



# Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

[www.gcnatureclub.org](http://www.gcnatureclub.org)

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

February 2023

## February Meeting Club Activity

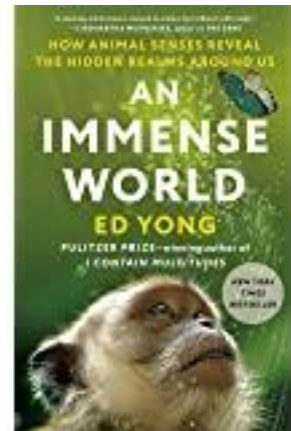
### Group Discussion on *An Immense World* by Ed Yong, Random House (June 21, 2022)

Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ  
(directions below)

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

A thrilling tour of nonhuman perception . . . Nature's true wonders aren't limited to a remote wilderness or other sublime landscape. . . . There is as much grandeur in the soil of a backyard garden as there is in the canyons of Zion."—**The New York Times**

"A dazzling ride through the sensory world of astoundingly sophisticated creatures . . . It's Mr. Yong's task to expand our thinking, to rouse our sense of wonder, to help us feel humbled and exalted at the capabilities of our fellow inhabitants on Earth. . . . [A] deeply affectionate travelogue of animal sensory wonders."—**The Wall Street Journal**



The New York Times best seller *An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal The Hidden Realms Around Us* takes us to realities we cannot imagine- the myriad ways that other creatures see, hear, smell, taste and perceive the world around them. Our human reality is just one of many realities.

The club invites you to join us in a group discussion of this book and topic at our February meeting. We encourage participants to put *An Immense World* on your winter reading list, and then gather with us to explore and share your thoughts about this fascinating book and the worlds it reveals. For those who will not have the opportunity to read the book, come out and hear the surprising facts and insights that readers will share, and, then feel free to join in the discussion with your own thoughts and experiences.

**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).

## **2022 Northwest Gloucester County Christmas Bird Count Wrap-up**

Thank you to all of the participants in the NW Gloucester County Audubon Christmas Count. Finally we got some good weather for the count! No rain, no snow, no blizzard, and decent temps. All 13 areas were covered. We were lucky enough to find 97 species on the day! Got ever so close to that 100 species. Each year it seems something drops out of the count to be replaced by another species, yet preventing us from hitting that century mark. 97 is pretty stinking' good however!

High numbers were found in geese, both Canada and Snow, Bald Eagles, American Robins, European Starlings, Common Grackles, Junco's, and White-throated Sparrows. Lower numbers were found for Peregrine Falcon (1), no Bobwhite nor Pheasant yet again, Barn, Long-eared, Saw-whet Owls, Gray Catbird (1), and Brown Thrasher was missed.

What could have helped us get over the century mark??? More ducks, American Pipit, Eastern Meadowlark, Pine Siskin, among others. But if they aren't there, they aren't there. Yogi Berra might have been impressed with that line!

Results will be sent out to participants soon. I would like to sincerely thank everyone again from the bottom of my heart. And to the leaders a special 'Thank You' for all you do coordinating and planning, and executing the day. I know with the development of the county it is not getting any easier to navigate and tally.

Mark your calendar for the 2023 Count as it will be conducted on Saturday, December 16. Until then 'Happy Birding', getting out there in the fresh air cleanses the mind and warms the heart. Introduce someone else to such a beautiful world!

**Ron Kegel, Compiler**

## **Events by other Organizations: February 2023**

### **2023 Cumberland County Winter Eagle Festival**

Saturday, February 4, 2023

8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Mauricetown Firehall

9544 Noble Street, Mauricetown, NJ

\$10.00 Adults, \$5.00 Children (12 and under)

- Numerous Exhibitors and Merchants
- Local-fare refreshments and lunch served by the Mauricetown Volunteer Fire Company
- Bayshore Center at Bivalve Programming and Museum
- Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge's Live Raptors
- Art Activities by the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission & Clay College
- Eastpoint Lighthouse Programming Including Talks on Nature Photography &
- Free Entrance to the Lighthouse with Eagle Fest pin

### **Presentations**

10 AM Pete Dunne, Naturalist and Author: "Cumberland County Wildlife Spectacles"

11 AM Ted Nichols, NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection: "Brant Telemetry"

1 PM Debbie Beer, Natural Lands: "Birds of the Glades"

2 PM Pat Sutton, Naturalist and Author: "How to Spot Owls"

## Trail Walks

- 7 AM Sunrise Walk with Karen Johnson
- 8 AM Bayshore Wetlands Bird Walk with Tony Klock & Dr. Kathy Michel
- 9 AM Tat Starr Trail Walk with Brian Johnson & Steve Eisenhauer
- 11 AM Bayshore Wetlands Bird Walk with Tony Klock & Dr. Kathy Michel
- 12 PM Berrytown Road Trail Walk with Jane Galetto & Christine Brown
- 2 PM Bald Eagle Trail Walk with Steve Eisenhauer & Brian Johnson
- 3 PM Maurice River Bluffs Preserve with Michelle Rebilas
- 5 PM The Owl Watch with Brian Johnson

## Numerous Exhibitors and Merchants

- Local-fare refreshments and lunch served by the Mauricetown Volunteer Fire Company
- Bayshore Center at Bivalve Programming and Museum
- Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge's Live Raptors
- Art Activities by the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission and Clay College
- East Point Lighthouse Programming Including Talks on Nature Photography & Free Entrance to the Lighthouse with Eagle Fest pin

## Five Staffed Viewing Sites:

- Bayshore Center at Bivalve
- Maple Avenue Impoundment Ponds
- Turkey Point Observation Deck
- Beaver Dam Boat Rentals
- Newport Landing Road

## Great Backyard Bird Count

February 17 - 20 (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 information: <http://www.birdcount.org/> **For a quick video, go to xxxxx**

## 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.



### **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](mailto: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](mailto:sharkeyes@comcast.net) or GCNC Newsletter, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

**YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** We are now posting recordings of recent club programs for the convenience of members and the public. To find the club's channel, use [this link](#) or search for the club's full name within YouTube. 14 videos are now available, including these recent additions:



- [Costa Rica: The Destination We Didn't Know We'd Love](#) (November 2022)
- [Hiking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu \(January 2023\)](#)

Be sure to subscribe to the club's channel and "like" the videos so they will get recommended to more people! We will continue recording programs during this club year whenever permitted by speakers and their sponsoring organizations.

### **AmazonSmile being discontinued on February 20, 2023**



Shopping at Amazon can benefit the Gloucester County Nature Club at **NO extra cost** to you! Unfortunately, it will be discontinued on February 20.

To shop at AmazonSmile one last time, simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device.