

Bucks County Birder Profile

Alan Brady

Article & Photo By Elaine Ryan

Born - circa 1920, Cresheim Valley/NW Philadelphia Resides - Wycombe, Bucks County since 1958

Person who most influenced his birding hobby - Tibbie Stevenson, his very competitive boyhood birding friend.

Favorite Field Guide - "Birds of Europe" - Killian Mullamey, Lars Svensson, Dan Zetterstrom, Peter J. Grant

Favorite Book about Birds - "Audubon to Xantus: The Lives of Those Commemorated in North American Bird Names" - Barbara and Richard Mearns

Bird he'd most like to have as next lifer - Short-tailed Albatross.

Birding Philosophy - "It's a game - don't take it too seriously."

Life List Total - Per Alan: "I have no idea, but I can tell you what birds I haven't seen."

Birding Pet Peeves - Birding organizations that become hampered by politics; and birders who spoil opportunities for others.

Most interesting thing about birds? The mystery of migration.

Most important lesson he has learned from birds? Perseverance.

What person from history he'd most like to have birded with? Georg Wilhelm Steller, German doctor and botanist who participated in Bering's Russian expedition which discovered Alaska. Alan says he would have enjoyed experiencing all the discoveries Steller made of flora and fauna on that journey.

Birder he admires most - "I admire all the birders in the Bucks County Birders Club. Everyone has something special to contribute and the result is a wonderful group.

It reminds me of the DVOC in its early years."

A Brief Brady History - As a boy, Alan spent all his time exploring the woods and fields of the Wissahickon Valley with his friend, Tibbie. They were interested in everything outdoors, but they soon became especially interested in birds. Alan's mother encouraged this interest by supplying him with bird books. His cousin Paul also helped him develop his knowledge of birding and nature by guiding Alan into the Boy Scouts. He spent summers working at Treasure Island and by age 16, he had become the camp's nature counselor.

Alan graduated from high school in 1938 and enrolled in the Rising Sun School of Aeronautics, earning his Aircraft and Engine Mechanic License. He worked on planes at a base in Middletown, PA near Harrisburg and later worked inspecting planes in Manchester, New Hampshire before being drafted. He served in the Navy for 4 years, returning to Manchester to find the local economy in decline. He took a job working for a photographer's studio. Much of their work

was supplying the New Hampshire Sunday News with local news photos..

Traveling home for Christmas, he gave a young lass who worked for the Girl Scouts a ride home to her family in Bucks County. A romance blossomed, resulting in his marriage to the lovely Liz in 1946. Soon after, they settled in Bucks

County and Alan opened Camera Craft, a very popular photography/camera shop in Newtown which he ran for 50 years. They have three children, David, Susan and Sally.

Alan's birding trips have taken him to many parts of the world. His land journeys included several trips with a group of about 16 birders who flew a DC-3 to Churchill, Guatemala, Belize and Costa Rica. He has traveled with his friend, Armas Hill, all over



Alan Brady poses in 2003 with the trophy his team won in 1985 in second annual World Series of Birding.

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South America and also to Asia, Europe and Japan. The trip he would most like to take again was his 35-day epic journey by sea that began in the Canary Islands to points south.

Alan's extensive pelagic travels have made him a legend among birders and his knowledge of seabirds is respected by all. He has taken over 300 trips to sea, the most of which were in the Atlantic. He has seen just about every bird possible in Atlantic waters and has photos of almost every one of them. His adventures at sea have ranged from near-Perfect Storm" conditions on one trip to a wild encounter with a deck-swiping, drug-running scallop boat that nearly sunk the vessel he was on (you'll have to ask him for all the details!)

He is an honorary member and fellow of the DVOC, to which he has belonged for 50 years. In his term as president, he established the organization's Endowment Fund. In 1985, Alan was on the winning team at the 2nd Annual World Series of Birding in New Jersey. His teammates were Kate Brethwaite, Armas Hill, and also Mike and Chris Danzenbaker. It was Alan's idea to form a local bird club, a notion that culminated in our Bucks County Birders Club. For this, he was given the distinction of First Honorary Member.

Alan can almost always be found Saturday mornings presiding in the seat of honor at the PVNC post-bird walk coffee klatch. He always brings something along - a photo or an article - that generates an interesting discussion. Much can be learned to those who listen!

Alan still takes pelagic trips every chance he gets. When he can't be on the briny, he can often be found sitting in his favorite spot - a small, sheltered platform on a boardwalk nestled in the dunes near Cape May Point. From this spot which serves as his lookout post, he often spend hours looking out to sea.



Ray Hendrick

A note from Ray Hendrick, Chairman of the Nominating Committee

On behalf of the Nominating Committee we would like to remind you that the club is actively seeking people to fill the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer for 2005 & 2006. If you are interested or know of anyone interested in these positions, please contact any member of the committee. Elections will be held at the November 23rd meeting.

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Carolina Chickadees
by Ken Kitson

Correction

In the article, "**Brood X of the Periodical Cicada Arrives in Bucks County**," Frock wrote, "Many people feel the cicada invasion was the reason 2 Mississippi Kites appeared at Bull's Island this June. The kites are southern birds, and this was only the second record for the county."

Ken Kitson, editor of *Birds of Bucks County*, and Augie Mirabella advised us that there have been at least 10 recorded sightings of Mississippi Kites in Bucks County through June, 2004. The Editor apologizes for this error, and thanks Augie and Ken for catching it. Reported bird sightings should be as factual as possible.