified in the By-Laws, the Witmer Stone Award may be granted annually by the council for an outstanding research publication by a non-professional. If you have published a paper you would like considered or know of one published by another DVOC member, please submit details to Dr. Frank Gill, Chairman of the Witmer Stone Award Committee, at the Academy of Natural Sciences by November 1.

### DVOC NEWSLETTER

We plan to have three Newsletters a year, reaching the membership at least by late August, late November, and late February. The deadlines for each respectively will be the first day of August, November, and February.

John T. LaVia, Editor, DVOC Newsletter  
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