



FALL/WINTER 2018

Volume LXXV, Issue 4

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

WE CANNOT TURN OUR BACKS ON THE ENVIRONMENT NOW

Our environment has made an incredible comeback here in New Jersey and especially in Bergen County. We have seen the Meadowlands come back from a place that was once left for dead to one of the most amazing natural areas in the state.

We are witnessing a near miracle of the return of the Bald Eagle, the Osprey and the Peregrine Falcon from near extinction to becoming an almost common sight in our neighborhoods. Something I could never even have dreamed of as a kid growing up in the Meadowlands. And yet today we are in danger of taking giant steps backwards unless we stand up and be heard. Projects like the Meadowlands power plant and the potential loss of 75 acres of wildlife habitat in Teaneck for a Dinosaur amusement park is a return to the dark ages when the Meadowlands and surrounding areas only existed for exploitation and greed.

We have come so very far because many good people from our elected officials to private citizens stood up and did the right thing. To turn our backs now would be an insult to those many people that fought so hard and sacrificed so much to protect our environment. It would also be a devastating blow to the health of our wildlife and ultimately the people of Bergen County. We cannot turn back, we need to move ahead and preserve the habitat that is left to keep the air and water clean and say no to the powers that still want to take us back to the bad old days destroying the nature that has battled so hard to come back.

DON TORINO

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**BERGEN COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY—
Officers, Directors & Committee Chairpersons**

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My deepest thanks to everyone who donated to my Birthday Facebook Fundraiser for Bergen County Audubon.

You helped us raise more than \$1200 that will be used for native plants to continue our project at Overpeck Butterfly Garden.



Thanks again,
DON TORINO

MONTHLY EVENTS & MEETINGS, NOV--JAN 2019

Meetings are held at Teaneck Creek Conservancy, Puffin Way, Teaneck, NJ.

**Business Meeting at 7:30pm.
Programs begin at 8pm**

**NOVEMBER 21 (Wed) - *Owls, Watchers of the Night* By
Giselle Chazotte Smisko**

Mysterious and fascinating owls have intrigued people for centuries. Learn details of the owls' lives and their amazing adaptations. The talk will feature live owls from Avian Wildlife Center.

Giselle Chazotte Smisko is a naturalist, photographer, wildlife rehabilitator, and Master Bird Bander. She now directs the Avian Wildlife Center (a NJ nonprofit corporation) with her husband, John Smisko).

DECEMBER 19 (Wed) -- *Conservation Award Presentation & HOLIDAY PARTY*

**JANUARY 16 (Wed.) – “ *The Best of Birds, Blogs & Books*”
by Jim Wright.**

Jim Wright has written about Bergen birds ever since he moved to the Celery Farm in the year 2000, and he enjoys talking about them almost as much as he enjoys writing about them or photographing them.

In this illustrated presentation, he'll talk about some highlights from the return of the Bald Eagles and Peregrines to the time he and photographer Jerry Barrack discovered nine young Wood Ducks were "*Duck Enough to Fly.*" He is still seeking a high-res image of a local Wild Turducken. Jim Wright is an author, columnist, blogger and marsh warden based in Allendale, NJ.

**If you have suggestions or would like to help with future programs, please contact: Program Chair, Karen Riede
@theriedes@hotmail.com**

TO BCAS MEMBERS

Remember to notify us by mail or email (bergencountyaudubon.org) if you move or change your email address so that we can keep you informed of our events, field trips, renewal and our Blue Jay newsletter.

Thank you.

Joseph Koscielny -201-337-3405 or joedadcpa@aol.com.

2018 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

This is a Nature Program Cooperative Event

Our 70th Annual Hackensack-Ridgewood Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday, December 15. The official count period extends from December 12 through December 18. 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, and helps to identify important bird areas in Bergen County. We have observed over 180 species over the past 69 years, including a record 97 species in 2014, plus several exotics. Every winter season is different, and with your help we can produce another outstanding result.

We need your help in the field or in your neighborhood on Count day. **Feeder counts** conducted in your yard on Dec.16th can be very valuable, and we welcome you to call in your feeder results to my home on the day following the count (973-226-7825). The event will take place in any weather – rain, sleet or snow will not cancel. Even if you can only participate for part of the day, every observer can be a valuable addition to our group effort. We invite you to join us and have a good time. We have experienced leaders assigned for most of the territories described below. Please make arrangements for participating with one of these leaders or signup at an upcoming BCAS meeting at the Puffin Center at Teaneck Creek.

If you would rather conduct a count in your local neighborhood or at a local park, please contact me in advance, so that we can coordinate your effort with that of our leaders. 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. If you would like more information about the Christmas Bird Count, please contact David Hall at 973-226-7825 (eves.)

DAVID HALL

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-A: **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 II-B: **Gerry Byrne (201 262-0157)**.

Includes: United Water properties in Haworth and Emerson plus the Emerson Woods.

Area III: **Sandra Bonardi (201- 784-0484) [daytime; leave message]**. Includes: Tenafly, Greenbrook Sanctuary and parts of the Hudson shoreline.

Area IV: **Marie Longo (201-498-0809) and Jimmie Macaluso**

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, 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, 2018--2019

Unless noted, all field trips are rain OR shine. For last minute changes due to inclement weather or other conditions, please notify trip leader. For additional information or to make suggestions for field trips, **please contact Field Chair, Chris Takacs at 201-207-0426 or americanchris22@gmail.com.**

NOTE: Contact info for Don Torino, phone 201-230-4938, **Email:** greatauk4@gmail.com

- November 4 (Sun) 10:00 AM - Mill Creek Marsh.** Fall migrants, ducks Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- November 6 (Tues) 9:30 AM -Teaneck Creek Conservancy.** Fall migrants, Sparrows. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- November 11 (Sun) 10:00 AM -NJ Botanical Garden in Ringwood.** Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- November 15 (Thurs) 8:30 AM, Hilltop Reservation.** Fall Migrants, Sparrows. Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825
david.hall@einstein.yu.edu
- November 18 (Sun) 9:30 AM -Teaneck Creek Conservancy.** Fall Migrants, Sparrows. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- November 20 (Tues) 10:00 AM -Richard DeKorte Park.** Fall migrants Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- November 22 (Thurs) 9:00 AM -Losen Slote Creek Park / Merhoff Pond. Thanksgiving Morning Walk.** Fall migrants, Sparrows. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com
- November 28 (Wed) 9:00 AM -Barnegat Lighthouse State Park.** Looking for Scoters, Eiders, Loons, Harlequin Ducks, wintering shorebirds. Dress for cold & windy weather. Meet at Lighthouse parking lot, bring lunch. Contact: Peg O'Neill, omargarito@aol.com 201-868-5829 or Bill Resotko 848-258-3914 . **Bad Weather Cancels!**
- December 1 (Sat) 8:00 AM, Merhoff Pond / BCUA, Little Ferry. Limited number of participants!** Fall Migrants, Sparrows, Ducks. Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu
- December 2 (Sun) 10:00 AM -Richard DeKorte Park.** Hawks, Ducks, Sparrows. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- December 4 (Tues) 10:00 AM -New Overpeck Park.** Fall Migrants, wintering birds. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- December 5 (Wed) 9:00 AM -North Shore.** Meeting spot: Manasquan Inlet. End of Broadway in Point Pleasant. NO BATHROOM. Looking for Scoters, Gannets, Ducks. NO Bathrooms. Contact: Peg O'Neill, omargarito@aol.com 201-868-5829 or Bill Resotko 848-258-3914
- December 13 (Thurs) 8:30 AM, Hatfield Swamp.** Fall Migrants, Sparrows. Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825
david.hall@einstein.yu.edu
- December 15 (Sat) Christmas Bird Count - all day.** Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu
- December 16 (Sun) 9:30 AM -Losen Slote Creek Park / Merhoff Pond.** Late fall migrants, wintering birds. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com
- December 18 (Tues) 10:00 AM -Laurel Hill County Park.** Ducks, cormorants, wintering birds. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com
- December 25 (Tues) 9:00 AM -Christmas Day Walk at Richard DeKorte Park.** Waterfowl, Eagles, wintering birds. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com
- January 1 (Tues) 10:00 AM -New Year's Day Walk at Richard DeKorte Park.** Ducks, Raptors and wintering birds. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com
- January 3 (Thurs) 8:30 AM -Weequaic Park, Newark.** Wintering Ducks. Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825. David.hall@einstein.yu.edu
- January 6 (Sun) 10:00 AM -Harrier Meadow / Disposal Rd.** Wintering birds, raptors, and ducks. Contact: Don Torino
- January 15 (Tues) 10:00 AM -Losen Slote Creek Park / Merhoff Pond.** Waterfowl, Eagles, wintering birds. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Continued . . .

Field Trips (Cont'd)

January 20 (Sun) 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Eagle Fest - New Bridge Landing. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983

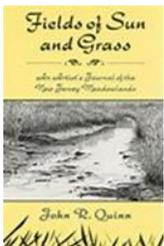
January 27 (Sun) 1:00 PM - Save the Eagles Day, Bell Dr. Ridgefield. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983

January 31 (Thurs) 8:30 AM, Hilltop Reservation. Fall Migrants, Sparrows. Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu

BOOK REVIEW:

Reviewed by Nancy Salvati

Fields Of Sun And Grass, An Artist's Journal Of The NJ Meadowlands, by John R. Quinn, Rutgers Univ. Press, 1997



The late author, John Quinn, naturalist, writer, and artist frames a portrait of this magnificent wetlands like no other. His language is filled with passion and a hopefulness that these Meadowlands will survive in spite of how much humankind has tried to throw at them (in literal sense). The book has three sections: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.

John and his brother, Steven, are like a Tom Sawyer twosome with the adventure awaiting them outside their backdoor in Ridgefield Park – Overpeck Creek, where they roam and engage with its wildlife. John depicts the “Yesterday” through its geological era with "glacial Lake Hackensack where mastodons roam." His line drawings and artistry emphasizes his textual descriptions such as 'this primeval glacial estuary' which could not be tamed as Dutch farmers attempt to control its tidal flow with dikes shown in maps and other drawings of that period. Altogether John has 200 original line drawings throughout the book.

John begins “Today” with transportation hubs such as Newark Airport and especially the NJ Turnpike as turning points in the evolution of the Meadowlands’ use as platforms for a growing population. Throughout the decades of abuse, i.e. dumping and refuse-filling this "ancient river valley," he holds up the "ecumenopolis" or urbanized meadows that continue to survive. The relevancy lives on as we move into the “Future” section. Little did John know that his backyard would be facing a massive gas-fired 1200 megawatt power plant slated for operation in 2021 in North Bergen. We need to call on his 'Voices' noted in John's book --those Meadowland's past advocates who played significant roles in its survival. So we are the advocates of its future survival whether in our town halls or in a voting booth to protect our wildlife, air and water.

2018 FALL BIRDING FESTIVAL on SEPTEMBER 15



Our Meadowlands Birding Festival drew more than 500 people, many of whom experienced our incredible New Jersey Meadowlands for the very first time.

Many thanks to all our BCAS volunteers and the NJSEA. A shoutout of thanks to our sponsor, Suez North Jersey.

THANKS TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS!



CONSERVATION

Creating Backyard Habitats for Birds

Mary Kostus, Chair

In my yard I have 10 Common Milkweed plants and native pollinator plants like Agastache, NJ mint, Joe Pye weed, Snake root, Pokeberry and multiple Asters. Trees are grey birch, pin oak and eastern white pine. I also have two brush/branch piles and a kitchen waste mulch pile.

I've had Kinglets in my birch and Brown Creepers on my pine. The flowering pollinator plants attract multiple species of bees and wasps and the common Milkweed had Monarch butterflies laying eggs that evolved to adult caterpillars. For the last three years Common Yellowthroats visited my yard. The Common Yellowthroats use my brush wood piles to hunt for insects. A Common Yellowthroat was sitting on the brush wood pile with a small green caterpillar in its beak. Its scenes like this that make me happy that my yard can provide some food to carry them on their long journey south. Cardinals like to scoot across the ground searching for native seeds while Blue Jays and Woodpeckers prefer the peanuts and suet. I also had a late Mockingbird fledgling crying for food and the parent ignored the seed and suet, dove down to my kitchen waste mulch pile and plucked a nice juicy spider to feed it's now satisfied young.

When building your backyard bird habitat try to incorporate different types of food and plants and remember to **leave leaves** and build a couple of brush and wood piles. The leaves and brush piles create a habitat for insects and spiders. Insects provide a lot of protein and are also the preferred diet of many seed-eating birds like Black-capped Chickadees when they are raising young. While Blue Jays and Woodpeckers relish those peanuts you put out, many birds rely on native plant seeds like Ma-yapple seeds and pokeberries and many migratory birds need those high protein insects. To create a backyard brush and wood pile toss your trimmed tree branches in a loose pile like building a tent or teepee. Use different sizes and make sure the pile is loose enough and has spaces to allow birds to hop in and out. Pieces of bark are also good habitats for insects. *(Photo above depicts the building of an 'insect hotel' for your birds.)*



Bergen County Audubon has certified over 133 native wildlife gardens. If you would like to have your garden certified, visit our website and download an application. Don't forget the brush and woodpiles.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE - Darlene De Santis



I'm into my second year as a BCAS member. I've made great friends and learned so much from going on walks and from BCAS programs.

I've always loved taking pictures but began photographing birds in 2016. I was spending a lot of time in Edgewater then photographing Canada Geese, so I have them to thank for sparking my passion for birds. I saw two adult geese raise their nine babies, from fluffy little yellow chicks to strong young birds. I remember watching the family, affectionately dubbed "The Edgewater 11," walk along the walkway and then they started "chattering." I had a feeling they were going to take flight, and they did! All 11 across the Hudson River. So wonderful to see.



I am amazed by every bird, whether it be a bird I've seen many times or one I've never seen before. My very first sighting of an eagle was at Overpeck Park in 2016. I posted the picture I took and asked for a confirm because I could not believe I saw an eagle. I live only a few minutes from the Ridgefield Park eagles on Bell Drive. It's one of my favorite places to visit and hopefully catch Al and Alice II. All of the pictures I've taken of them are very special to me. American Robins are another favorite of mine, just a classic and beautiful bird I think. I love sharing my photos online with the hope that it will motivate people to get outside and experience all the beauty and wonder of nature and support efforts to ensure future generations can do the same.

This column is dedicated to all those members who, in some way, have enhanced preserved, conserved, protected, educated or elevated our experiences of those things we love, the beauty of the natural world.

EDUCATION

Marie Longo, Education Chair

Audubon Adventures

This year, BCAS will proudly sponsor Audubon Adventures to nine schools:

Bergen 4H Garden Club, Garfield; East Brook Elementary School, Park Ridge; Emerson Jr./Sr. High School, Ridgewood Parks and Recreation, Saddle Brook Middle School, Solomon Schechter Day School of Bergen County, Bergenfield; Upper Greenwood Lake School, Hewitt and West Ridge Elementary School, Park Ridge. Welcome to our newest school: Our Lady of Mercy Academy, Park Ridge.

BCAS sponsors the kits to schools in our area at no cost to them. Thank you to all who donated to our Spring Count fundraiser making the donation of these kits possible.

Certified Wildlife Gardens

BCAS has certified 133 gardens. Fall is a great time to plant native trees, shrubs and perennials. Consider adding some natives to your garden to help make a difference for wildlife and if you haven't done so yet, get your garden certified by BCAS.



BCAS SPRING COUNT FUNDRAISER, 2018



2018 SPRING FUNDRAISER --- 155 SEPARATE BIRD SPECIES ---- \$ 3,181.00 DONATIONS

Thanks to the people listed below for their help. Due to your generosity and that of others, our organization can continue our mission of education including Audubon Adventures and conservation programs.

**GEORGE/SUSAN AROV, LINDA CARMODY, DIANNE CONNOR, REGINA COYLE, PEG DALTON,
BILL/MARY ANN FAHEY, DAVID FOGARTY,**

**JOHN/MEL, LINDA GIBERTH, BETH GOLDBERG, NICK/ CYNDI GRIEPENBURG, DAVE/ NANCY HALL
SUSAN JAKOB, JOSEPH KOSCIELNY, ALICE LEURCK, KRISTEN LINDSTROM, SUSAN LINDSTROM,
RICHARD LYNCH,**

**MARY MATSUI, MARGARET FLANNERY McVEY, NANCY MEDNICK, ALLAN MONDAY, JOHN MORAN,
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**KAREN NICKESON, VERA OLSEN, PEG O'NEILL, MARTY PRINCE, STEVE/ LINDA QUINN,
KAREN RIEDE,**

**NANCY SALVATI, RACHEL STERN, MARTIN/LINDA STIO, MARCIA STREAN, LAURA STRICKER,
PAT/DON TORINO, ANNE VEZZA, DALE VANYO, MARK WHITMAN.**

Please advise of any mistakes and we will correct.

PEG O'NEILL



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

Dated Material
OCTOBER 2018

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2018

Please enroll me as a member of the Bergen Audubon Society (Q07) and/or the National Audubon Society. My check is enclosed for

() \$20 Chapter Sustaining Member or () \$35 Family Membership. All funds stay in our area, helping us to support local efforts and provide services in Bergen County. Make check payable to Bergen County Audubon.

() \$20 - National Audubon Society Member. (1st year rate for new NAS members only). Includes Chapter membership. Make check payable to National Audubon Society.

Name: _____

Address : _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

E-mail (I would like to be notified of upcoming events online and receive the newsletter electronically.)

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

Volunteer opportunities in local chapter activities or committees are available. Please circle your interest and mail with your subscription or see any officer or chair at one of the meetings.

- Conservation Membership Publicity Field Trips
 Education Newsletter/Website Gardens