

Dear Friend of the Loons,

Thank you for your support of our efforts in the World Series of Birding this year. All funds collected will go to the Willistown Conservation Trust's Youth Birding Program in Chester County, PA. This program connects children aged 8 - 12 with nature on an intimate level through birds. Children learn to use binoculars, go on bird walks, observe bird banding, and engage in many activities that teach conservation and appreciation of the natural world. Additionally, the program provides education for schools ranging from the elementary to college levels, including minority children from under-served areas in the wider community. We thank you for helping to support this fine organization. If you have not yet sent in your donation, please write your check to "Delaware Valley Ornithological Club (DVOC)" and mail your check to Philip Witmer, Chair, DVOC Conservation Committee, 125 Hathaway Lane, Havertown, PA 19083-1517. Our final count of **182 birds** put us in second place overall. I hope you enjoy the following account of our day.

We began our "day" in the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. At 11:45 we camped out near an American Woodcock that was steadily 'peenting' away. As midnight approached, drizzle turned to rain, and by 11:59 the bird had gone silent and would not be heard from again. The rain came on steady and the marsh went quiet. Leaving the swamp at 1:30 with a grand total of four birds on our list was an historic low. We were worried about our day, but knew that everyone was birding in the same conditions and we pressed on.

We drove straight from Great Swamp to a little marsh in the northwestern portion of the state. It yielded Common Gallinule, but we dipped on the other birds scouted here. The theme for the day seemed to be emerging... arrive at scouted birds, stand in the rain, hear and see little, conduct frantic search, hear and see little, and leave. This makes for a rather rough go. Scoring Barred Owl and Long-eared Owl at the same stop lifted our spirits a bit and we pressed on. The morning offered breaks in the rain and we managed to hit the mark with an increasing number of species. Migrants were in short supply despite us hitting numerous known migrant traps along the route. The scouted Snow Goose that chose to stick around was a nice treat, and we managed a few other goodies along the way. Another nice stroke of luck appeared in the form of a Great Horned Owl randomly flying down the road in front of our van. Despite occasional hits, we were piling up misses and rapidly running out of stops. Leaving the pond that held our only scouted Hooded Mergansers and only Pied-billed Grebe without either bird was a painful confirmation of the day's pattern. Thankfully we had scouted all of the expected raptors on nests, preventing the rain from stealing these checks from our list.

We ended up crossing over I-80 at 10:30 with only 113 birds checked off. Prior to hitting I-295, we took a short detour on which we picked up Bobolink, Meadowlark, but dipped on the Savannah Sparrow and Brown Thrasher we were shooting for on the same detour.

After the long drive from the north we were excited to hit Cumberland County. To save the 20 minutes, we made a tough decision to skip the scouted Barn Owl and get on with collecting southern breeders. Dividing Creek yielded Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, Prothonotary, Kentucky, and Yellow-throated Warblers. The good news was that we were staying relatively on-schedule and were prepared to have enough time to hit all of the spots on our route.

Our next big stop was the Heislerville impoundments for our first crack at shorebirds and more. Here we gathered up all of the usual suspects as well as White-rumped Sandpiper. We raced from here to Cape May Point where we quickly hit our numerous planned sea watch locations. There had been a lot of good birds seen out on the water around the point, so took a few more shots than usual for sea watching. Problem was that these birds just weren't showing for us. We managed Black and Surf Scoter, but missed Gannet, Red-throated Loon, Parasitic Jaeger, Royal Tern and the Western Grebe that had been around during scout week. A quick run up the barrier islands from the bottom of Wildwood Crest to Stone Harbor Boulevard yielded a bunch of needed species. We picked up a Tri-colored Heron en-route to the Coast Guard ponds, Yellow-Crowned Night Herons in the middle of town, and Sanderlings at Stone Harbor Point. Time was ticking, but we managed to get back to the Parkway at 6:40pm.

7:10pm found us at Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge picking up what we could before we ran out of daylight. It was raining steady and our trip up the gull tower nearly ended our day a bit early as Scott slipped on the wet stairs, bouncing down about eight steps and taking out Ian bowling-ball style along the way. Somehow, neither of them was seriously injured, so we pressed on with the theme of lots of rain, combined with the mysterious disappearance of scouted species. After whiffing on Gull-billed Tern and Whimbrel, it was a nice surprise when Scott plucked out a Savannah Sparrow near the beginning of the wildlife drive. It's always nice to add a check to the list that was considered lost. We ended our time at the Refuge by picking up two nightjars just before the skies decided to open up in one of the more epic downpours of the day. Picking up King Rail at the campground where Ian had stayed during the week was a nice treat. We decided to take a shot at getting American Woodcock at Higbee's beach and missed the bird once again. However, we were rewarded with our last two birds of the day: a fly-over Virginia Rail calling from right above our heads and a Swainson's Thrush flying over the fields. Fighting sleep and having no more tricks in the bag, we headed to the finish line wishing we had more birds on our list, but knowing that we persevered through difficult conditions to reach a decent level of success.

We are very grateful to the many individuals who shared information, scouting, assistance and encouragement, but the biggest thanks go to you folks reading this note. Thank you so much for your support. You are helping a wonderful organization do important work. See you next year for more Loonacy!



World Series of Birding CHECK LIST - May 11, 2013



CHECKLIST 2013

WATERFOWL

- GOOSE, Snow
- Brant
- Canada
- SWAN, Mute
- DUCK, Wood
- Gadwall
- American Wigeon
- American Black
- Mallard
- Blue-winged Teal
- Northern Shoveler
- Northern Pintail
- Green-winged Teal
- Ring-necked
- Greater Scaup
- Lesser Scaup
- Common Eider
- Harlequin
- Surf Scoter
- White-winged Scoter
- Black Scoter
- Long-tailed
- Bufflehead
- Common Goldeneye
- Hooded Merganser
- Common Merganser
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Ruddy

GAMEBIRDS

- PHEASANT, Ring-necked
- GROUSE, Ruffed
- TURKEY, Wild
- BOBWHITE, Northern

LOONS - HERONS

- LOON, Red-throated
- Common
- GREBE, Pied-billed
- Horned
- SHEARWATER, Sooty
- Storm-Petrel, Wilson's
- GANNET, Northern
- PELICAN, Brown
- CORMORANT, Great
- Double-crested
- HERONS
- American Bittern
- Least Bittern
- Great Blue
- Great Egret
- Snowy Egret
- Little Blue
- Tricolored
- Cattle Egret
- Green
- Black-crowned Night-
- Yellow-crowned Night-
- IBIS, Glossy

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES

- VULTURE, Black
- Turkey
- OSPREY
- KITE, Mississippi
- EAGLE, Bald
- HARRIER, Northern

HAWK, Sharp-shinned

- Cooper's
- Northern Goshawk
- Red-shouldered
- Broad-winged
- Red-tailed
- FALCONS
- American Kestrel
- Merlin
- Peregrine

RAILS & SHOREBIRDS

- RAIL, Black
- Clapper
- King
- Virginia
- Sora
- GALLINULE, Common
- COOT, American
- PLOVER, Black-bellied
- Semipalmated
- Piping
- Killdeer
- OYSTERCATCHER, American
- AVOCET, American
- SANDPIPERS
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Willet
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- Solitary
- Spotted
- Upland
- Whimbrel
- Marbled Godwit
- Ruddy Turnstone
- Red Knot
- Sanderling
- Semipalmated
- Least
- White-rumped
- Pectoral
- Purple
- Dunlin
- Stilt
- Short-billed Dowitcher
- SNIPE, Wilson's
- WOODCOCK, American
- PHALAROPE, Wilson's

GULLS & TERNS

- JAEGER, Parasitic
- GULL, Bonaparte's
- Little
- Laughing
- Ring-billed
- Herring
- Iceland
- Lesser Black-backed
- Glaucous
- Great Black-backed
- TERN, Least
- Gull-billed
- Caspian
- Black
- Roseate
- Common

Forster's

- Royal
- SKIMMER, Black

DOVES - WOODPECKERS

- DOVE, Mourning
- MONK PARAKEET
- PIGEON, Rock
- CUCKOO, Black-billed
- Yellow-billed
- OWL, Barn
- Eastern Screech-
- Great Horned
- Barred
- Long-eared
- Northern Saw-whet
- NIGHTHAWK, Common
- CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW
- WHIP-POOR-WILL
- SWIFT, Chimney
- HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-throated
- KINGFISHER, Belted
- WOODPECKER, Red-headed
- Pileated
- Red-bellied
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Downy
- Hairy
- Northern Flicker

PERCHING BIRDS

- FLYCATCHER, Olive-sided
- Eastern Wood-Pewee
- Yellow-bellied
- Acadian
- Alder
- Willow
- Least
- Eastern Phoebe
- Great Crested
- Eastern Kingbird
- VIREO, White-eyed
- Blue-headed
- Yellow-throated
- Warbling
- Red-eyed
- LARK, Horned
- SWALLOWS
- Purple Martin
- Tree
- Northern Rough-winged
- Bank
- Cliff
- Barn
- JAY, Blue
- CROW, American
- Fish
- RAVEN, Common
- CHICKADEE, Black-capped
- Carolina
- TITMOUSE, Tufted
- NUTHATCH, Red-breasted
- White-breasted
- CREEPER, Brown
- WREN, Carolina
- House

Winter

- Sedge
- Marsh
- KINGLET, Golden-crowned
- Ruby-crowned
- GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray
- BLUEBIRD, Eastern
- THRUSHES
- Veery
- Gray-cheeked
- Bicknell's
- Swainson's
- Hermit
- Wood
- ROBIN, American
- CATBIRD, Gray
- MOCKINGBIRD, Northern
- THRASHER, Brown
- STARLING, European
- PIPIT, American
- WAXWING, Cedar
- WARBLER, Blue-winged
- Golden-winged
- Tennessee
- Nashville
- Northern Parula
- Yellow
- Chestnut-sided
- Magnolia
- Cape May
- Black-throated Blue
- Yellow-rumped
- Black-throated Green
- Blackburnian
- Yellow-throated
- Pine
- Prairie
- Palm
- Bay-breasted
- Blackpoll
- Cerulean
- Black-and-white
- American Redstart
- Prothonotary
- Worm-eating
- Ovenbird
- Northern Waterthrush
- Louisiana Waterthrush
- Kentucky
- Mourning
- Common Yellowthroat
- Hooded
- Wilson's
- Canada
- Yellow-breasted Chat

TOWHEE, Eastern

- SPARROW, Chipping
- Field
- Vesper
- Savannah
- Grasshopper
- Nelson's
- Saltmarsh
- Seaside
- Song
- Lincoln's
- Swamp
- White-throated
- White-crowned
- Dark-eyed Junco
- TANAGER, Summer
- Scarlet
- CARDINAL, Northern
- GROSBEAK, Rose-breasted
- Blue
- BUNTING, Indigo
- DICKCISSEL
- BOBOLINK
- BLACKBIRD, Red-winged
- MEADOWLARK, Eastern
- GRACKLE, Boat-tailed
- Common
- COWBIRD, Brown-headed
- ORIOLE, Orchard
- Baltimore
- FINCH, Purple
- House
- SISKIN, Pine
- GOLDFINCH, American
- SPARROW, House

Exotism Collared Dove *ED*

7 _____ *

7 _____ *

7 _____ *

* A write-in Sighting Report must accompany each write-in species.

For COMPETING TEAMS only. If nothing checked team will be entered in Statewide category.

LGA _____ (county)

LGA County Par: _____

Species Total: _____

LGA % of Par: _____

Cape May County Only Cape Island

Big Stay Carbon Footprint Cup

Youth: Div. A Div. B Div. C

Senior

OFFICIAL TOTAL
(under the 95% rule)

182

I certify that the birds recorded on this sheet were seen or heard by the above team members in compliance with all World Series of Birding rules.

Signature of Team Captain

Turn in the entire form by midnight to WSB officials.
Fax 609.884.6052

Team Name: DVOC LOONS

Captain: WILLIAM REAUME

Sponsor: _____

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