

The Centennial Edition

Colin Campbell

As the 50th President of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, which was founded in 1890, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 100th year of publication of our journal, *Cassinia*, first published in 1901. The Editors of *Cassinia* over the past century are listed in the table on the next page.

Our biennial journal was named after John Cassin (1813-1869) who, when appointed as the unpaid Curator of Ornithology at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia in 1842, a position he held until his death, was the first native-born American to gain an international reputation as an ornithologist. He was instrumental in building the global bird skin collection at the Academy and named 193 species of birds. In 1860 the Academy, under his guidance, had the largest and richest collection of birds in the world.

To celebrate the variety of one hundred years of our journal's history, the present volume includes an interestingly philosophical and somewhat emotional piece by George Spencer Morris (President 1893-1894), a humorous poetic duo by Lester Thomas (President 1968-1969) and Stephen Harty (President 1976-1977), sadness in the recent demise of two popular former Presidents, Bob Sehl (President 1962-1963) and Sandy Sherman (President 1996-1997), an intriguing article by members Doris McGovern and Don Jones (President 1998-1999), two very different papers on birding in and around Philadelphia by club members John Miller and Ted Floyd, an identification piece by member Frank Windfelder and two erudite articles co-authored by the current (paid) Collection Manager of Ornithology at the Academy, Nate Rice.

As with both your membership of and active participation in the DVOC, our respected ornithological journal is one of the life bloods of the Club. *Cassinia* depends on contributions from people like you to survive, as it has done for a century. Please keep this noble tradition alive and submit articles, suggestions and ideas to the Editor or to any DVOC Council member. To put it another way, as a little article in Volume XXVII (1927-1928, publication committee Philip Atlee Livingston (Chair), John A. Gillespie, Julian K. Potter and Witmer Stone) states:

A Half Page for Cassinia

The publication committee steals this bit of a space to announce its plans for Cassinia. This issue, covering activities to the close of 1928, and two articles relating to 1929 field work, brings the publication practically up to date, and will permit of annual numbers hereafter.

It is hoped that the 1929 edition will be completed early next Fall. The committee urgently requests contributions of suitable material from members. Emphasis will be laid [upon] reports of field activities, regional studies and migration articles relating to Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

If this plan is followed, Cassinia will become a most valuable reference file for those who wish to pursue outdoor ornithology in the tri-state region noted.

Enjoy your own journal and good birding wherever you may be.