

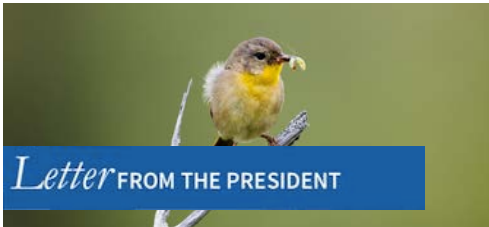


The flyer



Volume 51 | Number 1

SEPTEMBER 2019



As your newly elected President, I expected the task of writing this first letter to be daunting. Fortunately, I'm stepping up to serve a group of incredibly welcoming, enthusiastic individuals — that takes the edge off quite a bit!

I've come to know many of you during the past decade while learning the ins and outs of being a Delaware birder. Some of you may recognize me from meetings and field trips over my seven years of membership. I've served for several years on the Conservation and Bird-A-Thon Committees and in a Member-at-Large Council position. I've volunteered with like-minded local organizations including the Delaware Nature Society and Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research. I was surprised and honored to find myself nominated for the role of DOS

President earlier this year. I'm excited about this invitation to serve the Delaware birding community in new ways, and I am grateful for the opportunity to help advance the needs of the birding community which has been so welcoming as my interests in all things avian has blossomed. With thanks to those who nominated and supported me, I want to in turn extend an invitation to all members who may be curious about how their talents and interests can help improve this already excellent community.

In other words: DOS needs you, too! Several key positions, new and old, are vacant or in need of support. If you're new to DOS, don't let that stop you from volunteering — fresh perspectives are vital when it comes to keeping an organization vibrant. If you've been around the Delaware birding block, so to speak, your experience is critical to ensure that we continue to build on past traditions while we position ourselves for the future.

Maybe you're thrilled by the springtime exploits of the Wilmington Peregrines as they raise their intrepid

IN THIS *issue*

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT	1-2
MEMBERSHIP NEWS	2, 15
MONTHLY MEETINGS.....	3
GET TO KNOW YOUR DE BIRDERS	4
FIELD TRIPS	5-8
HAWK WATCH WATCH.....	9
DOS PICNIC	10-11
2019 BIRD-A-THON RECAP	12-13
DNS RAPTOR CLASS.....	13
FRONTIERS IN ORNITHOLOGY	14
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM.....	15
CONSERVATION ACCESS PASS.....	16

fledglings. The Fledgework needs a new volunteer coordinator to ensure that these downtown denizens are kept as safe as possible during such a vulnerable time.

Continued on Page 2

CALL FOR PRESENTERS- FOR DOS, BY DOS

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Each year DOS members present short programs of interest to the club in the Annual "For DOS, By DOS". Presentations can cover a wide range of topics dealing with birds, birding trips (local, national, international), or a topic at least tangentially related to birds and birding or other nature-related topics. Please contact Anthony Gonzon at atgonzon@verizon.net if you have a short 15-minute program to present at the meeting.





Delaware Ornithological Society

ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Meghann Matwichuk
Vice President	Anthony Gonzon
Treasurer	Jim Lewis
Secretary	Holly Merker
Council 2019	Kim Steininger
Council 2020	Bill Stewart
Council 2022	Carolyn D'Amico
Council 2022	John Skibicki

COMMITTEES

Publication Committee

Jean Woods, Chair
Kelly Smith, Flyer Editor
Gene Hess, Delmarva Ornithologist Editor

Conservation

Matthew Sarver

Membership

Ian Stewart

Field Trips

Amy O'Neil
Kathleen O'Neil

Programs

Anthony Gonzon

Outreach & Publicity

Open

Hawkwatch

Sally O'Byrne

Spring Roundup

Open

CBC

Jim White

Webmaster

Andrew Homsey

Delaware Records

Frank Rohrbacher

MISSION STATEMENT

The object and purpose of this Society shall be the promotion of the study of birds, the advancement and diffusion of ornithological knowledge, and the conservation of birds and their environment.

Flyer Inquiries: flyer@DOSbirds.org



ONLINE
DOSbirds.org



FACEBOOK
facebook.com/DOSbirds



TWITTER
twitter.com/DOS_birds

Continued from Page 1...

Recent changes in DOS by-laws have created some new committees, which will need Chairs and / or members. Are you an eBirder? A NestWatcher? A Christmas Bird Counter? The brand-new Citizen Science Committee could be the place for you!

Likewise, if you're good with figures and financially adept, the Development and Finance Committee is waiting for its wings.

Other parts of the organization, such as DOS's youth birding initiative, are ripe for revitalization. Perhaps you were a Delaware Dunlin in past years, and would like to pass your enthusiasm along to the next generation. What could be more rewarding than opening eyes and

ears to the many wonders of the Atlantic Flyway?

Are you a social media maven? Do you have an aptitude for web design? You can help us expand and improve our presence online!

Perhaps you have other ideas or skills to contribute outside of these roles. I'm very interested in hearing your thoughts. Be in touch with your ideas! To learn more or express interest in the areas above, please feel free to reach out to meghann.matwichuk@gmail.com. DOS is as good as its dynamic membership -- and with your help, we plan to keep it that way!

Good birding,
Meghann Matwichuk, *DOS President*



New Membership System in place!

We have decided to replace our previous membership management system (Wild Apricot) with a new one, Neon CRM. We believe Neon CRM is a better alternative that lets us track memberships and communicate with our members more efficiently. Neon will now be where you renew your memberships, where new members join, and can be accessed through the DOS website. The contact details of all of our members have now been successfully imported into Neon, so hopefully you won't need to type everything in again. You should have all received an email on September 1st with a link allowing you to set your own Login ID (which can be your email address if you want) and password. Once you have done this, you can check your account to see if your contact details are correct, add a separate e-mail address for your co-members (e.g. spouse, partner or children) if you want them to also receive our electronic mailings, and renew your account if needed (the expiry date is given in the 'Timeline' menu on the left

hand side). The site is secure and safe to use and you can pay by credit card or PayPal. Note that the charge will show up in your bank records as being from 'Z2 systems' rather than DOS.

There may be a few bumps in the road as we ease into this new system, but we think it will serve our members better in the long run so please bear with us as we move forward! If you are having problems with Neon, just email me at istew@udel.edu, and I will try to sort it out.

You do not have to use Neon however! You are still perfectly welcome to mail in your dues as a check or pay with cash, check or credit card at a meeting, and I will then update your account manually. We dispensed with a separate renewal card this year to save money, so the renewal form is now embedded in the *Flyer*. If you want to use this, just cut it out and mail it in with your check. If none of your contact details have changed, then you don't need to include the form: just mail in your check to DOS, PO Box 4247 Wilmington DE 19807. Thank you!

Welcome New Members!

I am thrilled to report that last year was one of our best ever for recruiting new members! DOS gained 72

...continued on page 15

Front page photo: Broad-winged Hawk by Kim Steininger

Membership Header Photo: Wood Duck fledglings by Kim Steininger



Wednesday, September 18, 2019
“Connecting the Dots: Understanding Dramatic Declines in a Widespread Migratory Shorebird, the Semipalmated Sandpiper” by Dr. David Mizrahi!

In the talk, Dr. Mizrahi will discuss the challenges facing migratory shorebirds and the research he has done in DE Bay and beyond to help us develop more effective conservation strategies.

Dr. David Mizrahi earned his PhD in Zoology at Clemson University. His dissertation research focused on the ecology, physiology and behavior of Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers during spring migration staging periods in Delaware Bay. For the last 20 years he has held the position of Vice-president for Research and Monitoring at New Jersey Audubon. Dr. Mizrahi's area of expertise is the ecology and conservation of shorebirds with a primary focus on Semipalmated Sandpipers and other shorebird species that winter in northern South America and migrate through the western Atlantic region. Since 1995, he has conducted important research on the ecology and behavior of shorebirds using soft-sediment habitats in Delaware Bay, including investigating the relationship between horseshoe crab egg availability and weight gain potential in Semipalmated Sandpipers, relationships between habitat use and foraging strategies, and migration phenology and connectivity using nanotag technology. In 2008, he initiated a comprehensive

shorebird research and conservation program in northeastern South America with partners in Suriname, French Guiana and Brazil. This includes work on spatial relationships between wintering, migrating and breeding populations using remote sensing techniques and stable isotopes, habitat use and foraging behavior, physiological preparation for northward migration, the impacts of shrimp aquaculture on foraging behavior and contaminants exposure, and addressing illegal and unregulated shorebird hunting in the region. His current research endeavors to develop apparent winter survival estimates for Semipalmated Sandpipers in the northern region of South America and use these and similar data from migration staging and breeding areas to develop a full life-cycle, migration network model that helps to focus conservation strategies for the species.

Wednesday, October 16, 2019
“Sparrows simplified: making sense of LBJ's” by Mike Moore

Avoid “spuhs” on your next eBird checklist! Many birders struggle with identifying sparrows, referring to them as LBJ's (little brown jobs) or sparrow sp. This talk will help you tackle this difficult group. It will discuss and then attempt to blend the two main approaches to identification, the Peterson System and the Cape May School, to lead you to sparrow identification confidence. Each of the 16 species of regularly occurring sparrows in Delaware will be compared and contrasted with some discussion of finding and identifying rarities.

Mike Moore has been a Biology professor for 37 years and is nearing retirement. He was on the faculty at Arizona State University for 27 years, but moved to the University of Delaware in



Not sure what this Little Brown Job is? Make sure to attend the October 16 DOS meeting with Mike Moore to learn the secrets of sparrow id! Photo by Mike Moore

2009. He has published nearly 100 papers in scientific journals on behavior and hormones of birds and reptiles. He worked as an intern at Manomet Bird Observatory in Massachusetts in college and then completed a PhD in Zoology at the University of Washington on White-crowned Sparrows. He started birding in Massachusetts at 11 years old and has pursued it passionately since with a special interest in identification challenges and chasing rarities.

Wednesday, November 20, 2019
“Bats of Delaware” by Holly Niederriter, Delaware Fish & Wildlife

Mark your calendars for November 20th, and check the website or future issues of the *Flyer* for details on this presentation.



MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month from September through May at Ashland Nature Center in Hockessin, DE. Social hour and refreshments are at 7:00pm, followed by the meeting and presentations at 7:30pm. If you'd like to bring snacks to share or contribute photographs to the pre-meeting slideshow, please contact DOS Vice President, Anthony Gonzon at atgonzon@verizon.net.



Get to Know Your DE Birders:

Judy Montgomery

Name: Judy Montgomery

Hometown: Although I was born in Philadelphia, PA, I have spent much of my life living, working and birding in Delaware!

Occupation: After teaching elementary school for 9 years in Maryland, I began teaching and coordinating programs for the Delaware Nature Society. Now, after 29 years with DNS, I'm mostly retired - but still helping with travel, bird walks, camps, teen and children's programs.

Favorite Delaware birding site: WHITE CLAY CREEK for sure! I have spent so much time on WCC's trails - running, walking and birding throughout the years! But I never get tired of the gorgeous forest, creek and trails there. Other favorites are Ashland Nature Center, Cape Henlopen and of course, Bombay Hook....also Middle Run, Dragon Run, Indian River Inlet (in the winter) and Gordon's Pond trail.

Most awesome Delaware bird sighting: There are so MANY!! Laying flat on our backs at the Ashland Hawk Watch counting 1,000 broad wings! Barred Owls cacophony at midnight at Abbott's Mill! A Swallow-tailed Kite soaring above us at Cape

Henlopen - on my birthday! Discovering Long-eared Owls with youth birders at Coverdale Farm Preserve! Witnessing the Snow Goose spectacle with my family! Watching Derek photograph a family of Pileated Woodpeckers poking out of a nest cavity! Seeing a Roseate Spoonbill from a restaurant - Catch 54! A very cooperative Barred Owl sat in plain view at Ashland, while a hundred school kids got a look! Finding a Harlequin Duck at the inlet when it's 20 below! Finding Red Knots at the Mispillion - knowing our D-BAT money had preserved nearby property! The amazing Common Redpoll at Kim and Bill's feeders! The gorgeous Painted Bunting in Newark! A tree full of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at Middle Run..... so many exquisite and memorable sightings!!!!

Favorite type of Delaware birding: Birding with friends! Christmas Counts, Big Days, BIRD-A-THON-ing, Breeding Bird Atlas-ing, World Series, Tuesday and Thursday Birdwalks, Field Trips.....Birding with friends has meant the world to me!

What is your funniest or most unusual Delaware birding incident? Once, while doing a Kestrel Survey, Bill Stewart and I got pulled over by a cop by the Dover Air Force Base. We had seen kestrels carrying food and entering a hole in a building and had been using our binoculars a little too obviously. The officer sat in his car, checked our licenses, then grilled us about everything - our binoculars, jobs, families and locations we had been. We were pretty nervous - he was so serious. But amazingly, (after we had been sweating it out for 20 minutes or so), he softened up and started asking us about HUMMINGBIRDS! He

was really interested in hummingbirds, and the conversation flipped around to feeders and flowers! Whew! No tickets - at least on this day...

You're well known for organizing birding programs for children. How do we get more kids interested in birds? Although kids today have a lot of distractions, real-live animals still grab their attention! Families that have easy-to-view bird feeders at home can be the earliest way to start - one year olds really enjoy watching colorful cardinals and goldfinches from their high chair! Kids also love helping to fill feeders and usually get quick and satisfying results.

Enlisting everyone's help to plant bird-friendly flowers and trees is a hands-on learning experience! Even more satisfying as you and your kiddos observe how the birds use their new plantings for food, hideouts, or nesting!

Once kids are a little older, plan on short birding adventures.....short but exciting ventures like visiting Ashland's feeders and bird blind, sneaking up to a pond when there's a good possibility of seeing ducks or herons, taking a winter owl prowling, viewing the Delaware City heron flight at dusk, a hawk watch visit, our downstate snow goose spectacle, a hummingbird feeder/flowers stake out, Cape May Lewes ferry ride with gannets and gulls overhead...all are amazing to young and old alike! Providing kid-friendly binoculars or bringing along an interested buddy can make these trips extra cool! As your kid's attention spans lengthen, so can your adventures!

Parents, grandparents and teens who love birds, birding and the outdoors are demonstrating interest, excitement and compassion for birds and wildlife! We can be a big inspiration to young birders! Let's keep up the good work!





2019 - 2020 FIELD trips



Date	Event	Leader	Meeting Location	Description
SEPTEMBER				
WED 9/4/2019 7:30am	Ashland Walk	Jim White	Ashland Nature Center, Hockessin DE	Join Jim to look for warblers and other neotropical migrants along the Red Clay Creek on the beautiful Ashland property. Half day.
SAT 9/7/2019 10:00am-12:00pm	DMNH Avian Skin Study: Fall Raptors	Bruce Lantz & Jean Woods jwoods@delmnh.org or 302-658-9111 x314	The workshop is free but space is limited and registration is required. Delaware Museum of Natural History	A program from the past..... Held at the DMNH, this skins workshop will offer participants the opportunity to view, study and discuss the skins of many migrating birds of prey that pass through Delaware. There will be a review for beginning birders as well as a variety of raptors in various plumages for the more skilled birders. This workshop is timed to help prepare birders for the hawk migration season. Dr. Jean Woods, Curator of Birds at the DMNH, will guide us through the museum's collections. Come join us! Age 16 or unless accompanied by an adult.
SAT 9/21/2019 7:30am	Birding and Hawk Migration at Granogue Estate	Bill Stewart (610) 864-0370 birdingdel@gmail.com	DuPont Granogue Estate	Spend the morning exploring the varied and bird-rich habitats on the DuPont Estate "Granogue" during prime songbird migration. Finish the morning with hawkwatching from atop the famous Granogue watertower with a 360° view for miles over top of the Brandywine River Valley. Pre-registration Required.
SUN 9/22/2019 8:00am-12:00pm	Milford Neck Fall Migrants	Chris Bennett	Meet at South Bowers Fire Hall. Exit Rt 1 at the Thompsonville Rd. Exit #79. Follow Thompsonville Rd. east approx. 3.4 miles to Scotts Corner and Bennetts Pier Rds. The firehall is on the right. Meet at the far end of the lot. 8:00AM-Noon	Milford Neck is one of the best least-birded areas of the state. More than 10,000 acres 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. *Conservation Access Pass required.
OCTOBER				
SAT 10/5/2019 8:00am-11:30am	The Ticking Tomb Bird Walk	Ian Stewart	London Tract Meeting House parking lot by state park office.	Ye gods! Abandon all hope, ye who enter here! This DOS bird walk heads through White Clay Creek SP near the London Tract Meeting House and cemetery, the home of the infamous 'Ticking Tomb'. We will start off quaking with terror near the tomb then calm down by heading into the woods to look for late warblers, thrushes, sparrows and who knows what else.
SUN 10/6/2019 7:30am	Searching for Sparrows	Andy Ednie	Burrow's Run - gated entrance off of Ashland-Clinton School Rd just uphill from Center Mill Rd.	Join Andy Ednie to search for sparrows in beautiful Burrow's Run. October is the perfect time to find migrating sparrows, welcome back our wintering friends, and study our year-round residents. We'll look for White-throated, White-crowned, Lincoln's and others on this pristine private property in the Red Clay Valley.
SUN 10/13/2019 5:00am-5:00pm	Little Creek Big Sit	Chris Bennett	Check Website for updates	What is a "Big Sit"? It's like a tailgate party especially for birdwatchers! Birders choose a 17' diameter circle, and any birds seen or heard from within it within a 24-hour time frame are tallied up to reach a total. Participants are allowed to come and go from the circle—especially for the purpose of bringing food back into the circle. It's simple & fun - come join us!



2019 - 2020 FIELD trips



Date	Event	Leader	Meeting Location	Description
NOVEMBER				
SUN 11/3/2019 8:00am - 12:00pm	Augustine Wildlife Area	Anthony Gonzon	Augustine Beach, Rte. 9	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. We'll visit Ashton Tract and other favorites like Augustine Beach and the Green Tract. This trip will begin at Augustine Beach at Rte 9 South of Port Penn at 8AM and go until about noon. Target species will include newly-arrived winter waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds. *Conservation Access Pass required.
SAT 11/16/2019 8:00am - 12:00pm	Sea Watch I	Anthony Gonzon & Chris Bennett	Delaware Seashore State Park lot on the south side of Indian River Inlet along the ocean (Southeast Day Use Area)	Join Anthony and Chris on the first of the season's three Sea Watches to count seabirds migrating along Delaware's coast – collecting invaluable data as well as seeing thousands of migrating loons, gannets, grebes, sea ducks, gulls & terns. Limited walking on soft sand to get to viewing spot on beach. Portable toilets available at IRI. *State Park fee
DECEMBER				
12/14/2019 - 1/5/2020	120th Christmas Bird Counts	Jim White CBC Coordinator	Various	Appreciate birds in a new way and contribute to 120 years of wintering bird records! You can count in an area close to you, farther afield, or maybe even count the birds coming to your feeder. Watch the DOS website and The Flyer for the dates of the counts you'd like to join, and give the count compiler a call!
JANUARY				
SAT 1/4/2020 7:30am	2020 List Head Start	Frank Rohrbacher	Park & Ride at Rte 299 & Rte 1 in Middletown, opposite Wawa	Get an early start on your 2020 list! Visit various DE sites in the race to get as many year birds as possible. Full day.
WED 1/15/2020 8:30am - 12:00pm	Midwinter Bird Walk	Sally O'Byrne	Blue Ball Barn, Alapocas State Park	Come out and get to know some of the birds that are at home in the woods & fields during winter! Meet Sally O'Byrne at the Blue Ball Barn, near traffic circle on Rte. 141 at 8:30AM.
FEBRUARY				
SUN 2/2/2020 8:00am	Owl Trip	Jim White	Registration Required. DOS members only due to space limitations. Meeting place to be determined.	Full day search in various locations for as many species of owls as possible, and other raptors along the way. Registration Required. Must call Jim if you are attending (302-593-9622). DOS members only due to space limitations. Carpooling is encouraged. Bring snacks, lunch, etc., although typically there is a stop around lunchtime at Wawa/Royal Farms/etc. to refuel. Make sure to dress appropriately for being outside for extended periods in mid-winter! Full day trip will start at 8am.
SAT 02/8/2020 8:00am - 12:00pm	Sea Watch II	Anthony Gonzon & Chris Bennett	Delaware Seashore State Park lot on the south side of Indian River Inlet along the ocean (Southeast Day Use Area)	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, gulls, terns and hopefully an alcid. Limited walking on soft sand to get to viewing spot on beach. Portable toilets available.



2019 - 2020 FIELD trips



MARCH

SAT 3/14/2020 7:30am - 12:00pm	New Castle County Waterfowl Extravaganza	Bill Stewart	To Be Determined. Registration Required.	Benefitting from overwintering and staging waterfowl from the southern regions, New Castle County can host heavy concentrations of ducks and other waterfowl in early March. Join in the fun as we experience this spectacle in both private and public habitats to enjoy some first-time ever views of what promises to be a memorable birding experience! *Conservation Access Pass required. Please pre-register via email to Bill Stewart at birdingdel@gmail.com . Rain Date March 15.
SAT 3/28/2019 8:00am - 12:00pm	Sea Watch III	Anthony Gonzon & Chris Bennett	Delaware Seashore State Park lot on the south side of Indian River Inlet along the ocean (Southeast Day Use Area)	Last chance this winter to bundle up and join Anthony and Chris to find, ID & document seabirds such as Northern Gannet, scoters, loons, gulls, & cormorants, plus maybe spot a rarity or two. Limited walking on soft sand to get to viewing spot on beach. Portable toilets available. DE state park fee in effect.
SUN 3/29/2020 7:30am - 11:30am	Marina Park & Susquehanna River, Port Deposit, MD	Joe Sebastiani	Marina Park, Port Deposit, MD	Join Joe on this trip to the Lower Susquehanna in MD, searching for gulls, including winter specialties like Little Gull, and watching for migratory waterfowl.

APRIL

SAT 4/4/2020 10:00am - 12:00pm	DMNH Spring Forest Birds Workshop	Dr. Jean Woods & Bruce Lantz	Delaware Museum of Natural History	The workshop will be held at the Bombay Hook NWR Visitors' Center. This spring program will offer participants the opportunity to examine closely, study and discuss the skins of a variety of songbirds common to Bombay Hook. This program will introduce new birders to many commonly seen forest birds, while offering plumage challenges for our more advanced birders. Age 16 and over unless accompanied by a parent.
SAT 4/18/2020 7:00am	Ashton-Coper Cross-Warren Tracts DNREC SWA	John Janowski	Augustine Beach Parking Lot	Half day. Bird properties recently acquired by DNREC partly using DBAT funds. Look and listen for migrating warblers, egrets, herons. A variety of habitats include bay, brackish and fresh water wetlands, pine and hardwood forest. *Conservation Access Pass required.
TUE 4/21/2020 6:00pm - 8:00pm	NestWatch Training & Workshop: Finding and Monitoring Nesting Birds	Ian Stewart	Ashland Nature Center	Would you like to learn how to check in on nesting birds? Or looking for a fun citizen science project? Join Ian Stewart 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.
SUN 4/26/2020 6:30am	Redden State Forest	Anthony Gonzon & Chris Bennett	Park & Ride at Rte 299 & Rte 1 in Middletown, opposite Wawa 6:30AM	We'll look for spring migrants in Sussex County hotspot Redden State Forest, where southern specialties like Summer Tanager and Prothonotary & Yellow-throated Warblers can be found. Bring boots and bug spray for this half-day trip.

MAY

SAT 5/2/2020 8:00am (DBAT)	Blackbird State Forest Blowout!	Ian Stewart	Meet in the parking lot accessed by the entrance along Rte 471/Blackbird Forest Rd at 8AM	In this new twist on an old walk we will explore the area around the headquarters of Blackbird State Forest before carpooling to some of its lesser known corners in search of specialty birds and fresh experiences!
---	--	--------------------	--	---



2019 - 2020 FIELD trips



Date	Event	Leader	Meeting Location	Description
MAY				
SAT 5/2/2020 10:00pm - 1:00am (DBAT)	Rail Trip	Andy Ednie	Park & Ride at Rte 299 & Rte 1 in Middletown, opposite Wawa	A three-hour Rail bonanza (in the middle of the night!) targeting 7 species. Bring long boots & bug spray, and your favorite caffeinated beverages.
TUE 5/5/2020 7:30am - 10:30am (DBAT)	Alapocas Woods	Sally O'Byrne	Softball Fields behind the duPont Experimental Station, off of Alapocas Drive	Visit an oasis within the city of Wilmington with good successional field habitat, mature woodlands, and the Brandywine River. Target birds include migrating warblers and thrushes. Half day.
SUN 5/10/2020 8:00am (DBAT)	Mother's Day Walk at White Clay Creek State Park	Bill Stewart & Friends	Chambers House Nature Center Parking Lot off Hopkins Rd	Come spend Mother's Day at beautiful White Clay Creek State Park, looking for nesting local breeding birds and late migrants still passing through. Half day. *State Park Fee
SUN 5/24/2020 8:00am-12:00pm	Delaware Bayshore Shorebirds & Horseshoe Crabs	Chris Bennett	Meet at Little Creek Boat Ramp, Rte. 9	Witness firsthand why the Delaware bayshore is critical to the shorebirds that stop here to fuel up for the flight to their breeding grounds every spring. Our target species will be Red Knot, and over a dozen other shorebird species, resident and migratory birds, and spawning horseshoe crabs. Participants can expect to walk short distances on hard surface trails, loose sand dune crossings, and bay beaches. There are portable toilets at Pickering Beach and Ted Harvey W.A., and restrooms at the DuPont Nature Center and Slaughter Beach Fire Hall.*Conservation Access Pass required.
JUNE				
SAT 6/6/2020 7:30am	Breeding Rails & Marsh Birds Paddle Trip	Matt Sarver	Registration Required. Meet at the DWL Hickey House located at 170 Stave Landing Road in Townsend at 7:30am.	Join Matt Sarver, Kate Hackett (of Delaware Wild Lands), and staff members of the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve to scout secretive marsh birds of Taylors Bridge by canoe and kayak. Enjoy paddling among thousands of acres of tidal saltmarsh (including areas that DOS has helped protect!), birding from Blackbird Creek, seeking birdlife reliant on tidal and freshwater systems, and learning more about this part of southern New Castle County. Minimum 2-hour paddling trip, boats will be provided. Contact info@dewildlands.org or 302-378-2736 for more information. Limit 16.
SAT 6/13/2020 7:30am - 11:00am	Bobolinks at Fair Hill NRMA, MD	Bill Stewart	Parking Lot #3 (2895 Appleton Road) - Also known as the North Appleton Parking Lot (see DOS website for more specific directions).	Fair Hill NRMA hosts breeding Bobolinks, Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrows all within closeup viewing from numerous groomed trails throughout their grassland habitats. Excellent photographic opportunities abound within a short walk from the parking area. Due to their multiple management practices throughout the 5,656 acres, our three and a half hour stroll should produce 60+ species. *NRMA Daily Pass
SAT 6/20/2020 8:00am-12:00pm	Breeding Blrds of Norman G. Wilder Wildlife Area	Chris Bennett	Meet at the Wildlife Area parking lot at the corner of Firetower Rd. and Five Foot Prong Road north of Felton.	Norman G. Wilder is a sprawling State Wildlife Area north and west of the town of Felton in central Kent County. It is a lightly birded area that is teeming with great breeding songbirds and looks like prime Hooded Warbler habitat. We will be walking on wide, flat and firm dirt roads up to several miles. *Conservation Access Pass required.



HAWK WATCH *Watch*

Starting September 1 and continuing daily until December 1, the two hawk watches in Delaware will have a professional counter and a need for willing and able volunteers.

Volunteers take over on the days when the counter is off duty (usually Sunday and Monday), but they are valuable everyday to help scan the sky. Volunteers are especially needed on the days when a high number of raptors are flying by from several different directions. The sky is big, and it is hard to keep track of all flying things overhead. Delaware's two hawk watches have a different complement of raptors, following different routes, so it is worthwhile spending time at both. Both hawk watch locations are an easy walk from parking, and both are located in otherwise 'birdy' locations.

CAPE HENLOPEN HAWK WATCH

Cape Henlopen Hawk Watch (CHHW), located in Cape Henlopen State Park, will have Jen Ottinger returning for her eighth year. Jen now has extensive raptor experience at Cape Henlopen,



and we are incredibly lucky to have her eyes and skill. Cape Henlopen's raptors come from different directions depending on the weather conditions, and eyes in all direction help keep track of what is flying through. When the raptor flight is slow, you can be entertained with seabirds and ducks migrating south along the coast, and dolphins swimming just past the waves.

ASHLAND HAWK WATCH

Ashland Hawk Watch (AHW) at Ashland Nature Center in Hockessin is the most northerly site of The



Delaware Nature Society and is located in the Piedmont. Ashland is very pleased that last year's counter, David Brown, will

return again. He was the 2018 spring counter at Montclair Hawk Watch in NJ, but fortunately chose to spend the upcoming Fall in Delaware. Previously, he spent two Falls as the lead counter at the Route 15 Overlook Hawk Watch near South Williamsport, Pennsylvania. His photography, particularly of raptors, has added to Delaware's enjoyment and knowledge of birds passing through.

Funding for the hawk watches is provided

through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. This program provides Delaware the resources necessary to conserve our 'species of greatest conservation need' as identified in the Delaware Wildlife Action Plan.

GET INVOLVED!

We have found that the more eyes on the sky, the more birds that are found. 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 regular basis, please contact:

Ashland Hawk Watch:

Joe Sebastiani @239-2334, x115 (w) or joe@delnature.org.

Cape Henlopen Hawk Watch:

Jen Ottinger jottinger.co@gmail.com
Sue Gruver 302-645-6390 (h) or srgruver@aol.com

Sally O'Byrne, *Hawk Watch Oversight*



Field Trip Info: *The field trips mentioned on the previous four pages is by no means a complete list!*

All members and guests are welcome! Just a few trips that are noted are restricted to DOS members due to space limitations.

Field trip descriptions alert you to locations that are known to require entrance fees, but be aware a leader on any trip may choose to go to a location that requires fees/tolls. The Conservation Access Pass must be purchased in advance.

Participation in field trips is at your own risk. We

love pets, but we cannot allow them to come on our field trips. Please help our leaders and environment by carpooling, especially on trips which include several locations - it's a great way to get to know other bird lovers! Half day trips will usually end before lunchtime unless otherwise noted.

Please feel free to contact trip leaders if you have any questions. Thanks for joining us! Be sure to check our website (www.dosbirds.org) for the latest information on any field trip, including weather related changes, extra details from leaders, maps, and the latest pop-up trips.



DOS PICNIC *Review*

Sunday June 25th was the day of what has become a very popular annual event – the birding bash and picnic! The day started with lively field trips to Ashton Tract and Augustine (Chris Bennett and Anthony Gonzon leaders) and Blackbird State Forest and Charles Price Park (Ian Stewart leading). Participants saw some great birds on both trips with several people getting ‘lifers’!

We then convened at the Roberts Farm near Odessa where we were graciously hosted by Delaware Wild Lands! This is the property that was purchased in part with funds raised by last year’s highly successful Bird-a-Thon so it was a very appropriate venue. Kate Hackett from Wild Lands gave a well-received speech welcoming us to this beautiful bucolic property which very few of the people present had ever visited. There was some tasty food on offer and it was a well-fed crowd that settled down to be entertained by some quick speeches plus an enthusiastic Bird-a-Thon review by Bill Stewart featuring some Spielberg-worthy dramatic visual effects (see accompanying article by Bill). The event was marked by a surprise musical performance by Jeff and Liz Gordon, Sally O’Byrne and Lisa Smith with their Delaware-themed version of the John Denver classic ‘Take me home country roads’! Who knew we had such talented musicians in DOS?

Many of us stayed behind and took advantage of the rare opportunity to explore this private preserve which is now preserved forever thanks to the efforts of many conservation organizations, including DOS and its birders.

Ian Stewart,
Membership Committee



Photos top to bottom: Birding Bash and picnic attendees were treated to an impromptu herping session with Jim White who found a Fowler's Toad in an old tree stump. The latest total dollars raised as of the DOS picnic was \$87,247. DOS Treasurer Jim Lewis holds up the latest print out of donations sent in for the 2019 Delaware Bird-a-Thon. This year's Bird-a-Thon was possible due to hundreds of dedicated, enthusiastic and committed birders and friends, resulting in a record-breaking fund-raising donation total of \$91,274 (as of 6/26/19)! With our dollar-for-dollar match, this year's total for habitat acquisition will surpass \$182,000! For more information about the Bird-a-Thon, see page 12. Photos by Kelly Smith

Country Roads, Help Me Roam

Lyrics by Lisa Smith,
Edited by Jeff Gordon

Almost heaven, spring migration
Waves of raptors, songbirds, and sandpipers.
Life returns here, feathers fill the trees
Song rings 'cross the marshes as they blow in on the breeze.

Country roads, help me roam
To the places where they throng
Spring migration, nature's drama
Help me roam, country roads

How my memory in springtime flounders
I go crazy, recalling songs of warblers
I'm so rusty, is the eye ring thick or fine?
As I consult with Sibley, Red Knots stop to dine

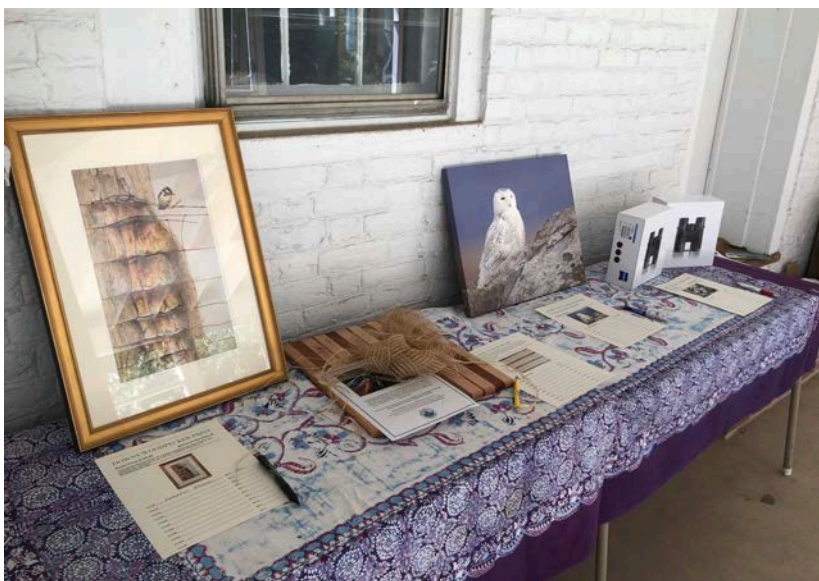
Country roads, help me roam
To the places where they throng
Spring migration, nature's drama
Help me roam, country roads

I hear their voices in the morning, peeps are calling
I can't ID them, they're too damned far away.
And scrolling through eBird I get a feeling
that I should have been here yesterday... yesterday! Crap!

Can't come home, I'm in the zone
Just one more place, I won't be long
Well, that's a big lie, we all tell sometimes
To stay in the zone, and not head home

Country roads, I can't find home...
Where is this place, where'd I turn wrong?
Lost near Route 9, but it's mostly fine
On Port Mahon Road, take a chaperone

Have fun while you roam through the coastal zone
If you make it home, thank those country roads.



Mispillion River Brewing is partnering with the Delaware Bird-A-Thon to develop a Red Knot-themed

beer! A portion of the proceeds from sales will go towards the purchase of this year's target property at the Mispillion Harbor Reserve. Wildlife artist and Delawarean Richard Clifton created the Red Knot portrait above to show off our favorite shorebird on the label. Stay tuned for more info on this exciting development!

Top to bottom: Jeff Gordon, Liz DeLuna Gordon, Sally O'Byrne, and Lisa Smith serenaded the picnic attendees with their own version of John Denver's "Country Roads, Take Me Home"; Some items in the auction at the picnic; Illustration by Richard Clifton will be featured on the label of Mispillion River Brewing's Red Knot-themed beer. Photos by Kelly Smith





Funds raised by the 13th Annual Delaware Bird-A-Thon will be used to help purchase one of the last remaining private lands at Mispillion

On Saturday, June 22nd, the Delaware Ornithological Society held its Annual Picnic and Delaware Bird-A-Thon Awards Ceremony at Delaware Wild Lands gorgeous Roberts Farm. This year's DBAT was by far the most successful in the number of participating teams and individuals and total funds raised for migratory shorebird habitat acquisition!

As of this past Saturday, the DBAT received over 500 separate donations, had twenty-three participating teams and eighteen business and conservation

sponsors! This year's DBAT was possible due to hundreds of dedicated, enthusiastic and committed birders and friends, resulting in a record breaking fund-raising donation total of \$91,274.00 (as of 6/26/19)!! With our dollar-for-dollar match, this year's total for habitat acquisition will surpass \$182,00.00!!

THANK YOU and CONGRATULATIONS to everyone involved, incredible effort!

Part of the DBAT involves a "fun" competition with dollars raised plus

species total in a variety of categories - please see the place finishers in the listing below. If you see your name or team name listed and were not able to attend the Awards Ceremony, please contact Bill Stewart to arrange receiving your prize(s) by emailing <birdingdel@gmail.com>

Bill Stewart, DBAT Committee

The 2019 Bird-A-Thon top "winners" are below:

CATEGORY	PLACE	TEAM	TOTAL SPECIES	MONEY RAISED	TOTAL POINTS
Youth Division-Statewide	1st Place	Dunn-lins - Samantha, Charlie, and Andrew Dunn	125	\$600	725
School, Church, or Organization	1st Place	St. Andrew's School, Middletown, DE	-	\$790	-
Individual Adult	1st Place	Carolyn D'Amico	103	\$1694	1796
	2nd Place	Liz Porter	98	\$926	1004
Carbon Free	1st Place	"Red Knot Wranglers" Bill Stewart, Kim Steininger, Holly Merker, Mike Hudson, Judy Montgomery	78	\$13,408	13,485
	2nd Place	Carolyn Holland, Bob Strahorn	74	\$1552	1626
	3rd Place	"Jay Division" Meghann Matwichuk & Chad Fahs	58	\$1383	1441
County Challenge	1st Place	"Road Runners" Sue Gruver, Rob Schroeder, Sharon Lynn, Nancy Cunningham, Bob & Carol Blye	133	\$10,456	10,589
	2nd Place	"New Castle County Corvids" Sally O'Byrne, Mike Smith, Alyssa Kegelman, Sheila Smith	131	\$9418	9549
	3rd Place	"PSO Knot Messing Around" Brian Byrnes, Barry Blust, Mike McGraw	139	\$2010	2149
Adult Team-Statewide	1st Place	"Ruff Riders" Matt Sarver & Lauren Morgens	175	\$13,721	13,896*
	2nd Place	"Theta Delta Kites" Joe Sebastiani, Marty DeAngelo, Justin Baker	149	\$2096	2245
	3rd Place	"Kettle of K's" Kris Benarcik, Kar DeGeiso, Katie Ruth	99	\$1290	1388



DELAWARE BIRD-A-THON



Top to bottom: Photos by Barry Blust on team "PSO's Knot Messing Around" focused on Kent County for the Bird-a-Thon: Short-billed Dowitcher, Ruddy Turnstone, & Dunlin; Snowy Egret in breeding plumage; Summer Tanager; Ruddy Turnstones, Least Sandpiper.

At right: Photos by Joe Sebastiani: Volunteer hawk watchers scan the skies at Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania for migrating raptors; Bald Eagle pair watching the hawk watchers.



DNS *Class*

Naturalist Certification Series: Raptors

In this four-part course, learn the basics of raptor identification, migration, and ecology, then take exciting field trips to experience the best of raptor migration. Earn your Raptor Certification by completing this course which involves travel to Hawk Mountain, Cape May NJ, and Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. Focus on early season migration at Ashland Nature Center highlighting potentially thousands of Broad-winged Hawks. In early October, witness the incredible spectacle of falcon migration at Cape May, one of the best birding locations in the country. Later that month, visit the granddaddy of hawk watches, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, to see larger hawks such as Red-tailed and Red-shouldered as they pass the ridgetop lookout with a sky-high view you can't beat. Finally, in the late-season, visit the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge and seek wintering Golden Eagles, the most powerful and impressive raptors in North America...rarely seen on the east coast. Witness raptors, sometimes hundreds at a time, at the best birding locations anywhere.

- Led by Joe Sebastiani, Sally O'Byrne, and Bill Stewart.
- DNS Member \$175 | Non-member \$200
- Ashland Nature Center
- Sunday, September 15, 8 AM – 5 PM



Don't Miss This Once-in-a-Lifetime
Opportunity
Register TODAY !!



Frontiers in Ornithology: A Symposium for Youth

Saturday, September 28, 2019
Ashland Nature Center ♦ Hockessin, Delaware

FEATURED KEYNOTES



CLAIRE WAYNER



SCOTT WEIDENSAUL



PATRICK NEWCOMBE

Concurrent Session Speakers

David Barber
Bracken Brown
Kashi Davis
Matthew Halley
Catherine Hamilton

Kitt Heckscher
Paul Heveran
Marshall Iliff
Andy Johnson
Ashley Kennedy

Michael Lanzone
David LaPuma
Trish Miller
Emily Thomas
Jim Whatten

Registration and further info @ www.frontiers-in-ornithology.org



Delaware Ornithological Society

2019 - 2020 Membership Renewal

(Honorary & Life Members need not renew.)

Please fill out and send with a check to:
Delaware Ornithological Society
P.O. Box 4247, Wilmington, DE 19807

Name(s): _____

ANNUAL DUES

Do you want to receive Conservation Alert updates? ☐ yes ☐ no

Do you want to receive field trip updates? ☐ yes ☐ no

☐ Student \$12.50

☐ Individual \$25.00

☐ Household \$37.50

☐ Kestrel \$50.00

☐ Black-neck Stilt \$100.00
(Includes free DOS cap)

☐ Peregrine \$200.00
(Includes free DOS cap
and strap)

☐ Life \$500.00

Fill in below only if new or changed:

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____

Email(s): ☐ _____

☐ _____
For households with more than one email address, check the box next to each email
you wish to receive correspondence.

Continued from page 2... new members (of which 14 were 'household' memberships of at least 2 people). Let's do even better in 2019-2020 and see if we can break the magic figure of 100 new members! Please do everything you can to help us recruit more members. Maybe tell your friends about DOS or bring them to our meetings or field trips, drop off our leaflets at libraries, youth centers or colleges, or help out at an event. We are always looking for volunteers to help staff the DOS table at fairs and festivals so if you would like to talk to people about DOS and birds just drop me a line at istew@udel.edu.

Recruiting new members is essential for growing our society but it is just as important that our current members renew, so please renew for 2019-2020 as soon as you can. (Even if you forgot to pay your dues last year - we won't hold it against you!)

New DOS Caps on their way!

Last year was a big milestone in the 50+ year history of DOS as we officially changed our name to the **Delaware** Ornithological Society! To honor our new name we have ordered a fresh set of baseball caps featuring our new society's logo and they should be unveiled at the September meeting! In time, they will be available via the DOS website along with our fabled 'lucky' binocular straps. And if the demand is there, this year may see some new straps too!!!

Ian Stewart, Membership Committee



New Members, Welcome to the Flock!

Mark and Suzanne B., Pottstown PA
David G., Hockessin DE
Amanda J., Glen Mills PA
Daniel N., Wilmington DE
Joe S., Wilmington DE
David W., Wilmington NC





DELAWARE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 4247
WILMINGTON DE 19807

Don't forget to pick up your Conservation Access Pass for DE State Wildlife Areas!

As a reminder, now is the time to renew your Delaware Conservation Access Pass for your vehicle if you plan to visit many of our state wildlife areas like the Augustine Wildlife Area - Ashton Tract managed by DNREC Delaware Fish & Wildlife! In addition, the federal migratory bird conservation stamp ("duck stamp") is now available and you can use that to get into most federal refuges for a year! For more information about the Conservation Access Pass, where it is required, where you can purchase one and other frequently asked questions, please visit <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/conservation-access-pass/>.

