

The 2009-2010 DOS Conservation Committee was once again busy with continuing projects and exploring new ventures for future conservation concerns. During the last two monthly meetings of the DOS calendar year, the committee performed a self-evaluation of past efforts, both ongoing and completed, in an attempt to determine areas of strengths and weaknesses along with issues that either were not addressed or need to be brought into the committee's focus.

The following is a recap of the 2009-2010 DOS Conservation Commit-

tee's Year in Review:

- * John Janowski, after many years of service, stepped aside from coordinating the Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup. Until a replacement is found, the committee as a group will coordinate the efforts of the annual cleanup, this year's Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup on Port Mahon Road was completed on April 24th

- * The Delaware Bird-A-Thon was approved to move forward one week from previous years, this year's event will begin on May 8th and end on May 16th. Valero contributed \$1000 to the Bird-A-Thon in 2009,

but because it was received on Sept. 2 it will be credited to the 2010 Bird-A-Thon

- * The Smithsonian Institution Migratory Bird Center has approved "Red Knot Blend" of coffee for sale by Golden Valley Farms at \$13.95 per pound. Proceeds for one year from sales would go to the Bird-A-Thon. Golden Valley has agreed to continue the program in 2010 with \$1 going to the bird-a-thon for each pound sold.

- * Ashland Hawk Watch, a joint partnership of DOS and Delaware Nature Society, received

\$32,000 in Bird-A-Thon funds were used to purchase 52 acres of shorebird habitat near Mispillion Harbor.



Conservation Committee (cont.)



funding from the 2009 Delaware Bird-A-Thon to continue it's excellent work on migratory raptor migration

* CEPF (Community Environmental Project Fund) funding for the Ft. DuPont State Park Habitat Restoration Program and related activities in Ft. DuPont has progressed, due to the efforts of John Janowski and Bruce Lantz, and the area is ready for planting of trees. Fifty-five trees were planted by John, Bruce, Derek Stoner and Bill Stewart in January 2010. John Janowski, representing the Delmarva Ornithologist Society applied to DNREC for a second \$5,000 CEPF grant to conduct Phase II of the Ft. DuPont SP Habitat Restoration Program

* Karen Bennett, DNREC's Manager for the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program was awarded the 2009 DOS Conservation Award for her tireless efforts in conservation of habitat and species calling Delaware their home

* Through a joint partnership with DuPont's Clear into the Future,

USFWS and DNREC, the DOS Conservation Committee successfully launched the Wilmington Peregrine Falcon Webcam Project. Having installed a webcam inside the peregrine falcon nestbox on the 19th floor of the Brandywine Building (formerly called the DuPont Building), the webcam provides a livestream of nestbox activities from January 1 through July 31

* Kevin Kalasz, manager of the Delaware Shorebird Project was invited to speak on the Red Knot status during the January meeting. Kevin reported the population remains stagnant with no discernible increase or decline since 2006. Top priority is habitat acquisition, specifically for roosting

* The committee continues to support Cub Scouts and Boy Scout Merit Badge candidates through awarding grants for conservation projects. A report from John Janowski and Bruce Lantz titled *Cub Scouts in Conservation*, reported on the past 9 years of Delmarva Coun-

cil BSA Cub Scout Packs in partnership with DOS and several Delaware state agencies, providing young scouts with hands-on experience in the creation and/or maintenance of bluebird box trails on state property

* For the third year in a row, committee members manned a 10x20 booth at the Great Green Expo, underwritten by The Conservation Fund, in an effort to promote DOS virtues and recruit new members

* In partnership with the Delaware Museum of Natural History, committee member Keith Hall continues to produce the excellent International Migratory Bird Day calendar for the month of May. Copies of the calendar are inserted in the Flyer and distributed throughout Delaware

* An award of \$32,000 of the 2009 Bird-A-Thon funds, was given in partnership to DNREC, to help fund the purchase of 52 acres on Lighthouse Road leading to the Mispillion DuPont facility. DNREC will restore the property as a Red Knot and migratory

**The Wilmington
Peregrine Falcon
Webcam was
launched in Spring
2010**



Conservation Committee (cont.)

shorebird roosting area so the birds won't have to expend energy flying to New Jersey every night to roost

* During our May meeting, Tri-State Bird Rescue board member and DOS Conservation Committee member Bob Bryant, gave the committee a briefing on the current status of the Gulf Oil Disaster

* Committee members Sally O'Byrne and Bill Stewart, as part of the five member Delaware Birding Trail Project team, received the 2009 Volunteer of the Year

Award from DNREC

* The 2010 Delaware Bird-A-Thon successfully raised over \$35,000 as of 6/30/10 with over 300 participants, donors and sponsors. Contributions were collected from 12 states and 3 countries, 14 businesses and 8 ornithological societies and many supportive birders

* Bill Stewart, Chair, received the Citizen's Award from the United States Department of Interior and the Conservation Champion Award from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for his efforts in a

national campaign to promote the benefits of the Federal Duck Stamp to non-consumptive users, as well as his other conservation efforts

* The committee is in the final stages of developing the Lights Out! Wilmington project in an effort to reduce bird strike deaths during peak migration periods. The project will include a large number of partners and has targeted Fall 2010 for its initial trial run with businesses and building management

* Committee membership has increased to fifteen members, helping to contribute to the growing needs of conservation efforts locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. The committee continues to meet once monthly September through June

Bill Stewart

Conservation Committee
Chair

