

Abstracts of Proceedings 2006-2007

Frank Windfelder

2006

JANUARY 5. Ron French called the annual meeting to order; 44 members and one guest were present. The following officers and councilors were elected:

President: Chris Walters
Vice President: Paul Guris
Secretary: Frank Windfelder
Treasurer: Naomi Murphy
Councilor: Connie Goldman
Councilor: Nate Rice

The annual Treasurer's and Trustees' reports were presented. Paul Guris presided over the Christmas Bird Count reports. Refreshments were served afterwards.

JANUARY 19. In attendance were 55 members and 2 guests. Chris Walters announced that 100 species were seen on this year's Philadelphia Midwinter Bird Census. Bert Filemyr gave the Ornithological Studies presentation entitled, "Bird Color Quiz." Frank Hass gave the main presentation entitled, "Adak, Gambling on Birds."

FEBRUARY 2. In attendance were 42 members and 4 guests. Chris Walters gave the first Ornithological Studies presentation entitled, "Might Rival Species Share One Nest?" Scott Fraser then showed an amazing video of a swirling and diving flock of European Starlings. Robert DeCandido, PhD gave the main presentation entitled, "Asia Birds from West to East and Back Again."

FEBRUARY 16. In attendance were 47 members and 3 guests. Paul Guris' pelagic trip out of Freeport, NY on February 11th yielded a well-seen and photographed bird that may prove to have been a Western Gull, along with an amazing 1,675 Dovekies. Adrian Binns gave an Ornithological Studies presentation dealing with the possible occurrence in North America of a number of cryptic European species. Keith L. Bildstein, PhD gave the main presentation entitled, "Raptor Migration in the Neotropics: Patterns and Consequences."

MARCH 2. In attendance were 44 members and 4 guests. Chris Walters announced that we have received an updated ruling from IRS, reaffirming our status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Bert Filemyr gave a presentation on the club's Listserv and website. Doris McGovern gave an Ornithological Studies presentation entitled, "Banding Studies with MAPS Protocol." Main speaker David S. Wilcove's topic was, "Can We Really Save America's Endangered Species?"

MARCH 16. In attendance were 52 members and 6 guests. Conservation chairperson Debbie Beer announced that the proceeds of our 2006 World Series of Birding fundraiser will go to the Montgomery County Lands Trust, for the purpose of protecting a local heron rookery. Connie Goldman gave an Ornithological Studies presentation entitled, "Forensic ID." This was an effort to identify a dead accipiter as to species. Main speaker Jeff Gordon gave a talk entitled, "Identify Yourself: The 50 Most Common Birding Identification Challenges."

APRIL 6. In attendance were 62 members and 5 guests. Membership chairperson Connie Goldman made brochures and membership applications available for distribution to non-members. Bert Filemyr gave an Ornithological Studies presentation entitled, "Total Ticks, What and Why." Main speaker Paul Lehman gave a presentation entitled, "Migrant & Vagrant Traps of North America."

APRIL 20. In attendance were 33 members and 8 guests. Steve Kacir's Ornithological studies topic was, "Anting and Antibiotics." Main speaker Yoav Chudnoff spoke about "Birding in Bulgaria."

MAY 4. In attendance were 43 members. Frank Windfelder gave the Ornithological Studies presentation, outlining the recent findings of an expedition to New Guinea. Main speaker George Armistead gave a presentation entitled, "Real Birds Eat Squid," detailing a trip he took to the Sub-Antarctic Islands off New Zealand and Australia.

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MAY 18. In attendance were 42 members and 8 guests. Paul Guris and Adrian Binns gave a description of their latest New Jersey World Series of Birding adventure, in which our DVOC/Nikon Lagerhead Shrikes team finished third with 218 species. Main speaker Dr. Daniel Cristol's topic was, "Mercury Buildup Studies of Belted Kingfisher, Tree Swallow, and Screech Owl Populations."

JUNE 1. In attendance were 28 members and 1 guest. We were saddened to hear of the passing of Alan Brady's wife Liz. Anita Guris announced that the DVOC Annual Picnic will be held at the Guris' home in Green Lane on July 29th. Because of the lack of the necessary quorum, the vote on the changes in By-Laws was postponed until the fall. For Ornithological Studies, Bob Mercer gave an overview of "Block Busting" for the ongoing Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas. Big Day reports were submitted.

SEPTEMBER 21. President Chris Walters greeted 47 members for the first formal meeting of the fall. Matt Sharp's Ornithological Studies presentation dealt with the newly split Sooty and Dusky Grouse, in which he clarified the reasons for the split. Main speaker Don Freiday taught us "How to Misidentify Birds Like an Expert." It turns out that sometimes the best birders make the biggest mistakes.

OCTOBER 5. In attendance were 48 members and 2 guests who heard about how new members, prior to the meeting, were treated to Nate Rice's demonstration of how to prepare a specimen, a Common Yellowthroat. A discussion ensued about the proposed changes in the By-laws. A vote was taken, and the measure passed. Speaker Don Jones gave a delightful presentation about a trip to Belize that he took, together with some other DVOC members.

OCTOBER 19. In attendance were 60 members and 4 guests. For Ornithological Studies, Nikolas Haas undertook the complicated task of delineating the various races in the Western Reef Heron/Little Egret complex. Main speaker Kevin Karlson showed us incredible images in his talk on "Shorebirds Made Simpler: A New, Exciting Approach to Birding."

NOVEMBER 2. In attendance were 30 members and 2 guests who enjoyed Rob Hynson's Ornithological

studies presentation, entitled "Vagrants in Britain." Main speaker Rafael Galvez, in his presentation on "Hawks and Owls of Georgia," showed us an intriguing mixture of video, watercolors, and photos.

NOVEMBER 16. Annual Banquet. President Chris Walters hosted our Annual Banquet at the Sheet Metal Workers' Hall on Delaware Avenue, where he greeted 89 rain-soaked invitees. The Witmer Stone Award was presented to Naomi Murphy for her amazing efforts in producing Larus Online. The Julian K. Potter Award went to Pete Dunne, who could have been cited for any one of a number of accomplishments, including his establishment and ongoing efforts with the New Jersey World Series of Birding. Pete was also the keynote speaker, spellbinding us with "25 Things that Changed Birding." He placed Dwight D. Eisenhower's dream of a National Highway System, embodied in The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1952, at the top of the list.

DECEMBER 7. President Chris Walters greeted 50 members and 5 guests. Jeff Holt agreed to take over stewardship of the Archives Committee, replacing Lynn Jackson. The slate of officers and new council members, to be voted on at the Annual Meeting, were announced by Chairman Colin Campbell. Mary Gustafson gave a wonderful presentation on the "Vagrant Hummingbirds in Eastern North America," in which she shared her experiences in banding hummers in the mid-Atlantic region.

DECEMBER 21. President Chris Walters greeted a large gathering of 64 members and 6 guests. Colin Campbell announced the slate for the upcoming elections for a second time. In Ornithological Studies, Deborah Danila gave an interesting presentation entitled, "Northern Saw-whet Owl Migration, 2006." Main Speaker Scott Weidensaul presented "Return to Wild America: A Yearlong Search for the Continent's Natural Soul." He had retraced the steps taken by James Fisher and Roger Tory Peterson 50 years ago.

2007

JANUARY 4. President Chris Walters called the annual meeting to order; 44 members and 2 guests were present. The following officers and councilors were elected:

President: Chris Walters
Vice President: Paul Guris
Secretary: Frank Windfelder
Treasurer: Naomi Murphy
Councilor: JoAnn Raine
Councilor: Steve Kacir

JoAnn Raine, Nick Pulcinella, Edie Parnum, Denis Brennan, and Mike Lyman were elected as Fellows. Paul Guris presided over the Christmas Bird Count reports. Refreshments were served afterwards.

JANUARY 18. Chris Walters called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. He greeted 45 members and 4 guests. The annual Treasurer's and Trustees' reports were presented. For Ornithological studies, Tim Schaeffer, Director of Pennsylvania Audubon, gave us a progress report on the East Park Reservoir. Main Speaker Jeff Gordon spoke about "The 10 Greatest Birds of the Last 30 Years."

FEBRUARY 1. Chris Walters entertained 40 members and 6 guests. Colin Campbell's Ornithological Studies topic was entitled, *The Isle of May ... or maybe not,* which detailed his trip to the Isle of May in the North Sea. Andy Smith's program, *"Birds and Other Wildlife of the Pantanal,"* dealt with a breathtaking area for birds in the southwestern corner of Brazil.

FEBRUARY 15. Chris Walters greeted 40 members and 5 guests. The Ornithological Studies presentation was given by Paul Guris on *"New Pelagic Boundaries."* He delineated the marine areas used for the purpose of reporting New Jersey Records. Main speaker Dan Mummert enlightened us on the *"Conservation of Barn Owls in Pennsylvania."*

MARCH 1. As Chris Walters called the meeting to order, in attendance were 43 members and 3 guests. Paul Guris presented Keith Russell of East Park Reservoir with 15 pairs of binoculars, as part of our New Bins for New Birders (NB4NB) program. Paul Guris' Ornithological Studies entitled, *"Results of February 2007 New York and Delaware Pelagics,"* and Wayne Laubscher's slide program on *"Grey Ghosts and Other Northern Owls"* were well received.

MARCH 15. Chris Walters sat in front of a large group of 50 members. For Ornithological Studies, Steve

Kacir gave a presentation on *"Poisonous Birds."* Main speaker Mark Garland's creative topic was *"Tropical Birds Do the Coolest Things."*

APRIL 5. Chris Walters greeted 38 members and 1 guest. Bob Mercer ran the Book Auction, which this year netted proceeds of over \$2,000.00, to be earmarked for the Conservation Fund. Paul and Anita Guris provided refreshments.

APRIL 19. Chris Walters called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm; in attendance were 40 members and 8 guests. For Ornithological Studies, Art McMorris spoke about *"Eavesdropping on Alarm Calls."* Then, David La Puma explained how *"Radar Ornithology"* can help us to find migrants.

MAY 3. Chris Walters called the meeting to order with 26 members. Raja Stevenson's Ornithological Studies presentation was entitled, *"Bird Names: A Linguistic Perspective."* Blake Mathys spoke about his graduate work on *"Great Kiskadees in Bermuda and Trinidad."*

MAY 17. President Chris Walters called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm; in attendance were 36 members and 2 guests. Bert Filemyr gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the efforts of the Nikon/DVOC Lagerhead Shrikes, which identified 227 species during the New Jersey World Series of Birding on May 12th. Then Eric Stiles' program followed, *"Shorebird Conservation on the Delaware Bay: Glass Half Full or Broken?"*

JUNE 7. In attendance were 18 members and 4 guests who faced Chris Walters, with Connie Goldman acting as Secretary. The Big Day/May Run reports were discussed. Paul Guris provided a written summary.

SEPTEMBER 20. Ex-President Adrian Binns, subbing for Chris Walters, greeted 40 members and 1 guest. Art McMorris' informative topic for Ornithological Studies was *"What's the Logic of Eclipse Plumage?"* Pete Bacinski, speaking on *"Montana: The Last Best Place,"* told us about the wonderful birds occurring in that state.

OCTOBER 4. President Chris Walters faced 39 members. Adrian Binns' tour de force included an Ornitho-

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logical Studies on “Fecal Sacs” and a program entitled “The Lighter Side of Birding.”

OCTOBER 18. In attendance were 47 members and 6 guests. For Ornithological Studies, Adrian Binns enumerated the “Newcomers to the Delaware Valley.” Main speaker Jeff Wells spoke on “Three Secrets about Bird Conservation They Don’t Want You to Know.”

NOVEMBER 1. Chris Walters entertained a large gathering of 52 members and 5 guests. Bert Filemyr’s Ornithological Studies, “Apostrophes,” taught us a lot about bird’s names that we didn’t know, and Kevin Loughlin’s presentation, “Panama’s Darien: Still Wild After All These Years,” made us yearn for tropical birding.

NOVEMBER 15. Rick Mellon, subbing for Chris Walters, greeted 32 members and 4 guests. For Ornithological Studies, Edie Parnum spoke on “Hummingbird Hotspot in Central Pennsylvania,” dealing with a feeder run by Laurene Nevels. Main speaker Dr. Bob Curry gave an informative presentation on “Hybridization of Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees.”

DECEMBER 5. Annual Banquet. President Chris Walters hosted our Annual Banquet at the Sheet Metal Workers’ Hall on Delaware Avenue, where he greeted 95 members and guests. The Julian K. Potter Award went to Field Guides leader George Armistead for his many accomplishments, including his work on three Ornithological Records Committees. The Witmer Stone Award went to Louis Bevier, based on his co-authorship of the first published paper to challenge the identity of a photographed woodpecker, believed to be an Ivory-billed. George accepted the award on behalf of Louis. Our keynote speaker was Don Kroodsmas, Professor of Biology at the University of Massachusetts, who is an authority on bird song, and author of the book, *The Singing Life of Birds*.

DECEMBER 20. In attendance were 30 members and 2 guests. Adrian Binns gave an Ornithological Studies presentation entitled, “Separating Hooded and Altamira Orioles in the Rio Grande Valley.” Main Speaker Bob Fergus’ topic was, “What Is it Like to be a Bird? How Birds See the World.”

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Art McMorris

2008

JANUARY 3. There were 40 members and 2 guests present for DVOC’s 118th “Annual Meeting.” The following officers and councilors were elected:

Officers, to serve one-year terms:

President: Paul Guris

Vice President: Frank Windfelder

Secretary: Art McMorris

Treasurer: Bert Filemyr

Councilors at Large, to serve until January 2011:

Debbie Beer

Tom Bailey

Outgoing President Chris Walters thanked outgoing Councilors Mike Lyman and Jeff Holt for their service, and outgoing Treasurer Naomi Murphy for her 12 years of dedicated work. He then announced that Council had elected two new Fellows of the club: Debbie Beer and Steve Kacir. He thanked the club for the pleasure of his two years as President, and recalled two important new initiatives that the Club had undertaken in recent years: the New Bins for New Birders (NB4NB) program and the club’s outreach to younger birders. Outgoing Treasurer Naomi Murphy gave the annual Treasurer’s Report; our total assets at year’s end were \$6,996.98. Trustee Chris Walters gave the annual Trustees’ Report; the club’s endowment stood at \$147,117.46 at year’s end. Bert Filemyr distributed copies the new membership directory which, amazingly, included the results of the annual election,

held only moments before. Steve Kacir presented the Ornithological Study “A Paleo-Ornithological Study,” and Frank Windfelder and Debbie Beer presented the highlights of local area Christmas Bird Counts. The meeting then adjourned for the traditional sumptuous repast, organized by Anita and Paul Guris.

JANUARY 17. In spite of the inclement weather, 21 members and 2 guests were present. Membership Chair Connie Goldman announced three new members: Erin Quinn, Jason Loghry and Peter Burns. Frank Windfelder presented “Black-capped vs. Carolina Chickadee: How Can You Really Tell?” as an Ornithological Study. The main program was presented by Jeffrey Hall, who spoke about “Birds on the Rocks (Seabirds in the Canadian Maritimes).” He described visits to breeding colonies of murrelets, gannets, and other seabirds in Newfoundland, Quebec, Machias Seal Island, and other North Atlantic locations, plus the whales, seals and other creatures that share the marine habitat of the region.

FEBRUARY 7. There were 30 members and 5 guests present. Membership Chair Connie Goldman introduced new member Sarah Besadny, who joined in December. Conservation Chair Debbie Beer announced the recipients of this year’s Conservation Grants, funded by the proceeds from this year’s World Series of Birding fundraising. The primary recipient will be Scott Weidensaul’s Saw-Whet Owl Banding Project on the Kittatinny Ridge. Conservation Grant funds will also support an additional ornithological intern at the Academy of Natural Sciences and two banding projects in the local area, run by Tom Bailey and Hannah Suthers, respectively. Debbie Beer presented “Sexing Bald Eagles” as an Ornithological Study. The main speaker was Nathan Gregory who presented “Savanna Home Companions: Fire, Pastoralism, and Bird Communities in East Africa,” based on Ph.D. research he is conducting in Kenya.

FEBRUARY 21. There were 40 members and 8 guests in attendance. Anita Guris read the profile of new member Stewart Beltz. Conservation Chair Debbie Beer presented the 2007 DVOG Conservation Award to Larry Niles in recognition of his work in Delaware Bay, in the arctic and in southern South America on the conservation of Red Knots. Larry said that he

would like to share the award with his wife, Amanda Dey, who had shared in the work. Larry then spoke about the status of Red Knot populations and conservation. The main speaker was Mary Gustafson, who presented a talk entitled “TexMex Birds: Birding Northeast Mexico.” She described the habitat in the Tamaulipan Brushlands and the Chihuahuan Desert and its varied bird life and invited all to come birding in her new “back yard.”

MARCH 6. There were 45 members and 1 guest present. Anita Guris welcomed new member Josh Robeson. As an Ornithological Study, Sally Conyne presented “North American Lesser Black-backed Gull Research Project,” a project she is undertaking with Scott Weidensaul, Frank Gill, Bill Etter, Tom Johnson, and Cameron Rutt. Frank Windfelder then introduced the main speaker, Keith Bildstein, who spoke about “American Kestrel: Studies at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and Elsewhere.” Keith described extensive studies being done at Hawk Mountain for over 50 years. He described research methods and the results of studies on breeding biology, habitat use, feeding, threats and predators, diseases (especially West Nile Virus), and population trends. The decline of the American Kestrel in recent decades is correlated with the resurgence of a major predator, the Cooper’s Hawk, after the cessation of persecution of that species.

MARCH 20. There were 31 members and 6 guests present. Art McMorris introduced the night’s Ornithological Study speaker, Anthony Gonzon, who spoke about “The New Delaware Breeding Bird Atlas.” Frank Windfelder then introduced the main speaker, Jeff Gordon, who presented a program entitled “iBird: Digital Technology vs. Natural History.” Jeff reflected on the different ways that innovation and technology have affected birding, including iPods, digital videos and the Internet in the current era as well as a much earlier revolutionary innovation, Roger Tory Peterson’s first *Field Guide to the Birds*, “A Bird Book on a New Plan.”

APRIL 3. There were 29 members and 1 guest present. Membership Chair Connie Goldman welcomed new members Todd Fellenbaum, Gregg Gorton, Mark Cary, Howard Goldfine, Kathleen Klusman and Garr Novick. The Ornithological Study was presented by

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Colin Campbell, who spoke about “New North American Birds - Expert Predictions and Actuality.” David Errol Pattemore then presented the main program: “On the Brink: Conservation of Endemic New Zealand Birds.” David discussed the many endemic bird species, genera, families and possibly even a sub-order in New Zealand, and the many extinctions that occurred after humans arrived 1,000–2,000 years ago. He then described current efforts to reverse some of the ecological damage and protect some of the remaining endemic species, finishing with a description of the program to promote the recovery of the Kakapo, a large flightless parrot.

APRIL 17. There were 29 members and 6 guests present. Patty Thompson from the Lower Merion Conservancy presented “Early Birds in Lower Merion: A New Analysis of BirdWatch Data from the Lower Merion Conservancy” as an Ornithological Study. Don Jones then presented the main program, authored by himself and Earl Harrison, entitled “Birding Bulgaria 2007,” a report of a trip organized by Yoav Chudnoff and JoAnn Raine. Participants were able to find many bird species and view other wildlife, historic sites, and the varied countryside. Proceeds from the trip, as well as all honoraria received for the presentation of the slide program, will go to the Friends of the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, to protect the Imperial Eagle.

MAY 1. There were 20 members and 3 guests present. Sarah Warner presented an Ornithological Study “Swamp Sparrows — a Mystery Unfolds.” The main program was Bill Fintel, who presented “Antarctica and the Seabirds of the Southern Ocean.” Bill’s program was based on a 25-day trip that he, his wife Sally and 70+ others took in January 2007 to Antarctica, the Falkland Islands, and South Georgia. His talk was illustrated with superb photographs of seabirds, land birds, marine mammals, and other flora and fauna of the Antarctic.

MAY 15. There were 36 members and 5 guests present. Bert Filemyr reported on the results of DVOC’s World Series of Birding team’s effort this year. Our team, the Nikon/DVOC Sports Optics “Lagerhead Shrikes,” continued its dynasty by winning the event with an amazing 229 species, just 2 shy of the all-time

record of 231, which was also set by DVOC. Bert gave a summary of the team’s big day run and described the planning and strategy that go into a successful WSB effort. Debi Shearwater then presented the main program, “Penguins of the World,” a description of all the world’s penguin species, based on her many trips to the southern hemisphere. Her talk was illustrated by many superb photographs of penguins and other Antarctic wildlife and their habitat.

JUNE 5. The meeting was conducted by Adrian Binns, standing in for President Paul Guris; 33 members and 5 guests were present. Frank Windfelder and Debbie Beer presided over a presentation of club members’ World Series of Birding and Big Day team results. Frank Windfelder presented the main program, “My Philly Big Year in 2007.” Frank chronicled his many escapades in a talk illustrated with many great photos provided by Bill Moses and others, which resulted in an amazing total of 233 species sighted in Philadelphia in 2007, topping the previous one-year record by 8 species.

JULY 10, AUGUST 7 and SEPTEMBER 4. Informal summer meetings were held at Palmyra Cove Nature Park, Palmyra, NJ (July 10, August 7) and Silver Lake Nature Center, Bristol, PA (September 4).

SEPTEMBER 18. There were 27 members and 4 guests present. Membership Chair Connie Goldman announced the names and read the profiles of 8 new members: Mary Bowler, Jerry Vernick, his wife Sandra Barenbaum, Vanessa Schnauffer, Barbara Thorp, Elizabeth Rosenthal, Jan Confer and Bob Confer. Art McMorris presented an Ornithological Study, “Recent AOU Checklist Changes.” The main program was Lillian Armstrong, presenting “Tales of the Trails.” Lillian described the process of creating birding and wildlife trails throughout the state of New Jersey and writing the highly acclaimed guides to them. In spite of many challenges, the program has been very successful and has now been imitated, literally as well as figuratively, in many other states.

OCTOBER 2. There were 26 members and 1 guest in attendance. Debbie Beer presented “Refuges by the Numbers” as an Ornithological Study, and main speaker Howard Eskin presented “The Challenges

of Bird Photography.” His wonderful shots of birds and bird behavior were accompanied by interesting descriptions, humorous commentary, and even some ID challenges for the audience.

OCTOBER 16. There were 28 members and 1 guest present. President Paul Guris read a letter from Scott Weidensaul thanking the Club for its donation in support of his Saw-whet Owl banding project. In addition to supporting the banding itself, the club’s donation has made it possible for him to scale up his telemetry studies. The Ornithological Study was Steve Kacir presenting “Giving up the Heavens: Ten Flightless Birds.” Rob Fergus then gave the main program, “Urban Bird Ecology and Conservation.” He presented urban bird conservation as the intersection between birds, people and land, and discussed each of their contributions from a rather unique and imaginative point of view. He discussed the many factors that are involved and their interactions, steps that can be taken to promote bird conservation in an urban environment, and conservation programs that are addressing these issues.

NOVEMBER 6. There were 45 members and 2 guests present. Former club president Adrian Binns presented “Watching East Africa’s Unique Wildlife.” Wonderfully kaleidoscopic with colors and scenes of Africa, the presentation focused on the endemic bird species of this part of the world. Adrian’s photographs of the birds and other wildlife of the area are nothing less than stunning. Interesting factual information provided us a slice of the fantastic nature of East Africa; and Adrian’s characteristic touch of humor only added to his greatly entertaining program.

NOVEMBER 20. *Annual Banquet.* There were 96 members and guests who attended the Annual Banquet, held at the Penn’s Landing Caterers –Sheet Metal Worker’s Hall on Penn’s Landing in Philadelphia. President Paul Guris thanked the banquet committee, chaired by Bernice and Joseph Koplín, for once again organizing the event. Paul then introduced the officers and councilors and honored past presidents in attendance. Paul gave a summary of the highlights of the year, and then turned over the podium to Colin Campbell who presented the Witmer Stone Award for publication of ornithological research to the banquet speakers, Pat and Clay Sutton. Pat and Clay then pre-

sented a program entitled “Birds and Birding at Cape May (a Bird Walk through Time),” a beautifully illustrated program based on their new book by the same title.

DECEMBER 4. There were 48 members and 10 guests present. Membership Chair Connie Goldman announced two new members, Bill Creekmore and Peggy Fiabane.

President Paul Guris presented two awards that are normally presented at the Annual Banquet, but were not presented at that time this year because the recipients were unable to attend. Paul presented the DVOC Conservation Award, which is awarded “to one or more non-members of the Club who have made a significant contribution to conservation of the environment” to Scott Weidensaul for his Saw-whet Owl research and banding project which he founded and has conducted since 1997. Paul then presented the Julian K. Potter award for outstanding contribution to field ornithology to Steve Kacir. Steve was cited for managing the burdensome task of the Delaware Valley Rare Bird Alert and his leadership in creating and guiding new and unique field trips.

Nominating Committee Chair Colin Campbell reported the committee’s slate of nominees for officers and councilors:

Officers, to serve 1 year:

President: Paul Guris

Vice President: Frank Windfelder

Secretary: Art McMorris

Treasurer: Bert Filemyr

Councilors at Large, to serve 3 years:

Edie Parnum

Bob Horton

Additional nominations should be directed to Colin.

Scott Weidensaul presented the main program, entitled “Of a Feather: a (Brief) History of American Birding,” based on his recent book *Of a Feather*. His talk covered topics such as prominent and lesser-known, but equally important, observers of American natural history from the 1700’s to the present; the devel-

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opment of ornithology as a science and birding as a pursuit; the origins and development of the modern field guide; the role of birds and birders in the conservation movement as a response to the plume trade and Christmas bird shoots; and the evolution of birding in relation to socioeconomic changes in the 20th century. As always, Scott's talk was richly illustrated with rare and stunning photographs and delivered in Scott's captivating speaking style.

DECEMBER 18. There were 36 members and 2 guests present. Membership Chair Connie Goldman announced two new members, Tom Mitchell and Andrew Chirls. Nominating Chair Colin Campbell again announced the committee's slate of nominees and solicited additional nominations. The main program consisted of the "Members' Photo Contest," conducted by Frank Windfelder and judged by guest Howard Eskin. Sixteen people submitted a total of 165 photographs. The winners were:

Birds

First Place: Todd Fellenbaum – "Willow Flycatcher Family"

Second Place: Andy Smith – "Peregrine Breakfast"

Third Place: Art McMorris – "Purple Gallinule Eating Seeds"

Natural History

First Place: Marv Hyett – "Tobacco Hornworm"

Second Place: Steve Kacir – "Hoary Marmot"

Third Place: Art McMorris – "Eastern Lubber Grasshopper Nymph"

Scenery

First Place: Colin Campbell – "Sign at Waitangi"

Second Place: Andy Smith – "Sunrise at Leed's Point"

Third Place: Marty Dellwo – "Tree Mirror"

Birders

First Place: Steve Kacir – "Wedding Birders"

Second Place: Beth Hunter – "Wissahickon Birdathon"

Third Place: Jane Huang – "Young Birder Boston"

Winners were each presented with a \$25.00 gift certificate, good for Nikon gear, compliments of Nikon Sports Optics

2009

JANUARY 8. There were 35 members and 2 guests present for DVOC's 119th "Annual Meeting." Nominating Committee Chair Colin Campbell conducted the annual election. The following were elected unanimously:

Officers, for 1-year terms ending January 2010:

President: Paul Guris

Vice President: Frank Windfelder

Secretary: Art McMorris

Treasurer: Bert Filemyr

Councilors at Large, to serve until January, 2012:

Edie Parnum

Bob Horton

President Paul Guris thanked Colin for his hard work, congratulated the officers and new councilors, and thanked outgoing Councilors Connie Goldman and Nate Rice for their dedicated service. Bert Filemyr distributed copies of the 2009 club directory. Treasurer Bert Filemyr presented the annual Treasurer's Report, and Trustee Chris Walters presented the annual Trustees' Report. Bert Filemyr presented an Ornithological Study entitled "Identification of King and Common Eiders." President Paul Guris announced that Council had elected four new Fellows of the DVOC:

Tony Croasdale

Bob Horton

Rob Hynson

Win Shafer

The Main Program consisted of the results of area Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs), compiled by Frank Windfelder, and presented by Frank Windfelder and Debbie Beer. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm, and re-convened in the atrium for food, beer, wine and conversation, organized by Anita and Paul Guris.

JANUARY 22. The meeting was conducted by Rick Mellon in the absence of President Paul Guris; 25 members and 4 guests were present. For the Ornithological Study, Adrian Binns displayed a few remarkable photographs of birds with ice built up on their bill, breast feathers or other parts. The main program

was Cindy Ahern who presented “A Bird’s Eye View of Wild Bird Rescue, Rehabilitation, and Release,” about her experiences at Tri-State Bird Rescue. Her talk focused on the organization’s multiple roles in rehabilitation of birds brought in as the result of nesting failures, injuries, and oil spills.

FEBRUARY 5. There were 38 members and 4 guests present. Membership Chair Connie Goldman announced new members Lynn Roman and Yong Kong. The new chair of the Ornithological Studies Committee, Todd Fellenbaum, introduced Adrian Binns, who presented “Distribution of Eastern Screech-Owl Color Morphs.” Vice President Frank Windfelder then introduced the night’s main speaker, Mary Gustafson, who presented “Don’t Just Blink: Look Twice – Texas Style.” She discussed the necessity of double-checking one’s species identification based on first impressions. Her talk was richly illustrated with ID challenges found in her new home in south Texas. The sub-title of her talk was “How I moved to Texas and learned to mis-identify birds.”

FEBRUARY 19. The meeting was conducted by Chris Walters, standing in for President Paul Guris; 28 members and 6 guests were present. Membership Chair Connie Goldman announced new member Ron Sinclair. Chris Walters summarized DVOC’s participation in ongoing preparations for the annual (national) meeting of the American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU), which will be held in Philadelphia in mid-August, 2009. Art McMorris presented an Ornithological Study entitled “2008 Peregrine Falcon Nesting Season in PA.” Guest speaker Jeffrey Hall presented “Behaving Beautifully,” a series of vignettes about various birds illustrating not only their beautiful appearance but also interesting observations about their behavior and natural history. His talk was illustrated with photographs from a variety of birding Meccas and lesser-known locations throughout North America.

MARCH 5. The meeting was conducted by Frank Windfelder, standing in for President Paul Guris; 35 members and 5 guests were present. Membership Chair Connie Goldman announced new members Nicole DiGregorio, Darrell Middleton and Betsy Schnorr. The featured speaker was Jeff Gordon, who

presented “Kingfishers and their Allies.” Jeff described the natural history of various members of this diverse group, which includes not only kingfishers, but also rollers, bee-eaters, hornbills, mot-mots, todies, hoopoes, wood-hoopoes, and the Kookaburra. Naturally the kingfishers are the largest group within the order (Order *Coraciiformes*), with 95 species world-wide. His talk was illustrated with many stunning photographs of this colorful group, and many anecdotes about their behavior, breeding, and place in mythology.

MARCH 19. There were 46 members and 9 guests present. Chris Walters presented an Ornithological Study on “Flight Identification of Wilson’s Snipe vs. American Woodcock.” Kevin Karlson then presented “Shorebirds: a Different Approach to Field ID,” as described in his best-selling book (with Mike O’Brien and Richard Crossley), *The Shorebird Guide*. His approach is based on such features as size, structure and movement, which do not change with plumage and molt. Kevin led us through fine points, finer points, and still finer points of structure and behavior that could be used to distinguish, for example, Long-billed vs. Short-billed Dowitcher in flight. His talk was illustrated lavishly with the stunning photography for which Kevin has become famous.

APRIL 2. There were 39 members and 1 guest present. Membership Chair Connie Goldman announced that Zach Baer was our newest member. For the Ornithological Study, Steve Kacir presented “A Diving Bird Quiz,” which featured many photos of bird butts. Bill Evans, who had driven down from Cornell, then talked about “Nocturnal Migration of Birds in the 21st Century.” Bill talked about his efforts over a number of years to track the nocturnal migration of birds by detecting, recording and identifying nocturnal flight calls. Unfortunately, Bill brought the wrong Power-Point presentation with him, and so he was unable to present all the material he had planned.

APRIL 16. The meeting was called to order by President Paul Guris; 30 members and no guests were present. It was noted, to much applause, that today was Anita Guris’s birthday. Debbie Beer gave an update on Win Shafer’s through-hike of the Appalachian Trail with his 19-year old son, Blake. Treasurer Bert Filemyr announced that DVOC Council recently voted

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an increase in dues, the first increase in many years. Beginning in 2010, annual dues will be \$35.00, and the cost of a Life Membership will increase in parallel. Phil Witmer presented an Ornithological Study on “Glass: Reducing Bird Strikes.” Andy Smith presented the main program, entitled “Sandhill Cranes on the Platte River,” a program which had its origin in a trip Andy made to the Platte River in Nebraska in March and April 2008. Andy discussed the natural history of this ancient species, the migration phenomenon, and the effects of changing land use practices in the area.

MAY 7. There were 31 members and 6 guests present. Frank Windfelder presented an Ornithological Study entitled “Tree Swallow Attack” about an incident in which he witnessed one Tree Swallow attacking and seemingly attempting to drown another. The main program was “Birding South Africa” by Chris Lotz, a native of South Africa. His program covered multiple countries in the southern part of Africa and highlighted birds from diverse habitats across the region.

MAY 21. There were 22 members and 3 guests present. Secretary Art McMorris announced that, to save time at meetings, the minutes would no longer be read. The minutes will be posted on the website one week in advance, and the secretary will ask for additions or corrections at the meeting. Bert Filemyr gave a report of the winning effort of the Club’s team, the Nikon/DVOC “Lagerhead Shrikes,” in the World Series of Birding on May 9. The main objective of the effort, as always, was to raise money for conservation. Bert was also the main speaker; he presented “The Apostrophes - Stories Behind Birds Named in Honor of People.” The talk had its origin in an earlier Ornithological Studies presentation of the same title given by Bert. Bert’s talk was rich with the history of ornithology, little known facts about birds, and Delaware Valley connections.

JUNE 4. The meeting was conducted by Vice President Frank Windfelder, substituting for President Paul Guris; there were 22 members and 6 guests present. Membership Chair Connie Goldman announced that Ana Pazos was the newest member of DVOC. Frank Windfelder gave a fun and interesting presentation, “Trans-Pecos Birding.” He recounted a trip in April 2008, led by Tom Bailey and Don Jones, to the Hill Country and Big Bend Area of Texas. Sightings

included nesting Black-headed Vireo, Colima Warbler, and Montezuma Quail.

JULY 2, AUGUST 6 and SEPTEMBER 3. Informal summer meetings were held at Palmyra Cove Nature Park, Palmyra, NJ (July 2 and August 6) and John Heinz NWR (Tinicum), Philadelphia, PA (September 3).

SEPTEMBER 17. There were 39 members and 4 guests present. Secretary Art McMorris failed to reveal that this was his birthday. Membership Chair Connie Goldman announced our newest 2 members, Roy Seneca and Kevin Burke. *Cassinia* Editor Art McMorris reported that copies of *Cassinia* that had not been picked up during the summer meetings had been mailed to members. Committee Chair Paul Guris gave the background of the “New Bins for New Birders” (NB4NB) program and reported that we were donating binoculars to two more groups: the new “PA Young Birders” group and the Environmental Education program of the Milton Hershey School. Witmer Stone Sanctuary Committee Co-Chair Mick Jeitner summarized his committee’s efforts to erect educational signs at the location of the old Witmer Stone Sanctuary in Cape May, NJ and to get the area of the old sanctuary, which now lies within Cape May Point State Park, redesignated the Witmer Stone Sanctuary. The main speaker was Rich Hoyer, who talked about “Beyond Just Birds — Putting it All Together.” On the tours he leads, Rich focuses on more than birds: he also seeks out butterflies and skippers, other insects, snakes, lizards, mammals, spiders, scorpions, wildflowers — pretty much everything that’s out there in the natural world. He described the flora and fauna he has encountered on trips to SE Arizona, Costa Rica, Brazil, Bolivia, Jamaica, the Galapagos, and Oregon (a trip which included birding and Shakespeare plays), all richly illustrated with his photographs and fascinating insights.

OCTOBER 1. There were 46 members and 5 guests present. Membership Chair Connie Goldman welcomed new members Georgia and Barrie Ashby who were in attendance, and announced new member Deidre Asbjorn. Vice President Frank Windfelder presented an Ornithological Study on “Mistaken Identity.” Frank then introduced the main speaker, Pete Dunne, who truly needs no introduction. Pete

presented “The Best (and Worst) of the World Series of Birding.” He told stories gleaned from the 26 years of this event, which he founded and in which he has participated all 26 years, all presented in his inimitable humorous style.

OCTOBER 15. There were 26 members and 6 guests present. Membership Chair Connie Goldman announced that Patty Rehn and Jennifer Pour were our two newest members. Villanova University Professor Bob Curry thanked DVOC for its support of the AOU meeting which Bob hosted in Philadelphia during the summer, and for leading and running the field trips associated with the meeting. Sue Killeen presented an Ornithological Study about a “Mystery Hawk at my Birdbath,” and took members through a step-by-step ID of a rather uncooperative bird. Rob Fergus presented the main program, “Birds of the Ancient and Modern Maya.” He described the peoples and the birds of the Mayan regions of Guatemala and Belize, and the many roles of birds in their ancient and contemporary cultures.

NOVEMBER 5. There were 21 members and 1 guest present, including member Nikolas Haass, a surprise visitor from his new home in Australia. Bert Filemyr and Jeff Holt presented “The Composite Prints of Audubon’s Birds of North America — The Rarest of the Rare” as the main program. Their research on these rare prints culminated in a book published about the plates and their significance in Audubon’s publication, *Birds of North America*.

NOVEMBER 19. *Annual Banquet.* There were approximately 100 members and guests in attendance. The Annual Banquet was again held at the Penn’s Landing Caterers - Sheet Metal Worker’s Hall on Penn’s Landing in Philadelphia. President Paul Guris thanked the banquet committee, chaired by Bernice and Joseph Koplin, for once again putting together a successful and thoroughly enjoyable event. Paul introduced and thanked the officers and councilors of the club and recognized the past presidents of the club who were in attendance. Paul then entertained the crowd with a summary of the highlights of the year. The Witmer Stone Award for the publication of ornithological research was presented to Jeff Holt and Bert Filemyr for their book on *The Composite Plates of Audubon’s*

Birds of America. Arlene Koch was announced as the winner of the Conservation Award, but, regrettably, Arlene was not in attendance. The main feature was presented by Rick Wright, the Managing Director of the birding tour company Wings and the former editor of ABA’s “Winging It.” Rick talked about “The Most Beautiful of the Whole Beautiful Lot: Wood Warblers of the American Southwest.”

DECEMBER 3. There were 30 members and 3 guests present. In the absence of Membership Chair Connie Goldman, Art McMorris welcomed our newest member, Mark Sinclair. Nominating Committee Chair Colin Campbell reviewed the nomination procedure and presented the Committee’s slate of nominees, to be voted on at the Jan. 7 meeting. He welcomed the submission of additional nominations. The committee’s slate was:

Officers, to serve 1 year:

President: Frank Windfelder

Vice President: Art McMorris

Secretary: Bob Horton

Councilors at Large, to serve 3 years:

Marty Dellwo

Todd Fellenbaum

Guest Howard Eskin presented an Ornithological Study entitled “A Fly Fisherman’s Observations about Some Diving Ducks.” The balance of the program was devoted to the Annual Members’ Slide Contest, conducted by Frank Windfelder and judged by guest Howard Eskin. After all the slides were shown, the winners were announced:

Birds

First prize: “Wood Thrushes” by Andy Smith

Second prize: “Shy Albatross courtship” by Nikolas Haass

Third Prize: “Baillon’s Crake” by Rob Hynson

Natural History

First prize: “Lion at Salati Game Preserve” by Patty Rehn

Second prize: “Butterflies, Tambubata River, Peru” by Barrie Ashby

Third Prize: “Barn Spider” by Marv Hyett

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Scenery

First prize: "Scene from above Cracker Lake" by Connie Goldman

Second prize: "Sunrise on Oyster Creek" by Andy Smith

Third Prize: "Milford Sound South Island NZ" by Colin Campbell

Birders

First prize: "Tim Brauning on the Ben Franklin Bridge" by Art McMorris

Second prize: "Adrian Binns and Alan Brady High Five" by Frank Windfelder

Third Prize: "Frank can Break Dance" by Earl Harrison

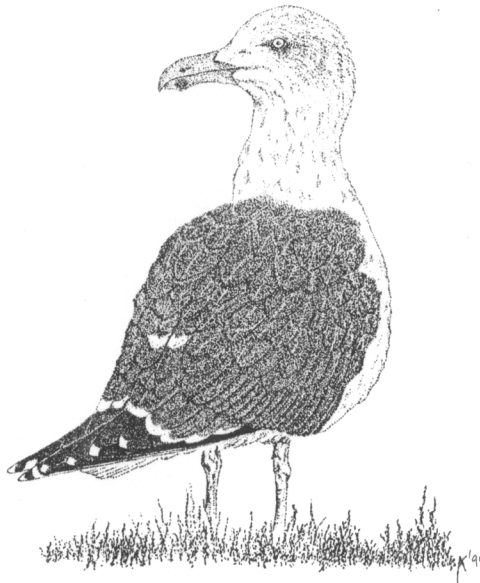
Grand Prize (best of show):

"Lion at Salati Game Preserve" by Patty Rehn

Paul and Anita Guris awarded \$50.00 gift certificates for Nikon Gear to the First Prize winners in each of

the 4 categories, and a pair of Nikon Travelite Binoculars to the Grand Prize winner.

DECEMBER 17. There were 25 members and no guests present. In the absence of Nominating Committee Chair Colin Campbell, President Paul Guris presented the Committee's slate of nominees, as also presented at the previous meeting. Connie Goldman presented an Ornithological Study entitled "Ornithology Primer: Some Correlates of Wing Structure and Migration." For the main program, Steve Kacir presented a report and slide show of his 2008 big year, "A Montgomery County Big Year." The main goal of the big year was to become more familiar with Montgomery County PA, its birds and its habitats. A secondary goal was to beat the previous big year record of 153 species, and a tertiary goal was to beat the record by mid-May. Steve's informative presentation provided us with information on many of the rarely birded areas within Montgomery County.



Lesser Black-backed Gull
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