

Abstracts of Proceedings 2002-2003

Chris Walters

2002

JANUARY 3. Fifty-three members and one guest were present at the annual meeting. The following officers and councilors were elected.

Colin Campbell, President
Adrian Binns, Vice President
Chris Walters, Secretary
Naomi Murphy, Treasurer
Anita Guris, Councilor
Lynn Jackson, Councilor

Three bound volumes of Club minutes, covering the years 1964-1981, were presented by Katrina Knight, Archivist. After normal business, Adrian Binns led a summary of the area Christmas Bird Counts. The meeting then adjourned to the traditional sumptuous repast.

JANUARY 17. Thirty-one members and five guests were present. The annual Treasurer's report and Trustees' Reports were presented. The death of Charles Wonderly, a past President, was announced. George Armistead spoke to the Club on the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee.

FEBRUARY 7. Thirty-three members and three guests were in attendance. Matt Sharp, of the Academy's VIREO project, delivered a well-illustrated program on the recovery of Peregrine Falcons in Pennsylvania.

FEBRUARY 21. Thirty members and ten guests were present. The Club's acquisition of the Internet domain names, dvoc.org and dvoc.com, was announced, as was a gift of \$7,500 to the Club by the Estate of Past President Bob Sehl. The speaker, Doug Gill, Professor of Biology at the University of Maryland, spoke on the recovery of an eastern grassland in Maryland.

MARCH 7. Twenty-eight members and two guests

were present to hear an interesting talk on Purple Martins, delivered by Dr. Joseph Majden.

MARCH 21. Forty members and twenty guests attended. Nate Rice, Collections Manager at the Academy of Natural Sciences' Department of Ornithology, recounted the Academy's recent expedition to southern Australia. Before the meeting, Nate led club members on a tour of the Academy's bird collection.

APRIL 4. Fifty-two members and six guests were in attendance to hear Kevin Karlson, noted photographer, speak on the miracles of bird migration.

APRIL 18. Thirty members and six guests were on hand for a book auction led by Robert Mercer. This auction consisted entirely of works owned by two deceased past Presidents, Phillips B. Street and Robert H. Sehl. Every item was sold, some by bids solicited over the Internet.

MAY 2. Twenty-eight members and one guest were present. Larry Niles delivered the evening's sobering program on the plight of the Horeshoe Crabs in Delaware Bay.

MAY 16. Meeting within the Academy's Department of Ornithology, thirty members and two guests heard how DVOC's World Series of Birding team logged 222 species, good for second place in the event. A well-delivered program on the magic of spring was presented by John Serrao, Naturalist at the Poconos' Skytop Resort.

JUNE 6. Twenty-three members heard summaries of fourteen different May Run reports in a renewal of an old Club tradition. An impressive total of 247 species were found. In Delaware, the Cutler-led team squeezed by the Ednie-led team by two species (193 vs. 191). Doris McGovern also updated the Club on the nesting

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and breeding songs of Prothonotary Warblers at the Hawkins Road, NJ study site.

JULY 11, AUGUST 8 and SEPTEMBER 5. Informal summer meetings were held.

SEPTEMBER 19. Twenty-seven members and two guests returned from the summer season to hear Mike Powers from Cornell explain the eBird Program to us. Summer bird finds from New York to Arizona were offered.

OCTOBER 3. Twenty-nine members and four guests were present to hear Past President Ron French tell of seeing a Yellow Rail in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Frank Windfelder then entertained us all with his fine PowerPoint presentation on vagrant birds.

OCTOBER 17. A crowd of forty-three members and two guests gathered to hear Vice President Adrian Binns speak on Britain's seabird colonies. Adrian delivered the entire program with an authentic British accent.

NOVEMBER 7. Twenty-three members and two guests were on hand for a Members Slide Show Night. The category winners were Mellon, Kerr, and Brady. Steve Kerr's "Egrets at Thompson's Beach" won the grand prize.

NOVEMBER 21. President Colin Campbell greeted the 65 members and 54 guests who assembled for the Annual Banquet at Williamson's Restaurant on City Line Avenue, Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania. After a meal of Prime Rib, Chicken, and Pasta entrees, Adrian Binns presented the Club's Julian Potter Award to Francis Windfelder for his outstanding fieldwork. No Witmer Stone Award was presented this year. The Club also honored, with conservation prizes, Marylea Klauder (for her 15 years' work in founding and maintaining the Militia Hill Hawkwatch and associated activities in Fort Washington State Park, Montgomery County) and Corey Jarin (for her many years' efforts in founding and running the Peace Valley Nature Center in Bucks County). Such honors go to non-members whose work has advanced the welfare of the birding community. The President sprang a surprise on the Club by having past President Rick Mellon announce completion of the "DVOC Checklist of the

Birds of the Delaware Valley." Rick distributed copies to the audience. The Checklist will be available on the Internet at dvoc.org. Our speaker, Scott Weidensaul, then regaled the group with a wonderful program on long-lost and sometimes rediscovered species, both avian and mammalian.

DECEMBER 5. An early snowfall cancelled this meeting.

DECEMBER 19. Twenty-one members and two guests were present as Brad Merritt of Rocky Hill, New Jersey was elected to membership. Highlights of an early December trip to the Niagara Falls area, led by Vice President Binns and Bert Filemyr, were eleven species of gulls, including Thayer's and California. A similar trip is planned for December 2003. In lieu of a formal program, the evening was given over to informal recollections of memorable moments in birding.

2003

JANUARY 2. Forty members plus one guest attended the Annual Meeting. The following officers and councilors were elected:

Colin Campbell, President
Adrian Binns, Vice President
Chris Walters, Secretary
Naomi Murphy, Treasurer
Bert Filemyr, Councilor
Art McMorris, Councilor

The Treasurer's Report was given and two new members elected. After committee reports and local notes, Adrian Binns led a discussion of the results of the Christmas Bird Counts in the Delaware Valley. The alcids on the coastal counts were highlights.

JANUARY 16. Thirty-one members and ten guests were present. The annual Trustees' Report was delivered. Council announced new comprehensive plans, including creation of a membership committee. New DVOC hats, sweatshirts, and checklists went on sale and were quickly gobbled up. Jim Lockyer, our speaker, told of the Rose Tree Hawk Watch, run by the Birding Club of Delaware County.

FEBRUARY 6. A crowd of forty members and fourteen guests gathered and heard a fascinating

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presentation by Bill Evans of Cornell, who discussed his work on nocturnal flight calls of migratory birds. Bill's work is advancing the frontiers of ornithology.

FEBRUARY 20. Thirty-four members and five guests attended as Rob Blye of Pennsylvania Audubon gave us a thorough report on the state's Important Bird Area project.

MARCH 6. Thirty-three members and six guests attended. Connie Goldman and Hank Hox were elected to membership. George Armistead, who spent last summer on the Pribilof Islands (Alaska), gave the Club interesting commentary on the Aleuts and birds residing there.

MARCH 20. Twenty-eight members and twelve guests attended. Continuing the practice of short Ornithological Studies talks, Mike Fritz spoke of the calls of Saw-whet Owls. Kevin McGowan, our speaker from Cornell's World Series of Birding team, concluded with a fascinating talk on "The Uncommon Crow."

APRIL 3. Thirty-nine members and thirteen guests heard Alice Severeid, Eric Pilotte, and Mike Ferguson elected to membership. DVOC decals were mailed to members. David Brinker from the Maryland Ornithological Society closed the meeting with a comprehensive talk on the status of Northern Goshawks in the central Appalachians.

APRIL 17. Forty members and eight guests were present as Cliff Hence was elected to membership. Robert Curry, Professor of Biology at Villanova University, presented his research results on Black-capped and Carolina Chickadee hybridization. The hybridization belt continues to move north.

MAY 1. Thirty-eight members and six guests attended. Andy Urquhart, Alison Ellicott, Scott Henderson, John Goschke, and Sandra Keller all became members. Matt Sharp gave an Ornithological Study presentation on differentiation between Iceland, Thayer's, and Kumlien's Gulls. Matt also reported Peregrine Falcons nesting on cliffs along both the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers. An interesting but controversial talk was given by Paul Kerlinger on the future of wind power projects and their potential impact on birds.

MAY 15. Forty-two members and five guests attended to applaud DVOC's winning the World Series of Birding with a record 231 species on May 10, 2003. Amir Balaban, from Israel, spoke on the Jerusalem Bird Observatory, which he co-founded in 1994.

JUNE 5. Thirty-eight members and six guests were present for a review of May Run reports. Sixteen of the eighteen teams that submitted reports gave reports of their highlights/lowlights (with David Cutler reporting on his team's 55th year of such runs). DVOC's World Series of Birding team raised \$5,000 this year for the East Park Reservoir project in Philadelphia.

JULY 3, AUGUST 7 and SEPTEMBER 4. Informal summer meetings were held.

SEPTEMBER 18. Meeting cancelled due to weather conditions.

OCTOBER 2. Thirty-seven members and nine guests were present. A set of revised By-Laws was approved by the members. The principal change is having Council admit new members, rather than requiring an election by the members. Frank Windfelder delivered the program, in his own unique way, on identification of Short-billed vs. Long-billed Dowitchers.

OCTOBER 16. Thirty-nine members and nine guests were present. Jim Best became a new member, and Rick Mellon delivered an Ornithological Study on White-winged Juncos. Vice-President Binns gave a talk on the origin of bird names, with special attention to those originating in Philadelphia.

NOVEMBER 6. President Colin Campbell greeted the unusually large group of 130 members and guests who came to hear our Annual Banquet speaker, Kenn Kaufman, at Williamson's Restaurant in Bala Cynwyd, PA. Keith Russell received the Club's Julian Potter Award for his outstanding fieldwork, as well as his organization and management of the Philadelphia Mid-Winter Census since 1987. The Witmer Stone Award went to the Club's Checklist Committee (Rick Mellon, Ward Dasey, Colin Campbell, Bill Murphy, and Bert Filemyr) for their fine work in preparing and publishing the Delaware Valley Birds Checklist in 2002. DVOC also honored, with conservation prizes, the twenty-five years of conservation work of Bonnie

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Van Alen, Alice Hausmann, and Alex Van Alen of the Willistown Conservation Trust. Their persistence has already saved 5000 acres in the Willistown area (Chester and Delaware Counties, PA) from development. Our speaker Kenn Kaufman spoke of “Birds and the Undiscovered World” and signed copies of his books.

NOVEMBER 20. Thirty-three members and five guests heard Past President Rick Mellon deliver the featured program on how tightly bird species are associated with specific habitats.

DECEMBER 4. Thirty-seven members and seven guests attended. Mark Garland, of the Cape May Bird

Observatory, took us on a visual tour of birds and landscapes of the Western wildlife refuges, where the speaker had worked for years with the U.S. Park Service.

DECEMBER 18. Thirty-seven members and one guest attended. President Colin Campbell gave an Ornithological Study on the physics and chemistry of colors in bird feathers. The program continued with the Members’ Photography Night competition. Category winners were Naomi Murphy, Bob Rufe, Steve Liebhaber, and Colin Campbell. The grand prize was Kate Somerville’s “Swamp Darner Dragonfly.”