

Abstracts of Proceedings 2000-2001

Adrian Binns

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

2000

JANUARY 6 (58) Don Jones thanked all who supported him during his term as president. A motion was carried for a full slate of new officers; Ron French (President), Colin Campbell (Vice President), Adrian Binns (Secretary) and Naomi Murphy (Treasurer). Joe Majdan and Martin Selzer were elected councilors. Steve Kerr and Jane Henderson were elevated to fellows. Naomi Murphy handed out copies of the treasurer's report, baffling us with "brilliance". She's still here and apparently so is the money. Chris Walters trustee's report "should be ready by next meeting"; meanwhile he assured us things are looking up. Sandy Sherman let us know that Stackpole Books will reprint Witmer Stone's *Bird Studies at Old Cape May*. Jan Gordon asked us to contact our senators and congressmen to support Sen. Lautenberg's co-sponsored Endangered Species Recovery Act, which supports preserving wild birds and their habitats. Alan Brady's BCAS Shark River outing produced a 1st w Little Gull. Katrina Knight reported that a Black-tailed Gull had been seen Jan 2 at Lake Ontelaunee. Sandy Sherman saw the Northern Lapwing at Bombay Hook Dec 28. Colin Campbell presided over the annual results of the 23 area Christmas Bird Counts. Though some results were yet to be compiled, there were a good number of birds reported, including high counts for several areas. Numbers of boreal species seem to be down. Highlights included Northern Lapwing at Bombay Hook and Cave Swallow at Cape May, Long-eared Owls hunting in Central Bucks and Loggerhead Shrikes on the Cape Henlopen and Cumberland counts.

JANUARY 20 The meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

FEBRUARY 3 (25 + 4) Dennis Brennan was unanimously accepted as a member. The following vacancies were filled: Archives – Katrina Knight, Ornithological Studies – Chuck Hetzel and on Council Jane Henderson replaced the vacancy left by Adrian

Binns. Chris Walters' Jan 15-17 Montauk trip produced 26 duck species, Razorbills galore, Kronschnabel's culinary delights, and an awful lot of wind (45 knots). Ron French reported a Greater White-fronted Goose and Northern Shrike at Peace Valley. Don Jones saw the Varied Thrush in Buena, NJ. Bob Mercer had 2 Short-eared Owls on his trip to Barnegat Light. Ross Hawkins delighted the small (weather bound) audience with his program on Hummingbirds entitled "Beija-fleur: The Birds that Kiss Flowers".

FEBRUARY 17 (47 + 9) Scott Edwards was elected to membership. Jan Gordon reported that the Natural Lands Trust thanked the DVOC for its \$300 contribution to Valley Forge Audubon. Emmerson Bowes was working on maps to places that the DVOC has contributed to for the website. Ron French announced that Phil Street would write the preface to the new edition of Witmer Stone's *Bird Studies at Old Cape May*. Sandy Sherman wanted to know who owned an original copy of *Bird Studies at Old Cape May* (Vol. 2). 1400 copies were printed. Bill Murphy had 50+ Lesser Black-backed Gulls, 10 Iceland, 2 Glaucous and a 1st winter Thayer's at Florence. Joe Swertinski's slide presentation showed us the beauty and allure of Attu, whetting the appetite of all those that had not made the trek, only to be told that we would no longer be getting an opportunity to go.

MARCH 2 (43 + 5) Frank Windfelder announced the death of long time member Harold Jackson. Chuck Lyman, Alan Brady and Armas Hill gave tributes and anecdotes. Paul Guris mentioned that Cornell was looking for a homeowner that was willing to allow them to mount a microphone on their roof, to track and ID what flies over your house! Doris McGovern found a size 7 band in an owl pellet in the Pinelands in Cumberland Co. The unfortunate species turned out to be a Black Duck, banded in Quebec in 1994. Irene Goverts reported that a Tufted Duck is on Spring

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Lake, near Rehoboth Beach. Continuing in Delaware, Colin Campbell scrounging about the Wilmington dump picked up 7 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Glaucous, Iceland and a breeding plumage Laughing Gull. There was Loggerhead Shrike near Bombay Hook. Scott Weidensaul's outstanding program "Living on the Wind", captivated the audience with vivid descriptions and stunning images of various journeys some species take, reminding us that migration is in full swing at all times of the year.

MARCH 16 (40 + 9) Paul Guris' Cape May Pelagic March 6 included 17 Razorbills, 80 Dolphins and 2 Puffins in Delaware and New Jersey waters. Chuck Hetzel reported that Cornell's Birdcast program is looking for volunteers to track night migration, including acoustic monitoring, Doppler radar and ground truthing. Frank Windfelder reports that the damage to Tinicum NWR, from the recent oil spill, is extensive. Sandy Sherman reported that one of the Mannington Marsh Bald Eagles had been found dead, and that there were 22 nests in NJ. Michael O'Brien was featured in Audubon magazine checking out Bluebird boxes. A Common Redpoll has been visiting Frank Windfelder's feeder since March 4. On Old Sam's Pond, Tom Reeves had a female Tufted Duck. Alan Brady and Ron French reported 2 Iceland Gulls at Peace Valley. The evenings program was presented by The Delaware Tri-State Bird & Rescue, one of the largest in the world, who produced a slick audio-video program of their amazing operation, explaining what is involved in returning birds to their natural environment.

APRIL 6 (42 + 5) Phil Street informed members of the death Edward "Ned" Altemus. Al Bilheimer was elected to membership. Although Jan Gordon is in China, she sent word that the Purple Martin House Project is moving forward; in fact she now expects that 6 boxes will eventually be erected. 2 boxes are already in place at Bartram Gardens. The "dawn song equipment", however, is not yet in place although Doris McGovern had the tapes. Chuck Hetzel recommended BIRDSOURCE at Cornell as an excellent resource for ornithological studies. He is currently participating in BIRDCAST, a project that involves recording the night sounds of migratory birds with a microphone positioned on his roof and transmitting the recordings, via computer, to Cornell. Irene Goverts announced that she would no longer be

bringing books to the meetings. Colin Campbell announced that he finally has a copy of the new "Birds of DE". Joe Majden requested information on the location of any Ruffed Grouse. He's getting desperate. Nate Rice, Collections Manager at the Academy, presented a program on "The Evolutionary History of the Ground Antbirds", which grew out of his PhD dissertation at the University of Kansas. He was also kind enough to bring with him a number of specimens from the Academy's collection for closer examination.

APRIL 20 (44 + 6) Jim Lyman and Mike Lyman were both elected to membership in the Club. Ward Dasey asked for volunteers for his proposed Pinelands Summer Bird Census to be held over 2 weekends in late May/early June with particular emphasis on Whip-poor-will sweeps. Bob Mercer announced that May 13 was International Migratory Bird Day. The evening's program was presented by Larry Niles on the "Ecology of the Shorebirds of the Delaware Bay". It presented a very sobering look at the serious threat to bird life, especially migratory Red Knots, Ruddy Turnstones and Sanderlings, by the drastic decline in the Horseshoe Crab populations in the Delaware Bay.

MAY 4 (40 + 8) In the absence of Ron French, Don Jones who had forgotten what a pleasure it was to preside over these meetings, called the meeting to order. Chuck Hetzel reported that with the decline of the "saltmarsh" Swamp Sparrow, a census would be undertaken. Sandy Sherman's quest to locate original copies of Bird Studies at Old Cape May had yielded 160 responses. Bill Murphy had 20 species of warbler at Fort Washington State Park, as well as 26 (not so) Solitary Sandpipers in a vernal pond. Bert Filemyr had a White-winged Crossbill for 10 days at his feeder. Paul Lehman mentioned that Cape May had a Cave Swallow last weekend, 30-40 Cliffs, Marbled Godwit and 49 Pectoral Sandpipers on a pond in Salem County. Real birders really do watch re-runs of the weather channel - "Hurricane" Paul Lehman put every TV weatherman to shame as his excellent program "Weather and Bird Migration" took us back to the classroom, explaining weather patterns and how we can predict which birds will show up and where.

MAY 18 (26 + 8) Frank Windfelder's Pennypack trip had 67 species in 4½ hrs, including 4 thrush species. Don Jones reported that Colin Campbell's Pocomoke weekend trip produced over 140 species,

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including 2 Soras, 5 Black Rails and 2 King Rails. Paul Guris recounted the 24-hour World Series of Birding adventure in which our Nikon/DVOC team finished in a first place tie with 219 species, which included 33 warbler species. Rick Mellon's team placed first in the Bucks County bird-a-thon with 133 species. Sandy Sherman reported that Ray Miller banded a Hammond's Flycatcher at Tinicum and Ron French reported that a female breeding plumaged Red-necked Phalarope was at Bradford Dam. Chuck Hetzel's Birdcast survey at Spring Lane had 120 Bobolinks, 5 Savannahs and, for one day only, a singing Dickcissel. Clay Sutton introduced Southeast Arizona Bird Observatory's (SABO) Hummingbird expert, Sheri Williamson, who showed us how varied this family of 325 plus species are in a program entitled, 'Everything you ever wanted to know about Hummingbirds and more'.

JUNE 1 (50 + 5) It was noted by several members that Al Zaid passed away after a lengthy illness. He had been a member since the 40's, and was responsible for the SE Lancaster Bird Count as well as engineering the Osprey platform at the Taylor Refuge. Pledges from the World Series of Birding were at an all time low of \$750.00. \$500, matching the DOS grant, was put towards the repair and erection of Osprey platforms in Cape May County. Adrian Binns recounted the tales of a very successful DVOC trip to Michigan where the highlights were Henslow's Sparrow; Kirtland Warblers at Mio; a very confiding Spruce Grouse and the calling in and banding of a Yellow Rail at Seney NWR. Al Bilheimer reported on the Yellow-nosed Albatross that was seen in Cape May County. He also noted that there was a Red Crossbill in Levittown on May 30. Alan Brady had a Common Ground Dove and Mourning Warbler in Cape May, as well as a Black-bellied Whistling Duck at Brigantine. Bob Ridgley reported on the 1st Philadelphia breeding record for Yellow-throated Warbler. Andy Ednie's Big Day in Delaware had 182 species including Curlew Sandpiper, White-winged Crossbill, and Ruff. Ron French noted that Devich Farbotnik had videotaped a Long-tailed Jaeger on the Upper Delaware River. Bob Thornton treated us to a wonderful program as he told us about the adventures he and his wife encountered as they ended up photographing all of North America's warblers that became the book "Chasing Warblers".

JULY 6, AUGUST 3, SEPTEMBER 7 and 21 Informal summer meetings were held at which members discussed their sightings and various ornithological topics.

OCTOBER 5 (39 + 11) Sandy Sherman sat in for our absent president. Sandy then asked that the club take a moment of silence to remember those members who are no longer with us: Al Zaid, Harold Jackson, Ed Manners, Phil Street and John LaVia. Sandy also stated that 36 species of birds have now tested positive for the West Nile virus. Chuck Hetzel brought in examples of the sonograms being generated by his listening station in Roxborough. Sandy reported that Cape May had a Mississippi Kite on Thursday. She also noted that an adult and an immature Mississippi Kite had been seen back in August at Bennett's Bog opening the question of future nesting possibilities. Chuck Hetzel reported an Anhinga flying over Roxborough. Colin Campbell commented on what a good summer it was for rare birds in DE, especially last week's Fork-tailed Flycatcher which lingered 1½ days. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and the DE pelagic that produced Long-tailed Jaeger, South Polar Skua and Bridled Terns. Paul Baicich, editor of Birding Magazine and the ABA site guides presented a program on "Bird Tasks for the Millenium" looking at the history of bird trends in this country: who are we and where are we going.

OCTOBER 19 (39 + 3) JoAnn Raine, Cecilia Deemer and Arthur McMorris were welcomed as new members. Alan Brady read some of the original DVOC history, recounting that on February 3rd, 1890 there was an organized field study for killing and protecting of birds. Frank Windfelder, now DVOC's official hotline host, will be keeping us all abreast of the latest DVOC news through his e-mail list. The Guris' had a Sabine Gull at Merrill Creek while JoAnn Raine had 1000's of Yellow-rumped Warblers at the Meadows. Paul Guris added that the Beanery had a major fallout estimated at 30,000 warblers, including 20,000 Yellow-rumps on the 8th. Colin Campbell reported that there was a juvenile Franklin's Gull and a Greater White-fronted Goose at Silver Lake in Rehoboth. The meeting concluded with an outstanding program given by Bill Barber on the history of, and birding in, the Adirondacks.

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NOVEMBER 2 (30 + 3) Jane Henderson announced that she needed information about the upcoming Christmas Counts for the next issue of *Larus*. Ron French noted that the Academy had just opened a new exhibit on the last expedition of John James Audubon up the Missouri River. Ron also reported that the very nice article that appeared in the last issue of *Larus* on the \$500 contribution made by the club to the DOS for building & repairing Osprey platforms produced two very generous contributions from club members. Ron noted that Devich Farbotnik had reached #243 for his Bucks County Big Year List, shattering his father's record of 224. The "Members Slide Show" was a great success, with Jane Henderson, Steve Kerr, Alan Brady and Colin Campbell as the evenings winners.

NOVEMBER 16 (35 + 6). Frank Windfelder's November 4 trip to Bake Oven Knob, produced a 1st year Bald Eagle, a singing Winter Wren and 2 Ravens. Realizing that birds were few and far between that morning and feeling obliged to give those that came their money's worth, Frank removed his plaid shirt to go topless on this chilly morning. A mass exodus followed..... later they learnt they had missed the bird-of-the-day, an adult Golden Eagle! Chuck Hetzel noted that the Schuylkill Center was fencing in 6 acres to keep deer out, native plantings in, and hopefully improve habitat for ground nesters. Ron French reported a Barnacle Goose was at Peace Valley. Al Bilheimer had a Snowy Owl at work in Lower Bucks County on Nov 4 and Armas Hill saw the Loggerhead Shrike in Cumberland County while Cele Deemer had a juvenile Red-headed Woodpecker at Brigantine and a Snowy Owl at Island Beach State Park. The meeting concluded with a program given by Ralph Mancke on the history of the endangered endemic Philippine 'Monkey Eating' Eagle and the conservation effort being done to sustain the population.

DECEMBER 7 (96) President Ron French opened the proceedings at the Annual Banquet, held at Ilona Keller's Dugan's Restaurant. Attending past presidents were honored. The Witmer Stone Award for publications was presented to Colin Campbell for his paper on the identification of White-winged Terns in *Birding Magazine*. There were no recipients for the Conservation or Julian Potter Awards this year. The guest speaker, avian photography extraordinaire Kevin Karlson, presented "For the Love of Birds: Past,

Present & Future Views of Our Connection with the Avian World".

DECEMBER 21 (31 + 3) Nathan Rice's nomination for membership was unanimously approved. Chuck Hetzel noted that Nate Rice was awarded a grant to replace the bird cabinets in the collections department. Sandy Sherman had a Eurasian Wigeon on the Cape May CBC between tornado watches, lightning, thunder, heavy winds and rainbows. Alan Brady showed a picture of the "yellow-legged" Gull being seen in Easton. Rick Mellon's Southern Bucks Count produced a Northern Shrike at Penn Manor. Al Driscoll's Oceanville/Brigantine Count produced a female Painted Bunting at Brigantine, a Nashville Warbler at Atlantic City and a Common Murre offshore. He also noted that the selsaphorus hummer at Ward Dasey's residence was banded and confirmed as a Rufous. 12 members contributed to the evenings program entitled 'Memorable Moments'. Sandwiched between Colin trashing all of Scotland except the scotch (actually he even trashed that after he had finished the bottle) and Adrian's irrelevant off-beat slides on birding humor; Bill Haber recounted his first experience (birding); Paul told some funny stories; Sandy read Ed Fingerhood's account of finding the Gyrfalcon; Ken told a joke; and Hart read his trip report about looking for a rarity amongst a nudist beach. A most enjoyable evening.

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JANUARY 4 (50 + 6) Nominating Committee chairman Hart Rufe notified us that the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer would continue with a 2nd year of their term, and that Dennis Bert and Jane Henderson were nominated to serve on council. Ron French announced that council had made Joe Majdan a Fellow. Naomi Murphy's Treasurer's Report baffled us with a skillfully produced folded brochure; logos, images and numbers perfectly juxtaposed. Despite Naomi's world list going up at an incredible rate this last year, the club finances are no worse for wear. Chuck Hetzel asked for help at the Schuylkill Center to restore habitat for the Kentucky Warbler. Nate Rice has asked Chuck to monitor the bird kills at the Domino Lane Tower. Joe Majdan mentioned that sweatshirts featuring the club's logo

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would be ready for purchase soon. Alan Brady reported that Ken Reiker had found a Clay-colored Sparrow at Peace Valley. Snowy Owls were seen near Linvale and at Avalon. Doris McGovern had 2 Black-headed Gulls at Indian River Inlet in Delaware, Jan 1. Colin Campbell presided over the areas 22 Christmas Bird Count reports. No mega-rarities were found and the horrendous winter weather was the story for the 2000 CBCs. Winter finches seem to be non-existent; Cape May had an Allen's Hummingbird as well as an Ash-throated Flycatcher; Cape Henlopen had a Little Gull; Tinicum a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Oceanville a Painted Bunting. More than several rounds of fine ales and an assortment of nibbles were available to everyone following the program. They didn't last long!

JANUARY 18 (30 + 1) Ron French announced the death of long time member Fred Mears and that Council had bestowed posthumously the honor of Fellow of the DVOC. Frank Windfelder reported on the Florence gull extravaganza January 6, which included a Thayer's, several Icelands and numerous Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Chris Walters reported on the successes and misfortunes of the 13 people who participated in the Montauk weekend Jan 13-15; perfect weather; the loss of a vehicle; a friendly competition between Revolutionary War opponents... Chris Walters gave an update on the trustee's report, stating that the Endowment Fund, which began with money from life memberships, has grown to \$97,898.44, following a very good year of growth. Joe Majdan announced that he had DVOC hats which were now for sale. Ron French announced that Steve Wing was resigning as a Trustee and that it is the Presidents privilege to appoint someone to the position. Paul Guris has accepted to fill the vacant position. Paul Guris and assorted cohorts ventured for a 3-day owl prowl to the Great White North - Amherst Island and had 6 Snowy, 4 Boreal, 6 Saw-whets, 8 Long-eared and a dozen Short-eared, along with an Ivory Gull seen from the ferry. On the mainland 2 Hawk Owls and 2 Great Gray Owls, one of which happily fed on gerbils! Bob Curry presented a program on "The Timing of Breeding and Climate Change in the Florida Scrub Jay", illustrating that temperature change had little effect on breeding times, yet the availability of frogs may well be an indicator as to when they began to nest.

FEBRUARY 1 (62 + 4) Bill Haber was voted into membership. Sweatshirts with the DVOC logo

are now available for sale. Bill Haber had a Clay-colored Sparrow and Brown Thrasher at Peace Valley. Chris Walters described his trip north to Amherst Island, Blessington, Bracebridge & Algonquin Park covering 1525 miles and seeing an stunning collection of birds including: Boreal, Saw-whet, Long-eared, Great Gray and Hawk-Owl, Northern Shrike, Glaucous Gull, Bohemian Waxwings, White-winged Crossbills, Gray Jay, Spruce Grouse, Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Grosbeaks and Boreal Chickadees. Roy Frock reported that Manitoba had sponsored a "Great Gray Cup" for the highest number of Great Gray Owls spotted in one day...the winning team reported 101 owls. Dave Long reported that a Sandhill Crane has been at Veteran's Park in Hamilton, NJ for 2 weeks. Doug Wechsler presented a wonderful program on two trips to Borneo that included slides of many seldom-photographed birds.

FEBRUARY 15 (31 + 3) Andrew Ingersoll's nomination for membership was approved. Nate Rice asked for a hand to transfer the Academy collection skins from the "old wood" to the new steel cabinets - a project that will take 18 months. Chris Walters reported seeing 7 Sandhill Cranes at Bostwick Lake. Joe Majdan noted that a Canadian Shorebird Survey stated that the numbers of Mountain Plovers were less than 9000 and under 10,000 for Snowy and Piping Plovers. Bob Mercer and auctioneer-in-training Paul Guris, begged us to dig deep into our pockets for whatever lose change we could muster, all in the name of unloading the overload of avian archives and literature that were generously donated for the annual auction.

MARCH 1 (45 + 5) Norma Van Dyke's nomination for membership was approved. Earl Harrison announced he would be collaborating with Chuck Hetzel on the study of avian carotinoids. Adrian Binns' trip to Ontario, produced 1 Boreal, 12 Long-eared, 3 Short-eared and a Snowy Owl on Amherst Island; 2 Hawk Owls and 4 Great Grays in Bracebridge. At Algonquin, 3 Boreal Chickadees, 3 Gray Jays and numerous White-winged Crossbills. Emmerson Bowes reported that the website had been revised and that there is now scrolling news. Katrina Knight reported that waterfowl were on the move at Lake Ontelaunee, with Greater White-fronted Geese, Wood Duck and Redheads being seen and a Northern Shrike at Blue Marsh. Bob Mercer had over 80,000 Snow Geese and 8,000 Tundra Swans at Middle Creek.

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Paul Guris had a dozen Purple Finches in his yard. Andy Ednie had a Razorbill at Barnegat Inlet, Black-headed Gull at Indian Inlet, White Pelican and an albino Vulture at Indian River Bay, Avocet at Logan Tract. There was also a report of Brown-headed Nuthatch at Little Creek. Gary Stiles presented a program on the relationship and interactions of hummingbirds and flowers.

MARCH 15 (38 + 4) Jane Henderson reported that the next Larus would include a pledge sheet for the bird-a-thon. Ron French thanked Bob Mercer for the stellar job with the Book Auction. It brought in over \$400. He also had received a letter from Chris Walters along with a check for \$3,490.41 for earnings from investments in our Endowment Fund. Despite a rough day, Paul Guris' March 11th Cape May Pelagic produced high numbers of Razorbills and Oldsquaws, and low numbers of Gannets and Kittiwakes. Don Jones had 17 Harlequins, 1 Snow Bunting, 1 Razorbill, 30+ Common Loons and 1 Red-throated Loon at Barnegat Light. A black morph Rough-legged Hawk was also seen at Manahawkin. Ron French's Peace Valley owl walk produced Long-eared, Screech, Great Horned, and 3 Short-eared Owls. The evening's program was on "Bird Singing" presented by Daniel Edelstein.

APRIL 5 (50 + 5) Jan Gordon proposed that pledges for the bird-a-thon be put towards purchasing new trays for the Academy's Ornithological departments skin collection and habitat projects for Valley Forge Audubon and the Schuylkill Center. Frank Windfelder's March 31 Pedricktown field trip produced mixed results. The Woodcock went to bed early, the blackbirds left for greener pastures, the Ruff drowned, the Eurasian Wigeon was hiding, the ice cream was fantastic, both the Bald Eagle and Great Horned Owl decided not to abandon their eggs and the Sandhill Cranes were of mixed parentage! Ron French announced that the latest issue of Wild Bird magazine had an article on Philadelphia birding by Keith Russell and Adrian Binns. Bill Murphy found a Marbled Godwit (rare in spring) at Pedricktown. George Reynard told us that Cornell was working on the only known recording of a Bicknell's Thrush call that he had unknowingly recorded in the Antilles. Roy Frock noted that 500,000 Broadwings passed over Corpus Christi last Thursday. Colin Campbell substituting for an ailing Shawneen Finnegan, finally

got a chance to dust off his slide trays and presented a wonderful program on Scotland and its bird life.

APRIL 19 (26 + 2) A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of Steve Wing, past president and trustee, who passed away. Ron French announced that Council had agreed that \$2500 of the club's conservation funds be set aside for the purchase of trays for ANS's Ornithological Department specimens. He noted that the cabinets which house the trays cost \$4500 apiece, and said the club could consider contributing additional conservation funds in the future. He said that additional contributions from members (World Series pledges, etc.) would make it possible to provide \$300 to VFAS and \$300 to SCEE for habitat preservation projects. Bill Murphy reported on the Black-backed Woodpecker at PEEC. Joe Majdan had 6 "scouting" Purple Martins on April 6. Ron French reported a Little Gull at Nockamixon. Jane Henderson had 6 woodpecker species April 19 on Forbidden Drive in Philadelphia. Alice Doolittle gave the program and discussed the status, trends and recovery efforts for the Piping Plover, focusing on the Delaware and Great Lakes areas.

MAY 3 (28 + 4) The meeting was called to order by Sandy Sherman, substituting for Ron French. Sandy mentioned that she and Chris Walters went to Phil Street's residence to sort through his birding book collection. Sandy asked everyone in attendance to help support our only fundraiser, with pledges for the World Series of Birding. Don Jones announced that of the 4 male Prothonotary Warblers that he banded at Hawkins Road last year, 2 have returned. He has banded 5 more this year bringing the total to 7. More remarkable is that one of those that returned he has been able to identify through sonograms from his records. Swallow-tailed Kites were reported south of Dover and one was seen over Cape May. Andy Ednie's 24 hr Delaware big day in April produced 168 species including 18 warblers, Sedge Wren and Yellow Rail. Nate Rice's program on his recent journey to Guyana, recounted his efforts of recording and collecting specimens in the Acari Mountains.

MAY 17 (32 + 5) Sandy Sherman filling in for Ron French announced Paul Driver and Marjorie Keefe's nominations for membership were approved. Colin Campbell's Pocomoke Swamp weekend, May 4-6 produced everything but the headliner: Black Rail, while Andy Ednie's May 13 White Clay Creek trip

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had 74 species, including a Mourning Warbler. Chris Walters noted that the Peregrines on the Bell Atlantic Tower had one hatchling, and that big brother was watching on video cam. Bob Mercer noted that on Saturday's North American Migration Count a Red-necked Phalarope and a Bicknell's Thrush were seen at Core Creek in Bucks Co. For the second meeting in a row the program was presented by a member of the Academy's Ornithological department. Leo Joseph presented "How DNA helps us to see what we don't see when we see birds: examples from cuckoos and flycatchers."

JUNE 7 (36 + 4) Alan Brady reported on his very successful overnight May 25 Pelagic, with highlights of 39 Fulmars; 5 Cory's, 32 Greater and 13 Sooty Shearwaters; 5 Leach's Storm-Petrel; 49 Pomarine Jaegers; 1 South Polar Skua; 4 Red-necked and 32 Red Phalaropes; and 2 Puffins. Ron French received letters from Leo Joseph and Nate Rice of the Academy's Ornithological Department, thanking the DVOC for their generous donation towards new cabinets for the skin collection. Ron French had a total of 6 Bald Eagles and 6 Osprey at Peace Valley on a recent field trip as well as a Mississippi Kite over Rt. 611 a week ago. Pete Bascinski presented a wonderful program on ALL the butterflies of New Jersey.

JULY 5, AUGUST 2, SEPTEMBER 6 and 20 Informal meetings were held. On September 20 Sam Fried was the guest speaker presenting a program on "Belize: Little known jewel of Central America"

OCT 4 (46 +3) Ron French announced that Bob Ridgely would be leaving the Academy of Natural Sciences to take a job with National Audubon in Bucks Co. He also announced that dues for the club would be increased starting next year: new dues will be \$25 per year or \$375 (payable over 3 installments) for a Lifetime Membership. Katrina Knight reported that 30 years of DVOC minutes were almost ready to be sent to the binders. Chuck Hetzel spoke about the Roxborough Reservoir restoration project and also announced that the Kentucky Warbler habitat restoration project at the Schuylkill Center has currently fenced in about 3 acres with plans to increase the area to 10 acres. Doris McGovern spoke of her project with Don Jones to attempt to ID individual voices among the Prothonotary Warbler population

currently nesting at Hawkins Road, using color banding, sound recordings and sonograms. Jane Henderson reported thousands of Chimney Swifts at the Dodson School in Roxborough. Frank Windfelder presented a truly unforgettable PowerPoint presentation on the Western Willet.

OCT 18 (30 + 6) Ron French announced that past president and trustee Bob Sehl passed away. A club member since 1939, Bob was warmly remembered and Chris Walters reminded all that Bob instituted the life membership policy that enabled the club to invest the money as an endowment. Barbara McGlaughlin and Nancy Bilheimer were welcomed as new members. Sandy Sherman thanked all those that helped contribute to *Cassinia* including Jane Henderson and Clay Sutton and Photo Editor Steve Kerr. Frank Windfelder's Sharp-tailed Sparrow trip to Tuckerton Marsh was a success, recording all races of Nelson's as well as Saltmarsh. 5 Brown Pelicans were a first for this trip. Ron French announced that the Academy of Natural Sciences new cabinet program was about \$60,000 short of their goal. The collection of specimens, that includes birds prepared by Audubon and Lewis and Clark, is amongst the finest in the world, and also includes 20,000 specimens donated by the DVOC. Ron also announced that donations were being sought by the Wildlife Information Center for a hawk-watching center, similar to that at Hawk Mountain, at the base of Bake Oven Knob, and \$82,000 had been raised to date. Colin Campbell introduced Daphne Gemmill who spoke on the Conservation Challenges that face the island of Madagascar.

NOVEMBER 1 (56 members + 1) Working on the theory of "better late than never", Dave Long's membership letter from last May was finally given a second reading and approved. Good numbers of Purple Finches, crossbills and Winter Wrens were reported. Sandy Sherman reported that the Cape May Autumn Weekend had lots of raptors including the first Swainson's Hawk of the season. Also found were Ash-throated Flycatcher, 1 Black-chinned Hummingbird and a Vesper Sparrow. Andy Ednie noted a Redpoll was coming to a feeder in Chester Co., Evening Grosbeak were at Ashland Nature Center, Broadkill Beach had at least 3 Ross's Geese and a Loggerhead Shrike was in New Castle Co. 7 members participated in the Annual Member's slide show.

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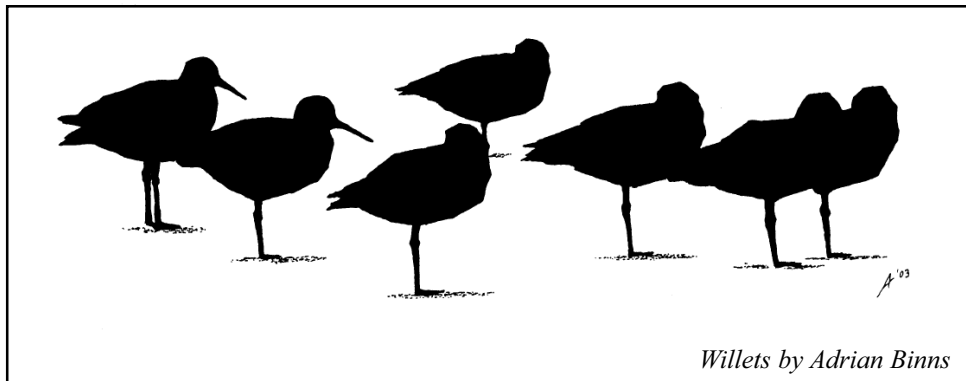
Winners included Jane Henderson (Flora & Fauna and Birders), Steve Kerr (Birds) and Erica Brendel (Landscapes).

NOVEMBER 15 (94) President Ron French opened the proceedings at the Annual Banquet, held at Williamson's on City Line Ave. Attending past presidents were honored. Sandy Sherman received the Witmer Stone Award for publications for her paper "Tracking Stone's Tome" about the dispersal of 1,400 copies of *Bird Studies at Old Cape May* which was published in *Cassinia*. Augie Sexauer, Doris McGovern and Don Jones received the Julian Potter Award for their outstanding field studies on the identification of individual Prothonotary Warblers by vocalization. The Conservation Award was not awarded this year. Guest Speaker Bill Murphy, author of the bird guide to Trinidad and Tobago presented an exciting look at birding these magical tropical islands.

DECEMBER 6 (35 + 3) Hart Rufe presented for consideration the following; President – Colin Campbell, Vice President – Adrian Binns, Secretary – Chris Walters, Treasurer – Naomi Murphy, Council – Anita Guris and Lynn Jackson for 2002. The Club received a thank-you note from August Sexauer on his receiving the Julian Potter award. Alan Brady read a passage from an old *Cassinia* related to a search for an Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Hart Rufe suggested that minutes of the meetings be posted on the website. There were reports of several sighting of Snowy Owls as well as numerous Bald Eagles. Armas Hill reported

on the recent pelagic from Brielle, 50 Northern Fulmar, 500 Red Phalarope, 1500 Black-legged Kittiwakes, Thick-billed Murre, Razorbill, Puffin, Parasitic Jaeger and 20 Pomarine Jaegers. Ron French reported 4 Greater White-fronted Geese at Peace Valley. Al Driscoll and Don Jones viewed the Townsend's Warbler at Sandy Hook on Dec 3. Doug Tallamay from the University of Delaware presented a program on "Alien Plants." A spirited discussion followed his presentation.

DECEMBER 20 (31) Joan Eitzel and Henry and Margaret Schaefer were elected to membership. Ron French reported a female Brewer's Blackbird December 16 while doing the Upper Bucks County Christmas Count. Colin Campbell led members in the scheduled program called "Memorable Moments in Birding." Eight members took the floor. They told tales of several misadventures, including how Rick Mellon was knocked to earth by the attack of a Western Screech Owl, how a DVOC group led by Al Brady was nearly stranded on Little Beach Island, New Jersey by receding tides, and how the need for hot coffee by late DVOCer Sidney Lipschutz led to the finding of a Thick-billed Murre in Cape May Harbor. Members' stories included Chuck Hetzel's sounds of a young Horned Owl and slides of Doris McGovern's 1993 trip up the Dempster Highway in the Yukon Territory. Finally, "Memorable Moments" concluded with a tutorial by Don Jones, featuring a series of unmentionable bird sounds.



Willets by Adrian Binns