

SUMMER/FALL 2023 Volume LXXXI Issue 3

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

SMALL VICTORIES CHANGE THE WORLD

I'm embarrassed to admit that I almost totally gave up watching the news. I was always that guy that prided himself on being up to date on all the goings on whether it was a National or world event and even liked discussing them on occasion. But now, that is no longer the case. Sure I still try to grin and bear it and guardingly switch on the morning news just to see what will happen. Not surprisingly it does not take me more than a few minutes before I wonder why I bothered and change the channel or shut it off totally because it has me ready to hide under the bed waiting for the next natural disaster, government upheaval or the newest oncoming plague that will surely be the end of us if we don't listen and "STAY SAFE". More often than not it seems the reports are not much different with the latest environmental news. The daily warnings of our inevitable demise will make one throw up their hands and wave the white flag in surrender. The real tragedy in all those discouraging and depressing reports is that it makes things seem hopeless and there is nothing anyone can do to make things better so let's just sit and wait for the flood waters to rise and be done with it. But I still don't believe that's the case.

Now don't get me wrong, doing what I do every day can get downright discouraging and can have me question why I continue on at all. Then I remember that I am a child of the Meadowlands, a place that has seen the worst crimes against nature but returned to one of the most amazing success stories. Make no mistake this is something that never could have been accomplished without a few good people that cared enough to get the" powers that be" to understand the importance of a place that very few at the time thought was worth saving. And there are many other success stories like Liberty State Park,, "The Peoples Park". If not for the strength and power of the individ-been taken over by billionaires who wanted nothing to do with a real park. But big money did not win and the power of the ordinary people did. Our wildlife hangs on also because good people decided to stand up and do what they could do to help. Case in point, our Monarch Butterfly, which should be on the "Endangered Species list" but stays unlisted because of the powerful farm lobby. And yet today the Monarch continues on because of homeowners, garden clubs, local conservation groups and yes, those individuals who plant and protect milkweed and pollinator habitat wherever and whenever they can. Do we need government to step in and help? Absolutely! But we should never sit back and wait to act.

Almost 30 years ago myself, and many others started to advocate for the use of native plants in backyards. More often than not I was being disinvited as a speaker to many local events because I was told no one wanted to hear about attracting wildlife to the backyard. Needless to say, things have improved greatly over the years. Another example of the power of individuals who did not give up and worked hard to get the word out on the benefits of native plants.. More than 10 years ago many people stood up to save a local Eagles nest in Ridgefield Park. We were told at the time it could not be saved. There were people with too much money and power that wanted it gone. The State of NJ was indifferent and did not care much about an Eagles nest. But families, school children, individuals and yes, Bergen County Audubon I am proud to say, stood up and said NO! Our Eagles will stay! And after many battles they stayed. To date 14 baby eagles fledged from that nest, a perfect example of the power of the individual.

These kind of successful environmental victories are happening everyday all around us. It might be someone saving Milkweed along the roadside or taking an injured hawk to a rehab center. Make no mistake every positive action, no matter how small, changes things for the better. Saving trees in your town, participating or starting local clean ups, and advocating for saving open space. Environmental activists are not always the people carrying the signs. Activists can be people that take a kid out birding, save a place for a backyard groundhog, people that plant native trees in a local park, or teachers that bring the love of nature to their students each day.

The Dalai Lama once said "Anyone who thinks that they are too small to make a difference has never tried to fall asleep with a mosquito in the room." So be the Mosquito in the room! Make some noise. Plant natives. Look out for wildlife and make your voice heard. Do what you can when you can to help nature. We are all depending on you!

See you in the Meadowlands!

Don Torino

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INSIDE THIS EDITION

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31ST ANNUAL BCAS SPRING COUNT ON MAY 13 2023 BCAS Spring Count Results

Our 31st annual Spring Bird Count was held on Saturday, May 13. We had 30 BCAS members and friends who participated in more than 20 different groups. Some stayed close to home, while others went to multiple parks across the region. The weather was favorable, and birds were often in abundance. Our complete list is wonderful, (see page 7) and was the product of many generous, tireless birders.

Excellent lists came from the Meadowlands, the Palisades, Garrett Mountain, and further afield. I want to thank everyone who came out to help. The overall species list is really broad, and includes some birds that are rarely encountered - note those species marked in bold. Overall numbers for some of my favorite species have been dropping over the years – note that no warbler species totaled over 100 birds anymore. Sigh.

But this shows the value of making a comprehensive effort every spring. We not only enjoy what we can see and hear, but collectively we can find a measure of how Nature is doing despite the many barriers to be overcome as the world grows more crowded.

Thanks again to all who joined in the field or closer to home!

DAVID HALL

<u>UPCOMING BCAS PROGRAMS</u>- <u>SEPT. - DEC 2023</u>

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

9/13/23 7:30 pm. "A Connecticut Yankee Goes to Washington: Senator George P. McLean, Birdman of the Senate"— Speaker, Will McClean Greeley.

10/8/23 7:30 pm. The NJ Pine Barrens. Speaker Emile DeVito. Manager of Science and Stewardship at the NJ Conservation Foundation. Research on bird communities and vegetation landscapes in Pine Barrens.

11/15/23 7:30 pm - Stay tuned. TBD

12/13/23 7:30 pm - Discussion group to address the book, The Man Who Loved Birds: Pioneer Ornithologist Dr. Frank M. *Chapman, (1864-1945)*. The group will include the author of the book James Huffstodt, Steve Quinn, Jim Wright, and Don Torino. Members are encouraged to obtain and read the book prior to the December get together / discussion.

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

EDUCATION

Marie Longo, Chair

CERTIFIED WILDLIFE GARDENS

Our CWG program welcomes seven new certified wildlife gardens. They are in Maywood, Oradell, Montclair, New Milford, Hasbrouck Heights, Teaneck and Ringwood. Each received a sign to display in their gardens. Put your garden on the map, it's easy to apply.

Visit bergencountyaudubon.org/cwg/ for details and an application.

HOG ISLAND SCHOLARSHIP

BCAS is proud to sponsor another scholarship to Audubon Hog Island in Maine. Erica Garfinkle, Senior Educator and Naturalist for The New Weis Center for Education, Arts and Recreation attended the Field Ornithology camp session in June. Erica will share her experience with us later this year. Congratulations Erica!

BCAS DICK ENGSBERG TEACHER APPRECIATION AWARDS

The award ceremony was held on Sunday, June 4th at 1PM in the auditorium of the MEC building at



DeKorte Park. All four educators were in attendance to accept their plaques and three of the nominators gave a brief description of why they nominated their educator. Refreshments were served after the ceremony. A heartfelt congratulations to all of these wonderful educators. We are so proud to recognize your hard work and dedication.

From Left-Right:

Joe Haemmerle-Bergen Catholic High School, Oradell.; Van Trat-The Land Conservancy of New Jersey, Boonton.; Jean Myers-Ben Porat Yosef School, Paramus; Dian Cook-Copper Hill School, Ringoes.

By Maggie Estrada, 4th grade

PILEATED WOODPECKERS ARE A FASCINATING SIGHT!



Pileated woodpeckers can be seen year-round throughout the eastern half of the United States and the West Coast. It is a magnificent bird with a flaming crest that cannot be missed. This woodpecker species became rare in eastern North America with deforestation throughout the centuries but has gradually increased in numbers again since about the beginning of the 20th Century.

They are known for drilling distinctive rectangular holes into tree trunks and branches as they search for wood-boring beetle larvae, carpenter ants (a termites and more They also eat wild fruits berries and nuts. They have

substantial part of their diet), termites, and more. They also eat wild fruits, berries, and nuts. They have long barbed tongues made for scooping bugs out of trees. There is a beneficial nature to their work because the carved holes left behind offer shelter to owls, swifts, ducks, bats, and pine martens. If you spot this beauty, observe its behavior and it will leave a lasting impression.

Happy birding!

AUGUST-OCTOBER 23 FIELD TRIPS

Unless noted Field Trip Contact is Don Torino (201) 230-4983, greatauk4@gmail.com
Contact Field Chair, Chris Takacs for new trip suggestions at 201-207-0426, americanchris22@gmail.com.
Visit www.bergencountyaudubon.org for field trip directions.

August 2 (Wed.) 10AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy, Teaneck

Meet in the parking lot off Puffin Way.



August 5 (Sat.) 10AM-1PM. 2nd Annual Hummingbird Day at the Overpeck Butterfly Garden, Leonia.

Learn how to attract these magnificent flying jewels to your garden using native plants. Park in the lot next to the equestrian center. Walk to the dirt road to your left and follow the signs to the butterfly garden. Yes, there are signs that will point you in the right direc-

tion. Don will be waiting for you.

August 6 (Sun.) *9AM. Mill Creek Marsh, Secaucus **Please take note of earlier start time.

Park behind Bob's Discount Furniture store.

August 9 (Wed.) 6:30PM. Evening Walk at Richard DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst

August 13 (Sun.) 1PM. Butterfly Walk at the New Jersey Botanical Garden, Ringwood

Meet by the carriage house. There is a parking fee of \$5.00.

August 16 (Wed.) 10AM. Frank Chapman Trail, Teaneck Meet in the parking lot on the corner of River Road and Riverview Avenue.

August 20 (Sun.) 10AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy, Teaneck. Meet in the parking lot off Puffin Way.

August 23 (Wed.) 6:30PM. Evening Walk at Richard DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst

August 27 (Sun.) 10AM. Richard DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst

September 3 (Sun.) 10AM. Harrier Meadow, North Arlington.

September 6 (Wed.) 6PM. Evening Walk at Richard DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst.

September 7 (Thurs.) 10AM. Teaneck Creek Conservancy, Teaneck. Meet in the parking lot off Puffin Way.

September 10 (Sun.) 10AM. Richard DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst.

September 17 (Sun.) 10AM.. Teaneck Creek Conservancy, Teaneck September 20 (Wed.) 10AM. Mill Creek Marsh, Secaucus Park behind Bob's Discount Furniture store.

September 24 (Sun.) 10AM. Autumn Nature Walk at the New Jersey Botanical Garden, Ringwood.

Meet by the carriage house.

September 27 (Wed.) 10AM. Losen Slote Creek Park, Little Ferry .

October 1 (Sun.) 8:30AM-3PM. BCAS Meadowlands Birding Festival at Richard DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst.



Come celebrate the amazing bird species of the Meadowlands. Guided bird walks, talks, children's activities, live raptor show and music.

Keynote speaker to be announced.

October 8 (Sun.) 10AM. Teaneck Creek Conservancy,

Teaneck. Meet in the parking lot off Puffin Way. Contact: Chris Takacs (201) 207-0426

americanchris22@gmail.com

October 11 (Wed.) 10AM. New Milford Woods Nature Trail, New Milford. Meet in the New Milford Swim Club parking lot, 160 Trotta Drive.

October 15 (Sun.) 10AM. Demarest Nature Center, Demarest

Park at the Wakelee Athletic Field and walk over to the playground area next to the entrance of the nature center.

October 18 (Wed.) 10AM. Mill Creek Marsh, Secaucus Park behind Bob's Discount Furniture store.

October 22 (Sun.) 10AM. Richard DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst

October 25 (Wed.) 10AM .Teaneck Creek Conservancy, Teaneck. Meet in the parking lot off Puffin Way.

October 29 (Sun.) 10AM. Frank Chapman Trail, Teaneck Meet in parking lot on corner of River Rd. and Riverview Ave.

October 31 (Tues.) 10AM Halloween Walk at Borg's Woods, Hackensack.

Next page: Meet a Field Trip Leader.

Editor's Note: DonTorino suggested that I interview Kevin Avery. "Who I said?" and he said, "you know him. He's a field trip leader." Then Kevin sent his photo. I felt stupid not knowing this man who is always there along a trail helping us id a bird or making suggestions based on field marks or bird behavior. Never leading a pack but guiding us to the right conclusions. He's usually inconspicuous until needed - a super helpful and knowledgeable birder. That's a true leader. Thanks Kevin. (His answers to my email. inquiry below.) by Nancy Salvati

INTERVIEW (VIA EMAIL) WITH KEVIN AVERY

I found BCAS about 2016 after moving back to my hometown of Ridgefield Park, where I'd lived from 1958-72, again 2009 to present. My late brother Peter had been a member of the Hackensack Audubon Society in the 1960s and we were friends of Steve Quinn, then also a Society member, who with his older brother John culti-



vated aquariums, terrariums and supplied endless diversion in the Quinn backyard managerie. After we witnessed our first Snowy Owl on a rooftop in town we wanted more of the like and were soon regulars in the woods and marshes bordering the Overpeck Creek, pursuing whatever we encountered or could find: Ring-necked Pheasant, myriad waterfowl, rails, bittern, gallinules, herons, raptors, and so much more.

Early on, when our parents would drive us, we birded at Oradell Reservoir (my first spring warbler quest), then Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge, Jamaica Bay, Stony Point (our first Great-horned Owls, nesting!), and Great Kills Park on Staten Island. In 1977 with Steve Quinn I made my first and only pelagic birding trip in a fishing party

boat to the Hudson Canyon a hundred miles off Barnegat Light, witnessing jaegers, petrels, skuas, even an Arctic Tern, and many other ocean species I've not seen since. Steve Quinn, who then was working at the American Museum of Natural History on Central Park West (while I worked on eastside of the park), introduced me to the wonders of spring birding in Central Park, especially in The Ramble.

My sentimental favorite bird? the Red-tailed Hawk.

Since I've joined BCAS and now co-lead the field trips, I can think of no other social pursuit that engenders such good will among people of all ages, creeds, genders, and races. When we look up we may not all see the Great Hereafter, but few miss the glorious here-and-now.

Kevin Avery

FUNDRAISING

Peggy O'Neill, Chair

Thank-you to all our generous donors. Your contributions make all our efforts possible to preserve and protect the native wildlife and the remaining wild places in Bergen County and the surrounding area. Your help is greatly appreciated.

General Donations 3/25/23 - 6/20/23

Kevin Avery, Joan Bennett, Edna Berkovits, Richard Borowski, Elizabeth Costello, Regina Coyle, Donna Dangler, Lynn/James Dehn, Richard DeKoyer, Demarest Nature Center, Wendy Fabrizio, Beth Goldberg, Dave/Nancy Hall/ Marrianne Herrmann, Johnson & Johnson Co. Lorraine Matys, Erin Meyer, Dennis Murphy Eugene Otero jr., Clare O'Shea, Lynn Petronella, Nancy/Joe Salvati, Dennis Santella, Maureen Steinel, Martin/Linda Stio, Mary Thurber/Bob Sorce, Dale Vanyo, Stephanie Walker.

Spring Fundraiser (on Facebook 5/01/23-5/13/23)

17 Anonymous, Richard Abbondante, Susan Barnes, Wanda Benequez, Pat Brennan, Laura Busch, Sandra Lee Butler, Tsonia Butvinik, Linda Stanwood Calamito, Regina Coyle Jeanie Curtis, David Epstein, Catherine Felerino, Pam Ferrari, Patty Finn, Susan Freedman, Sandy Gelman, Barbara Giarmo, Rurik Halaby, Marianne Herrmann, Ernie Jardine, Dave Kleimer, Joseph Koscielny. Leslie Kruegel, Laureen Larkin, Diane Levy, Pat lenard, Kathleen Lynn, Deb Manfredonio, Angelo Marra II, Elaine McCarthy, Jessica McMasters, John Mitchell, Maryann Oi, Jim O'Leary Peg O'Neill, Barbara Over, Leana Marie Ramano, Bob Sorce, Elsie Tomczak, Miryam Wahrman, Jim Wright.

- 1. Celebratory Gift honoring Mike Alan. Jean Bonnanno Beard, Pam Ferrari, Carol Miller, Peg O'Neill, 1 Private -\$200.
- 2, **Memorial Gifts for** Suzanne Clevenger. Environmental Fund First Energy, Flora Heun, Sean/Laura Metcalfe -\$150.

 Dominick Mark Healey for-Lucia Miller -\$50.

Facebook Bird Club Tiny Tots \$300.00 Facebook BCAS \$2,791.00 General Donations \$4,240.34

Grand Total \$7,731.34

"Not a single bee has ever sent you an invoice..." -United Nations Report



Photo: Alan Wells

At the time of this writing, it is National Pollinator Week when we celebrate and recognize the critical importance of our pollinator populations. The image of the Abbreviated Longhorned Beetle pictured here is taken from a summary of findings from the Empire State Native Pollinator Survey (ESNPS) published in the April/May issue of *New York State Conservationist*. I participated in a very modest way in part of the three-year study designed to evaluate the conservation status of certain species of Bees, Flies, Beetles, and Moths. The methodology of the study included analysis of data from photographic documentation, but largely required collection of specimens to be identified by partners at Cornell, SUNY Cobleskil, and the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre. Identifica-

tion of species in the field is not a realistic expectation for even experienced surveyors.

The results are not encouraging. More than 450 species of native pollinators were assessed. Results conclude that 38-60 percent of these species are at risk of extirpation. Nine out of 20 bumble bee species were found to be in this category. Nine species of moths, 22 species of beetles, 23 species of flies, and other types of bees are also absent. The target territory is just north of us, but we should take heed.

What can you do?

- Make habitat https://xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center
- Provide nest sites leave dead wood and stems
- Eliminate herbicides and pesticides
- Contribute data to www.iNaturalist.org and www.bumblebeewatch.org
- Visit a local pollinator garden and enjoy!

In this season, we offer hearty thanks to our wildlife monitors who track the progress of our nesting birds. Raven chicks fledged right on schedule and our raptors are under watchful eyes. The Purple Martins and Tree Swallows have had their dramas, but are nesting and active. Appreciation goes out to the veteran and new members of the Conservation Committee and other BCAS members who devote countless hours to observing and protecting these nests. Thank you also to those who contribute their considerable efforts to the National Audubon Climate Watch survey project.

ANNOUNCING THE 14TH 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're proud to announce the "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) and c) Your name and address or phone number.

All nominations must be received no later than September 30, 2023. 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

31th ANNUAL BCAS SPRING COUNT, MAY 13, 2023

Dbl-crst. Cormorant	43	Red-bellied Woodpecker	73	Black & White Warbler	36
Great Blue Heron	9	Downy Woodpecker	21	Amer. Redstart	79
Great Egret	56	Hairy Woodpecker	12	Worm-eat. Warbler	4
Snowy Egret	21	Northern Flicker	36	Ovenbird	76
Green-backed Heron	2	Pileated Woodpecker	5	N. Waterthrush	27
Bl-crn. Night Heron	3	Eastern Phoebe	9	Common Yellowthroat	81
Yellow-cr Night Heron	1	Gr. Crst. Flycatcher	38	Hooded Warbler	1
Mute Swan	6	Eastern Wood-Pewee	22	Canada Warbler	5
Canada Goose	171	Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	Scarlet Tanager	25
Wood Duck	25	Willow Flycatcher	7	Northern Cardinal	89
Green-winged Teal	2	Least Flycatcher	9	Rose-br. Grosbeak	20
Blue-winged Teal	2	Eastern Kingbird	13	Indigo Bunting	6
Am. Black Duck	7	Purple Martin	7	Eastern Towhee	13
Mallard	95	Tree Swallow	132	Chipping Sparrow	7
Common Pintail	1	N. Rough-w. Swallow	7	Field Sparrow	1
Northern Shoveler	3	Bank Swallow	2	Savannah Sparrow	5
Gadwall	10	Barn Swallow	80	Song Sparrow	64
Bufflehead	1	Blue Jay	157	Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Hooded Merg.	1	Common Raven	5	Swamp Sparrow	8
Com. Merganser	$\frac{1}{4}$	American Crow	$\frac{3}{12}$	White-thr. Sparrow	45
Ring-necked Duck	1	Fish Crow	18	White-crnd. Sparrow	40 1
Ruddy Duck				Bobolink	$\frac{1}{2}$
Turkey Vulture	68 15	Bl-capped Chickadee Tufted Titmouse	12		$\begin{array}{c} 2\\211\end{array}$
	15		48	Red-wgd. Blackbird	
Black Vulture	3	White-br. Nuthatch	17	Common Grackle	142
Osprey	3	Carolina Wren	28	Boat-tailed Grackle	2
Bald Eagle	5	House Wren	26	Brwn-hd. Cowbird	13
Northern Harrier	1	Marsh Wren	25	Orchard Oriole	20
Red-shldrd. Hawk	2	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	19	Baltimore Oriole	107
Red-tailed Hawk	10	Eastern Bluebird	4	Purple Finch	1
Peregrine Falcon	3	Veery	43	House Finch	29
Wild Turkey	4	Swainson's Thrush	49	American Goldfinch	41
Clapper Rail	4	Gray-cheekd Thrush	2	House Sparrow	134
Semi-palm. Plover	79	Wood Thrush	56	Monk Parakeet	1
Killdeer	12	American Robin	287	Mallard x Dom Duck	4
Wilson's Phalarope	1	Gray Catbird	196		
Gr. Yellowlegs	52	N. Mockingbird	24		
Ls. Yellowlegs	110	Brown Thrasher	2	151 species + 1 exotic species	
Solitary Sandpiper	12	Cedar Waxwing	18	5,689 total birds	
Pectoral Sandpiper	${f 2}$	European Starling	167		
Spotted Sandpiper	14	Red-eyed Vireo	66		
Semiplm. Sandpiper	40	Blue-headed Vireo	2		
Least Sandpiper	813!!	Yellow-thr. Vireo	15		
White-rumped Sandpiper	2	Warbling Vireo	54		
Dunlin	3	Tennessee Warbler	12		
Short-bld. Dowitcher	$\frac{3}{2}$	N. Parula Warbler	77		
Ring-billed Gull	$\frac{2}{236}$	Yellow Warbler	53		
Herring Gull	107	Chestnut-sided Warbler	$\frac{33}{12}$		
Gr. Blbacked Gull	2	Magnolia Warbler	19		
Forster's Tern	$\frac{2}{4}$	Cape May Warbler	6		
Least Tern	18	Black-thr. Blue Warbler	27		
Rock Dove	28	Cerulean Warbler	1		
	28 90	Nashville Warbler	1		
Mourning Dove					
Yellow-b. Cuckoo	2	Yellow-rump(Myrtle) W.	33		
Common Nighthawk	1	Black-thr. Green Warbler	34		
Eastern Screech Owl	2	Blackburnian Warbler	3		
Barn Owl	1	Prairie Warbler	1		
Chimney Swift	23	Bay-br. Warbler	13		
Belted Kingfisher	4	Blackpoll Warbler	25		
Red-hd Woodpecker	1	Wilson's Warbler	2		

County Society

BERGEN COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY P.O. Box 235 Paramus, NJ 07653-0235 NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 28 Hackensack, NJ

www.bergencounty audubon.org

Dated Material JULY 2023

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.