



Winter/Spring 2025

Volume LXXXIII Issue 1

**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH**

**A MESSAGE FOR THE YEAR AHEAD!**

Almost every National Conservation Group is digging trenches, readying the bunkers and putting on the battle gear for the anticipated environmental apocalypse ahead. If any of the political rhetoric is even a bit true it's well they should be very ready, but I for one am excited about the coming year and look forward to the job we will all have ahead of us.

Now some of you might be saying, "Don have you been standing out in the milkweed patch too long? Are you one lens short of a binocular?" Well not yet anyway, but what I do know for sure is that there is no doubt that the environmental movement in this country is in dire need of a resurgence and there is no better way to make that happen than to start it at the local level. If we are to have any lasting environmental changes it will have to come from the ground up; this is us, the people in the communities that care. We stand up and do not wait for anyone or anything when we know what the right thing to do is concerning the environment.

My seemingly irrational optimism for the future of our natural world is not just wishful thinking but rather it is based on the environmental activities that are happening all around us everyday in just about every town and community. That is the new community Butterfly gardens, Pollinator projects and Nest box projects to Save the Bees, Leave the Leaves and planting natives. The environmental movement is alive and well in a place that can't be corrupted by big business or compromised, bought and sold on social media because its in our small towns and communities where people regardless of their socioeconomic status or who they may vote for or not vote for understand that clean air and water are a right not a privilege. Seeing a backyard Cardinal or a garden butterfly is something special that they want their children and grandchil-

dren to see and appreciate forever. We can no longer sit back, wait, hope and pray that a political candidate will come along and have the environment on their agenda and become our magical savior so we can sit back and have it all done for us. In fact I have not seen the "ENVIRONMENT" taken seriously by any candidate from any party in recent years. Its just swept aside and looked at as a liability or an election issue. It will be up to us to put it back up at the top of any candidates' election platform from now on, and that will start right in our hometowns.

We will, without a doubt, have the opportunity to accomplish great things together when it comes to the environment in the coming year; from Saving the Monarch to protecting migratory birds, from preserving more wildlife habitat to creating more biodiversity in the open space we already have. I won't pretend this will be easy because it never is and it never has been. And I won't promise that we will be able accomplish this without a fight --maybe the toughest one we have had in 50 years. But we will do this because we already have set the grassroots groundwork in every community, from schools to garden clubs and scout groups, from nature centers to community gardens. We are there all doing what we need to do!

This coming year go out on a nature walk, invite a neighbor, and show them the wonders of the natural world that's all around us. Show them first hand what they can lose. Volunteer at a butterfly garden. Plant milkweed in your backyard and tell your community leaders to do the same. Let's all step it up. Together we can do this there is no doubt.

***Let's Change the World Together!***

***Happy New Year! See you in the Meadowlands!***  
**DON TORINO**

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## BCAS IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE HAROLD FEINBERG CONSERVATION AWARD AND THE FRANK M. CHAPMAN AWARD

On January 12th at the Meadowlands auditorium, BCAS honored the following recipients with **The 15th Annual Harold Feinberg Conservation Award**.

### **The two honorees are Edna Duffy and Krishna Rege.**

Secaucus Mayor Michael Gonelli along with the Town Council praise Edna Duffy (at left with Mayor and Council) for being an ardent, exemplary, and vocal supporter of conservation efforts; for laying the groundwork for many of the Secaucus Environmental Department's successful programs; and for partnering with a range of individuals and groups to implement conservation efforts in Secaucus.



Krishna Rege (at right with BCAS Don Torino and Marie Longo) has been a dedicated member of the Closter Environmental Commission and her tireless efforts have significantly contributed to the ecological health and sustainability of Closter, NJ. She exemplifies the spirit of environmental stewardship and community engagement that the Harold Feinberg Conservation Award seeks to recognize.



### **FRANK M. CHAPMAN AWARD HONORS DON SMITH**



BCAS is proud to award the Frank Chapman Award to Don Smith, a long time champion for preservation of the Meadowlands. Don Smith has been called "Mr. Meadowlands. And just like Frank Chapman has devoted his life to the preservation and protection of our avian wildlife and the habitat they need to live and thrive. He is also a native son of NJ as was Frank Chapman.

Don grew up exploring and discovering the marshes of the Meadowlands. He is a Little Ferry native, a retired Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commissioner, naturalist, outdoorsman, and storyteller. Don Smith himself, is one of the natural treasures of the Meadowlands and one of the key figures in the region's comeback.

*You can read more about all these deserving recipients on our website [Conserve/Awards](#).*

## **BCAS PROGRAMS - FEB-MAY 2025**

Programs are on zoom and begin at 7:30pm unless noted. Due to print constraints, check our website [bergencountyaudubon.org](http://bergencountyaudubon.org) for additional speaker and program updates and photos.

- \* 2/12/25 **Speaker, Ben Wurst** of Conserve Wildlife will present **New Jersey's Fish Hawk : The Amazing Osprey**
- \* 3/12/25 **Cowbirds: villainous mobsters or falsely maligned native species?** A biologist's perspective.
- \* Dr. Sarah Winnicki assesses the impact of Brown-headed Cowbird presence on the growth of grassland bird species.
- \* 4/9/25 **BCAS President Don Torino**. It's President's Choice. *(Title, topic and photo to come).*
- \* 5/14/25 **African Safari: Birds and Mammals**. Presented by Kevin Watson, a local Bergen County birder and photographer. The program is about the incredible wildlife in Africa.

*For speaker and program suggestions, contact Marilyn Sadowski at 201-9820483, or email at [msadowskibcas@gmail.com](mailto:msadowskibcas@gmail.com).*

## **BCAS FIELD TRIPS - FEBRUARY – APRIL, 2025**

All field trips are rain OR shine. For additional information or to make suggestions for field trips, please contact Field Chair, **Chris Takacs at 201-207-0426 or [americanchris22@gmail.com](mailto:americanchris22@gmail.com)**. For a complete list of directions to field trip sites please visit [www.bergencountyadubon.org](http://www.bergencountyadubon.org). (If not stated, Don Torino contact info [greatauk4@gmail.com](mailto:greatauk4@gmail.com) (201) 230-4983)

February 2 (Sun.) 10AM **Groundhog Day at Mill Creek Marsh**, Secaucus. Join us as we look for “Secaucus Sam & Secaucus Sue” the first muskrats of spring and all the great birds of the Meadowlands. Park behind Bob’s Furniture. Contact: Don Torino

February 9 (Sun.) 10AM **Super Bird Sunday** at Richard DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst. Prizes will be awarded to the first person who identifies a bird with an NFL team name, i.e., Arizona Cardinals, Atlanta Falcons, Baltimore Ravens, etc. Contact: Don Torino

February 12 (Wed.) 10AM **Disposal Road Raptor Walk**, North Arlington. Meet by the AMVETS Memorial Carillon on Disposal Road. Contact: Don Torino [greatauk4@gmail.com](mailto:greatauk4@gmail.com)

February 16 (Sun.) 10AM 28<sup>th</sup> **Annual Great Backyard Bird Count** at Teaneck Creek Conservancy, Teaneck. Meet in the parking lot off Puffin Way. Contact: Don Torino [greatauk4@gmail.com](mailto:greatauk4@gmail.com)

February 17 (Mon.) 10AM 28<sup>th</sup> **Annual Great Backyard Bird Count** along the Frank Chapman Trail, Teaneck. Meet in the parking lot on the corner of River Road and Riverview Avenue. Contact: Don Torino [greatauk4@gmail.com](mailto:greatauk4@gmail.com)

February 23 (Sun.) 1PM **Owls of New Jersey Program** at the New Jersey Botanical Garden, Ringwood In the carriage house. Contact: Don Torino [greatauk4@gmail.com](mailto:greatauk4@gmail.com)

February 26 (Wed.) 10AM **Teaneck Creek Conservancy**, Teaneck. Meet in the parking lot off Puffin Way. Contact: Don Torino .

March 2 (Sun.) 10AM **Richard DeKorte Park**, Lyndhurst. Contact: Don Torino [greatauk4@gmail.com](mailto:greatauk4@gmail.com)

March 5 (Wed.) 10AM **Mill Creek Marsh**, Secaucus Park behind Bob’s Furniture Store. Contact: Don Torino [greatauk4@gmail.com](mailto:greatauk4@gmail.com)

March 9 (Sun.) 10AM **Teaneck Creek Conservancy**, Teaneck. Meet in the parking lot off Puffin Way. Contact: Don Torino [greatauk4@gmail.com](mailto:greatauk4@gmail.com)

March 12 (Wed.) 6:30PM **Woodcock Walk at Teaneck Creek Conservancy**, Teaneck. Please note: this is an evening walk. Meet in the parking lot off Puffin Way. Contact: Don Torino

March 16 (Sun.) 6:30PM **Woodcock Walk along the Frank Chapman Trail**, Teaneck. Please note: this is an evening walk. Meet in the parking lot on the corner of River Road and Riverview Avenue. Contact: Don Torino [greatauk4@gmail.com](mailto:greatauk4@gmail.com)

March 20 (Thurs.) 10AM **Spring Equinox Walk** at Overpeck County Park, Leonia. Meet in the parking lot by the restrooms and bandshell.. Contact: Don Torino [greatauk4@gmail.com](mailto:greatauk4@gmail.com)

March 26 (Wed.) 10AM **Hackensack River County Park**, Hackensack. Entrance is behind the Shops at Riverside. Contact: Don Torino [greatauk4@gmail.com](mailto:greatauk4@gmail.com) (

March 30 (Sun.) 1PM **Creating a Certified Wildlife Garden Program** at New Jersey Botanical Garden, Ringwood In the carriage house. Contact: Don Torino [greatauk4@gmail.com](mailto:greatauk4@gmail.com)

April 6 (Sun.) 10AM **Richard DeKorte Park**, Lyndhurst. Contact: Don Torino [greatauk4@gmail.com](mailto:greatauk4@gmail.com) (201) 230-4983

April 9 (Wed.) 10AM **Losen Slote Creek Park**, Little Ferry. Trails may be muddy, boots are highly recommended. Park and meet in the lot adjacent to the soccer field. Contact: Don Torino [greatauk4@gmail.com](mailto:greatauk4@gmail.com)

April 13 (Sun.) 10AM **Demarest Nature Center**, Demarest. Park at the Wakelee Athletic Field and walk over to the playground area next to entrance of the nature center. Contact: Don Torino [greatauk4@gmail.com](mailto:greatauk4@gmail.com)

April 16 (Wed.) 10AM **Frank Chapman Trail**, Teaneck. Park in the lot on the corner of River Road and Riverview Avenue. Contact: Don Torino [greatauk4@gmail.com](mailto:greatauk4@gmail.com)

April 19 (Sat.) 9AM **Eight Acre Woods**, Hawthorne. Please note: earlier start time. Park in the Boys and Girls Club parking lot. Contact: Liana Romano [liana.romano@hotmail.com](mailto:liana.romano@hotmail.com) (201) 675-2427

April 20 (Sun.) 10AM **Easter Sunday Walk** at Teaneck Creek Conservancy, Teaneck. Meet in the parking at Puffin Way. Contact: Don Torino [greatauk4@gmail.com](mailto:greatauk4@gmail.com)

April 22 (Tues.) 10AM **Earth Day Celebration** at the Overpeck Butterfly Garden, Leonia. Contact: Don Torino

April 27 (Sun.) 10AM **New Jersey Botanical Garden**, Ringwood. Meet by the carriage house. Contact: Don Torino [greatauk4@gmail.com](mailto:greatauk4@gmail.com)

April 30 (Wed.) 10AM **Teaneck Creek Conservancy**, Teaneck. Meet in the parking lot off Puffin Way. Contact: Don Torino [greatauk4@gmail.com](mailto:greatauk4@gmail.com)



**CONSERVATION Karen Nickeson, Chair**

**MONARCH RECOGNIZED AS THREATENED**



On December 12, 2024 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed to list the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) as a threatened species and to designate critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act. (Photo Credit Bill Fairs )

This proposal would protect about 4,395 acres in various counties in California as critical habitat. The basis for the proposal includes degradation of breeding, migratory, and overwintering habitat, as well as widespread use of herbicides and insecticides, and the effects of climate change. Among the goals of the effort would be to achieve a significant increase in the availability of milkweed and nectar plants in monarch breeding and migratory areas. According to the proposal, "all sectors of society, including the general public, have an opportunity to participate in a broad range of conservation efforts throughout the species' range."

An article out of the University of Georgia and published by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences <https://news.uga.edu/monarch-butterfly-may-not-be-endangered-but-its-migration-is/> relates findings of a study that suggest there may be additional factors that are contributing to the monarch's decline.

-One is that new plantings of nonnative milkweed are promoting a parasite along the flyway, causing caterpillars to fail and adults to experience difficulty in migration.

-Another factor cited is the common practice of well-meaning allies to captive-rear monarch caterpillars in order to protect them.

-Studies have indicated that the butterflies raised in this way lose their ability to migrate successfully. Research continues to investigate the mechanism for this effect.

The nonnative milkweed mentioned in the study is a tropical milkweed that survives the winter in warmer zones, and not generally grown in the northeast. However, it is important to realize that most nursery plants are commonly treated with pesticides, including milkweeds. Before you buy a native species of milkweed, it is a good idea to ask if the plant has been treated. For more resources on monarch conservation, visit <https://xerces.org/monarchs>

At the end of the holiday season, I was pleased to hear a lovely tribute to the Christmas Bird Count on one of my favorite nerdy radio programs, *Science Friday*. It included comments by our Audubon colleague Brooke Bateman who was a featured speaker at one of our BCAS festivals. Hearing her praise the scientific value of the CBC was a fitting close to the year. It is also fitting to acknowledge the contributions to conservation made by our thirty-ninth President, Jimmy Carter. His care for and protection of the environment are worth remembering.

**RECAP OF EAGLE MONTH- JANUARY 2025 at DeKorte Park in the Meadowlands**

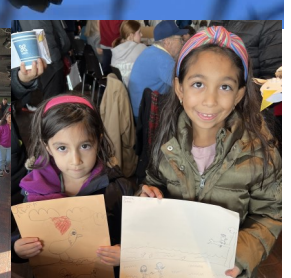
BCAS has over 6 different eagle events including field trips, festivals and counts for our local eagles this month.

**Good News- On Dec. 24, 2024, President Biden declared the Bald Eagle the National Bird of the USA.**

Here are the latest facts on our local eagles: 293 Nest Sites were monitored during the nesting season, of which 264 were documented to be active (with eggs) and 29 were territorial or housekeeping pairs. Twenty new eagle pairs were found this season, 11 in the south, two in central, and seven in the north. One hundred-eighty-two nests (75%) of the 241 known-outcome nests produced 288 young, for a productivity rate of 1.20 young per active/known-outcome nest. Twenty-one percent (59 nests) failed to produce young.

In summary, there were 20 new nests found and over all the numbers are great, but the bald eagle is still very much under threat from avian flu, lead and rat poisoning, climate change, and habitat loss. They are protected under federal law by the Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act and still have threatened status in NJ. Don Torino continues to follow up meeting with the State.

Especially enjoyed the Childrens' Art Contest at our Eagle Festival this year. And of course Al and Alice . . . is it Alice 2 or 3?



## EDUCATION

**Marie Longo, Chair**

### Hog Island Scholarship

This year, BCAS is excited to announce that we are awarding a Audubon Hog Island Scholarship to a deserving young person. Otys Train will be attending a teen camp session in June. Audubon Hog Island is located in Maine. Congratulations Otys, we look forward to hearing all about your experience!

### Certified Wildlife Garden Program

We've added two new certified wildlife gardens since my last report. They are located in Hohokus and Hawthorne. That brings the total to 249. There is no application fee and you'll receive a free sign to display in your garden. You may find an application and more information on our website, [bergencountyaudubon.org/cwg](http://bergencountyaudubon.org/cwg).

### 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual GBBC takes place on February 14-17, 2025 and is a global event. This important citizen science project helps scientists better understand bird populations. The count is free and a great family friendly activity. Counting is fun and easy, and you are only required to count for as little as 15 minutes a day. You can count in your backyard, a park or nature center or wherever you find birds. If

you will be away during the long weekend, you can count wherever you are. Your counts will help scientists better understand and protect birds around the world. If you already use eBird or Merlin, your submissions over the 4 days count toward GBBC.

BCAS will be counting at Teaneck Creek Conservancy in Teaneck on Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. On Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 10AM along the Frank Chapman Trail in Teaneck. **Can we count on you to count with us?** To learn more about the Great Backyard Bird Count visit [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org).

### Seventh Annual Dick Engsberg Teacher Appreciation Awards

If you know of a deserving educator who goes above and beyond to connect their students to nature and the environment, consider nominating them for the Dick Engsberg Teacher Appreciation Award. Nominations open on February 1<sup>st</sup> and the deadline for nominations is March 31<sup>st</sup>, winner(s) will be announced the first week of April. Nominations must include teacher name, school, grade(s), teacher phone number and email address as well as a description of how they engage their students with nature and the environment. Please submit nominations to Marie Longo, Education Chair [MLongo8383@aol.com](mailto:MLongo8383@aol.com)

## FUNDRAISING

**Tammy Laverty, Chair**

### **A WONDERFUL 2024 AND LOOKING FORWARD TO AN EVEN BETTER 2025!**

Bergen County Audubon Society is thankful to all our members who so generously donated to help BCAS with its missions. Your donations allowed us to have a wonderful year of walks, events, educational opportunities, and improved wildlife habitat. We are looking forward to a terrific 2025! Thank you for your continuing support. Your generosity was truly touching. **TOTAL DONATIONS 2024 Q4 = \$ 10,442**

### **DONATIONS THRU DON TORINO'S FACEBOOK BIRTHDAY APPEAL: \$2,371**

Richard Abbondante, Nina Androski, Lindy Ann, Linda Antenucci, Suzanne Barnes, Wanda Beniquez, Tonette & Robert Benz, Geri Berhain, Sal Bibi, Mai Bishop, Barbara Bonnett, Marcia Braszak, Barbara Braun, Donna Brennan, Pat Cacioppo, Stuart Cameron, Carrie Cantor, Julia Capiraso-Lima, Annmarie Carrier, Mitra Cintron, Barbara Conover, Rt Coyle, Steven Crow Messenger, Jeanie Curtiss, Patricia Espy, Lisa Ann Fanning, Rob Fanning, Nancy Fedorochko Arbitblit, Meghann Elizabeth Flynn, Ali Fragale, Tonette Galka Benz, Sandy Gelman, Dawn Giambalvo, Bill Giaimo, Ray Gilbert, Bruce W. Goldstein, Ramon Gomez, Loretta Guardino, Joe Haemmerle, Karen Heifetz-Licht, Marianne Herrmann, Carmen Hilda Rodriguez, Christopher Hillmann, Jennifer Horan, Diane Jansen, Ernie Jardine, Irene Jones, Julia Kaplun, John Kashwick, Ron Kistner, Dave Kleiner, Joseph E. Koscielny, Mary Kostus, Leslie Kruegel, Tammy Laverty, Moe Lehmann, Pat Linard, Marie Longo, Jamie Love, Kathleen Lynn, Deblynn Manfredonio, Michele Maresca, Janet Markman, Elaine McCarthy, David McClure, Jessica McMasters, Haris Melendez, Nanette Milazzo, Linda Mullaney, Caryl Neufeld, Jan Nordland, Le'shel Pabon, Joe Pachella, Joan Patterson, Peter Punzi, Rick Radis, Mauro Raguseo, Allen Rapaport, Roselyn Rauch, Wj Roberts, Susan Ryan, Lisa Ryan, Susan Ryan, Janice Shabib, Jacke Sicari Frangis, Karen Sioux, Rebecca Sodano, Karl M. Soehnlein, Bob Sorce, Linda Stanwood Calamito, Neil Torino, Van Trat, Tanya Vandunk, Israel Wahrman, Jill Weiss, Liz Werdann Conoscenti, Jill Wolk Strassberg, Tzvee Zahavy.

### **DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF REGINA COYLE'S MOM: \$450**

Michelle Brattoli (Cresskill), Michelle Brattoli (Little Ferry) Elizabeth Pezzillo, Andrea Lindquist, Janet Sharma, Sabina Golder, Delany Kral, Garrett G. Kral

### **YEAR END APPEAL / DONATE BUTTON / CHECKS \$ 7,621**

Angie Aponte, Rosetta Arrigo, Kerry Barringer, Holly Barszcz, Joan Bennett, Charles Berhain, Brenda Berkman, Susan Bernknopf, Katherine Berton, Cyn Bird, Richard Borowski, Irene Calotta, Joseph Cassidy, Tod Christie, Karen Clements, Julia Collins, Marion Costanza, Pedro Cruz, Shirley Culman, Arleen Curci, Demarest Garden Club, Louis Disoeopola, Marjorie Doremus, William Drummond, Patricia Duemig, Edna Duffy, Robert Faro, Albert Fuhrman, Michele Gillies, Loretta Guardino, Valerie Haymes, Marianne Herrmann, Kathleen Hetherington, Christine Hughes, Suzanne Ishii, Arthur Johnson, Constance Kazal, Iqram Khalil, Joe & Lorraine Koscielny, Mary Kostus, Conner Lanson, Tammy Laverty, Patricia Longo, Richard Lynch, Jeffrey A. Lubchansky, Jim Macaluso, Monica Maley, Mary Matsui, Elaine McCarthy, Edward McGuirk, Kenneth Merz, Carol Spillane Mueller, Dennis Murphy, Lorraine Nealis, Vera Olsen, Robert O'Malley, Denise Monesteri, Margaret O'Neill, Marie Parrella, George & Julie Reskakis, Craig Scott, Dorothy Sippo, Norman Smith, Maureen Steinel, Kathleen Sullivan, Catherin Tamasik, Miriam Taub, Stephanie Walker, Judith Wilkinson, Jeffrey Williams, Sara Wong, James Wright, Edward Zitka

## BCAS ANNUAL 76th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT ON DEC 14, 2024

### CHRISTMAS COUNT MUSING

by DAVE HALL

On Dec 14, 2024 we held our **76<sup>th</sup> annual Hackensack/Ridgewood Christmas Bird Count**. It is now more than 100 years since the first fledgling Christmas Count was held in Englewood, NJ, organized by Frank Chapman. His new idea gradually took shape to replace a normal season of bird hunting with a new season of intense bird watching. Indeed, seasonal bird shooting has virtually ceased, while over 1500 CBC's are now held each year in North America. The results of those efforts continue to inform and amaze us.

We make these counts near the endpoint of south-bound seasonal migrations, when most of our neotropical migrants have fled southward to the southern states, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America or further south. The birds who dare to remain are more cold-tolerant, and some even find New Jersey quite comfortable compared to the winter conditions to our north. Conditions here in Bergen County are still in flux each year as the CBC season transpires. We always hold our Bergen County CBC at the very start of that "season", when conditions may still be unsettled, and allow some birds to delay their migrations, weather depending.

Most bird populations have been changing gradually over those decades, and we no longer find some of the species that were regular in the 1950s or earlier. Winter finches have become less common, Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers are no longer expected here, and Boreal Chickadee is now a distant memory. Many resident birds have disappeared locally, such as Ruffed Grouse, Pheasant, and Rough-legged Hawk. Others have just lost their local habitats due to new human developments, such as most grassland sparrows. A combination of human habitat alterations and climate change are making our area more comfortable to some species that always departed in the past. Examples would include Canada Goose, Mockingbird, and Cardinal, which were rarely or never seen in the earliest CBCs here. Some waterfowl show dramatic fluctuations, year to year, depending on whether we still have open water in December. Many southern species are gradually expanding their ranges northward, and now stay in Bergen County through the winter, such as Carolina Wren and Red-bellied Woodpecker.

Some species are expanding across the region for causes that we don't understand, such as Northern Raven and

Black Vulture. For all of these reasons, the continuation of our CBC under fairly steady effort across 75 years is an important way to monitor the general health of our local bird populations, and the health of our environment. Surprises abound, every year.

Our recent event was held under ideal conditions. After a rather dry summer and fall, we encountered frozen ground, but open waters and no snow. Footing was great, skies were clear, and birds of all kinds were found easily, if they had decided to stay this late. BCAS volunteers responded to the call, and helped us in the field and at home at their feeders. We had about 70+ volunteers in all, which gave us excellent chances to do a good survey. Some of our leaders spent days in the field before and after the event to discover "Count Period" species, that had been missed on Dec 14. One species (Purple Finch) was only present at a local feeder, with none in the field. I am exceedingly grateful to all who helped us in this cause!

I have marked many birds that were surprises on the species list (PG 7) because they were so rare (!), so few (L) or so abundant (H) compared to previous counts. Many waterfowl did stay in big numbers, but some others failed to do so – suggesting that these populations may be fluctuating more than usual. It was an easy day to find the raptors, and some were found in record numbers. Birds were spread rather unevenly across the County, so certain volunteers had higher success or lower success for the birds of their dreams.

We had more than 20 small groups spread across our circle, to make it more likely that the rarer birds would be encountered somewhere. I am ecstatic about the results, which did not set a record in all respects, but were very rich and interesting. I won't cry here about the species that could not be found – there is always next year. But you will quickly see that bird populations can increase or decrease for a variety of reasons at the same time. This is a big puzzle to keep us thinking as we wait for spring.

Thanks again to everyone helping!

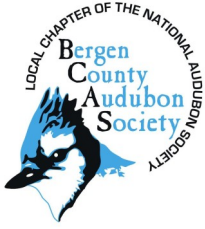
**DAVE HALL**

THE BCAS 76th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT-  
ON DECEMBER 14, 2024

by DAVE HALL

Pied-billed Grebe	5		<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>	1	!!
Dbl-crst. Cormorant	128		<b>Horned Lark</b>	<b>cw</b>	
Great Blue Heron	108H		Blue Jay	338	
Mute Swan	9		Common Raven	26	
Canada Goose	6062		American Crow	469	
<b>Cackling Goose</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>H!!</b>	Fish Crow	391	H
<b>Gr. White-fronted Goose</b>	<b>cw</b>		Bl-cap Chickadee	224	
Wood Duck	17		Tufted Titmouse	288	
Green-winged Teal	90		Red-br. Nuthatch	1	
Am. Black Duck	64	L	White-br Nuthatch	88	
Mallard	725	L	Brown Creeper	3	
Northern Shoveler	25		Carolina Wren	56	
Gadwall	21		Winter Wren	9	
<b>Redhead</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>!!</b>	Golden-crnd Kinglet	11	
Ring-neckd Duck	121	H	Ruby-crnd Kinglet	3	
<b>Greater Scaup</b>	<b>1</b>		Eastern Bluebird	4	
Lesser Scaup	12	L	Hermit Thrush	4	
Bufflehead	17		American Robin	192	
Hood Merganser	215		<b>Gray Catbird</b>	<b>2</b>	
Com Merganser	11,073	H	N. Mockingbird	56	
Red-br Merganser	2		<b>American Pipit</b>	<b>cw</b>	
Ruddy Duck	1030	L	Cedar Waxwing	8	L
Turkey Vulture	39	H	Eur. Starling	1325	
<b>Black Vulture</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>H</b>	Northern Cardinal	166	
Bald Eagle	55		Ruf-sided Towhee	2	
<b>Northern Harrier</b>	<b>1</b>		Am Tree Sparrow	13	
Sharp-shin. Hawk	4		<b>Field Sparrow</b>	<b>3</b>	
Cooper's Hawk	5		Fox Sparrow	11	
Red-shldrd. Hawk	3		Song Sparrow	192	
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>!!</b>	Swamp Sparrow	12	
Red-tailed Hawk	42		White-thr Sparrow	640	
Merlin	2		Dark-eyed Junco	1010	
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>Snow Bunting</b>	<b>cw</b>	
American Coot	1	L	Red-wgd Blackbird	27	L
Killdeer	1		<b>Rusty Blackbird</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>H</b>
Ring-billed Gull	1270	L	<b>Common Grackle</b>	<b>90</b>	
Herring Gull	68		<b>Purple Finch</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>L</b>
Gr.Bl.-Bckd Gull	4	L	House Finch	139	
Rock Dove	614		Am. Goldfinch	91	L
Mourning Dove	656		House Sparrow	376	
East. Screech Owl	15		Monk Parakeet	7	L
Great-horned Owl	5				
<b>Barred Owl</b>	<b>1</b>				
Belted Kingfisher	16				
Red-bel. Woodpkr	182				
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	14				
Downy Woodpecker	146				
Hairy Woodpecker	42				
Northern Flicker	17				
Pileated Woodpckr	10				

87 species plus 4 count week species  
29,380 birds total  
L indicates a species found in lower than normal numbers  
H indicates a species found in higher than normal numbers  
The most surprising finds are marked in bold face and/or with !!!  
CP indicates a "Count Period" species



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

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U.S. Postage  
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Permit No. 28  
Hackensack, NJ

**Dated Material  
JANUARY 2025**

***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 2025**

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

**Chapter Sustaining Member. \$20.00 - Single or \$35.00 for 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.

**\$20.00 - 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 the following and mail with your subscription or see any officer or chair at one of the meetings.

- Conservation    Membership    Publicity    Field Trips  
 Education    Newsletter/Website