



## Gloucester County Nature Club

### Monthly Newsletter

April 2025

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

**Nature Club meetings are open to the public.**

**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).

**Program:** *Schemes and Scams:  
Trickery In the Natural World*  
Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> 7p.m.



Animals use deception and trickery in order to survive and to protect their young. Driven by evolution, deception occurs in many forms - ranging from simple background-matching type of visual camouflage to more complex behaviors. Senses other than the visual can be fooled and often more than one type of deception is in use. A particular deception may even change in real time based on the particular environment. In this program, some interesting and unusual forms of deceptive behavior are highlighted.

**Presenter:** Shujaath Mehdi

**Get event updates on Meetup.com**

**Field Trip:** Spring Ceres Session, Ceres Park, Mantua Township, NJ, Sunday, March 30, 7:00 am. Trip Leaders – Kris Mollenhauer and Jayne Rhynard

Spring has Sprung! Join us on a guided walk through Ceres Park to delight in seeing those early signs of winter's end and the green of the new season. Meet in the parking lot off Main St. bright and early and we will check out the trails, what's starting to come up and ready to bloom, early migrant birds and other signs of new life. This will be the first of a series of field trips planned to explore Ceres Park in different seasons. We suggest sturdy shoes for the trails which can be uneven and narrow.

*Directions: From Rt 322 take Lambs Rd (635) to Pitman-Barnsboro Rd (553Alt). Turn left onto Rt 553A. Watch for Ceres Park sign on your left after crossing over Rt 55.*

*Approximate street address: 964 Main Street, Sewell, NJ 08080. Coordinates: (39.7484523, -75.1462949)*

## BIRD QUEST IS COMING SOON: Saturday May 3, 2025



The club invites people of all ages to participate in the **25th Annual Gloucester County Bird Quest** taking place on **Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7 AM to 12 noon** throughout Gloucester County.

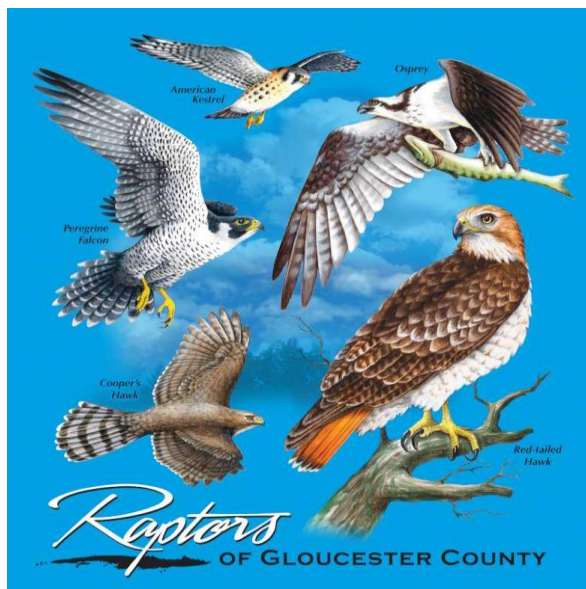
**What exactly is Bird Quest?** It is several things:

- A way to discover the unique birds that live in and pass through our county.
- A way to discover local parks and natural areas.
- 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 where novices are encouraged to participate.

**How it works:** Teams have 5 hours on Saturday (7am to noon) to visit sites anywhere in Gloucester County. Birds are identified by sight or sound. The goal is to find as many different species of birds as possible. During the noon hour, all participants gather at an outdoor pavilion at the WIN/Wheelabrator Wildlife Refuge in Westville for lunch, t-shirts, story swapping, and door prizes.

**How you can participate:** There are some options:

- You can form a team, plan your route, and record the bird species you see or hear between 7 AM and noon.
- For some variety join our guided walks in various natural places in Gloucester County led 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.
  - 7:00-9:15: Tall Pines State Preserve: From the intersection of Rt 553 (Woodbury-Glassboro Rd) and Mantua Ave in Wenonah (and Holy Nativity Lutheran Church), travel south on Rt 553 to the next traffic light at Bark



Bridge Rd. Turn right onto Bark Bridge Rd. then in 200ft turn left into the parking lot to meet there. There are no restrooms at Tall Pines.

- 9:30-11:00: Riverwinds: From Route 44 in West Deptford take Delaware St which becomes Riverwinds Drive upon entering the Riverwinds Complex. Drive past the community center, stay to the left, and park in the parking lot just before the Riverwinds restaurant entrance.
- 11:15-12:15: WIN/Wheelabrator Wildlife Refuge in Westville (also the picnic location): Access from Rt 130 – opposite Hazel Ave in Westville, just south of Big Timber Creek. Turn into the Butterfly Garden Parking area to park for the Pavilion and meeting area.
- Team leaders should be sure to enter the species found at [birdquest.gcnatureclub.org](https://birdquest.gcnatureclub.org) by 12:30 PM. We prefer not to collect paper checklists.

**How to register:** Registration will take place online, not using paper forms and checks. The cost is \$15 per person, payable by credit/debit card. Each participant will receive a 2025 “Raptors of Gloucester County” 100% Cotton T-shirt as shown above, available in both youth and adult sizes. We ask that team leaders strive to enter one “order” with the names and shirt sizes for their team. The website [birdquest.gcnatureclub.org](https://birdquest.gcnatureclub.org) will be open by April 1<sup>st</sup>. The deadline to register is **Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**. Shirts will need to be picked up at WIN/Wheelabrator on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, or at the regular May club meeting in Wenonah on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

**How to get ready for May 3<sup>rd</sup>:**

- Join one or more of the 10 free, friendly training sessions in the three weeks leading up to the event; the schedule is elsewhere in this newsletter and on [Meetup](https://www.meetup.com/birdquest/).
- At the Bird Quest website [birdquest.gcnatureclub.org](https://birdquest.gcnatureclub.org) you will be able to find the rules, our traditional paper checklists (for use in the field), and general info about the event.
- The club’s “Natural Places” book can guide you to 35 publicly-accessible natural areas around the county, many of which are good bird habitats. It’s available at local retailers (including Daminger’s and Words Matter), at the April club meeting, and [online](https://birdquest.gcnatureclub.org).

If you have questions, please contact event coordinator Scott Barnes via email at [birdquest@gcnatureclub.org](mailto:birdquest@gcnatureclub.org)

## **Bird Quest Training Sessions 2025**

**April 13 (Sunday) 6 PM - 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 & Scott Barnes**

**April 14 (Monday) 6PM – Dusk**

**Greenwich Lake Park**

**Tomlin Station Road, Gibbstown, NJ 08027**

The paved and unpaved trails here explore various habitats and wind past lagoons and waterways that drain eventually into the Delaware River. Look for Green Herons among the reeds and emergent vegetation. Listen for the song of the Yellow Warbler among other migrants.

*Directions: Meet in the main parking lot.*

**Leaders: Barb Bassett & Lloyd Shaw**

**April 16 (Wednesday) 8 – 9:30 AM**

**Scotland Run Park**

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

Scotland Run Park, largest of the county parks, spans over 1000 acres and includes the 80 - acre Wilson Lake. 143 species of birds have been recorded here, including 25 species of warblers. This is a great place and the right time to enjoy the spring migration!

*Directions: Meet at the Nature Center parking lot, located across the main street from the lake.*

**Leaders: Marilyn Henry & Marie Hageman**

**April 19 (Saturday) 8 – 9:30 AM**

**Fasola Park**

**12 Sycamore Lane, Deptford Township, NJ 08096**

Part of the Gloucester County Parks & Playgrounds series, wooded areas and open areas make space for quite a few species in this more suburban park landscape. Look for possible woodpeckers, bluebird, turkey, kinglet, several sparrow flavors, phoebe, and Eastern wood pee wee. Raptors including Coopers, Red-shouldered and sharp

shinned hawks, merlin, and black vultures might be seen. The paved paths make it an easy walk.

*Directions: From Delsea Drive, turn east onto Sycamore Lane. At the circle, take the 2nd exit and park in the 1st parking lot on the right.*

**Leaders: Jayne Rhynard and Karen Kravchuck**

**April 23 (Wednesday) 8 – 9:30 AM**

**Scotland Run Park**

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

Scotland Run Park, largest of the county parks, spans over 1000 acres and includes the 80 - acre Wilson Lake. 143 species of birds have been recorded here, including 25 species of warblers. This is a great place and the right time to enjoy the spring migration!

*Directions: Meet at the Nature Center parking lot, located across the main street from the lake.*

**Leaders: Marilyn Henry & Marie Hageman**

**April 24 (Thursday) 6 PM - Dusk**

**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 on the east side of Piney Hollow Road between Victoria Ave. and Unexpected Road.*

**Leader: Debbie & Bob Barsotti**

**April 25 (Friday) 8 – 9:30 AM**

**Glassboro Woods (WMA)**

**202 Carpenter Ave., Clayton NJ 08312**

This wildlife management area, which is a 2,337 acre forest accompanied by swamps and open fields, boasts chances to see and hear a vast variety of warblers and other birds. Possibilities include Worm-eating, Hooded & Prothonotary warbler, Barred owl, waterthrush, Blue-headed vireo, and Broad-winged hawk. Sturdy shoes will help walking on the unpaved dirt paths.

*Directions: Turn East onto Carpenter Ave.*

**Leaders: Lloyd Shaw & Jayne Rhynard**

**April 26 (Saturday) 7:30 – 9 AM**

**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. Many migrants begin nesting in the woods, especially near the streams, and the bluebirds are active around their boxes. More than 20 species of warblers have been identified here.

*Directions: Meet at parking lot E by the amphitheater.*

**Leaders: Marie Hageman & Lloyd Shaw**

**April 28 (Monday) 6 – 8 PM**

**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. Look and listen for spring migrants.

*Directions: From E. Mantua Ave, head south on S. Clinton Ave. to E. Pine St., east of S. Princeton Avenue.*

*Park at the trailhead.*

**Leaders: Brian & Paula**

**Hayes**

**April 29 (Monday) 6 PM – Dusk**

**Greenwich Lake Park**

**Tomlin Station Road, Gibbstown, NJ 08027**

The paved and unpaved trails here explore various habitats and wind past lagoons and waterways that drain eventually into the Delaware River. Look for Green Herons among the reeds and emergent vegetation. Listen for the song of the Yellow Warbler among other migrants.

*Directions: Meet in the main parking lot.*

**Leaders: Barb Bassett & Lloyd Shaw**

**May 1 (Thursday) 6 PM – Dusk**

**RiverWinds Park**

**1000 RiverWinds Drive, Thorofare, NJ 08086**

Riverside shrubs and forested areas along the Delaware River make for great birding here. Look for migrating warblers, scarlet tanagers, hawks and maybe a bald eagle!

*Directions; Turn onto RiverWinds Drive. Drive past the community center and park in the parking lot just before the RiverWinds restaurant.*

**Leaders: Lloyd Shaw & Gary Lizzi**

**May 2 (Friday) 7 – 8:30 AM**

**WIN Refuge** (formerly Wheelabrator)

**600 Crown Point Rd, Westville, NJ 08093**

At the intersection of the Delaware River and Big Timber Creek, the wide-open space behind the WIN plant is great habitat for swamp, meadow and river birds. 200 species have been recorded at the site. Trails and old roads make access easy.

*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: Dan & Danny Ceravolo**

Happy spring birding!

### **Election of Trustees**

The May Nature Club meeting is when we annually hold elections for our Board of Trustees. The Trustees hold the ultimate governing power of the Club. The Trustees elect the members of the Executive Committee (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and chairpersons of the standing committees).

The Trustees' other primary responsibility is to provide direction to the Executive Committee because our by-laws specify that the Board of Trustees authorize power to the Executive Committee for the day-to-day operations of the Club.

Trustees meet annually at a joint meeting with the Executive Committee in June. There are a total of 12 members of the Board of Trustees. Elected Trustees agree to serve a 3 year term and one third of the Trustees are elected by the Club's membership at the May meeting.

\*The Trustees whose term will end June 2025 are on the ballot for re-election to a 2025-2028 term. These are:

2022 –2025 term: Barry Bengel, Elaine Dzeima, Paula Hayes, Dave Partridge

The other Trustees are as follows:

2023- 2026 term: Marilyn Henry, Erik Mollenhauer, Jackie Partridge, Jayne Rhynard,

2024 –2027 term: Scott Barnes, Karen Kravchuck, Kris Mollenhauer, Rich Dilks

**YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** We are continuing to post 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. 28 videos are now available, including these recent additions:



- [Owls of New Jersey \(January 2025\)](#)
- Frog Dreaming at Manyallaluck (March 2025 – *video to be released by April 4th*).  
(See video's description for links to other YouTube videos recommended by the presenter.)

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 whenever permitted by speakers and their sponsoring organizations.

### **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 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 Jean Block at [jeanellenblock@comcast.net](mailto:jeanellenblock@comcast.net) by the 22nd of the preceding month.

### **Outside Activities:**

Arboretum Tours at Rowan University Glassboro Campus  
Presented by Dr. Sarah Wright, PhD, botanist at Rowan  
Open to the public free of charge. Registration requested.  
Dates: March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27  
Time: Noon-1:30 p.m.  
Meeting at Discovery Hall  
Details at: [arboretum.rowan.edu](http://arboretum.rowan.edu)



### **Spring Fest & Earth Day Celebration -4/27**

Red Bank Battlefield National Park

Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 11a.m.-4p.m. (Rain or shine)

Activities for all ages, demonstrations, magic show and more!

Admission is free.

*We remember...*

The Gloucester County Nature Club would like to extend our condolences to the family and friends of Jessie Light MacGregor. Jessie, an active and longtime member, will be missed. Pictured: Jessie and Erik Mollenhauer enjoying the Mad Hatter's Tree Party.

