Volume II, No. 2

PROGRAMS

October 2, 1975
"Guatemala" - Harry Franzen (Panel Chairman)
The March 1975 DVOC Expedition

October 16
Annual Dinner - R. Dudley Ross, Honored Guest and Speaker

November 6
"Northwestern Venezuela" -
A movie by Bill Williams

November 20
"Northwestern Venezuela" -
A bird skin study by Stephen Harty

December 4
"DVOC Tall Tales from Texas" - Stephen Wing (Panel Chairman)

December 11
(DVOC Ladies' Night)
"Great Gull Island a Natural Laboratory" - Helen Hayes,
Exchange speaker from the Linnaean Society

December 18
Sound Contest - George B. Reynard (Program Chairman)
Bring three sets of sounds -- 3 birds, 3 natural history and
3 others for not more than 15 minutes of sounds. Judging
and prizes, but mostly fun, so don't be intimidated!

January 8, 1976
(Second Thursday)
Christmas Count Reports and Annual Meeting

January 15
Photo Contest - Alan Brady (Program Chairman)
Bring three sets of slides from each of three topics --
3 birds, 3 scenes and 3 general natural history. Judging
and prizes, but, again, don't be modest.

Please note the exceptions to our traditional first and third Thursdays of the month meetings.
In December we meet on the first, second and third Thursday, while in January we meet on the
second and third Thursdays.

All meetings at the Academy of Natural Sciences at 8:00 P.M. Stephen Harty, Program Chairman

CONGRATULATIONS

The Julian K. Potter Award to Charles H. Rogers.

The Witmore Stone Award to Keith Russell for his Cassinia article, "Breeding Birds of
the Upper Wissahickon."

Elected Honorary Member of the DVOC: Joseph M. Cadbury.
Elected Fellows of the DVOC: Harry Franzen, Frank Gill, John LaVia
New Councillors of the DVOC: John LaVia, Walter Lipski, Keith Richards
FIELD TRIPS

September 7, 1975
Bombay Hook
Meet at Refuge Parking Lot - 8:00 A.M.
Leader, Keith Richards

October 4-5
Barnegat Light to Cape May Point
Meet at Lighthouse Parking Lot - 8:00 A.M.
Leaders, Harry Todd and Alan Brady

November 2
Bake Oven Knob
Meet at the Knob. Rain date, November 9

November 23
Shark River
Meet at Pat's Diner (Bellmar/Neptune) - 8:00 A.M.

December 20-21
Christmas Counts
Information later

Advance Note: Alan Brady is already planning a sea trip for May.

For directions to the various rallying points and for updated information on any trip contact our Field Trip Chairman, Harry Todd - (215) SU 9-9046.

STEPHEN R. WING: PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I welcome this opportunity to say "hello" to all members of the Club particularly those whom I don't see too often. If you reside in the Greater Philadelphia area, I hope you will make a special effort to attend our 85th Anniversary Banquet on October 16th to renew old friendships and make new ones (see details elsewhere). Circle the date as a reminder.

Several noteworthy developments occurred during last year:

1. A Birding Hotline -- (215) 236 BIRD -- was established last fall in the Philadelphia area under the joint sponsorship of the Academy of Natural Sciences and the DVOC. This has been an instantaneous success; in fact during the first few weeks of operation, incoming calls exceeded the capacity of the equipment. A large vote of thanks is due Frank Gill and Keith Richards for their continuing efforts in making this undertaking so successful.

2. A financial budgetary system has been installed to better control income and expenses. Temporary surplus and reserves have been invested in savings funds and/or savings certificates to earn interest. The Club is in excellent financial condition and has had no problems in financing the current edition of the Cassinia.

3. On January 23rd, a discussion was held to consider whether membership should be open to women. Bob Sehl's committee had studied this subject for several months. After hearing the committee's report outlining the pros and cons the members voted overwhelmingly in favor of continuing to have an all-male Club.

In closing, I wish to thank everyone for his support in all phases of our activities. Please remember it is essential to attract new members if our Club is to continue as a viable organization. If you know of anyone who is interested and would be a good member, please bring him to a future meeting. New and interesting experiences in birding await him.
FIELD TRIP NOTES

DVOC field trips have become almost as inevitable as the seasons: Shark River from November to January, Cape Ann in February, Pocomoke Swamp in April, Cape May in October, and Bake Oven Knob in November. It certainly makes sense to revisit such continually productive areas; moreover, comparisons to earlier years encourage one of the most rewarding of birding challenges -- can the birds of yesteryear be found again? Will the Barrow's Goldeneye be at Sharp River? Will we see any Harlequin Ducks off of Cape Ann? Will we get a sight of the Swainson's Warbler in the Pocomoke? To find the unexpected is always exciting to a birder -- witness the Ross' Gull in Massachusetts this year -- but there is also something strongly appealing in the predictability of birding. It's satisfying to expect to find a certain bird in a certain place and then actually to find it there. The challenge of living up to the sightings of past years probably gives us more overall enjoyment than the occasional rare bird.

Of course in a club as large as ours there are many different areas covered by different members on this kind of seasonal basis. What we need are more members willing to share these valuable observations. Why not volunteer to lead a field trip to a favorite area of yours? Yes, the DVOC enjoys the traditional trips, but there are many open dates when new areas could be explored.

Last May 31, the DVOC tried something a little different -- a joint boat trip with the Urrner Club some 90 miles off of Atlantic City. The results were outstanding, with a Manx's Shearwater and a Skua leading the sightings. Cory's and Greater Shearwaters were also found, and Sooty Shearwaters and Wilson Petrels were abundant. It was also rather exciting trying to sort out the Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers. Many members would like to see this trip become a DVOC yearly excursion, though a few seasick individuals were heard to prefer a Starling count in Center City.

New trips needn't be as elaborate as an ocean voyage. Last September at members' suggestions the sod farms in New Sharon and Columbus, New Jersey, were visited and produced Buff-breasted and Upland Sandpipers and Golden Plovers. Now many members have added these places to their yearly circuit. Let's have more suggestions of this sort.

85th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Thursday, OCTOBER 16, 1975

At the Academy of Natural Sciences

6:00 P.M. - Refreshment Hour for All Tastes
7:00 P.M. - Dinner in the North American Room
8:30 P.M. - Featured Speaker -- Dudley Ross
Added Attraction -- Movies of
DVOC field trip in the 1920's

Total Price - $10.00 per person

Send reservation with check payable to DVOC to:

William R. Kershner
200 Paper Mill Road
Oreland, Pa. 19075
Our new treasurer, Walter Lipski (485 Willow Road, Cinnaminson, N. J. 08077), would like to see a return to an old DVOC tradition; namely, the payment of dues for the coming year at the annual meeting. Our by-laws, in fact, state that dues are payable at the annual meeting, January 8 next year. If everyone surprised Walt and greeted him at that time with a check for 1976 dues, he wouldn't have to send out expensive notices later in the year. Maybe those few members who still haven't paid their dues for 1975 could lead the return to this tradition by presenting or mailing Walt $20 checks covering both years at once!

Bob Sehl has even a better suggestion: Life Membership in the DVOC is only $150 and can be paid in installments over a four year period. Bob oversees this income-producing fund which helps cover our current expenses, and he would like to see it reach the point where it would be self-sustaining. Obviously, Life Membership benefits both the individual and the Club; Bob or Walt will be glad to accept your checks.

One last financial matter concerns a proposed change in the by-laws to be discussed at the October 2 meeting. A recommendation was made to eliminate the provision extending free membership to members of the Armed Services. In the days of a volunteer army with high rates of pay, such a policy seems no longer necessary.

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

Millard C. Davis  
919 Edgemoor Road  
Cherry Hill, N. J. 08034

Jon E. Rickert  
122 Main Street  
Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42701

Andrew Levin  
149 Windsor Road  
Yardley, Pa. 19067

George L. Seifert  
325 Tennis Avenue  
Andalusia, Pa. 19020

Carl Williams  
67 Old Schuylkill Road  
Spring City, Pa. 19475

DVOC NEWSLETTER, John LaVia, Editor, 56 Millbrook Dr., Willingboro, N. J. 08046 (609-877-8025)