

LILLIAN STONER RECIPIENTS, 1975-1990

JOHN L. CONFER AND GORDON M. MEADE

One of the most significant events of the 1974 Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs was the announcement of a \$1,000 gift from Mrs. Dayton (Lillian) Stoner, of St. Petersburg, Florida, to fund an annual Lillian Stoner Award. The Lillian Stoner Award provides funds for a high school senior or college student to attend the Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. Recipients must be nominated by a member club of the Federation. The fund has been supplemented by several donors. Twenty-six recipients have been selected during the 15 year history of the award. This report lists them all and describes the subsequent activities of some of these recipients; additional material would be welcomed for perhaps some later update.

Adam Byrne 1990 Cayuga Bird Club

Adam was unable to attend due to a medical emergency. Adam continues as a student in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell, where he worked as a field assistant with Dr. Tom Gavin on a study of nesting Bobolink and Red-winged Blackbird.

Andrew Spahr 1989 Saw Mill River Audubon Society

James Velozzi 1989 Saw Mill River Audubon Society

Andrew Wheelock 1989 Lake Erie Bird Club

Unfortunately, Andy, too, was unable to attend due a death in the family. Andy did his undergraduate work at Ithaca College, including a research project on Downy Woodpeckers under Confer's supervision. He began graduate studies at SUNY in Fredonia in animal behavior, where he became known to the Lake Erie Bird Club, especially for his proficiency in leading owl prowls. Andy has now transferred his graduate work to studies in education with a particular interest in natural science.

Donald J. Smith 1988 Lyman Langdon Audubon Society

Nicholas Bailey 1987 High Peaks Audubon

Nick served as High Peaks Audubon warden at the Four Brothers Islands in Lake Champlain for four years. Nick now plays in a blues band with his brothers and works as a contractor. Charles Smith and Mike Peterson took Mike to the Manhattan Brewing Company for a

band performance during the Federation meeting at NYC, which may have inspired Nick's present avocation.

Eric VanderWerf 1987 Genesee Ornithological Society

Eric is in the midst of establishing a career in ornithology. He has done field studies in Venezuela, Kenya, Australia, and (most importantly) Ithaca, New York. The latter was done while a student at Cornell University. He is working towards his masters degree at the University of Florida, Gainesville on habitat use by Elepaio in Hawaii. In between all this time at airports, Eric has written three papers related to bird nesting, describing the Great Potoo's nest, communal nest care in the Hoatzin, and statistical analyses of Lack's theory on clutch size.

Gregory P. Winter 1986 Alan Devoe Bird Club

Peter Hunt 1985 Cayuga Bird Club

Pete obtained his masters degree studying birds in Wyoming and is now working towards his doctorate degree under Dick Holmes at Dartmouth College. Pete is fascinated by warblers and both his current studies and his previous work have been concerned with population regulation in this group. Pete has done considerable work in the tropics, where he has assisted in teaching a tropical biology course. Pete was one of the New York Atlas blockbusters and continues to be a very active birder. It was Pete who found North America's first Little Egret.

Christine Brothers 1984 Rochester Birding Association

David Krauss 1984 Linnaean Society of New York

Lois Chapman 1983 Allegany County Bird Club

David Gagne 1983 Jamestown Audubon Society

Daniel Niven 1982 Sullivan County Audubon Society

Dan has retained his serious interest in birds, and is now a candidate for his doctorate degree in Ornithology at the University of Illinois. His course work and oral exams are complete, and he is now doing field work in Mexico. His thesis, comparing the behavior of Hooded Warblers on their breeding and wintering grounds, was supported by a grant from the Smithsonian Institution.

Michael J. Peter 1982 Genesee Ornithological Society

Mike has remained in the Rochester area, for which the Genesee club is most grateful. He is a frequent participant in field trips and recently worked with the leader of the area banding station.

William T. Benning	1981	Eaton Bird Club
Wilhelm J. Goebel	1981	Cayuga Bird Club

Wilhelm was Confer's advisee during undergraduate school at Ithaca College. Recognition of Wilhelm's bird art work, the basis for his Stoner Award, continues to increase. Wilhelm is one of the few artists sponsored by Mill Pond Press, which indeed places him in very select company. Wilhelm has won several state waterfowl stamp contests and consistently placed very well in the national contest. His picture of Am. Black Duck placed second in 1990, after a tie in the supposedly final vote, to the national duck stamp winner.

Mackenzie Stewart	1981	Oneida Bird Club
Frederick Davis	1980	Genesee Ornithological Society

Fred received his masters degree from Harvard with a thesis on "Louis Agassiz and the Galapagos Islands". Mike was an ornithological instructor at the Maine Audubon Camp for one summer and has participated in birding and banding in Great Britain. Mike also contributed to the maps for Dr. Raymond Paynter's Ornithological Gazetteer Series for South America, published by the Nuttall Ornithological Club. He continues active birding in the Washington, D.C., and Cape May areas.

Alexander R. Brash	1979	Linnaean Society of New York
Steven Scannell	1979	Alan Devoe Bird Club
Matthew Paul Drennan	1978	Linnaean Society of New York
Brad Semel	1978	Moriches Bay Audubon Society
Jean Schiller	1977	Kirkland Bird Club
Jeffery Walters	1976	Eaton Bird Club
Mary McKittrick	1975	Linnaean Society of New York

In every case, the Lillian Stoner Award has supported a very nice young person. The support has served as an award for the work that these students had already done. Perhaps it has also served as a stimulus for continuing an active, lifelong involvement with birds.

Nominations for this year's award should be sent to John Confer. Nominations must be made by member clubs of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs and accompanied by a descriptive letter from the club. Nominations must be received by 15 July for appropriate consideration. It is very helpful if nominees would include a self-describing letter. Please send nominations to:

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