How did it ever get to be December and the close of 2015?!?

As I write this, temps are forecasted to be in the 70’s for the week, and it might be time to pull back out the flip flops for my next birding excursion. Seems like yesterday that we were marveling in the shore-bird diversity at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, the brand new start of another DOS birding year, and December wasn’t even a conscious thought.

Whelp, better think again!

In fact, it is December with the holidays upon us, CBC’s revving up, ending another successful and wonderful year of DOS activities, growth, and so much more.

As I mentioned during my opening remarks at my first DOS meeting as your new President, DOS is YOUR bird club. our members make it go, steer it in old and new directions, and always strive to offer the best in field trips, conservation, monthly meetings and communications. For an all-volunteer organization, our achievements in providing an all-around birder’s a la carte of birding activities is beyond commendable and simply fantastic!

For DOS to enhance programs such as the youth birding program known as the Delaware Dunlins, the Wilmington Peregrine Falcon Webcam activities, superior monthly meeting speakers, and more, annual donations from members make a huge difference. In 2014, our first-ever appeal arrived in your email boxes, many of you responded with donations and contributions. Your donations are being put to good use with the purchase of TWO new cameras for the Peregrine Falcon webcam that provides superior hi-resolution AND sound! We thank all of you for your kindness.

Whether you realize it or not, our Peregrine Falcon webcam is viewed by 10’s of thousands of viewers and followed by viewers all over the world. The images are streamed into many classrooms in Delaware and beyond, and make a difference in many, many lives. Again, we thank you for helping make this possible.

So, in closing and wishing all of you a joyous holiday season, thank you for your past support and we hope you will consider donating once again this year.

Good birding,
Bill Stewart, DOS President
DECEMBER 16th
For DOS by DOS
A Night of Shared Stories & Experiences

Join your fellow DOS members for an evening where the membership takes the spotlight! We invite DOS members to come and share short 10 – 15 minute presentations talking about all things birds and birding! As the holiday and Christmas Bird Count Season kicks off, take this opportunity to kick back and relax for an informal evening of birding camaraderie. Because it is the holiday season, we also invite members to bring a special dish or dessert to share. Catch up with fellow members and send 2015 out in style!

If you would like to be a presenter, please contact Anthony no later than November 15 so that your presentation can be announced at the November meeting. Please include a title and short (2-3 sentences) description of what you will be sharing. Also, please let Anthony know if you plan to bring a dish or treat so we will know what to prepare for!

JANUARY 20th
What Do Birds Eat?
Examining Bird Dietary Choices To Improve Avian Conservation Efforts
With Ashley Kennedy

Although insects serve as a vital food source for most terrestrial bird species, particularly while breeding, we still don’t know much about which insects birds prefer as prey. To address this, Doug Tallamy’s lab at the University of Delaware has launched a citizen science project inviting birders across the country to contribute photos of birds with insects in their bills. A better understanding of avian food webs will help us better manage landscapes for avian conservation.

Ashley Kennedy is a first-year entomology PhD student in Doug Tallamy’s lab at the University of Delaware. Although new to birding, she is trained in insect taxonomy and identification, and excited to learn more about how birds and insects interact.

FEBRUARY 17th
Delaware CBC Reports & ANNUAL CHILI NIGHT!

Join DOS as Master MC Jim White hosts the night’s activities in reviewing the 2014 National Audubon CBC’s from Delaware. Listen in as we hear Count Circle reports on the birds, effort, and surprises discovered during this 116th CBC, the longest running citizen science project in North America! This meeting also serves as DOS’s annual Chili Night and we encourage you to bring your favorite crock-pot chili and some fresh bread. If you plan on contributing your heralded chili and or bread, please contact Anthony Gonzon at atgonzon@verizon.net.

Anthony Gonzon, DOS Vice President
# Upcoming Field Trips

All members and guests are welcome! Only trips that are noted are restricted to DOS members, due to space limitations. Participation in field trips is at your own risk. Please help our leaders and our environment by carpooling, especially on trips which include several locations. Half day trips will usually end before lunchtime unless otherwise noted. Please feel free to contact trip leaders if you have any questions. **Please Note:** Check our website ([www.dosbirds.org](http://www.dosbirds.org)), *The Flyer*, or the DEBirds Listserv in case of trip changes, cancellations, or trip additions. 

* = Locations Requiring Entrance Fees  
DD = Delaware Dunlins Recommended

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LEADER</th>
<th>MEETING LOCATION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAT 12/5/2015 8:00a</td>
<td>Local Patch Birding Series: Newark Reservoir</td>
<td>Tim Schreckengost</td>
<td>Newark Reservoir parking lot off of Old Paper Mill Road</td>
<td>Join Tim for a morning filled with various waterfowl species, sparrows, and winter residents at Newark Reservoir and the adjacent William M. Redd Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT 12/12/2015 8:00a-12:00p</td>
<td>Sea Watch II</td>
<td>Anthony Gonzon &amp; Chris Bennett</td>
<td>Delaware Seashore State Park lot on the south side of Indian River Inlet</td>
<td>Join Anthony and Chris to ID and document seabirds such as Northern Gannet, scoters, loons, etc. Join trip with Sussex Bird Club. Limited walking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/14/2015-1/5/2016</td>
<td>Annual Christmas Bird Counts</td>
<td>Check page 8 for details</td>
<td>Check page 8 for more details on the CBC locations in Delaware</td>
<td>Appreciate birds in a new way and contribute to over 100 years of wintering bird records. Check page 8 of <em>The Flyer</em> for more details!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT 1/9/2016 7:30a</td>
<td>List Head Start</td>
<td>Frank Rohrbacher</td>
<td>Park &amp; Ride at Rte 299 &amp; Rte 1, opposite Wawa</td>
<td>Get an early start on your 2016 list! Visit various DE sites in the race to get as many year birds as possible. Full day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT 1/16/2016</td>
<td>Sea Watch III</td>
<td>Anthony Gonzon &amp; Chris Bennett</td>
<td>See Sea Watch II Above</td>
<td>See Sea Watch II Above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED 1/20/2016 8:30a-11:30a</td>
<td>Midwinter Beginner Bird Walk DD</td>
<td>Sally O’Byrne</td>
<td>Meet at Blue Ball Barn, near traffic circle on Rte 141</td>
<td>Come out and get to know some of the birds that are at home in the woods &amp; fields during winter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN 1/24/2016 2:00p-5:00p</td>
<td>Dunlins Youth Birders Event: Winter Holiday Party DD</td>
<td>Dunlins Leaders</td>
<td>Ashland Nature Center, Hockessin DE</td>
<td>Join us for a fun time after the busy holiday season for some bird-related activities &amp; presentations by your fellow Dunlins. Bring photos, bird lists, or any bird-related items for a show &amp; tell time!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN 2/7/2016 8:00a-7:00p</td>
<td>Owl Trip (Members Only)</td>
<td>Jim White</td>
<td>Registration Required - Call Jim at 302-593-9622 if you plan to attend New Castle County Airport</td>
<td>Seven species of owl may be seen and/or heard in a single full day. Various Locations. DOS Members Only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT 2/20/2016 8:00a-12:00p</td>
<td>Sea Watch IV</td>
<td>Anthony Gonzon &amp; Chris Bennett</td>
<td>See Sea Watch II Above</td>
<td>See Sea Watch II Above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT 3/12/2016 7:00a-2:00p</td>
<td>Stone Harbor/ Avalon, NJ</td>
<td>Bill Stewart</td>
<td>Registration Required - Call Bill at 610-864-0370 or email <a href="mailto:bird-del@earthlink.net">bird-del@earthlink.net</a> if you plan to attend Prime Hook NWR HQ</td>
<td>Visit one of the best wintering waterfowl staging areas in our region. Search for early arriving shorebirds such as Piping Plover &amp; American Oystercatcher. Snowy Owl has been seen on 2 previous trips. Also visit 8th St. Jetty for eider, Harlequin Duck, and Northern Gannet. Pack a lunch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT 3/19/2016 8:00a-12:00p</td>
<td>Sea Watch V</td>
<td>Anthony Gonzon &amp; Chris Bennett</td>
<td>See Sea Watch II Above</td>
<td>View, study, and discuss the skins of a variety of migrant and breeding spring warblers. Age 16 and over unless accompanied by a parent. <strong>Please note the meeting location for this skin workshop.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT 3/19/2016 1:00p-3:00p</td>
<td>DMNH Skin Collection Study: Spring Warbler Workshop</td>
<td>Jean Woods</td>
<td>Registration Required - Call Jean at 302-658-9111 ext 314 or email <a href="mailto:jwoods@delmnh.org">jwoods@delmnh.org</a> Prime Hook NWR HQ</td>
<td>Join Joe to visit the Lower Susquehanna in MD including Conowingo Dam, searching for gulls including Little Gull and migratory waterfowl. Half day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN 3/20/2016 7:30a-11:30a</td>
<td>Marina Park &amp; Conowingo Dam, Port Deposit, MD</td>
<td>Joe Sebastiani</td>
<td>Meet at Marina Park, Port Deposit, MD at 7:30a</td>
<td>Join Joe to visit the Lower Susquehanna in MD including Conowingo Dam, searching for gulls including Little Gull and migratory waterfowl. Half day.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Did you Get Out in November to play the game of “Find the ___ in the flock of ___?” What? No? Well, there is still time! Yellow-headed Blackbird, Ross’s Goose, Cackling Goose, and odd gulls, finches, and sparrows will continue through the winter. Keep your eye out for that one bird that doesn’t quite look like the others in the flock!

In the yard and at the feeders: Dark-eyed Juncos (aka “snowbirds”) are here to stay, along with a number of winter sparrows. Take a look at the White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows at your feeders—can you tell the difference between the adults and immatures? Give it a try! As noted before, winter finches may be sporadic. You never know what might appear after a front blows through. Solitary Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and Brown creepers should also be seen skulking up and down tree trunks or at suet feeders at this time of year.

On the water: It is prime season for wintering waterfowl! Inland freshwater ponds and reservoirs are great spots for Ring-necked ducks, Gadwall, Common and Hooded Mergansers, Redhead, and American Wigeon. Along the coast and brackish back bays, look for Atlantic Brant, Common and Red-throated Loons, Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Common Goldeneye, scoters, and grebes. Keep in mind that as many as three species of scoter and grebe occur in Delaware. The very handsome Harlequin Duck has already been seen around Indian River Inlet this season. This bird is an infrequent visitor to Delaware waters and is one not to miss!

In the air: Alas, the hawk watches are over for the season. But this doesn’t mean you should stop looking to the skies. This is the time of year when Rough-legged Hawks are occasionally reported, and Golden Eagles are still moving through.

Listen for: Admittedly, there isn’t a lot of singing going on this month, and can you blame them? Find a “birding by ear” app that works for you and study over the winter! Spring will be here before you know it. If you have a lot of woodpeckers in your yard, challenge yourself to learn the difference between the calls and rattles of Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers.

Lisa Smith, DOS Council

It’s December, But There’s Plenty To Search For While Out Birding In The Colder Weather!

GET OUT AND Bird!
Happy December, DOS Members! As you know, there have been some exciting changes happening with The Flyer this year! Most importantly, we have moved online for all months except September, December, and March, and have started sending reminder postcards and emails in non-print months to direct you to the online publication. Hopefully you have gotten a chance to check out The Flyer online, and to use our digital publishing platform: Yumpu. There are a number of great features within Yumpu that we wanted to share to help you get the most out of your online-Flyer-reading experience! For example, did you know that you can change the page view mode from the double page flip style into a traditional PDF-reading scroll view? Read on for our step-by-step guide for how to access The Flyer online and to learn about utilizing these handy features.

First, in order to get to the current Flyer, hop onto our website—www.dosbirds.org—and find the tab labeled ‘Committees.’ The third option under the ‘Publications’ heading will say ‘Current Flyer.’ This is where you'll find the most current edition of The Flyer, but if you're searching for an older edition, simply click on ‘The Flyer Newsletter Archive,’ and you will find archives of all the past Flyers dating back to the 2004-2005 year. Once you are on the ‘Current Flyer’ page, you will see a small box where there will be the ‘play’ triangular symbol overtop of a miniature Flyer image. Click this play symbol, and then press the “click to read” button. Once you click this button, you will be taken into the full screen mode, which should look like the image shown above.

Some members have commented that Yumpu’s automatic settings make The Flyer difficult to read. For those of you who aren’t fond of the standard Doublepage mode, try changing to ‘Scrollview,’ which will allow you to view The Flyer in a constant zoom (like a traditional PDF reader), and will not move the screen around as your mouse moves. To find ‘Scrollview,’ look above The Flyer to a light gray/black box containing a number of icons. Above, we’ve used red arrows to point out the functionality of each button in this utility box. The ‘print’ printer icon allows you to simply print The Flyer and read it in-the-hand if you prefer. The next symbol to the right is the floppy disk ‘save’ button, and will allow you to download The Flyer as a PDF if you would prefer to read The Flyer in your own PDF reader rather than using Yumpu.

As you can see, through the online publishing system Yumpu, there are many different functions and ways for you to enjoy our Flyer. If you have any other questions about how to use The Flyer, please contact editors Kelley and Hannah at flyer@dosbirds.org. Happy Birding!

Kelley Nunn, Flyer Editor & Hannah Greenberg, Flyer Co-Editor

Header photo: Barred Owl by Kim Steininger
If you didn’t receive a copy of this year’s ‘Delmarva Ornithologist’ journal in with your December Flyer, there is no need for tears. To reduce costs, the journal was only mailed out to people who have renewed their DOS subscription for the 2015-2016 season, so if you would like a copy of this neat collection of interesting articles about local birds, simply renew when the opportunity arises and I will be happy to send you one!

Also, if you didn’t receive an electronic version of the October and November Flyer, it is probably because we do not have a current e-mail address for you, either because your previous e-mail has expired or I typed the address incorrectly! Just e-mail me with your preferred e-mail address at istew@udel.edu and I will add you to the electronic database to ensure you keep on getting Flyers!

To renew your membership, either mail in a check, hand over a check or cash at the next monthly meeting, or renew through our Wild Apricot site (accessed through the ‘join’ link on our website, which allows you to pay using PayPal or a credit card).

All new members also receive the Ornithologist as well as the electronic and print Flyers, so if you know anyone who likes birds and birding, please let them know about DOS, either by passing on a copy of The Flyer, forwarding them an electronic version, or directing them towards our website (http://www.dosbirds.org/). We are always happy to welcome new members!

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays to all, and I wish you good birding in 2016!

Ian Stewart, Membership Chair

Stuck For Gift Ideas This Holiday Season?

Why not give a friend or relative a gift membership to DOS? You could stimulate a lifelong interest in birds, birding, and conservation. Give your loved ones a gift they’ll love, and that the birds will thank you for, too.
Get to Know DOS Member Bob Rufe

Bob, What’s your hometown?
Sellersville, PA

What’s your occupation? Officially, I’m retired.

Do you have a favorite Delaware birding site? This will seem strange to many readers, but there is a little stretch east of Dagsboro called Piney Neck, where Pepper Creek enters the Indian River. It has been my “local patch” downstate for thirty years of Spring Roundup outings, sometimes alone — more often with fellow counters — and we have never once encountered another single individual in the area. It was recently added as a tract of Assawoman Wildlife Area, but even a Google search a few minutes ago only located it as a hunting or biking destination. The birding is great, but beware — it may carry the highest density of ticks in the state!

What’s your favorite type of Delaware birding? Not too surprising – Shorebirding! It’s the category I cut my teeth on in the early 1970s. It fits my technical training and discipline for identification systemics. Shorebirds congregate at locations where they (mostly) sit still and are easy to observe, and they generally don’t “sing!” The inset photo was taken during the Shorebird Monitoring project in 2005.

What’s your most awesome Delaware bird sighting? Rare bird chases produce the circumstances for exhilaration and disappointment, especially when you participate in the friendly competition of keeping a state bird list. Notably, one Code 5 rarity discovery on Tuesday, July 25th, 1989 at Bombay Hook produced for me the “awesome” sighting wherein a mega-rarity “morphed” from one rarity to an even greater rarity under intense scrutiny and analysis. The story was the subject of newspaper headlines, suspense and intrigue, sour grapes and hard feelings by hardline non-state-listers, and culminated in a detailed article in The Delmarva Ornithologist. This was, of course, the first Delaware report for Eurasian Golden-Plover, which was ultimately adjudicated by the Delaware Records Committee (in large part by a frame-by-frame analysis of my brother, Hart’s, 3-minute 8mm movie film — through Questar telescope) and identified as Pacific Golden-Plover. “Did it have creamy white, or smoky gray underwing coverts?” For some, there still is no controversy, and our bird lists are our own.

What’s your number one ‘bogey bird’ in Delaware? I was out of state when the Caracara, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Say’s Phoebe were in Delaware, but I’m going to go with Clay-colored Sparrow, which I actually did glimpse at the Lewes ferry dock in the mid-’70s, but did not get a detailed study as we were close to boarding. “No problem — you can get it later.” We were seeing them pretty regularly on the DOS winter trips to Massachusetts, and I thought they’d be more regularly seen in DE than has actually occurred. I have a long-standing offer for a free dinner to any birder who can find me one. Of course, they don’t vocalize (for me).

What single thing would you do to improve birding in Delaware? Not much. Having birded extensively across the country and internationally, we have a remarkable diversity of birds, communications networks to alert birders to current activity and upcoming events, and excellent national and state park and refuge systems to provide access. And DOS is at the forefront of everything birding in Delaware. The Bayshore Initiative holds promise to address the only shortcoming I’m affected by as a sometimes trip leader, that being improved pull-off shoulders for access and safety at hotspot areas such as Taylor’s Gut and Broadkill Beach.

You served two terms as DOS President (1989-1991 and 2003-2005). How has DOS changed (if at all) since your presidencies? I’m proud I have been part of the growth in membership, educational programs, and conservation awareness over the past 25 years. Three elements which contributed to this growth were 1) The expansion of Council to include the chairs of major committees, thereby empowering and engaging our leadership; 2) Taking the initiative of a single benefactor to establish youth programming, evolving, in part, to the Dunlins program we know today; 3) The change in venue for meetings from DMNH to Ashland when the museum underwent renovations during my second term. Mike Riska, then Director at DNS, gave us full support (and free meeting space) in exchange for generating quid pro quo programming, for example, the Ashland Hawk Watch.

What is your funniest or most unusual DOS birding incident? So many to choose from, but one I guess you had to see to believe was on a DOS trip to New England in the 1990s. We needed local directions to get to the Mew Gull sighted on a local lake somewhere in the area of Winthrop, outside Boston, and I approached some of the locals on a residential street. None seemed knowledgeable until a jogger seemed interested and able to assist, but did not want to have his outing shortstopped for more than a few seconds. True to the cause — I jogged with him for at least 100 yards to get the complete directions. Turning back toward the cars, our DOS travelers were howling with laughter. Too bad that no one got that on film!

Ian Stewart, Membership Chair

Header Photo: Red Knot by Kim Steininger
Time To Get Your CBC On: 
Sign Up For The DOS Christmas Bird Counts Now!

If you are like me, you are already dreading the holidays – all that shopping, relatives, and good cheer can depress anyone. Luckily for us birders, we are saved each year by the Christmas Birds Counts. DOS sponsors five counts (opportunities to ignore holidays and do something truly fun) – Wilmington, Middletown, Bombay Hook, Rehoboth, and Cape Henlopen/Prime Hook. All of the counts are looking for birders to participate! Contact the appropriate count compiler if you are interested in joining any or all of this year's Christmas counts. New birders are always welcome – just bring snacks and binoculars.

The counts are free to all participants.

Jim White, DOS Christmas Count Coordinator (302) 593-9622

WILMINGTON - 19 DEC 2015
Compiler: Jim White
Contact: (302) 593-9622
or hylajwhite@aol.com

BOMBAY HOOK - 20 DEC 2015
Compiler: Andy Ednie
Contact: (302) 792-9591
or ednieap@verizon.net

MIDDLETOWN - 27 DEC 2015
Compiler: Anthony Gonzon
Contact: (302) 598-5893
or atgonzon@verizon.net

REHOBOTH - 2 JAN 2016
Compiler: Sally O'Byrne
Contact: (302) 945-3236
or salobyrne@gmail.com

CAPE HENLOPEN - 3 JAN 2016
Compiler: Frank Rohrbacher
Contact: (302) 475-5771
Past CBC Photo Gallery

Photos #1, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11 by Joe Sebastiani, Photo #2 by Jim White, Photos #3, 5, 7, 8 by Kelley Nunn.

#3: Great Black-backed Gull, #5: Red-bellied Woodpecker, #7: Northern Pintails, #8: Cackling Geese
As I write this in November, the weather is getting colder and the Ashland Hawk Watch is still going strong. The hill is still seeing plenty of Sharp-shinned Hawks, and now the Turkey Vultures have started moving en masse. The Sharp-shinned Hawks are also as feisty as ever, and just recently there was a very low-flying Northern Harrier that we saw being chased and dive-bombed by a diminutive Sharp-shinned. Migrating Red-tailed Hawks and Red-shouldered Hawks are increasing gradually. American Kestrels are no longer seen regularly, but Bald Eagles have been commonly seen, either migrating or just flying and riding the thermals. The most exciting raptor development is November is the time to see Golden Eagles! There have been 5 Golden Eagles seen at the watch so far, and we’re sure to see more!

The sparrows are still here, and in great numbers. One can see and hear them around the watch in the morning, around the bird feeders and the trees with the other finches. Speaking of finches, the Purple Finches and Pine Siskins are in the area now. Unfortunately, I have not seen any perching or feeding Pine Siskins yet, but they are flying over and very audible. American Robins, Red-winged Blackbirds, American Crows, European Starlings, and Common Grackles are in much bigger numbers than before—especially the Common Grackles. There are flocks of thousands of these blackbirds in the valley almost every day now— the sound of their wings flapping whenever they move to a new tree is easily heard, as well as their endless calls. One day, a flock of starlings had the gusto to harass a Bald Eagle and a Turkey Vulture, for no obvious reason! The resident Red-shouldered Hawks appear every so often, but haven’t been as prominent as they used to be. In terms of fall foliage, the leaves have fallen, but the view from the hill is still magnificent.

To all the Hawk Watch volunteers and observers, I am so thankful for all the help you’ve contributed for this season. You all helped to make this fall fantastic here at Ashland, and I’ll miss seeing every one of you up at the hill. It’s been a great migration everyone, and I hope you have an even better one next year. Keep on birding/hawk-watching, Hawk Watch crew!

Sharon Ellison, Ashland Hawk Watch Coordinator

ASHLAND HAWK WATCH

Call for Fellows & Honorary Members Nominations

DOS Fellows and Honorary Members,

It’s that time of year again when we start accepting nominations for DOS Fellows and Honorary Members. Check out your Membership Directory to see the honor roll of previous awardees! DOS Fellows must have made a significant contribution to the affairs of the Society, preferably as a Committee or Council member and/or must have made a significant contribution to the ornithology of the Delmarva Peninsula or nearby area. Honorary members should have national prominence in the field of ornithology or a closely related field and have been of service to the Society, or have been of service to the society and the area’s birds for an extended period of time.

Ian Stewart, Membership Chair
Broad-wings, Red-tails, and Red-shoulders— all buteos— are less common along the coast and more often seen inland, and this year has been a particularly light flight at Cape Henlopen. Even though the total number of raptors for the month of October is close to the average of the past 5 years, the buteo numbers are the lowest since 2011. Why? They seem to have bypassed Cape Henlopen even on days when good numbers were reported at Cape May across the bay.

Some days many hawks are barely visible as they travel far to the South or far to the East. Some days we see few birds, but many are counted at Cape May. What route are they taking? How many are we missing?

The years of data collection from many hawk watch sites around the country add to the broad picture of migration, but new questions arise on a local, regional, and continental scale. The number of hawks passing through Veracruz, Mexico is far greater than the total number of raptors counted at all North American watch sites— what routes are the rest of the hawks taking? How much of the raptor migration is along known corridors like mountain ridges or coasts, and how many others randomly move South?

Come help us count the birds at Cape Henlopen next season, and your efforts will add to the wealth of knowledge about raptor migration. Scanning the sky and counting the birds is not just about Cape Henlopen; it is part of a national effort to answer questions. Thanks for a great season, everyone!

Jen Ottinger, Cape Henlopen Hawk Watch Coordinator & Sally O’Byrne, Hawk Watch Oversight

Hey, DOS members! Ever have a birding day out in Delaware that’s so spectacular, you’d like to tell people about it? Do you have any photographs of local birds you’d like to share? Or, do you want to write up an article about one of your favorite birding-related topics? If so, let us know! Here at The Flyer, we’re seeking relevant content submissions from DOS members to publish in our monthly newsletters. If you’re interested in submitting content to The Flyer, please send us a message via email to: flyer@dosbirds.org.

DOS Members Receive 10% Off* All Non-Bird Food Items! *Birdseed and Optics not included.

The Flyer is Made Possible by DOS Members Like You!

The Flyer | December 2015 | www.DOSbirds.org
Thank you to DOS Member Tim Schreckengost for providing this month’s ‘What’s This Bird?’ photo!

Can you guess what species of bird is eating at this thistle feeder? Both birds in the photo are the same species. Not sure? Hints: Look at the shape of the tail— it’s skinny and notched at the end. Also note the bill shape — it’s thin and pointed rather than thick and powerful like that of a grosbeak or cardinal. Check out that streaking! These birds are absolutely covered in delicate streaks. And finally, pay close attention to the yellow wing patches and yellow edging at the top end of the tail feathers.

For the answer, check under the Field Trip Schedule on Flyer Page 3.