



# The flyer



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May 2020



## Letter FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from the midst of two migrations! The bubbling chatter of a newly-arrived Gray Catbird outside my window marks the acceleration of Spring avian migration, with which we're all familiar. The other migration is much more complicated and uncharted, driven by a virus whose unprecedented impact reshapes so many of the in-person activities we've taken for granted. For many of us, our social interactions, our work, and our studies are migrating to an online world full of apps and virtual meetings as we struggle to maintain connections with friends, family, and colleagues.

Likewise, your DOS Council is exploring how we can support our members and facilitate the kinds of connections we've long fostered through our field trips and monthly meetings. We'd like to hear from you – how would you prefer to stay in touch with the Delaware birding community? Please drop us a line (meghann.matwchuk at gmail dot com) with your ideas!

Every year, local bird rehabilitation center Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research hosts an open house, inviting allied organizations to share the spotlight by providing information about their mission and programs. This year, that event, like many others, is going virtual. Instead of meeting with community members in person, DOS created a video presentation. Preparing remarks for this piece gave me the opportunity to reflect. I thought I'd share some of these thoughts with you all in this letter, in the hopes that those who have recently joined and experienced members alike might

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learn something new about this multi-faceted organization.

Tri-State happens to be at the heart of my own personal birding journey. About a decade ago, as a recent transplant to Delaware, I was

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Follow DOS on Facebook!



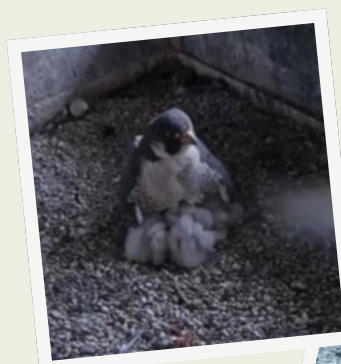
## Wilmington Falcons Update

The cameras are rolling and five chicks are growing bigger every day!

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  
Katie Bird, 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](http://DOSbirds.org)



FACEBOOK  
[@DOSbirds](https://www.facebook.com/DOSbirds)



MONTHLY *Meetings*

**Wednesday, May 20**

### "Insects: The Uncelebrated Partners of the Bird World"

Dr. Shawn T. Dash  
7PM-9:30PM

### NOTE:

This meeting will be hosted online using ZOOM. Please visit the DOS website or Facebook for details on accessing the meeting. Details will be posted by May 15.

There are around 10,000 species of birds living today, with about 950 species occurring within the United States. From the regal Whooping Crane to the feisty yet small Calliope Hummingbird, birds are renowned and idolized in songs, poems, paintings, cartoons, and even on clothing. Our feathered friends have become a multi-billion dollar industry providing a major source of income to some rural communities. In addition, multiple studies have found

spending time in nature and watching birds relaxes our mind and bodies as well as recharging our spirits. However, too infrequently, even for the nature enthusiast, do we consider the community in which birds occupy. The warblers are a delight to see, sought after phantoms of color high in the canopy. But few of us are just as excited about the insects that feed these colorful birds, as they move through the trees. We do not see the

### Monthly Meetings:

**Currently we are meeting virtually to abide by government recommendations.** We look forward to being back at Ashland in the fall if possible. In-person 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.



birds as part of a bigger system - a system whose players are mostly invertebrates including, in particular, insects.

On a global scale, scientists have found that more than 70% of North America's birds are insectivorous and have noted that insectivorous birds consume 500 million tons of arthropods annually! But, to most people, insects are icky bugs not to be bothered with or at most as tidbits of food for the birds. Whole texts have been written about gardening for the birds, yet few devote space to grow an ecosystem focused on promoting insects. Insects drive bird's survival and even a species evolution. We will explore the importance of insects as partners to bird biology and how you can view the birds with the insects as vital players in the web of life.

Dr. Shawn T. Dash is an Assistant Biologist at within the Department of Biology at Hampton University. He is noted for the passion he brings to the classroom exciting students about the natural world and involving them in his research. Dr. Dash teaches a variety of courses including introductory courses, zoology, research design, as well as specialty courses on medical entomology, toxic and venomous animals, conservation biology as well as a field-based biodiversity class focused on the greater Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Shawn attended the University of Delaware (where he double majored in entomology and wildlife ecology) which provided opportunities to develop as a scientist and natural historian. Although he started college with the desire to become an ornithologist; Shawn had the opportunity as an undergraduate to conduct research on cucumber beetle mating behaviors with Doug Tallamy. He became part of the UD insect reference collection laboratory, where he developed an interest in faunistics (the science of documenting biodiversity) and began studies on ant diversity and forest fragmentation.

His interest in ecology and taxonomy lead Shawn to Louisiana State University for his Master's, where he conducted the first formal survey of the ants of Louisiana. Shawn completed a Ph.D. at the University of Texas at El Paso in Pathobiology but with adjunct focus on evolutionary biology, focused on the

systematics of an understudied Neotropical ant genus (*Hypoponera*).

He is currently working with the researchers at the Virginia Museum of Natural History to complete a contemporary review of the Ants of Virginia, collaborating across multiple institutions to produce a guide to the ants of the Delmarva peninsula. His research is focused on invertebrates in urban ecosystems as well as documenting the biodiversity of ants.



A passionate professor and knowledgeable Natural Historian, he is a highly sought after and requested speaker for various nature groups. Shawn is known for being light-hearted with a sense of wonder and humor he works to excite others about nature.

## June Picnic Update:

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a final decision on the June Picnic has not yet been made. We are committed to following all recommended guidelines by the CDC and the State of Delaware which may prohibit gatherings. If the picnic is postponed or canceled, please look for details on additional online meetings and virtual events throughout the summer!

(Continued from page 1)

looking for a volunteer opportunity where I could contribute towards the well-being of animals. I read about Tri-State's mission and signed on to be trained as a summer caretaker feeding nestlings. At the time, I knew very little about these creatures, but caring for the rowdy Blue Jays and the patient Robins made me more curious about these birds and the lives they lead once released back into the wild. I was especially smitten by the gregarious Cedar Waxwings. I've always enjoyed the outdoors and considered myself pretty observant. How was it possible that I'd never noticed these stunning little masked bandits flitting about?

I did a little homework, and realized that Delaware is an incredible place for birds and birding. Situated at the heart of the Atlantic Flyway, our state provides winter habitats or crucial stopping places for more than 200 species of migrating birds. DOS was one of the first and most important resources I found as I began to learn about these fascinating creatures and the varied landscapes they inhabit, from our backyards to the bayshore beaches to the piedmont forests and so many places in between. DOS's field trip program introduced me to new birds and parts of the state (and region) I'd never explored before. DOS typically facilitates over 50 of these field trips each year with experienced leaders, hosting bird identification workshops and creating youth-focused programming. During the pandemic, DOS leaders are revitalizing our DE Backyard Birding Challenge, and will be experimenting with self-guided field trips and virtual discussions. Additionally, DOS meetings provide members with the opportunity to hear expert speakers on a wide variety of topics, including bird identification, bird-related travel, ecology and current research in the region. This month, we are looking forward to moving this meeting online so we won't miss out on our engaging May speaker!

DOS started with 80 charter members in 1963; now, over 50 years later, it has over 375 memberships (including individuals and families). Within this group, I met like-minded individuals eager to share what they know and love about birds and work together towards conserving their habitat – for the bird's benefit, and for our own. DOS's flagship fundraiser, the Delaware Bird-A-Thon, has raised nearly a half-million dollars in fourteen years by asking friends and members to solicit pledges based on the number of bird species they identify in a 24-hour period. Birds can be tallied across the entire state, or in one's own backyard – anyone can participate. This friendly competition has made it possible for DOS to contribute to the purchase and conservation of nearly 2000 acres of critical habitat in Delaware – and we have more exciting news on this front coming soon! Typically this event happens in early May; due to COVID-19, we're rescheduling this year's Bird-A-Thon to September 5-12. Mark your calendars!

In a recent President's letter, I discussed the report published by the journal *Science*, which documented a loss of nearly one-third of all North American birds since 1970, and the importance of citizen science in spurring conservation efforts for those species which have begun to rebound. Towards this end, DOS provides many opportunities to ensure that data on local bird populations are well represented in national and regional data collection efforts. DOS members participate in annual Christmas Bird Counts throughout the state and have contributed to 50 years of Spring Round-ups. DOS played an instrumental role in the creation of the first Delaware Breeding Bird Atlas during the 1980s, and members were involved in the fieldwork and species accounts for the second Atlas ten years ago. In addition, DOS facilitates two Fall Hawkwatches annually, at Ashland Nature Center in Hockessin and Cape Henlopen in Lewes, and we always need volunteers to help us keep our eyes to the skies.

Thank you for joining me on this wander through DOS's past, present and near future – if I can't see you in the field soon, let's meet up virtually instead!

Be well and bird on,

Meghann Matwichuk **DOS President**





## Elections Update

DOS Council is excited to announce the proposed slate of officers for the 2020-2021 DOS year. This year, the Nominating Committee was chaired by Anthony Gonzon and included Caroline D'Amico and Sally O'Byrne. The nominations are as follows:

**President:** Dr. Michael C. Moore

**Vice President:** Michael Hudson

**Secretary:** Holly Merker

**Treasurer:** Jim Lewis

**Council 2023:** Scott Northey

Since our monthly meetings have been canceled, the Nominating Committee will accept nominations from the "virtual" floor until May 19th. The full slate will be announced on May 19th and DOS will establish a means to have members vote.

Nominations may be submitted to Anthony Gonzon at [atgonzon@verizon.net](mailto:atgonzon@verizon.net) or contact Anthony directly at 302-598-5893.

## Tri-State Virtual Open House

Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research opens its doors to the public only one day a year at our annual Open House, but this year, things will be a little different. Due to COVID-19, we have moved to a virtual format, and we are very excited about it! The virtual Open House starts May 3, and we'll have presentations every afternoon for four days! The schedule is available on our home page, <https://tristatebird.org/>.

We'll be offering LIVE tours of the Frink Center and the L. Leon Campbell & Alice P. Campbell Wildlife Response Building along with engaging and educational presentations from our nonprofits colleagues at DOS, DNS, DMNH, and White Clay Creek State Park. There will also be presentations featuring captive raptors and our former patient, Conrad the Blue Jay. Each day will also feature a fun craft for the kids, and we'll also have great information on how you can help birds in your backyard.

So please join us on Facebook for one or more afternoons, and if you aren't a Facebook user, you can view the videos on our website after the event (check the website for details). Thank you for your virtual support!

**Donna J. Schrader**

Development Associate

Tri-state Bird Rescue & Research, Inc.







# DOS Membership News

MEMBERSHIP *News*

## Membership Renewal

If you haven't renewed your DOS membership for 2019-2020 and are able to, please consider doing so to keep our society running smoothly. 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 management system at <https://dosbirds.z2systems.com/np/clients/dosbirds/login.jsp>.

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 'at' udel.edu and we will figure it out.

We realize current times may be tough financially so THANK YOU for renewing if you can.

## 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 'at' 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**





Mark your calendars to participate in the Global Big Day!

This event is an annual celebration of the birds around you, and an effort to catalog as many of the world's bird species in one day. Learn more here.

Bird safely—even data from your backyard or living room window is valuable. Be sure to log your sightings on [ebird.org](http://ebird.org)!





## 2019 - 2020 FIELD trips



Date	Event	Leader	Meeting Location	Description
May				

All May events are canceled. All listed trips are tentative and depend on possible extensions of the Governor's stay-at-home order. Please see [dosbirds.org](http://dosbirds.org) for updates and upcoming digital trips/gatherings!

Meanwhile, please birdwatch on your own safely: choose uncrowded locations and/or quiet times of day, maintain social distancing (6ft or more apart), and wash your hands with soap often.

Now is a great time to work on your backyard bird list!

**Field Trip Info:** All members and guests are welcome! Trips are occasionally restricted to DOS members, due to space limitations (i.e. the SuperbOwl Trip). We love pets, but we cannot allow them to come on our field trips. Participation in field trips is at your own risk. We may take photos during trips which include participants; please tell the leader if you do not wish to be in a photo. Please help our leaders and our 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, they enjoy getting to know you. 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.





## 2019 - 2020 FIELD trips

Date	Event	Leader	Meeting Location	Description
<b>JUNE</b>				
<b>SAT June 6 at 7:30 am Half day</b>	<b>Secretive Marsh Birds of Blackbird Creek</b>	<b>Matt Sarver</b>	<b>Registration Required. Contact Delaware Wild Lands at info 'at' dewildlands.org or 302- 378-2736 DWL Hickey House lo- cated at 170 Stave Land- ing Road in Townsend</b>	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.
<b>SAT June 13 from 7:30 - 11:30 am</b>	<b>Bobolinks at Fair Hill NRMA, Maryland</b>	<b>Carolyn D'Amico &amp; Ian Stewart (859) 333-8817</b>	<b>Parking Lot #3 (2895 Appleton Road) - Also known as the North Ap- pleton Parking Lot (see DOS website for more specific directions).</b>	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
<b>SAT June 20 from 8 am - noon</b>	<b>Breeding Birds of Norman G. Wilder Wildlife Area</b>	<b>Chris Bennett cpb2564 'at' gmail.com</b>	<b>Meet at the Wildlife Area parking lot at the corner of Firetower Rd. and Five Foot Prong Road north of Felton.</b>	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.
<b>SAT June 20 TBA</b>	<b>DOS Annual June Picnic</b>		<b>TBA</b>	Stay tuned for upcoming details on our annual June Picnic. Date is tentative!
<b>JULY</b>				
<b>SAT July 18 8am</b>	<b>Delaware Shorebirds</b>	<b>Bob Rufe rrufe1@aol.com</b>	<b>Meet at Bombay Hook NWR headquarters.</b>	What a tradition – don't miss being a part of Bob Rufe's 42nd Annual Trip to Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge! Expect a few rarities and learn to recognize the summer locals. Bring bug spray, sunscreen, & a hat. Half day. Don't forget that the NWR entrance fee is in effect (\$4/vehicle), or a Federal Duck Stamp will serve as a pass.
<b>AUGUST</b>				
<b>SUN Aug 30 7:30am</b>	<b>More Delaware Shorebirds</b>	<b>Frank Rohrbacher</b>	<b>Meet at Bombay Hook NWR headquarters.</b>	Join Frank Rohrbacher for another terrific chance to find out what's migrating through in late August, and expect a few rarities. We'll meet at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge headquarters at 7:30AM. Bring bug spray, sunscreen, & a hat. Please be aware that the BHNWR entrance fee is in effect (\$4/car, or Federal Duck Stamp).



# DOS Conservation News

## DOS Stands Up for the Duck Stamp!

In mid-March, the DOS Conservation Committee submitted a comment letter to the US Fish and Wildlife Service opposing proposed changes to the federal Duck Stamp contest. These changes would require that a hunting scene be featured on the stamp, rather than just the traditional waterfowl image.

We wrote: *"The Service must do a better job of working together with groups like ours to promote the Stamp to birders, wildlife photographers, and other non-consumptive users. In 1976, Congress changed the name of the Stamp from "The Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp" to "The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp" in order to acknowledge the important role of a broad diversity of duck stamp supporters. Forcing the inclusion of hunting imagery in the Stamp art does a disservice to the largest potential group of stamp purchasers and supporters, and severely limits future sales potential of the stamp to these users.*

*If fewer Stamps are sold, not only will the Stamp and the Contest be negatively impacted, but waterfowl hunters who benefit from this program will now see a decline in the number of acres protected. Fewer acres protected is bad for everyone.*

*The Delaware Ornithological Society strongly opposes the Proposed Rule because if adopted, it will surely lead to a reduction in the amount of land that can be protected by the National Wildlife Refuge System. Over the past 13 years, our volunteer members have raised \$620,000 in private funds for conservation of coastal wetland habitats in Delaware, hard earned dollars used to leverage federal conservation grant funding to improve protection of our*

*wetlands.*

*In one of our first projects, those dollars were leveraged to help acquire lands that were subsequently turned over to USFWS and are now part of Prime Hook NWR.*

*Birders are doing our part, but we can do even more. The Service must take steps to help build this key partnership, rather than undermine it."*

You can read the full comment letter [here](#).



"2013 Duck Stamp Contest Submission 199" by [USFWS Headquarters](#) is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)

## DOS Helps Get Restoration Off the Ground in Delaware

In early April, DOS provided letters of support for several partners applying for conservation project funds under the [Delaware River Basin Restoration Program \(DRBRP\)](#).

This federal program, administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, prioritizes

*(Continued on page 11)*



# Shorebird Update

projects that address needs for listed and at-risk species. Since its inception in August 2018, the fund has awarded \$8.74 million to 53 projects that support recreation, water quality, water management, and habitat. The grantees have generated \$12.04 million in matching funds for a total conservation investment of \$20.78 million. The DRBRP program represents a major new federal investment in the Delaware River and DOS has added our voice to requests for funding for the program from Congress each year since it began.

The partners and project applications DOS is supporting in 2020 include: The Christina Conservancy's application to fund a Lower Christina / Brandywine Rivers Remediation, Restoration, and Resilience Plan; Delaware Wild Lands, Inc.'s application to fund restoration and conservation work on their New Castle County lands, including the Taylor's Bridge Complex, and DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife's application to fund a new water control structure at Thousand Acre Marsh. Our support of these projects does not include a financial contribution, but is nonetheless important to demonstrate broad community and NGO involvement and concurrence with the importance of the projects for target species.

We will find out in late summer / early fall whether these projects will be funded. In the meantime, we continue to work to identify opportunities to help advance conservation and restoration of bird habitat throughout the state.

**Matt Sarver**  
**DOS Conservation Chair**  
conservation@dosbirds.org

Many of you are probably wondering about the amazing shorebird migration that is about to start and the important research that happens every year. Work on endangered and threatened species is, of course, a very important responsibility of the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DNREC). In this time of COVID-19, keeping researchers safe and complying with the Governor's emergency orders is also crucial. Fortunately the shorebird research program has been modified so that we will still be able to gather the most important data while keeping everyone safe. Researchers will be working alone except where absolutely unavoidable and will be following strict guidelines regarding social distancing, face covers, and sanitation. The research team will be mostly DNREC employees and a few experienced local volunteers.

The shorebird migration is a favorite sight that many Delaware birders take a trip to see each year. This year, your safety is the most important thing and many of you will choose to forgo your trip. You can still get your shorebird fix! Two short films have been made about the migration and the research being done. You can find them on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/shorebirdsdelaware>.

DNREC staff are also working on getting the remote camera at Mispillion running and streaming online, hopefully by mid-May. Watch the [DOS Facebook page](#) for further updates.

Finally, follow the [shorebird project on Facebook](#) to keep updated on how the shorebirds are doing.

**Jean Woods**  
**DOS Publications Chair**



# DOS Needs You!

**We want YOUR American Kestrel sightings!** See a kestrel? Be sure to report it on [eBird](#)!

Often we see kestrels when we are not actively birding or taking lists. Have you seen a kestrel:

- On a telephone wire ?
- From your car?
- Flying over your yard?

We encourage you to log all of these kinds of sightings as “incidental” checklists in eBird. These records are especially important for researchers that need more information on where kestrels might be nesting or foraging.

Don't use eBird? Send your sightings to [conservation@dosbirds.org](mailto:conservation@dosbirds.org) and we will log them through our DOS historic data eBird account.

Be sure to include a date, a time, and a location for your record. Feel free to submit any photos of the kestrels as well.

# eBird



**Bird ID Pop Quiz!** What species is this? See the answer on page 14. Photo by Katie Bird.

Do you have a good quiz photo? Send it to flyer 'at' [dosbirds.org](http://dosbirds.org).



Member *Activity*

# Birding from Home

**Now is a great time to explore the abundance of bird-related media, from webcams to documentaries, and do a little birding from home! Check out the links below.**

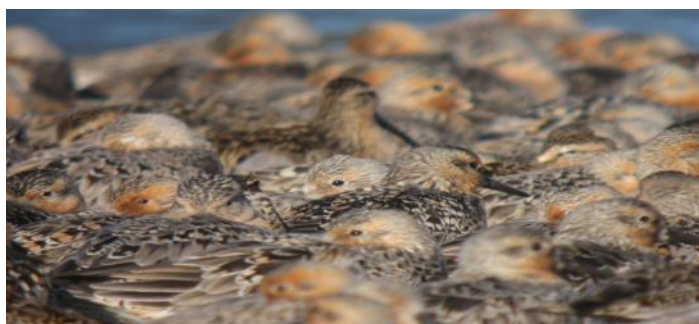
**Cape Henlopen State Park Osprey Cam** The Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park produce an osprey nest cam, available for viewing and listening on YouTube. Learn more about the project on [their website](#).

**Sapsucker Woods Feederwatch Live Cam** This live feeder cam is produced by Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, NY and available to view on Youtube. Many species frequent these feeders, including chickadees, blackbirds, mourning doves, and woodpeckers. Learn more about their [FeederWatch project here](#).

**Cornell Lab Barred Owl Live Cam** This live cam is managed by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and is available to view on YouTube. Watch as parent Barred Owls feed and care for their nestlings. Learn more about barred owls [here](#).

**Bald Eagle Nest Cam** The American Bald Eagle Foundation monitors a pair of nesting eagles at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. The pair, dubbed “Mr. President” and “The First Lady” have nested there since 2015. Learn more about them [here](#).

**For even more webcams, check out [Explore.org](#).** This site hosts hundreds of wildlife webcams, including many bird nest cams. This site also allows you to take easy snapshots of the live stream!



**Feast on the Beach: The Delaware Bay Horseshoe Crab Shorebird Connection**, produced by the Delaware Shorebird Project, is a film produced to raise awareness and understanding about the ecological connection between horseshoe crabs and shorebirds migrating through the Delaware Bay area, as well as the researchers who study them. Find out more on [Delaware Museum of Natural History's website](#).



# Backyard Birding Challenge

The Backyard Birding Challenge is going strong! Check out the current leaderboard below. You can still join in on the fun! [Learn more here.](#)

Current Leaders <small>DELAWARE</small>					
*Rankings as of April 29					
<div>Life</div> <div>Year</div> <div>Month</div>					
	Observer	Yard Name	Complete checklists	Species	Most recent addition
1	Aaron Reb	Reb yard C 1, US-DE	43	93	<a href="#">Apr 29, 2020</a> Ruby-throated Hummingbird (Archilochus c...
2	Keenan Yakola	Ockels Farm, US-DE	9	76	<a href="#">Apr 29, 2020</a> Chuck-will's-widow (Antrostomus caroline...
3	Bob Edelen	Harbeson Yard, US-DE	13	70	<a href="#">Apr 28, 2020</a> Scarlet Tanager (Piranga olivacea)
4	Sharon Lynn	Lynn Yard B, US-DE	21	68	<a href="#">Apr 29, 2020</a> Glossy Ibis (Plegadis falcinellus)
5	Michael Moore	Moore Backyard B, US-DE	14	64	<a href="#">Apr 24, 2020</a> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (Polioptila caerul...
6	Gary Griffith	Pecksniff Yard List, US-DE	28	62	<a href="#">Apr 28, 2020</a> White-eyed Vireo (Vireo griseus)
7	Kelley Nunn	Delaire, US-DE	19	59	<a href="#">Apr 25, 2020</a> House Wren (Troglodytes aedon)
8	Christopher Rowe	Rowe Yard C, US-DE	12	57	<a href="#">Apr 29, 2020</a> Black-and-white Warbler (Mniotilta varia...
9	Anthony Gonzon	Gonzon Yard A, US-DE	8	54	<a href="#">Apr 24, 2020</a> Common Grackle (Quiscalus quiscula), Ros...
10	Robert Line	Line Yard, US-DE	20	52	<a href="#">Apr 27, 2020</a> Ruby-throated Hummingbird (Archilochus c...





Thank you for supporting our store and your birds during these trying times.

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[www.wbu.com/hockessin](http://www.wbu.com/hockessin)

Bird Photo ID Pop Quiz answer (see photo on page 11): Blue-gray gnatcatcher. Note the clean breast, bold white eye ring, and the thinness of the bill. This one was tough! The gnatcatchers are moving through Delaware now, and are buzzing with their happy "zzzzzz zz zz, zzzzz zz zz" calls! Keep an ear out and try to spot them.



*Thanks!*



Want to learn your bird songs? Click here to learn how to analyze bird songs, or brush up on your skills.

Pine warbler and black-throated green warbler by Mike Moore.

## The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Delaware Bird-A-Thon: Rescheduled for September 5-12

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



@debirdathon

In recognition of the seriousness of our new culture of social distancing, the Delaware Bird-A-Thon is moving to the Fall! Stay tuned for more details.



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