

Saturday, June 24, 7:00 AM **(Note new time!)**

Ocean City Visitor's Center

Route 52 Causeway, Ocean City, NJ

Address for Google Maps: 300 W. 9th St. Ocean City NJ GPS coordinates: 39.288129, -74.582899

Early Morning Night-Heron Photo Shoot

If you attended Den DiMarco's presentation on "Tips on Photographing Birds", you might be itching to try out those camera settings and techniques. Well, here's your big chance! On Saturday, June 24, 7 AM, we'll meet at the Ocean City Visitor's Center on the Route 52 Causeway leading into Ocean City for a photo shoot.

There, many Yellow Crowned and Black Crowned Night Herons will be building or occupying nests, some or many with chicks. They'll pose for you, preen, maybe add to the nest, possibly feed their chicks and likely fly around – at a reasonable speed not too difficult to capture. Since you'll be standing on an elevated walkway, you'll be at eye level with many of the birds and close enough to get good photos, but far enough away not to disturb the birds.

The sun (if not blocked by clouds) will be behind you and lighting the birds perfectly – as long as you make sure that your long shadow is pointing toward the bird you're photographing. Even if the sky is overcast, you'll still get repeated opportunities to practice your bird photography technique and you'll still get decent photos.

Last year there were also two Glossy Ibis' nests, so that could be a bonus for you!

If you have a Canon DSLR, you can borrow one of Den's two 400 mm lenses or attach your camera to his 500 mm lens for some extra magnification.

Your homework before the field trip: Be sure to set up your camera for perched bird shots as described in the presentation.

Our goals will be these:

1. Photograph a perched bird, fully lit by the sun, face turned slightly toward you, with a glint in its eye.
2. Photograph a bird performing some action – preening, stretching, yawning, etc., fully lit by the sun, face turned slightly toward you, with a glint in its eye.
3. Photograph a bird flying toward the camera, even if slightly, fully lit by the sun, with a glint in its eye.

And I (Den) will be there to help.

Afterwards, be sure to show off your best photos on the GCNC Facebook page or Meetup page!

On the night before, if the weather forecast is for rain in the early morning, then this event will be cancelled. You may contact Den DiMarco at 856-842-1790 or ddm444@comcast.net.

