



# The flyer



Volume 51 | Number 6

MARCH 2020



## Letter FROM THE PRESIDENT

On February 4th, a crowd of wildlife enthusiasts assembled at Ashland Nature Center to hear University of Delaware Professor of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology Doug Tallamy speak about his just-released book, *Nature's Best Hope*. Those lucky enough to attend the sold-out event were treated to a presentation which included dozens upon dozens of stunning photographs of intricately-patterned, often colorful and always succulent alien creatures: caterpillars, AKA lunch (and breakfast and dinner), if you are a bird. Every specimen was found on his 10-acre lot in nearby Oxford, PA - a direct result of his efforts to plant with the goal of cultivating biodiversity. It's hard to overstate the im-

portance of caterpillars to our avian neighbors, or how damaging the dated idea of a sterile, perfect lawn has been to both.

Several years ago, Ashley Kennedy (then a PhD student in Dr. Tallamy's lab; now a Doctor of Entomology and member of the Delaware Native Species Commission) presented at a DOS meeting where she described preliminary results related to research on the dining habits of nesting bluebirds. Combined with data collected from the What Do Birds Eat? Project - a citizen science project evaluating photos of birds eating insects submitted by photographers and birders - Dr. Kennedy has shown that caterpillars are the primary food source for nearly all passerine nestlings. Dr. Tallamy's book explores why caterpillars are such an important, nutritious food source while summarizing data that emphasizes just how many caterpillars are required to support birds: Carolina Chickadees require between 6000 and 9000 caterpillars to fledge one nest. A 2017 study of breeding chickadees showed that bird parents forage for food on na-

## IN THIS *issue*

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT	1,3
MONTHLY MEETINGS	2
COUNCIL CORNER	4-5
MEMBERSHIP NEWS	5
UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS	6-7
CONSERVATION SCIENCE GRANTS	8
PEREGRINE FALCON FLEDGE WATCH	8
RED KNOT BEER LAUNCH	9
CALL FOR ORNITHOLOGIST ARTICLES	9
DOS NEEDS YOU	10

tive plants 86% of the time, and that yards with a majority of non-native plant species produced 75% less caterpillar biomass.

*(Continued on page 3)*

Follow DOS on Facebook!



## The Wilmington Peregrine Falcon Webcam is Back!

The cameras are on and the action has started.

Watch live at:

<https://www.dosbirds.org/falconcam>



Follow the story @wilmfalcons





## Delaware Ornithological Society

### ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Meghann Matwichuk
Vice President	Anthony Gonzon
Treasurer	Jim Lewis
Secretary	Holly Merker
Council 2020	Carolyn D'Amico
Council 2021	Kate Hackett
Council 2022	John Skibicki

### COMMITTEES

Publications Committee  
Jean Woods, Chair  
Vacant, Flyer Editor  
Gene Hess, Delaware Ornithologist Editor

Conservation  
Matthew Sarver

Membership  
Ian Stewart

Field Trips  
Amy O'Neil  
Kathleen O'Neil

Christmas Bird  
Count  
Jim White

Programs  
Anthony Gonzon

Citizen Science  
Michael Moore

Delaware Records  
Frank Rohrbacher

Hawkwatch  
Sally O'Byrne

Webmaster  
Andrew Homsey

Delaware Bird  
Records Committee  
Frank Rohrbacher

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Delaware Ornithological Society is the promotion of bird watching and the study of birds, the advancement and dissemination of ornithological knowledge, and the conservation of birds and their environment.

**Flyer Inquiries:** *flyer 'at' DOSbirds.org*



ONLINE  
DOSbirds.org



FACEBOOK  
@DOSbirds



### Wednesday, March 18

#### Northern Bobwhite: A Species on the Edge

7 PM - 9:30 PM

Northern Bobwhite were once a common species that, for a multitude of reasons, has nearly disappeared from the Delaware landscape. The Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife is working to protect and restore one of the remaining wild quail populations in the state through monitoring and habitat management. New habitat management efforts have benefited this species and will hopefully help them rebound to improve their population throughout Delaware.

Craig Rhoads is the Program Manager for Habitat Conservation and Management with the Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife and is charged with overseeing the maintenance and operations of over 60,000 acres of State Wildlife Area. He received his BS in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from West Virginia University and MS in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Delaware and has worked with the Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife since 2006.

### Monthly Meetings Save the Dates:

#### Wednesday, April 15

7 PM - 9:30 PM

#### Wednesday, May 20

**Dr. Shawn Dash**

7 PM - 9:30 PM

### DOS Flyer editor needed!

We're looking for someone to edit (or co-edit) this newsletter. Help keep our members up to date with what's going on in the Society. Creativity, experience with graphic layout, editing, & proofing (or willingness to learn) helpful.

Contact Jean Woods, [jwoods65@verizon.net](mailto:jwoods65@verizon.net) to find out more

### 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](mailto:atgonzon@verizon.net).

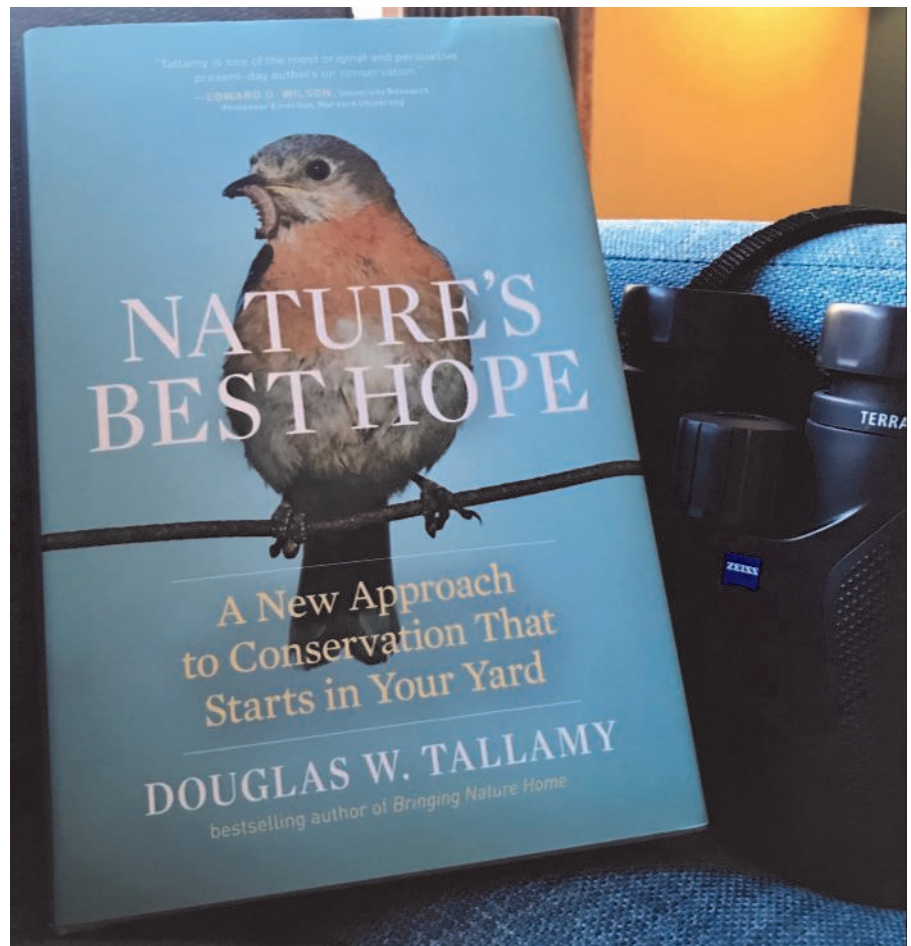


It's hardly a coincidence that news stories warning of an "insect apocalypse" are commanding the public's attention at the same time the stunning "Decline of the North American Avifauna" report documented a loss of nearly one-third of all North American birds since 1970.<sup>1</sup> Birds and insects are inextricably linked not only to each others' survival, but to our own as well.

Throughout the evening, Dr. Tallamy dispensed urgent advice with good cheer, impressing on attendees that they have the opportunity to play an important role in sustaining a healthy ecosystem in their own yards. He posits a striking thought experiment: what if each landowner in the U.S. converted just half their lawn to productive native plant communities? Twenty million acres of ecological wasteland could be recovered. This represents an area larger than 13 of our most popular national parks – a Homegrown National Park with benefits that stand to not only enrich our biosphere, but which will encourage healthy practices as more people spend time in and learn about their natural surroundings, fostering the curiosity and engagement that many of us feel when we give our senses over to the wildness around us.

Many left the event with copies of Dr. Tallamy's book in hand, inscribed with a simple but powerful message: "YOU are nature's best hope." Given the scope and magnitude of many challenges facing our planet today, it's rare that we as individuals feel our actions can have a direct impact. Here are a few easy things you can do to make a difference for your avian neighbors and help reclaim a diversified landscape that benefits us all:

- Get yourself in the mood for warmer weather by doing some research and choosing native plants to replace a piece of your lawn. Experiment with a mix of native flowers, shrubs and trees to see what thrives in your ecosystem. Keystone species, like oak, cherry, and willow trees and goldenrods, asters, and sunflowers are especially important: about 5% of local plant genera hosts 70-75% of our local Lepidopterans.
- Select plants that are appropriate to your area. Resources like the National Wildlife Federation's Native Plant Finder<sup>2</sup> can help, as can local organizations like Mt. Cuba Center. Keep an eye out for native plant sales in your community. (Save the date: the Delaware Nature Society's annual native plant sale will take place April 30 - May 2!)
- Forgo pesticides and herbicides, which are harmful to birds and their food. Also, highly-fertilized soils favor non-native plants, making them harmful AND counter-productive.
- Learn how to identify and remove invasive plants from your landscape. Those of us who live in wooded areas have an opportunity to support ecosystem diversity without planting -- a recent study at Penn State



showed that sustained removal of invasive shrubs allowed natural regeneration of native species.<sup>3</sup>

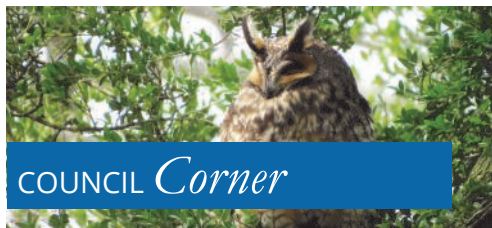
- Join the Delaware Native Plant Identification and Exchange group on Facebook. This welcoming group of gardening hobbyists and experts can help you identify what's growing in your yard, and many are willing to trade and gift home-grown specimens.
- Let your elected officials know that ecological diversity is something you care about -- advocate for legislation that subsidizes the replacement of harmful plant species with natives, and which prevents the sale of invasives.
- Turn off your outdoor lights. Studies show a causal link between nighttime light pollution and declining moth populations. Non-natural light sources distract and weaken moths, decreasing the time they spend feeding and pollinating. Use motion-activated lights where necessary, or install yellow LED bulbs that are less attractive to insects.
- Tell your neighbors what you are doing and why. If your homeowner's association enforces rules based on an outdated, decorative approach to landscaping, update them on recent research. Find like-minded neighbors and create collaborative landscaping plans to better leverage available resources. Organize to oppose misguided plans to apply dangerous insecticides.

Meghann Matwichuk, DOS President

<sup>1</sup> <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2019/09/18/science.aaw1313>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://news.psu.edu/story/574315/2019/05/14/research/native-forest-plants-rebound-when-invasive-shrubs-are-removed>



# Join us at the Outdoor Adventure Rally - April 4

**You're invited! Please join us on April 4 for the Outdoor Adventure Rally at Roberts Farm in Townsend. This collaborative event is hosted by the Delaware Ornithological Society, Delaware Wild Lands, and the Delaware Nature Society. Learn more about DOS's partnership with Delaware Wild Lands, and our newest DOS Council Member, DWL Executive Director Kate Hackett:**

**\* Can you tell us a bit about Delaware Wild Lands and its partnerships with DOS in the past? What do you see as common goals between the organizations?**

DWL has a strong "land ethic" and commitment to the lands and waters that make our State and region unique. We will soon celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our founding and how a small group of visionaries ultimately thwarted the construction of the Shell Oil Refinery along the shores of the Delaware Bay. Since our founding, DWL has protected 31,600 acres of land, 21,600 of which we now own and actively manage. We are a small staff of seven people who work tirelessly with our partners, supporters, and volunteers to protect and enhance critically important natural resources.

Our work with DOS has taken many forms over the years from simply supporting each other at events to partnering, in earnest, to protect bird habitat and improve important bird and wildlife habitat. Along the way, we've



worked together to better understand and improve land management practices in support of birdlife, provided insight and understanding about private landownership and managing for multiple objectives, cultivated shared donors and philanthropy in support of conservation, and shared and cultivated a greater appreciation of the landscape both our organizations are committed to protecting.

Looking forward, I am enthusiastic about our shared efforts to advance research and knowledge about our natural landscape, be more strategic and impactful in improving and expanding habitat and the research initiatives we collaborate on, and fostering a partnership whose productivity supersedes present-day societal complications to achieve results that can and will make the future better for all.

**\* You were recently invited to join DOS Council to fill a position (Councilor-at-Large) which was left empty after Bill Stewart's passing. What made you decide to accept this invitation?**

Though honored (and flattered!) to be invited, and interested in being a part of an organization that is growing and creative and bold in its approach, the decision to accept was not easy given my responsibilities for DWL, commitment to my family, and involvement in other community initiatives. I talked at length with other Councilors, DOS members, and people in the conservation community about the needs of DOS, my potential role, and what I could contribute. Each discussion pointed me more towards accepting your wonderful invitation but, in the end, it was simply the integrity, character, commitment, and creativity of those leading, participating in, and associated with DOS that led me to "yes"!

**\* What sparked the idea for the Outdoor Adventure Rally? What are some of the events that you're most looking forward to on the day of the event?**

The population of Middletown has increased 266% since 2000, even during a time of significant economic recession. This rapid influx of new residents, and particularly young families, creates a



timely, and very important, opportunity to communicate with and cultivate the next generations of conservationists.

Delaware Wild Lands' land resources in the Middletown area combined with the outreach and educational strengths of DOS and Delaware Nature Society lent themselves to the development of a community event that would showcase the vibrant natural and historical resources of the Middletown-Odessa-Townsend (MOT) area, foster enjoyment of the outdoors, and highlight the need to protect these resources.

In recognition, Delaware Wild Lands, Delaware Nature Society, and Delaware Ornithological Society joined together to co-host an upcoming community-oriented "Outdoor Adventure Rally" at DWL's 1250-acre Roberts Farm (170 Stave Landing Road) on Saturday, April 4. (This is the same location as DOS' annual picnic in 2019.) The event is family-friendly and free, with a goal of introducing our organizations to MOT residents and helping them explore outdoor activities and the many special aspects and outdoor amenities of the

(Continued on page 5)





# DOS Membership News

## Membership Renewal

We are thrilled to see so many new people and their families joining DOS but the only way the society will grow is if our current members renew. **If you still haven't renewed your DOS membership for 2019-2020 please do so** as we depend on your dues to keep our society running smoothly. You can pay in person at our monthly indoor meetings using cash, check or a credit card, or you can mail in a check (payable to 'DOS') to DOS, PO Box 4247, Wilmington DE 19807.

Alternatively you can renew your membership online using our new [membership management system](#). Your email address should already be in our system so if you click 'Forgot Username or password' and enter your email address you should get an email allowing you to reset both. Once you are logged into your account you can renew using the drop down menu in the 'Memberships' tab on the left hand column. Any problems just drop me a line at [istew@udel.edu](mailto:istew@udel.edu) and we will figure it out.

## Call for Fellows and Honorary Members

It's that time of year again when we start accepting nominations for DOS Fellows and Honorary Members! Nominations for either category can be submitted to me at [istew@udel.edu](mailto:istew@udel.edu).

Nominees for DOS Fellow must be active members of at least two years standing who have made a significant contribution to the affairs of the Society, preferably as a Committee or Council member, and/or to the ornithology of the greater Delaware area. Nominees for Honorary Membership should be of national prominence in the field of ornithology or a closely related field and have been of service to the Society.

Ian Stewart, DOS Membership Committee

*(Continued from page 4)*

MOT area. As a group of conservation organizations, we see the future of conservation in Delaware closely linked to the growing population of the MOT area and want to start cultivating a strong ethic of land and water conservation in our area.

More information about the event can be found on Eventbrite (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/outdoor-adventure-regularly-registration-93381862665>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/events/2784902824909225/>).

Mostly, I am looking forward to sharing the Roberts Farm with the MOT community and offering opportunities for the community to be inspired and motivated by the expertise and enthusiasm of DOS and DNS experts.

### **\* How long have you lived in Delaware? What makes Delaware's landscape so special?**

Wilmington has been our home since 2007. My work at the time of our move – and now – is very much state- and region-wide, affording me many opportunities to discover special places and people throughout this region and the lands and waters Delaware Wild Lands' founder was so deeply compelled to protect.

Two aspects I find particularly interesting, unique, and special about Delaware are, firstly, the vast intersection (and interplay) between land and water that characterizes much of our State and this region. This "in-between-ness", or the condition of being periodically inundated, creates unparalleled aquatic, avian, terrestrial, and ecological biodiversity that I find particularly intriguing. This is further reflected in the global ecological importance of Delaware and the Delaware Bay. Secondly, the unique physical and geographical

features of our landscape gave rise to an interesting interplay between the physical characteristics of our environment and the settlement and history of our state and country.

### **\* Do you have a favorite bird species or place to bird?**

This question makes me chuckle. I am not a good birder (a statement to which Bill Stewart always responded "yet!") so choosing a favorite bird, from among those I can identify, is not difficult. In this moment, my favorite bird is the Indigo Bunting if only because of its brilliant color. The first time I saw an Indigo bunting I was working on habitat restoration at Delaware Wild Land's Sharp Farm. From the corner of my eye, I thought I witnessed a piece of the sky that had flaked off and was being carried around a hedgerow irreverently by the wind. Not even knowing of an Indigo Bunting at that time, it was profoundly confusing until I stopped and scanned that hedgerow to see more. I stopped counting at 17 Indigo buntings....





## 2019 - 2020 FIELD trips



Date	Event	Leader	Meeting Location	Description
<b>MARCH</b>				
<b>SAT</b> March 14 7:30 am - 12:00 pm	<b>New Castle County Waterfowl Extravaganza</b>	<b>Anthony Gonzon &amp; Chris Bennett</b>	<b>Contact Anthony for meeting location: atgonzon "at" verizon.net</b>	Benefiting 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 amazing views of what promises to be a memorable birding experience!
<b>SAT</b> March 28 8:00 am - 12:00 pm	<b>Sea Watch III</b>	<b>Anthony Gonzon &amp; Chris Bennett</b>	<b>Delaware Seashore State Park lot on the south side of Indian River Inlet along the ocean (Southeast Day Use Area)</b>	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. Great opportunity to learn and practice identifying seabirds in flight. Limited walking on soft sand to get to viewing spot on beach. Portable toilets available.
<b>SUN</b> 3/29/2020 7:30am - 11:30am	<b>Marina Park &amp; Susquehanna River, Port Deposit, MD</b>	<b>Joe Sebastiani</b>	<b>Marina Park, Port Deposit, MD</b>	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.
<b>APRIL</b>				
<b>SAT</b> April 4 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	<b>Delaware Museum of Natural History Skin Collection Study: Spring Forest Birds Workshop</b>	<b>Jean Woods &amp; Bruce Lantz</b>	<b>Bombay Hook NWR Visitor's Center Contact Jean to register: jwoods 'at' delmnh.org. Space is limited.</b>	This spring program will offer participants the opportunity to examine and discuss the skins of a variety of spring songbirds. Birds for study will include both the expected and the unusual species, introducing new birders to many commonly seen forest birds while offering plumage challenges for our more advanced birders. Dr. Jean Woods, Curator of Birds at the DMNH, will be on hand to guide us through the museum's selected collections.
<b>SAT</b> April 18 7:00 am Half day	<b>Ashton, Cooper Cross &amp; Warren Tracts: DNREC State Wildlife Areas</b>	<b>John Janowski</b>	<b>Augustine Beach Parking Lot</b>	Join John Janowski birding properties acquired by DNREC partly using Delaware Bird-a-Thon funds. Look and listen for migrating warblers, egrets, and herons. A variety of habitats include bay, brackish and fresh water wetlands, pine and hardwood forest. Please remember that these state wildlife areas require you to have a Conservation Access Pass for your vehicle. There are no fee boxes at the locations, so purchase your pass in advance.
<b>TUESDAY</b> April 21 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	<b>NestWatch Training Workshop: Finding and Monitoring Bird Nests</b>	<b>Joe Sebastiani</b>	<b>Ashland Nature Center</b>	Would you like to learn how to check in on nesting birds? Or looking for a fun citizen science project? Join Joe Sebastiani to find out how you can safely monitor birds' progress and contribute that data to science. We'll take a short walk to visit a few occupied nest boxes around the property, and come back inside to share our observations with Cornell's NestWatch program.
<b>SUN</b> April 26 6:30 am Half Day	<b>Redden State Forest</b>	<b>Anthony Gonzon &amp; Chris Bennett</b>	<b>Park &amp; Ride at Rte 299 &amp; Rte 1 in Middletown, opposite Wawa</b>	Join Anthony Gonzon and Chris Bennett to find spring migrants in Redden State Forest in downstate Delaware. Bring boots, sunscreen and bug spray. Check the web site for possible additional meeting places & times.

Field Trip Info: 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](http://www.dosbirds.org)) and Facebook page for the latest information on any field trip, including weather related changes, extra details from leaders, maps, and the latest pop-up trips.



## DELAWARE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD TRIPS Continued...

Date	Event	Leader	Meeting Location	Description
<b>MAY</b> BAT - trips held during the Bird-A-Thon period				
SAT May 2 8:00 am BAT	Blackbird State Forest Blowout!	Ian Stewart	Parking lot at the entrance along Rte 471/ Blackbird Forest Rd, about 2 miles southwest of the town of Blackbird.	In this new twist on an old walk we will explore the area around the headquarters of Blackbird State Forest before car-pooling to some of its lesser known corners in search of specialty birds and fresh experiences! See web site for map.
SAT-SUN May 2 at 10:00 pm - May 3 at 1:00 am BAT	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. If planning to attend, call Andy at 302-792-9591.
TUESDAY May 5 7:30 am Half day BAT	Alapocas Woods	Sally O'Byrne	Softball field parking lot behind the DuPont Experimental Station	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.
SUN May 10 at 8:00 am Half day BAT	Mother's Day Walk White Clay Creek S.P.	Judy Montgomery & others	Chambers House Nature Center off of 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. Last day - and a perfect trip - to list for the DE Bird-A-Thon (DBAT)! *State Park Fee
SUN May 24 8:00 am to noon	Delaware Bayshore Shorebirds & Horseshoe Crabs	Chris Bennett	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, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, other 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. Bring insect repellent, sunscreen, and plenty of drinking water. *Conservation Access Pass required.
<b>JUNE</b>				
SAT June 6 at 7:30 am Half day	Secretive Marsh Birds of Blackbird Creek	Matt Sarver	Registration Required. Contact Delaware Wild Lands at info 'at' dewildlands.org or 302-378-2736 DWL Hickey House located at 170 Stave Landing Road in Townsend	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. This will be a minimum 2-hour paddling trip, boats will be provided.
SAT June 13 from 7:30 - 11:30 am	Bobolinks at Fair Hill NRMA, Maryland	Carolyn D'Amico & Ian Stewart (859) 333-8817	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 close-up viewing from numerous groomed trails. 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. Much of the time will be spent enjoying the Bobolinks and sparrows tending to fledglings but we will also explore adjacent woodlands along the Big Elk Creek. *NRMA Daily Pass
SAT June 20 from 8 am - noon	Breeding Birds of Norman G. Wilder Wildlife Area	Chris Bennett cpb2564 'at' gmail.com	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 including Kentucky, Worm-eating and Black-and-white Warbler, Ovenbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Scarlet and Summer Tanager and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. This area also looks like prime Hooded Warbler habitat. The only way to confirm its presence is to get out there and bird it more often. We will be walking on wide, flat and firm dirt roads up to several miles. *Conservation Access Pass required.





CONSERVATION *Corner*

# Conservation Science Grants- Apply Now



## DOS CONSERVATION SCIENCE GRANTS

**The Delaware Ornithological Society (DOS) Conservation Science Grants support innovative investigations into bird conservation challenges.** DOS encourages projects with a strong emphasis on species and habitat conservation and management.

We also are interested in projects that greatly enhance our understanding of the conservation requirements of bird

species of conservation concern. To be eligible for funding, projects must be located within the state of Delaware or within the Delaware Estuary in Pennsylvania or New Jersey (see [www.delawareestuary.org/interactive-estuary-map/](http://www.delawareestuary.org/interactive-estuary-map/)). Projects in adjacent areas with results that are transferable to this focus area may be considered at the discretion of the committee (please contact us before submitting). Grants are reviewed annually by a grant review committee appointed by the DOS Conservation Chair.

This grant program is funded using a portion of the money raised by the Delaware Bird-a-Thon.

**ELIGIBILITY** — Open to non-profit organizations; university-affiliated researchers, including graduate students; and to qualified unaffiliated researchers.

**SIZE OF GRANTS** — Not to exceed \$3,000

**TIMELINE** — Applications must be received by March 15, 2020.

**HOW TO APPLY** — Application materials can be found at <https://www.dosbirds.org/dos-conservation-science-grants/>

## Wilmington Peregrine Fledge Watch Volunteers Needed!

Jacque Williamson of the Brandywine Zoo is excited to work with DOS this year in coordinating the monitoring of the Wilmington Peregrine Falcon Watch. Jacque works with several projects at the Zoo which utilize volunteers to monitor wildlife, including an American Kestrel nest box monitoring project and an urban wildlife monitoring camera trapping project. These projects provide opportunities for citizen scientists and community members to contribute to wildlife research and conservation.



If you're interested in volunteering this year for the first time, or if you are a returning volunteer, please complete a volunteer registration form via the Delaware State Parks volunteer system. The system utilizes the Zoo's volunteer management program to allow monitors to sign up for shifts online, but you must be registered in the system before you can access the signups.

Fledge monitoring usually occurs around Memorial Day, and lasts from 7-10 days. To register to monitor this year's Peregrines, please visit [BrandywineZoo.org/peregrine](http://BrandywineZoo.org/peregrine).

For questions, please email Jacque Williamson, Curator of Education & Conservation Programs at [Jacque.Williamson@delaware.gov](mailto:Jacque.Williamson@delaware.gov).





## Ramblin' Red Knot is almost here!

Misphillion River Brewing has been hard at work on this beer to celebrate the Red Knot. The best part is that part of the proceeds from its sale will go to support the Bird-A-Thon!

**Launch Party:** April 18 at Misphillion River Brewing  
255 Mullet Run St. Milford, DE

Watch for other launch parties and events around the state this spring.

Updates at [www.dosbirds.org](http://www.dosbirds.org) and  
[@dosbirds](https://twitter.com/dosbirds) @debirdathon

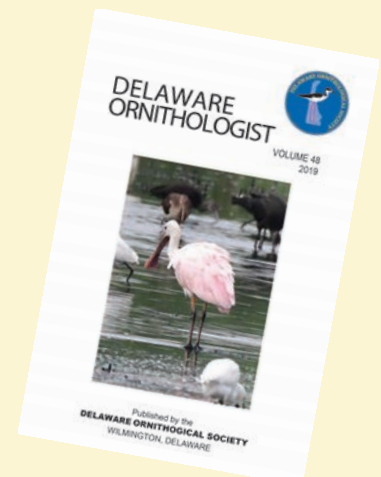


## Call for Ornithologist Articles

Do you have something to say about birds? The *Delaware Ornithologist* is looking for articles related to birds in the Delmarva region.

Anyone is welcome to submit articles. Past topics have included unusual bird nests, observations of interesting or unusual bird behavior, results of personal research projects or surveys, and descriptions of rare bird sightings. First-time authors are welcome and you don't need to be a scientist to contribute!

If you have an idea for an article please contact Jean Woods, Publication Committee Chair, at [jwoods@delmnh.org](mailto:jwoods@delmnh.org). Articles should be submitted by June 15.



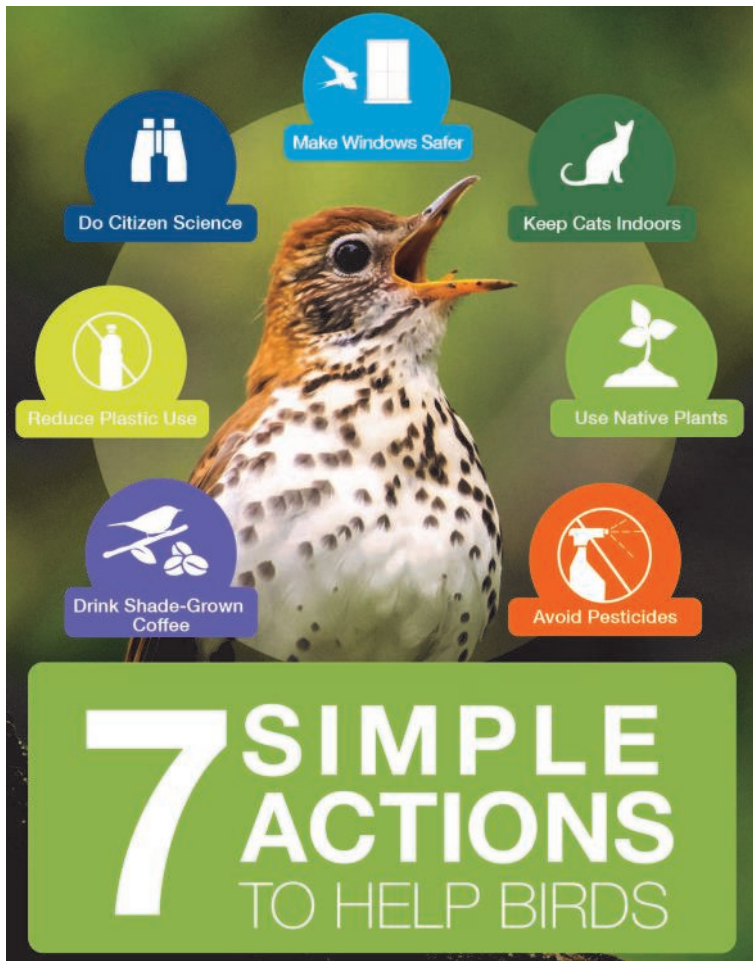


# DOS Needs You!

**Volunteers** are needed in the following areas:

- ◇ **DOS Table** at the **April 4**, Outdoor Activities Rally at the Roberts Farm (near Odessa) - 1-2 people to staff the table and talk to event attendees. Contact Ian Stewart, istew 'at' udel.edu.
- ◇ **DOS Table** at the Tri-State Bird Rescue Open House on **May 3**, 11 am to 4 pm. Contact Ian Stewart, istew 'at' udel.edu.
- ◇ The **Citizen Science Committee** is looking for ideas and members. Contact Meghann Matwichuk, meghann.matwichuk 'at' gmail.com.
- ◇ **Peregrine Falcon Fledge Watch** in late May and early June. See article on page 8.
- ◇ **Breeding Bird Atlas fundraising** - Work is well advanced in writing up the results of the second Delaware Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Volunteers are needed to help raise funds to defray publication costs. Contact Jean Woods, jwoods65 'at' verizon.net.

Thanks to those of you who already volunteer with DOS!



Tour behind the scenes of a wildlife rehabilitation center!

## OPEN HOUSE

Rain or Shine  
Sunday, May 3rd  
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**TRI-STATE**  
BIRD RESCUE & RESEARCH, INC.

170 Possum Hollow Road, Newark, DE

TOURS	EXHIBITORS	KIDS' CRAFTS	AGENCIES
ARTISANS	CONRAD	PRESENTATIONS	FOOD

**FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!**

**Free to attend** - Donations of paper towels for baby bird care are appreciated!

Participating partners and sponsors

Blue Hen Car Wash    Concord Pike Veterinary Hospital  
Newark Natural Foods    PBF Energy, Delaware City

More to come!

Presented by **WSFS bank**  
We Stand For Service®



**Bird ID Pop Quiz!** What species is this? See the answer on page 11. Photo by Mike Moore.

Do you have a good quiz photo? Send it to flyer 'at' dosbirds.org.



# Wild Birds Unlimited

—Your backyard bird feeding specialist—



From Wrens to Wood Ducks  
Wild Birds Unlimited in  
Hockessin has the nest  
box for your yard.

DOS Members Receive 10% Off  
Non bird food Items Every Day! \*

\*Sale price can not be used on optics or gift cards.  
No other discounts will be applied. Not good on previous purchases.

Lancaster Pike &  
Yorklyn Road  
Hockessin, DE  
(302) 239 - 9071  
[www.wbu.com/hockessin](http://www.wbu.com/hockessin)

Bird Photo ID Pop Quiz answer (see photo on page 10): Female Indigo Bunting. Note un-streaked brown color above, pale and faintly streaked below. Blue Grosbeak females have a larger bill, are a warmer brown color, and have more distinct wing bars. Female Brown-headed Cowbirds are relatively larger-billed and have a black bill.



## Would you like to see *your* photo in *The Flyer*?

It's easy! Just send them to flyer 'at' dosbirds.org.  
Please include your full name for the credit.

Now that the days are getting longer we're looking  
for some spring birds.

*Thanks!*

Purple Gallinule by Chris Bennett; Long-tailed Duck by Mike Moore; Winter Wren by Jim White; Blue-winged Teal by Hank Davis.




# DELAWARE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 4247  
WILMINGTON DE 19807

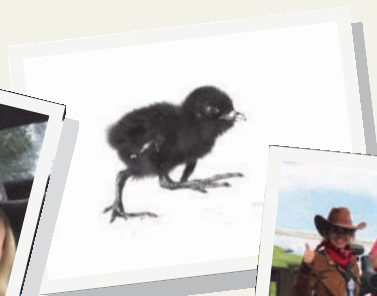
Your  
Bird-A-Thon  
Brochure is  
Inside!

## Get ready for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Delaware Bird-A-Thon! May 2-10

- ❖ Form a team and gather pledges
- ❖ Sponsor a team
- ❖ Donate to Bird-A-Thon
- ❖ Find out how at [delawarebirdathon.com](http://delawarebirdathon.com)

 @debirdathon

For 14 years the Bird-A-Thon has been raising money to help birds in Delaware. Over 1,600 acres of critical shorebird habitat has been protected! Join us this year to continue helping birds.



King Rail by Jerry am Ende; Red Knot by Jean Woods