

The Blue



Jay

BERGEN COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY - A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume LXII
Issue IV

From the President's Perch

As you read this, Bergen County Audubon will have celebrated its 70th Anniversary with a dinner held on October 1st. At Dolce Novita Restaurant. For an organization that started as a local birding club, we have come a long way and we continue to build on the legacy of those members who had the foresight to establish the group and then later to affiliate with National Audubon Society.

- Our frequent bird walks continue to provide an opportunity for the public to connect with nature and share this pursuit with others in a relaxed, congenial environment.
- Our partnerships with schools, other conservation groups, and nature centers, has been strengthened in recent years by our unwavering commitment to enhancing the environment and engaging in conservation efforts and habitat improvements which remains a key component of our mission.
- Membership is increasing and it is the enthusiasm, strength, and willingness of our members to stay involved, that makes our "all volunteer" organization strong, viable and poised for the next 70 years.

To all of you who make a difference, please share in our celebration and to our members and an amazing group of Officers and Board Members, I extend a big "thank you" for all that you do.



Although we are in the early weeks of Fall, the next Blue Jay will not be available until January, so let me take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving, joyous holiday season, and healthy New Year.

We have some wonderful field trips and exciting programs planned for this upcoming quarter so please join us. **HAPPY 70th ANNIVERSARY!**

Regards,
Beth Goldberg

**Bergen County Audubon Society
Officers, Directors &
Committee Chairpersons**

President: Beth Goldberg
201-797-0536
Vice President: Lisa Devos
973-686-0568
Treasurer: Dave & Nancy Hall
973-226-7825
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201-262-0157
Conservation: Gerry Byrne
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201-636-4022
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201-868-5829
Membership: Al LaSala.

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Ron Kistner, Acting Director of the Bergen County Dept. of Parks & Recreation presented Beth with a Certificate of Commendation from the County Executive, Kathleen Donovan, honoring BCAS on this occasion.



**Editor's Notes –
Reflections on the 70th Anniversary Celebration**

As someone relatively new to our Society, it was so rewarding to have most of our active members present in one room sharing the tasty vittles of Dolce Novita along with their life experiences of being part of this organization.

Our president, Beth Goldberg, kept the party rolling and the memories alive by reading letters from members who could not be present. Speakers shared their own relationships with past members and the early days of BCAS. Edith Wallace read a letter which gave a perspective into 1932 activities. Jim Wright offered congratulations from Fyke Nature Assoc. and the NJ Meadowlands Commission, reading a congratulatory letter from Ms. Marcia Karrow, Executive Director, citing in particular, our successful partnership with the Meadowlands Commission.

Dave Hall shared his early days when he and Nancy moved into Bergen County and became active back in 1976- both moving in and out of Officer Roles in support of the Society. Ken Witkowski, a former president, shared his memories of mentors that he admired with both men stressing the imperative of BCAS - "imparting knowledge to those new to birding."

Then for the piece de resistance, our special guest speaker: **Mr. Stephen Christopher Quinn**, Senior Project Manager at the American Museum of Natural History - artist, exhibit designer and craftsman, field naturalist, and long time member of BCAS. Steve claims to be the oldest member of BCAS. He joined as a boy scout in Leonia in 1962. Back then an unusual bird might be the illusive northern mockingbird. But after Steve graduated from college, he went beyond US birds, much less North America, into Africa and beyond in the design of dioramas which included the Silverback Gorillas and African Elephant. To prove he 's really Bergen through and through, Steve said he obtained his art degree at the Ridgewood School of Art and Design. The slide show was filled with exciting moments with Steve sketching leopards and gorillas from open-top jeeps in only minutes before they would vanish. He reminded us that sometimes there isn't time to set up a scope or other media especially since digital was not then available.

Throughout the evening, the 70- year history of Bergen County Audubon was on display with historical papers such as the Blue Jay newsletters going back to the very earliest years, rich with observations and beautiful sketches and artwork. On another table, a slide show with more recent walks and educational endeavors by Don, Denise, Beth and others.

This is a happening group with active members who are willing to keep the spirit of this 70 year old institution alive and well by carrying the torch into the next decade. Wonderful reminiscences were shared by many, and similarly echoed thanks for those long standing members who have mentored and inspired those of us currently in the organization.

2011 Christmas Bird Count, Dec 17 *a Nature Program Cooperative Event*

Our 63rd annual Hackensack-Ridgewood Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday, December 17. The official count period extends from December 14 through December 20. Our goal is to count all the birds within a 15 mile diameter circle, centered at the River Edge Railroad Station. We will count the number of species and the number of individuals of each species within this circle. This effort continues to teach us about the status and survival of our native birds, plus it identifies important bird areas in the county.

We need your help in the field or in your neighborhood on count day. **Feeder counts** conducted in your yard on Dec. 18th can be very valuable, and we welcome you to call in your results to my home on the day following the count (973-226-7825). Even if you can only participate for part of the day, every observer is a valuable addition to our group effort. We invite you to come out and have a good time. We have experienced leaders assigned for the territories described below. Please make arrangements for participating with a leader in one of these areas. We will also have signup sheets at BCAS meetings at the Puffin Center at Teaneck Creek.

We have observed over 180 species over the past 62 years, including a record 93 species on the 1993 count, and 91 species last year. Every year is different, and with your help we can produce another outstanding result. If you would rather conduct a count in your local neighborhood or at a local park, please call me in advance, so that we can coordinate your effort with that of our leaders.

DAVID HALL

You don't have to be an expert to take part. If you can identify the common winter birds, you can be a valuable participant. For more information, contact David Hall at 973-226-7825 (eves.)

AREA LEADERS

Area I-A: **David Hall** (973-226-7825)

Includes: Meadowlands district, Little Ferry, South Hackensack, Moonachie.

Area I-B: **Chris Takacs & Linda Mullaney** (201-804-7817).

Includes: Teterboro Airport, Clifton, Hasbrouck Heights, Wood Ridge, Wallington, and Paterson.

Area II: **Steve Kuitems** (908-630-0033) [leave a message]

Includes: New Milford, Hackensack, Maywood, River Edge, and parts of Haworth, Dumont, Bergenfield, Oradell, Emerson, Teaneck, Bogota and Paramus.

Area III: **Sandra Bonardi** (201- 784-0484) [daytime; leave message].

Includes: Tenafly, Englewood, Englewood Cliffs (incl Greenbrook Sanctuary) and parts of Cresskill, Dumont, Bergenfield and Fort Lee.

Area IV: **Dick Engsberg** (201- 947-0596) and Brenda McIntyre.

Includes: Leonia, Teaneck Creek and Overpeck Creek.

Area V: **Ken Witkowski** (973-208-9808). Includes: Park Ridge, Woodcliff Lake, Hillsdale,

Rivervale, Westwood, Washington and parts of Emerson and Oradell.

Area VI-A: **Nancy Hall** (973-226-7825) and **Sheila Keane**.

Includes: Hohokus, Ridgewood, and parts of Saddle River, Waldwick, Midland Park, Fair Lawn, Hawthorne, Rochelle Park, Saddle Brook, Garfield Glen Rock, Paramus.

Area VI-B: **Peggy O'Neill** (201-868-5829) Includes: Old Tappan, Northvale, part of Rockleigh,

Norwood, Harrington Park, Demarest, Closter and parts of Cresskill.

FIELD TRIPS - FALL/WINTER FIELD TRIPS

Notify trip leader so you can be advised of last minute changes due to inclement weather or other conditions. Unless noted, field trips are rain or shine. **Contact Denise Farrell** for field trip information or suggestions at 201-2623420 or miata160@yahoo.com. Directions to sites are on our website.

Tuesday, Nov. 1- 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy at Teaneck Rd. & Puffin Way.
Contact: Don Torino 201-636-4022, e-mail greatauk4@aol.com Meet at parking lot Puffin Way.

Saturday, Nov. 5 - 9:00 AM Sandy Hook. Fall migrants, passerines, waterfowl, raptors.
Meet at the first parking lot upon entering Sandy Hook (Bayberry – B lot).
Restrooms: On the way in - at the WaWa and Quik Check, both on Rt. 36 East.
Leader: Peggy O'Neill (201) 868-5829. Bring lunch.

Sunday, Nov. 6—10:00 AM Harrier Meadow, North Arlington. Meet at the entrance to Harrier Meadow at 10 AM or the first parking lot at DeKorte by 9:45 AM
Contact: Don Torino 201-636-4022 or e-mail greatauk4@aol.com.

Saturday, Nov. 12 - 9:00 AM Weequahic Park, Newark. Late Fall migrants & waterfowl.
The second largest developed park in the Essex County system, includes an 80 acre lake.
Leader: Dave Hall (973)-226-8275. Meet at the parking lot at the east end of the lake.

Tuesday, Nov. 15 - 10:00 AM Mill Creek Marsh, Secaucus. Sparrows, migrants, waterfowl.
Contact: Don Torino 201-636-4022 or e-mail greatauk4@aol.com

Saturday, Nov. 19 - 10:00 AM Brigantine - Forsythe NWR. Geese, swans, raptors, ducks.
Meet at refuge parking lot on the left after entering gate. Bring lunch.
Leaders: Dick Engsberg (201) 947-0596 & Denise Farrell at miata160@yahoo.com

Sunday, Nov. 20 - 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy at Teaneck Rd. & Puffin Way.
Contact: Don Torino 201-636-4022, e-mail greatauk4@aol.com. Meet at parking lot Puffin Way.

Saturday, Dec. 3 - 9:00 AM Manasquan Inlet & the "South" North Shore.
Birding for scoters, ducks, eiders, gannets, gulls and other birds of interest.
Meet at the Manasquan Inlet, the end of Broadway, Point Pleasant Beach.
Leader: Bill Resotko (732)899-2004 & Peggy O'Neill (201) 868-5829. Bring lunch

Sunday, Dec. 4 - 10:00 AM Raptors & Winter Waterfowl of the Meadowlands at DeKorte Park.
A short talk on the raptors and winter waterfowl then a walk along Disposal Road.
Contact: Don Torino 201-636-4022 or greatauk4@aol.com Meet in the Environment Center.

Tuesday, Dec. 6 - 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy at Teaneck Rd. & Puffin Way.
Contact: Don Torino 201-636-4022, e-mail greatauk4@aol.com Meet at parking lot Puffin Way.

Saturday, Dec. 10 - 9:00 AM Mehrhof Pond at the end of Mehrhof Rd., Little Ferry.
Registration is required - per BC Utility Authority rules. *Entry gate details to follow.*
Leader: Dave Hall (973)-226-8275. Waterfowl, raptors, other birds of interest.

Saturday, Dec. 17 - Christmas Bird Count. Volunteers welcome.
Coordinator: Dave Hall (973)226-7825 Call to participate or Sign-up at our meetings.

Sunday, Dec. 18 - 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy at Teaneck Rd. & Puffin Way.
Contact: Don Torino 201-636-4022, e-mail greatauk4@aol.com Meet at parking lot Puffin Way.

Tuesday, Dec. 20 - 10:00 AM Winter Solstice Walk DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst.
Celebrate the upcoming Winter Solstice. Wintering waterfowl, raptors, other birds of interest.
Contact: Don Torino 201-636-4022 or e-mail greatauk4@aol.com.

Sunday, Jan. 1 - 10:00 AM DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst. Waterfowl, other birds of interest.
Contact: Don Torino 201-636-4022, e-mail greatauk4@aol.com

Tuesday, Jan. 3 - 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy. Talk & walk on Winter Birds.
Contact: Don Torino 201-636-4022, e-mail greatauk4@aol.com Meet at parking lot Puffin Way.

Saturday, Jan. 14 - 9:30 AM Liberty State Park, Jersey City. Wintering waterfowl, other birds of interest. **Leader:** Peggy O'Neill (201) 868-5829 Meet at parking lot by park headquarters.

Sunday, Jan. 15 - 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy. Talk & Walk on Winter Birds.
Contact: Don Torino 201-636-4022, e-mail greatauk4@aol.com Meet at parking lot Puffin Way.

Tuesday, Jan. 17 - 10:00 AM Laurel Hill, Secaucus Great Cormorants, waterfowl, Ravens.
Meet: Big parking lot by Laurel Hill ball fields at 10 or the first parking lot in DeKorte at 9:20.
Contact: Don Torino 201-636-4022 or e-mail greatauk4@aol.com.

Saturday, Jan. 28 TBA
Leader: Denise Farrell 201-370-1148 or email miata160@yahoo.com.

SCHEDULE OF MONTHLY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Remember we have moved our meeting location from Flat Rock Brook Nature Center (FRB) to Teaneck Creek Conservancy (TCC). Puffin Way is just one block from the intersection of Teaneck Rd and DeGraw Ave, close to NJ Turnpike and I-80 intersection. Refreshments at 7:30pm.

October 19 – 8:00pm "Geronimo, the General, and the Hummingbird"

Renowned bird writer and lecturer, Rick Wright, takes us back in time to when soldiers serving on the Southwestern frontier in the late nineteenth century sought distraction from the heat and tedium however they could. In rough towns and rougher outposts, whisky, women, and cards were favored pastimes, but on campaign, other pursuits had to break the boredom—among them, birding. Even General Crook was a birder, and his “capture” of Geronimo’s band in 1883 is tied in surprising ways to the general’s pursuit of a particularly beautiful hummingbird.

November 16 -8 pm “Bees: Part II” back by popular demand - Frank Mortimer and friends, the Northeast NJ Beekeepers Association with more interesting information about beekeeping.

December 21—8:00pm. Holiday Party-

Join your BCAS friends for a relaxed evening to celebrate the holidays and a recap of our wonderful year. Bring light refreshments if you like.

January 18 - 8:00pm. Volunteer Appreciation and Member's Night.

A special night to thank our volunteers and for our members to share their photos and adventures. This is the evening to share and admire all their efforts by bringing along a 5-10 min. presentation.

February 15 - Habitat Restoration: The BCAS Butterfly Garden at Overpeck. Our Chapter’s first habitat restoration project. The importance of Native Plants and the success we had by enhancing the environment. Also, a discussion of plants that can be used in a home garden and the planned butterfly garden for Teaneck Creek Conservancy.

Lisa DeVos.

Spring Count Fundraiser, 2011

Bergen County Audubon Society thanks everyone who donated to the 2011 fundraiser. This year's total of \$3,945 was the highest amount in many years. This is greatly appreciated since the number of *Audubon Adventures* kits requested by local schools this year was 69; the most requests we have ever received. Through your generosity we are pleased to be able to fulfill all these requests.

If there are any mistakes or omissions, I apologize and if contacted, will be happy to correct them in the next issue of the Blue Jay.

PEGGY O'NEILL

We extend our thanks to our individual and local business supporters:

Gail Brady	Frank Libert
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A MESSAGE FOR BIRDERS FROM THE PAST

I spent Sunday night sitting on the couch with my two Beagles and an old cardboard box. This was not just any old cardboard box; this one had seventy years of birding history packed inside it. The Indiana Jones of Birding would want to be in my shoes at that moment. It had to do with the commemoration of our 70th Anniversary and the kind of celebration to have - that is how I became entrusted with this musty old treasure chest of Birding Past.

I took a breath and lifted the top of the magical box and, like Howard Carter looking into King Tut's Tomb for the first time, I saw many wonderful things –birding histories, the thoughts, observations and reflections of people that loved what we love but back seven decades. Since I opened my first box of Captain Crunch I learned that the best prizes were always at the bottom of the box. I quickly dug right down and pulled out a 1951 copy of our Blue Jay. I held it in my hand and considered all the hard work and time it took to put that little newsletter together, no computers, no notebooks or even E-mails, just a typewriter and lots of commitment.

The five page newsletter fell open from the back, and there I saw a list of field trips we still visit like Hatfield Swamp and other places I never heard of. But what I found next was so relevant it could have been written this morning, it was simply titled:

CONSERVATION NOTES - 1951

Conservation may be compared to democracy – everyone believes in it and wants to see it maintained, but few actually work to make it a living, workable and vigorous part of our way of life.

Conservation is much more than a sentimental hobby or protection for the species which we, as individuals, happen to be interested in – whether it be plant, animal or bird.

This nation is a great nation largely because of the amazing wealth of natural resources found on this continent. The axe, the match and the plow have ruthlessly and steadily decreased this wealth to the point where now we – each of us – must be vigilant to be sure that what remains of our heritage be used with care and discretion, lest we lose what is left and with it our strength to maintain our way of life.

Work for conservation in your own community – support your local garden clubs and Audubon societies and above all, express yourself as an individual to your lawmakers at Trenton and Washington. Our legislators depend on the freely expressed will of their constituents to guide them in the formulation of laws which deal with our common heritage – the fields, streams, woodlands and forests of America and the highly organized community of life which live in them. (from 1951 BlueJay.)

Although written 60 years ago, the issues facing the Audubon Society back then are the same we still stand by today in 2011. Yet today we have legislation which protects our water and air, lists endangered species, bans on DDT, Pinelands /Highlands protection acts, Green Acres programs, NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission. The writer must have been expressing the fears of a generation without those protections, and advising communities to be activists and good stewards of the earth. This is the foundation that we stand on today.

Seventy years later we are still here, thanks to the people that decided to stand up despite overwhelming odds and public ridicule and do what they believe needed to be done.

The article was not signed so no one was looking for credit. Maybe they just hoped that one day someone would open up this old musty box on a Sunday night and read it to the next generation of conservationists, with the hope that they would not get discouraged but “be vigilant to be sure that what remains of our heritage be used with care and discretion, lest we lose what is left and with it our strength to maintain our way of life.”

They knew the fight would never end - conservation battles just go from one place to the next. The people that were entrusted years ago to protect the wild places only ask that we carry on where they left off. The best way to celebrate the first seventy years is to make sure we work just as hard and are just as committed as they were for the next seventy years. We owe them that much.

Don Torino, Education Chairperson

BERGEN COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY

**A CHAPTER OF THE
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY**

**P.O. Box 235
Paramus, NJ 07653-0235**

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**Dated Material
October 2011**

Bergen County Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. As Members of Bergen County Audubon Society, we share a love for birds and a concern for the environment. Our mission is to promote and protect wildlife in their natural habitat by providing opportunities for observation and conservation.

All field trips and programs are open to the public and free of charge.

Membership Application 2011

For National Audubon Society and/or Bergen County Audubon Society. (Q07)

Please Print

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail (if you would like to be notified of upcoming events): _____

You may enroll as a member of the National Audubon Society and you will receive Audubon magazine and automatically become a member of Bergen County Audubon. The first time membership is \$20. Or you may enroll in the Bergen County Audubon Society only and receive only our newsletter, The Blue Jay, for \$20 annually.

Please enroll me in National Audubon (make check payable to National Audubon Society)

Please enroll me in Bergen County Audubon only (make check payable to Bergen County Audubon Society)

Please mail to : BCAS Membership Chair PO Box 235 Paramus, NJ 07653-0235

If interested in participating in the following local chapter activities or committees please check the following and mail with your subscription or see any officer or chair at one of the meetings

Conservation Membership Publicity Field Trips Newsletter
 Education ARK program (Wildlife refuge volunteer)