

Dale Twining 1921–2014

Dale, a DVOC member since 1937, passed away on August 25, 2014, six years after his wife of 57 years, Jeanette. He is survived by two children, David and Wendy, and five granddaughters, some of whom inherited his love of birds and the outdoors. While he lived most of his life in Wyncote and Glenside, he traveled throughout the US and Canada, and served with the Marines in the South Pacific during WWII. He birded everywhere he went, and kept records of what he saw.

Dale's interest in birds and nature began as a child in Bucks County, and grew through his many Boy Scouting experiences. As a teenager and adult, he used his woodworking talents to construct a variety of feeders and nesting boxes for use around his home. He was an active member of the Wyncote Bird Club and Audubon Society for over 50 years, a volunteer at Fort Washington State Park for 25 years, and Scoutmaster for Glenside Troop #1 for many years.

On March 4, 1937, Dale went to the DVOC meeting at the Academy of Natural Sciences with his friend, Horace W. "Shorty" Rolston, who had joined the club in 1925. Dale wrote, "I was hoping to become a member. Dr. Witmer Stone was the speaker of the evening. He gave a very interesting talk on the smaller sandpipers of the Atlantic Coast. Then Arthur Emlen, the club president, read the names of those who had been elected to membership. I was greatly pleased to hear that finally I had become a member of the DVOC!" Dale was 16, one of the youngest members to have joined at that time. 'Birding' was just getting started, as he noted that at the meeting, 25–30 hawks, mostly goshawks, were laid out, shot for the bounty and sent from Harrisburg to Dr. Stone. He cherished his copy of *Bird Studies at Old Cape May* which Dr. Stone signed for him.

Dale attended meetings regularly over the years, and he served as a council member from 1970–72. The Spring Round-ups and Cape May Christmas Counts, which he rarely missed, were highlights for him – for the birding, of course, but also for the friendships. He would often share fond memories of the people



and events from these field trips. He had the longest club membership, 77 years, at the time of his passing. [Editor's note: Dale's long tenure with the DVOC was surpassed only by his friend, Herb Cutler. See Rick Mellon's interview with Herb in the present issue.] I think Dale's favorite part of birding was welcoming newcomers, and sharing what he had learned with others:

"Dale was a true gentleman and it was an honor to have him as a mentor and a friend in my early years as a birder."

"Your eagerness to share your vast knowledge of the natural sciences, your willingness to be both a teacher and a mentor, and your many acts of kindness have developed in me a feeling of admiration and respect for you."

"Dale had a profound and long-lasting effect on my life: he introduced me to birding and was my mentor for years."

The Wyncote Audubon Society and Briar Bush Nature Center are currently sponsoring the Dale Twining Birding Records Project, initiated to preserve this avid birder's extensive records, and make the data digitally available to researchers.

Wendy Clymer
(Dale's daughter)