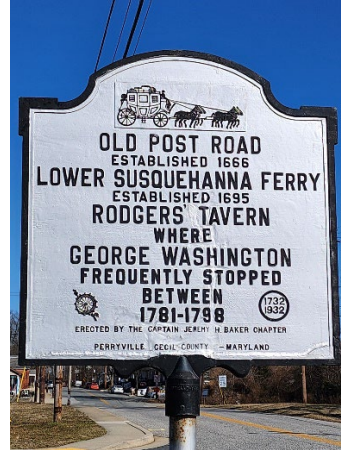
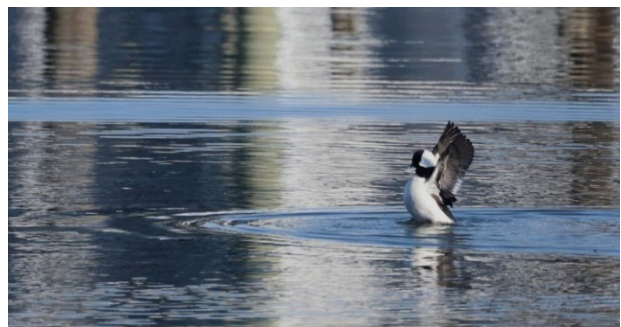


**Perryville Waterfowl Field Trip**  
**Delaware Ornithological Society**  
**25 February 2024**

There were 6 participants and excellent weather conditions for birding. Sky was clear and there was almost no wind. The temperature was cold, ranging from 28° to 36° F but the sun made it feel warmer. The trip started at the Perryville Town Docks by historic Rodger's Tavern along the Old Post Road.



The town docks look out over the mouth of the Susquehanna River, where we had a great look at Great Blue Herons and an incredible view at a very close drake Bufflehead that showed its iridescence head feathering, turning blue or green with just a twist of the neck.

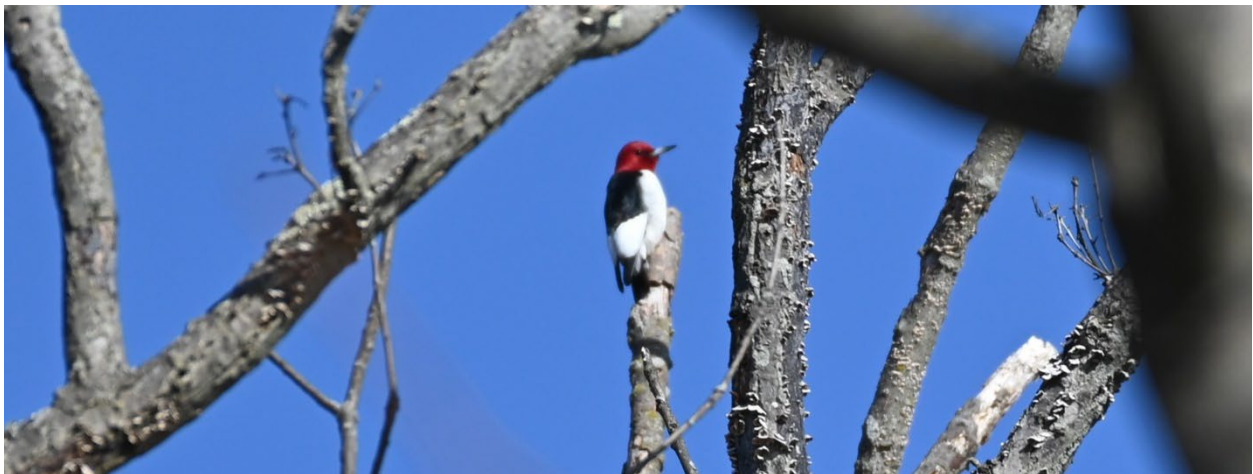


Photos by Donna Benjamin

Here's the list for the Perryville Town Docks:

Canada Goose 22  
Mallard 40  
Bufflehead 3  
Common Merganser 4  
Pied-billed Grebe 1  
Mourning Dove 1  
Ring-billed Gull 60  
Herring Gull 2  
Great Black-backed Gull 11  
Double-crested Cormorant 2  
Great Blue Heron 2  
Turkey Vulture 2  
Bald Eagle 1  
Fish Crow 4  
Carolina Chickadee 1  
European Starling 3  
Northern Mockingbird 1  
American Robin 1  
White-throated Sparrow 1  
Song Sparrow 1  
Yellow-rumped Warbler 1  
Northern Cardinal 2  
22 species

After birding the town docks, the field trip moved over to Perryville Community Park. This was the site of my very first DOS field trip back in March 1970. Perry Point at the mouth of the Susquehanna River has been historically a haven for waterfowl. But first, the woods along Mill Creek has been a haven for tree clingers. Our first target was to find the previously reported Red-headed Woodpecker. After some searching, and listening to a calling Barred Owl, we found the adult Red-headed in the tops of the trees along the cove.

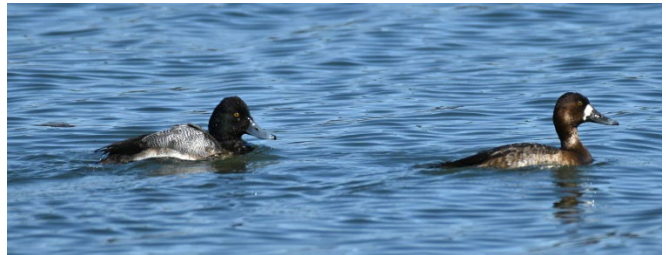


We had 6 species of woodpecker plus Brown Creeper and White-breasted Nuthatch.



Brown Creeper, photo by Donna Benjamin

Lots of waterfowl were seen including some nice looks at Lesser Scaup and Ruddy Duck. Unfortunately, most of the waterfowl had already migrated north due to the warm early spring. A highlight was an early sighting of a calling Osprey at Stump's Point, the furthest tip of Perry Point.



Birders at Perryville: (left to Right) Dennis Davis, Saad S., Donna Benjamin, Michelle Gee, Laureen Eick-Benson.



Here's the list for Perryville Community Park and the VA Hospital area:

Canada Goose 606  
Mallard 8  
Canvasback 4  
Lesser Scaup 192  
Bufflehead 62  
Hooded Merganser 10  
Common Merganser 65  
Ruddy Duck 142 Estimated, 2 large rafts of 50+ birds with a spattering of individual groups.  
Mourning Dove 2  
Killdeer 1  
Ring-billed Gull 171  
Herring Gull 2  
Great Blue Heron 3  
Black Vulture 4  
Turkey Vulture 1  
Osprey 1 Flying over Stump's Point calling, crooked wings, large black-white raptor, white eye line.  
Bald Eagle 1  
Barred Owl 1 Calling in woods along Mill Creek.  
Belted Kingfisher 1  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1  
Red-headed Woodpecker 1 Seen by the standing chimney, woodpecker with black back, complete red head, and big white wing patch.  
Red-bellied Woodpecker 3  
Downy Woodpecker 4  
Pileated Woodpecker 2  
Northern Flicker 2  
Blue Jay 8  
Fish Crow 8  
Carolina Chickadee 8  
Tufted Titmouse 4  
Golden-crowned Kinglet 5  
White-breasted Nuthatch 5  
Brown Creeper 1  
Carolina Wren 3  
European Starling 120  
Northern Mockingbird 1  
Eastern Bluebird 5  
Hermit Thrush 1  
American Robin 10  
American Goldfinch 6  
Dark-eyed Junco 25  
White-throated Sparrow 9  
Song Sparrow 2  
Red-winged Blackbird 4

Common Grackle 1  
Yellow-rumped Warbler 4  
Northern Cardinal 6

A total of 49 species were found, including several year, state, and life birds for the participants!

Good Birding,  
Andy