



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public.

February 2020

Annual GCNC Pot Luck Dinner

Program: Bird-Window Collisions

Thursday, February 13 starting at 6:00pm at Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ (directions below)

Presenter: Jeff Mollenhauer

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

Please note the dinner begins at 6:00pm and the program at approximately 7:00pm.

This February 13th we gather, as we have for many years past, for our traditional annual winter Pot Luck Dinner. It is always a highlight of the year and a great opportunity to gather together with fellow club members and share a wonderful meal on a cold winter's night in the warmth of good company. As always, please bring either an entrée or dessert and a plate and utensils for yourself.



Bird-Window Collisions

Window collisions take an alarming toll on birds. Windows in our homes kill hundreds of millions of birds every year. One million a day is the low estimate! Jeff will present research that is being conducted at Muhlenberg College by Dr. Daniel Klem on bird-window collisions. Dr. Klem is a leading authority on bird-window collisions and has conducted over 40 years of research on the topic. Please join us to learn more about bird-window collisions and what you can do to make your windows safer for birds.

Directions: The Holy Nativity Lutheran Church is located just off Rt 553 (Woodbury-Glassboro Rd.) immediately south of the traffic light at Mantua Ave. The church parking lot can be accessed by entrances on either Woodbury-Glassboro Road or Lenape Trail (first left off of Mantua Ave).



Field Trip – Night Walk at Pitman Golf Course

Tuesday, February 25 at 7:00pm

Trip Leaders: Kris and Erik Mollenhauer

Field Trip, Feb. 25 at 7:00 PM - Join us on Shrove Tuesday (day before Ash Wednesday) in the cool of the evening to take a leisurely walk to view the night sky from a wide-open space: Pitman Golf Course. The moon will be in a waxing crescent with about 4% visible. This easy walk will be star-watching so please make sure you bring a flashlight, dress warmly and wear shoes that will not damage the greens. Meet in the parking lot.

Directions: Meet in the parking lot Address for GPS: 501 Pitman Rd. Sewell NJ

Bird Walks - Recurring Event

The Bird walks hosted by the Scotland Run Park Nature Center and the Gloucester County Nature Club on the **first and third Thursday of the month at 7:30am** have halted for the Winter, but will resume again in March on **March 5** and **March 19**. Come and explore the nature trails as we look for all different species of feathered friends that the park has to offer. This event is open to all ages and families are encouraged to attend together. Bird walks will NOT take place during snow or rain.

Events by Other Organizations: February 2020

February 1 (Saturday), 8:00am to 4:00pm – **2020 Cumberland County Winter Eagle Festival** Location: Mauricetown Firehall, 9544 Noble Street, Mauricetown, NJ. Adults \$10, Children under 12, \$5. Special Family Programs, Lectures, Exhibits, Vendors, Birdwatching, Food. For more information call 856-453-2177 or visit <https://www.facebook.com/wintereaglefest/>.

Along the Delaware Bay

Five staffed viewing sites with scopes & birdwatching experts

Bayshore Center at Bivalve walks, food & activities

Morning & evening owl watches

Guided trail walks

East Point Lighthouse

Leechester Hall

At the Firehall

Speakers and presentations

Non-profit and commercial exhibitors

Local fare refreshments & lunch available

Live raptors exhibited by Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge

Hands-on art activities by Clay College

February 14 - 17 (Friday - Monday). **Great Backyard Bird Count**. Count birds in your backyard or other locations, submit highest daily species totals. Organized by the Cornell Lab Of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. For more information: <http://gbbc.birdcount.org>

February 16 (Sunday) at 2:00pm - Join Charles White at Old Pine Farm Natural Lands Trust for our **“Walk in the Wild.”** Charles will be discussing **Bushcrafting** – The Art of smoothing or making easier one’s time in the woods, or on the trail. We will discuss, demonstrate, and practice skills that will make our time away more enjoyable. Participants will be provided with a starting list of sources for further reading, along with a basic list of tools and equipment to pack along, on a day hike, and an extended stay. Meet at the Willoughby House at the end of Pine Avenue, off Good Intent Road in Blackwood Terrace, or you can put "340 Pine Avenue, Deptford" into your favorite mapping service. Please check the Old Pine Farm Facebook page for changes and directions. Information and questions: call Charles White, 856-217-9138 or see <https://oldpinefarm.org/>. Carpooling is recommended due to limited parking. Free and open to all.

Northwest Gloucester County Christmas Bird Count Wrap-Up

Well the 2019 count is in the books. Yours truly select yet another fine day. Many folks started later than they wanted. With the forecast I can imagine why. We elected to give it the old college try and went out in the wee hours for owls. Glad we did, the weather did not stop the screech owls from responding. The rain actually held off.

87 species were discovered on this Saturday - not too shabby for a less than perfect day. Much appreciate the effort from all. I know you don't have to go out and do this. Your efforts are very worthwhile. Canada Geese were everywhere with over 6000 viewed. Snow Geese numbers were down; they must be feeling elsewhere. Waterfowl numbers were down in general, as were Nuthatches, northern finch types, Creepers, and Tree Sparrows. The only two "write-ins" were a Marsh Wren picked up by the Dilks group, and a Barred Owl by Jeff Mollenhauer and group.

Kestrel numbers (3) were low again. Missed were Eastern Meadowlark, Quail, and Pheasant. Also Pipits., Brown Thrasher, and Pied-Billed Grebe. The feeder watchers helped boost the numbers again this year too; thank you!

I would like to make mention and thank Sue and Mike DeLozier for all their years of service to the count. Mike served as compiler for a number of years. They have elected to retire from the count and I wish them the best! You are missed. I would like to also thank Mary Hegeman for picking up Susan and Mike's area.

Thanks and save the date: 12/19/20 - *Ron Kegel*

NUMERICAL RESULTS

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns		Gulls & Terns		Kinglets and Gnatcatchers	
Great Blue Heron	32	Herring Gull	10	Golden-crowned Kinglet	22
New World Vultures		Great Black-backed Gull	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	16
Black Vulture	154	Ring-billed Gull	227	Thrushes	
Turkey Vulture	183	Pigeons & Doves		Eastern Bluebird	85
Waterfowl		Rock Dove	206	Hermit Thrush	3
Canada Goose	6177	Mourning Dove	610	American Robin	2861
Snow Goose	613	Owls		Mockingbirds & Thrashers	
Mute Swan	5	Eastern Screech-Owl	15	Gray Catbird	4
Wood Duck	1	Great Horned Owl	5	Northern Mockingbird	105
American Black Duck	44	Saw-Whet Owl	1	Starlings	
Mallard	287	Kingfishers		European Starling	7154
Ring-necked Duck	18	Belted Kingfisher	17	Waxwings & Silky-Flycatchers	
Bufflehead	16	Woodpeckers		Cedar Waxwing	15
Common Merganser	5	Red-bellied Woodpecker	159	New World Warblers	
Hooded Merganser	15	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	11	Yellow-rumped Warbler	82
Red-breasted Merganser	2	Downy Woodpecker	85	Pine Warbler	2
Hawks, Eagles, & Kites		Hairy Woodpecker	20	Palm Warbler	5
Bald Eagle	13	Northern Flicker	122	Cardinals, Grosbeaks & Finches	
Northern Harrier	3	Larks		Northern Cardinal	274
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	Horned Lark	21	Purple Finch	5
Cooper's Hawk	4	Crows & Jays		House Finch	197
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	Blue Jay	396	American Goldfinch	96
Red-tailed Hawk	52	American Crow	68	Old World Sparrows	
Falcons & Caracaras		Fish Crow	7	House Sparrow	133
Peregrine Falcon	2	Titmice & Chickadees		Blackbirds & Orioles	
American Kestrel	3	Carolina Chickadee	168	Red-winged Blackbird	1457
Merlin	2	Tufted Titmouse	125	Common Grackle	1562
Pheasants, Grouse, Quail, & Turkeys		Nuthatches		Brown-headed Cowbird	16
Wild Turkey	167	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2		
Plovers & Lapwings		White-breasted Nuthatch	32		
Killdeer	20	Brown Creeper	4		
Sandpipers		Wrens			
American Woodcock	2	Carolina Wren	230		
Common Snipe	2	House Wren	1		
		Winter Wren	14		

Natural Events for the month of February

- Skunk cabbage flowers are emerging from the ground, in wetlands throughout the County. As they grow they generate heat, which melts the frozen ground around them.
- Alder catkins are swelling and will open on the first warm days.
- Melting snow may reveal the trackways of meadow voles, dug along the interface between the frozen ground and snow cover.
- Broom crowberry in bloom in the Pinelands.
- Mourning cloak butterflies emerge from hibernation on warm days.
- Killdeer and great blue herons return from the south as waterways thaw and snow cover melts.
- Chipmunks reappear around bird feeders.
- Best time for viewing tundra swans at Whitesbog and other Pinelands ponds.



Conservation Corner

The club is still looking for someone to follow in Suzan Delozier's footsteps by serving as the club's Conservation Chair. This is not as hard as it sounds; generally it just involves providing timely Conservation information for the newsletter. Please contact club President Karen Kravchuck or any other member of the executive committee if interested.

Looking Ahead:

Listed below are the programs we have lined up for the rest of the 2019-2020 season. Meeting dates are the **second** Thursday of the month. Meetings start at 7:00pm unless otherwise noted.

2019 - 2020 Programs

March 12, 2020 **Species Discovery and the Future of Biodiversity Exploration** - Dr. Daniel Duran, Lecturer, Rowan U; Naturalist, Scotland Run Park.

April 9, 2020: **Birding the American Heartland** - Jeff Mollenhauer

May 14, 2020. **Annual Plant Sale** (6:00pm) followed by program **May on the Bay: Taking Action for Shorebirds and Horseshoe Crabs** - Laura Chamberlin, Assistant Director for the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network

June 11, 2020 (6:00pm): **GCNC Annual Picnic** at Fasola Park, Deptford, NJ

2019-2020 Field Trips

Remaining 2020 field trips TBD. If you would be willing to lead a field trip, please contact Paula Hayes at pnbhayes@gmail.com.

Club Notes:

- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Karen Kravchuck at blackbirdsinging@hotmail.com or call 609-617-6693 (cell).
- The Nature Club is always looking for ideas for future programs and field trips. Please contact the program or trip coordinator if you have ideas or would like to help.
- Information for the next newsletter should be sent to Barry Bengel at sharkeyes@comcast.net or GCNC Newsletter, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 15th of the preceding month.
- The February Executive Committee meeting will be held on Sunday February 9th at the home of Ed Cleary. Please contact Karen Kravchuck for more information.

Please help out the Gloucester County Nature Club while shopping online!



Shopping at Amazon can also benefit the Gloucester County Nature Club at **NO extra cost** to you!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. You may even use your existing Amazon.com account for your purchases.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.