

Bird Quest Training Sessions 2019

Please note that there are AM and PM sessions!

April 14 (Sunday) 6 PM 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 15 (Monday) 6:30 – 8 PM

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

RiverWinds Nature Trail - 1000 RiverWinds Drive, Thorofare, NJ 08086

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

Leaders: Brian Hayes and Jeff Mollenhauer

April 16 (Tuesday) - 6:30 PM to Dusk

Junior Birding at 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 17 (Wednesday) 7 – 8:30 A.M.

Tall Pines State Preserve - Bark Bridge Rd., Sewell, NJ 08080

Gloucester County's only state 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 20 (Saturday) 8 -9:30 A.M.

Alcyon Lake Park - Track Ave. Pitman, NJ 08071 (off W. Holly Avenue)

This park, which includes the 22 acre Alcyon Lake, features areas for both active and passive recreation.

A gravel/paved path around the park makes for easy walking. Keep an eye out for activity around the Bluebird boxes!

Directions: Drive past sports fields; meet at the pavilion

Leader: Bob Duke

April 22 (Monday) 6:30 PM to Dusk

Greenwich Township Walking Trail - Gibbstown 08027

New venue! A little bit hidden, this new park provides easy walking with creek views and forest and fringe areas for opportunities to see a variety of birds including ducks, heron, Bald Eagle as well as woodland inhabitants. More than 60 species including Blue Grosbeak and Rusty Blackbird have been identified here, including many spring migrants.

Directions: Park in the Nehaunsey Middle School parking lot located on Betty Rose Ave. (off of Swedesboro Rd.)

Leaders: Jayne Rhynard & Scott Henderson

April 23 (Tuesday) 7:30 – 9 AM

Riverfront Park/Floodgates Road - Floodgates Rd., Greenwich Township, 08027

Walk along the Delaware River on a trail that sits atop an earthen dike - a good place to view waterfowl and wading birds. Look for Monds Island and its breeding colony of great blue herons.

Directions: From Route 44, turn onto Floodgates Road. Drive all the way down, past the Bridgeport Speedway, until the road hits a T intersection. Park along one of the end areas.

Leaders: Kris & Erik Mollenhauer

April 24 (Wednesday) 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 25 (Thursday) 7:30 - 9 A.M.

Tranquility Trails - High Hill Rd, (between Fredrick Blvd. & Hillside Dr.) Woolwich Township, NJ 08085

Tranquility Trails, with its wooded areas, open fields, and several spots to see Raccoon Creek is a diamond in the rough. The opening of the trail is just the start of Woolwich's Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Township plans to preserve the grassland habitat, providing a space for grassland birds. Directions: Meet in the parking lot.

Leaders: Marilyn Henry & Barb Bassett

April 26 (Friday) 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 27 (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 butterfly garden, beyond the basketball courts.

Leader: Jay Hoffecker

April 28 (Sunday) 8 - 10 A.M.

Ron & Linda's 8 Lakes Tour

Scotland Run Park - 980 E Academy St, Clayton, NJ 08312

It was a hit last year - 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

*** THERE ARE 2 BQ TRAINING SESSIONS ON APRIL 29
:30 AM & 6:30 PM ***

April 29 (Monday) 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

April 29 (Monday) 6:30 – 8 P.M.

Birding by Ear - Part 2 "To Pish or Not to Pish, That is the Question."

Wenonah Lake, Maple St. & N. Jefferson 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.

Directions: Meet in the parking lot.

Leaders: Brian Hayes and Jeff Mollenhauer

April 30 (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 1 (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.

Leader: Marilyn Henry

May 2 (Thursday) 7:30 - 9A.M.

George Eldridge Trail - E. Pine St, Wenonah, NJ 08090

Eldridge Trail is part of the Wenonah Conservation Area, a ring of green that extends nearly the entire circumference of the town.

Directions: From E. Mantua Ave, head south on S. Clinton Ave. to E. Pine St. Park at Trailhead.

Leader: Dan Ceravolo