



SPRING/SUMMER 2022

Volume LXXXI
Issue 2

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH



NO WAIT TIME FOR NATURE

It seems most of our lives are spent waiting for something or the other. It might be waiting to grow up, waiting to graduate, waiting to land a new job or waiting to retire. Sometimes we are just waiting for a phone call or just waiting on hold, waiting to reboot and waiting to download, waiting for a pizza, waiting on a line, waiting for nicer weather, waiting for a vaccine or waiting for things to get better or maybe even just waiting for the other shoe to drop. It seems nowadays we just always seem to wait, in fact waiting is now part of our culture.

Nature however has no waiting time. Nature is there for us on cold days as well as hot, rainy and even snowy ones. In good times and bad, no matter if we are young or old, sick or healthy, rich or poor, ready or not or somewhere in between. Nature does not wait to see how we are dressed or for that matter if we are dressed at all. It really has no idea or cares what brand of binoculars you have or don't have and really does not wait to see how many stars your new coat has on Amazon.

Nature in its infinite wisdom never waits, it cannot afford the luxury. It is not waiting for spring, summer, fall or even winter. It's not waiting for seasons to change or a Summer vacation because Nature is always happening, its never on hold, always moving forward, fighting to survive as it's done from time immemorial.

Nature is there for all of us, calling out sometimes gently and quietly with the flutter of a chickadee and other times powerfully and purposely with the flight of an eagle; but always with the wisdom of the ages that it shares with us from the day we decide to discover it.

Don't wait to enjoy nature, get outside and take it all in as much as you can and whenever you can. Nature heals the heart and mind, it enriches our souls and love of it connects us all which is something we need now more than ever before.

See you in the Meadowlands!

DON TORINO

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BERGEN COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY—

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Send articles to PO Box 235, Paramus, NJ 07653-0235 or email editor, Nancy Salvati at nancys@nj.rr.com.

UPCOMING MAY/JUNE 2022 BCAS PROGRAMS-

All our programs are planned for zoom. Please check www.bergencountyaudubon.org for more updates and enhanced info on our speakers, their bios, descriptions and photos.

May 10, 7:30 pm Chris Sturm, ***This Land is Your Land***, a program about our national parks and lesser known parks, refuges, forests and recreational areas.

June 14, 7:30 pm. John Culpepper addresses **Recycling organic material and benefits to communities.** Approximately 30 minutes of slides on community-scale composting / Benefits of community-scale composting include, but are not limited to: reducing costs; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; strengthening local communities; building soils and the potential for healthy soils to sequester a significant amount of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere; and creating local jobs. 30 minutes of Q&A afterward.

For speaker and program suggestions, contact Marilyn Sadowski at 201-982-0483, msadowskibcas@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATES

ON MAY 14- BCAS SPRING COUNT

ON MAY 15- NATIVE PLANT DAY - DEKORTE PARK

ON JUNE 26 - BUTTERFLY AND NATIVE PLANT DAY AT BCAS GARDEN IN OVERPECK PARK .



MEMBERSHIP NOTES

from **Joe Koscielny, Membership Chair**

I would like to thank our members for their continued support from their membership dues and donations. They really help us to continue our education and conservation efforts and the ability to offer programs and events at no cost to you and also helps keep the general public all aware of what is happening around us.

Reminders - 1) You can change how you would like to receive your copy of the Blue Jay by either e-mail or paper, 2) Notify us of any change in your current e-mail and/or mailing address. You can e-mail me at joedadcpa@aol.com or call me at 201-337-3405 and leave me a message. 3) If you currently are not receiving **e-mails** about our upcoming events, make sure you sign up for the e-mails on our website **Bergencountyaudubon.org**.

Thanks again for your support and hope to see you at one of our field trips or future events.

EDUCATION

Marie Longo, Chair

Certified Wildlife Garden Program

With climate change and the loss of habitat increasing; birds, pollinators and wildlife depend on our gardens now more than ever. Planting native plants in your garden helps provide much needed beneficial support for all creatures. Whether it be a backyard garden, patio or terrace, just one pot can make a difference!

Encourage your friends and neighbors to plant natives as well.

Our **Certified Wildlife Garden Program** continues to expand. We've certified three more New Jersey gardens, bringing the total to 178. Proudly displaying their recently certified CWG signs are the gardens located in Whitehouse Station, Hopewell and East Windsor. The program is based mostly on the diversity of native plants in your garden. Certify today and get your free sign.

To learn more or for an application visit, bergencountyaudubon.org/cwg/.

Great Backyard Bird Count By The Numbers



The Great Backyard Bird Count was held February 18-21, 2022. Thanks to all who took part in this important citizen science project. Here are the final numbers:

7,099 species of birds identified

192 participating countries

359,479 eBird checklists

298,208 Merlin Bird IDs

141,990 photos added to Macaulay Library

384,641 estimated global participants



BCAS Great Backyard Bird Count Family Challenge

The winner of the challenge is **Patty Krywos**, shown at left. Participants earned points for a variety of different activities and questions on the challenge list. Patty earned a total of 144 points and received a BCAS tote bag with a host of goodies in it. Patty's favorite bird is the eagle and she enjoys watching them at the Oradell Reservoir.

Congratulations Patty and thanks to all who participated.

Fourth Annual Dick Engsberg Teacher Appreciation Awards

BCAS is proud to announce the winners of the Fourth Annual Dick Engsberg Teacher Appreciation Award. The awards will be presented sometime in the near future. Photos of the winners will be included in the next edition of the newsletter. Congratulations to each and every one of these deserving educators! The winners of the award are as follows:

Rosetta Arrigo- Naturalist at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, Englewood

Nancy Brophy- 8th grade Special Education Social Studies & Science teacher at Ben Franklin Middle School, Ridgewood

Deborah Kempin-4th grade teacher at Lyncrest School, Fair Lawn

Kathy Meneghin-Environmental Science & Biology teacher at Fair Lawn High School

NATIVE PLANTS SAVE BIRDS Poster Contest

We received some great submissions for our poster contest. Thank you to all who entered.

The winning artwork will be made into banners to be used at upcoming BCAS events to promote the planting and importance of native plants. Each winner receives \$50.00 and a copy of Douglas Tallamy's book, Nature's Best Hope. **Congratulations to all of the winners for a job well done!**

Photos of the winners will be included in the next edition of the newsletter.

The winners are:

Anna Kurz

Brianna Colon-Saddle Brook High School

Regan Hosey-Saddle Brook High School

Saoirse-Bleu Twomey-Saddle Brook High School

MAY-JULY 2022 FIELD TRIPS

Unless noted, all field trips are rain OR shine. Visit www.bergencountyaudubon.org for field trip directions. Contact Field Chair, Chris Takacs for new trip suggestions at 201-2070426, americanchris22@gmail.com.

Richard DeKorte Park

May 1 (Sun.) 10AM Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983
greatauk4@gmail.com

Losen Slote Creek Park

May 5 (Thurs.) 9AM. Meet in the parking lot adjacent to the soccer field.
Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Garret Mountain Reservation

May 8 (Sun.) 8AM. Meet in the three tiered parking lot, entrance off of Mountain Avenue.
Contact: Chris Takacs (201) 207-0426
americanchris22@gmail.com

Frank Chapman Trail

May 8 (Sun.) 10AM. Mother's Day Walk. Meet in the parking lot on the corner of River Rd. and Riverview Ave., Teaneck. Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983
greatauk4@gmail.com

Halifax Road/Lake Henry, Mahwah

May 12 (Thurs.) 9AM. Park at Continental Soldiers Park.
Contact: Chris Takacs (201) 207-0426
americanchris22@gmail.com

Spring Count - All day fundraiser

May 14 (Sat.) Participants needed.
Contact: Dave Hall (973) 226-7825
david.hall@einsteinmed.edu

Native Plant Day at Richard DeKorte Park

May 15 (Sun.) 10AM-2PM
Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Branch Brook Park

May 19 (Thurs.) 8:30AM. Meet at the Cherry Blossom Visitor Center. Contact: Dave Hall (973) 226-7825
david.hall@einsteinmed.edu

Parsons Pond Park, Franklin Lakes

May 19 (Thurs.) 9AM
Contact: Chris Takacs (201) 207-0426
americanchris22@gmail.com

Overpeck County Park

May 21 (Sat.) 10AM
Birding for Beginners. Meet at the bandshell.
Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Tenafly Nature Center

May 22 (Sun.) 9AM
Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Mill Creek Marsh

May 26 (Thurs.) 10AM. Park behind Bob's Furniture store.
Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Harrier Meadow

May 29 (Sun.) 9AM
Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Frank Chapman Trail

June 2 (Thurs.) 10AM. Meet in the parking lot on the corner of River Rd. and Riverview Ave., Teaneck
Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Bashakill (New York)

June 4 (Sat.) 9AM. Meet at Haven Road parking area.
Contact: Dave Hall (973) 226-7825
david.hall@einsteinmed.edu

Losen Slote Creek Park

June 5 (Sun.) 10AM. Meet in the parking lot adjacent to the soccer field.
Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Teaneck Creek Conservancy

June 9 (Thurs.) 6:30PM. Birding for Beginners
Meet at the Fycke Lane entrance.
Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

New Jersey Botanical Garden, Ringwood

June 12 (Sun.) 10AM. Annual Bluebird Walk
Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Mill Creek Marsh

June 16 (Thurs.) 10AM. Park behind Bob's Furniture store.
Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Richard DeKorte Park

June 19 (Sun.) 10AM
Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Richard DeKorte Park - Summer Solstice Evening Walk

June 21 (Tues.) 6:30PM.
Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Eight Acre Woods, Hawthorne

June 25 (Sat.) 9AM. Beginners Walk
Park in the Boys & Girls Club parking lot.
Contact: Liana Romano (201) 675-2427
liana_romano@hotmail.com

Overpeck Butterfly Garden

Butterfly & Native Plant Day
June 26 (Sun.) 10AM-1PM
Park in the parking lot adjacent to the equestrian center parking lot.
Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Richard DeKorte Park

Native Plant & Butterfly Walk
July 3 (Sun.) 10AM
Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

continued

Field Trips cont'd

**Frank Chapman Trail
July 7 (Thurs.) 10AM**

Meet in the parking lot on the corner of River Rd. and River-
view Ave., Teaneck

Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

**Overpeck Butterfly Garden Tour
July 9 (Sat.) 10AM-1PM**

Park in the parking lot adjacent to the equestrian center
parking lot.

Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

**New Jersey Botanical Garden, Ringwood
July 10 (Sun.) 1PM. Butterfly Walk**

Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

**Richard DeKorte Park Evening Walk
July 14 (Thurs.) 6:30PM**

Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

**Butterfly Day at Richard DeKorte Park
July 17 (Sun.) 10AM-3PM (raindate Sunday, July 24)**

Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

Mill Creek Marsh

July 21 (Thurs.) 10AM. Park behind Bob's Furniture store.

Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

**Frank Chapman Trail
July 31 (Sun.) 10AM**

Meet in the parking lot on the corner of River Rd. and River-
view Ave., Teaneck

Contact: Don Torino (201) 230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

INTRODUCING NEW FIELD LEADER, LIANA ROMANO.

by Nancy Salvati, editor

Liana gave me a brief interview so that our members could learn more about her when they are on her walks. Here's what she told me.



Liana lives in Hawthorne and was raised by a mother who enjoys nature and backyard birding. She has been birding for over seven years, enjoying her own hikes and bird discoveries until she happened on a walk with BCAS in the Meadowlands. Liana said her first sighting of a great Egret was sort of a magnetic attraction as if no one else knew about this mystical bird. She laughs to think such a large bird could be inconspicuous.

She like many of us enjoys the gained experience and knowledge from walks and sightings to recognize the returning swallows and birds of spring. She loves the sounds of bird song and always studies up in the spring for the songs of returning warblers.

A good person to walk with now. LOL

We have Don to thank for asking her to help out on our walks. She is a people person and enjoys sharing her knowledge with those around her. Say hi to Liana next time you're on a walk.

END OF YEAR FUNDRAISING - THANK YOU.

In advance of our major fundraiser in May, let us be thankful for those people who donate throughout the year to help support all our activities. Thanks to-

ELIZABETH BIGGIO, DENISE SAYERS BRENCA, BUCKLEY WIRTSHAFTER GIVING FUND, MARION COSTANZA, KEVIN DOLCE, CHARITIES AID FOUNDATION, SIDDHESH PADGAONKAR, FIDELITY CHARITABLE- ANONYMOUS, SUSAN FREEDMAN, MARIANNE HERRMAN, NETWORK FOR GOOD- ANONYMOUS, NANCY SALVATI. DENNIS SANTELLA, MR. & MRS. GORDON WALLACE.

Grand Total \$2,300

I apologize for any mistakes and if notified will correct in our next Blue Jay issue.

Good Birding All

Peggy O'Neill, Chair, Fundraising

CONSERVATION

Karen Nickeson, Chair

NEW INITIATIVE TO PROTECT OUR RAPTORS



Rat bait boxes are commonly used in towns throughout Bergen County. They contain second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide (SGAR). Rodents typically consume several helpings of this poison over time before they sicken and die. These compromised rodents are preyed upon by unsuspecting raptors. The birds ingest the poison along with the prey, die in the field, enroute to help, and even as they undergo treatment. The Northern Harrier pictured here was fortunate to be rescued promptly and successfully treated with an antidote. It's extremely rare for these poisoned birds to survive. This Northern Harrier receives treatment at the Janet L. Swanson Wildlife Health Center.

Photo by the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Bergen County Audubon is now working in cooperation with our colleague, Jim Wright, to find solutions to this problem. Together with [The Raptor Trust](#) and our fellow constituents of [The Nature Program Cooperative](#), we are coming together in alliance to support a curb on use of these rodenticides in Bergen County. Jim was successful in gaining the support of his town, Allendale, in this project. We would like to expand county-wide with a possible long-range plan for a state ban, as California has enacted and other states have proposed.

Of course, local rodent control is an important public health issue. But securing garbage containers and prudent use of acceptable rodenticides can work. Principle causes of rodent infestation include open dumpsters and permanent rat baits that actually attract rats to an area. Alternatives include "Raticators" and "Contrapest" as well as mechanical rat traps.

Crucial to our goal is education of the public and our government officials. With an informed and active membership, we will be able to advocate for wildlife effectively. Explore [RaptorsAretheSolution.org](#) for helpful background and suggestions for additional rat control alternatives.

DEAR BCAS BIRDLOVERS.

by Nancy Salvati



Since we are not holding our BCAS Feeder Cleaning Drive, I want to share the tips you'll need to keep our birds safe and disease free. (For example, recently my finch feeder had a whitish film around the inside bottom of it. I immediately took it down and proceeded to empty and soak in a soapy pot then dunked in a 1-9 bleach solution, e.g. 1 part bleach to 9 parts water).

Some of the more common diseases that birds can spread through feeders include house finch eye disease (the colloquial name for mycoplasmal conjunctivitis, which can infect more than just the bird for which it's named), salmonellosis (caused by salmonella bacteria), aspergillosis (a fungal respiratory disease), and avian pox.

To prevent the spread of illness in the birds that frequent your seed buffet, try these four steps:

- 1. Clean feeders regularly.** Rinse the feeder well with soapy water, then dunk it into a bleach-water solution. "A monthly cleaning with a nine-to-one water-bleach solution will deter bacteria in plastic, ceramic, and metal feeders. "A dilute vinegar solution (three-to-one) or non-fragranced biodegradable soap should be used on wood to minimize fading." Dry out the feeder before hanging it back up. Double the frequency of cleaning if you suspect disease a-lurking.
- 2. Tidy below the feeder.** This can mean raking or shoveling up feces and hulls (seed casings)—particularly those that are moldy, wet, or spoiled—and throwing them out. "Bird food scattered on the ground also can attract rodents."
- 3. Share the wealth.** Spread out food among a couple of feeders so there's less opportunity for sick birds to touch and contaminate each other. "Crowding only expedites the spread of disease," the Audubon guide reads, "so give the birds variety and plenty of room."
- 4. To keep your birdbath fresh,** just rinse and scrub it with nine parts water, one part vinegar. Skip the synthetic soaps and cleansers; they can strip the essential oils off of bird feathers. And make sure to refill the water every other day to keep it from bugging up.

2022 BCAS SPRING COUNT ON MAY 14- Bird-watchers Wanted!



Would you like to volunteer for our 30^h Annual “Spring Count”?

It will be held Saturday, May 14, rain or shine. In May 2020 we even had snow during the event, but we are hoping for better weather this time. Similar to last year, we invite participants to view birds in your local park, your yard, or in one of the larger natural areas in Northern New Jersey, such as Garret Mountain, Oradell Reservoir, Teaneck Creek, DeKorte Park, Losen Slote, or the Celery Farm. But we would also love to send people to other promising habitats such as MahWah/Ramapo, Van Saun Park, Tenafly Nature Center or even further afield.

The goal is not only to identify as many bird species as possible, but to estimate the number of birds per species that you have found in your territory. This event will also be the basis for our Spring Fundraiser (see below).

Invite a friend to join you. Tell me in advance (by email, please) where you plan to be birding, and I may be able to match you with other birders with the same goal. If you send an email in advance of the event, I can share a report form to record your birds. After May 14, please send back your findings to **Dave Hall** (973 226-782; david.hall@einsteinmed.org), including a clear account of where you were birding.

May brings us the best possible mix of birdlife, and this event can be a fun way to practice your bird identification skills. The more the merrier!

DAVE HALL

BCAS SPRING FUNDRAISER - SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022

Pledge your support for BCAS and all the conservation and education projects by sending in this form or using our website.



In recognition of these challenging times, please note the guidelines above from Dave Hall. You may pledge "X" amount per species and your donation will be multiplied by the total number of species seen on that day, or you can pledge/donate a fixed amount.

Your donation is fully tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to Bergen County Audubon Society.

1. Mail form/check to BCAS Spring Fundraiser
P.O. Box 235
Paramus, NJ 07653-0235 or
2. Use the donate button at www.bergencountyaudubon.org.

We appreciate any donation you can make and if your financial situation is limited we appreciate that too, but hope you can still go birding and help with the data collection and enjoy the spring migration .

Pledge- per species amount \$ _____
or check amount \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. # _____ Email _____

Contact Peggy O'Neill at (201)868-5829 if you have questions

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
APRIL 2022**

*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 2022

Please enroll me as a member of the Bergen Audubon Society (Q07) and/or the National Audubon Society.

My check is enclosed for

() **\$20 Individual** or () **\$35 Family Chapter Sustaining Member**. 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.)

BlueJay will be mailed to you unless you request online version.

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/Events Other _____