

## Bird Quest Training Sessions 2018

**Please note that there are AM and PM sessions!**

**April 15 (Sunday) 6 P.M. to Dusk**

**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 & Suzan DeLozier**

**April 16 (Monday) 6:30 – 8 P.M.**

**Birding by Ear — Part 1 “An Introduction to Birdcalls”**

**Jack Sheppard Community Center (historic train station)**

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

In a classroom setting, 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.

**Leaders: Brian Hayes and Jeff Mollenhauer**

**April 19 (Thursday) 6 P.M. to Dusk**

**Old Pine 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 Cleary & Erik Mollenhauer**

**April 21 (Saturday) 8 – 9:30 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 court.*

**Leaders: Bob Duke and Jay Hoffecker**

**April 23 (Monday) - 6:30 to Dusk**

**Junior Birding**

**Alcyon Lake Park**

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

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 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:** Drive past sports fields; meet at the pavilion.*

**Leaders: Paula Hayes & Maria Keefe.**

**April 24 (Tuesday) 7 - 8:30 A.M.**

**Tall Pines State Preserve**

**Bark Bridge Rd., Sewell, NJ 08080**

Gloucester County's only start park, 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 26 (Thursday) 6 P.M. to Dusk**

**Red Bank Battlefield Park**

**100 Hessian Avenue National Park, 08063**

Located on the Delaware River, this 44-acre site of the Revolutionary War Battle of Red Bank is a developed, passive park with the remains of Fort Mercer. The park provides excellent views of the Delaware River and surrounding bird life. From the parking lot, walk through the park looking and listening for the typical birds found in the spring such as woodpeckers, blue jays, northern cardinals, Carolina wrens, sparrows, and swallows. Next scan the river for gulls, cormorants and possible lingering winter ducks. There is a bald eagle nest nearby. Special emphasis will be placed on learning the songs and calls of common species, and ID tips for crows (American, fish), blackbirds (red-winged, grackle, brown headed cowbird), waterfowl (mallard, bufflehead, mergansers, black duck, grebes) and the common gull species (laughing, herring, ring-billed, great black backed).

**Directions:** Meet at the pavilion closest to the river.

**Leaders: Barb Bassett & Dennis DiMarco**

**April 27 (Friday) 7:30 – 9 A.M.**

**Washington Lake Park**

**626 Hurffville-Crosskeys 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

**Leaders: Barb Bassett & Jayne Rhynard**

**April 28 (Saturday) 7:30 – 9 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 (Sunday) 8 – 10 A.M.**

**Ron & Linda's 8 Lakes Tour**

**Scotland Run Park**

**980 E Academy St, Clayton, NJ 08312**

Something new for BQ Training — Ron & Linda's 8 Lakes Tour — Caravan to check out 8 lakes in the eastern half of the county! Starting at Wilson Lake at Scotland Run Park, travel to Sun Haven Dr. Pond, Silver Lake, Lake Garrison, Idle Acres Lake, Franklinville Lake, Malaga Lake, and Iona Lake looking for waterfowl (including lingering species), Bald Eagle, Great Blue Heron and other wading birds, and "Tweety" birds that frequent water's edge and surrounding areas. Some lakes afford parking and viewing, while others will allow a slow drive by. The trip is approximately 25-30 miles and will run a little more than 2 hours.

**Directions:** Meet at the Wilson Lake side of the Scotland Run parking lot. We will carpool/caravan from there.

**Leaders: Ron & Linda Kegel and Scott Henderson**

**April 30 (Monday) 6:30 – 8 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**

Learn more 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? This is a great session for novices and those that would like to brush-up on their “Birding by Ear” skills.

**Leaders: Brian Hayes and Jeff Mollenhauer**

**THERE ARE 2 BQ TRAINING SESSIONS ON MAY 1<sup>st</sup> — 7:30 AM & 6:30 PM**

**May 1 (Tuesday) 7:30 – 9 A.M.**

**Piney Hollow Preserve**

**Piney Hollow Rd., Franklin Twp. 08344**

Wetlands forested with Atlantic white cedar, uplands covered with mostly oak-pine forest and the 40acre McCarthy’s Lake — once a cranberry bog — are what you will find at this underdeveloped preserve in the southern part of the county. Barred owl, prothonotary, yellow throated, pine and prairie warblers, yellow-throated vireo, scarlet tanagers, and Eastern towhee are among the birds on the site.

**Directions:** *Meet in the parking lot.*

**Leader: Dan Ceravolo**

**May 1 (Tuesday) 6:30 P.M. to Dusk**

**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 West Deptford Nature Trail and, if time allows, continue along the Delaware River. Look for migrating warblers, scarlet tanagers, hawks and maybe a bald eagle!

**Directions;** *Turn onto RiverWinds Drive. Go approx. 1000 ft. then turn right at the Nature Trail sign.*

**Leaders: Gary Lizzi & Gale Cannon**

**May 2 (Wednesday) 7:30 - 9 A.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. Bob White may 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 the parking lot.*

**Leaders: Kris Mollenhauer and Marilyn Henry**