

PROGRAMS (December through February)

- DEC. 1 BIRDS OF BRIGANTINE AND POINTS WEST
 Dr. William Parker
- DEC. 15 AVIAN MOLTS AND PLUMAGES
 Dr. Frank Gill
- JAN. 5 ANNUAL MEETING (and Christmas Count reports);
 also THE BIRDER'S LIFE AND HARD TIMES AND THE
 LIFE AND HARD TIMES OF THE BIRD
 Roy Imsick
- JAN. 19 PHOTO CONTEST
 Bring three slides from each of three
 categories: Birds, Natural History, Scenes
- FEB. 2 TINICUM MARSH - A TREASURE CHEST
 Jean Diehl
- FEB. 16 THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND ANTARCTICA
 John Dornan

All meetings will be at 8:00 PM at the Academy of Natural Sciences.

1978 DUES \$10.00 Please remit to the treasurer:
 Walter F. Lipski
 485 Willow Drive
 Cinnaminson, N.J. 08077

By paying our dues on time we can save the Club the expense of follow-up mailings.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Paul Harris, Valley Forge, PA; Stewart Maines, Moorestown, NJ; Bernard Morris, Allentown, PA; Robert Orenstein, Phila., PA; William Rufe, Sellersville, PA; Dwight Smith, New Haven, CT; Tim Sterrett, Westtown, PA; Gene Udell, Elkins Park, PA; William Williams, Laguna Hills, CA.

FIELD TRIPS

December 17 - January 2 Christmas Counts (see below)

January 7 - 8 Pocono Winter Weekend: Winter finches, Turkeys - who knows? Meet 9:00 AM at the Holiday Inn at Routes 22 and 309 west of Allentown. We will spend Saturday night at the Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Bring bedding. Jack Padalino, Director of PEEC and a DVOC member, has again invited us to his home for refreshments before dinner on Saturday night.

Please advise Phil Street at least a week ahead of time if you plan to participate (Office: 215-927-1739; Home: 215-363-7776)

January 22 Shark River, NJ: Meet at Pat's Diner on Route 35 in Belmar at 8:00 AM. Leader: Rick Mellon.

February 18-20 New England headquarters: Swiss Chalet Motel, Amesbury, MA (800-258-1980) Call Rick Mellon for trip details (Home: 215-295-5533).

ADVANCE NOTICE: Spring pelagic trip with Urner Club - May 27, 1978. Leaves from Barnegat Light. For reservations send \$25.00 to Alan Brady, PO Box 103, Wycombe, PA 18980.

1977-1978 Christmas Counts (Participant's fee \$1.50 this year)

December 17 Oceanville, NJ (Brigantine)
Jim Meritt 609-227-5948

Glenolden, PA (Delaware County)
Keith Richards 215-566-9563

Lower Bucks County, PA
Al Herzog 215-598-7584

Pennypack Valley, PA
John Billings 215-677-5853

Wyncote, PA
Ruth Zumeta 215-233-0306

December 18

Cape May, NJ
Keith Seager 609-884-8778

Marmora, NJ
Jim Akers 609-266-7859

December 26

Bombay Hook, DE
Dave Cutler 215-886-0937

Northwestern Gloucester Co., NJ
Will Middleton 609-468-5275

January 1

Barneгат, NJ
Alan Brady 215-598-7856

DVOC FIELD TRIP REPORTS -- JULY THROUGH OCTOBER 1977

- July 9-11 Connecticut Lakes, NH. A van load of Club members took the 12-hour drive to northern New Hampshire. Among the birds noted: Olive-sided Flycatcher, Gray Jay, Mourning Warbler, Boreal Chickadee, and Philadelphia Vireo.
- August 7 Pine Barrens (flora). A small group took advantage of Rick Mellon's expertise to study some rare and interesting plants, among them Conrad's Crowberry and Curly Grass Fern.
- September 4 Cape Hatteras Pelagic trip: Some ten Club members enjoyed calm seas aboard the Shady Lady. It was a banner day:
- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 750 Cory's Shearwaters | 4 Pomarine Jaegers |
| 6 Greater Shearwaters | 175 Black Terns |
| 80 Audubon's Shearwaters | 64 Bridled Terns |
| 20 Northern Phalaropes | 4 Sooty Terns |
| 2 Parasitic Jaegers | |
- October 1-2 Barneгат to Cape May. The DVOC field trips may range up and down the east coast, but it's always fun to be home in one of the Club's prime stomping grounds. Although the White Ibis at Brigantine had to be the highlight of the northern part of the trip, the usual late Saturday stop at the Stone Harbor rookery was particularly productive this year in terms of warblers. Around Cape May itself there were sightings of Connecticut Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow, Peregrine, and too many more to mention.

BIRDING VACATION IN TOBAGO

As DVOC members travel further and further afield, it seems appropriate to use the Newsletter to share experiences and perhaps whet birding appetites. Steve Wing's following account of his trip certainly has me raring to go.

The island of Tobago, twenty-six miles northeast of Trinidad and just off the coast of Venezuela, has often been called "Robinson Crusoe Island." It is aptly named with its wonderful climate, lush tropical vegetation, sandy beaches, coral reefs abounding with fish, and gayly colored tropical birds.

Tobago is a wonderful place for a vacation. My wife and I spent a week at Arnos Vale Hotel on the west coast, devoting more time to loafing, swimming, and snorkeling than bird watching. The grounds of the hotel are a panorama of color from blooming Bougainvillea, Hibiscus, Poinsettia, Flamboyant trees and other plants. Without much effort on my part, I tracked down thirty-three species of birds on the spacious grounds of the hotel.

However, the best birds on the island are in the mountainous center section near Hillsborough Reservoir. One can rent a car, but this is not recommended because they drive on the left, as in England, and the roads are narrow, curvy, and full of potholes. To complicate matters further, many of the roads are not shown on the available road maps. An ideal solution arose when we had an opportunity to engage Mr. Adolphus James, a local taxicab driver who is an acknowledged expert on birds of the island. James knows the birds, their calls, and where they can be found. I shall never forget his bringing in the Collared Trogons when they were at least one-half mile away by imitating their call. Anyone visiting Tobago should plan to go out with him but should make arrangements well in advance, as he is in great demand from Audubon tours and referrals from the Asa Wright organization in Trinidad. His address is Union Village, Tobago, and he can be reached by telephone at work (8872) or at home (2231). His rate is TT\$80 per day, equivalent to \$35 U.S.

On our visit to the great Catara Road section and en route we saw thirty-six species of birds, including several hummingbirds and such Tobago specialties as the Rufous-tailed Jacamar and Blue-crowned Motmot.

Snorkeling provided an interesting diversion to birding. One did not have to be an expert to see a wide variety of gorgeous tropical fish. At Buccoo Coral Reef, one need only stand in waist deep water with a face mask to see many different species of Angelfish, Parrotfish, and other types feeding in the coral. Buccoo Reef is reached by glass-bottom boats which pass over beautiful and varied types of coral.

I am grateful to Alan Brady and Harry Todd for recommending Tobago and Arnos Vale. It is an idyllic location for a wonderful vacation.

Newsletter Editor: John T. LaVia, 56 Millbrook Dr., Willingboro,
NJ 08046