

WEEKEND BIRDING TRIPS

The following bird trips are led by Tom Sheppard, Chief Park Naturalist. Tom and his colleagues focus on helping

all participants learn about the birds, and teach them about interesting characteristics of each species. They will also point out other natural history information about the different areas the group is visiting. Please pack a lunch, as stops are not guaranteed. If you have your own binoculars or spotting scope, please feel free to bring them. Binoculars are also available for loan. Trips are designed for adults, but mature youths under 18 can contact Tom for approval. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Transportation is by County Park vans. All trips meet at the County Arboretum. Trips are recommended for any interested birder at all levels of ability, unless otherwise stated. Pre-registration is required.

**SANDY HOOK**

Sunday, September 18, 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM, \$25

Sandy Hook is a 2,044 acre barrier beach peninsula that offers seven miles of beach line, salt marshes, and a maritime holly forest. The variety of coastal habitats including sand dunes, grasslands, salt and freshwater marshes, thickets and maritime forest offer diverse range of birding opportunities including shorebirds, songbirds, and raptors. Time permitting, we will stop at other locations based on observation reports.

FALL BIRDING IN MIDDLESEX

Saturday, October 15, 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM, \$25

Guest Lead: Eric Gehring, Open Space Coordinator/Park Naturalist w/ Middlesex County

Over a year ago, Eric hosted us for a tour through some of the parks of Middlesex County. That offer has been extended again. On this trip, we will focus on William Warren Park, Pin Oak Forest, Old Bridge Waterfront, and Deep Run Preserve, unless rare bird sightings force a change of plans. Join us for this tour to see if birding in Middlesex County can live up to the county's motto: "Greatest County in the Land."

BRIGANTINE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

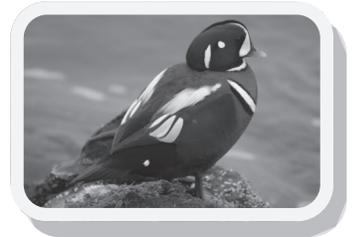
Sunday, November 13, 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM, \$25

This refuge is famous throughout the US as one of the two best birding spots in New Jersey. "Brig" embraces more than 20,000 acres of coastal salt marsh, islands, open bays and channels. Fresh-brackish impoundments created by diking off the salt marsh are the main attraction for birds. We will spend the entire trip within the main area searching for all the bird species we can find.

BARNEGAT LIGHT

Saturday, December 10, 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM, \$25

Barnegat Light State Park is a great winter birding spot, with lots of sea ducks, gulls, and winter shorebirds. Dress warmly; a rigorous two miles of walking on beach and rock jetty required. We try and pick up a few other species in the surrounding salt marshes before heading back.

**EAGLE WATCH**

Saturday, January 21, 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM, \$25

The Bald Eagle may be off the federal endangered species list, but it is still a grand bird to see! This trip will go where the eagles are, most likely along the Upper Delaware in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and/or New York State. Winter finches, waterfowl, Golden Eagle, and other species may also be seen. Trip will involve approximately two miles of walking. Dress in layers for extreme cold.

NORTH SHORE RUN

Sunday, February 19, 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, \$25

Join us on a run along the North Shore of New Jersey looking for winter ducks and other species in and around the lakes, waterways, beaches and ocean in Monmouth and Ocean Counties. We will start in Ocean at the Manasquan River Inlet and work our way north at least as far as Lake Takanassee. The trip will have multiple stops so dress in layers and be prepared for climbing in and out of the van.

