Dear Delaware Valley Ornithological Club member,

The fifth annual interim Larus is being prepared as the relatively balmy fall weather continues. Let's hope the lingerers hang in there through the official Audubon Christmas Count period. And it would be nice if the late migrant birds stay, too.

Here is a smattering of dates for area counts and their compilers.

**DEC. 17:** GLENOLDEN, Frank Haas, 215-565-6319.
BRIGANTINE (Oceanville), Brian Moscatello, 609-235-1739.
WYLCOTE, Cliff Hene, 215-438-1707.
WEST CHESTER, Barry Blust, 215-458-5616.
PENNYPACK VALLEY, Bob Billings, 215-677-5853.
WILMINGTON, Howard Brokaw, 302-655-8076.

**DEC. 18:** UPPER BUCKS COUNTY, Hart Ruff, 215-257-6308.
SOUTHERN LANCASTER COUNTY, Bob Schutsky, 717-687-8019.
PINELANDS, Howard Boyd, 609-268-1734.
BOMBAY HOOK, Dave Cutler, 215-886-0937.
MARMORA, Dr. Ed Eristow, 609-641-4671.

**DEC. 26:** NW GLOUCESTER COUNTY, Michael Delozier, 609-589-0651.
**DEC. 31:** CAPE MAY, Keith Seager, 609-884-8783.
AUDUBON (Valley Forge), Russ Swetz, 215-269-9675.
REHOBOTH, Del., Winston Wayne, 302-658-0282.

**JAN. 1:** CUMBERLAND COUNTY, Clay Sutton, 609-465-3397.
BARNEGAT, Alan Brady, 215-968-2833.
CAPE HENLOPEN, Del., Gene Hess, 302-658-9111.

ON A SAD NOTE: DVOC Fellow and contributor to Project VIREO Serge LaFrance died suddenly on Dec. 4. We remember Serge fondly for his documentary bird photos, many of which appear in the latest Cassinia, and his fine slide programs, especially the latest on Attu. We all wish his wife, Cindy, the deepest of sympathy.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:
**JAN. 5:** Election of officers, with refreshments served.
**JAN. 19:** Paul Kerlinger, director, Cape May Bird Observatory, "The Unnatural History of Snowy Owls."

**FEB. 2:** Slide contest. Categories are Birds, Natural History and Scenery. Limit: three slides per category per person.
**FEB. 16:** Dave Ward, "Sea Watch Off Avalon."
**MARCH 2:** Rich Ditch, "Photography Is for the Birds."

FIELD TRIPS:
**JAN. 14-15:** Annual DVOC Pocomo Weekend. Meet at 8 a.m. Saturday morning, at the Day's Inn, Routes 309 and 22, Allentown. For information, call Phil Street, 215-687-6542.

We understand that competing with Phil's trip this year is Keith Russell's regenerated Philadelphia County Bird Count, on Jan. 14. For information on participating, call Keith at 299-1155.

Meanwhile, happy holidays, good winter birding — and stay warm.

Sandy Sherman
Editor, Philadelphia Larus