

Gloucester County Nature Club

Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public
March 2004

*****Note Change of Location*****

Directions- Heading from Rt. 55 on Rt. 553 (Woodbury/Glassboro Road) make a right onto Adams then the first left onto Highland Ave. Then make another right onto Washington Ave. The school will be on your right. (The road the school is on is one way, hence the need to circle the block.) Parking is on the street in front of the school.

Program- Pelagic Birding in the Mid-Atlantic - Thursday, March 11th

At 7:00 PM at the Kindle School in Pitman

Program Coordinator- Bob Cassel 478-2496

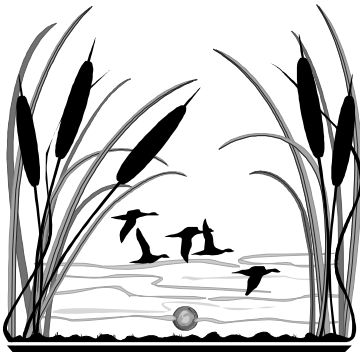
This program will be an introduction to pelagic birding in our area. The term pelagic refers to birds that spend most of their time at sea; they only come to land to nest. Most of these birds can only be seen by taking a lengthy boat ride. Our speaker, Paul Guris, the owner of See Life Paulagics, a company that specializes in pelagic tours. He will cover topics relating to pelagic birding in our area such as habitat, birds and other wildlife. Paul will describe what to expect on a pelagic trip.

Field Trip- "The Glades" Wildlife Refuge- Saturday, March 13th Downe Township (Cumberland County)

Field Trip Coordinator- Kris Mollenhauer 589-4387

Join us for a 2-3 mile round trip hike on the Russell Farm Trail. The trail passes through a hardwood swamp, abandoned farm fields, and leads to an observation tower that offers a spectacular view of the tidal marsh. Bird life on the marsh is diverse at all times of the year. We will look for Bald Eagles and other birds of prey, waterfowl, Hermit Thrush and Woodcock along the trail. If time allows we will end the trip at Turkey Point. Meet at the Creek Café Restaurant in Dividing Creek between **8:30-9AM and have breakfast or come at 10AM for the hike.** Bring binocs, water, snacks; dress warm and wear boots (the trail has some wet spots).

Driving Directions to Dividing Creek: Take Rt 55 south. Take Exit 24 to 49 west. A few blocks after crossing the Maurice River turn **LEFT** onto Cedar St/Rt 610. In a few more blocks, turn left onto Silver Run Rd. In about one mile, bear **RIGHT** onto Rt 555. Go about 10 miles, At T-intersection with Rt 553 turn left (southeast) onto Rt 553. The "town" of Dividing Creek is ½ mile ahead. Meet at Creek Café, 977 Main St, (phone # 856 785-8811), is on your left – just before the bridge over Dividing Creek. **Meet here!!!** After breakfast, go north on Rt 553 about 4 miles to the "town" of Newport. Turn south (left) onto County Rd 656, then south onto Cty Rd 637 at blinking yellow light. Follow signs to Fortescue. Parking for Russell Farm Trail is



located at 2.4 miles from the light, on your left (unpaved lot in the woods). Trail leads from lot.
Leader: Kris Mollenhauer Co-leader: Bob Baruzzi

Are Your Cleaning Products Safe?

By Paula Hayes

Would you be willing to spend a few extra cents on a product that is safer for you and your family? What if this same product was also better for the environment? If this interests you, you may want to reconsider some of the household cleaning products you currently buy. Items such as detergents, disinfectants, deodorizers, furniture polishes, toilet cleaners, spot removers, and many other commonly used cleaners contain toxins. These toxins are released into your home as you clean. They can aggravate breathing disorders such as asthma, trigger allergic reactions, contribute to cancer, and can lead to a variety of other health risks.

These products also contaminate the air (inside your home and out), and water when they are sprayed, flushed, or washed down the drain. Remember the water on this planet is finite; it must be recycled so we will need to use it again even if it contains toxins.



There **are** choices to these mainstream cleaners. It can be tough though, to decide which cleaners are safest for you and your family. Manufacturers aren't required to list all ingredients and the ones they do list you often need degree in Chemistry to understand. However a good guideline is to avoid purchasing and using products that have words such as DANGER, CAUTION, WARNING, and FATAL IF SWALLOWED. There are good alternatives available. Some companies to consider are Bon Ami, Seventh Generation, Dr. Bonners, Ecos, Ecoover, and Earthwise. Many of these companies have made their way into traditional grocery stores, others are available at specialty stores, and some are available by mail.

When we decided to "green" the way we clean our home we started small, changing only one or two things at a time. Every little bit helps. I am sensitive to many clothing detergents so I was thrilled to find one with no perfumes, dyes, or phosphates. We got lots of advice from friends and found help in a book called Clean & Green by Annie Berthold-Bond, it is published by Ceres Press. I would like to extend an offer of help to all of you. I don't have all the answers but if you want some ideas, more information, a list of non-toxic cleaning products, or other help in finding healthier cleaners drop me an email (pnbhayes@aol.com) and I will try to help you find the answer you need. I hope you will consider your health as well as the health of the environment when you choose your cleaning products.

The 2004 Gloucester County Bird Quest BirdQuest: May 1

The Gloucester County Nature Club and many area businesses, industries and local environmental commissions invite GCEA members and friends to participate in the **2004 (fifth annual) Gloucester County Bird Quest**. **The 2004 Bird Quest** will take place on **Sat., May 1, 2004 from 7 AM to 12 noon in Gloucester County**.

During this time, teams visit parks and natural sites in Gloucester County and find as many different bird species as they can. The purpose of the Quest is to discover natural areas of Gloucester County, to learn to identify birds by sight and sound, and to have fun with friends, colleagues and family. **The Quest is an educational event: novices are encouraged to participate.** At noon, all participants gather at Atkinson County Park on Delsea Drive to report results and for **(free) lunch, t-shirts, posters and prizes.**

Most people organize their own team with colleagues, friends, and/or family. Last years Gloucester County Bird Quest attracted several hundred participants made up of teachers, school groups, scout troops, environmental commissions, families, friends... residents of Gloucester and neighboring counties. This year with support from Wheelabrator, LP of Gloucester County, the Club will operate two (free) guided buses for teachers and other persons who are unable to form their own team and are willing to join a larger group.

The **2004 Gloucester County Bird Quest** highlights the importance of International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), a nation-wide effort to draw attention to the plight and needs of migratory birds. The 2004 IMBD theme, "*Conservation of Colonial Birds*", explores the fascinating variety, habits and conservation issues of colonial birds, some of which live in Gloucester County.. The colorful IMBD T-shirt and poster can be viewed at

<http://birds.fws.gov/imbd>

A county map and other materials are provided to registered teams. **A \$10 fee per participant covers the cost of lunch, T-shirt, posters, prizes etc.** For more information and registration forms, go to the Gloucester County Nature Club's website at www.gcnatureclub.org To join a team or to ride a bus, contact Anne Rossell at EIRC, 606 Delsea Drive, Sewell NJ 08080. Registration forms can also be requested by phone (856-582-7000 X110) FAX (856-582-4206) or e-mail at anner@eirc.org. **Participants can attend any of a series of free field trainings in the evenings, mornings and weekends before the Quest; see the list below:**

BirdQuest 2004 Training Sessions

April 13 – Tuesday 6:00 – 7:00 AM

BirdQuest Training

Heritage Road, Sewell

Meet at Bob's house at 407 Heritage Road, Sewell. For directions call Bob at 478-2496.

Leader: Bob and Carol Cassel

Co Leader: Maria Musciano

April 14 – Wednesday 6:00 – 7:00 AM

BirdQuest Training

Greenwich Lake, East Greenwich

Directions: From 295/130 take exit 15. At the top of the ramp make a left onto Tomlin Station Road (607). Parking lot is on your right less than a mile.

Leader: Dr. Dick Ebert

Co Leader: Barry Bengel

April 14 – Wednesday 6:00 – 7:00 PM

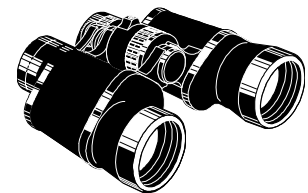
Birding by Ear Part I

EIRC Building, 606 Delsea Drive

This classroom training session is the first of four, two classroom and two outdoor sessions, with a focus on identifying bird song and calls. *Directions: Located right on Delsea Dr. (47) in Washington Twp next to the old Dairy Queen and the Italian Bistro.*

Leader: Erik Mollenhauer

Co Leader: Karen Kravchuck



April 16 – Friday 6:00 – 7:00 AM

Birding by Ear Part II

Old Pine Farm, Deptford

The second of the Birding by ear series, this session applies the knowledge gained through the first classroom session. You will put the study to practical use. *Directions: Access from Good Intent road (534), turn North onto Pine Ave. Follow to end and park. Walk down woods road to the Big Timber Creek.*

Leader: Erik Mollenhauer

Co Leader: Joan Tracy

April 18 – Sunday 8:00 – 9:00 AM BirdQuest Training

West Deptford Scenic Park, West Deptford

Directions: From South on 130/295 take exit 21; make a left at the light onto Crown Point Road. At the next light make a right onto Grove St. At the next light, the intersection of Grove St. and Delaware St (640), make a left into Riverwinds. Meet in the parking lot on your right about 300 feet.

Leader: Jeff Holt

Co Leader: Ed and Millie Cleary

April 19 – Monday 6:00 – 7:00 PM BirdQuest Training

Redbank Battlefield, National Park

Directions: From Red Bank Road (644): make a left on to Hessian Ave (642). Follow until entering the park. Meet in main parking lot on the left.

Leader: Loretta Dunne and Jonathan Stillwell Co Leader: Marge Dolente

April 20 – Tuesday 6:00 – 7:00 AM BirdQuest Training

Glassboro Woods, Clayton

Directions: Meet at Carpenter Ave. off Rt. 47. Carpenter Ave. is about 1.7 miles south of Rt. 322 on Rt. 47. Carpenter Ave. is a dirt road.

Leader: Bob Baruzzi

Co Leader: Kris Mollenhauer

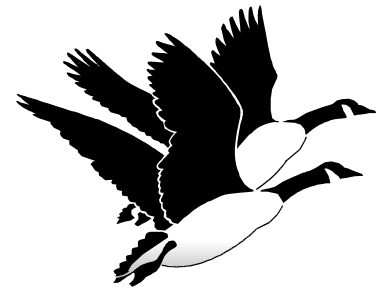
April 21 – Wednesday 6:00 – 7:00 AM BirdQuest Training

Wenonah Lake, Wenonah

Directions: From Woodbury/Glassboro road (553) in Wenonah, turn onto Maple Ave. At the second stop sign turn right into the lake parking lot.

Leader: Gale Cannon

Co Leader: Bob Bevilacqua



April 22 – Thursday 6:00 – 7:00 PM BirdQuest Training

Scotland Run Park, Clayton

Directions: From Delsea Dr (47) in Clayton take 610 Clayton-Williamston Rd. East towards Williamston. Meet at park headquarters on the right across from Wilson Lake.

Leader: Jeff Holt

Co Leader: Doris and Dwight Weir

April 25 – Sunday 8:00 – 9:00 AM BirdQuest Training

Floodgate Road, Greenwich

Directions: Access from Rt. 44 South of Gibbstown. Turn right onto Floodgate road (at the racetrack) and meet all the way down at the gate by the river.

Leader: Dr. Dick Ebert

Co Leader: Karen Kravchuck

April 26 – Monday 6:00 – 7:00 AM BirdQuest Training

Alcyon Lake Park, Pitman

Directions: From 322 take Lambs road (635) to W. Holly Ave. Make a right on W. Holly to Track Ave (Alcyon Park). Take Track Ave past sports fields; meet at the pavilion.

Leader: Bob Baruzzi

Co Leader: Deb Maka

April 26 – Monday 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Birding by Ear Part III

EIRC Building, 606 Delsea Drive

This training session is the second classroom session and third of four total trainings with a focus on identifying bird song and calls. *Directions: Located right on Delsea Dr. (47) in Washington Twp next to the old Dairy Queen and the Italian Bistro.*

Leader: Brian Hayes

Co Leader: Marge Dolente

April 27 – Tuesday 6:00 – 7:00 AM

Birding by Ear Part IV

Lake Narraticon, Swedesboro

The last of the Birding by ear series, this session applies the knowledge gained through classroom and independent study. This is a great time to ask questions about bird song.

Directions: From Kings Highway (551) in Swedesboro turn onto Lake and then turn onto Park Ave. Access is from the end of Park Ave.

Leader: Brian Hayes

Co Leader: Paula Hayes

April 28 – Wednesday 6:00 – 7:00 PM

BirdQuest Training

Wheelabrator, Westville

Directions: Access from 130, opposite Hazel Ave in Westville, just south of Big Timber Creek. Meet in parking lot on the right just before the guard station.

Leader: Bob Duke

Co Leader: Doris & Dwight Weir

April 29 – Thursday 6:00 – 7:00 AM

BirdQuest Training

Ceres Park, Mantua

Directions: From 322 take Lambs Rd (635) to Pitman-Barnsboro Rd (553A). Make a left onto 553A. Watch for Ceres Park sign on your left after crossing over route 55.

Leader: Kris Mollenhauer

Co Leader: John Sullivan

Field Trip Report – “Feeder Trip”

by Bob Baruzzi

What a wonderful morning! Thanks to the generous people who opened their properties to us, we had ten lovely backyard bird worlds to visit. What made the occasion special was the hosts and visitors (human and avian), all seemed to be enjoying themselves. We heard some bird tales, gathered a little natural history and shared some habitat ideas.

Species spotted at these locations were: Hairy, downy and red-bellied woodpeckers, yellow-bellied sapsucker, house finch, Carolina wren, cardinals, blue jays, white breasted nuthatch, white throated and song sparrows, juncos, chickadees, tufted titmouse, mourning doves, goldfinches, mockingbird, hermit thrush and a sharp-shinned hawk. I may have missed a few, and as we know, a half hour earlier or later could have made a difference.

It was a fun outing. Many thanks to those who volunteered their properties, our Field Trip coordinator, Kris Mollenhauer and the one who put it all together, Paula Hayes.



HOUSEHOLD SPECIAL WASTE COLLECTION DAYS LOCATION:

Gloucester County Solid Waste Complex (GCSWC) Monroeville Road (Rt. 694) South Harrison Township. More info available at http://www.gcianj.com/rec_house.htm

DATES: March 6 and April 3(all events 8:00 am to 2:00 pm) (RAIN OR SHINE)

MATERIALS ACCEPTED: Solvents, pesticides, cleaners, kerosene, herbicide, gasoline, turpentine, varnish, fertilizers, rat poisons, auto & floor care products, weed killers, lighter fluid, photo chemicals, pool chemicals, non recyclable batteries, propane tanks and gas cylinders. In addition – paints (latex & oil based), motor oil, antifreeze, fluorescent tubes & ballasts, lead acid & ni-cad batteries will be accepted for recycling.



Peanut Butter Pleases

By Bob Cassel

Those of you who attended the February meeting may recall Erik Mollenhauer's story about the golden crowned-kinglet. Few people can observe the activities of the golden crowned-kinglet from our windows. Unless, that is, we strike it rich one snowy winter day when they come by.

If you were at the February 2003 meeting you may have taken home a free 2x4 wooden peanut butter-cornmeal feeder. If you did, I hope you have had the opportunity to watch the antics of the juncos as they try to feed on the peanut butter. Even when there are perches available the junco hesitates to flutter right onto the perch to enjoy the treat. The male bird will make up his mind pronto and flit down from atop the feeder to a perch. The female takes longer to size up the situation, she cocks her head side to side, and you can almost hear her sigh, "Oh dear, shall I hop down and get to it? When she finally does the Carolina wren comes barreling onto a perch and scares away the juncos. The wren calls out a cheery "Goodie, goodie, goodie!" One mild day I answered her call with a poor mimic and we kept up a delightful conversation repeat after repeat. Bisby, our cat, got quite jealous of this relationship and emits scornful meows of disapproval. Believe me it's fun to watch the birds outside. If you'd like a 2x4 feeder, let me know.

Looking Ahead:

Programs-

April 8 Llyod Shaw on birding in New Jersey

May 13 Rails to Trails (converting railroad right of ways to multi-use trails)

June 10 Picnic

Field Trips-

March 13th –Turkey Point

Wichecheoke Creek on April 25 is Postponed due to Bird Quest trainings

May 1st – The 5th Annual Gloucester County Bird Quest

June 12th - Fort Dix for Bobolinks

Photography Exhibit at Palmyra Cove

Club member, Bob Baruzzi's photography will be featured this month at Palmyra Cove Nature Center from March 8-31. The opening reception will be Friday, March 12 from 4- 9 PM. Bob is a talented photographer and volunteers as a field trip leader for the club. One of Bob's photos can be seen on the club's website on the new feature page. It is of a long-eared owl viewed on our January field trip. The exhibit is open to the public. We encourage you to visit the Nature Center and view Bob's work.

Club Notes:-Executive Meeting-Sunday, March 7th at 7:00 PM at Paula Dearlove's House, call Paula or Brian at 468-9272 for directions. The meeting is open to all members.