

Philadelphia Larus

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Winter 1997

CHRISTMAS COUNTS

We birders have lots of opportunities in the bleak mid-winter to get out and bird — and to potentially help the birds we watch in the process. By contributing time to Christmas counts, we can help to document trends in winter bird populations throughout our region. Birders of all skill levels are welcome — call the listed compilers to find out where to you can help.

Friday, December 19

- **New Jersey Pelagic Count** - Alan Brady, 215-598-7856 (\$50 fee for boat)

Saturday, December 20

- Wyncote Audubon Society - Martin Selzer, 215-233-9090
- Southern Bucks County - Bob Mercer, 215-785-1177
- Delaware County - Skip Conant, 610-544-0871
- Western Gloucester, NJ - Bob Cassell, 609-478-2496
- Elkton, MD - Joel Citron, 302-475-8773
- Oceanville, NJ (Brigantine) - Brian Moscatello, 201-871-7226

Sunday, December 21

- Cape May, NJ - Louise Zemaitis, 609-884-2736 (w)
- Upper Bucks-Montgomery County - Hart Rufe, 215-257-8677
- Salem, NJ - Jerry Haag, 609-358-3039
- Middletown, DE - Bruce Lantz, 302-836-0487
- Pinelands, NJ - Bob Confer, 609-859-2973

Saturday, December 27

- Valley Forge, PA - Tony Fernandez, 610-647-7868
- Elverson, PA - Bob Cook, 610-286-9919
- Wilmington, DE - Howard Brokaw, 302-655-8076
- Seaford, DE - Bill Fintel, 302-645-5561

Sunday, December 28

- Moorestown, NJ - Tom Bailey, 609-426-4727
- Bombay Hook, DE - Andy Ednie, 302-792-9591
- Belleplain, NJ - Paul Kosten, 609-861-5827
- Central Bucks County, PA - Ken Kitson, 610-847-2968

Wednesday, December 31

- Elmer, NJ - Jerry Haag, 609-358-3039

Saturday, January 3

- Rehoboth Beach, DE - Joe Swertinski, 609-292-1592

Sunday, January 4

- Cumberland County, NJ - Clay Sutton, 609-465-3397
- Cape Henlopen, DE - Meta Little, 302-368-3472

Saturday, January 10

- Philadelphia Mid-winter Bird Census (not an Audubon Christmas count) - Keith Russell, 215-844-2810

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Upcoming Programs

- **January 8 - Annual Meeting.** Come hear what was seen on various Christmas counts, and vote for new officers. Refreshments will be served.
- **January 22 - Birds of Armenia,** presented by guest speaker Dr. Daniel Clem.
- **February 5 - Arctic vs. Antarctic** - VENT's Jeff Gordon looks at the difference between the poles.
- **February 19 - Book Auction** - The DVOC's Bob Mercer auctions books, artwork and other birding paraphernalia to raise money for the club's conservation fund. Bring your wallet and a friend.

Upcoming Field Trips

- **Jan 10 - Florence, NJ** for the gull extravaganza. Call Ward Dasey at 609/953-1685.
- **Jan 17, 18 & 19 - Montauk (Long Island), NY** for exciting winter birding - eiders, scoters and alcids. Call Eric Brendel at 215/844-3456 or Chris Walters at 215/642-6862 for more details and to sign up. Please note that participation is limited due to lodging space constraints — first come, first served!
- **January 24 & 25 - Fabulous Finch Foray to the Poconos.** \$49 fee covers overnight lodging at the Pocono Environmental Education Center, including three meals and a cocktail party. Contact Phil Street at 610-647-8324 if you're interested in going, as he'll need to make reservations. Bring Saturday lunch, meet at the Days Inn on Routes 22 and 309.
- **Feb 15 - Pelagic out of Cape May NJ** on the Miss Chris with leader Paul Guris for alcids, skua and fulmars. 5 a.m. - 5 p.m. Contact Captain Fred Ascoli at 609/884-3939 or Paul Guris at 215/234-8557 for more information or to sign up.

DONATIONS WANTED!

Do you have old, unwanted bird books stuffed in an attic, box or closet? Or a piece of avian art you don't have room for? Or an old pair of binoculars, long since replaced by something "better"? Donate your castaways to our upcoming auction, and help us raise money for the club's conservation fund! Bob Mercer will be accepting donations on Jan. 22 and Feb. 5.

MORE COMING SOON

a full-length newsletter is coming in January...

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN MEETING DATES FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY!!!

Due to the fact that New Year's Day falls on the first Thursday, DVOC meetings for January 1998 will be held on the second and fourth Thursday of the month, rather than the normal first and third. The dates are January 8 and January 22. Please make a note of the change!



IS THE MEETING CANCELED?

In the event of threatening weather occurring on a Thursday, DVOC has set up a way for you to find out if a meeting has been canceled. No, you won't have to find a computer and check our web site or wait for an e-mail message. We'll do it the old-fashioned way, utilizing the telephone. (No, no smoke signals). First, if the weather seems threatening, the president and the vice president/program chair, will consult and make a decision regarding the meeting by 2 p.m. If a meeting is definitely canceled, we will do our best to activate the telephone tree that we use for rare-bird sightings. If you are not part of this hotline, give Paul Guris a call at 215-234-8557 and ask him to update his list! Second, once the president makes a decision, members can call Sandy Sherman, who will serve as the conduit for this information. Her home answering machine will be updated between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. the day of the meeting if there are any changes. For example, the meeting could be conducted, but the speaker won't be able to make it. Call Sandy at 610-237-6814 to get the taped message. Or call her at work, 215-893-5739, till 5 p.m. Now that we have a mechanism in place to combat winter weather, let's hope we don't have to use it!

NICK PULCINELLA WINS 1997 JULIAN POTTER AWARD

Kudos to Nick Pulcinella, who received the 1997 Julian Potter award at this year's Annual Banquet. Nick was honored for his extensive field work in Delaware County. For several years, he has run a birding competition called the Reality Birding League — a competition that encourages participants to bird in Delaware County. He has also manned the Rose Valley hawk watch, served for years as the compiler for the Glenolden Christmas count and served as regional compiler for Records of Pennsylvania Birds.

The Witmer Stone award was not given this year.

Send information you would like considered for publication in the Philadelphia Larus to:

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