

## **Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen, NJ North Coast Region Memorial Field Trip January 22, 2024**

The Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen Memorial Field Trip, NJ North Shore took place along the New Jersey North Coast Region Monday, January 22, 2024. The 274 mile tour began at Manasquan Inlet's south jetty Point Pleasant Beach, 9:30 a.m. temperature 8 degrees and concluded at Lake Takanassee 34 degrees.

During a Field Ornithology course in 1967 at Montclair State University taught by Dr. Kuhnen was when I first birded the NJ North Shore. Subsequently, Marie and I birded the region together for the next 39 years, this trip was my 57th year. Many of those trips led by Marie served as opportunities for Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) staff members' professional development and personal enrichment.

Jack Padalino, president emeritus of PEEC as well as Brandwein Institute, a partner with the National Park Service, orchestrated this North Shore Tour that included visiting numerous fresh water ponds, estuaries, inlets, and oceanfront. Many of the fresh water ponds were frozen whole a few had some open water.

A North Shore tour, November through March is noted for loons, grebes, Northern Gannet, Great Cormorant, geese, ducks including dabblers, divers, and sea ducks, Purple Sandpiper, gulls, and if we're lucky, Alcids. How did we do? Noteworthy species on the list are “\*”

It is also possible to see noteworthy species sighted in the past such as Red-necked Grebe, Eurasian Widgeon, Common and King Eiders, Harlequin Duck, Little, Common Black-headed, Bonaparte's, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous Gulls, as well as Black-legged Kittiwake. A list of rare species observed in the past include Eared and Western Grebes, Tufted Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, Sooty Tern, Black-tailed Gull, Sabine's Gull, Dovekie, Common and Thick-billed Murres, Black Guillemot and Razorbill, an impressive list of “target species” for the tour.

Trip list includes:

Brant  
Canada goose  
Mute Swan  
Gadwall  
American Widgeon  
American Black Duck Mallard  
Ring-necked Duck  
Greater Scaup  
Surf Scoter  
Black Scoter  
Long-tailed Duck  
Bufflehead  
Hooded Merganser

Red-breasted Merganser  
Ruddy Duck  
Red-throated Loon  
Common Loon  
Horned Grebe  
Red-necked Grebe \*  
Western Grebe \*  
Northern Gannet  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Red-tailed Hawk  
American Coot  
Sanderling  
Semipalmated Sandpiper  
Dovekie \*  
Razorbill \*  
Black Guillemot \*  
Bonaparte's Gull \*  
Ring-billed Gull  
Herring Gull  
Lesser Black-backed Gull \*  
Great Black-backed Gull  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Feral Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove  
American Crow  
Fish Crow  
American Robin  
European Starling  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Common Grackle  
Boat-tailed Grackle  
House Sparrow