

From the Presidents Perch



SPECIAL HONOR

Bergen County Audubon was honored to be invited by the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey and the New Jersey Department of Fish & Wildlife to help band a nest of Peregrine Falcons on top of 101 Hudson Street in Jersey City. Needless to say to hold a peregrine chick in our hands left us speechless. There are no words that I can find to explain what it means to hold an endangered species and moreover the fastest animal in the world in your hand.

The Peregrine, a magnificent and legendary hunter of the skies, is still very much endangered. As strong and noble as this raptor is, its future depends on all of us as do our other threatened and endangered species here in the Garden State.

Now more than ever we need to urge our state and local officials to save a place for our wildlife before birds like our Peregrine Falcon are gone forever. We all need to stand up and save wildlife habitat in our state, counties and communities and let the powers that be know we deeply care. We want our children and all future generations to be able to watch the Peregrine Falcons, Bald Eagles and the Osprey that have patrolled the skies of New Jersey from time immemorial.

DON TORINO

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Editor: Nancy Salvati .

**2018 SPRING COUNT FINDS LOTS OF BIRDS IN
MIGRATION – WET AND WILD**

Our 26th annual BCAS Spring Bird Count was a big success due to participation by lots of dedicated volunteers, who spread out across all of Bergen County and a bit farther. Their goal was to monitor the progress of the spring migration on Saturday, May 12.

Fifteen small groups embarked on this quest despite threatening skies and fog. Many of us got wet during mid-morning showers, but most soldiered on to count the birds in their area throughout the day. There were some spots with only middling results, but many migrants were found in local parks and in the woods at Garret Mountain, in the Meadowlands, along the Palisades, and in the Ramapos.

Taken together, this was one of the best Spring Counts that we have ever achieved, with 155 species identified. Almost all possible Warblers were found (**27 species!**), and an amazing assortment of water birds, including several ducks that were new to the Count. Birding at dawn at Lake Tappan was crucial, thanks to Chris Takacs and friends, as they uncovered both Black Scoter and White-winged Scoter there, plus some other goodies! Except for Osprey, raptors were rather hard to find. Ravens were seen across the whole County. The most exciting new sighting for the Spring Bird Count was a Mink at the Celery Farm, found by Julie McCall!

The list on page 7 includes all bird species identified, and I have highlighted some of the most impressive finds in bold face. As in previous years, the Spring Count finds about double the number of bird species compared to our Christmas Bird Count, but the total number of birds seen in May is only about 20% of what we find in December when huge flocks are heading south. Go figure.

Most of all I want to warmly thank all of our volunteers who made this excellent result possible. They all deserve a round of applause for a job well done!

DAVE HALL

**2018 ANNUAL FEEDER CLEANING
FUNDRAISER-**

On June 9th twenty plus volunteers helped out at our Annual Bird Feeder Cleaning at Wild Birds Unlimited. We managed to clean 185 feeders - some very dirty - with donations of \$1,087. Thanks to all who helped out and especially Scott Gunther who gave us the space and treated us to a very nice lunch.

YOU CAN PROTECT OUR BIRDS ALL YEAR

Remember to rake up spilled grain and hulls. Uneaten seed can become soggy and grow deadly mold. Empty and clean feeders twice a year (spring and fall), or more often if feeders are used during humid summers. Using a long-handled bottlebrush, scrub with dish detergent and rinse with a powerful hose; then soak in a bucket of 10 percent non-chlorine bleach solution, rinse well, and dry in the sun.

PEGGY O'NEILL

***SAVE THE DATE: -
MEADOWLANDS BIRDING FESTIVAL***



**Saturday, September 15, 2018 at
10am - 4pm**

Our Keynote Speaker, David Allen Sibley, America's most gifted contemporary painter of birds, is the author and illustrator of the well-known Field Guides to the Birds of Eastern and Western North America. He has also written guides to Bird Life & Behavior, an overall guide to birds, and birding basics.

Other special programs include **Rick Wright**, A widely published author, and popular tour leader and **Giselle Chazotte Smisko**, **director of the non-profit Avian Wildlife Center** (and bird rehabilitation center) with some residents.

***Stay tuned for info on Bird and Nature walks, Pontoon
Tours, Field Trips and Special Events.***

MAKING A DIFFERENCE. Our volunteer column thanking all those who have donated their time and energy for our wildlife. This time BCAS thanks Jimmy Macaluso for his monitoring efforts on behalf of Bergen Audubon.

When I was just a child, maybe 6 or 7, my grandpa had me help him build a few bird houses for our adjacent yards in Saddle Brook. That summer I was mesmerized by these little brown birds building nests and raising babies that I later learned were House Wrens. My parents surprised me that Christmas with my first pet bird, a fifty-nine cent brown female canary from Woolworths. From there my passion grew from raising not only canaries, but parakeets, English Budgies, finches, Cockatiels, to Bobwhite Quail, ducks, and Fancy Pigeons. But after thirty some years of breathing in feather dust, I gave up my husbandry and so I began bird watching.



Fast forward to the twenty-first century and I found myself at Overpeck County Park several days a week. At some point I stumbled upon Teaneck Creek Conservancy and ran into two people working in one of the gardens who turned out to be Don Torino and Marie Longo. They seemed happy to meet a potential new member (and volunteer), so I accepted an invitation to attend a Bergen County Audubon Society meeting that evening. I had no idea how persuasive they could be and I've been busy ever since with all things both birds and butterflies.

My first volunteer assignment was to monitor an Osprey nest on Degraw Ave. Don introduced me to Ben Wurst, the main man when it comes to Ospreys and other raptors for Conserve Wildlife New Jersey. They got me signed up to Osprey Watch (www.osprey-watch.org) so I could document my sightings and photos of the Degraw nest as well as several others, including nests that Jim Wright used to monitor before he retired from the Meadowlands Commission. With the help of Don, Chris Takacs and others, I was able to locate those nests and others. Don also had me monitor some local Red-tail Hawk nests and our TCC Great Horned Owls for the last three years.

When I told Don that I suspected Savannah Sparrows, a Species of Special Concern in New Jersey, were breeding in the Meadowlands, he encouraged me to document and send my findings to NJ Department of Environmental Protection which I have done for the last three years. When I told him that the Tree Swallow boxes at Skeetkill Marsh were in need of repair, the next thing I knew I was up to my knees in meadow mud with Gabrielle Bennett-Meany and Chris Takacs putting up swallow boxes. And when I asked Don for help in order to repair and improve the Tree Swallow houses at Overpeck he hooked me up with the right people. And with the help of Richard Greendyke, the Bluebird Man of the NJ Botanical Garden, I put up several somewhat 'House Sparrow proof houses' and for the first time in years we had baby Tree Swallows fledge at Overpeck Park this summer.

And I won't even go into how I learned to tag Monarch Butterflies from Marie Longo as I ran around local fields with my socks pulled over my pants and a butterfly net held in the ready. But I have to admit, in these last four years or so I have had so much fun, met great people, learned so much about birds and bugs and have met some of the most dedicated conservationists in the country. For that I have no complaints at all.

JIMMY MACALUSO

* * * *

Editors Note : I asked Jim about the importance of monitoring and what it entails (no pun). Jim said that number 1 is keeping your distance and not spooking the bird. He continued, "When I monitor the Ospreys or other raptors I make sure I keep a good distance away. In the case of the Degraw Ospreys it's not a problem because they are a few hundred feet up, but even they sometimes complain when they realize that I am watching them. Besides, I want to see them act in a natural way so I can learn about their habits. Don lent me a spotting scope and I have a 600mm lens for my camera and I use both to watch them. Experience has taught me what an incubating Osprey looks like as opposed to an Osprey with new chicks in the nest. I've learned what a soon-to-fledge chick looks like compared to one of its parents. But I am always careful not to disturb them."



The same with Tree Swallows (as shown at left).

Jim said: "The only function of the monofilament strands hanging over the opening is to deter predatory House Sparrows from getting into the nest. I keep a safe distance. I don't open the box unless I suspect a House Sparrow or other predator has disrupted the nest. I usually park myself fifty feet or so and just watch the box, often for a half hour or more. Once I am fairly certain that there is a nest with eggs, I screw the door closed to keep predators such as raccoons and people out! Another clue is the frequency of the parents coming and going from the nest. I monitor other nesting birds like the Savannah Sparrows and other song birds the same way. Just keep my distance and patiently watch."

Thanks Jimmy for protecting and nurturing these bird families. I believe it is appropriate to give you the title of honorary grandpop.

NATIVE BEES AND THE "BEEPOCALYPSE"

Colony collapse has brought much attention to the plight of the European honey bee and thankfully more study of the native bee population. Many people are unaware of the importance of native bees in the food industry or that they are also subject to decline due to use of pesticides, mites and fungus. One highlighted quote from the below article* is the most important. **"Remedies for bee decline can be as simple as planting flowers and reducing pesticide use, but the results are often transformational."** Here is how each member can help to save our bees. Put a single native plant in your garden or start a BCAS Certified Garden, and we're on the way to saving our bee populations.

****Plight of the Humble Bee, Thor Hanson, The Wall Street Journal, June 29, 2018.***

NATIVE BEE FACTS



- * There are 4000 species of bees in North America.
- * Native bees are specialists at pollinating squash.
- * Bumble bees are shipped around the world to pollinate green house crops like tomatoes.
- * Native bees are used to pollinate Apple orchards in New York, almond orchards in California and blueberries.
- * The rusty patched bumblebee is the first North American bee to be added to the endangered species list.

- * There are seven yellow faced native bee species in Hawaii waiting to be added to the list.
- * There are native bees as small as an ant called fairy bees. The largest native bee is the carpenter bee.
- * Bees descended from wasps and evolved as herbivores while most wasps are carnivores. Some native bees vibrate their bodies to get pollen while other native bees actually snip the back of the flower to drink the nectar.
- * Some native bees nest in sandy ground in tunnels, some in dead rotting wood and some in holes or reeds that have hollow centers.
- * There are bees that chew through sandstone to make a burrow.
- * Native plants and native flowers are the best way to help bees as well as no neonicotinoid insecticides.
- * Though Bumble Bees are social bees, the majority of native North American bees are solitary, living and providing for their own even though they may nest closely to other bees of the same species.
- * Take care of our native bees, they're very important to our food supply.

For more information visit. <https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/native-bees/>

**ANNOUNCING THE 9TH ANNUAL
"BCAS/HAROLD FEINBERG CONSERVATION AWARD"**

One of the best things about leading Bergen Audubon as the President has been the opportunity to meet many devoted, hardworking people in many small communities around Bergen County that are committed to conservation and making the environment a better place for their neighbors and the wildlife around them. These unsung heroes have given of themselves with little recognition and often with personal sacrifice. So it is in their honor that we are proud to announce our annual **"Bergen County Audubon/Harold Feinberg Conservation Award"**.

This award is named in honor of Harold Feinberg, a long time member and field trip chairman for many years. Harold had been a mentor, an enthusiastic supporter of our endeavors and had always given freely of his expertise with a combination of patience and knowledge that few possess. **We are asking you to nominate a candidate that you think should be recognized with this award. Please send us the name of someone who you think has worked on behalf of the environment and the BCAS board will consider them for the Award.** (Current BCAS board members are not eligible).

Nominations must include:

- a) Name and address or phone number of the individual. b) Description of their accomplishment; why you think this individual(s) should receive this award (400 words or less). c) Your name and address or phone number.

All nominations must be received no later than September 30, 2018. Award presentation at our December meeting. -Submissions may be mailed to BCAS, PO Box 235, Paramus, NJ 07653 or email to Don Torino at greatauk4@gmail.com

FIELD TRIPS: --SUMMER/FALL , 2018

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 chair, CHRIS TAKACS 201-207-0426 or americanchris22@gmail.com**. **Updates are posted on www.bergencountyaudubon.org.**

Where not noted, *Don Torino contact info -Don Torino 201-230-4983 or greatauk4@gmail.com*

- August 5 (Sun) 10:00 AM Richard DeKorte Park.** Shorebirds and early migrants Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- August 7 (Tues) 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy.** Early migrants. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- August 12 (Sun) 1:00 PM Butterfly Walk at NJ Botanical Garden in Ringwood.** Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- August 16 (Thurs) Moth Night Teaneck Creek Conservancy.** Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com
- August 19 (Sun) 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy.** Fall Migrants. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- August 21 (Tues) 10:00 AM Mill Creek Marsh.** Shorebirds and early fall migrants. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- September 2 (Sun) 10:00 AM Mill Creek Marsh.** Shorebirds and fall migrants. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- September 4 (Tues) 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy.** Fall Migrants, Warblers. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- September 15 (Sat) All-day Meadowlands Birding Festival, Richard DeKorte Park.** Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- September 16 (Sun) 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy.** Fall Migrants, Warblers. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- September 18 (Tues) 10:00 AM Mill Creek Point / Schmidt's Woods.** Fall migrants, Ducks, Raptors. Contact: Don Torino
- September 23 (Sun) 10:00 PM Fall Nature Walk at NJ Botanical Garden in Ringwood.** Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- September 27 (Thurs) 10:00 AM New Overpeck Park.** Fall Migrants, warblers and sparrows. Meet at Bandshell Lot
Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com
- October 2 (Tues) 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy.** Fall migrants, Sparrows. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- October 4 (Thurs) 10:00 AM Losen Slote Creek Park.** Fall migrants, Thrushes. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- October 7 (Sun) 10:00 AM Harrier Meadow.** Fall Migrants, waterfowl, shorebirds, sparrows. Contact: Don Torino
- October 11 (Thurs) 8:30 AM Branch Brook Park.** Fall migrants, warblers, sparrows. Meet at Cherry Blossom Visitor Center. Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu
- October 13 (Sat) 8:30 AM, Becker Tract, meet at Essex County Environmental Center, Roseland.** Fall Migrants, Sparrows.
Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu
- October 16 (Tues) 10:00 AM Richard DeKorte Park.** Fall Migrants, waterfowl, shorebirds, sparrows. Contact: Don Torino
- October 18 (Thurs) 10:00 AM Harrier Meadow.** Fall Migrants, waterfowl, shorebirds, sparrows. Contact: Don Torino
- October 21 (Sun) 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy.** Fall Migrants, Sparrows. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- October 27 (Sat) 8:30 AM, Hatfield Swamp, meet at Stop & Shop parking lot.** Fall Migrants, Sparrows.
Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu

EDUCATION

MARIE LONGO

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

"Get to Know Birds" is the newest Audubon Adventures learning kit for grades 3 and up.

The new Audubon Adventures will focus on birds—the wildlife next door—as a way to teach about adaptation, pollination, migration and the interdependence of living things in our ecosystem. These kits require no previous knowledge on the topic and can be put to use in the classroom immediately. The curriculum is organized into 3 standalone units:

Standalone learning unit #1:	GET TO KNOW BIRDS
Standalone learning unit #2:	HOORAY FOR HUMMINGBIRDS
Standalone learning unit #3:	BIRDS NEED PLANTS AND PLANTS NEED BIRDS

The newest print Audubon Adventures classroom kit will include:

- 32 copies of each of the classroom magazine sets:
 - Get to Know Birds, Hooray for Hummingbirds! and Birds Need Plants, Plants Need Birds.
- Access to the digital teaching units on the three themes, plus ten other teaching modules
- Opportunities to participate in service learning and community science projects, such as the Great Backyard Bird Count.
- Classroom participation certificates
- Parent and Teacher Guides

Audubon Adventures can be easily integrated into the existing curriculum areas of science, social studies, mathematics, language arts and creative arts. BCAS proudly sponsors classroom kits to schools in our area free of charge. Connecting children with nature can ignite a spark that creates a lifelong passion.

If you are interested in ordering Audubon Adventures, please contact *Marie Longo* - MLongo8383@aol.com

CERTIFIED WILDLIFE GARDEN PROGRAM

Our CWG program continues to be successful, we have certified 125 gardens. Planting native plants in your garden provides beneficial food sources for birds and other wildlife. If you haven't certified your garden yet, please visit our website for an application and help make a difference for wildlife. *Visit www.bergencountyaudubon.org*

SCHEDULE OF MONTHLY EVENTS & MEETINGS

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

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

Sept. 19 (Wed) – Our Fascination With Woodpeckers by Pete Bacinski

There are 22 species of woodpeckers in North American and those found in NJ will be given special attention. Pete Bacinski well-known to the birding world as a photographer, author and lecturer will discuss behavior, identification, distribution, abundance and some of his personal stories on the amazing woodpecker.

Oct. 17 (Wed) –New Jersey's Rarest Reptiles and Amphibians by Allegra Mitchell

Allegra Mitchell manages Conserve Wildlife Foundation's (CWF) amphibian programs, including the Amphibian Crossing Project and the Kauffeld's Calling Frogs program. She works with landowners to preserve bog turtle habitat on private lands and conducts bog turtle population monitoring. She also manages initiatives to reconnect critical habitat for wildlife in New Jersey.

Nov. 21 (Wed.) –Owls, Watchers of the Night by Giselle Chazotte Smisko

Giselle Chazotte Smisko is a naturalist, photographer, wildlife rehabilitator, and Master Bird Bander. Her knowledge of birds comes from years of rehabilitating several thousand injured and young birds. She now directs the Avian Wildlife Center in Sussex County with the help of her husband, John Smisko. The talk will feature live owls from the Avian Wildlife Center.

Contact Karen Riede at 201-463-0771 for speaker and program suggestions.

25TH ANNUAL BCAS SPRING COUNT --

155 Total Species

MAY 12, 2018

by DAVE HALL

Common Loon	2	Great-horned Owl	1	Blue-winged Warbler	7
Red-throated Loon	1	Barred Owl	1	Pine Warbler	7
Dbl-crst. Cormorant	72	Whip-poor-will	1	Tennessee Warbler	12
Great Blue Heron	13	Chimney Swift	41	N. Parula Warbler	80
Great Egret	16	Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	2	Yellow Warbler	87
Snowy Egret	3	Red-bellied Woodpkr	40	Chestnut-sided Warbler	19
Little Blue Heron	1	Downy Woodpecker	25	Magnolia Warbler	28
Green-backed Heron	5	Hairy Woodpecker	6	Cape May Warbler	1
Bl-crn. Night Heron	6	Northern Flicker	28	Black-thr. Blue Warbler	47
Yellow-cr Night Heron	1	Pileated Woodpecker	5	Nashville Warbler	5
Mute Swan	7	Eastern Phoebe	6	Yellow-rump(Myrtle) W.	45
Canada Goose	140	Gr. Crst. Flycatcher	37	Black-thr. Green Warbler	66
Wood Duck	33	Eastern Wood-Pee-wee	13	Blackburnian Warbler	14
Am. Black Duck	2	Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	Prairie Warbler	6
Mallard	145	Willow Flycatcher	9	Bay-br. Warbler	9
Northern Shoveler	2	Traill's Flycatcher	6	Blackpoll Warbler	33
Gadwall	12	Least Flycatcher	4	Wilson's Warbler	4
Am. Widgeon	1	Yellow-bel Flycatcher	1	Black & White Warbler	74
Com. Merganser	1	Eastern Kingbird	15	Amer. Redstart	107
Ruddy Duck	10	Purple Martin	4	Worm-eat. Warbler	7
White-winged Scoter	1	Tree Swallow	207	Ovenbird	94
Black Scoter	7	N. Rough-w. Swallow	51	N. Waterthrush	31
Turkey Vulture	6	Cliff Swallow	30	L. Waterthrush	6
Black Vulture	4	Bank Swallow	3	Common Yellowthroat	119
Osprey	9	Barn Swallow	170	Hooded Warbler	1
Bald Eagle	4	Blue Jay	69	Canada Warbler	17
Red-tailed Hawk	11	Common Raven	10	Scarlet Tanager	28
Merlin	1	American Crow	15	Northern Cardinal	58
Peregrine Falcon	4	Fish Crow	19	Rose-br. Grosbeak	20
Ring-nkd Pheasant	1	Bl-capped Chickadee	14	Indigo Bunting	4
Wild Turkey	10	Tufted Titmouse	40	Eastern Towhee	6
Virginia Rail	1	White-br. Nuthatch	19	Chipping Sparrow	45
Semi-palm. Plover	6	Carolina Wren	13	Savannah Sparrow	13
Killdeer	5	House Wren	15	Song Sparrow	79
Gr. Yellowlegs	159	Marsh Wren	30	Lincoln's Sparrow	2
Ls. Yellowlegs	12	Ruby-crnd. Kinglet	4	Swamp Sparrow	21
Solitary Sandpiper	10	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	24	White-thr. Sparrow	33
Spotted Sandpiper	12	Eastern Bluebird	3	White-crnd. Sparrow	2
Semiplm. Sandpiper	29	Veery	49	Bobolink	5
Least Sandpiper	798	Swainson's Thrush	39	Red-wgd. Blackbird	318
Dunlin	6	Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	Common Grackle	120
Short-bld. Dowitcher	2	Wood Thrush	33	Brown-hd. Cowbird	29
Ring-billed Gull	87	American Robin	314	Orchard Oriole	19
Herring Gull	16	Gray Catbird	102	Baltimore Oriole	82
Gr. Bl.-backed Gull	4	N. Mockingbird	11	House Finch	32
Forster's Tern	23	Brown Thrasher	5	American Goldfinch	49
Least Tern	2	Cedar Waxwing	16	House Sparrow	52
Black Skimmer	8	European Starling	146	Monk Parakeet	14
Rock Dove	27	White-eyed Vireo	1		
Mourning Dove	73	Red-eyed Vireo	52		
Yellow-b. Cuckoo	2	Blue-hd Vireo	4		
Common Nighthawk	15	Yellow-thr. Vireo	4		
Eastern Screech Owl	3	Warbling Vireo	43		

BERGEN COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY
A CHAPTER OF THE
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 235
Paramus, NJ 07653-0235



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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
July 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 and surrounding areas. 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 Gardening