

Bird Quest Training Sessions 2017

Please note that there are AM and PM sessions!

April 19 (Wednesday) 7:30 – 9 A.M.

Washington Lake Park

626 Hurffville-Cross Keys Rd, Sewell, NJ 08080

This is the largest municipal park in New Jersey and in spring it comes alive with songbird and raptor migrants adding to the year-round residents. Red-winged Blackbirds and Canada Geese are nesting around the lakes. Many migrants begin nesting in the woods, especially near the streams, and the Bluebirds are active around their boxes. ***Directions:** Meet at the parking lot by the amphitheater, accessible from either entrance.*

Leaders: Marilyn Henry and Barb Bassett

April 20 (Thursday) 6 - 7:30 P.M.

Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust

400 Rankin Ave., Deptford, NJ 08096

Open views of the water provide good opportunity for sighting water birds like ducks, herons, red wing blackbirds and mergansers. Wooded section could produce woodpeckers, nuthatches, warblers, chickadees, and tufted titmouse. ***Directions:** Access from Good Intent road (Rt.534), turn onto Rankin Ave. Follow to end and park. Walk down woods road to the Big Timber Creek.*

Leaders: Ed & Millie Cleary

April 22 (Saturday) 7:30 - 9 A.M.

Greenwich Lake Park

Tomlin Station Road, Gibbstown, NJ 08027

The paved and unpaved trails here explore various habitats and wind past lagoons and waterways that drain eventually into the Delaware River. In spring, look for Green Herons among the reeds and emergent vegetation in the small ponds and along the banks of the lake. Listen for the song of Yellow Warbler among other migrants. ***Directions:** Meet in the main parking lot.*

Leaders: Jayne Rhynard and Marilyn Henry

April 23 (Sunday) 6 - 7:30 P.M. Birding Basics.

Alcyon Lake Park

Track Ave. Pitman, NJ 08071 (off W. Holly Avenue)

Learn the basics of good birding and the tools of the trade. Discover the world of birding from bird guides to binoculars, birding etiquette to bird song and of course bird identification. Any level of interest is welcome. Questions are encouraged. A walk around the park will let you use your newfound - or refreshed - skills. ***Directions:** Drive past sports fields; meet at the pavilion.*

Leaders: Rich Dilks, Mike and Suzan DeLozier

April 24 (Monday) 6:30 - 8 P.M. Birding by Ear - Part 1

“An Introduction to Birdcalls”

Wenonah Lake

W. Maple St., Wenonah, NJ 08090

Learn mnemonics and “tricks of the trade” to identify birds by their songs and calls. This is a great session for novices and those that would like to brush-up on their “Birding by Ear” skills. ***Directions:** Meet in the parking lot.*

Leaders: Brian Hayes and Jeff Mollenhauer

April 25 (Tuesday) 7 - 8:30 A.M.

Tall Pines State Preserve

Bark Bridge Rd., Sewell, NJ 08080

Newly preserved by the state, this former golf course has ponds, marsh and wetlands, and patches of eastern hardwood forest. More than seventy species of birds, including the Bald Eagle, a rare albino Red Tail Hawk and eleven species of warblers, have been identified here. ***Directions:** From Rt. 553 (Woodbury-Glassboro Rd) turn west onto Bark Bridge Rd. Park in the lot on the left. Please do not park at Hutchinson Cabinets.*

Leaders: Rich Dilks and Erik Mollenhauer

April 27 (Thursday) 6 - 7:30 P.M. Junior Birding

Red Bank Battlefield Park

100 Hessian Avenue National Park, 08063

This field trip is designed to introduce young birders to the "sport." Binoculars to borrow will be available to all participants on this trip. As they enjoy all the birds, young birders will be shown how to locate and identify birds through binoculars and in field guides. This is a great first field trip for a child that is interested in birding. Depending on the age and size of the group of the birders we can divide the group by age or ability. This trip will be designed to be fun and engage children with the goal of introducing them to the activity. However, any level of interest is welcome. Questions are encouraged.

Directions: Meet at the pavilion closest to the river.

Leaders: Paula Hayes and Maria Keefe

April 28 (Friday) 7 – 8:30 A.M.

Ceres Park Nature Preserve

Main Street/Alternate Route 553, Mantua Township, 08080

Learn your woodland birds like wood thrush, scarlet tanagers, ovenbirds, water thrush, black and white warblers, and pine warblers. Birds will be identified by sound, sight or both. *Directions: Meet in the Main Street parking lot.*

Leaders: Barry Bengel and Jayne Rhynard

April 29 (Saturday) 7:30 – 9 A.M.

Chestnut Branch Park

545 Main Street, Mantua, NJ 08051

Find the hidden habitat in any location. This multiple use park has some great birding spots around and among the ball fields. Find species that like the edge like indigo buntings, mockingbirds, and yellow-rump warblers.

Directions: Meet at the wildflower garden, beyond the basketball courts.

Leaders: Bob Duke and Jay Hoffecker

April 30 (Sunday) 7:00 - 8:30 A.M.

Scotland Run Park

980 E Academy St, Clayton, NJ 08312

In the largest of the county parks, Warblers and other song birds are abundant and conspicuous in the spring. Look for Prairie Warbler, Ovenbird, Eastern Bluebird, Field Sparrow, Orchard Oriole, and Louisiana Water thrush, among others. *Directions: Meet in the parking lot on the lake side of Academy St.*

Leaders: Ron and Linda Kegel

May 1 (Monday) 6– 7:30 P.M. Birding by Ear - Part 2

“To Pish or Not to Pish, That is the Question.”

Jack Sheppard Community Center (historic train station)

E. Mantua Ave & N. East Ave, Wenonah, NJ 08090

In a classroom setting, continue to learn mnemonics and “tricks of the trade” to identify birds by their songs and calls. Learn about Pishing - What is it? Who does it? Is it right for you?

Leaders: Brian Hayes and Jeff Mollenhauer

May 3 (Wednesday) 6 - 7:30 P.M.

Wheelabrator Refuge

600 Crown Point Rd, Westville, 08093

At the intersection of the Delaware River and Big Timber Creek, the wide-open space behind the Wheelabrator plant is great habitat for swamp, meadow and river birds. Trails and old roads make access easy. Bobwhite can be heard here.

Directions: Access from Rt. 130 (Crown Point Rd,) opposite Hazel Ave in Westville, just south of Big Timber Creek. Meet at the pavilion in parking lot.

Leaders: Kris Mollenhauer and Marilyn Henry

May 4 (Thursday) 6 - 7:30 P.M.

RiverWinds Park

1000 Riverwinds Drive, Thorofare, NJ 08086

Riverside shrubs and forested areas along the Delaware River make for great birding here. Start at the at the West Deptford Scenic Trail and, if time allows, continue along the Delaware River. Look for migrating warblers, scarlet tanagers, hawks and maybe a bald eagle! *Directions; Turn left onto RiverWinds Drive. Go approx. 1000 ft, then turn right at the trail sign.*

Leaders: Gary Lizzi and Gale Cannon