

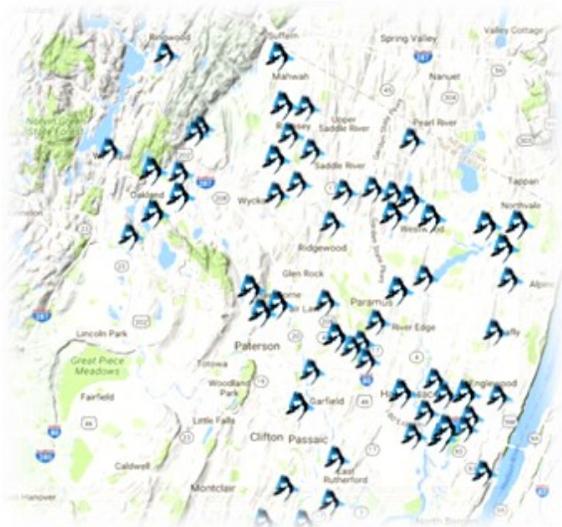


SPRING/SUMMER 2017

Volume LXXV  
Issue 2

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

Last year, Bergen County Audubon created our “Certified Wildlife Garden” program. As of April 1st we are very proud to announce that we now have over 80 Certified backyards, schoolyards, businesses and houses of worship that have created wildlife friendly places that our birds and butterflies can call home.



### Towns with Certified Gardens

Allendale, Bergenfield, Cliffside Park, Cranbury, Demarest, Elmwood Pk, Englewood, Fair Lawn, Garfield, Hackensack, Harrington Pk, Hawthorne, Hillsdale, Ho-Ho-Kus, Leonia, Little Ferry, Lodi, Lyndhurst, Mahwah, Maywood, N Arlington, Nutley, Oakland, Oradell, Palisades Pk, Paramus, Park Ridge, Ramsey, Ridgefield Pk, Ridgewood, Ringwood, River Vale, Rochelle Pk, Rutherford, Saddle Brook, Saddle River, Teaneck, Tenafly, Waldwick, Wanaque, Westwood, Wyckoff.

Living in the most densely populated state in the US, this program has become even more important in protecting the future health of our area’s wildlife. BCAS is working every day to protect, preserve and restore the natural areas we still have in our region and this program plays a big part of that conservation effort.

We are particularly proud of the Certified Wildlife Program because it is empowering to everyone. You don’t need to sign a petition, call your congressman or write to the president. All you need to do is create a wildlife garden and you make your community a better place for our birds and for all our families

too. This is perhaps the most important thing you can do as an individual to help our birds.

Email [greatauk4@gmail.com](mailto:greatauk4@gmail.com) if you need more information on the type of plants you may want to purchase that sustain wildlife in NJ.

**DON TORINO**

*For more info on our program go to <http://www.bergencountyaudubon.org/cwg/>*

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

- PROGRAMS FOR MAY-JUNE, 2017
- FIELD TRIPS, MAY-JULY 2017
- TRIBUTE-DICK ENGSBERG
- EDUCATION NEWS AND EVENTS
- INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY DAY -MAY 13
- SPRING COUNT FUNDRAISER
- ANNUAL BIRD FEEDER CLEANING -JUNE 10
- ENDANGEREED SPECIES ACT 'ENDANGERED'
- BCAS BIRDING FESTIVAL ON OCTOBER 7

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

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**Editor:** Nancy Salvati .

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

Save this date !

**Saturday October 7th !**

**MEADOWLANDS BIRDING  
FESTIVAL !**

\*\*\*

Guest Speaker Richard Crossley

Live Birds of Prey  
Pontoon Boat rides  
Guided bird Walks  
Music & Much, Much More

**SCHEDULE OF MONTHLY EVENTS & MEETINGS ,  
MAY- JUNE 2017**

*Meetings are held at Teaneck Creek Conservancy, Puffin Way, Teaneck.* Programs are free and open to the public.  
Business Meeting at 7:30pm, Programs begin at 8pm.  
*Check [www.bergencountyaudubon.org](http://www.bergencountyaudubon.org) for updates.*

**Wed., May 17, 2017– Conservation of Urban Biodiversity in the Meadowlands by Erik Kiviat, PhD, Executive Director, Hudsonia Ltd.** Despite legacies of contamination and hydrological alteration, and the rapid, unpredictable habitat changes that are germane to an urban-industrial area, the Meadowlands biota persists as an icon of adaptability and a model for research. The New Jersey Meadowlands (broadly defined, from the Oradell Dam to Newark Bay) have been intensively altered by human activities yet have biodiversity of regional and national significance. Beginning in 1999, Kiviat and his colleagues have surveyed and analyzed Meadowlands biology in an effort to understand urban biodiversity and protect rare and vulnerable species where they occur.

Erik Kiviat, Ph.D., is co- founder (1982) and Executive Director, Hudsonia Ltd. Formerly Professor of Environmental Studies, Graduate School of Environmental Studies at Bard College, he has 45 years of experience with natural history and environmental issues in the Northeast and elsewhere, including the New Jersey Meadowlands. He has authored publications on wetland ecology, conservation science, rare species, non-native plants, northeastern natural history and human ecology.

**Wed., June 21, 2017- Colonial Nesting Birds – Our Coastal Gems presented by Pete Bacinski.** This program offers a look at NJ's colonial nesting herons, egrets, terns and gulls, some of our most glorious birds, featuring images taken by some of America's best nature photographers. Get acquainted with this marvelous groups of birds in their finest attire (breeding) and learn about their way of life right here in NJ.

Pete Bacinski is well-known to the birding world as a photographer, author and lecturer. He has observed and identified over 700 species of birds in North America. He has extensive experience with NJ Audubon as an Associate Naturalist, Field Trip Leader, Workshop Leader and Nature Tour Leader. While with NJ Audubon, he established and directed the Sandy Hook Bird Observatory and directed the *All Things Birds Program* for North Jersey. Bacinski is now retired and resides in New Jersey.

**KAREN RIEDE, Program Chair**

*Anyone with suggestions for future speakers or events, please contact Karen Riede at [theriedes@hotmail.com](mailto:theriedes@hotmail.com).*

## A Birding Friend Passes On . . .

I can't say I knew him very well. We never exchanged Christmas presents or birthday cards. No family dinners or formal gatherings, no graduations or Baptisms. Never sure about his family situation or what relatives he may have had, but we loved birding together and that was all we needed to know.



This past week I received the sad news that my longtime birding friend and former BCAS board member, Dick Engsborg, passed away. I first met Dick when I joined Bergen County Audubon many years ago. He was a scholarly, soft spoken man, kindly and knowledgeable but most important he loved the birds and allowed me the honor and privilege of accompanying him into the field.

Dick loved birding places like Overpeck Preserve and Teaneck Creek and joined me on many of our Bergen County Audubon field trips to the Meadowlands. On one of the trips to DeKorte a summer storm brought rain and lightning, causing us to cancel the walk and send everyone home for their own safety. After everyone was gone Dick looked at me with a smile and I knew exactly what he meant. He and I were going out there regardless.

Despite getting soaked and not being able to see a thing through our binoculars it was a wonderful morning. We didn't have to say it in words; birding friends just understand each other. We never felt the need to mention the beauty of the birds we saw, the magnificence of the species or the grace of its flight. We could look at each other and acknowledge it just as instinctive as any avian species when it knows it knows the time to migrate.

Dick especially loved the sparrows and taught me the difference between a Savannah and a Song and a Chipping and a Tree as well as all our other Sparrow species, something I will cherish always. I stood next to him as he searched the muddy shores of Mill Creek Marsh for the many different Sandpipers and combed the skies of Overpeck searching for Kestrels and Peregrines. He also loved the butterflies and native plants and helped put in much of the milkweed we have at our Overpeck butterfly garden.

It seemed to happen suddenly; Dick's health began to fail. He joined us less until one day not at all. Phone calls, knocks at the door and the offers of rides could no longer convince him for even a short time to come out and enjoy the birds with us.

Many times our conversations in the field would refer back to something Dick once said or something he taught us about the birds. Never a day went by that me or anyone else that had the pleasure of birding with him didn't wish he was there with us. But as life and nature does-- it continues on with or without us. When I got word that Dick had passed away I was of course saddened and then selfishly angry that I would never have the joy of raising my binoculars with him ever again. He will forever be missed by everyone he taught to love all of nature, especially the birds.

Just as we learn to find a special place in our hearts for the birds we love, we should never forget to appreciate and cherish the people that go birding with us. We may not know much about them, what they do for a living or even where they come from, but we do know how much we enjoy the passion of birding along with them and how they along with the birds enrich our lives and make our trips afield memorable and irreplaceable. Through all the rainy days, summer heat and winter cold, we get the privilege of experiencing what we love most together with these very special individuals and that is all we ever need to know about them.

**DON TORINO**

*From Don Torino's "Life in the Meadowlands" column, Meadowlands blog, Feb. 2017*

## 2017 FIELD TRIPS - SPRING/SUMMER 2017

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

For a complete list of directions to field trip sites please visit [www.bergencountyaudubon.org](http://www.bergencountyaudubon.org).

- May 2 (Tues) 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy.** Spring migrants, warblers, vireos, flycatchers.  
Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com
- May 7 (Sun) 8:30 AM Losen Slote Creek Park.** Spring migrants, warblers, thrushes.  
Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com
- May 9 (Tues) 9:00 AM Flat Rock Brook.** Spring migrants, warblers. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- May 13 (Sat) Bergen County Audubon Spring Count.** All-day annual fundraiser. Participants needed.  
Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu
- May 14 (Sun) 8:00 AM Mother's Day at Garret Mountain Reservation.** Meet at 3-tier parking lot. Spring migrants. Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu, Chris Takacs, 201-207-0426, americanchris22@gmail.com, Flo Rutherford, 201-214-2114, flo.rutherford@gmail.com
- May 14 (Sun) 10:00 AM Mother's Day Walk at Ridgefield Nature Center & Skeetkill Marsh.** We'll visit Ridgefield Nature Center, then a stop at the Monk Parakeet colony and move on to Skeetkill Marsh. Don Torino 201-230-4983.
- May 16 (Tues) 10:00 AM Richard DeKorte Park.** Spring migrants, shorebirds. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- May 18 (Thurs) 8:30 AM Hatfield Swamp.** Spring migrants, warblers, flycatchers.  
Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu.
- May 20 (Sat) 8:00 AM Sandy Hook.** Looking for spring migrants, shorebirds, warblers. Meet at "B" parking lot. Bring Lunch. Contact: Bill Resotko 732-899-2004 & Peg O'Neill, omargarito@aol.com 201-868-5829
- May 21 (Sun) 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy.** Spring migrants, warblers, vireos, flycatchers.  
Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com
- May 25 (Thurs) 8:30 AM Hilltop Reservation.** Spring migrants, warblers, flycatchers, bluebirds. Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu
- May 28 (Sun) 9:00 AM Tenafly Nature Center.** Spring migrants, warblers, flycatchers. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- June 3 (Sat) 8:30 AM Bashakill Wildlife Management Area, Sullivan County, NY.** Marsh birds, warblers, swallows.  
Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu
- June 4 (Sun) 9:00 AM Harrier Meadow.** Spring migrants, flycatchers, shorebirds. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- June 6 (Tues) 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy.** Migrants, warblers, flycatchers. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983
- June 11 (Sun) 10:00 AM NJ Botanical Garden Bluebird Walk, Ringwood.** Bluebirds, warblers, butterflies, flowering plants. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com
- June 18 (Sun) 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy Father's Day Walk.** Migrants, warblers, flycatchers. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com.
- June 20 (Tues) 10:00 AM Richard DeKorte Park.** Late spring migrants, nesting birds, shorebirds.  
Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com
- June 25 (Sun) 1:00 PM The New Weis Center, Ringwood. BCAS Certified Wildlife Garden Program.** Learn how your garden can become a BCAS Certified Wildlife Garden Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 ,greatauk4@gmail.com.

**June 29 (Thurs) 8:30 AM Hatfield Swamp.** Late spring migrants, nesting birds.  
Contact: Dave Hall 973-226-7825 david.hall@einstein.yu.edu

**July 2 (Sun) 10:00 AM Richard DeKorte Park - Native Plant Walk.** Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983

**July 4 (Tues) 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy.** Nature walk. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983

**July 9 (Sun) 1:00 PM Butterfly Walk at NJ Botanical Garden in Ringwood.**  
Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

**July 16 (Sun) 9:30 AM Teaneck Creek Conservancy.** Native plants / butterfly walk.  
Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

**July 18 (Tues) 10:00 AM Mill Creek Marsh.** Shorebirds, nesting birds. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983

**July 22 (Sat) 9:00 AM Brigantine - Forsythe NWR.** Looking for shorebirds & shorebirds. Meet at Refuge parking lot. Bring Lunch. Contact: Bill Resotko 732-899-2004 & Peg O'Neill, omargarito@aol.com 201-868-5829

**July 23 (Sun) 10:00 AM The New Weis Center, Ringwood - Birding for Beginners.** A free class to get you started birding. We'll cover field guides, optics and bird identification. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983

**July 29 (Sat) 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM 8th Annual Butterfly Day - Richard DeKorte Park.** Join us for this free family friendly event. Raindate July 30. Contact: Don Torino 201-230-4983 greatauk4@gmail.com

## **THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT "ENDANGERED?"**

The endangered species act was signed into law on December, 28 1973 by Richard Nixon. As he signed, President Nixon was quoted as saying "Nothing is more priceless and more worthy of preservation than the rich array of animal life with which our country is blessed."

I researched the ESA to understand its origins. The 1973 act replaced the 1969 act. The 1969 act replaced the 1966 act and the 1966 act replaced the Lacey act of 1900. The Lacey act of 1900 was signed into law on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1900 by President McKinley. John Lacey wrote the Lacey Act in response to what he saw happening at his beloved Yellowstone National Park, including poaching, and trading in plants, wildlife and fish that were illegally taken. The 1966 ESA act was written to protect the Peregrine Falcon and other species that were in decline, killed illegally and poached and traded in the US and across borders. The Peregrine Falcon was declining due to heavy use of biocides.

This Act has protected and assisted in the rebound of the Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Wood Stork, Piping Plover, Whooping Crane, and California Condor. Why now in our history do people want to destroy the ESA? The answer is simple, expansion of agriculture, natural gas, minerals and oil. Take for example the Greater Prairie Chicken. The Greater Prairie Chickens numbers have dropped drastically due to loss of prairie lands to development. As one article posted the numbers in Wisconsin have dropped from 55,000 to 600 breeding pairs since the 1940s, due to hunting as well as habitat loss. The overall population is now listed at 459,000. The Lesser Prairie Chicken is in more dire straits, a population of millions before the west was settled has now dwindled to 25,000 across five states.

If we want future generations to see the comeback of a species as we have been able to with the Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon, we must support the survival of the ESA. As many have stated, there are certainly ways to bring back jobs without jeopardizing our environment.

**MARY KOSTUS, Conservation Chair**

**Write or contact your Senator and Congressman. Go to [www.govtrack.us/congress/members/NJ](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/NJ) and ask them to not allow the ESA be overturned.**

## EDUCATION

MARIE LONGO, CHAIR

**Hog Island Scholarship**- BCAS has awarded two scholarships this year!!

**Kathleen Farley and Lindsay McNamara are the proud recipients.** Both of these young women have attained outstanding achievements in both academic and environmental leadership.



Kathleen (left) attended Cook College for her undergraduate studies, earned her master's degree at Montclair State University and is currently pursuing a PhD at Rutgers in the ecology track of a Biology program.

Lindsay (right) attended the University of Delaware and earned a BA in Environmental Studies, she also earned a Nonprofit Management Certificate from Brookdale Community College and is currently pursuing her Master's in Public and Organizational Relations at Montclair State University. Both will attend the Joys of Birding camp session in June.



Congratulations to these two deserving young people!

**Eco-Art Contest**--Our fifth Annual Eco-Art contest has begun. The theme for this year is Plants for Birds. Students in our Audubon Adventures schools have been asked to create artwork depicting a native plant and a bird that is attracted to the plant using the National Audubon Society plant database for research. Prizes will be awarded and a one day exhibition and award ceremony will take place at the Meadowlands Environment Center on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2PM.

**Certified Wildlife Gardens**--We currently have 82 BCAS Certified Wildlife Gardens. With the loss of habitat, the program helps fill in the blank spaces for wildlife and encourages the planting of native plants. Interested in certifying your garden? Please visit our website to learn how.

**Garden Volunteers Needed** --Interested in learning about native plants? Come volunteer in our gardens and learn about native plants and the wildlife attracted to them. We could use help with watering, planting and weeding. Please contact Don Torino (201) 230-4983 [greatauk4@gmail.com](mailto:greatauk4@gmail.com) or Marie Longo (201) 498-0809 [MLongo8383@aol.com](mailto:MLongo8383@aol.com).

### **SAVE THE DATE**

**July 23-Birding for Beginners at the New Weis Center in Ringwood 10AM**

**July 29 (rain date July 30)-Butterfly Day at DeKorte Park 10AM-3PM**

**August 13-Butterfly Festival at New Jersey Botanical Garden in Ringwood 12PM-3PM**

**August 22- Junior Naturalist Program at DeKorte Park 9AM-Registration required**

**October 7-The Meadowlands Birding Festival. Stay tuned for more info.**

### **BCAS ANNUAL BIRD FEEDER CLEANING FUNDRAISER AT WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED ON JUNE 10**

Our annual bird feeder cleaning fundraiser will take place June 10 at the Wild Birds Unlimited store on Route 17 South in Paramus. Bring in your feeders for a thorough scrubbing and cleaning.



**The event will take place from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
with a donation of \$4.00 per feeder.**

All proceeds go to Bergen County Audubon to support our wide variety of programs and conservation efforts throughout the year, including Audubon Adventures, a curriculum provided to schools throughout the county.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: If you would like to help for even part of the day,  
CONTACT PEGGY O'NEILL AT # 201-868-5829.**

**It's always a fun event and a great way to meet other members .**

## 2017 SPRING BIRD COUNT and FUNDRAISER

Please help us to celebrate "**International Migratory Day**" on Saturday, May 13. We are asking members and friends to spend part of this day enjoying the spring migration by watching birds in their local area or in a nearby natural area. Chapter leaders will be available in many places to help you in identifying birds, but you may also participate on your own, or by forming your own group.



Our goal is to identify all bird species, and to count how many of each species are present that day. There will be groups birding at Garret Mountain, Oradell Reservoir, Teaneck Creek, DeKorte Park, Van Saun Park and the Celery Farm. But we would also love to send people to other promising habitats such as Mahwah/Ramapo or Tenafly Nature Center.

Please contact **Dave Hall** (973 226-7825) [david.hall@einstein.yu.edu](mailto:david.hall@einstein.yu.edu) to join a group, or to propose where you plan to be birding that day.

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!**

### *Pledge Your Support for BCAS and join us in the 2017 SPRING COUNT FUNDRAISER*

*Fill out our pledge sheet and show your support for our conservation and education efforts with projects such as habitat restoration, nest boxes, new birder classes. etc.*

The Spring Count Fundraiser will be based on the total number of bird species seen by our members on May 13 2017. We hope to find around 100-125 species. Please consider using a "Matching Grant" from your employer if it is available to you. Your pledge is tax deductible. Monies raised are used to support NJ conservation initiatives which fund environmental education through our *Audubon Adventures* - a classroom based curriculum that is used in our local schools.

Last year your dollars helped to reach over 2000 students in classrooms throughout the County.

You can bring your pledge to our next meeting or

Mail form to: **BCAS Spring Fundraiser, P.O. Box 235, Paramus, NJ 07653-0235** or

Use the **DONATE** button on our website at [www.bergencountyaudubon.org](http://www.bergencountyaudubon.org).

**Checks should be made payable to: "Bergen County Audubon Society"**



You may pledge "X" amount per species and your pledge will then be multiplied by the total number of species seen on that day, or you can pledge a fixed amount.

**Pledge per Species:** \_\_\_\_\_ **or \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **amount.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Peggy O'Neill at (201) 868-5829 if you have any questions.** All donors will be acknowledged in our quarterly newsletter, the *Blue Jay*, with its distribution to over 1800 members and nature centers throughout Bergen County.

**BERGEN COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY**



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

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*www.bergencountyaudubon.org*

**Dated Material  
APRIL 2017**

*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 2017**

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