

**Birds and Wildlife**

# **Kestrel** *EXPRESS*

**Winter 2018-2019**

**Cape May Bird Observatory**

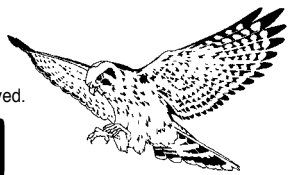


**NEW JERSEY  
AUDUBON**  
[www.njaudubon.org](http://www.njaudubon.org)

**Cape  
May  
Bird  
Observatory**



**New Jersey Audubon**  
[www.BirdCapeMay.org](http://www.BirdCapeMay.org)



## 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 Monday: 9:30AM. - 4:30PM

Closed Tuesdays.

### 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](http://www.birdcapemay.org) • [www.njaudubon.org](http://www.njaudubon.org)

[www.featheredgeoptics.org](http://www.featheredgeoptics.org)

### HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES & CLOSURES

Both CMBO centers will be **CLOSED** from

December 24 – 31, January 1, 21, and February 18.

The CMBO Northwood Center will be **CLOSED**

February 27-28 for inventory.

Hey! Did you bird Cape May today?



[BIRDCAPEMAY.ORG](http://BIRDCAPEMAY.ORG)

CAPE MAY BIRD OBSERVATORY

New Jersey Audubon's

WSB

[worldseriesofbirding.org](http://worldseriesofbirding.org)

## 36th Annual WORLD SERIES OF BIRDING

**MAY 11, 2019**

All Ages and Skill Levels Welcome!

[www.WorldSeriesofBirding.org](http://www.WorldSeriesofBirding.org)



## 2019 CAPE MAY SCHOOL OF BIRDING

### Wintering Hawks, Eagles & Owls

With Brett Ewald

January 5-6

### Techniques of Field Observation

With Michael O'Brien

February 16

### Gulls Simplified

With Michael O'Brien

March 30

Birding and  
learning in  
famous  
Cape May,  
New Jersey



[www.birdcapemay.org](http://www.birdcapemay.org) – 609.400.3864

## Season's Passage Winter 2018-19

*Evening Grosbeak  
Finches ticking overhead  
Wishing "please land soon."*

As fall passes to winter, we're shaping up to have a record winter finch year. This includes true finches, like American Goldfinch, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak, but also species like Red-breasted Nuthatch. These irruptions are tied to winter seed crops farther north, and while I won't bore you with the specifics, it's safe to say any winter walk this year should yield a finch species or two. My favorite, the "feeder pig," is the Evening Grosbeak. Once a common winter visitor, this species has declined, likely due to habitat changes farther north, but in 2018/2019 we have a chance for them to visit our feeders once again...and so I will be out there as much as possible searching! Whatever your favorite finch, we've got plenty of options for you to choose from, all carefully selected and scheduled in the fine publication in your hand.

Won't you join me on a winter finch search?

Good Birding,

David La Puma

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 2018-19

### 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 for protection from sun, heat, cold, wind, rain, and insects according to season. Although children accompanied by parents are always welcome (age 15 and younger are free), walks that are especially **Family-friendly** are noted. Most of our weekly walks 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.

### NO PREREGISTRATION NECESSARY

**4** The Kestrel Express

## Saturdays

### ① BIRDING CAPE MAY POINT

**Saturdays, December 1 to February 23**

**EXCEPT December 22 and 29** 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Meets near the Hawkwatch Platform at Cape May Point State Park. Enjoy wintering waterfowl and songbirds.

*No preregistration necessary.*

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

### ② BREAK INTO BIRDING MINI-WORKSHOP

**Saturdays, January 12 and 26** 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

With Chuck Slugg. Meets at the Northwood Center in Cape May Point. Learn where to go to find birds and how to identify them. Discover how to get the most out of field guides and optics. For absolute beginners, backyard birders, and any birder who wants to improve their skills. Numbers limited, so please call 609.400.3864 to reserve a place. **Family-friendly** (recommended for age 12 and up). Cost: \$15 members, \$25 nonmembers (includes a \$10 certificate towards membership).

### ③ GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

**Saturday, February 16** 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

At CMBO's Northwood Center. FREE hourly walks.

## Sundays

### ④ SUNDAY MORNING AT TURKEY POINT

**Sundays, February 10 to 24** 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.

*No preregistration required.*

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

### ⑤ NIGHTFALL AT JAKES LANDING

**Sunday, February 24** 4:30 PM - 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. *No preregistration required.*

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

### ⑥ SUNSET BEACH: A Place For All Seasons

**Sundays: December 9, January 6, February 10**

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Part of the world-famous Higbee Beach WMA, the Sunset Beach area is a mix of varied habitats, hosting a wide array of birds. Meet at the parking lot behind the miniature golf course, on the north side of Sunset Blvd. as you approach Sunset Beach. This **FREE** walk is sponsored by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Cape May Bird Observatory **5**

# Monday

## ⑦ BIRD WALK FOR BEGINNERS

**Monday, January 21 (Martin Luther King Day)**

**Monday, February 18 (Presidents' Day)** 10:00 AM - NOON

Meets near the Hawkwatch Platform at Cape May Point State Park. Tips for identifying wintering ducks, seabirds, and songbirds will be covered as we explore easily accessible areas of the park. Loaner binoculars will be available. *Family-friendly. No preregistration required.* Cost: \$6 members, \$10 nonmembers.

## SPECIAL FIELD TRIPS

### PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED

Register online through our website [www.birdcapemay.org](http://www.birdcapemay.org).

Please register early; group size is limited.

For more information, contact the Program Registrar at [cmboregistrar@njudubon.org](mailto:cmboregistrar@njudubon.org) or by calling 609.400.3864.

## ⑧ HARLEQUIN ROMANCE

**Saturday, December 8** 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

With Program Director Brett Ewald 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.

## ⑨ KICK OFF YOUR YEAR LIST IN CAPE MAY

**Tuesday, January 1** 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

With Program 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 walk and carpool to multiple locations breaking for an hour or so for lunch and to warm up. *Preregistration required.* Cost: \$24 members, \$32 nonmembers.

## ⑩ COASTAL BIRDING AT TWO MILE

**Saturdays, January 12 & February 23** 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

With 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 and explore nearby areas, such as the Cold Spring Jetty where we'll look for Great Cormorant and Purple Sandpiper. *Preregistration required.*

Cost: \$15 members, \$20 nonmembers.

## ⑪ BRIGANTINE AND MOTT'S CREEK

**Sunday, January 27** 1:30 PM - 5:30 PM

With Janet Crawford, Karen Johnson, and CMBO Naturalists. Edwin B. Forsythe NWR is a great place to see ducks, 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.

## ⑫ LONGTAILS IN LOVE

**Saturday, February 9** 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 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 WOODCOCK DANCE

**Saturday, March 16** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

With Janet Crawford and Karen Johnson. Meets at the CMBO Center for Research and Education in Goshen for a brief indoor session, then travel to a nearby woodcock hotspot to witness the nuptial flight of the male American Woodcock. Don't miss this wonderful and short-lived spring phenomenon. *Preregistration required.*

Cost: \$15 members, \$20 nonmembers.

## ⑭ POOR MAN'S PELAGIC

**Saturday, March 23** 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM

With Karen Johnson and Janet Crawford. 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 1 pm, 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).

## ⑮ CUMBERLAND COUNTY WINTER EAGLE FESTIVAL • Saturday, February 2, 2019

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Mauricetown Fire Hall, Mauricetown, NJ

[www.co.cumberland.nj.us](http://www.co.cumberland.nj.us)

## CAPE MAY SCHOOL OF BIRDING WORKSHOPS

### PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED

Register online through our website [www.birdcapemay.org](http://www.birdcapemay.org).

Please register early; group size is limited.

For more information, contact the Program Registrar at [cmboregistrar@njudubon.org](mailto:cmboregistrar@njudubon.org) or by calling 609.400.3864.

## ⑯ WINTERING HAWKS, EAGLES & OWLS

**Saturday-Sunday, January 5-6**

With CMBO Program Director Brett Ewald. Over ten species of diurnal raptors and owls are possible, thanks to southern New Jersey's mosaic of prey-rich habitats, along with some

of the most beautiful and remote landscapes on the Eastern Seaboard. Past years have featured hunting Short-eared Owls and Rough-legged Hawks. The bulk of this workshop is in the field, with an indoor session to heighten your understanding of wintering birds of prey. *Preregistration required.* Cost: \$150 members, \$200 nonmembers.

### ⑦ **TECHNIQUES OF FIELD OBSERVATION**

**Saturday, February 16**

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 that the one field mark you need to distinguish one from another was the one thing you failed to note? This workshop will teach you how to look, record and recall and, most importantly, how to bird like an expert. *Preregistration required.*

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

### ⑧ **GULLS SIMPLIFIED • Saturday, March 30**

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're sure to love gulls too! *Preregistration required.*

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

## **SEASONAL RESEARCH**

### ⑨ **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.*

## **Special Events in 2019**

OPTICS SALE • April 13 & 14

WORLD SERIES OF BIRDING • May 11

CAPE MAY SPRING FESTIVAL • May 16 - 19  
with Kenn Kaufman & Scott Whittle

AMERICAN BIRDING EXPO • September 20-22

CAPE MAY FALL FESTIVAL • October 17 - 20

## **2018 Business Partnerships**

This listing highlights the businesses that support our organization at the Partner level. Visit our website at [www.birdcapemay.org](http://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](http://www.birdingbyboat.com)

### **COASTLINE REALTY LLC**

941 Columbia Avenue, Cape May, NJ 08204  
609-884-5005 • [www.coastlinerealty.com](http://www.coastlinerealty.com)

### **FINS BAR & GRILLE**

142 Decatur Street Washington Street Mall  
Cape May, NJ 08204  
609-884-3449 • [www.finscapemay.com](http://www.finscapemay.com)

### **THE GRAND HOTEL**

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

[www.grandcapemay.com](http://www.grandcapemay.com)

### **HYLAND MOTOR INN**

38 East Mechanic Street  
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210  
609-465-7305 • [www.hylandmotorinn.com](http://www.hylandmotorinn.com)

### **MAD BATTER RESTAURANT**

at the Carroll Villa Hotel  
19 Jackson St., Cape May, NJ 08204  
609-884-5970 • [www.carrollvilla.com](http://www.carrollvilla.com)

### **MONTREAL BEACH RESORT**

Beach & Madison Avenues, Cape May, NJ 08204  
609-884-7011 • [www.montrealbeachresort.com](http://www.montrealbeachresort.com)

### **PERIWINKLE INN**

1039 Beach Ave., Cape May, NJ 08204  
609-884-9200 • [www.periwinkleinn.com](http://www.periwinkleinn.com)

### **THE RUSTY NAIL/BEACH SHACK**

205 Beach Avenue, Cape May, NJ 08204  
609-884-0017 • [www.caperesorts.com](http://www.caperesorts.com)

### **SALT MARSH SAFARI – THE SKIMMER**

Cape May Inlet Marina  
1001 Ocean Drive, Wildwood Crest, NJ 08260  
609-884-3100 • [www.skimmer.com](http://www.skimmer.com)

### **SEA CREST INN**

101 Beach Avenue, Cape May, NJ 08204  
609-884-4561 • [www.seacrestinn.com](http://www.seacrestinn.com)

### **SUNSET LIQUORS**

106 Sunset Boulevard, Cape May, NJ 08204  
609-435-5052 • [www.sunsetliquorsnj.com](http://www.sunsetliquorsnj.com)

### **WEST CAPE MOTEL**

307 Sunset Boulevard, Cape May, NJ 08204  
609-884-4280 • [www.westcapemotel.com](http://www.westcapemotel.com)

### **THE WILDLIFE GARDENER**

795 Goshen Road, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210  
609-536-8036 • [www.njwildlifegardener.com](http://www.njwildlifegardener.com)

# DECEMBER 2018

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

Sponsored by SWAROVSKI OPTIK: SWAROVSKI OPTIK  
 ⑩ AVALON SEAWATCH September 22 to December 22



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

9 ⑥ SUNSET BEACH 9AM-11AM	10	11	12	13	14	15 ① BIRDING CAPE MAY PT. 8AM-10AM
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30 HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE Both CMBO Centers Closed	24/31 HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE Both CMBO Centers Closed	25 HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE Both CMBO Centers Closed	26 HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE Both CMBO Centers Closed	27 HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE Both CMBO Centers Closed	28 HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE Both CMBO Centers Closed	29 HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE Both CMBO Centers Closed

# JANUARY 2019

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 ⑨ KICK OFF YOUR YEAR LIST 10AM-5PM  HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE Both CMBO Centers Closed	2	3	4	5 ① BIRDING CAPE MAY PT. 8AM-10AM ⑩ WINTERING HAWKS, EAGLES & OWLS
6 ⑥ SUNSET BEACH 9AM-11AM ⑩ WINTERING HAWKS, EAGLES & OWLS	7	8	9	10	11	12 ① BIRDING CAPE MAY PT. 8AM-10AM ② BREAK INTO BIRDING 1PM-3PM ⑩ COASTAL BIRDING AT TWO MILE 1PM-4PM

13	14	15	16	17	18	19 ① BIRDING CAPE MAY PT. 8AM-10AM
20	21 ⑦ BIRD WALK FOR BEGINNERS 10AM-NOON Martin Luther King Jr. Day Both CMBO Centers Closed	22	23	24	25	26 ① BIRDING CAPE MAY PT. 8AM-10AM ② BREAK INTO BIRDING 1PM-3PM
27 ⑪ BRIGANTINE AND MOTT'S CREEK 1:30PM-5:30PM	28	29	30	31		

# FEBRUARY 2019

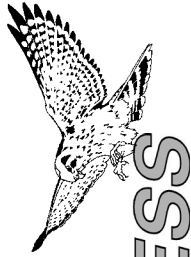
Numbers next to events on calendar correspond to event numbers in text. Ex. ①

Coming in March:  
 ③ WOODCOCK DANCE Saturday, March 16 6PM - 8PM  
 ④ POOR MAN'S PELAGIC Saturday, March 23 12:30PM - 4:30PM  
 ⑤ GULLS SIMPLIFIED Saturday, March 30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 ① BIRDING CAPE MAY PT. 8AM-10AM ⑤ CUMBERLAND COUNTY WINTER EAGLE FESTIVAL 8AM-4PM
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 ① BIRDING CAPE MAY PT. 8AM-10AM ⑫ LONGTAILS IN LOVE 10AM-4PM

10 ④ SUNDAY MORNING @ TURKEY PT. 8AM-10AM ⑥ SUNSET BEACH 9AM-11AM	11	12	13	14	15	16 ① BIRDING CAPE MAY PT. 8AM-10AM ③ GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT 10AM-3PM ⑦ TECHNIQUES OF FIELD OBSERVATION
17 ④ SUNDAY MORNING @ TURKEY PT. 8AM-10AM	18 ⑦ BIRD WALK FOR BEGINNERS 10AM-NOON  PRESIDENT'S DAY Both CMBO Centers Closed	19	20	21	22	23 ① BIRDING CAPE MAY PT. 8AM-10AM ⑩ COASTAL BIRDING AT TWO MILE 1PM-4PM
24 ④ SUNDAY MORNING @ TURKEY PT. 8AM-10AM ⑤ NIGHTFALL AT JAKES LANDING 4:30PM-DUSK	25	26	27 CMBO Northwood Center Closed for Inventory	28 CMBO Northwood Center Closed for Inventory		





# **Mesirel** EXPRESS

**Cape May Bird Observatory**

P.O. Box 3

Cape May Point, NJ 08212

**Save  
These  
Dates:**

**APRIL 13 & 14: Optics Sale**

**MAY 11: World Series of Birding**

**MAY 16-19: SO.MANY.BIRDS Spring Festival**

**Winter 2018-19 Schedule Enclosed**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Rahway, NJ