

Philadelphia Larus

Vol. 30 No. 2

Autumn 2003

Important Messages from The President:

Dear DVOC Members,

You may remember, prior to this summer's deluge, that we were planning on altering the method by which new members can join the Club. This was to make the Club more friendly, accessible and up-to-date. In doing so, we require to change the Club's By-laws for membership. The Council also took the opportunity to update both the Constitution and the rest of the By-laws; these are enclosed showing the old and new versions. You, the membership, are respectfully asked to read these changes and signal your acceptance by voting for them at our meeting on Thursday, October 2, 2003. I realize that this is not the foremost item in everyone's thoughts in a bird club, but it is a necessary part of how we operate and such changes are made only infrequently when they do not reflect our modus operandi or we need to change certain actions. Chairman of our By-laws subcommittee, Chris Walters, is to be thanked for drafting the new version and will happily answer any of your questions concerning this (won't you, Chris?).

The tragic loss of past president and longtime loyal Club member Sandy Sherman earlier this summer deprived the whole birding community of the region of a hardworking and devoted birder. Sandy was also the editor of the Club's journal, *Cassinia*. Although I do not have Sandy's editorial background, I have taken over the responsibility of producing the next edition (Vol. 69, 2000 – 2001) in conjunction with Pat and Clay Sutton, and Steve Kerr as photographic editor. I hope to produce this volume before the end of the year. This will be the centennial edition as it was in 1901 that the first volume was published. There may be still time for submission of articles, particularly in the 'General notes' section, which pertain to hitherto unreported sightings of interest in the period 2000-1. I shall also gladly accept articles for the next volume (#70), covering the years 2002 – 2003, until a replacement for Sandy is appointed.

Finally, let me urge you once again to join in with the Club's activities. To achieve our target of being the premier birding club of the region, we need the active participation of every Club member. Come to meetings and bring a friend, recruit a new member, actively support our conservation fund by contributing to our record-winning World Series Team, attend our varied field trips and offer to lead a trip to your local patch – it does not have to be at weekends, we have many retired members who would enjoy midweek local trips. Write a piece for *Larus* or *Cassinia*, do a 5 minute ornithological moment for a Club indoor meeting on a topic you know will create interest; run it past a Council member first if you like. Tune into, and contribute to, our ever-improving website at dvoc.org.

I look forward to welcoming you at our first informal formal meeting on Thursday 18 September at the Academy of Natural Sciences.

Colin

Inside:

Annual Banquet Registration Form - Thursday, November 6, 2003 - Kenn Kaufman, Speaker
Proposed Constitution and Bylaws Changes to be voted on at the October 2 DVOC meeting.

Field Trip Announcements

Program Schedules

The next *Larus* will be the Christmas Count Issue. I will be contacting compilers!

Meetings / Programs

DVOC Meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the first and third Thursdays of the month, from the third Thursday in September through the first Thursday in June, at the Academy of Natural Sciences, 19th and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia. During the summer months, informal meetings are held once a month on the first Thursday evening. Guests are always welcome.

Sept. 18 – JEFF GORDON “The Bird Song Grammys,” is a survey of some of the best (and worst) vocal efforts by North American birds, and a look at some of the evolutionary history and ecological function of bird songs and calls.

This program is designed not so much to teach how to identify specific bird sounds, but more to impart a broader and deeper appreciation of the vital role played by sound in the lives of birds.

Oct 2 - FRANK WINDFELDER: “Ornithological Studies: Separating the Dowitchers”

DVOC member, field trip leader, raconteur and generally good egg, Frank will use the power of high technology to present his meticulously researched program on separating Long-billed from Short-billed Dowitcher in all plumages as well as explore the various races of Short-billed Dowitcher. The presenter personally guarantees that no one will even think of falling asleep, since the presentation will be interspersed with some serious humor.

Oct 16 - ADRIAN BINNS: “What’s in a Name? The Origins of Bird Names”

From Avocet to Yellowlegs, from accipiter to zenaidawho deemed these words to be the correct bird names? What do they mean? Where did these words come from and why were they chosen? Are they always a perfect fit? Are they politically correct? We will also take a look at the whimsical, strange and occasional fantasy connection behind the origins of some bird names.

Nov 6 - ANNUAL BANQUET – KENN KAUFMAN: “Birds and the Undiscovered World”

Though the current information explosion might lead us to believe there is little left to discover, the ever-changing world of birds provides ample evidence to the contrary. Naturalist, author, birder and conservationist Kenn Kaufman has pursued birds in remote regions, but he contends that the natural unknown that they inhabit begins right outside our doors.

Programs cont’d on page 10

Fall Field Trips

September 12 (fri) – “CONFUSING FALL BIRDERS” at HIGBEE BEACH WMA, NJ - spend a morning birding the fields and forest edges looking for songbird migrants. We will sort through the fall plumages of the (hopefully) numerous migrants at this Fall hotspot. With luck we will get to see a big fallout of birds, but there should be plenty to see regardless this time of year. Emphasis will be on sorting out “confusing fall warblers”. The warblers are not confused, we are. They know who they are, but we are the ones confused (sometimes anyway). Meet at the main lot at Higbee Beach WMA (the one at the end of the road) Cape May Point NJ at 7:30 AM
Leader: Mike Fritz kngfshr@sprynet.com

September 13 (sat) – JOHNSON’S SOD FARM in Cumberland County, NJ – for an assortment of shorebirds including plovers. Can we find a Pacific amongst the Golden? Meet at 7:30 AM
Leader: Adrian Binns wildlifegd@aol.com

Sept. 19 (fri) – HAWK MOUNTAIN, PA to catch the Broad-wing migration. Meet at the visitors’ center at 8:30 AM. Bring a packed lunch.
Leader: Adrian Binns wildlifegd@aol.com

More Field Trips on Page 10

Please submit announcements, pieces to be considered for publication, schedules and other information for *Philadelphia Larus* to:
Jane Henderson
202 Penn Oak Road
Flourtown, PA 19031
215-836-1965 (phone + fax)
janeh008@aol.com

DVOC Website Address:
www.dvoc.org

Deadline for Christmas Count *Larus*: November 1, 2003

By vote of Council, members are being asked to update the Club's By-Laws, especially streamlining and easing the current new member application and approval procedures. A VOTE ON THESE CHANGES IS PLANNED FOR THE OCTOBER 2, 2003 CLUB MEETING. A two-thirds vote of a meeting of at least 35 members is needed to pass such By-law changes. All of the changes proposed by Council are set forth below, together with a special explanation about the proposed change in membership procedures. The other principal changes set forth in full text below would (1) allow lower dues for students and those under 25; (2) set forth the tasks of the Club's standing committees (Article III); (3) remove the outmoded category of "Corresponding Members"; and (4) formalize that we meet the third week of September.

DELAWARE VALLEY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
(As revised and amended)

PROPOSED CHANGE

Comment by Council concerning the change in Article IV, Section 2

By vote of Council March 26, 2003, members are being asked to change the Club's by-laws to streamline new membership procedures. Current by-laws require (a) two members to recommend to Council in writing any proposed candidate for membership, followed by (b) an affirmative vote of two-thirds of a Council quorum, followed by (c) readings of the proposal letter to members at two regular club meetings, followed by (d) an affirmative vote of two-thirds of members attending a club meeting having a quorum present.

The proposed new by-law would, if accepted by a vote of the Club members at the first meeting in October, 2003, streamline this procedure in two ways: first, by allowing the new candidate to submit a membership application himself (herself) without prior endorsement of two existing members and second, by giving Council (rather than the membership at large) the power to accept candidates whose interest and experience appear suitable for membership. Any proposal for membership would still be announced in advance at a regular Club meeting. This is intended to allow any members with information about the candidate to communicate that information to Council, before Council votes to accept the new member.

An affirmative two-thirds vote of members at the first Club meeting in October 2003 will be needed to pass this by-law change.

Proposed New Article IV, Section 2

Applications by candidates for membership shall be in writing and may be made either by the candidate or by a club member. Applications shall state the candidate's full name and mailing address. The application shall contain a short summary of the applicant's birding experience and reasons for wanting to join the club. The name of a candidate for membership shall be announced at least one meeting prior to election. The affirmative votes of at least two-thirds of Council shall be necessary for the election of a new member. After Council approval, the new member's name will be announced to the club at an upcoming meeting, preferably when the new member is in attendance and can be welcomed to membership.

Current Article IV, Section 2

Nominations to Active Membership shall be made in writing by two Fellows or Active Members in good standing and shall state the qualifications and mailing address of their candidates, the genuineness of their interest in ornithology and the probability of active participation in the Club. The name of a candidate for membership shall be announced at least one meeting prior to Election. The affirmative votes of at least two-thirds of Council, as well as of the Fellows, Honorary Members and Active Members in good standing present at the balloting, shall be necessary for the election of an Active Member.

Please note: Words to be changed and/or omitted are in italics with strikethru.

Proposed changes are in bold type, in "Ariel" font.

DELAWARE VALLEY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
(As revised and amended)

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

The name of this Association is the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club.

ARTICLE II

The purpose of this Club is the advancement and diffusion of ornithological knowledge.

ARTICLE III

The members of this Club shall be persons who are interested in ornithology considered in its widest sense. There may be ~~four~~ **three** classes of members: Fellows, Active Members, ~~Corresponding Members~~ and Honorary Members.

ARTICLE IV

The officers of this Club shall be a President, a Vice ~~president~~ **President**, a Secretary and a Treasurer, all elected at the annual meeting, and an Editor, appointed by the Council. The five officers, the last preceding President and six additional Fellows or Active Members elected at large shall constitute the Council of the Club. The Council shall be the governing body of the Club

ARTICLE V

Amendments of this Constitution shall require the affirmative votes of at least two-thirds of the Fellows, Honorary Members and Active Members in good standing present at a regular stated meeting attended by a quorum. Such amendments shall not be valid unless they shall have been submitted at a preceding regular stated meeting attended by a quorum, and unless notice of the proposed amendments and of the meeting at which they are to be acted upon shall have been mailed to all Fellows, Honorary Members, and Active Members in good standing.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I. MEMBERS

Sec. 1. ~~Only~~**All** Honorary Members, Fellows and Active Members in good standing shall be eligible to hold office, to be Councillors, and to vote. Fellows shall be chosen, in the manner provided in Article IV, Section 3, from among the Active Members of at least one year's standing as a recognition of the high quality of their ornithological work.

Sec. 2. ~~Persons capable of furnishing desirable ornithological information to the Club, but unable, on account of place of residence, to attend meetings regularly, may be elected Corresponding Members. They shall have no voting privileges of membership. They may, upon request and the payment of any fees due, be transferred from the Corresponding class to the Active class. Fellows and Active members removing to a distance may, upon written request and approval of Council, be transferred to the Corresponding class.~~Sec. 3. Ornithologists who have attained special prominence in their ornithological work may be chosen at the annual meeting to be Honorary Members of the Club.

Sec. 4.**3.** All Members in good standing shall be entitled to attend club meetings, to attend field trips and other activities of the Club, and upon payment of such fees, ~~if any~~; as may be required by Council, to receive Cassinia and other club publications.

ARTICLE II. OFFICERS AND COUNCIL

Sec. 1. The President shall preside at the meetings of the Club and of the Council. The President shall appoint all Committees and the persons to chair such Committees.

Sec. 2. The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President in the president's absence and shall arrange the ornithological programs of the Club.

Sec. 3. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Club and of such deliberations of Council as Council may direct; shall notify members-elect of their election; shall acknowledge gifts and communications to the Club; shall duly notify all Fellows and Active Members in good standing of proposed amendments to the Constitution and these By-Laws; and shall submit an abstract of the Club's proceedings for Cassinia at an appropriate pre-publication date.

Sec. 4. The Treasurer shall collect all dues from members and shall have charge of all moneys belonging to the Club, save for the Endowment Fund assets held as set forth in Article VIII. No disbursements **over the sum of \$500.00 (or such other sum as may be fixed by Council from time to time)** shall be made by the Treasurer unless approved by the Council. At the annual meeting of the Club, the Treasurer shall present a report for audit. The Treasurer shall be bonded.

Sec. 5. The Editor, with the cooperation of the Publication Committee, shall edit and superintend the publication of such ornithological matter as Council may authorize. The Editor ~~shall also~~, with the-cooperation of the ~~Committee on~~ Publication **Committee** and the Treasurer, **shall also** distribute Club publications to members, subscribers and exchanges entitled to receive them. The Editor shall be appointed by Council to serve at its pleasure.

Sec. 6. The Council shall consist of the elected officers and members-at-large of Council, the Editor (who may, but need not, be chosen from the members-at-large of Council) and the last preceding President for one year following the end of service as president. The Council shall transact all business of the Club, except the elections of members and officers.

ARTICLE III. COMMITTEES

Sec. 1. There shall be a standing Committee on Communications which shall assist the Vice President in selecting subjects and speakers for presentation at regular meetings, and shall be responsible for distributing notices of meetings to Fellows and Active Members in good standing. This Committee shall consist, at minimum, of the Club's President, Secretary, Webmaster, and E-mail Coordinator.

Sec. 2. There shall be a standing Committee on Field Trips which shall select localities for visit, arrange trips, and notify members of such selections and arrangements. It shall provide for transportation and other things so far as may be necessary, but it shall incur no indebtedness without the approval of the Council.

Sec. 3. There shall be a standing Committee on Publication which shall cooperate with the Editor in the preparation and publication of such matter as may be authorized by the Council, such as Cassinia, the club newsletter, and any other publications.

Sec. 4. There shall be a Nominating Committee which shall perform the duties hereinafter prescribed.

Sec. 5. There shall be a standing Committee on Conservation.

Sec. 6. There shall be a standing Committee on Ornithological Studies.

Sec. 7. There shall be a standing Committee on Membership with the aim of encouraging to join the Club those non-members who desire to further their ornithological knowledge.

Sec. 8. The President shall decide upon the number of members to constitute each committee and shall appoint such additional committees as may from time to time be required.

ARTICLE IV. ELECTIONS AND EXPULSIONS

Sec. 1. All elections of officers and councillors shall be by written ballot unless waived by two-thirds of the Fellows and Active Members in good standing present at the balloting. ~~Balloting~~ **When more than one candidate for a position is nominated, balloting** shall be conducted separately in the following order: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Councillors. A person may be nominated for more than one office but may not be elected to more than one office. Officers shall be elected for one-year terms and Councillors shall be elected for three-year terms. The President may serve not more than two consecutive terms in that office. Other officers may serve any number of terms in their office.

~~Sec. 2. Nominations to Active Membership~~ **Sec. 2. Applications by candidates for membership** shall be ~~made in writing by two Fellows or Active Members in good standing and in writing and may be made either by the candidate or by a club member.~~ **Applications** shall state the ~~qualifications and mailing address of their candidates, the genuineness of their interest in ornithology and the probability of active participation in the Club.~~ **candidate's full name and mailing address. The application shall contain a short summary of the applicant's birding experience and reasons for wanting to join the club.** The name of a candidate for membership shall be announced at least one meeting prior to ~~Election.~~ **election.** The affirmative votes of at least two-thirds of Council, ~~as well as of the Fellows, Honorary Members and Active Members in good standing present at the balloting,~~ shall be necessary for the election of ~~an Active Member~~ **a new member. After Council approval, the new member's name will be announced to the club at an upcoming meeting, preferably when the new member is in attendance and can be welcomed to membership.**

Sec. 3. Nominations for Fellows, ~~Corresponding Members~~ and Honorary Members shall be made by the concurrence of at least two-thirds of the members of Council present at a Council meeting attended by a quorum and shall be announced at the first December meeting. The election of Fellows, ~~Corresponding Members~~ and Honorary Members shall take place at the annual meeting. The affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the Fellows, Honorary Members and

Annual DVOC Banquet

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Cocktails 6:00 PM (cash bar)

Dinner 7:00 P.M.

Williamson's Restaurant

atop the GSB Building

City Line and Belmont Avenues, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004 (215) 839-7946

Ample Parking in lot adjacent to GSB Building

Speaker: Kenn Kaufman

Birds and the Undiscovered World

Though the current information explosion might lead us to believe there is little left to discover, the ever-changing world of birds provides ample evidence to the contrary. Naturalist, author, birder and conservationist Kenn Kaufman has pursued birds in remote regions, but he contends that the natural unknown that they inhabit begins right outside our doors. Learn about the power of personal observation that connect people with mystery and adventure and help them comprehend the importance of preserving the natural world.

Author of Birds of North America, Kingbird Highway, The Peterson Guide to Advanced Birding, Lives of North American Birds and Butterflies of North America, Kaufman is a field editor to Audubon magazine and regular contributor to every major birding magazine.

Banquet Reservation Form

Thursday, November 6, 2003 at

Williamson's Restaurant

atop the GSB Building

City Line and Belmont Avenues, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004 (215) 839-7946

Guests Welcome

6:00 PM Cocktails (cash bar) 7:00 PM Dinner

I (we) wish to order:

_____ Beef Prime Rib @ \$31 \$ _____

_____ Grilled Chicken w/ white wine sauce @ \$25 \$ _____

_____ Pasta Primavera (vegetarian) @ \$23 \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Dinner includes: soup, salad, fresh rolls, dessert and coffee.

Name(s) _____ Street Address _____

Town, State and Zip _____ Phone () _____

Please send your check, made out to DVOC, by October 31, 2003 (NO LATER) to:

Joseph K. Koplin and Bernice J. Koplin,

Active Members in good standing present at the balloting shall be necessary for election.

Sec. 4. Elections of officers and members-at-large of Council shall take place at the Annual Meeting of the Club. The Nominating Committee shall collect any nominations made for officers and councillors to be elected. The nominations shall be made orally from the floor and shall be confirmed in writing. Nominations may be made at the first and second regular meetings in December. Unless at least five Fellows, Honorary Members, or Active Members in good standing join in a nomination, the nomination shall not be valid. The Nominating Committee shall make its nominations for the officers and Councillors-at-large at the first regular December meeting. The Nominating Committee shall contact the nominees to obtain their acceptance and prepare the ballot to be presented at the Annual Meeting. The affirmative vote of a majority of the Fellows, Honorary Members and Active Members in good standing present shall be necessary for election. If no candidate obtains a majority on the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken in which only the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes on the first ballot shall be eligible to participate.

Sec. 5. The terms of Councillors shall be such that the terms of two Councillors expire at each Annual Meeting.

Sec. 6. If a vacancy takes place in an elected position the president shall appoint a Fellow or Active Member to fill the unexpired term.

Sec. 7. Members may be expelled from the Club on satisfactory evidence that they are improper persons to be connected therewith. Such member shall have the privilege of a hearing and representation before action is taken. Such expulsion to be valid shall require a vote in favor of expulsion of at least two-thirds of the Fellows and Active Members in good standing present at a regular stated meeting attended by a quorum. Not less than one month's notice of the proposed action shall be given to all Fellows and Active Members in good standing and to the member accused.

ARTICLE V.

FEES AND ASSESSMENTS

Sec. 1. The annual membership ~~fee~~ **dues** for Fellows and Active Members shall be determined by Council. The ~~fee~~ **dues** shall be due and payable at the Annual Meeting, except ~~in the case of that, when~~ a new Active Member ~~elected in March or May, who shall pay the first annual membership fee at the time of his entrance into Active Membership. Active Members elected in December shall not be liable for the annual membership fee for the calendar year in which they are elected~~ **joins in September, October, November or December of a year, such Active Member will be deemed to have paid Club dues through December of the following year.** No member shall be liable for any annual membership ~~fee~~ **due** ~~dues~~ for any calendar year during which the member is in active military service for the United States of America.

Sec. 2. ~~Corresponding and~~ Honorary Members shall not be subject to dues of any kind.

Sec. 3. The names of Fellows and Active Members eleven (11) months in arrears for dues shall be dropped from membership provided that they have been twice notified in writing of their indebtedness by the Treasurer and their attention has been called to this By-Law.

Sec. 4. Any member may become a Life Member, with full membership privileges, exempt from further dues, by making a payment into the D.V.O.C. Endowment Fund of a sum to be determined from time to time by Council.

Sec. 5. Members under the age of 25, and those pursuing a full-time course of college or graduate study, shall be entitled to discounted dues in an amount to be determined by Council.

ARTICLE VI.

MEETINGS

Sec. 1. The regular meetings of the club shall be held on the first and third Thursdays in each month from October to May, inclusive, **on the third Thursday in September**, and on the first Thursday in June, ~~at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, or at such other places or times selected by Council~~, except when January 1 falls on a Thursday the regular stated meetings in that month shall be on the second and fourth Thursdays, ~~and except when, at~~

~~the discretion of Council, the last meeting in May shall be held on the fourth Thursday of that month.~~ The Annual Meeting of the Club shall be the first meeting of January. **Meetings shall be held at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, or at such other places or times selected by Council.**

Sec. 2. Council shall meet **on a regular basis as determined by the President, whether** immediately preceding the regular stated meetings of the Club ~~from October through May, or otherwise.~~ Six members of Council shall constitute a quorum. All matters shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting attended by a quorum except those matters which by other parts of these By-Laws require a larger vote.

Sec. 3. Special meetings of the Club or Council may be called by the President with the approval of three Fellows or Active Members in good standing.

Sec. 4. Thirty-five ~~Fellows and Active~~ Members in good standing or one-half of the total number of ~~Fellows and Active~~ Members in good standing, whichever is less, shall constitute a quorum for a meeting of the Club.

Sec. 5. The order of business at the regular stated meetings shall be as follows:

Minutes of last meeting
Reports of Council
~~Nomination of Officers~~
Introduction of Guests
Announcement of New Members Election
Reports of Committees
Announcements
Other Communications
General Field Notes ~~(30 minutes)~~
Ornithological Program
Adjournment

In Memoriam

Sandra L. Sherman
1948 - 2003

DVOC President 1996 - 1997

Cassinia Editor 1998 - 2003

Contributions in Sandy's memory
may be sent to:

Cape May Bird Observatory,
600 Route 47 North,
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

ARTICLE VII. WITMER STONE AWARD

An award, to be known as the Witmer Stone Award for Ornithological Research, may be awarded annually at the discretion of the Council to that member of the Club who submits the best paper, not published prior to the last award of the Witmer Stone Award, which embodies the results of ornithological research not undertaken in the course of professional duties. Papers shall be submitted to the Secretary not later than the first meeting in November. The presentation of the Award shall be made at the annual banquet generally held on the third Thursday of November. An author shall have the right to resubmit for reconsideration in any later year a paper not receiving the award. **The President may appoint a committee to consider and recommend one or more candidates for selection by Council.**

ARTICLE VIII. ENDOWMENT FUND

Sec. 1. The proper care of a D.V.O.C. Endowment Fund shall be provided for by a Board of Trustees. This Board shall consist of three members appointed by the President; one member for one year, one member for two years, and one member for three years. At the expiration of each respective term, a member shall be appointed for three years. Any vacancy on the board occurring by death, resignation, or otherwise shall be filled by appointment by the President for the unexpired term. The annual income from the Endowment Fund shall be deposited with the Treasurer for current Club expense.

Sec. 2. Any Trustees having signatory power over any bank account containing Endowment Fund monies shall be bonded.

ARTICLE IX. JULIAN K. POTTER AWARD

The Julian K. Potter Award may be presented annually to that member of the Club who has made an outstanding contribution to field ornithology. *The award will be generally in the form of a suitable book, inscribed as follows: "The Julian K. Potter Award for outstanding contribution to field ornithology for the year awarded to". The Award will be underwritten by the interest earned from the special fund created by Mrs. Julian K. Potter in her husband's memory and deposited with the Treasurer of the Club.* The presentation of the Award shall be made at the annual banquet generally held on the third Thursday of November. The President may appoint a committee to consider and recommend one or more candidates for selection by Council.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these By-Laws shall require the affirmative votes of at least two-thirds of the Fellows, Honorary Members and Active Members in good standing present at a regular stated meeting attended by a quorum. Such amendments shall not be valid unless they shall have been submitted at a preceding regular stated meeting attended by a quorum, and unless notice of the proposed amendments and of the meeting at which they are to be acted upon shall have been mailed to all Fellows, Honorary Members and Active Members in good standing.

ARTICLE XI. DISSOLUTION

In the event of the Club's dissolution, its assets and endowment shall be donated by Council to a nonprofit organization or organizations whose stated purposes are the advancement or appreciation of the natural sciences.

Learn about the power of personal observation that connect people with mystery and adventure and help them comprehend the importance of preserving the natural world.

Author of Birds of North America, Kingbird Highway, The Peterson Guide to Advanced Birding, Lives of North American Birds and Butterflies of North America, Kaufman is a field editor to Audubon magazine and regular contributor to every major birding magazine.

Nov 20 – RICK MELLON: “Sinks, Sources and Survival: Geographic Impacts on Avian Habitats”

Two structurally identical habitats can have very different bird populations just because the size and shape of the habitats are different. This program examines the importance of habitat size and shape in habitat preservation, conservation and restoration. It provides theoretical and practical examples of biogeographic/avian interactions and other stuff that is fascinating, but not as complex as it sounds.

Dec 4 – MARK GARLAND: “Searching for Birds and the Meaning of Life in the Western U.S.”

Tag along (vicariously) on this search for birds and other wildlife across the western United States. Stops will be made in Colorado, Yellowstone, Washington State and Alaska. Mark Garland is Senior Naturalist for New Jersey Audubon’s Cape May Bird Observatory. He worked out west for the National Park Service between 1980 and 1984 and had returned often.

Dec 18 – MEMBERS’ PHOTOGRAPHY NIGHT

Please bring along your slides, videos, digitized images, etc. for an evening of fun and entertainment. Enter your slides in the following categories: Birds, Birders, Landscapes and Fauna and Flora. Prizes for best photo in category, and overall grand prize.

PLEASE NOTE: Because New Years Day falls on a Thursday, the January meeting will be held on January 8.

A plea from our Archivist, Lynn Jackson:

The Club has no copies of Cassinia (vol. 54) from 1973 for its archives. Would a member consider making a donation of their copy to us. Contact Lynn at jacklyn001@aol.com

September 20 (sat) - FALL BIRDING at the BAILEY TRACT, PALMYRA, NJ. Focusing on migrating warblers anything is possible including numerous Connecticut. Up to 20 species of warblers have been seen in past trips at this wonderful birding location. Meet at 7:00 AM at car park. Leader: Ward Dasey w.daseyiii@worldnet.att.net

Sept. 24 (wed) – CAPE MAY, NJ for raptors. Meet at the Cape May State Park hawk watch platform at 9 AM. Leader: Adrian Binns wildlifegd@aol.com

Sept. 28 (sun) CARPENTER’S WOODS, PA. Carpenter’s Woods is one of the best and most easily accessible locations in Philadelphia for observing migrating land birds. It is most often birded during the spring, but the birding is just as rewarding there during the autumn. Located in the Mount Airy section of northwest Philadelphia, this 20 acre woodland along the edge of the Wissahickon valley is an excellent place to find Philadelphia Vireos, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Golden-winged and Connecticut warblers, Gray-cheeked Thrushes, and other unusual land bird migrants, as well as the more common species. Carpenter’s Woods is easily accessible by public transportation. Meet at the parking lot where Wayne Avenue dead ends at Sedgwick Street. Time 8:00-10:30 AM. Leader: Keith Russell keith.russell6@verizon.net

October 11 (sat) - TUCKERTON MARSHES, NJ for Sharp-tailed Sparrows, with great comparison of all races of Nelson’s as well as Salt Marsh Sharp-tails. A walk along 7 bridges road, is likely to add another a dozen sparrow species. Meet at the end of 7 Bridges Road at 7:30 sharp! Leader: Frank Windfelder fwindfelder@yahoo.com

November 1 or 2 (sat or sun) - BAKE OVEN KNOB, PA for raptors and possible Golden Eagle and Goshawk. A decision on which day should have the best conditions will be made the week prior. Meet at car park. Leaders: Frank Windfelder fwindfelder@yahoo.com, Bill Murphy ndmurphy@voicenet.com and Chris Walters CWalters@ReedSmith.com

November 7 (fri) – HEINZ NWR (TINICUM), PA with KENKAUFMAN

Meet at visitors center at 8 AM. Details to follow. Leader: Doris McGovern mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu

More Field Trips on Page 11

Field Trip to Pedricktown & Southwestern New Jersey

Saturday, April 5, 2003

by Frank Windfelder

I have to remind myself not to take our local weather forecasters too seriously. According to them, the day of the trip should have been something approaching a hurricane. Actually, there was no wind, little rain, and temperatures in the low fifties.

The tides were not really right for Ruff at Pedricktown, so we didn't stay there long. We did see Lesser & Greater Yellowlegs, Killdeer, Pectoral and Least Sandpipers, Wilson's Snipe, Eastern Phoebe, Pied-billed Grebe, and our first Bald Eagle of the day.

At Featherbed lane, we found a flock of Snow Geese. To our amazement, practically the first bird we looked at was a Ross's Goose. A few minutes later, we found a second in the same flock. Colin Campbell, Paul Driver and the rest of us had "crippling views" of the geese.

Other participants were Chris Walters, Sandra Sherman, Chuck Hetzel, and Dennis Brennan. Dennis had brought Hank Hox along, whom I had never met. When he gave me his name, I asked him to spell it, and he answered "HANK". He will fit in well with DVOC.

We then made our annual "Pit Stop" at Richman's Ice Cream.

We moved on to Mannington Marsh, where we found a variety of waterfowl, including the first Blue-winged Teal of the year for many people. There were more eagles, Dunlin, Rusty Blackbird, and a surprise inland Bonaparte's Gull. We looked unsuccessfully for a Eurasian Teal in the large flock of Green-wingeds.

At Money Island Road, we saw a Great Horned Owl with young on nest. We searched flocks of Glossy Ibis for the White-faced Ibis that had been reported previously.

At first we were happy when we found a male Ring-necked Pheasant near a house. However, when the owner came out, she said the bird's name was "PETER". Using a sharp pencil, I added the bird to my list anyway.

We also searched everywhere for a Ruff, but it was not to be on this day. Nonetheless, we tallied 88 species of birds, the two Ross's Geese, & a total of five Bald Eagles. It's just a great time of year to look for spring arrivals. We had a great time.

More Field Trips

November 8 (sat) – SAWWHET OWL BANDING at HIDDEN VALLEY, PA. Join Scott Weidensaul at his banding station along the Kittitany Ridge on Second Mountain in Schuylkill County during the peak of Saw-whet migration. Meet at the banding station at 6:30M. Dress warmly. Expect to be out till 11PM. Limited to 15 participants.

Leader: Adrian Binns wildlifegd@aol.com

December 5 – 8 (fri-mon) – NIAGARA FALLS & ONTARIO, CANADA. Visit the Niagara River at the peak time for gulls. 10 plus species are likely, including California, Little and Thayer's and Bonaparte's by the thousands. Also 20 plus possible species of ducks including big numbers of Long-tailed Ducks and Scaup. One day will be spent birding areas away from the river in Southern Ontario. Group size limited to 12. Car pool. Leaders: Bert Filemyr afilemyr@comcast.net and Martin Selzer mzelzer@prdus.jnj.com

December 6 (sat) – BRIGANTINE to BARNEGAT LIGHT - WINTER WATERFOWL TRIP.

Meet at Forsythe NWR (Brig) headquarters at 8:00 AM for a full day, joint trip with BCDC, DOS and DVOC. Car pools encouraged. Expect big waterfowl numbers, and, with luck, raptors. Trip begins at Brig, lunch at "Super WAWA in Galloway", birding up the coast, mid-afternoon at Barnegat Light, followed by Manahawkin WMA. Group dinner to follow at reasonably priced beanery/tavern. Conditions have ranged from Bermuda shorts to full gale at Barnegat.

Possible specialties: Ross's Goose, Rough-legged Hawk, Harlequin Duck, Eider sp, "Ipswich" Savannah sparrow, Snow Bunting, Short-eared Owl.

Leader: Tom McParland tmavocet@aol.com

December 14 (sun) – ROOSEVELT PARK, PA. This is your opportunity to get to know this outstanding birding location. This picturesque 348-acre park, in the shadow of Philadelphia's sports stadiums, contains a mix of aquatic, wooded, and brushy habitats. Possible species include: Pied-billed Grebes, coots, and dabbling ducks in early winter; also possible raptors, songbirds, and marsh birds, as well as Orange-crowned Warblers, Clay-colored Sparrows, and other rarities. Accessible by the Broad Street Subway, and an easy place to bird, but bring a good pair of waterproof shoes. Roosevelt Park is located at the southwest corner of Broad and Pattison streets, accessible by subway. From Broad go west on Pattison. There are two entrances to the park on your left. Go in the second entrance and stop at the nearest parking area. Time 8:00-11:30 AM. (note - The first entrance to the park on Pattison is so close to Broad Street that it can be easily missed) Leader: Keith Russell keith.russell6@verizon.net

August Field Trip to Bombay Hook, Delaware by Martin Selzer

Nine club members and friends met for our August field trip to Bombay Hook to catch the continuing south bound shorebird migration. The water levels at Raymond and Shearness Pools were still good, and there were lots of waders to be found. At Raymond, we had four of the five expected peeps: Least, Semipalmated, Western and White-rumped Sandpipers; Stilt, Spotted and Pectoral Sandpipers, both Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, Short-billed Dowitchers and American Avocets. There were also Semipalmated Plovers and Killdeer. The surprise of this first stop was a pair of juvenile Wilson's Snipe that were found out in the open.

Among the other birders at the refuge this day was a group from DOS with whom we hopscotched around the auto-loop sharing sightings and a couple from the UK here on a birding holiday. They ended up joining us for the day. Our first stop at Shearness, revealed more of the same shorebirds and a great look at Least Bittern. I saw the bittern out over the reeds and before I could say anything, it dipped out of sight. Fortunately, it kept coming towards us and we not only watched it fly to us, we were able to scope it "hiding" in the reeds on the other side of the channel. The tide was coming in and the mudflats opposite Shearness were teeming with birds including Black-bellied Plovers and Willets. At the northwest corner of Shearness, we searched for the Reeve that had been reported there over the last week but dipped out. We did find a lone Black-necked Stilt among the waders in this back corner of the pool.

We moved onto Bear Swamp stopping to look at Blue Grosbeak and a red fox first. At Bear Swamp we had a nice group of Wood Ducks, a kingfisher and a Pied-billed Grebe along with a distant Bald Eagle and Merlin. Our stop for lunch was interrupted by a report that the Reeve had been seen, so back to Shearness we went. While we dipped out again on the Reeve, we did get everyone on a Wilson's Phalarope and a Dunlin that had escaped us on our first stop here.

A quick trip to Port Mahon road got us Sanderlings and Ruddy Turnstones. However, the growing number of Great Black-backed Gulls has reduced and virtually eliminated the numbers of terns that used to roost on the pier and pilings here, so we only had a few more Forster's Terns.

Our last stop of the day was the Ted Harvey tract. Our trip out to the north pool we rewarded with looks at 6 tern species: Least, Forster's, Caspian, Black, and Gull-billed, and Black Skimmer. A walk out to the beach found the Ruddy Ducks and more turnstones, sanderlings, and Semipalmated Sandpipers. Another very successful day birding in this wonderful shorebird spot.

DVOC
Philadelphia Larus
c/o Jane Henderson