

# ABSTRACTS OF PROCEEDINGS

Compiled by John J. Harding

1988

- JANUARY 7. Fifty-five members and five guests attended the 98th Annual Meeting. The following officers and councillors were elected: President — Richard Mellon, Vice-President — Brian Moscatello, Secretary — John Harding, Treasurer — Barbara Haas, Councillor — Daniel Brauning, Councillor — Bill Murphy. Councillors Brauning and Murphy were elected to full three-year terms. The Club extended its thanks to outgoing president John LaVia for his two years of outstanding leadership. Don Jones was elected a Fellow of the Club. Franklin and Barbara Haas received the Witmer Stone Award for the best ornithological publication during the preceding year for their quarterly journal, *Pennsylvania Birds*. The Julian Potter Award for outstanding contributions to field ornithology was presented to Dan Brauning for his work with the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas. The evening program consisted of reports of the tri-state's Christmas Counts. Members then adjourned to the lobby for the traditional round of food and drink.
- JANUARY 21. Thirty-six members and three guests attended the annual slide contest. Winners were Tom Southerland (natural history), John Harding (birds), and Margot Southerland (scenery).
- FEBRUARY 4. Fifty members and six guests were present to view Robert Machover's new film "Binocular Vision: National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Counts." This fine documentary followed all stripes of birders as they participated in various recent Christmas Counts, including Brigantine NWR and the general New York City area.
- FEBRUARY 18. Fifty-four members and four guests were present for the election of Dr. Ken and Janice Gordon to active membership. Brian Moscatello guided a slide tour of the birds and habitats seen in Texas during the winter, from Aransas NWR south along the coast to Brownsville, then up along the Rio Grande Valley to Big Bend National Park.
- MARCH 3. Fifty members and seven guests enjoyed a presentation by Sam Fried of West Hartford, Conn., "Birds of Newfoundland and Labrador," based on his five-week tour of these Canadian provinces in 1985.
- MARCH 17. Fifty-two members and nine guests were on hand as Edward French Jr. was elected to active membership. George Hitchner, long-time club member, passed away March 2. Serge LaFrance presented "Attu — The True Story," and gave a balanced view to birding this remote Aleutian outpost with its exotic avifauna.
- APRIL 7. Fifty-seven members and fifteen guests heard Armas Hill report on a recent DVOG field trip to Mexico. Mr. Otto Heck, professor of ecology at Trenton State College, presented an informative program, "Ecology of Nesting and Transient Owls," which highlighted the native and wintering owls of Hunterdon County, N.J.
- APRIL 21. Fifty-two members and ten guests were present as Ward Dasey was elected to active membership. Pete Dunne and Clay Sutton, both club members and co-authors of the recently published *Hawks in Flight*, double-teamed the Club with their presentation on raptor identification entitled "Flight Identification of Handsaws (Hawks)."

- MAY 5. Thirty-one members and ten guests heard of a memorial dedication to be held at Schuylkill Valley Nature Center for Evelyn Kramer who passed away one year ago. Dot and Paul Weirick presented an informative talk and slide tour, "Birds of Israel During Spring Migration," which highlighted the birds of Israel's varied habitats from desert to snow-covered mountains.
- MAY 19. Forty members and twelve guests attended Hugh Hoffman's election to active membership. George Reynard noted that Ted Parker and Jerome Jackson had recently heard and seen an Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Cuba and that this species was reported heard, but not seen, in Mississippi last year. Dr. John Drummond presented a fascinating glimpse into the birds of Siberia and Mongolia, which he luckily visited in 1981.
- JUNE 2. Forty-two members and four guests heard Phil Street announce the Wilson Ornithological Society's Centennial meeting to be held locally at Rosemont College this June. The presentation of Big Day (May Run) reports was the program (brief) for the evening.
- JULY 7, AUGUST 4, SEPTEMBER 1, and SEPTEMBER 15. Informal meetings were held at the Academy of Natural Sciences.
- OCTOBER 6. Forty-five members and fifteen guests attended the first formal meeting of the fall. Sandra Sherman, on behalf of Clay Sutton, Conservation Chairman, asked club members to write letters supporting the "Greenbelt Corridor" concept, one of several proposed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for the Cape May NWR. Robert Dittrick, from Anchorage, Alaska, presented "Birds of the High Arctic Wilderness," which highlighted the unique landscapes and birdlife of the Covall River draining Alaska's North Slope. In-depth discussion and photos of Rough-legged Hawk, Peregrine Falcon and Gyrfalcon, among others, entertained members.
- OCTOBER 20. Forty-two members and eleven guests were present as Gene Bleiweiss, Tom Bailey, Rick Cech, Colin Campbell, Mrs. Edward (Nannie) Dillon and George Skip Glenn Jr. were elected to active membership. Dr. David Dobkin of Rutgers University presented "Forest Fragmentation and the Conservation of North American Birds — Lessons From Nevada." His island-biogeographic perspective correlated increased habitat size with greater numbers of species in both riparian and drier juniper/pine slope ecosystems.
- NOVEMBER 3. Fifty-nine members and twelve guests heard Clay Sutton report the Pinelands Acquisition Act, sponsored by Senator Bill Bradley of N.J., was recently passed by the U.S. Congress. Katy Duffy presented "Cape May's Secret Migration," which summarized the owl banding project at Cape May Point since 1969.
- NOVEMBER 17. One hundred-four members and guests attended the Club's Annual Banquet, held at the New Woodbine Inn, Pennsauken, N.J. William Streeter of the Delaware Valley Raptor Center, Milford, Pa., presented "Northeastern Birds of Prey," one of the finest programs in recent memory. Bill went into intimate detail about the lives of six species of injured raptors brought from his rehabilitation center to the banquet.
- DECEMBER 1. Sixty-eight members and seven guests were present as Anita Covington, Rob Goff, and Frank and Margaret Rush were elected to active membership. Dr. Frank Gill of the Academy of Natural Sciences spoke on "Species About to Be," which reviewed ABA's records of new birds for North America along with the AOU's recent taxonomical "splits." At last, lifers to add to our lists!

DECEMBER 15. Fifty-two members and six guests were present and saddened by the sudden death of Serge LaFrance, who passed away on December 4. Club president Rick Mellon announced that Frank Haas would be the new editor of *Cassinia*. Tom Southerland presented "The Galapagos — Enchanted Islands." His fine collection of slides of the birds, flowers, and scenery of these islands captivated the audience.

1989

JANUARY 5. Forty-seven members and eight guests attended the 99th Annual Meeting. The following slate of officers was elected: President — Richard Mellon, Vice-President — Brian Moscatello, Secretary — John Harding, Treasurer — Barbara Haas, Councillor — Chris Dooley, Councillor — Sandra Sherman. Councillors Dooley and Sherman were elected to full three year terms. Dan Brauning, Frank Haas, Barbara Haas, Bill Murphy and Naomi Murphy were elected Fellows of the Club. Frank Windfelder was the recipient of the Witmer Stone Award for the best ornithological publication during the preceding year for his *Cassinia* article summarizing his five-year study of the fall warbler migration through Pennypack Park. No Julian Potter Award was presented this year. The Club sadly learned long-time member Ed Bloor recently passed away. The program consisted of reports of the tri-state Christmas Counts. Members then adjourned to the lobby for the traditional refreshments.

JANUARY 19. Fifty members and eight guests were present as Dorothy Tucker and Michael Drake were elected to active membership. Dr. Paul Kerlinger of the Cape May Bird Observatory spoke on the "Unnatural History of Snowy Owls." He found that the stable wintering Snowy Owl populations of the Great Plains were expected adult migrants from the Arctic, while the fluctuating numbers of wintering eastern and western owls were made up of mostly immature birds.

FEBRUARY 2. Forty-one members sadly learned of long-time member Harry Enssler's death in March 1988. The annual slide contest winners were Harry Todd (natural history), Erica Brendel (birds), and Brian Moscatello (scenery).

FEBRUARY 16. Fifty-one members and six guests heard Clay Sutton confirm Cape May NWR was to become a reality, with approximately 14,000 acres to be acquired. George Reynard eulogized James Bond, a club member for sixty years and a celebrated author, who recently passed away. David Ward of Cape May Bird Observatory presented "Seawatch at Avalon, N.J." utilizing his data from the past ten years gathered during the fall seabird migration off Avalon.

MARCH 2. Forty-eight members and seven guests enjoyed Rich Ditch's presentation, "Photography Is for the Birds." A frequent contributor to *New Jersey Audubon*, Rich gave a delightful program on the hows of photographing our local avifauna.

MARCH 16. Forty-seven members and five guests were present for Brian Moscatello's slide show on Churchill and Manitoba, Canada.

APRIL 6. Fifty-four members and nine guests heard Dan Brauning thank all those who canvassed for the now-completed Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project over the past five years. Mike Fitch presented his 16mm film "Return from Forever," a documentary on the successful Osprey Reintroduction Program in Pennsylvania started in 1979 under the leadership of Larry Rymon, Ph.D.

- APRIL 20. Forty-eight members and four guests were on hand as Paul Kerlinger and David Wiedner were elected to active membership. Howard Boyd delighted the audience with slides of birds, flowers, butterflies and habitats from his four trips to Britain and Scotland.
- MAY 4. Thirty-three members and sixteen guests gathered at the Philadelphia Zoo to hear Ms. Farr, assistant curator of birds, talk on the Hawaiian Forest Bird Propagation Project. She focused on the Honeycreepers, showing many threatened or extinct highly specialized birds. A captive breeding program beginning with the Apapane has started at the zoo in order to save the islands' endangered endemics.
- MAY 18. Thirty-eight members and three guests were on hand as Don Jones presented "Junk Tours Trashes Tucson," a slide tour of the various birding hotspots in southeastern Arizona.
- JUNE 1. Thirty-six members and three guests were present as Freda Rappaport, Dick Williams and Thomas Wilson were elected to active membership. Sid Lipschutz gave an update on the Thick-billed Parrot Reintroduction Project in southern Arizona. The presentation of Big Day (May Run) reports was the program for the evening.
- JULY 6, AUGUST 3, SEPTEMBER 7, and SEPTEMBER 21. Informal meetings were held at the Academy of Natural Sciences.
- OCTOBER 5. Fifty-six members and fifteen guests learned of long-time club member Horace Alexander's recent passing at age 100. Armas Hill, with a collage of slides, sound recordings and quotes from early explorers, crafted a program, "Birds of Venezuela," enjoyed by all.
- OCTOBER 19. Thirty-seven members and four guests were present as Myra Goldfarb was elected to active membership. Armas Hill, chairman of the Centennial committee, announced Peter Harrison will give a lecture as part of the Centennial Celebration on April 26, 1990, followed by a reception. Alan Brady announced a special pelagic trip out of Barnegat Light, N.J. on April 28, 1990, with Peter Harrison as leader. Other Centennial plans include a club picnic in late June and the Annual Banquet to be held at the Academy of Natural Sciences in November. The evening's program had the Academy of Natural Sciences' Ornithology Department hosting an open house under the guidance of Dan Brauning.
- NOVEMBER 2. Forty-six members and six guests were in attendance as Pete Bacinski of the Urner Club of New Jersey sounded his conservation theme for the New Jersey Highlands.
- NOVEMBER 16. Eighty-two members and guests attended the club's Annual Banquet held at The New Woodbine Inn, Pennsauken, N.J. Emile De Vito of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation spoke on "Birding and Conservation in Costa Rica." He emphasized the pattern of seasonal, altitudinal migration for many tropical birds and hence the need to save vertical transects of habitat from mountaintop down to sea level.
- DECEMBER 7. Fifty-three members and five guests heard Fred Ulmer report on the many endangered species placed in further peril by Hurricane Hugo as it ripped through the Caribbean and the southern coastal United States last September. Steve Hoffman of the Western Foundation for Raptor Conservation Inc. presented "Birds of Prey: Indicators of Environmental Change." Summarizing thirteen years of hawk watching in the West, Mr. Hoffman emphasized that raptors, being at the top of the food chain, serve as ideal indicators of an ecosystem's general health.

DECEMBER 21. Only twenty-seven frigid members and one guest were present as Jeff Belford and Rosemary and Larry Wilson were elected to active membership. In lieu of the scheduled program, which the speaker had to postpone, a lively discussion ensued questioning the federal mandate to increase duck production at wildlife refuges at the possible cost of losing habitat for other non-game species, including several endangered birds.

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## NOTICE

The Library of The Academy of Natural Sciences received some years ago the ornithological lists and journal of Richard F. Miller of Philadelphia. It has recently been discovered that volumes 1, 2 and 5 of Miller's journal are missing, having been loaned by Miller to a fellow ornithologist. The Library is most anxious to retrieve these missing volumes in order to complete the set. Any advice or assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

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