

## Sussex Bird Club Field Trip Report

Location: Ocean City, MD, Assateague Island NS, & Assawoman WA

Date: December 4, 2019

Time: 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM: Cool (30-40F), partly cloudy

Leaders: Kevin Moore, Rob Schroeder, Carol and Rob Blye

Attendees: Judy-Rose Seibert, Mike Spangler, Maude Banks, John Long, Sharon Lynn, Dan Laughman, Ann Dinkel, Martha Eisenhour, Dick Plambeck.

Twelve members and one soon to be member met at the parking lot of Safeway in Rehoboth Beach about 7 AM. We carpooled to the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Park in Ocean City, MD to bird the Isle of Wight Bay and Skimmer Island. Many bufflehead, several oystercatchers and red-breasted mergansers and a flock of brant were seen. We then crossed the Route 50 Bridge to Hoopers Crab House to view the same places from the other side. We picked up a royal tern and a belted kingfisher and confirmed the dunlin and sanderling seen from the eastern side.

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S61971551>

Next a pit stop at Chick-fil-A and the short drive to Elliot's Pond seen from Golf Course Road. The pond, aka West Ocean City and Golf Course pond, was brimful with waterfowl; we saw some 15 species. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S61973078>

Next we made our way to South Point boat ramp and saw many horned grebes and a few myrtle warblers, a mockingbird and a bluebird. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S61974234> Next was the visitor center at Assateague Island National Seashore where one of the volunteers was from Bethany Beach and had been on the Cape Henlopen field trip with many of us two weeks ago. We toured the refuge stopping to bird several places where we added northern gannett and many red-throated and common loons in the ocean off the campground dune crossing.

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S61976826>

On our way to lunch at Shark Restaurant at the Ocean City Marina we birded the Bayside development pond where we saw a lone American green-winged teal among many other waterfowl. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S61978410>. At lunch, Treasurer John Long accepted dues from our 100<sup>th</sup> member, Dan, which produced a round of applause.

Our last stop in Maryland was the Ocean City Inlet in hopes of common eider (yes) and harlequin duck (no). A mixed flock of ruddy turnstone, purple sandpiper and sanderling flew north from the jetty to forage on the rocks 5 feet away from us on the north side of the Inlet. Many great looks, close study, ohs, ahs and photographs ensued. By now it was after 3 PM but undeterred we made a stop at Assawoman Wildlife Area to search (in failing light) for the European wigeon to no avail. We arrived at Safeway around 5:45 PM tired but exhilarated by the great 64-species day and wonderful weather.

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S61980909>

<https://ebird.org/pa/checklist/S62026236>