

PROGRAMS

December 19, 1974	"Alaska" - Philips Street (Panel Chairman) The June-July 1974 DVOC Expedition
January 9, 1975	Annual Meeting, Christmas Count Reports Refreshments!
January 23	Annual Slide Contest: Bring three slides 1. Birds 2. Scenery 3. General Natural History
February 6	"Galapagos Islands and the Cuzco Area of Peru" - Gene Stern
February 20	"Forest and Puna of Peru" - Howard Brokaw
March 6	"Panama and Costa Rica" - Stephen Harty
March 20	"Ornithological Identification Problems" - Keith Richards
April 3	"Birds West and East in Movies" - William Parker
April 17	Richard Bishop's Movies of Waterfowl
May 1	"What is a Species?" - Frank Gill
May 22 (4th Thurs.)	May Roundup Reports
June-July-August	First Thursday of Each Month -- Informal Meetings
September	First and Third Thursday -- Informal Meetings

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

Program Note

At the January 23 meeting the subject of opening membership to all interested males and females will come up for discussion. A committee, chaired by Robert Sehl, has been considering this controversial issue and would like to hear from the members that evening. Those interested in voicing their views should make a special effort to be present.

FIELD TRIPS

December 14-29, 1974

Christmas Counts

- Sat. Dec. 14 -- Delaware County (T. Rigby, LO 6-6736)  
Pennypack (J. Billings, OR 7-5853)  
Central Bucks (R. Hendrick, 348-4332)  
Lower Bucks (E. Herzog)
- Sun. Dec. 15 -- Bombay Hook, Del. (D. Cutler, TU 6-0937)  
Marmora (J. Akers, 609-266-7859)
- Sat. Dec. 21 -- Brigantine (J. Meritt, 609-227-5948)  
Briarbrush, E. Mont. County (J. Lindemann, 886-7273)
- Sun. Dec. 22 -- Cape May (K. Seager, 609-884-8778)
- Fri. Dec. 27 -- Cape Charles, Va. (H. Armistead, CH 7-4120)
- Sat. Dec. 28 -- Pine Barrens (J. Woodford, 609-983-3329)
- Sun. Dec. 29 -- Gloucester Co., N. J. (W. Middleton, 609-468-5275)  
Barnegat (F. Gill, 7:00 A.M. at inlet)

January 12, 1975

Shark River  
Pat's Diner on Route 35 at 7:30 A.M. (H. Todd)

January 26

Owls: More information at future meetings when we pin down some locations.

February 14-17

New England  
Harry Todd has arranged for the Chalet Motel in Amesbury, Mass. to expect telephone reservations from DVOC members. The free number is 1-800-258-1980 between 8:00 A.M. and 11:00 P.M. on Monday through Friday. The rates sound quite reasonable.

March 2

Long Beach Island  
Barnegat Lighthouse, 7:00 A.M.

March 16

Middle Creek Refuge  
Headquarters, 7:00 A.M. (J. Grantham)

April 6

Lower Bucks County  
More information at future meetings.

April 25-27

Delmarva (Pocomoke)  
More information at future meetings.

May 11

Spring Round-up

May 31

Pelagic Trip (see note)

June

Broadkill, Delaware, for rails (K. Richards)

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). The trips are always discussed beforehand at the Thursday meetings as well.

SPECIAL FIELD TRIP

The DVOC and Urner Club are jointly sponsoring a pelagic trip aboard the Super Cat next May. The boat is being reserved for the sole purpose of birding. It will leave Atlantic Highlands, N. J. (Sandy Hook area) at 10:00 P.M. on Saturday, May 31 and return about 8:00 P.M. the following day. The trip will be to Hudson Canyon, about 90 miles east of Atlantic City.

As you may know, the Super Cat is an ideal boat for bird watching. It is reasonably large (rated for 150 people) and comfortable. Snacks and coffee can be purchased on board.

There are places yet available which we are anxious to fill as soon as possible since we must make a firm commitment and payment to the skipper. The cost of the trip is \$25.00 per person. This payment must be non-refundable. If a person signs up and then finds he cannot go, the only way he will be able to get his money back will be to get a substitute.

The trip is open to both men and women. It will be necessary to bring sleeping bags and food for a day. Checks should be made payable to Alan Brady and mailed to him at P. O. Box 103, Wycombe, Pa. 18980. Reservations will be acknowledged, and complete details of the trip will be furnished at a later date.

BIRDING HOT LINE

In the last issue of the Newsletter we listed the "hot line" numbers for various locations around the country. Many members were struck by the absence of such a service between New York City and Washington, D. C. Frank Gill and Keith Richards did something about it! Through their efforts it is possible to announce the sensational news that the Delaware Valley Birding Hot Line will commence operation about December 17, 1974.

The geographical area covered will range from Shark River south through Cape May in New Jersey, and in Delaware, south to at least Little Creek Wildlife Area. The area will range west to approximately Lancaster, Pa., and the western boundary of Delaware. Exciting reports from marginal areas will certainly be included.

Incoming information will be collated, a judgment passed on its validity, and then the taped message can be heard by dialing 215-236-2473, which can be remembered as 236-BIRD. A further mnemonic device might be Call For New-BIRD. The telephone directory listing will be under "Birding Hot Line."

Information may be passed to the Hot Line through any of the following compilers:

During the day:

Mary Trout, 215-LO-4-3921  
Bird Department of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia

During the Evening:

James Meritt, 609-227-5948  
Winston Wayne, 302-658-0282  
Keith Richards, 215-LO 6-9563

The Birding Hot Line will be updated each Tuesday or Wednesday and at any other time if the information warrants it. Please keep this schedule in mind when you plan to make a report.

*IN WABER  
BLACK POLLICUR. WISEEN  
BARN  
GRASS. SEALE OWL  
SORA. RED POLL  
UPLAND PRAIRIE  
WABER WABER*

## UNIDENTIFIED GULL

Nothing is quite as frustrating to a birder as the situation that has existed at Brigantine, New Jersey (the town, not the refuge) since November 5. There is an easily seen gull that frequents the beach near the hotel; no one has yet been able to identify the bird! Birders like to blame fleeting view or bad light for any problems in identification, but here we have a totally cooperative bird that parades up and down in front of a large audience, and still must go nameless. Since Jim Akers first observed the bird the speculation has included Franklin's and Mew Gull, but now seems to be leading to something even rarer -- the Brownheaded Gull of India. With the further problems of zoo-escapes or hybrid to consider, we may never get to add this bird to any list, but the excitement has certainly enlivened the season.

## REQUEST FOR DUES PAYMENT

Jim Woodford is going to be sending out the notices shortly for dues payments. All members should please note that prompt payment of dues will greatly ease our financial problems. Dues are \$10.00 for everyone excepting junior members for whom they are \$6.00.

## CASSINIA PUBLICATION

We are planning to have the next issue of Cassinia published in mid-1975. All members are urged to forward any general notes to James Meritt, 809 Saratoga Terrace, Turnersville, N. J. 08012.

## PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Any man or young man (Junior Membership) wishing to join the DVOC should contact our membership chairman, Alan Brady (P. O. Box 103, Wycombe, Pennsylvania 18980).

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Carl Perry  
749 Polo Road  
Bryn Mawr, Pa. 19010

Harold Jackson  
1088 Poquessing Avenue  
Andalusia, Pa. 19020

Press Robinson  
Apt. A-1 Finisterre Apt.  
Laurel Road  
Lindenwald, N. J. 08021

John Hornbeck  
201 W. Evergreen Avenue  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19118

Michael Stolter  
Box 435  
Harrison House  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19104

Howard West  
317 Brentford Road  
Havorford, Pa. 19041

Clyde Bagshaw  
International House B-6  
3701 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19104