

## Sussex Bird Club Field Trip Report

Location: Slaughter Beach and Du Pont Nature Center, Sussex County, PA

Date: Thursday May 16, 2019

Time: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM

Weather: Started bright, then rain then hot and sunny

Leaders: Rob and Carol Blye

Attendees: Annette Jeffers, Ann Marie Dinkel, Dennis Murphy, Gina Sheridan, Sharon Lynn, John Long, Martha Eisenhour, Sue Gruver, Jim Coulson, Ruth Ann Kaufman, Teddy Burke, Nancy Edwards, Suzie Ball, Liz Clements, Beth Law, Ken Bass joined by Maureen Ewadinger at Slaughter Beach Fire House and Anne Porter at DuPont.

Twenty weather hardy members of the Sussex Bird Club met at Prime Hook headquarters to start our field trip to Slaughter Beach and Mispillion led by Rob and Carol Blye. It was raining, chilly and overcast although the day started and ended warm and bright. We drove from Prime Hook to Slaughter Beach and stood under the Firehouse Pavilion out of the rain. There was a selection of shorebirds visible but nothing special. A group of 20 middle school students from Abbott's Mill Nature Center showed up and chased SBC from under the pavilion. We then moved to the new Marvel Saltmarsh boardwalk

The rain stopped and the sun came out which encouraged the no see ums to come out and bite us. The highlights of the boardwalk were several seaside sparrows and a saltmarsh sparrow out in the open, visible to all, and a Virginia rail that skulked into the cordgrass before most of us saw it. We also had a northern parula, an American redstart and a common yellowthroat.

Next we drove from the boardwalk at Marvel Saltmarsh to Slaughter Beach North at Evans Road parking area and birded the edge of bay with lots more no see ums.

The bugs and smell drove us back to cars quickly, however.

Enroute to DuPont Nature Center we birded from Lighthouse Road and the deck at DNC... Large number of shorebirds but very few red knots. The bugs and heat drove us back to the cars. Thanks to all who showed up and braved the weather.

The four eBird checklists for our trip are at:

<https://ebird.org/pa/view/checklist/S56356702>

<https://ebird.org/pa/view/checklist/S56345818>

<https://ebird.org/pa/view/checklist/S56348856>

<https://ebird.org/pa/view/checklist/S56348808>