

Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter
April 2026



Nature Club meetings are open to the public.

Program: Tiger Beetles

Presenter: Daniel P. Duran, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Naturalist, Rowan University

Thursday April 9, 2026 - 7:00 PM at Edelman Fossil Park



Registration Required at programs@gcnatureclub.org

Don't miss a very special treat this April. We will meet at the Edelman Fossil Park Auditorium to hear from one of the true experts on tiger beetles - one of the most charismatic and popular groups of insects worldwide and a global 'flagship' for insect conservation. Known for using their highly developed vision and speed to hunt smaller invertebrates, tiger beetles occupy nearly all terrestrial ecosystems and are distributed across the globe. Most species were described in the 1700s and 1800s, with few species being discovered after the early 1900s. However, in the past few years there has been an uptick in new species discoveries, with the advent of 'integrative taxonomy', using DNA and traditional information to determine species. Dr. Duran will review the biology of tiger beetles and talk about the potential for even more new discoveries going forward!

Our program as always is free, but to help estimate attendance we ask you to let us know how many in your party and register in advance at programs@gcnatureclub.org
Looking forward to seeing you at this great program.

Directions: Edelman Fossil Park & Museum, 66 Million Mosasaur Way, Mantua, NJ 08080. From Exit 53 on Route 55, proceed north on Woodbury-Glassboro Road towards Wenonah. Turn right at the second stoplight onto Mosasaur Way to reach the Fossil Park entrance.

Tour de Natural Places: Tuesday, April 14 3PM

Nature Trails at Edelman Fossil Park & Museum

66 Million Mosasaur Way, Sewell.

Meet in the museum lobby. We will walk up to two miles on hilly woodland trails. Hiking boots are recommended. We will be joined by a naturalist from EFP&M. Inclement weather or dangerous ground conditions may postpone the walk.

BIRD QUEST IS COMING SOON: Saturday May 2, 2026

The club invites people of all ages to participate in the **26th Annual Gloucester County Bird Quest** taking place on **Saturday, May 2nd 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. The tentative schedule is:
 - 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 lunch 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 by 12:30 PM. We prefer electronic entry but will collect paper checklists. Paper lists require additional effort to convert into electronic form for statistical purposes.

How to register: Registration will take place online, not using paper forms and checks. The cost is \$15 per person (for short-sleeve shirts) or \$20 per person (for adult long-sleeve shirts **NEW this year**), payable by credit/debit card. Each participant will receive a 2026 “Bluebirds of Gloucester County” 100% Cotton T-shirt as shown above. We ask that team leaders strive to enter one “order” with the names and shirt sizes for their team. The website birdquest.gcnatureclub.org is open now! The deadline to register is **Sunday, April 26th**. Shirts will need to be picked up at WIN/Wheelabrator on May 2nd, or at the regular May club meeting in Wenonah on Thursday, May 14th.

How to get ready for May 2nd:

- Join one or more of the 11 free, friendly training sessions in the three weeks leading up to the event; the schedule is elsewhere in this newsletter and on [Meetup](#).
- At the Bird Quest website 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](#).

If you have questions, please contact event coordinator Scott Barnes via email at birdquest@gcnatureclub.org

Happy spring birding!



› Bird Quest Training Sessions 2026

MORNING & EVENING SESSIONS

April 12 (Sunday) 6 PM – 7:30 PM

Birding Basics — Alcyon Lake Park

Track Ave. Pitman, NJ 08071 (off W. Holly Avenue)

Discover the world of birding from bird guides to binoculars, birding etiquette to bird songs 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: Scott Barnes & Karen Kravchuck

April 16 (Thursday) 8 - 9:30 AM

South Jersey Technology Park

107 Gilbreth Pkwy, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062

The large field on this 6.68-acre site is bordered by woodlands and a farm. The open area is great for woodland and grass-nesting birds - and keeping an eye out for raptors! The terrain is fairly level on trails throughout the grassy field. The total walk covers 1 – 1.5 miles.

Directions: The Park is located near the intersection of Rt. 322 and Rt. 55 in Mullica Hill, NJ and across from the new Inspira Hospital.

Meet at the parking lot on the right of the main building.

Leaders: Marilyn Henry & Marie Hageman

April 18 (Saturday) 8 - 9:30 AM

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 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: Lloyd Shaw & Karen Kravchuck

April 19 (Sunday) 7:30 – 9 AM

Edelman Fossil Park
66 Million Mosasaur Way
Sewell, NJ 08080

Woodlands, meadows and drainage pond will have you looking for native NJ birds that thrive in these habitats and arriving spring migrants along the newly created (and sometimes hilly) trails at Gloucester County's latest treasure — Edelman Fossil Park.

Directions: Park in the main parking lot and meet by the playground entrance.

Leaders: Marilyn Henry & Erik Nelson

April 20 (Monday) 6 – 7:30 PM

Piney Hollow Preserve
Piney Hollow Rd., Franklin Twp., NJ 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 22 (Wednesday) 8 – 9:30 AM

Glassboro Woods (WMA)
202 Carpenter Ave., Clayton NJ 08312

This wildlife management area, a 2,337- acre forest, is accompanied by swamps, marshes 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: From Delsea Dr. Turn East onto Carpenter Ave.

Leaders: Kris & Erik Mollenhauer

April 23 (Thursday) 6 - 7:30 PM

Birding by Ear “An Introduction to Birdcalls”

Jack Sheppard Community Center (historic train station)

E. Mantua Ave & N. East Ave, Wenonah, NJ 08090

In a classroom setting, 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. Leaders: Brian & Paula Hayes

April 25 (Saturday) 8 - 9:30 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 songbirds and raptors adding to the year-round residents. Many migrating birds 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 D by the clock.

Leaders: Marie Hageman & Lloyd Shaw

April 26 (Sunday) 8 - 9:30 AM

Ceres Park Nature Preserve

940 Main Street (Alternate Route 553,) Sewell, NJ 08080

Walk where the first tyrannosaur in the world was found in this 52-acre nature preserve known for forested trails, cedar swamps, and lakes formed from historic marl pits. Get familiar with birds of woods and wetlands. Birds will be identified by sight, sound and/or habitat.

Directions: Meet in the Main Street parking lot.

Leaders: Jayne Rhynard & Marie Hageman

April 29 (Wednesday) 6 - 7:30 PM

Greenwich Lake Park

498 Tomlin Station Road, Gibbstown, NJ 08027

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

Directions: Meet in the main parking lot.

Leaders: Lloyd Shaw

May 1 (Friday) 7:30 - 9 AM

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., east of S. Princeton Avenue. Park at the trailhead.

Leader: Dan Ceravolo

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. 37 videos are now available, including these recent additions:



- [Bird-Window Collisions](#) (February 2026).
- Coyotes in New Jersey (March 2026 – video to be released on or before April 26th).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						11
12 Birding Basics Alcyon Lake Park Scott B. & Karen K. 6 - 7:30 pm	13	14	15	16 8-9:30am South Jersey Technology Park Marie H. & Marilyn H.	17	18 8-9:30am Tall Pines Preserve Lloyd S. & Karen K.
19 7:30 – 9 AM Edelman Fossil Park Marilyn H. & Erik N.	20 Piney Hollow Preserve Bob & Debbie Barsotti 6-7:30pm	21	22 8- 9:30am Glassboro Woods Kris & Erik M.	23 Birding by Ear Wenonah Train Station Brian & Paula H. 6-7:30pm	24	25 8 – 9:30am Washington Lake Park Marie H. & Lloyd S.
26 8-9:30am Ceres Park Jayne R. & Marie H.	27	28	29 Greenwich Lake Park Lloyd S. 6-7:30pm	30	1 7:30-9am Eldridge Trail Dan Ceravolo	MAY 2 BIRD QUEST

The May Nature Club meeting is when we hold annual 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 authorizes 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 is 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 2026 are on the ballot for re-election to a 2026-2029 term. These are:

*Marilyn Henry, Erik Mollenhauer, Jackie Partridge, Jayne Rhynard

The other Trustees are as follows:

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

2025 –2028 term: Barry Bengel, Elaine Dzeima, Paula Hayes, Dave Partridge

Contributions to the newsletter may be sent to Jean Block jeanellenblock@comcast.net by the 20th of the month.

