Welcome Back DOS Members and Friends!!

Writing this while it is a sweltering 99 degrees outside and thinking of fall migration underway and a crisp northwest breeze pushing in our first wave of Broad-winged Hawks almost seems unimaginable! But, by the time we have our first DOS member’s meeting of the year, that first wave of broad-wings will have arrived and hopefully, enjoyed by many of you!

As DOS and its members have proven in the past, another exciting year lies ahead for all who decide to take part, participate, show up and enjoy the passion of birds and birding. Our two hawk watches started on September 1, fully staffed and ready to collect valuable data, educate and interpret the migratory raptor movements for visitors and fans alike. Within this September Flyer you will see our new Field Trip schedule just filled with fabulous field trip opportunities to satisfy any birders’ appetite all year long. Continuing on our great tradition of monthly meeting featured speakers, this year’s presentations will entertain and educate your birding passion and hopefully pushing you further along in your avian pursuit.

I have mentioned in some of my past “Greetings from the President” write-ups, DOS is YOUR club………………a bird club made up of volunteers lending their time, energy and expertise all for the betterment of the club and it’s offerings. We are always looking for new individuals to help out with our existing programs and activities or to start a new one. Our Ashland Hawk Watch is looking for volunteers to enter data and record the sightings each day as the official counter identifies the raptors passing overhead, our Membership and Outreach Committees are always looking for help, especially since both committees are a committee of one! As vibrant as the Conservation Committee is, their important and results-oriented projects STILL need more help, more volunteers. And those committees and activities only scratch the surface of DOS’s productiveness, it truly is amazing what each committee can achieve and at such a high level, but our “Volunteers Needed” list continues to grow! If you would like to consider some DOS Volunteer opportunities or know of someone who would, please either drop me an email at bird-del@earthlink.net or give me a call at 610-864-0370. I will be happy to talk with you and hopefully convince you to join our team!

Hope to see you in the field and at our meetings, good birding!

Bill Stewart, DOS President
Grassland songbirds are one of the most threatened groups of birds in North America. Discover the discipline of landscape ecology and how it can be applied to the management and protection of these amazing species, with a special look at songbirds from the Northern plains. We will end with a discussion of how these techniques can be applied to the birds of the Mid-Atlantic region.

Jessica Shahan is a biologist and environmental educator with the Nicholas Newlin Foundation in Glen Mills, PA. She received her MS in Biology from the University of North Dakota in 2014, focusing on landscape ecology and grassland bird communities. In her spare time, she can be found exploring the birding hotspots of DE, volunteering at the Rushton Farm Banding Station, and gardening for native pollinators.

Long-time biologist Wayne Lehman has spent countless hours banding and monitoring barn owls and screech owls in Delaware. Banding provides valuable information on life span, home range, nest site fidelity, and migratory patterns, and in estimating population size. He will discuss banding methods, nest boxes, nest site competition with other species of wildlife, life history, and much more. Join DOS for our October meeting and learn from Wayne about what we know, what we don't know about these intriguing nocturnal birds!

Wayne Lehman is a retired regional manager from the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife where he has been heavily involved with the long-term monitoring and management of barn owls and screech owls for nearly 30 years.

Anthony Gonzon, DOS Vice President
WELCOME TO ANOTHER EXCITING DOS YEAR!

We hope you carry on supporting DOS by renewing your membership and thereby enjoying all the advantages that come with it, including participation in member-only trips and receiving the Delmarva Ornithologist journal in December, which already promises to be a great read. You should have received a membership renewal card with this Flyer which can be mailed in with a check, or if you prefer to pay in person, you are welcome to renew at our monthly meetings using cash or check. You can also renew through our website using a credit card or PayPal (http://www.dosbirds.org/membership/).

We are having a big membership push this year to try to reach the magic figure of 500 members so if you know someone who has even a casual interest in birds please tell them about DOS or better still, bring them along to a meeting or field trip! And if you work somewhere with a big lobby or reception area and you wouldn’t mind putting out some of our DOS rack cards please see me at the next meeting and I’ll give you a few. Thanks!

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO SUPPORT DOS, PLEASE CONSIDER INCREASING YOUR MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

If you expect to be a member of DOS for several years to come (and we hope that you do!) then it may be worth becoming a Life Member. We realize that this is quite expensive ($500) but you get a free DOS cap and lucky binocular strap, and you never need to renew again. We love our Life Members (see the directory for the list) and so to show our gratitude Judy Montgomery, Kelley Nunn and myself have come up with a new benefit – a personalized birding tour by one or more members of DOS council!

“Anyone who becomes a Life Member will receive a half-day guided birding tour from the council member of their choice! We’ll send you a list of councilors who are available, and you simply select who you would like as your tour guide.”

The guide will then give you a one-on-one tour of some of Delaware’s prime birding locations before ending the morning by treating you to lunch at a local venue of your choice!

YOU SHOULD RECEIVE THE 2016-2017 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY WITH THIS FLYER

Please check that your contact details are correct and if there are any changes or additions please let me know at istew@udel.edu. Remember that most Flyers are now sent out via e-mail as an electronic version so unfortunately if we don’t have your e-mail address you won’t get one, and we would hate to see you miss out on all the interesting articles and announcements!

WE WILL CONTINUE TO SELL DOS MERCHANDISE AT INDOOR MEETINGS

We will continue to sell DOS merchandise at indoor meetings (including the ‘lucky’ binocular straps, which might help you find that elusive Connecticut Warbler this fall!) but you can also purchase them through the DOS website (http://www.dosbirds.org/about-us/online-dos-store/).

Ian Stewart, DOS Membership Chair

New Members, WELCOME TO THE FLOCK!

Barbara Estep
Dover, DE

Brett Freeman & Kai Chan
Wilmington, DE

Linda Jamshidi
Avondale, PA

Dr. Karen Lopez
Bear, DE

Mary Ann Manley
East New Market, MD

Susan Ruth Marengo
Wilmington, DE

Carl & Lesley Mease
Lincoln University, PA

Jon Paris
Newark, DE

Xiaofeng Shang
Middletown, DE

John Skibicki
Middletown, DE

Jennifer White
Newark, DE

Header Photo: Wood Duck Fledglings by Kim Steininger
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), The Flyer, or the DEBirds Listserv in case of trip changes, cancellations, or trip additions.

* = Locations Requiring Entrance Fees  
DD = Delaware Dunlins Recommended

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### UPComING **Field Trips**

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**Ashland Walk**  
WED • 7 September • Ashland Nature Center  
Leader: Jim White

Join Jim to look for warblers and other neotropical migrants along the Red Clay Creek. Meet at Ashland Nature Center at 7:30 AM, half day.

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**Skin Collection Study: Sparrows**  
SAT • 10 September • Delaware Museum of Natural History  
Leaders: Bruce Lantz & Jean Woods

Do you find sparrows confusing? Learn how to master breeding, wintering, and migrating sparrows using specimens from the skin collection. Age 16 and over unless accompanied by a parent. **Registration required**, jwoods@delmnh.org, 302-658-9111 x314.

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**Fall Migration Kickoff**  
DD  
SUN • 18 September • Middle Run  
Leaders: Derek Stoner and Judy Montgomery

Celebrate warbler migration at Middle Run, one of the best places in the region to observe numbers and diversity of these colorful songbirds! Enjoy a guided tour of the Birding Trail as we seek both the uncommon and common warblers of the 30+ species that occur each Fall. Meet at 7-9AM, 9-11AM for youth birders.

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**Birding & Hawk Watch**  
SAT • 24 September • Granogue  
Leader: Bill Stewart

Spend the morning exploring the varied and bird-rich habitats on the DuPont Estate “Granogue” during prime songbird migration. Finish the morning with hawk watching from atop the famous Granogue water tower with a 360˚ view for miles. **Registration required**, bird-del@earthlink.net, 610-864-0370.
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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<th>LEADER</th>
<th>MEETING LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUN 9/25/2016 7:30a-12:00p</td>
<td>Milford Neck Fall Migrants</td>
<td>Chris Bennett</td>
<td>Valero/ShoreStop northbound SR1</td>
<td>Milford Neck is one of the best least-birded areas of the state. More than 10,000 aces of the forest, fields and wetlands are permanently protected by the State of Delaware, the Nature Conservancy and Delaware Wild Lands. The mosaic of habitats, easily accessed by an excellent road network provide excellent birding opportunities. We will look for migrating songbirds, shorebirds, waterbirds and raptors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN 10/9/2016 8:00a</td>
<td>Last Gasp 4 Fall Warblers*</td>
<td>Andy Ednie</td>
<td>Brandywine Creek State Park Nature Center</td>
<td>Search for remaining fall warblers and other migrants at beautiful BCSP. Half Day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN 11/5/2016 8:00a-12:00p</td>
<td>Augustine Wildlife Area</td>
<td>Anthony Gonzon</td>
<td>Augustine Beach, Rte 9</td>
<td>Daylight Saving Time is over, so celebrate by sleeping in for an extra hour and then join DOS for a half day birding trip to the Augustine Wildlife Area. Check out some new locations like the Ashton Tract and its new observation platform, and old favorites like Augustine Beach and the Green Tract. Target species will include newly-arrived winter waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT 11/12/2016 9:30a-11:30a</td>
<td>Delaware Museum of Natural History Avian Skin Study: Winter Waterfowl</td>
<td>Bruce Lantz &amp; Jean Woods</td>
<td>Bombay Hook NWR Visitor’s Center</td>
<td>This workshop is run in conjunction with the Delaware Museum of Natural History (DMNH) and Bombay Hook NWR. Participants will have the opportunity to examine closely, study and discuss the skins of a variety of common waterfowl. Birds for study will include both the expected and the unusual species. New and advanced birders welcome. Age 16 and over unless accompanied by a parent</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT 11/19/2016 8:00a-12:00p</td>
<td>Sea Watch I</td>
<td>Anthony Gonzon &amp; Chris Bennett</td>
<td>Delaware Seashore State Park (lot on south side of Indian River inlet along ocean - Southeast Day Use Area</td>
<td>Join Anthony and Chris to count seabirds migrating along Delaware’s coast - collecting invaluable data as well as seeing thousands of migrating loons, gannets, grebes, sea ducks, gull &amp; terns. Limited walking on soft sand to get to viewing spot on beach. Portable toilets available at IRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT 12/10/2016 8:00a-12:00p</td>
<td>Sea Watch II</td>
<td>Anthony Gonzon &amp; Chris Bennett</td>
<td>See Sea Watch I</td>
<td>See Sea Watch I description.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT 1/7/2017 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 2017 list! Visit various DE sites in the race to get as many year birds as possible. Full Day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT 1/18/2017 8:30a -11:30a</td>
<td>Midwinter Bird Walk ⊗</td>
<td>Sally O’Byrne</td>
<td>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>SAT 1/21/2017 8:00a-12:00p</td>
<td>Sea Watch III</td>
<td>Anthony Gonzon &amp; Chris Bennett</td>
<td>See Sea Watch I</td>
<td>See Sea Watch I description.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUN 2/5/2017</td>
<td>Owl Trip</td>
<td>Jim White</td>
<td>New Castle County Airport</td>
<td>Seven species of owl may be seen and/or heard in a single full day. Various locations. Bring lunch. Full Day. DOS members only. Registration required, call Jim at 302-993-9622.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT 2/18/2017</td>
<td>Sea Watch IV</td>
<td>Anthony Gonzon &amp; Chris Bennett</td>
<td>See Sea Watch I</td>
<td>See Sea Watch I description.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN 3/5/2017</td>
<td>Bayshore Wildlife Areas - Woodland Beach to Ted Harvey</td>
<td>Chris Bennett</td>
<td>Aquatic Resources Education Center, on Rte 9</td>
<td>The Delaware Bayshore between Woodland Beach and Ted Harvey Wildlife Areas offer some of the best birding in the United States. This trip will visit some of the 13,521 acres of state-owned land along the bayshore in search of waterfowl, songbirds, waterbirds and raptors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT 3/11/2017</td>
<td>Stone Harbor/ Avalon NJ DD</td>
<td>Bill Stewart</td>
<td>DE Swim &amp; Fitness Club</td>
<td>Visit one of the best wintering waterfowl staging areas in our region. Search for early arriving shorebirds such as Piping Plover &amp; Amer. Oystercatcher. Snowy Owl has been seen on 2 previous trips. We will also visit the 8th St. jetty in Avalon for eider, Harlequin Duck, and the start of Northern Gannet migration. Pack a lunch,</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUN 3/19/2017</td>
<td>Marina Park &amp; Susquehanna River, Port Deposit, MD</td>
<td>Joe Sebastiani</td>
<td>Marina Park, Port Deposit, MD</td>
<td>Join Joe on this new trip to the Lower Susquehanna in MD including Conowingo Dam, searching for gulls including Little Gull and migratory waterfowl.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT 3/25/2017</td>
<td>Skin Collection Study: Shorebird Workshop</td>
<td>Bruce Lantz &amp; Jean Woods</td>
<td>Delaware Museum of Natural History</td>
<td>In this workshop, participants will have the opportunity to view, study and discuss the skins of a variety of migrant and breeding shorebirds. Age 16 and over unless accompanied by a parent. Registration Required, <a href="mailto:jwoods@delmnh.org">jwoods@delmnh.org</a>, 302-658-9111 x314</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUN 4/23/2017</td>
<td>Nanticoke Watershed</td>
<td>Anthony Gonzon &amp; Eric Braun</td>
<td>Park &amp; Ride at Rte 299 &amp; Rte 1 in Middletown, opposite Wawa</td>
<td>Spring migrants in Sussex hot spots. Watch the DOS website and The Flyer as the date gets closer for the start time and more info. Bring bag lunch, boots, and bug spray.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUE 4/25/2017</td>
<td>NestWatch Training Workshop: Finding &amp; Monitoring Bird Nests</td>
<td>Joe Sebastiani</td>
<td>Ashland Nature Center</td>
<td>Would you like to learn how to check in on nesting birds? Join Joe to find out how you can safely monitor birds’ progress and contribute that data to science. We’ll take a walk to visit several occupied nest boxes around the property, and come back inside to share our observations with Cornell’s NestWatch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT 5/5/2017</td>
<td>Birding with Mason &amp; Dixon on WCC Preserve’s Penn-Del Trail</td>
<td>Ian Stewart</td>
<td>Penn-Del Trail Parking Area</td>
<td>Explore birds and history by looking for early breeding and migrating birds with the namesakes of the Mason-Dixon Line!</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Trip leaders Amy and Parker O’Neil, Sarah and Zoe Yost, Judy Montgomery, and Derek Stoner are excited to host you and your family on fun, bird-filled outdoor adventures. We offer monthly traditional field trips (listed below) as well as special opportunities like bird banding that are announced through our email list (delawaredunlins@gmail.com).

Field trips are for school-aged youth accompanied by their parent or guardian. Trips are led by experienced and certified instructors with a passion for mentoring young birders. To register for a Dunlins field trip, please email delawaredunlins@gmail.com.

Enjoy the birds—together!
Derek Stoner, DOS Outreach

### Delaware Dunlins Trip Schedule
#### Fall of 2016

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<tr>
<td>SAT 10/8/2016</td>
<td>Ashland Big Sit</td>
<td>Lots of birds, lots of food, lots of friends, lots of fun - what could be a better way of birding? Take part in an international birding competition and help us see a record number of birds passing by atop Hawk Watch Hill at Ashland. Bring the whole family for this big birding event! Cookout lunch at noon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN 11/27/2016</td>
<td>Bald Eagle Extravaganza at Conowingo Dam</td>
<td>The dozens (sometimes hundreds) of Bald Eagles that gather at Conowingo each fall/winter is incredible. Bring your camera!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates TBA</td>
<td>Christmas Counts: Wilmington &amp; Bombay Hook</td>
<td>For over 100 years people just like you have been counting wintering birds for Christmas Counts! Come join in the fun and help contribute data to science.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
GET READY FOR THE FALL 2016 HAWK WATCH SEASON!

Grab your binoculars and get ready for the Fall 2016 Hawk Watching season at Cape Henlopen and Ashland Nature Center! Starting September 1 and continuing daily from 9:00am to 4:00pm until December 1, the two hawk watches in Delaware will have a professional counter and a need for willing and able volunteers. Volunteers are especially needed on the days when the counters are off duty, usually Sundays and Mondays. Delaware’s two hawk watches have a different complement of raptors, following different routes, so it is worthwhile spending time at both.

Funding for the hawk watches is provided through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s State Wildlife Grant Program. This program provides Delaware the resources necessary to conserve our Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in the Delaware Wildlife Action Plan.

We have found that the more eyes on the sky, the more birds that are found, so come join us! If any of you would like to help out, please come to either hawk watch. Do not let lack of experience deter you— you will learn! If you are interested in becoming a trained volunteer who can work on a weekly basis, please contact Derek Stoner derek@delawarenaturesociety.org (AHW) or Anthony Gonzon atgonzon@verizon.net (CHHW).

JEN OTTINGER RETURNING FOR 5TH SEASON AT CHHW:

Cape Henlopen Hawk Watch (CHHW), located in the Cape Henlopen State Park, will have Jen Ottinger returning for her fifth year. Jen has extensive raptor experience, both in the field and as a counter/compiler. We are incredibly lucky to have her eyes and skill. Jen has extensive experience as a Wildlife Biologist specializing in raptor migration and nest monitoring. She has conducted raptor migration counts with organizations such as Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Hawk Watch International, the Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory and Chimney Rock Hawk Watch in New Jersey. Jen has spent several years observing nesting Bald Eagles in Arizona, and surveying nesting hawks and eagles in Wyoming, Montana, and South Dakota. She enjoys sharing her knowledge of birds of prey and assisting with raptor identification at hawk migration sites. Jen attended Colorado State University and has a degree in Zoology. She is a native of Colorado and calls Denver home when not traveling for work.

Sally O’Byrne, Hawk Watch Oversight & Derek Stoner, DNS Seasonal Programs Team Leader

See You At The Watch!
Daily Through November 30th
Ashland & Cape Henlopen, 9am-4pm
I am incredibly excited to take on a new role in the Delaware Birding Community as the Ashland Hawk Watcher for the 2016 Fall Season! My newfound passion (read: obsession) for birding actually began atop the hill back during the 2013 season, while witnessing my first raptor migration. At the time, I was working as the Environmental Education Intern for the Delaware Nature Society. More recently, I worked as the Education Outreach Coordinator for The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County (TLC) in Kennett Square, where I incorporated as many birding programs as possible while working to connect the community with the natural world.

During my time at TLC, I came to the conclusion that I wanted to pursue avian research in the field with the goal of attending graduate school for wildlife ecology. I took a job working for Matt Sarver, Sarver Ecological LLC, conducting bird surveys and vegetation surveys on the Delaware Wild Lands properties in Odessa Delaware. I’ve never had more fun in my life, traveling through the marshes while listening for secretive rails and bitterns along with seaside sparrows, shorebirds, and anything else of interest that came our way!

I feel quite honored to be chosen as the next Hawk Watcher for Ashland, and can’t wait to be up on the hill throughout the fall season. Being able to watch the migration spectacle from such a beautiful location is an incredibly unique and special opportunity. More than anything, I’m excited to work with all of the dedicated, passionate, and skilled Hawk Watch Volunteers, and maybe even spark the passion for birding in others like the Ashland Hawk Watch did for me three years ago. Let’s have an awesome season!

Hannah Greenberg, 2016 Ashland Hawk Watch Coordinator

DID YOU Know?

The tiny dots in this photo are actually raptors! Specifically, Broad-winged Hawks. The Ashland Hawk Watch (AHW) is one of the best places in Delaware to witness this species’ epic southbound migration! Peak time for this species’ movement through the northern Delaware piedmont is September 14th-19th, during the first cold front of the season. In a single day, over 5,000 Broad-wingeds can be observed soaring past the AHW and kettling in swarms like clouds of gnats.

Photos: Ashland Hawk Watch & Broad-winged Hawks by Kim Steininger
Fall Migration is Here:
Get Out and Bird in September!

Did you Get Out and Bird in July and August? If so, you might have been treated to the sight of baby Black-necked Stilts and Clapper Rails at Bombay Hook or Bobolinks popping up out of grassy fields or Osprey feeding their young at the nest. It was a hot and muggy summer, but now... FALL MIGRATION!!! So many great reasons to Get Out and Bird!!!

In the yard and at the feeders: Did you have some ratty-looking birds at your feeders in August? Most songbirds molt in August, once nesting season is over and before migration or cold weather starts. Those crestfallen cardinals will soon look splendid again! Hummingbirds will continue at feeders in force through mid-September; most will migrate by the end of the month. If you keep your hummingbird feeder up into October, you might be rewarded with a wandering Rufous or other species. Migrating warblers will be arriving in waves through September, so be sure to check your favorite patch the morning after a cold front comes through and sharpen your CFW (confusing fall warbler) ID skills!

Along the water: Shorebirds started to return to the marshes in late July, and more arrived in August. They will be hanging out—feeding and molting and generally resting up for the next leg of their migration—through September; most will be gone by mid-October. See if you can ID this year’s “youngsters” and note the difference in their plumage compared to the adults. Wintering waterfowl will start trickling in through September, many of them still in eclipse plumage.

In the air: Hawks!!! It’s fall migration!!!! When and where will the big Broad-winged Hawk day be? The “big BW day” often happens in mid-September with the first strong cold front that pushes through. Be sure to join us at one of the Hawk Watches this fall to learn how to identify raptors in flight or to simply enjoy the sight of one of nature’s great spectacles (see pages 8-9 for Hawk Watch info).

Listen for: Nighthawks! These graceful fliers can form large flocks that stream across the evening sky during migration in late August and early September. Listen for their distinctive “peent” call as they fly—they are often heard before they are seen. They take to the skies about an hour before dark, so keep your eyes and ears alert.

Summer has released its sweaty grip, so stop griping and Get Out and Bird!

Lisa Smith, DOS Council
Delaware’s 30th annual Coastal Cleanup is scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016. Sponsored by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, the cleanup spans the First State’s 97-mile eastern coastline and 53 sites, including river and ocean shorelines as well as wetland and watershed areas.

Please join DOS at Port Mahon Road, as we once again help beautify this superb birding site! Pre-registration can be done now by going to the Coastal Cleanup sign-up webpage and filling out the online volunteer signup form. On the DNREC registration page, choose "Little Creek WA / Port Mahon Road".

If you can’t make it to Port Mahon, you can volunteer to help out at a site closer to you. Rain date for this year’s Delaware Coastal Cleanup will be the following Saturday, Sept. 24.

Matt Sarver, DOS Conservation Chair
The 2015-2016 DOS picnic was held on Wednesday June 15th from 530pm to dusk at a unique venue – the American Birding Association (ABA) headquarters in downtown Delaware City! This was a new site for our picnic and it turned out to be a perfect location, with its porch overlooking the canal being a perfect spot to enjoy the warm evening as a series of birds cruised lazily past.

Our guests spent the early part of the evening either socializing on the porch or strolling along the pier to watch the herons flying to Pea Patch Island before we got down to serious business – the presentation of Bird-A-Thon prizes (see Bill’s section)! This was followed by Holly Merker being presented with her DOS Fellow certificate and Bob Rufe receiving his specially-designed Lifetime Achievement Award. Most of the guests stayed on to relax and talk about birds and birding as the sun set on a memorable end to another successful DOS year.

We thank Jeff Gordon, the president of ABA, for providing the venue and thank longtime DOS chef Mike Weaver who not only provided a large selection of hamburgers, hot dogs and sausages but also cooked them all to perfection (and thank you to DOS council member Lisa Smith for the grill)!

Ian Stewart, DOS Membership Chair
In 1973, Bob Rufe was invited along on a birding trip to Brigantine, New Jersey by his brother Hart. This trip sparked a lifelong interest in birds during which Bob has explored many corners of Delaware and the Delaware Valley region as well as multiple sites throughout North America (including Attu), Europe, Africa, Central America and Asia. He is a member of the exclusive “700” club with an ABA life list of 709 (he joined the club in style with his 700th bird being a spectacular Great Gray Owl in Ottawa!). Bob’s Delaware list is 378, placing him 3rd in the state behind local legends Colin Campbell and Frank Rohrbacher.

Bob joined DOS early in his bird-watching career and soon became a regular attendant at both indoor and outdoor meetings. He had only been a member for a few years before he began leading his own trips and his involvement in these as well as other society activities led to him being voted a DOS Fellow in 1985. Remarkably, the annual shorebird trip to Bombay Hook that he instigated just ran for its 38th consecutive year! To put this into perspective, when he led the first shorebird trip Jimmy Carter was president, a gallon of gas was 68 cents, it was $2.30 to see a movie and Bud Light hadn’t been invented. The shorebird trip is consistently well-attended and attracts many beginning birders meaning that Bob has probably sparked an interest in birds in well over a hundred people.

Bob continued to serve DOS both in the field and behind the scenes by participating in, and later coordinating, area Christmas Bird Counts and Spring Round-Ups and by publishing compilations of statewide bird sightings. In recognition of his work he was elected DOS president from 1989-1991 and then again in 2003-2005, becoming only the third person in our 50+ year history to serve two terms (the others being the late Winston Wayne and Sally O’Byrne).

Bob continues to serve the society and Delaware’s birds and their habitats by organizing auctions and selling used Duck Stamps to raise funds for the Bird-A-Thon (stamps being another of Bob’s passions, with his exhibits and collections winning national awards). On a personal level, Bob’s genial demeanor and friendly manner make him a welcome presence at society meetings, and we are pleased to present him with our highest honor – the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Bob was presented with his award in June at the DOS picnic held at the ABA headquarters in Delaware City (insert photo of him getting it)

Ian Stewart, DOS Membership Chair
Jim White is a DOS Fellow and past DOS president who is passionate about birds and bird photography. He is a superb all-round naturalist rarely found indoors who is also keen on odes (dragonflies and damselflies) and herps (amphibians and reptiles), and coauthored a book on herps of the Delmarva peninsula with his wife, Amy.

Name: James F. White Jr. “Jim”

Hometown: Wilmington, Delaware

Occupation: Senior Fellow for Land and Biodiversity Management at the Delaware Nature Society

Favorite Delaware birding site: The Delaware Bay Coast, especially Bombay Hook NWR. There are few places in the east that I would rather bird.

Favorite type of Delaware birding: Christmas Bird Counts - I have been participating in CBCs for over 40 years and each year I try to participate in as many Delaware counts as possible. Spending the day outdoors in winter, birding with old and new friends is one of life’s true pleasures.

Most awesome Delaware bird sighting: They’re all awesome but watching a Swallow-tailed Kite soaring effortlessly over Middle Run Valley Park on Easter Sunday had to be right up there.

Number 1 “bogey bird” in Delaware: Birding as long as I have in Delaware I can’t say that I have missed any birds that I have tried for repeatedly. However, my biggest dip and possibly my biggest regret in birding is not seeing the Burrowing Owl that was at Bombay Hook NWR last year. As my father often said, “Those who hesitate are lost.”

What is your funniest or most unusual Delaware birding incident? Like every birder I have many funny birding experiences but my favorite incident happened in the late 70’s. I was working as a park naturalist at Brandywine State Park when I received a phone call from, at the time new birding friend Jeff Gordon (you may have heard of him). He very excitedly told me to drop everything and get over to Brandywine High school where he was finishing up his senior year. Apparently while skipping out on one of his classes to get a pizza to share with his friends he found a Boreal Chickadee in the backyard of one of the school’s neighbors. Even though leaving the nature center unmanned would have been frowned upon by my boss had he known I immediately left my post and joined Jeff in the yard. Sure enough the little guy was noisily bouncing around a small evergreen tree. As far as I know this bird has not been observed since in Delaware.

You served as DOS President from 1997-1999. How has DOS changed (if at all) since then? The DOS has never been a stronger organization. The recent and current leadership has taken the club to new levels of birding experiences. Today’s members now have access to real time information about all aspects of birding from field trip opportunities to rare bird alerts. However, the greatest improvement in the DOS in my opinion is in the realm of conservation. The club is not only a strong advocate for birding in our state but it is one of Delaware’s most effective conservation organization, leading the way in bird conservation and habitat protection.

Ian Stewart, DOS Membership Chair
The 10th Annual Delaware Bird-A-Thon was another huge success for bird conservation and birders in Delaware! This year boasted the largest participation of birders in the field with 187 cumulative species reported and over $31,000.00 raised!

Below are the “winners” in the competition section of the Delaware Bird-A-Thon with all of the participants receiving great prizes donated by Zeiss, Wild Birds Unlimited/Hockessin, Trail Creek Outfitters/Glen Mills, John and Sandy Janowski, Judy Montgomery, The Cornell Lab and Kim Steininger!

Congratulations to everyone involved in helping to make 2016 a fabulous year for bird conservation!!

Bill Stewart, DOS President

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>PLACE</th>
<th>TEAM</th>
<th>TOTAL SPECIES</th>
<th>MONEY RAISED</th>
<th>TOTAL POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Team - Statewide</td>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Matt Sarver &amp; Lauren Morgens</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>$7,227.00</td>
<td>7,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>Red Knot Wranglers - Holly Merker, Judy Montgomery, Bill Stewart, Kim Steininger, Mike Hudson</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>$5,618.00</td>
<td>5,782</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3rd Place</td>
<td>Alissa Kegelman &amp; Mike Smith</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>$2,109.00</td>
<td>2,249</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Team - County</td>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Road Runners: Sharon Lynn, Sue Gruver, Diane Kane, Rob Shroeder</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>$3,335.00</td>
<td>3,468</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>Cecil County Bird Club: Pat Valdata, Ken Drier</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
<td>326</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Division - Statewide</td>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Ready Ducks - Leah, Anna &amp; Issac Judy</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>$573.70</td>
<td>590</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>The Witt Girls - Emma &amp; Charley Witt</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>$68.70</td>
<td>90.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Division - County</td>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Delaware Dunlins Youth Team - Zoe Yost, Jerald and Aaron Reb, Andy Dunn, Ryan Lazio</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>$598.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual - Statewide</td>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Liz Porter</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>$732.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>Billy Weber</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>$160.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd Place</td>
<td>Mary Cote</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>$76.00</td>
<td>137</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carbon Footprint Team</td>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Meghann Matwichuk and Chad Fahs</td>
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<td>$347.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organization/Business/School</td>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Team Louiseau (Wild Birds Unlimited/Hockessin) Karen Louiseau, Kathy &amp; Charles Shattuck, Lisa Moran</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$208.00</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHAT’S THIS Bird?

Photo Taken In ABA Area, Summer 2016 | Possible Choices:

A. Song Sparrow          D. Savannah Sparrow
B. Red-winged Blackbird  E. Vesper Sparrow
C. Bobolink              F. Lark Bunting

For the answer, check under the Field Trip Schedule on Flyer Page 4!

Thank you to DOS Member Nick Pulcinella for contributing another ‘What’s This Bird?’ photo quiz!