

LANCASTER COUNTY BIRD CLUB CALL NOTES

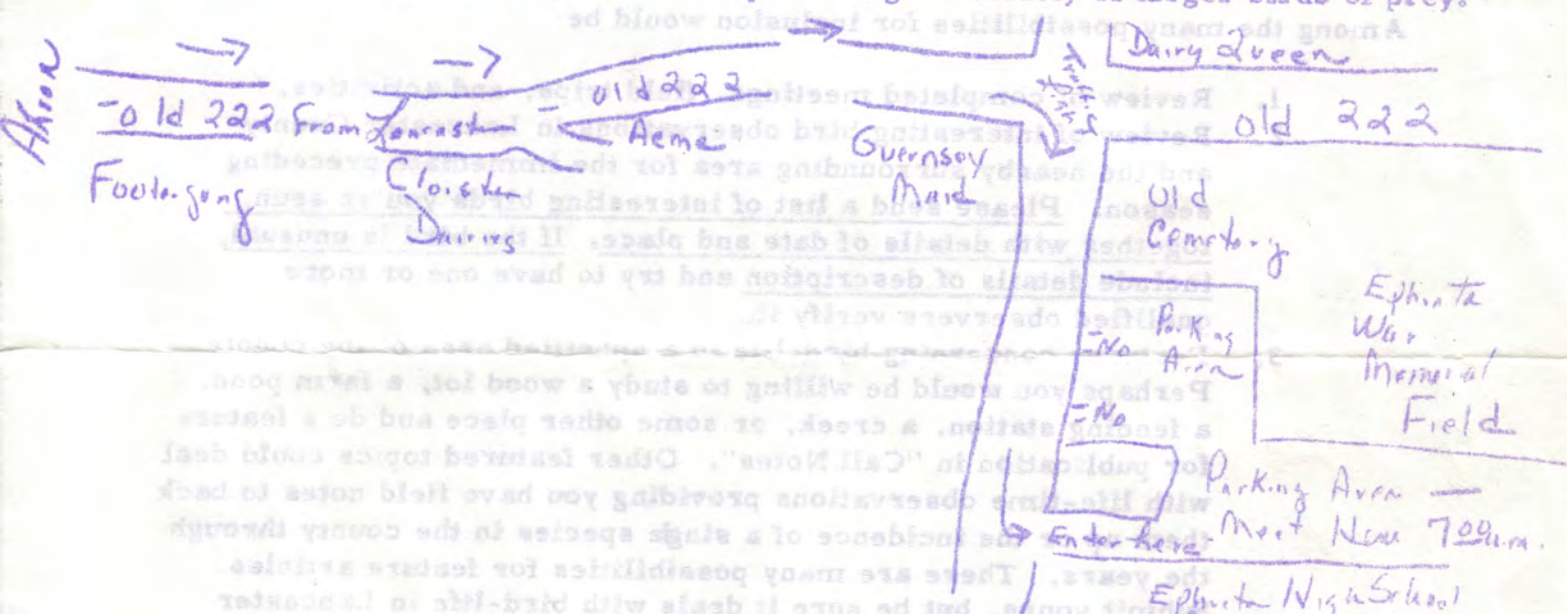
OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1972

Preview of Coming Attractions

Sunday, October 8 - 6:00 a.m. - Field trip to Brigantine, Jan Witmer leader (Ephrata 733-1862). Leave North Museum. There will be no breakfast stop on this trip. Brigantine has become the best known birding area in the East.

Friday, October 13 - 8:00 p.m. - Meeting at North Museum. Jim Brett, Assistant Curator of Hawk Mountain, will speak. Jim has planned an exciting new educational program for the Mountain and has impressed all with his abilities.

Sunday, October 22 - 7:00 a.m. - Field trip to Hawk Mountain, Jan Witmer leader (Ephrata 733-1862). We will leave from the Ephrata High School parking lot. See map below for directions to high school. Again, there will be no breakfast stop. If the winds are right, the time will be ripe for a good variety of larger birds of prey.



Wednesday, November 1 - Audubon Wildlife Film at Hensel Hall, F & M Campus. Greg McMillen on "Living Jungle". This project needs our full support. It is worthwhile.

Friday, November 10 - 8:00 p.m. - Meeting at North Museum. Gladys Cole of Towson, Maryland, will relate her experiences banding birds. She is highly recommended by those who heard her at Lancaster about 10 years ago, as well as by the York Club. Don't miss this one!

Friday-Sunday, November 17-19 - Perhaps the year's outstanding field trip. The Bubbs will be our guides at Chincoteague. Drive down Friday evening on your own. Listen for announcement or call the Bubbs at York 764-3688 (or any officer) for more information.

Friday, December 8 - 8:00 p.m. - Meeting at North Museum. An old favorite, Merrill Cottrell of New Jersey, will return for his 8th visit and will present "Birds and Their Songs" (with sound).

Sunday, December 30 - The annual Christmas Census. Ted Parker will be home to serve as compiler. Please volunteer your services. Hopefully, the next issue of "Call Notes" will be in time for more complete information on this major project.

From the President

The Board of Directors has authorized a quarterly mailing to the membership. The main purpose of such a mailing will be to announce future meetings and field trips. Because a member, Pat Witmer, has offered to type and duplicate this mailing, it will be considerably less expensive than it otherwise would have been. This means it will be possible to include other data.

We would like to solicit opinions from the membership as to what they would like "Call Notes" (name subject to change) to include. Due to limitations of finances, size, per issue, and lack of professional ornithologists among our membership, we realize it can't be a full-scale scientific presentation of ornithological data for Lancaster County such as several neighboring state-wide societies are able to produce. Instead, it must necessarily be a Newsletter with expanded features. But, from a modest start, who knows what could develop?

Among the many possibilities for inclusion would be:

1. Review of completed meetings, field trips, and activities.
2. Review of interesting bird observations in Lancaster County and the nearby surrounding area for the immediate preceding season. Please send a list of interesting birds you've seen, together with details of date and place. If the bird is unusual, include details of description and try to have one or more qualified observers verify it.
3. Features concerning bird-life in a specified area of the county. Perhaps you would be willing to study a wood lot, a farm pond, a feeding station, a creek, or some other place and do a feature for publication in "Call Notes". Other featured topics could deal with life-time observations providing you have field notes to back them up or the incidence of a single species in the county through the years. There are many possibilities for feature articles. Submit yours, but be sure it deals with bird-life in Lancaster County.
4. General information of interest to members. In this issue, we will list phone numbers that can be called to learn of rare birds that have been sighted. General information concerning membership in the American Birding Association will be included in a subsequent issue, as well as the latest trends concerning the lumping and splitting of species. Reviews of bird books and other publications are also a possibility.
5. Personal items concerning our members relating to their hobby of birds. Interesting vacation trips (bird information only!) would be among items included. See the column in this issue.
6. List of members and their life-lists. Please send in an accurate number of birds recorded in one or more of the following areas: Lancaster County, State of Pennsylvania, AOU area, and the world. The AOU area is the main one. It includes the United States (except Hawaii), Canada, Baja California, Bermuda, Greenland, and the oceans adjacent thereto. Do not include possible escaped birds unless they have bred in the AOU area for five years. Therefore, Monk Parakeet would count, but not most of the other escaped cage birds.

7. Articles by "guest writers", such as Ted Parker, Dr. Maurice Barnhill, and other persons prominent in ornithology.

It's your Newsletter. Help us to make it interesting and informative! Send information to me at 29 Kready Avenue, Millersville, PA 17551 or call me at 872-8403.

Harold B. Morrin

The Passing Scene - Summer 1972

Here's a modest beginning to what hopefully will be expanded into a useful feature. Submit your observations for possible future publication.

Lancaster County had an unusual summer with extremes as far as climate conditions are concerned. June was as wet as any in recent memory with hurricane Agnes creating havoc. Bird areas such as the Triangle were badly damaged. July was generally hot and humid, and August rather dry and pleasant.

Since this publication is new, few observations have been reported. Best bird was found by Clyde Gamber on July 20 and verified by Andy Mack and Harold Morrin on August 1. It was an immature White Ibis which flew to the heron roost on the river island opposite Washington Borough. As many as 778 Cattle Egrets were counted by the same three observers on August 1, together with small numbers of Common Egrets, Snowy Egrets, and Great Blue Herons, and perhaps 50 Black Crowned Night Herons. There were reports that Glossy Ibis nested on the river islands, but they were not seen by Clyde Gamber, Andy Mack, and Harold Morrin. Ted Parker found a Blue Grosbeak near Kembleville, Chester County, on July 3, and it was also seen by Morrin. Russ Markert, Bud & Tom Garner, Tom Keller, and Eric Witmer found 4 Upland Plover and about 10 Bobolinks near Lawn-Colebrook in Lebanon County in early July and these birds were also seen by other members. Morrin found a pair of Lesser Scaup on a farm pond along Route 283 about five miles west of Lancaster on July 4, an unusual summer observation. They were later seen by Parker. And the County's first Monk Parakeet was observed by 31 persons on the Club trip on August 6 at Willow Street. And how about this for cooperative bird - a Carolina Wren built its nest in a pretzel can inside George Noll's garage!

Information of Interest to Birders

It is possible to dial several long distance telephone numbers and get a review of interesting sightings. The recorded messages are changed nearly each week. The numbers are:

- The Voice of the Naturalist, Washington, D. C. - 1-202-652-3295
- The New York Rare Bird Alert, New York, N. Y. - 1-516-485-2170
- The Voice of Audubon, Lincoln, Massachusetts - 1-617-259-8805

The New York call covers areas from Connecticut to New Jersey and the Washington one ranges from New Jersey to North Carolina. The Massachusetts recording is basically Massachusetts and adjoining states. This is an excellent way to learn about unusual birds, many of which can subsequently be seen. An example of this is the Brigantine gyrfalcon which many of our members did get to see following the phone report.

Club News

Bird Seed Project - The Club plans again to make it possible for members to purchase bird seed at reduced prices. Russ Markert will make the arrangements. Listen for an announcement about this project at a regular meeting, or contact Russ about the time the winter winds start to blow.

Dues remain a low \$2.00 per year (Junior members - 50¢). Please see that Treasurer J. Russell Markert gets yours. He lives at 41 E. Market Street, Lititz, PA 17543, and he can be found at any of our meetings.

Owls - both Ted Parker and Andy Mack are studying owls in Lancaster County. Report all observations to Andy at 569-2434.

Potential Members are to be reported to Madeline Steffy at 394-7460. New members will be listed in future issues of "Call Notes".

Middle Creek Wildlife Area - Please keep records of your sightings at Middle Creek and turn a copy of them over to Harold Morrin. Our club and the Reading Club will be cooperating in compiling a Bird List for the Middle Creek Area.

Personal Items

An Armstrong sponsored trip to Iceland presented an opportunity for Shirley Bubb, Dorothy Corbett, Mickey Shellenberger, and Madeline Steffy to see life birds as those who attended the September meeting are aware++++ Ray Bubb is devoting full time to carving birds in wood. Waterfowl and shorebirds are the most in demand, but Ray does other species as well. He sells them at a number of gift shops in the Mid-Atlantic states, including one operated by the Smithsonian Institution++++ Pat, Jan, and Eric Witmer had a successful trip to Bonaventure Island, Quebec, and Old Man Island, Maine, for gannets, kittiwakes, puffins, etc.++++ Talk about tough luck - Bill Tawzer lost all of his records of bird observations plus many years of National Geographic magazines when his basement flooded in the wake of Hurricane Agnes. Bill felt fortunate compared to losses sustained by many, but nevertheless, it is an irreplaceable loss.++++ Six members (Andy Mack, Charles Mellinger, Harold Morrin, Ted Parker, Jan & Eric Witmer) plus Maurice Barnhill of Newark, Delaware, made a quick 3 1/2 day trip to Key West, Florida, and were successful in seeing the first Antillean Palm Swift ever to appear in the United States, plus a number of other interesting species. They waited in a cemetery 6 1/2 hours before the Palm Swift put in an appearance!!++++ Rev. Ivan Morrin is President of the York County Bird Club. His brother is President of the Lancaster Club.++++ Clyde Gamber is doing volunteer work at Hawk Mountain. He leads school groups, and helps keep the hawk count on Wednesdays his day off work.++++ Jay George was fortunate enough to see and photograph an albino muskrat at Middle Creek.

Review of Completed Attractions

Sunday, August 6 - The Monk Parakeet cooperated. It arrived 15 minutes after 31 club members and guests, and posed from a window sill. Ted Parker led a bird walk in the woods at Rock Hill; Charlie Mellinger was the perfect host at his well-manicured lawn; and Ted Parker presented a most interesting program on "Birding in Mexico", using slides and visual aids. Thirty-nine attended one or more of the activities at this summer tripleheader!

Sunday, August 20 - 70+ species plus green headed flies were observed at Brigantine. Thirteen members were on the trip led by Madeline Steffy. Infants stole the show, with newly hatched Clapper Rail, Common Gallinules, and waterfowl being observed. Best birds: Hudsonian Godwits, Silt Sandpipers.

Friday, September 15 - Iceland came alive through Shirley Bubb's narration of slides and movies and the displaying of gift purchases. Congratulations to four fine ladies for a memorable evening. A good opening night crowd of 93 attended.