



# Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

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

Nature Club meetings are open to the public.

April 2019

## Program - How To Plan A Birding Trip To Colorado

Thursday April 11, 2019 at 7:00pm at Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ (directions below)

Presenter: Jeff Mollenhauer

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

Jeff will share some of his favorite birds, habitats, and stories from his trip to Colorado in the summer of 2018. Colorado encompasses a wide range of habitats, elevation ranges, and a mix of bird species from the eastern and western US. Scanning for the elusive White-tailed Ptarmigans in the Rocky Mountain peaks, listening to the songs of Cassin's Sparrows in the prairies of Pawnee National Grasslands, and searching for Black Swift nests in roaring river canyons are just a few of the highlights from a summer trip to Colorado. Jeff will discuss how he used E-bird and other tools to plan his trip to Colorado.



**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)

## 2019 Gloucester County Bird Quest: Saturday May 4, 2019

The Gloucester County Nature Club and co-sponsors invite people of all ages to participate in the **2019 Gloucester County Bird Quest**. This year Bird Quest will take place on **Sat. May 4, from 7 AM to 12 noon** throughout Gloucester County. This is our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We want to make this the best Bird Quest ever.

We are pleased to announce a **NEW LOCATION** for our picnic and gathering: Wheelabrator Wildlife Refuge in Westville (off of Rt 130). We hope to reach new families and continue to excite our legacy participants with a wonderful setting for our picnic.

See the enrollment brochure, available on the GCNC website.



During this time, teams visit parks and natural sites in Gloucester County to find as many different bird species as they can. The Quest is:

- A way to discover Gloucester County's parks and natural areas
- A way to discover the unique birds that live in and through our county
- An opportunity to learn how to identify birds by sight, sound, behavior, and habitat
- An opportunity to have fun with family, friends, and colleagues
- A light-hearted competition

**The Quest is an educational event: novices are encouraged to participate.**

**How it works:** Teams have 5 hours on Saturday (7am to noon) to visit sites in Gloucester County. Birds are identified by sight or sound. The goal is to find as many different species of birds as possible. At noon, all participants gather at **Wheelabrator Wildlife Refuge in Westville** to report results and for **(free) lunch, t-shirts, story swapping, some education about Natural Places of Gloucester County, duck conservation, and prizes.**

You can participate in one of the following ways:

- Form a team, plan your route (locations you will visit) for the day of the event and record all the bird species you see within Gloucester County. Hand in your results at Wheelabrator no later than 12:30pm to be eligible for prizes.
- Join one of the buses lead by a bird expert. These buses will visit a few locations in the County where bird experts will help you to identify the many bird species. The buses will meet back at Wheelabrator no later than 12:30pm.
- NEW: Join a bird expert who will bird the grounds of the Wheelabrator Wildlife Refuge from 7:00 am to Noon. Start first thing in the morning or join when you are able. Spend more time birding and less time in the car while you explore the varied habitat with your own expert.
- For some variety join our guided walks in various natural places in Gloucester County lead by a bird expert who will help you identify the bird species present. These walks will be paced and placed so you can participate in all of the walks or just one or two while you spend the rest of the time birding on your own. Hand in your results at Wheelabrator in Westville no later than 12:30pm to be eligible for prizes.
  - 7:00-9:15: Tall Pines Preserve (Maple Ridge): From the intersection of Rt 553 (Woodbury-Glassboro Rd) and Mantua Ave in Wenonah (and Holy Nativity Lutheran Church), travel .75 mile south on Rt 553 to the intersection with Bark Bridge Rd. Turn right onto Bark Bridge Rd then in 200ft turn left into the parking lot meet there. There are no bathrooms at Tall Pines
  - 9:30-11:00: West Deptford Nature Trail: From Route 44 in West Deptford take Delaware St which becomes Riverwinds Drive upon entering the Riverwinds Complex. Go approx. 1000 ft, then turn right onto the first dirt road (Nature Trail)
  - 11:15-12:15: Wheelabrator Wildlife Refuge in Westville (also the picnic location): From Access from Rt 130 - opposite Hazel Ave in Westville, just south of Big Timber Creek. Turn into the 2<sup>nd</sup> driveway on your right (just past the Butterfly Garden Parking area) to park for the Pavilion and meeting area

Last year's Gloucester County Bird Quest attracted participants from across the county organized in teams representing schools, scout troops, environmental commissions, families and friends. Each year the Club holds pre-Quest field and classroom trainings, attracting 15-30 persons each, in which local experts help new birders learn to identify birds by sight, sound, behavior, and habitat. The winning team in 2018 located 97 species in 5 hours!!! A tremendous effort when you consider all teams saw a total of 135 species. All participants were winners because of how much they learned about birds and the natural areas of Gloucester County through this fun, educational event.

**This year we have developed educational materials including a Quest t-shirt with original artwork featuring Natural Places of Gloucester County with a focus on our local waterfowl (ducks).** Participants will learn about early conservation efforts through duck stamps and about the current efforts by Wheelabrator to restore habitat. We would like to take time to discuss the impact Bird Quest has had over the years as well. We look forward to sharing stories from the various years of the event. These materials will have lasting educational value for teachers, students, and the general public. **The \$15 fee per participant helps to defray the cost of lunch, T-shirts, prizes etc.**

More information and registration forms will be posted to the Gloucester County Nature Club's website at [www.gcnatureclub.org](http://www.gcnatureclub.org). For more information, join a team or reserve a seat on the bus, contact Brian Hayes at [bkhayesoutdoors@gmail.com](mailto:bkhayesoutdoors@gmail.com) or 856.649.8723.

Participants are encouraged to attend any of a series of free field trainings in the evenings, mornings, and weekends before the Quest. Training sessions are listed in this newsletter.

## **We need your help for Bird Quest 2019!**

Help us make this year's Bird Quest extra special. We need people to get the word out about the event. Take some brochures and pass them out to friends, family, neighbors and colleagues. When they are available drop the brochures off at libraries, town halls, churches, and public meeting places. Even just talking about the event with folks can help to gather interest. We just need a few more people to help us get out the word. Thank you for your help.

### **Bird Walks - New Recurring Event!**

The Scotland Run Park Nature Center and the Gloucester County Nature Club will be hosting bird walks year-round on the **first and third Thursday of every month at 7:30am**. This month, walks will be on **April 4** and **April 18**. 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: April 2019.**

- The **South Jersey Land and Water Trust** is holding several events in the month of April. Please go to their [Events page](#) for a complete list of events and descriptions.
- The **Washington Township Environmental Commission** is holding a month-long series of events to celebrate **Earth Day** and **Arbor Day**. These include events such as a Rain Barrel Workshop, a presentation on Bluebirds, and a Trail Walk to name a few. For details and a complete list of events, click [here](#).

### **Natural Events for the month of April**

- Pond turtles emerge from hibernation and bask in the sun.
- Spring beauty, bloodroot, and trout lily bloom on the floor of deciduous woodlands.
- Spring peepers and wood frogs begin calling when vernal ponds warm to about 50 degrees F.
- Shad migrate up the Delaware River to spawn.
- Ruby-throated hummingbirds, purple martins, and warblers begin to arrive.
- Most juncos and white-throated sparrows have left by the end of the month.
- Rose-breasted grosbeaks show up at feeders for a few days before heading north.
- Prairie warbler, misnamed when it was first found in a barren area in Kentucky, returns late April – mid May.
- The peak of spring raptor migration is mid- to late-April. Consider a visit to a hawk lookout.
- Red-winged blackbirds return to marshes.

## **Conservation Corner** by Suzan Delozier

### **BIRD-SAFE BUILDING ACT – H.R.919**

Collisions with glass kill a billion birds every year. There is currently legislation in Congress that would make it safer for birds by requiring public buildings to incorporate bird-friendly design and materials. The American Bird Conservancy has composed an email which you can send to your Congressional legislators asking them to sign onto this bill. This email can be found [here](#). This is an important bill whose passage is by no means certain. Add your voice and speak for the birds.

### **SOUTH JERSEY GAS PIPELINE THROUGH THE PINELANDS WILL NOT BE BUILT**

On February 28, The Pinelands Preservation Alliance sent out an email stating that the company that owns the BL England site has decided not to build a gas-fired power plant at the site. Since there will be no gas-fired power plant, the company will no longer pursue the building of a pipeline which was slated to go through some of the most sensitive areas of the Pinelands. There are still nearly a dozen more pipelines proposed across NJ with the Southern Reliability Link pipeline in Burlington County still threatening the Pinelands. You may sign a petition asking Governor Murphy to stop these pipelines by clicking [here](#) (Food and Water Watch).

### **CONGRESS PASSES LANDMARK LANDS BILL – S47**

On February 26, the US House of Representatives overwhelmingly (363-62) passed The National Resources Management Act. The Senate had already passed the bill (92-8) on February 12. It is now on the President's desk. This Act has been called a "massive win" for conservation and the environment. In total, the Act contains over 100 land and conservation measures. Here are some of the measures this Act includes:

- Permanently authorizes funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Since 1964, royalties paid by energy companies drilling offshore have been directed to national parks, wildlife refuges and other environmentally sensitive areas. The funding had expired last year and not renewed. According to the National Audubon Society "No other conservation program has invested so much in our public spaces at absolutely zero cost to the taxpayer...It has opened countless parks and outdoor spaces to birders, bikers, nature lovers and history buffs in almost every county in every state in our nation. It has helped protect some of our most vulnerable birds across the country". More than 10 million people a year visit areas that LWCF has invested in.
- Creates 1.3 million acres of new wilderness area which will include expansion of Death Valley National Park, Joshua Tree National Park and Mojave National Preserve. Protects over 600,000 acres in Utah including redrock sites Labyrinth Canyon, Muddy Creek and Desolation Canyon.
- Stops new mining activities on nearly 400,000 acres of land north of Yellowstone and outside North Cascades National Park. For Yellowstone this means that important migration routes for wildlife are protected.
- Creates 6 new national heritage sites. Also expands the National Trails system by 2600 miles and adds 621 miles onto the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.
- Reauthorizes the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act which benefits the 340 neotropical migratory birds that breed in North America but spend their winters in Latin America and the Caribbean. Protecting their migratory routes is truly a multi-national effort. Monies come from public/private partnerships and non-governmental contributions. Since 2000 when the Act was first enacted, the US has invested in 296 projects across our country and in more than 30 Latin America and Caribbean countries.

- Authorizes Every Kid Outdoors program which provides fourth graders and their families free access to national parks. The program also leverages private funds to pay transportation costs which often prevent people from visiting our parks.

For more information click <https://www.newsweek.com/natural-resources-management-act-congress-vote-passes-1345575>, and [here](#) (National Parks and Conservation Association), and [here](#) (National Audubon Society) and [here](#) (Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance).

**WANDS FOR WILDLIFE** - When going through old, used, or contaminated makeup to toss, please don't throw away your old mascara wands. Instead, clean JUST THE WANDS with Dawn soap, place them in a Ziploc bag and mail to one of the Wildlife Refuges below seeking donations, or contact your local refuge to see if they use them. These little wands are able to be upcycled to clean away oil, larvae, fly eggs, mites, infections, mud, and other contaminants from wildlife. They work great for medical care and wound treatment. Check out a short video at <https://youtu.be/enFEPuz36zU>.

Pick your own refuge or mail to:

Appalachian Wild  
P.O. Box 1211  
Skyland, NC 28776 ( <https://www.appalachianwild.org/wands-for-wildlife.html> )



or

Wildlife Wands  
P.O. Box 1586  
Southwick, MA 01077 ( <https://www.facebook.com/wildlifewands/> )

### Looking Ahead:

Listed below are the remaining programs we have lined up for the remainder of the 2018-2019 season. Meeting dates are the **second** Thursday of the month.

### 2019 Programs

May 9, 2019. **Annual Plant Sale** followed by program **Butterflies of New Jersey** - Steve Glynn.

June 13, 2019: **GCNC Annual Picnic** at Alcyon Park, Pitman, NJ followed by **A Guided Walk through Alcyon Woods**

### 2019 Field Trips

Listed below are the remaining field trips we have lined up for the 2018 – 2019 season. Changes and additions are not impossible. If you would be able and willing to lead an additional field trip, please contact Paula Hayes at [pnbhayes@gmail.com](mailto:pnbhayes@gmail.com).

May 4, 2019 - **Bird Quest**

June 21, 2019 - **Hike at Mantua Fossil Park**

## **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 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.
- The March Executive Committee meeting will be held on Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup> at the home of Karen Kravchuck. . Please contact Karen for more information.

## **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 Park - 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

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 Nehaussey 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 — 7:30 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 40-acre 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