

# Abstracts of Proceedings 2004-2005

Paul A. Guris

Figures in parentheses after the date refer to number of members + number of guests in attendance.

## 2004

**JANUARY 8** (41 + 1). Colin Campbell presided over our annual meeting. Naomi Murphy gave the annual treasurer's report and Chris Walters presented the Trustee's report for 2003. The following members were elected as Fellows: Emmerson Bowes, Al Driscoll, Andy Ednie, Mike Fritz, Anita Guris, Lynn Jackson, Bernice Koplín, Joseph Koplín, Doris McGovern, Martin Selzer, and Jack Siler. The club elected Adrian Binns as President, Chris Walters as Vice President, Paul Guris as Secretary, and Naomi Murphy as Treasurer. Martin Selzer and Doris McGovern were elected as Councilors for 3-year terms ending January 2007. Colin Campbell made his goodbye as the club's newly past president, and Adrian Binns thanked him for his hard work. Bert Filemyr reported that *Cassinia* was at the printers. Art McMorris and Doris McGovern announced they were coordinators for the upcoming Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas and asked for help. Chris Walters presided over the election of two new honorary members: Dave Cutler and Frank Gill. Both have provided long service to both the DVOC and the birding community as a whole. Anita Guris reported 50 Purple Finches at her feeder in Green Lane, PA. Frank Windfelder reported a White-fronted Goose in Pennsauken, NJ. JoAnn Raine reported 30 Common Redpolls, 50 Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, and a Lapland Longspur at Barneget, NJ, and a Bohemian Waxwing at Island Beach, NJ. Colin Campbell reported that Paul Lehman had seen a Black Guillemot from the Cape May - Lewes Ferry, near the Lewes breakwater. The program was the annual Christmas Bird Count roundup. Results from about 20 CBCs were presented.

**JANUARY 22** (45 + 6). President Adrian Binns called the meeting to order. Art McMorris reported that the newly printed *Cassinia* should be shipped on January 28. Chris Walters reported on a successful Montauk NY trip on January 17-19, including a Long-eared Owl, a male Barrow's Goldeneye, 3 female

King Eiders, 2 American Bitterns, Lapland Longspur, Iceland Gull, and Short-eared Owl. A total of 97 species were seen. Lynn Jackson reported that meeting minutes are now bound except for 2002-2003, which will be completed soon. Adrian Binns read from Wild Bird magazine's Birder of the Year essays written by Dick Lutz about the late Ray Murgatroyde, and an article by Colin Campbell called the Moment of Truth describing his decision to move to the United States from Scotland. Jane Henderson reported a Barred Owl and Rough-legged Hawk at Pennypack, PA. Nikolas Haass reported seeing the Pink-footed Goose in Coatesville PA plus 3 White-fronted Geese. The Ornithological Study was given by Adrian Binns, who reviewed the latest changes to the AOU checklist. Our speaker, Bob Mulvihill of Powdermill Nature Preserve, presented the program, "Powdermill's Top 40," reviewing their long-running banding program in great detail.

**FEBRUARY 5** (40 + 2). Rick Mellon called the meeting to order. Membership Committee - Three new candidates for membership were introduced. The January 24 Florence NJ trip had 15 participants. Overall numbers of gulls were down, but great looks were had of Iceland, Glaucous, Lesser Black-backed, and one first winter Thayer's Gull. The January 31 North Shore trip was cold and encountered a fair amount of ice, but highlights included Red-necked Grebe and Eurasian Wigeon. Chris Walters belatedly reported on the January 10 Philadelphia Mid-winter Bird Census. Though temperatures were as low as 3 degrees, 59 observers in 20 parties found 96 species, including Iceland Gull, Long-eared Owl, Redpolls, and a Goshawk. Naomi Murphy reported that Millard Lindauer died. He had joined the club in 1935. Chris Walters made a "Birder Beware" announcement at the request of DVOC Council, warning of problems on birding tours. John Freiberg had 4 Red-necked Grebes on the river near Valley Forge, PA. Doris McGovern reported 170 Canvasbacks and 31 Greater Scaup on the Delaware River near the Philadelphia airport on Jan. 25. Nicholas Haass reported seeing the Harris's

## Abstracts of Proceedings

Sparrow up in Northampton County, PA, along with about 40 White-crowned Sparrows. Anita Guris reported a male Sapsucker and 60 Purple Finches at her Green Lane, PA feeders. The Ornithological Study was Paul Guris giving a presentation entitled Plain Brown Intermediate Juvenile Long-tailed vs. Parasitic Jaegers. Dan Brauning presented "Peregrine Falcons – The Saga of Recovery" about the reintroduction of Peregrine Falcons in our area.

**FEBRUARY 19** (39 + 7). President Adrian Binns called the meeting to order. Three new membership applications were read and Butch Lishman was approved for membership. Martin Selzer discussed the banding project at Palmyra, NJ and 2 different projects at the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust, PA. The February 15 trip to Conowingo Dam, MD had no report, but they did see Bald Eagles as expected. Lynn Jackson reported that all 2003 minutes were now bound. Chris Walters repeated the "Birder Beware" announcement at the request of DVOC Council. Matt Sharp made a second-hand report of 8,800 Razorbills off Cape Point in North Carolina. Art McMorris reported that a Hatteras, NC pelagic trip had 340 Razorbills. Nicholas Haass had 5 Razorbills and a first year "Nelson's" Gull (Herring x Glaucous hybrid) at Manasquan Inlet, NJ. Alan Brady reported that Fritz Valley had 3-4 Rough-legged Hawks, Harriers, and up to 9 Short-eared Owls. The Ornithological Study was Don Jones on call notes and what to listen for. Kevin Karlson presented "A Season at the Point – Stone Harbor, That Is."

**MARCH 4** (42 + 12). Acting President Don Jones called the meeting to order. Membership Committee - Anita Guris introduced new members Robert Horton, Arnella Trent, Jim Molyneaux, YY and Jane Huang, and Ralph Hoppel. The February 28 trip to Indian River, DE attracted 21 participants and saw Red-necked Grebe, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Canvasback, and Redhead. Paul Guris discussed the plans for the funds raised by the upcoming World Series of Birding, including purchase of mist nets for the Palmyra, NJ banding project, and support of hedgerow restoration and shrub habitat expansion projects at the Pennypack Environmental Restoration Trust, PA. Mick Jeitner reported the continuing presence of a Cape May Warbler at Silver Lake Nature Center, PA. Paul Guris reported on his February 28 pelagic trip out of Lewes, DE, including 170 Dovekies, a breeding-plumage

Common Murre, 23 Northern Fulmars, and 21 Red Phalaropes. Doris McGovern reported on a New England trip where they had Varied Thrush, 55 Bohemian Waxwings, Razorbill, Thick-billed Murre, and Iceland Gull. The Ornithological Study was presented by Nikolas Haass, and it was on the goose complex that includes Greater White-fronted, Bean, and Pink-footed Geese. The program was Jeff Gordon presenting the "Birdsong Grammys."

**MARCH 18** (40 + 6). President Adrian Binns called the meeting to order. Membership Committee - Anita Guris read the applications of 5 new potential members. Jan Gordon made the request for support of our World Series of Birding team. Tom Bailey described the need for the Palmyra banding project and JoAnn Raine described the Pennypack Environmental Restoration Trust hedgerow restoration and shrublands project. Chris Walters reported on the March 13 trip to Barnegat, NJ, done in conjunction with a group of young birders from the Upper Main Line YMCA. Bert Filemyr demonstrated the web site for our members. Frank Windfelder described the club's e-mail list. Augie Sexauer reported the arrival of Pine Warbler in NJ. JoAnn Raine reported 5 Rusty Blackbirds at Pennypack, PA. Paul Guris reported 12 Purple Finches were still at his feeder in Green Lane, PA, and on Razorbills, Little Gull, and Iceland Gulls from the March 14 Cape May, NJ pelagic trip. Tom Bailey reported seeing an immature Golden Eagle and 2 Red-shouldered Hawks at Friendship Bog. Bob Horton reported seeing 15-20 Tree Swallows, a dozen Rusty Blackbirds, and both teal at Trenton Marsh. Ornithological Studies were presented by Adrian Binns showing a Red-billed Tropicbird tail feather, Rick Mellon who showed slides of an interesting Dark-eyed Junco with white wing bars, and Doris McGovern presented a program on the West Park Basin. The speaker was Doug Wechsler, Director of Project VIREO at the Academy of Natural Sciences, presenting "The Asian Flavor of Alaskan Birds."

**APRIL 1** (56 + 5). Guest president Ron French called the meeting to order. Bill Murphy reported on a joint DVOC/DOS field trip to Cherry Island Landfill for gull study on March 20. Highlights included a 3rd winter Thayer's Gull and a 1st winter Iceland Gull. Membership Committee - Anita Guris

## Abstracts of Proceedings

welcomed Gerri Peevers, Nikolas Haass, Christian and Frances Keidel, and Deborah Danila as new members, and two new candidates for membership. Al Bilheimer said that a dead hawk he found was a first year Peregrine Falcon that had fledged from the Walt Whitman Bridge in Philadelphia. Ron French reported on the female Tufted Duck in Bucks County, PA. Bert Filemyr reported that Yellow-throated and Pine Warblers were in at Jake's Landing, NJ. Art McMorris presented the Ornithological Study on the color morphs of White-throated Sparrows. Our speaker was Clay Sutton presenting "Birding Cumberland County, NJ."

**APRIL 15** (50 + 6). Colin Campbell called the meeting to order. Membership Committee - Anita Guris announced that she had DVOC handout cards. She announced 3 more candidates for membership. Frank Windfelder reported on his annual Salem County, NJ trip, which found Sandhill Crane, Eurasian Wigeon, Barn Owl, and a Ross's Goose. Colin Campbell described his "Birding the Gourmet Hotspots of Southern Delaware and Maryland" trip scheduled for May 7-9. Bert Filemyr gave a tour of DVOC's web site. Bob Rufe announced that U.S. Fish and Wildlife had reports on the economic impacts of birding. Frank Windfelder gave a second-hand report of a Purple Gallinule at the Wetlands Institute at Stone Harbor in NJ. Al Bilheimer reported going to see an adult male Painted Bunting in York County, PA. Paul Guris reported that he still had 30 Purple Finches at his feeder in Green Lane, PA. Bert Filemyr gave an Ornithological Study on the Endemic Birds of North America. The program was given by Frank Gill who presented "Citizen Science in Ornithology."

**MAY 6** (41 + 7). Rick Mellon called the meeting to order. Membership Committee - Anita Guris announced that Steve Kacir, Michelle Frankel, and Jen Johnson were our latest new members, with 4 new candidates. Jan Gordon reported that the William Penn Foundation was helping out National Audubon on the East Park Reservoir project. Doris McGovern reported on the "Three Old Forts" trip on April 25, with Blue Grosbeak and 6-8 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. Nikolas Haass reported Worm-eating and Prothonotary Warblers at the John Heinz refuge on 4/25. Colin Campbell gave a second-hand report of a Swallow-tailed Kite at White Clay Creek, DE. Paul Guris reported that while scouting for the WSB, they

had 18 species of warbler in the High Point and Stokes area of NJ on May 1. Art McMorris presented "Porphyrin Pigments in Bird Feathers" for the Ornithological Study. Laurie Goodrich from Hawk Mountain presented "Saving Species While They are Still Common."

**MAY 20** (36 + 3). President Adrian Binns called the meeting to order. Naomi Murphy reported on the state of our World Series of Birding pledges. The total amount expected to be raised is about \$3,000. Bill Murphy reported 4 participants and 15 species of warblers on the May 9 Ft. Washington PA field trip. Colin Campbell's southern Delaware and Maryland trip on May 7-9 found 151 species, including Eurasian Wigeon, Curlew Sandpiper, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Cliff Swallow. Don Jones' trip to Hawkin Road and Brightview Farm in NJ on May 16 had Hooded, Black and White, Prothonotary, and Blue-winged Warblers, Acadian Flycatcher, and Grasshopper Sparrow. All of the Conrad Roland artwork and other material have been archived, and will be made available on CD. Paul Guris, Bert Filemyr, Adrian Binns, and Eric Pilotte of the DVOC team, the "Lagerhead Shrikes," discussed their winning World Series of Birding total of 219 species. Bill Murphy reported Mississippi Kite and Bicknell's Thrush at Ft. Washington State Park. Art McMorris reported that on Tuesday, he had a singing Bicknell's Thrush in Ridley Creek State Park. He also reported that there were 10 Peregrine Falcon chicks on the Philadelphia bridges. Paul Guris reported finding a singing Clay-colored Sparrow in the Wantage grasslands, NJ. Adrian Binns reported on a Wilson's Phalarope seen in the Newtown area. Tom Bailey reported that Paul Driver had a pair of Red-necked Phalaropes in Palmyra, NJ. Anita Guris reported seeing a "Lawrence's" Warbler at Peter's Valley on May 14. Art McMorris presented "How Did It Get THAT Name?" using specimens from the Academy, as the Ornithological Study. Our speaker was Jim Chace, presenting "Avian Diversity and Cowbird Parasitism in Southeast Arizona."

**JUNE 3** (13 + 3). Paul Guris called the meeting to order. Paul read the reports of Art McMorris's May 22 and 27 Ridley Creek State Park field trips. Paul then reported on the North Carolina pelagic trips he led over Memorial Day weekend. Highlights included North America's first documented Black-bellied

## Abstracts of Proceedings

Storm-Petrel, 3 Fea's Petrels, and an immature Red-billed Tropicbird. Jeff Holt still had a Bufflehead in Gloucester City, NJ a week ago Wednesday. Paul Driver reported White-rumped Sandpiper, 8 Virginia Rails, and Least Bittern at Bud's Bogs in the Pinelands. The May Run reports were read and reviewed as the program.

**SEPTEMBER 23** (48 + 4). President Adrian Binns called the meeting to order. Membership Committee - Anita Guris welcomed Bill Reaume, Mary Watkins, Karl Lukens, Tim McFadden, and Eric Schenkel as new members. Bill Murphy reported that the Chimney Swift trip in Philadelphia had about 100 birds at the Shawmont Elementary School. Adrian Binns reported several hundred Broad-winged Hawks plus a mix of other raptors on the September 19 Hawk Mountain, PA field trip. Adrian Binns announced the passing of David Cutler, Honorary Member of the DVOC, and member since 1944. Bill Murphy said that Ft. Washington State Park, PA had 5,000 Broad-winged and 38 Bald Eagles this week. Ron French had Yellow-breasted Chat and Mourning Warbler at his property in Bucks County. Colin Campbell reported that Bombay Hook still had 16 species of shorebirds. Connie Goldman presented the inside scoop, quite literally, of study skin preparation as the Ornithological Study. Nate Rice, Bird Collections Manager at the Academy, presented Bird Studies in Central Africa, documenting the expedition he participated in to Equatorial Guinea.

**OCTOBER 7** (36 + 8). Ron French called the meeting to order. Bernice Koplin announced the annual banquet, to be held on November 18. Membership Committee - Anita Guris announced new member Robert Krinsky. Frank Windfelder reported on his Tuckerton NJ trip for Sharp-tailed Sparrows on October 2. Deborah Danila said that the Saw-whet banding station is now open and 12 birds were banded already. Ron French had 1 Connecticut Warbler, 4 Lincoln's Sparrows, and a White-crowned Sparrow at his property in Chalfont, PA. Paul Guris reported 4 Black-capped Chickadees in Green Lane, PA. Steve Kerr was in Cape May on Sunday and Monday, and saw Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Sabine's Gull, and multiple Parasitic Jaegers. The Ornithological Study was given by Nikolas Haass on "Weird Color Patterns: Albinism, Leucism, Chlorochroism, Schizochroism, and Vtiligo in Birds." JoAnn Raine and Frank Windfelder co-presented "Birding in South Texas," a

chronicle of their trip throughout the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

**OCTOBER 21** (33 + 1). President Adrian Binns called the meeting to order. Membership Committee - Anita Guris announced one new candidate for membership. Frank Windfelder announced a Philadelphia Inquirer article about land squatters taking over and razing huge sections of pristine rain forest in Brazil. Chuck Hetzel said that the Schuylkill Center needs help with their Kentucky Warbler habitat restoration project. Nikolas Haass had Cape May Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Black-capped Chickadee, all near his West Philadelphia apartment. Frank Windfelder reported a Golden Eagle on 10/8 and a Red-shouldered Hawk on 10/13 from his home in Northeast Philadelphia. Don Jones reported that Bake Oven Knob, PA has already had 9 Golden Eagles this year. Bruce Lantz reported that the Cape Henlopen Hawk Watch had counted nearly 2700 Ospreys this year already. Rick Mellon counted 80 Lesser Black-backed Gulls in one field and 20 in another near Newtown, PA. Adrian Binns had a high count of 230 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Richboro Elementary School. Adrian Binns presented an Ornithological Study comparing Laughing and Franklin's Gulls. Bob Mercer presided over the book auction.

**NOVEMBER 4** (36 + 3). President Adrian Binns called the meeting to order. Membership Committee - Anita Guris announced 3 new candidates for membership and Kurt Schwartz was elected to membership. Molly Daly reported a Brant at the Philadelphia Water Works. Frank Windfelder reported a Baird's Sandpiper in Shearness Pool in Bombay Hook, DE, as well as 16 other species of shorebirds. Bert Filemyr reported a Loggerhead Shrike at Broadkill Beach, DE. Rob Goff reported a Pine Siskin in Center City Philadelphia. Steve Kerr was in Cape May NJ on Sunday where they had over 50,000 American Robins, 200+ Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, a Dickcissel, and a Sedge Wren. Adrian Binns reported that an adult Frigatebird was seen on Saturday in Cape May. For the Ornithological Study, Lynn Jackson shared digitized film clips of DVOC outings in the 1920s, including Julian Potter, Fletcher Street, Witmer Stone, and other notables. Dina Fonesca of the Smithsonian presented "How Mosquitoes and Birds Intersect: The Hawaiian Honeycreeper Example."

## Abstracts of Proceedings

**NOVEMBER 18. 2004 ANNUAL BANQUET** - Bernice and Joseph Koplin and Teri Simon planned and ran the 2004 Annual Banquet. The Julian K. Potter Award was presented to Jen Johnson for her study of night migration in Philadelphia. The Conservation Award was presented to Dr. David Robertson of the Pennypack Environmental Restoration Trust. The Witmer Stone Award was not given this year. Our speaker was Dr. Carl Safina who presented "Eye of the Albatross: Visions of Hope and Survival."

**DECEMBER 2 (63 + 4).** President Adrian Binns called the meeting to order. Membership Committee - Anita Guris announced 4 new members: Andy Bernick, Barbara Hiebsch, Jeff Hawk, and William Keim. Frank Windfelder reported on the November 6 Bake Oven Knob trip, Adrian Binns reported on the November 6 Saw-whet Owl banding trip, and Hank Hox reported on the November 28 trip to Roosevelt Park in Philadelphia led by Keith Russell. Colin Campbell announced the slate of officers for 2005, to be voted on at the January 6 Annual Meeting. Announcements - Jane Henderson reported that long-time member Steve Mallanson, who joined in 1965, recently passed away. Barbara Hiebsch reported that it appeared that the oil spill in the Delaware River might be closer to 500,000 gallons. Help finding oiled birds for Tri-State Bird Rescue was requested. Doris McGovern reported that Al Guarente found an immature Black Skimmer near Tinicum, PA. Steve Kerr had 7 Red-headed Woodpeckers in Batsto, NJ. Colin Campbell reported 2 Rufous Hummingbirds in Lewes, DE. Butch Lishman reported an adult Black-headed Gull in Tullytown, PA. Matt Sharp said that Cherry Island Landfill in Delaware held 4 Iceland Gulls, 25+ Lesser Black-backeds, and the escaped Red-billed Gull. Matt Sharp presented the new Canada vs. Cackling Goose split as the Ornithological Study. Our program was given by Michael Male and Judy Fieth presenting "Time with Birds: Filming Birds Over 15 Years."

**DECEMBER 16 (59 + 9).** President Adrian Binns called the meeting to order. Membership Committee - Anita Guris announced 2 new membership applicants. Adrian Binns reported on the trip to New Mexico. Adrian Binns read off the proposed slate of officers for 2005. Adrian Binns noted that the Delaware River oil spill was worse than thought and that Tri-State Bird Rescue still needed donations. Paul Driver noted a Northern Shrike at the Pennypack

Environmental Restoration Trust, PA. Paul Guris reported the results of the 12/4 Belmar, NJ and 12/11 Lewes, DE pelagic trips. Highlights included Razorbills, Puffins, Dovekies, Kittiwakes, and Manx Shearwaters. Nikolas Haass saw an Ash-throated Flycatcher that was in Cape May and the Townsend's Solitaire still at Cedar Run Dock Road. Linda Rowan had 3 "Ipswich" Sparrows, Lapland Longspurs, and all 3 species of scoter at Brigantine Island, NJ. Art McMorris went to see Pennsylvania's first record of Gray Kingbird in Pomeroy, PA. Alan Brady reported a Black-tailed Gull at Tullytown. Guest Peter Scholten from the Netherlands showed us video of Dutch winter birding for the Ornithological Study. Our speaker was Pat Sutton presenting "How to Spot an Owl."

### 2005

**JANUARY 6 (48 + 2).** Rick Mellon called DVOC's 2005 Annual Meeting to order. Colin Campbell announced the proposed slate of nominees for the election: President, Adrian Binns; Vice President, Chris Walters; Secretary, Paul Guris; Treasurer, Naomi Murphy; Councilors (3-year terms expiring January 2008), Jeff Holt and Mike Lyman. Colin called for a vote, and the officers and new councilors were elected unanimously. The outgoing Councilors, Anita Guris and Lynn Jackson, were thanked for serving their terms. Art McMorris was elected as a Fellow. Membership Committee - Anita Guris announced our 2 newest members: Lucy Siegfried and Andrew Curtis. Anita reported that 2004 saw 34 new members. Treasurer Naomi Murphy reported on the state of the club's finances for 2004. Paul Guris announced that the New Bins for New Birders (NB4NB) committee had been created. Paul Guris read Tri-State Bird Rescue's thank you for the donation of \$500 by the club as an organization, and the further donation of over \$400 collected by the members. Bert Filemyr distributed the new DVOC directories. JoAnn Raine reported that a Red-shouldered Hawk was in New Holland. Linda Rowan reported a Grasshopper Sparrow at the Pennypack Environmental Restoration Trust, PA. Sandra Keller noted a Snowy Owl at Shark River Inlet, NJ. The Ornithological Study was Anita Guris's presentation of Newly Discovered Bird Species. Chris Walters presided over the presentation of the Christmas Bird Count reports from around the Delaware Valley as our program. The meeting adjourned for refreshments and goodies.

## Abstracts of Proceedings

**JANUARY 20** (44 + 3). President Adrian Binns called the meeting to order. Membership Committee - Connie Goldman announced 3 new candidates for membership. Chris Walters reported that the annual Philadelphia Mid-winter Bird Census took place on Jan. 8. Highlights included a highly-unusual flock of Rough-winged Swallows, Ovenbird, and Iceland Gull. Paul Guris reported on the trip to Dix WMA, which had 2 Clay-colored Sparrows, and over a dozen Bald Eagles, including many pairs on active nests. Chris Walters reported on the Montauk trip, which had Harris's Sparrow, Snowy Owl, Barrow's Goldeneye, Razorbills, and Eurasian Wigeon. JoAnn Raine reported the continuing presence of a Northern Shrike at Pennypack Environmental Restoration Trust, PA. Alan Brady reported 3 Short-eared Owls at Peace Valley Park, PA. Linda Rowan saw 3 Rusty Blackbirds at Silver Lake Nature Center, PA. Adrian Binns presented a short primer on the separation of Loggerhead and Northern Shrikes as the Ornithological Study. Adrian also was the speaker, presenting "Birding in Bharat Pur."

**FEBRUARY 3** (48 + 7). Guest President Ron French called the meeting to order. Membership Committee - Connie Goldman announced 3 new members: Brian Raicich, Brian Quindlen, and Ashley Hazan, plus 2 new member candidates. Paul Guris again explained the "New Bins for New Birders" (NB4NB) program to members. Martin Selzer reported that his January 29 north shore of NJ trip had Razorbill, Redhead, Bald Eagle, and other waterfowl. Chris Walters announced Project VIREO at the Academy needed a volunteer to help scan images. JoAnn Raine reported a trip to the Poconos area for wintering Bald Eagles, seeing 56. Paul Guris reported that the January 29 inshore pelagic trip found Razorbills, 4 Thick-billed Murres, 2 Red-necked Grebes, 3 Iceland Gulls, and a Black-headed Gull. Colin Campbell reported a Black Guillemot at Indian River Inlet Marina, and Harlequin Duck, Common Eider and Thick-billed Murre at Henlopen, DE. Andy Bernick had Rough-legged Hawk, Goshawk, and 9 Harlequin Ducks at Island Beach. Ornithological Studies: Erika Scarborough from John Heinz NWR provided a status update on the Athos I oil spill; Paul Guris showed photographic highlights of the Jan. 29 inshore pelagic trip out of Belmar, NJ; Colin Campbell presented photos of the Delaware Black Guillemot and Thick-billed Murre; and Connie Goldman presented photos of a Boreal Owl with a dark bill seen recently on Amherst Island, Ontario.

Randy Little presented "For the Birds: Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology at Sapsucker Woods" as the program.

**FEBRUARY 17** (47 + 3). President Adrian Binns called the meeting to order. Membership - Connie Goldman announced two new applicants for membership. Adrian Binns reported on the February 11-13 trip to Ontario, with highlights of approximately 20 Great Gray Owls, 1 Boreal and 1 Northern Hawk Owl, Varied Thrush, Spruce Grouse, and 2 Boreal Chickadees. Ron French reported on the Redwing seen for one day only on February 5 at the Peace Valley Nature Center, PA, and on the Northern Lapwing seen on February 15 & 16 in Maryland. Colin reported on the Gyrfalcon seen on February 15-17 in Delaware. Guest Dave Magpiong reported that on February 12 & 13 he observed a Gyrfalcon near Mannington Marsh in Salem County, NJ. The Ornithological Study was given by Deborah Danila on the past years of the Northern Saw-whet Owl banding project run by Scott Weidensaul and the Ned Smith Center in PA. Prof. Martin Wikelski of Princeton University gave a presentation titled "Migration Energetics of Song Birds in the Field." Following the program, Adrian Binns showed photos from his recent owl trip to Ontario and Nikolas Haass presented a brief overview of topics that had been discussed in recent weeks, including groups of Northern Shovelers feeding in a circular motion, wing tip variations in Iceland Gulls, and breast coloration of Cackling and Canada Geese. Rick Mellon showed a picture of the male Western Spindalis that he saw in Indigenous Park, Key West, FL.

**MARCH 3** (46 + 2). Don Jones called the meeting to order. Martin Selzer reported on the March 13 trip to Barnegat NJ with the youth group from the Upper Main Line YMCA, which found Harlequin Ducks plus 2 Short-eared Owls at Brigantine. Don Jones reported Barred Owl and 2 Saw-whets in Wharton State Forest, NJ. JoAnn Raine reported that the official waterfowl estimate at Middle Creek was 125,000 Tundra Swans and 200,000 Snow Geese. The Ornithological Study was given by Nikolas Haass on "Identification of Dark-backed Gulls." The program was presented by Martin Selzer and Jane Henderson and was called "A Birding Adventure in the Yukon Territory."

**MARCH 17** (48 + 5). Ron French called the meeting to order. Membership Committee - Connie Goldman

## Abstracts of Proceedings

announced that Scott McConnell and Lydia Reichner were accepted as new members. Martin Selzer reported on the February 26 trip to southern Delaware. Paul Guris reported that the February 26 pelagic trip out of Lewes, DE had 581 Dovekies, 7 Common Murres, 120+ Razorbills, 130+ Fulmars, 4 Puffins, and 6 Black-legged Kittiwakes. The February 27 inshore pelagic trip out of Lewes found 20+ Razorbills, thousands of scoters including 160+ White-winged, one Common Eider, and one Harlequin Duck. Bert Filemyr reported a Eurasian Green-winged Teal at Lake Tackanasee. The Ornithological Study given by Art McMorris was on "Owl Feet and Hunting Methods." Carolee Caffrey presented the program "Effects of West Nile Virus on Crows and Other Wildlife."

**APRIL 7** (48 + 2). Ron French called the meeting to order. JoAnn Raine presented a request from a group called National Biodiversity Parks for funding from DVOC's World Series of Birding conservation funds. Chris Walters announced that Project VIREO at the Academy of Natural Sciences was looking for volunteers with PhotoShop experience to help with digitizing VIREO's photo collection. Alan Brady reported a Black Guillemot off Wildwood Crest, NJ. Art McMorris gave a status report on the Peregrine Falcons in the Philadelphia area. Ron French reported that the Fishing Creek area on the Susquehanna had at least 3 Little Gulls. Nikolas Haass reported 2 male "Common" Teal at Brigantine displaying to two females (which were unidentifiable as to subspecies). Frank Windfelder presented his big year push for Palmyra Cove Nature Park for the Ornithological Study. The program was presented by Bob Peck who discussed "The Father of Australian Ornithology: John Gould and His World."

**APRIL 21** (42 + 4). Don Jones called the meeting to order. Membership Committee - Anita Guris announced one new candidate for membership. Erica Brendel reported a good migrant flight at Carpenter's Woods in Philadelphia. Augie Sexauer had 2 Prothonotaries back on territory at Hawkin Road, NJ. In an unusual evening, we had two programs presented, one each by Paul Tebbel and Michael Forsberg who have worked together with the Sandhill Cranes on the Platte River in Nebraska. The first program presented by Paul was "Sandhill Cranes: Understanding Crane Communication" followed by Michael's program "On Ancient Wings."

**MAY 5** (53 + 4). Don Jones called the meeting to order. Membership - Anita Guris announced that Richard Conroy was our newest member. Three new candidates for membership were announced. Bill Murphy reported an adult male Summer Tanager, Cape May Warbler, and Hooded Warbler at Ft. Washington State Park, PA. Frank Windfelder reported Cerulean Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Red-throated Loon seen in Palmyra Cove Nature Park, NJ in April. Doris McGovern reported that Tinicum Refuge in Philadelphia had 3 Worm-eating Warblers. Connie Goldman presented Peregrine Falcon Head Patterns for the Ornithological Study. Alan Brady read from a 1939 article about Jerome Kessler, who went for the "Big Three" at the time: California Condor, Trumpeter Swan, and Ivory-billed Woodpecker. The speaker was Dr. Aliza Baltz of the Philadelphia Zoo, presenting "Report on the Zoo's Micronesian Kingfisher Success and Other Captive Breeding Bird Programs."

**MAY 19** (41 + 5). Colin Campbell called the meeting to order. Membership - Anita Guris announced Rob Hynson, Frances Oates, and Ken Mitchell as our newest members, plus 5 new membership candidates. Paul Guris reported that all of the scopes donated to the "New Bins for New Birders" (NB4NB) project had now been sold and the proceeds had been used to purchase binoculars, which would be donated to the program's first recipient, the Rancocas Nature Center in NJ. Colin Campbell reported on the May 6-8 Pocomoke MD trip. Don Jones reported on the May 15 Hawkin Rd./Brightview Farm NJ trip. Most targets were found but Kentucky Warbler and Grasshopper Sparrow were missed. Nikolas Haass had two Canada Warblers and a Hairy Woodpecker on the University of Pennsylvania campus. Frank Windfelder reported Mourning Warbler on 5/14, Wilson's Warbler on 5/15, and 28 species of warbler total for his Palmyra big year. Chuck Hetzel reported a Yellow-throated Warbler in Roxborough, Philadelphia. Jeff Holt reported that the pair of Gadwalls at the Riverwinds pond in Gloucester County NJ appears to have bred successfully. Bert Filemyr and Paul Guris presented the details of their winning World Series of Birding big day as the Ornithological Study. Dr. Robert Curry from Villanova University presented "Conservation Ecology of Island-Endemics (the Mimids—Mockingbirds and their Allies)" for our program.

**JUNE 2** (39 + 5). Colin Campbell called the meeting to order. Membership - Anita Guris announced Shaun

## Abstracts of Proceedings

Kass, Samuel Perloff, Eileen Krause, Tim and Rainy Hartley, Joe Delesantro, and Bernard Morris as our newest members. All other committee reports were dispensed with to leave time for our two programs. The first program was a presentation of May Run reports. Dr. Clem Fisher then presented "Australian Birds in Philadelphia and Other Unexpected Places: A Tribute to John Gould's Assistant, John Gilbert."

**SEPTEMBER 22** (46 + 4). President Adrian Binns called the meeting to order. Membership - Connie Goldman announced 6 new members; Alan Crawford III, Kathleen Geist, Dani-Ella Betz (from Lower Merion Conservancy), Dino Fiabane, Anthony Croasdale, and Thomas Mason. Art McMorris thanked Jeff Holt, Steve Kerr, Bert Filemyr, and Clay Sutton for helping get out the most recent issue of *Cassinia*. Bert Filemyr gave us a tour of the club website's newest feature: the newly hosted information from Delaware Valley Birding. Don Jones told us of a web resource that is devoted to songs and calls of tropical birds at [www.xeno-canto.org](http://www.xeno-canto.org). Colin Campbell noted that the Pennsylvania Game Commission is looking for any information on Barn Owls in PA for an owl conservation initiative. Bill Murphy reported a female Anhinga on 9/10 at Ft. Washington State Park, PA. Scott Fraser reported that Green Lane Reservoir, PA, had Pipits, an American Golden-Plover, a Stilt Sandpiper, and an Egyptian Goose (assumed escaped). Paul Guris reported 60+ Buff-breasted Sandpipers, 80 American Golden-Plover, 30+ Pectoral Sandpipers, and 1 juv. Baird's Sandpiper at the Johnson Sod Farm, NJ. Chuck Hetzel presented a wonderful set of shorebird pictures from the New Jersey Audubon Society file photo collection as the Ornithological Study. Adrian Binns presented "Kenya, A Wildlife Safari" as our program.

**OCTOBER 6** (41 + 4). Rick Mellon called the meeting to order. Membership - Deborah Danila reported that Win Shafer and Scott McGonigle were our newest members. Tom Reeves said that the Rose Tree Hawk Watch in PA had a record to date of 154 Bald Eagles. Doris McGovern reported that Tinicum held 4 American Golden-Plover and a Stilt Sandpiper. Rob Hynson found a Chimney Swift roost with about 500 birds near the Academy of Natural Sciences. Paul Guris reported 2 Lincoln's Sparrows at Green Lane, PA and a Saw-whet Owl perched nearby, seen in his headlights. The Ornithological Study was present by

Colin Campbell and was called "A Birder's Quiz." David Brinker presented "Saw-whet Owls," a full description of the Project OwlNet project.

**OCTOBER 20** (59 + 11). President Adrian Binns called the meeting to order. Membership - Connie Goldman announced 4 new candidates for membership. Frank Windfelder reported on the October 15 field trip to Tuckerton, NJ. Adrian Binns announced that the Clean Air Council is having a roundtable discussion with Larry Niles and Eric Stiles called "Trials and Tribulations of the Red Knot" at the Academy of Natural Sciences. Adrian Binns also discussed an interesting article where scientists cracked the code of the Black-capped Chickadees calls, and how the number of dee-dee-dee notes is used to denote the level of danger from a detected predator. Augie Sexauer reported that a Golden Eagle was already seen at Bake Oven Knob. Doris McGovern reported a huge fallout in Cape May, including 1000+ Savannah Sparrows and numbers of Palm Warblers, with local estimates of Yellow-rumped Warblers running between 200,00 and 1,000,000. Multiple other fallouts were reported being seen on the same day. The Ornithological Study was Matt Sharp on "ID of Western Hummingbirds." Our program was George Armistead presenting "Birding Southern Argentina - The Pampas, Patagonia, and Tierra del Fuego."

**NOVEMBER 3** (48 + 3). President Adrian Binns called the meeting to order. Membership - Connie Goldman announced 4 new members: Gabe Johnson, Howard Einspahr, Bradford Whitman, and Alexander Grimwade. Bert Filemyr announced that he had completed moving the club's web site from the Academy's servers to our own web hosting company. Bert Filemyr also mentioned that a copy of Witmer Stone's "Bird Studies at Old Cape May" is on sale by a library in Woodlands, TX. Adrian Binns mentioned that eGuides has put out the famous Collins Guide to European birds, including sounds, on a hand-held PDA. Molly Daly reported that the adult male Rufous Hummingbird that has been at her feeder in southern Chester County PA for 3 weeks is still there. Bob Mercer had a flyby Snow Bunting at Bake Oven Knob. Frank Windfelder added Vesper Sparrow and Orange-crowned Warbler to his Palmyra big year list. Ron French reported 3 Vesper Sparrows at Peace Valley. Several reports of Black-capped Chickadee seem to indicate an invasion year. Colin Campbell discussed



## Abstracts of Proceedings

the Snow Goose complex, including Greater and Lesser Snow Goose and Ross's Goose, as the Ornithological Study. Our speaker was Sam Fried who presented "Eastern Australia Birding."

**NOVEMBER 17. 2005 ANNUAL BANQUET** - Bernice and Joseph Koplín and Teri Simon planned and ran the 2005 Annual Banquet. The Witmer Stone Award was awarded to Jeff Holt. The Julian K. Potter Award was presented to Bill Murphy. The Conservation Award was presented to Mike Weilbacher of the Lower Merion Conservancy. Our speakers were Michael Male and Judy Fieth who presented highlights from the many bird video projects they've undertaken.

**DECEMBER 1 (48 + 3).** President Adrian Binns called the meeting to order. Membership - Connie Goldman announced Scott Fraser and David Larsen as the club's newest members. Matt Sharp reported on the Nov. 19 gull trip to Florence, NJ. Adrian Binns reported on the Nov. 28-30 trip to Niagara Falls where highlights were Little, Iceland, Thayer's, and Franklin's Gulls, plus thousands of Buffleheads and Long-tailed Ducks. Colin Campbell announced the following nominations for 2006: President - Chris Walters, Vice-President - Paul Guris, Secretary - Frank Windfelder, and Connie Goldman and Nate Rice for Council. Paul Guris announced that he had Delaware Bayshore nature guides created by NJ Audubon. Jeff

Holt reported that a Rufous Hummingbird is in Paulsboro, NJ and another in West Deptford, NJ. Chris Walters mentioned that a Rufous Hummingbird was seen in Narberth, PA. Ron French had a *Selasphorus* hummingbird make a quick stop at his home in Chalfont, PA. Bob Horton reported a White-winged Dove that was in Cape May. Doris McGovern reported an Orange-crowned Warbler at Money Island in NJ. Carl Perry presented "A Forensic Approach to the Presence of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers" as our Ornithological Study. Scott Barnes presented the program "Birding Sandy Hook."

**DECEMBER 15 (21 + 0).** President Adrian Binns called the meeting to order. Membership - Connie Goldman announced that Julieanne Harris was our newest member. Adrian Binns announced the slate of candidates for 2006. Paul Guris reported on the Dec. 10 pelagic trip out of Lewes, DE; sightings included 28 Razorbills, 3 Dovekies, 3 Kittiwakes, and thousands of Gannets. Nikolas Haass reported a Western Tanager from Brigantine NWR, NJ on Dec. 4, and noted that the Black Guillemot was still at Barnegat and the Hammond's Flycatcher is still in Maryland. Adrian Binns presented his study on gynandromorphy as the Ornithological Study. The evening's program was the Members' Slide Night. Special note was made of the "Best in Show" photograph of a Louisiana Waterthrush by Julieanne Harris.

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### 100 Years Ago

*Compiled by Art McMorris*

*January 5, 1905* – "Annual Meeting. Thirty-one members present ... The old officers were re-elected for the ensuing year, as follows: President, Dr. Spencer Trotter; Vice-President, William A. Shryock; Secretary, Wm. B. Evans; Treasurer, Stewardson Brown.

"This being the fifteenth anniversary of the founding of the club, the Chairman Mr. Shryock gave a brief review of its history and Messrs. Serrill, Pennock and Stone spoke of different phases of the club's work and of early reminiscences. The meeting then adjourned to the annual collation."

*March 16, 1905* — "Twenty-six members present. Dr. Trotter read a paper entitled 'Type Birds from Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey' in which he spoke of some twenty-nine species of which the original type specimens had been discovered in the neighborhood of Philadelphia, and commented on the exact localities where some of them had been shot, and circumstances connected with their capture."

From *Cassinia* No. IX, 1905