

Birds and Wildlife

THE Kestrel *EXPRESS*

Winter 2020-2021

Cape May Bird Observatory



**NEW JERSEY
AUDUBON**

www.njaudubon.org

**Cape
May
Bird
Observatory**



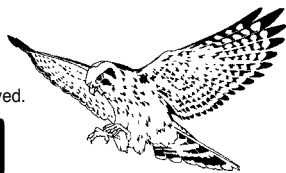
New Jersey Audubon

www.BirdCapeMay.org

A Quarterly Newsletter

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THE Kestrel EXPRESS



Winter Programs 2020-2021

December 2020 through February 2021 • Volume 25, Number 1

CAPE MAY BIRD OBSERVATORY

Northwood Center

P.O. Box 3, 701 East Lake Drive

Cape May Point, NJ 08212

Phone: 609.400.3868 • Fax: 609.884.6052

December through February:

Wednesday through Saturday, 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

Center for Research and Education

600 Route 47 North

Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

Phone: 609.246.3581 • Fax: 609.861.1651

Store closed, trails open.



NEW JERSEY
AUDUBON
www.njaudubon.org



Cape
May
Bird
Observatory
New Jersey Audubon

www.birdcapemay.org • www.njaudubon.org
www.featheredgeoptics.org

HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES & CLOSURES

Both CMBO centers will be **CLOSED** from December 24 – 31;

January 1, 20; and February 17.

The CMBO Northwood Center will be **CLOSED**

February 24-25 for inventory.

Hey! Did you bird Cape May today?



BIRDCAPEMAY.ORG

CAPE MAY BIRD OBSERVATORY

New Jersey Audubon's

WSB

worldseriesofbirding.org

38th Annual WORLD SERIES OF BIRDING MAY 8, 2021

All Ages and Skill Levels Welcome!
Raise money for the environmental
organization of your choice!

www.WorldSeriesofBirding.org

2021 CAPE MAY SCHOOL OF BIRDING

The Best of Winter Birding

With Brett Ewald

January 16-17

Techniques of Field Observation

With Michael O'Brien

February 20

Gulls Simplified

With Michael O'Brien

March 6

www.birdcapemay.org – 609.400.3864

Birding and
learning in
famous
Cape May,
New Jersey



Season's Passage Winter 2020

With the challenge of a global pandemic affecting all aspects of life, the natural world around us has taken on even greater importance. While many activities have been curtailed, the enjoyment of the beauty of birds and butterflies transcends these bounds and is a way to stay grounded and feel some normalcy. Through the following walks, special field trips, and workshops, CMBO will expand your appreciation and understanding, all the while following COVID guidelines and protocols that provide for a safe and enjoyable environment. With a limit set on the number of preregistered participants, you're sure to have a more intimate and impactful experience with our wonderful Associate Naturalists and Field Trip Assistants at world famous locations and birding hotspots. No matter your level of interest or experience, we have a program for you - let us be your guide to winter birding, a season all its own.

See you in the field,

Brett Ewald



Director, New Jersey Audubon's Cape May Bird Observatory

Become a New Jersey Audubon member and enjoy discounts on tours, events, and field trips at all New Jersey Audubon centers. Members also get a 10% discount at our Nature Stores (some exclusions apply). Optics and tripods are already at their lowest prices.

Winter Programs 2020-2021

WEEKLY WALKS/ACTIVITIES

Led by CMBO's stellar Associate Naturalists and/or staff, these programs meet at locations highlighted on the CMBO Bird and Butterfly Map (available at our stores, or downloadable from our website). Bring binoculars, and dress for prevailing weather and insects according to season. Children accompanied by parents are always welcome (age 15 and younger are free) - walks that are especially **Family-friendly** are noted. Most involve walking a mile or more on varied terrain such as asphalt, boardwalk, gravel, beach, and dirt (sometimes muddy) paths. For more information about accessibility for those with limited mobility, contact the Northwood Center at **609.400.3868**. Note: Programs may be cancelled due to difficult/unsafe weather conditions.

PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

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To minimize the risk of COVID-19, NJ Audubon is implementing the following safety protocols:

- 1) In-person programs will be limited in group size, and as such, each person must preregister for each program they would like to attend. Drop-ins will be turned away.
- 2) You can easily register for events by visiting our online Calendar of Events: njudubon.org/calendar/category/cape-may-bird-observatory-northwood-center/
- 3) Unfortunately, we will not be sharing any optics so please bring your own equipment.
- 4) Leaders and participants must wear face coverings throughout the program and maintain social distancing (at least 6' of separation). Leaders may remove their face covering in order to be heard by the group while maintaining social distance.

New Jersey Audubon field trips and programs adhere to CDC guidelines; leaders have the right to ask a participant to leave the program if someone is not adhering to these guidelines for the health and safety of all. Please do not come to a program if you are sick or have a sick family member. Please refer to our website www.birdcapemay.org for the latest COVID-19 updates about program cancellations or postponements. *Thank you for your cooperation during this time.*

Saturdays

① BIRDING CAPE MAY POINT

Saturdays, December 5 to February 27

EXCEPT December 19 and 26 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Meets near the Hawkwatch Platform at Cape May Point State Park. Enjoy wintering ducks, swans, sparrows, and other songbirds. *Preregistration required.*

Cost: \$6 members, \$10 nonmembers.

② GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Saturday, February 13 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

At CMBO's Northwood Center. **FREE** hourly walks.

Sundays

③ SUNSET BEACH: A Place For All Seasons

Sundays: December 13, January 3, February 7

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Meets at the parking lot behind the miniature golf course, on the north side of Sunset Blvd as you approach Sunset Beach. Part of the Higbee Beach WMA, the Sunset Beach area hosts an array of birds, including sparrows, warblers, hawks, and waterbirds. This **FREE** walk is sponsored by the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife. *Preregistration required.*

Cape May Bird Observatory **5**

④ SUNDAY MORNING AT TURKEY POINT

Sundays, February 14 to 28 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Meets at the end of Turkey Point Road in Cumberland County (reached from Route 553 south of the town of Dividing Creek) in the Natural Lands Glades Wildlife Refuge. Walk New Jersey's miracle mile for winter birds. *Preregistration required.* Cost: \$6 members, \$10 nonmembers.

⑤ NIGHTFALL AT JAKES LANDING

Sunday, February 28 4:30 PM to DUSK

Meets at the end of Jakes Landing Road, near Dennisville, off of Route 47. Watch for Northern Harriers, Short-eared Owls, Great Horned Owls, and winter songbirds where the forest meets the salt marsh. *Preregistration required.* Cost: \$6 members, \$10 nonmembers.

Mondays

⑥ **BIRDING THE MEADOWS • Mondays, December 7 to February 22 EXCEPT December 21 & 28; January 18; and February 15** 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Meets at The Nature Conservancy's South Cape May Meadows Preserve parking lot on Sunset Blvd. You can expect waterfowl, sparrows, gulls, raptors, and other songbirds. *Preregistration required.*

Cost: \$6 members, \$10 nonmembers.

SPECIAL FIELD TRIPS

PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED

Register online through our website www.birdcapemay.org. Please register early; group size is limited.

For more information, contact the Program Registrar at cmboregistrar@njaudubon.org or by calling 609.400.3864.

⑦ HARLEQUIN ROMANCE

Saturday, December 12 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

With Program Director Melissa Roach and CMBO naturalists. Harlequin Ducks and Purple Sandpipers are almost guaranteed on this trip to Barnegat Light State Park along with scoters, gulls, Northern Gannets and other winter specialties. This trip involves a long walk over sand and jetty, is often windy and cold, but always productive. *Preregistration required.*

Cost: \$24 members, \$32 nonmembers.

⑧ KICK OFF YOUR YEAR LIST IN CAPE MAY

Friday, January 1 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

With Director Brett Ewald and CMBO Naturalists. Meets near the Hawkwatch Platform at Cape May Point State Park. Every bird is new today! Recent years have produced over 70 species, including many seasonal highlights and rarities. We'll visit multiple locations and hotspots, breaking for an hour or so for lunch and to warm up. *Preregistration required.*

Cost: \$24 members, \$32 nonmembers.

⑨ COASTAL BIRDING AT TWO MILE

Saturdays, January 9 and February 27

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

With Chris Marks and CMBO Naturalists. Meets at the Cape May National Wildlife Refuge's Two Mile Beach Unit. We'll see shorebirds, gulls, and waterfowl as we walk the beach to the Cold Spring Jetty where we'll look for Great Cormorant and Purple Sandpiper. *Preregistration required.* Cost: \$15 members, \$20 nonmembers.

⑩ BRIGANTINE AND MOTT'S CREEK

Sunday, January 24 1:30 PM - 5:30 PM

With Janet Crawford and CMBO Naturalists. Edwin B. Forsythe NWR is a great place to see waterfowl, Northern Harriers, Short-eared Owls, eagles and Rough-legged Hawks. After birding the refuge, the group will head to nearby Mott's Creek for raptor watching. A refuge pass (\$4; can be purchased that day), Golden Age Pass, or federal duck stamp will be required for each vehicle to enter the NWR. *Preregistration required.*

Cost: \$24 members, \$32 nonmembers.

⑪ LONGTAILS IN LOVE

Saturday, February 13 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

With Chuck Slugg and CMBO Naturalists. Meets at the 8th Street and Avalon Avenue intersection in Avalon. Long-tailed Ducks court during the weeks surrounding Valentine's Day, with the males yodeling melodically to their mates. We'll also search for Long-tailed Ducks and other waterfowl in the ocean, bays, inlets and ponds from Avalon to Cape May Harbor. *Preregistration required.* Cost: \$24 members, \$32 nonmembers.

⑬ POOR MAN'S PELAGIC

Saturday, March 20 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM

With Program Director Melissa Roach and CMBO Naturalists. Meets at the Cape May Ferry for a half hour of birding from the landing before traveling across the Delaware Bay aboard the Cape May-Lewes Ferry at 1pm and return on the 2:45 boat. Expect to see Northern Gannets, loons, cormorants, gulls, terns, and scoters in the bay. PHOTO I.D. WILL BE REQUIRED. *Preregistration required.* Cost: \$30 members, \$40 nonmembers (includes round trip ferry fee).

⑭ CUMBERLAND COUNTY

WINTER EAGLE FESTIVAL

Saturday, February 6, 2021 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Mauricetown, NJ

www.co.cumberland.nj.us

CAPE MAY SCHOOL OF BIRDING WORKSHOPS

PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED

Register online through our website www.birdcapemay.org. Please register early; group size is limited.

For more information, contact the Program Registrar at cmboregistrar@njudubon.org or by calling 609.400.3864.

⑮ THE BEST OF WINTER BIRDING – EAGLES, OWLS, DUCKS & MORE! • Saturday-Sunday, January 16-17

With CMBO Director Brett Ewald. Southern NJ provides incredible winter birding! With over ten species of diurnal raptors (hawks and owls) and twenty-five species of waterfowl possible, there is so much to see and appreciate, set in some of the most beautiful and remote landscapes on the Eastern Seaboard. While we'll focus on these groups of birds, we'll also take time to enjoy shorebirds, gulls, gannets, sparrows are more on this in-the-field workshop. Past years have featured Rough-legged Hawks, Short-eared Owls, and eiders. *Preregistration required.*

Cost: \$150 members, \$200 nonmembers.

⑯ TECHNIQUES OF FIELD OBSERVATION Saturday, February 20

With Michael O'Brien. Sharpen your field skills in the workshop that every birder wishes they'd taken. Binoculars show you the bird; field guides identify the bird. But how many times have you studied a bird, only to discover that all the information you gathered has evaporated by the time you get to the field guide or you failed to note the most distinguishable field mark? This workshop will teach you how to look, record, and recall like an expert. *Preregistration required.*

Cost: \$90 members, \$120 nonmembers.

⑰ GULLS SIMPLIFIED Saturday, March 28

With Michael O'Brien. This workshop combines time in the field learning the easy way to separate and identify the more common winter gulls and practicing sifting flocks of gulls for something rare, with an indoor review of gull plumages, aging, and some of the rarer species. By the end, you'll learn to love gulls too! *Preregistration required.*

Cost: \$90 members, \$120 nonmembers.

New Jersey Audubon's
Cape May
44TH Annual
Spring Festival
2021 A HYBRID EVENT
so many birds.
May 14-16, 2021
A HYBRID EVENT

LOOKING FOR CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY PROGRAMS?

Our sister center, the Nature Center of Cape May, has a full schedule of programs for all ages exploring many facets of the natural world. Contact the nature center at 609.427.3045 or check online at www.njudubon.org/centers/nccm.



**1600 Delaware Ave
Cape May, NJ**

SEASONAL RESEARCH

® AVALON SEAWATCH

(Sponsored by Swarovski Optik)

September 22 to December 22

Witness amazing numbers of migrating scoters, loons, cormorants, gannets and more. Peak daily numbers can exceed 50,000. Located at the north end of Avalon, beachside between 8th Street (the Jetty) and 9th Street, it includes a visitor's blind built by our partners the Borough of Avalon! *No preregistration, just drop by.*

CMBO PERENNIALS

WANTED: USED (AND NOT-SO-USED) BOOKS

Clean your shelves and help fill ours for a good cause! Birding, butterflies, nature, gardening for wildlife (no magazines or periodicals, please). Bring donations to the Northwood Center and check out our used books section.

SEVEN POINT BINO-CHECK

Since optics are the primary tools for enjoying bird life, it is important to keep them in top working condition. Stop at the Northwood center during business hours to have your binocular performance evaluated. Limited availability at peak visitation times. Cost: **FREE**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

YOU AND YOUR TIME ARE VALUABLE TO US!

Associate Naturalists and Field Trip Assistants: Most of our programs are led by volunteers. If you are a good birder/naturalist and have excellent people skills, contact Program Director Melissa Roach, melissa.roach@njudubon.org.

Nature Store Volunteers: Friendly people needed to greet visitors, answer phones, provide information and process sales. Contact Brian Moscatello, brian.moscatello@njudubon.org.

Backyard Habitat Garden Care: Are you a gardener? Do you possess one of those proverbial green thumbs? Backyard Habitat at CMBO in Goshen needs your care and attention. Contact Deb Shaw, deb.shaw@njudubon.org.

Public Outreach Events:

Contact Deb Shaw, deb.shaw@njudubon.org.

Special Events in 2021

OPTICS SALE • April 10-11

WORLD SERIES OF BIRDING • May 8

CAPE MAY SPRING FESTIVAL • May 14-16

CAPE MAY FALL FESTIVAL • October

2020 Business Partnerships

This listing highlights the businesses that support our organization at the Partner level. Visit our website at www.birdcapemay.org for a complete list.

Please let these businesses know that you appreciate their support of the Cape May Bird Observatory. Many of them offer discounts to current NJ Audubon/ CMBO members. So keep your card handy when you visit! Enjoy Cape May!

BIRDING BY BOAT – THE OSPREY

Miss Chris Marina, 1212 Wilson Avenue, Cape May, NJ 08204 • 609-898-3500
www.birdingbyboat.com

COASTLINE REALTY LLC

941 Columbia Avenue, Cape May, NJ 08204
609-884-5005
www.coastlinerealty.com

FINS BAR & GRILLE

142 Decatur Street Washington Street Mall, Cape May, NJ 08204
609-884-3449
www.finscapemay.com

THE GRAND HOTEL

1045 Beach Avenue, Cape May, NJ 08204
609-884-5611/800-257-8550
www.grandcapemay.com

MAD BATTER RESTAURANT

at the Carroll Villa Hotel
19 Jackson St., Cape May, NJ 08204
609-884-5970
www.carrollvilla.com

PERIWINKLE INN

1039 Beach Ave., Cape May, NJ 08204
609-884-9200
www.periwinkleinn.com

THE RUSTY NAIL/BEACH SHACK

205 Beach Avenue, Cape May, NJ 08204
609-884-0017
www.caperesorts.com

SEA CREST INN

101 Beach Avenue, Cape May, NJ 08204
609-884-4561
www.seacrestinn.com

WEST CAPE MOTEL

307 Sunset Boulevard, Cape May, NJ 08204
609-884-4280
www.westcapemotel.com

THE WILDLIFE GARDENER

795 Goshen Road, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210 • 609-536-8036
www.njwildlifegardener.com

DECEMBER 2020

Numbers next to events on calendar correspond to event numbers in text. Ex. ⑩

⑮ AVALON SEAWATCH September 22 to December 22

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5 ① BIRDING CAPE MAY PT. 8AM-10AM
6	7 ⑥ BIRDING THE MEADOWS 8AM-10AM	8	9	10	11	12 ① BIRDING CAPE MAY PT. 8AM-10AM ⑦ HARLEQUIN ROMANCE 10AM-4PM

13 ③ SUNSET BEACH: A PLACE FOR ALL SEASONS 9AM-10AM	14 ⑥ BIRDING THE MEADOWS 8AM-10AM	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Both Centers Closed for Holiday Season	25 Both Centers Closed for Holiday Season	26 Both Centers Closed for Holiday Season
27 Both Centers Closed for Holiday Season	28 Both Centers Closed for Holiday Season	29 Both Centers Closed for Holiday Season	30 Both Centers Closed for Holiday Season	31 Both Centers Closed for Holiday Season		

JANUARY 2021

Numbers next to events on calendar correspond to event numbers in text. Ex. ⑩

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 ③ KICK OFF YOUR YEAR LIST IN CAPE MAY 9AM-5PM Both Centers Closed for Holiday Season	2 ① BIRDING CAPE MAY PT. 8AM-10AM
3 ③ SUNSET BEACH: A PLACE FOR ALL SEASONS 9AM-10AM	4 ⑥ BIRDING THE MEADOWS 8AM-10AM	5	6	7	8	9 ① BIRDING CAPE MAY PT. 8AM-10AM

10	11 ⑥ BIRDING THE MEADOWS 8AM-10AM	12	13	14	15	16 ① BIRDING CAPE MAY PT. 8AM-10AM ⑤ THE BEST OF WINTER BIRDING EAGLES, OWLS, DUCKS & MORE!
17 ⑤ THE BEST OF WINTER BIRDING EAGLES, OWLS, DUCKS & MORE!	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Both Centers Closed	19	20	21	22	23 ① BIRDING CAPE MAY PT. 8AM-10AM
24/31 ⑩ BRIGANTINE AND MOTT'S CREEK 1.30PM-5.30PM (JANUARY 24TH)	25 ⑥ BIRDING THE MEADOWS 8AM-10AM	26	27	28	29	30 ① BIRDING CAPE MAY PT. 8AM-10AM

FEBRUARY 2021

Numbers next to events on calendar correspond to event numbers in text. Ex. ①

COMING IN MARCH

⑬ POOR MAN'S PELAGIC Saturday, March 20 | 12:30PM-4:30PM

⑰ GULLS SIMPLIFIED Saturday, March 28

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 ⑥ BIRDING THE MEADOWS 8AM-10AM	2	3	4	5	6 ① BIRDING CAPE MAY PT. 8AM-10AM ④ CUMBERLAND COUNTY WINTER EAGLE FESTIVAL 8AM-4PM
7 ③ SUNSET BEACH: A PLACE FOR ALL SEASONS 9AM-10AM	8 ⑥ BIRDING THE MEADOWS 8AM-10AM	9	10	11	12	13 ① BIRDING CAPE MAY PT. 8AM-10AM ② GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT 10AM-3PM ⑪ LONGTAILS IN LOVE 10AM-4PM

14 ④ SUNDAY MORNING AT TURKEY PT. 8AM-10AM	15 President's Day Both Centers Closed	16	17	18	19	20 ① BIRDING CAPE MAY PT. 8AM-10AM ⑥ TECHNIQUES OF FIELD OBSERVATION
21 ④ SUNDAY MORNING AT TURKEY PT. 8AM-10AM	22 ⑥ BIRDING THE MEADOWS 8AM-10AM	23	24 Northwood Center Closed for Inventory	25 Northwood Center Closed for Inventory	26	27 ① BIRDING CAPE MAY PT. 8AM-10AM ③ COASTAL BIRDING AT TWO MILE 1PM-4PM
28 ④ SUNDAY MORNING AT TURKEY PT. 8AM-10AM ⑤ NIGHTFALL AT JAKES LANDING 4:30PM-DUSK						