

Sussex Bird Club Field Trip Report

Location: Cape May, NJ area

Date: September 17-18, 2019

Time: 8:45 AM – 7:30 PM

Weather: Windy, warm (80F), sunny, humid

Leaders: Carol and Rob Blye, Rob Schroeder

Attendees: John Long, Kevin Moore, Martha Eisenhour, Ruth Ann Kaufman and Doug Winkelman

Two cars with three people each departed the Lewes Ferry terminal for Cape May to spend two days birding. We proceeded directly to CMPSP hawk watch where we were met by Ruth Ann and Doug. We spent several hours at Cape May Point State Park both at the hawk watch on the trails through the woods and marshes. Accipiters and falcons were flying as were a few warblers and waterfowl. We had lunch at Cappilettis deli then checked in to the hotel rooms before heading to the CMBO Northwood Center to look at books and bird the misters and feeders. We got northern parula and Prothonotary warblers. We then walked partly around Lily Lake for more warblers and vireos including two black-and-white warblers.

Next we went to the Rea Farm (beanery) which yielded a flock of 13 wild turkeys, three Wilson's snipe and several American kestrels. As we departed, the police approached us asking what we were doing. When we explained birding and he saw the binoculars he did not arrest anyone, although we offered up Rob Schroeder as a sacrifice. Our last stop before taking Martha to the Ferry was Higbee Beach WMA to scout for the next morning and show Martha the sights. We ended the day at TNC's South Cape May Meadows which was dead birdwise except for a female yellow warbler we tried to make into something else. Dinner was at Lucky Bones.

We met at 6:30 AM to drive to Higbee Beach for the morning flight. Lots of warblers were moving but did not sit still long enough for good looks, although some of us saw a worm-eating warbler pointed out to us by a fellow birder; lots of American redstarts and red-eyed vireos. After a hearty breakfast at which we celebrated John's birthday, we spent some time on the hawk watch platform and added red-tailed and broad-winged hawks. Next was The Wetland Institute (Stone Harbor) where we saw lots of herons including tri-colored and both night herons. We stopped on the side of the road at Nummy Island for shorebirds including oystercatcher and ended the trip at Cape May NWR Two Mile Unit. We boarded the last ferry to Lewes and arrived safely home about 7:30.

The eBird checklists for our trip are presented below:

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S59877128>

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S59880435>

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S59882029>

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S59882734>

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S59938939>

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S59897764>

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S59903434>

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S59903537>

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S59904208>

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S59907665>