

THE



OSPREY

Newsletter of the

Monmouth County Audubon Society

Over 50 Years of Birds and Conservation

www.monmouthaudubon.org

➤ Chasing the Monmouth Big Year Record 288 “Official” Species in 2022

by Paul Mandala

Volume 58, #1 Spring, 2023

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With the start of 2023, there is an excitement in the air for many birders. January not only marks the start of the new year, but for some, it means the start of a “Big Year.” A Big Year is when birders set the goal of seeing as many different bird species as possible in one calendar year in a geographic area. Big Year attempts may vary in depth; Global, ABA (American Birding Association), Lower 48, state, or county. “The idea of a year devoted to chasing birds, with all its challenges, surprises, disappointments and thrills is a romantic one. A Big Year rivalry was documented by author Mark Obmascik in his 1998 book “The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature and Fowl Obsession,” which was turned into the 2011 film “The Big Year,” starring Steve Martin, Jack Black and Owen Wilson.” - Scott Shumaker, Red Rock News.

Usually, in January, birders get the most checks off their bird list quickly. As the year progresses, it becomes more and more difficult to check birds off your list. I did not start my year with the idea of doing a “Big Year”. A friend, Rob, mentioned the Big Year Record for Monmouth County to me sometime around the end of summer or early fall. Rob noticed I was inching up towards the record. He really was the one who lit the fire for me and inspired me to try for the record sending me on an end of the year quest. Every Big Year attempt has memorable moments, a lot of learning experiences, long days, and time spent birding with friends and alone. Most people who attempt a Big Year have plenty of time set aside for the endeavor, usually being young birders out of college or retirees with no work commitments. I don't fit those categories, but luckily, I work as a naturalist leading bird walks and tours throughout the year. I also invest a lot of time out in the field doing volunteer wildlife projects such as bird banding and bird surveys. I am lucky in that my work and personal interest align in a way that it set the stage for the big year record in 2022.



Our “mascot,” - Ospreys in NJ begin to arrive on breeding grounds around St. Patrick's day - usually to the same nests each year. Pairs begin courtship and nest building in early April. Eggs are laid in mid-April to early May.
Photo by Lisa Ann Fanning

Continued on page 5

Monmouth County Audubon Society

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The Osprey is published by the Monmouth County Audubon Society, local chapter of the National Audubon Society. Our mission is to promote the awareness, appreciation and conservation of natural resources through activism and educational outreach, and by representing the National Audubon Society in Monmouth County, NJ. Inquiries concerning the organization, newsletter, letters to the editor or material submitted for consideration are encouraged and may be sent to: P.O. Box 542, Red Bank, NJ 07701
E-mail: monmouthaudubon@gmail.com

► FROM THE EDITOR

As I write this, Jupiter and Venus are dancing in every evening's night sky. Come March, Jupiter will be disappearing into the sunset, not to be seen again until May mornings. Orion is setting lower as well, and the sky is giving way to the spring constellations.

In just a matter of weeks, we can count on our Ospreys returning to be reunited with their mates as we watch the familiar rituals of our beloved icons of the Jersey Shore.

We also anxiously await our garden birds' returns as well, Orioles, Grosbeaks, warblers and flitting Hummingbirds and more will wash away the winter doldrums and fill warmer, sunnier days with color and song.

Be sure to join us for some great events coming up! Learn how to plant your native garden to attract wildlife, go watch the amazing courtship of the American Woodcock and of course, learn about wonderful spring migrant traps like Garret Mountain, and join us on some migration field trips!

There are so many ways to help herald the arrival of spring, and we hope you can join us in doing so!

Wishing you much sunlight, mild temperatures and lots of joy celebrating all there is to celebrate in the natural world!

-Lisa Ann

*"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn."
- Hal Borland*



Baltimore Orioles are one of my favorite birds that announce spring's arrival.
Photo by Lisa Ann Fanning

►MCAS offering \$2,000 for the 2023 Ted Engberg Wildlife Conservation Scholarship

-Jo Ann Molnar, Education Chair

The 2023 Ted Engberg Wildlife Conservation Scholarship will be awarded to a Spring 2023 Monmouth County high school graduate studying a “wildlife conservation related” field at college in the fall of 2023. The application deadline is May 15, 2023. Scholarships will be awarded on June 15, 2023.

Only the information requested on the application will be considered for the scholarship (no supplemental information).

Supplemental information will disqualify the applicant’s submission from review.

A copy of the application is available on our website (www.monmouthaudubon.org) for download or on the following page of this newsletter. Print, and e-mail once completed to: Jamram1994@Gmail.com.

Requirements:

- Monmouth County resident Monmouth County High School Graduate, spring 2023;
 - accepted at a four-year college/ university, fall 2023 Majoring in wildlife conservation-related fields (biology, botany, forestry, environmental studies, teacher/naturalist, etc.)
- Essay: “Why wildlife conservation is important to me.”
- The scholarship will be announced: in local newspapers, online on the MCAS website and in the MCAS Osprey online newsletter.

Application:

- Available through High School Guidance Offices MCAS website (www.monmouthaudubon.org)
 - **Application deadline May 15, 2023.**
 - E-Mailed to: JAMRAM1994@Gmail.com
- MCAS Committee will review applications and make all final decisions. Scholarships will be announced, and a check will be issued on June 15, 2023.

Completed application

- Applicant information: name, address, phone number, email
- Latest High School transcript with current GPA
- letter of acceptance to a four-year college
- 500-word essay “Why wildlife conservation is important to me.” (highlighting activities, accomplishments, and goals in conservation)

Note: supplemental information will not be considered for the scholarship.

“Our mission is to promote the awareness, appreciation, and conservation of natural resources through activism and educational outreach and by representing the National Audubon Society in Monmouth County.”

2023 Ted Engberg Wildlife Conservation Scholarship
\$2,000

Please submit by May 15, 2023:

- *This completed application**
- *High School transcript (latest available)**
- *letter of acceptance to a four-year college**
- *500-word essay "Why wildlife conservation is important to me."
(highlighting activities, accomplishments, and goals in conservation;
supplemental information will not be considered for the
scholarship)**

Date: _____

Name: _____

Home Address (Monmouth County Resident): _____

Phone: home _____ **cell** _____

Email: _____

Monmouth County High School and Graduation

Date: _____

Four-year College name: _____

Enrollment date and major: _____

**I certify that the information on my application is accurate to the best
of my knowledge.**

Signature:

All applications must be completed and E-mailed by May 15, 2023:

MCAS Board will award the scholarship, and a check will be issued by June 15, 2023.

►Big Year (continued from front page)

Early in the year a few big days for citizen science contributed to my big year success. Doing events like the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on January 1 and participating in a county-wide World Series of Birding Team in May set me up for success later in the year. I opened up the year with my usual Long Branch CBC section at Thompson Park where I checked off 61 species which included a rare **Greater White-fronted Goose**, a number of winter sparrows, and a number of winter ducks to start off strong. In early May, I was a part of a four person team participating in the World Series of Birding with 116 species that all 4 members of the team saw. I topped out the day with 123 species that I personally saw, including some pre-dawn at Sandy hook where I observed **Eastern Whip-or-will**, **Chuck-wills-widow**, and **Clapper Rail**. We finished off the day seeing a rare **Arctic Tern** at Assunpink wildlife management area. This event raised funds for the New Jersey Audubon Society and Friends of the Monmouth County Park to fund wildlife projects. Spending the day participating in such a fantastic cause was rewarding and doing it with birder friends was a highlight even in the midst of some heavy rain.



A photo of the actual flycatcher in question.
Photo by Paul Mandala

One of my absolute favorite highlights for the year was seeing a **Hammond's Flycatcher**, which would be a first state record if accepted by the records committee. A group of birders and I were out one late fall morning at Sandy Hook. I walked through one area and was looping back toward the group when I spotted a bird, a flycatcher, and noticed that the group of birders were already looking at it from the opposite direction on the trail. Anytime you see a late flycatcher is an exciting moment because the possibility of a vagrant western species of flycatcher. We all compared our photos of the **Hammond's Flycatcher** to our local expected species and could not find a perfect match. We had a hunch we were

on to something good. None of us were sure which species we found, but none of us could perfectly match the bird with an expected species. Even the best birders sometimes need to phone a friend to get a second opinion; and that is exactly what we did. I reached out to a friend Tom, a biologist who quickly agreed and passed along the photos to others for their opinions. When Hammond's was suggested by Tom I was in disbelief because it wasn't a species on my mind while out in the field. Seeing the bird's gray throat and yellow belly, small bill, peaked head, bold, but messy eye-ring wider at the back and smallish notched tail stood out. The long primary extension and the large primary gap on feathers in the photos were keys to identifying it as a **Hammond's Flycatcher**.

► Big Year (continued)



Mississippi Kite
Photo by Paul Mandala

One of my goals for the year, which I think contributed to my successful big year, was to get out as much as possible and explore new locations and parks which I had not previously birded. One of my favorite spots became a local park that was close to my house, so it was easy to pop over before or after work and get a very quick birding session in. One afternoon I met a friend, Melody, during spring migration and we had a great time looking for warblers and songbirds. On the way out, we had a pleasantly unexpected sighting of not one but two rare species fly overhead within 5 minutes of each other. First over the tree line flew an unfamiliar silhouette of a raptor with a grey overall coloration and whiteish face, then came another and another. We were giddy as school children as they soared over and circled around in the blue skies

above. We quickly realized they were **Mississippi Kites**. Ecstatic from that first encounter we turned to make our way out of the park and lo and behold another large unfamiliar silhouette of three birds. As I processed what they couldn't be, Raptor, Heron, Ibis, Cormorant; I happily settled on **Sandhill Cranes**. I think we actually jumped for joy in excitement in the field as we watched the 3 majestic birds soar overhead and straight to the South. It was one of those right place, right time, and the right moment kind of days that I will never forget. I'm pretty sure we levitated back to the cars on the way out. Dedication is necessary for big years and I've learned that bad weather can mean good birds. I've had many great bird sightings in 2022 on less than enjoyable days. Early in the spring migration a **Yellow-throated Warbler** was spotted at Dorbrook Park. I had to wait until after work but a bad storm was moving in so I rushed over just as it was expected to hit. I spotted the bird in the trees as it was getting dark and started to rain. On the run back to the car I was pelted by rain and almost blown away by the wind. It was one of those days that proved that birding in bad weather can certainly be worth it. Later in the year during fall migration I went to look for a **Wilson's Phalarope** that was being spotted throughout the day but I was at work leading a guided bus trip around the state. After a long day it was already getting dark by the time I was able to make it over as a storm started moving in. I thought I had spotted the bird in the far back side of the wetland just as it started pouring. I needed to know for sure since it was a local rarity, but I had left my camera and scope in the car for their protection. I started to trudge in the pounding rain to a better vantage point through the woods to confirm my sighting and managed to pick up chigger bites along the way. Still worth it.

One bird that is a nemesis species for many birders is the **Parasitic Jaeger**. It seems almost linked with bad weather and high onshore winds if you want to see one from land. It took a few attempts and a lot of patience on my part, walking out to the end of a wet, rocky jetty, to see one fly by, harassing gulls. I was sure I saw one fly close to the inlet mouth as I got out of my car so I rushed out to the end of the jetty to try to get a better view and photo. However, birds being birds it flew out as quickly as it had flown in. I waited over an hour to confirm the bird again but this time it was much further out to sea.

► Big Year (continued)



Pomarine Jaeger at Sandy Hook with Fishing Hook in its mouth. Photo by Paul Mandala

Perhaps my most interesting storm bird and maybe wildest stories of the year for me came in the calm between two storms. I was at Sandy Hook because the winds were in a good direction from a storm that had passed earlier in the morning. I took the very long walk on the sandy path to the end of the hook. As I scanned the shoreline I noticed a bird sitting on the beach that stood out, almost looking like a gull but with a dark cap and white cheek patch, and all dark body feathers. Upon further investigation, I realized it was a **Pomarine Jaeger**, a lifer (first time seeing a species of bird) for me. I was so excited and about to text out an alert but as I looked at the bird closer I

noticed the bird had a rather large fishing hook coming out of its mouth. In an instant I switched modes from birding to rescue. I didn't know if it was possible but I ditched my scope, camera and binoculars on the beach, took off my shirt, and slowly tried to inch toward the bird. Every time the bird looked at me I froze like a statue, every time it looked away I would take a small step forward.. It was like a game of red light green light I played so often as a kid. I kept thinking to myself there is no way you, a large, bearded, and sunburned man was sneaking up on this pelagic bird. Lo and behold I was within feet of the bird so I pounced. First rule of pouncing, fully commit! I had missed and the bird flew a little bit and then landed again looking even weaker this time. I knew I had to try again. Red light green light round 2! This time I was maybe 2 feet from the bird and I pounced full throttle, no hesitation, as soon as the bird's head started to shift. A sandy success! I was then holding the bird wrapped in my shirt, now what? I let the bird bite my finger to see where the hook was lodged and realized it was in its tongue. With the bird pinned between my legs I gave the hook a tug to see if it would be easy to dislodge, no such luck. Needing help to cut the hook or pliers to pull out the hook, I see a fisherman down the beach. So I ran through the sand, shirtless, carrying this beautiful bird, dark clouds starting to ominously roll in. The fisherman was kind enough to try to help me with the small fishing pliers he had, and we began pulling on the hook to no avail. I needed heavier pliers or clippers to cut the fishing hook. I returned to my stuff strewn across the beach out of breath and a Ranger pulled up in his truck. I ran over to him waving my hat and carrying the bird tucked in my shirt like a football up the beach once again. I could only imagine what he thought was happening as I ran his direction yelling "I have an injured Pomarine Jaeger." Surprisingly, he knew of the species and its rarity so was shocked when I rolled up actually carrying one. We tried again to dislodge the hook but the barb was holding on. We switched and he held the bird and I tried to force the barb down with all my strength. It somehow worked and hook slid right out just as the first drops of rain started to come down. The ranger graciously agreed to drive me back to the parking lot so that I could bring the bird to a rehabber. He gave me a box to put the bird in while still wrapped in my shirt to make the 40 min drive easier. A fond successful lifelong lifer memory for me, and yes the bird was released out at sea some weeks later.

►Big Year (continued)

One stand out bird that was a near-miss for me was the **Brewer's Blackbird** that graced the North end of Sandy Hook for just a day in the late fall. My friend Mike and I had been out birding early on the North end of the hook before we had to meet a group to lead a walk and were rushing to get there on time. On the way out of the parking lot something caught my eye. I slowed down to look at a blackbird hanging out in between a flock of Canada geese along a section of downed poles in a grassy field area. I stared hard at the bird, then looked at my watch, I was going to be late for my own program, so I snapped a quick picture and went to go meet up with the group. Something stood out to me about the bird but I couldn't put my finger on it, I left it as a probable Rusty Blackbird in my head and had planned to review photos later. After the walk I was heading home and stopped for food when an alert text came through about a **Brewer's Blackbird** in the spot I had seen a blackbird in the morning. I made my way back in hopes of getting a better picture. Remarkably, the bird was still in the same exact location. I spent a few minutes with some local birders staring at the bird before a hawk came in and chased it off. The bird ended up avoiding the hawk, and landed on a log. It was my first time seeing the species, a lifer, so It was exciting and a great lesson in Identification of the female Brewer's Blackbird. Its two-toned wing, bill shape and dark eyes stood out and must have been the reason the bird first caught my eye in the morning. A good lesson in trusting your instincts.



Brewer's Blackbird at Sandy Hook - Photo by Mike Heine

For Big Years to be successful it usually involves some luck, and for me perhaps the most fortuitous situation was that of a great shorebird frenzy at work. This past summer was particularly hot and dry and the water levels at the Manasquan Reservoir dropped lower than usual including some of the perimeter wetland areas. This drop in water level created ideal habitat for migrating shorebirds that were not finding suitable habitat in their normal migratory stopover locations. One particular wetland seemed to contain every species; Sandpipers, Plovers, Turnstones, Dowitchers, Snipe, Yellowlegs, Egrets, Herons, Bitterns and even Phalarope. Some great rarities for the county that were notable were **Little Blue Heron, Stilt Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, and Wilson's Phalarope**. It seemed that each day or trip out to the edge of the wetland with scope, binoculars, and camera produced new species. Because I worked on site, I was able to bird in the morning before and after work, making tracking down all the species of shorebird a much easier task. I even remember making a trip out to the wetlands on my day off and running into Colette as we both looked for shore birds before I had to rush off and head to the airport for my honeymoon.

►Big Year (continued)

Another necessity for a big year is consistency and tenacity especially in finding some of the harder to detect species. I spent many a cold morning out in the field before sunrise in the hopes of hearing and seeing certain species. For me, **Virginia Rail** was one that took possibly the most effort. I would go to areas where I would expect to hear one calling pre-dawn and sit and listen. I had four or five spots picked out, with many morning and nights spent at each, I only had one occasion of hearing the bird give its very distinctive grunt calls but never did it come into view. However, in the quest for the Virginia Rail, I did have bonus secondary success in hearing some owls giving calls from near by such as **Great Horned, Eastern Screech, and Northern Saw Whet Owls**.



One of my unexpected secret weapons for the year was my backyard. I live on a busy street in a crowded Jersey Shore town. When I bought my house, I never expected it to be a great birding location. When I moved in, I did my best to replace the invasive plants with native species. In the back of my house is the real magic, a small creek that feeds into a big lake a few blocks away. My house sits right where the small creek opens up into a wider deeper section with a small island containing a young willow tree and a tiny bit of lowland flood plain and swampy marsh area. This little

Northern Waterthrush - Photo by Paul Mandala
transition area in the spring has **Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Waterthrush**, and other singing warblers that feed along the edges. In the summer, **Wood Ducks** swim by in the morning as **Great Blue** and **Green Herons** forage and **Osprey** hunt for fish. In the Fall, I can see **Rusty Blackbirds** flipping leaves in the swampy shallows, and winter brings some beautiful views of waterfowl including one of my favorite birds, the **Hooded Merganser**.

The Monmouth County birding community has driven me to accomplish this goal. I've had the pleasure of leading causal birder walks, wake up bird walks, after work bird walks and birding expedition bus trips for the county parks as a naturalist and started leading walks for MCAS in the fall as well. I have made some wonderful connections with various people who have become students, mentors that guided me, and lifelong birding friends that will come out and explore with me any day. I can't thank certain friends and mentors enough, whether out in the field with me or responding to texts and emails from me. I worked with many wonderful individuals on different projects and have met incredibly kind and motivated birders at many different levels of their birding careers that have made my time out enjoyable and more meaningful in 2022. Those memories and experiences are more important than the actual Big year record itself. I have spent hours educating and inspiring others about the birds found in our area and showing them the different habitats found within Monmouth County that are at the core of the biodiversity found here. It was a humbling experience to learn more about the world and birds around us here in Monmouth County.

NOTE: Paul finished his 2022 Big Year with 288 "Official" species plus one "review" species (Hammond's Flycatcher.)



➤ **Monmouth County Audubon Society (MCAS) is pleased to announce the return of a new grant program to promote bird conservation in Monmouth County.**



The Monmouth Audubon Bird Conservation Grant Program will award a maximum of \$3,000 in grants in early 2023. The maximum amount provided per proposal will be \$1,500 (\$150 is the minimum). All nonprofit 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organizations as well as any of Monmouth County’s municipal environmental commissions are eligible to apply and are welcome to apply for, and receive, more than one grant per cycle. Projects must be located within the County and environmental commissions are only eligible if they represent a municipality within Monmouth County, NJ and have been established by ordinance.

Examples of eligible projects include habitat creation or enhancement projects, such as:

- Installation of nesting platforms for osprey;
- Creation of hummingbird gardens with native plants;
- Installation of nest boxes;
- Native tree/shrub plantings
- MCAS is seeking applications for the new grant program by April 30, 2023.

MCAS, a chapter of the National Audubon Society, is dedicated to the enjoyment and study of nature, wildlife conservation, habitat protection and education and is based in Red Bank, NJ. MCAS is a volunteer-run non-profit which hosts many programs and field trips to benefit the community and the environment. To learn more about MCAS, please visit the organization’s website at: www.monmouthaudubon.org.

For information specific to the Bird Conservation Grant, please visit:

<https://www.monmouthaudubon.org/mc-bird-conservation-grant>

► Noteworthy Bird Sightings in Monmouth County

by Rob Fanning

- Red-necked Grebe 12/27 Sandy Hook (SH)
- PB Grebe 10+ Manasquan Reservoir 1/5
- Horned Grebe 10+ SH 1/11
- Cackling Goose 12/12 Willowbrook Rd; 1/11 Lake Takanassee
- Greater White-fronted Goose- Willowbrook/Thompson area 1/4 1/11 1/27 1/30 +. 2/3
- Ross's Goose 1/11 Cream Ridge
- Snow Goose - Freneau Woods 1/4 (Im blue phase)
- Redhead - 8 at Oceanic Bridge on 12/27
- Canvasback 12/30 MacLearie Park
- Eurasian Wigeon: Returning Drake Mclearie park area all winter
- Com. Goldeneye 7+ SH 1/11
- White-winged Scoter 130+ SH 1/11
- Trumpeter Swan: returning pair @ Assunpink all winter
- Tundra Swan - Immature @ Assunpink all winter
- Razorbills: Big regional flight including "thousands" on 12/30 at Manasquan Inlet
- Dovekie: 2 @ Shark River Inlet 12/29
- Common Murre: 4 miles offshore 1/11
- Sandhill Crane: 2 on 1/11 Cream Ridge
- Short-eared Owl 1/17 Colts Neck
- American Woodcock: 3+ Colts Neck 2/7
- Pileated Woodpecker Huber Woods 1/10 (2); 2/5 Holmdel; 2/16 Big Brook
- Orange-crowned Warbler: SH 12/8 + 1/21
- Osprey 1/6 Brielle Rt 35 bridge (early)
- Lark Sparrow 12/29 SH
- Horned Lark: 12/30 SH (7)
- Lapland Longspur SH 12/28 (3) + 1/11 (2)
- RB Nuthatch: various feeder reports throughout period
- Pine Siskin: Man Res Env Center 1/23 thru 2/17+



Eurasian Wigeon (red head) and American Wigeon (male and female)

Photo by Lisa Ann Fanning



Common Murre

Photo by Lisa Ann Fanning

*Most of these sightings were posted to the Monmouth Audubon GroupMe text group.
To be added contact Rob Fanning (bobolink0210@yahoo.com)*

Did you know?

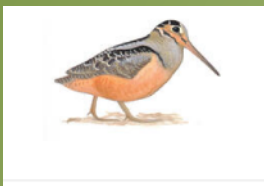


Illustration © David Allen Sibley.

"American Woodcocks go by many nicknames that speak to their haunts and habits, some dating back to at least the mid-19th century. Among our favorites: timberdoodle, mudbat, bogsucker, night partridge, and Labrador twister." Source: Audubon.org

MONMOUTH COUNTY PARK SPOTLIGHT

► Bayshore Waterfront Park

Location:

719 Port Monmouth Road, Port Monmouth, NJ 07758

732-787-3033 - Activity Center

<https://www.monmouthcountyparks.com/page.aspx?id=2516>

Restrooms available.

Acreage: 229 acres

Habitat(s): Beach

E-Bird Stats: 129 species & 113 checklists.

**as of February, 2023*



Bayshore Waterfront Park Activity Center (Seabrook-Wilson House)

Bayshore Waterfront Park, located in Port Monmouth next to Monmouth Cove Marina, preserves a thriving coastal landscape on Sandy Hook Bay. Enjoy the maritime shrublands, tidal creeks, salt marshes, dunes, mile of beach and scenic views across the water. The park offers a fishing pier, access to Raritan Bay, and beautiful views of the NY skyline. The Park System continues to add to this site's 229 acres in the Bayshore area.

This park is also home of the Bayshore Waterfront Park Activity Center (Seabrook-Wilson House), one of the oldest surviving houses in the region. This large frame building, dating back to the early 1700's, was constructed in several phases over the course of two hundred years. The Park System acquired the building from Middletown Township in 1998. The building has been fully restored and now hosts Park System nature and history programs. Most programs require pre-registration. Visit the Monmouth County Parks System's programs and registration page to see upcoming offerings.

Bayshore Waterfront Park

GPS: 719 Port Monmouth Road, Port Monmouth, NJ 07758

732-787-3033 Bayshore Activity Center

732-495-2115 Maintenance

www.MonmouthCountyParks.com



LEGEND

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ■ Building/Office | P Parking | ♿ Wheelchair Accessible |
| □ Bay/Creek | 🚻 Restrooms | 🏖️ Rock Jetty/Groin |
| 🌿 Wetlands | 🚽 Portable Toilet | 🏖️ Beach |
| — Property Line | 🎣 Fishing | 🌿 Dune Grass/Forest |
| ⋯ Maintenance Road | ❓ Information | 🚤 Boating (small watercraft only) |
| 🛣️ Paved Road | 🍷 Picnic Tables | |
| 🚶 Walkway | | |



► **Coming Up** (*see website for more details*)



Programs - Please check the MCAS website for program descriptions and access details.

Wed., March 8, 2023 8:00 pm
“Gardening For Birds and Other Native Wildlife”
With Jason Goldman, Park Naturalist / Garden Designer
NJ Flower To The People

Wed., April 12, 2023 8:00 pm
“Birding Garret Mountain”
Carole Hughes

Wed., May 10, 2023 8:00 pm
“National Moth Week”
Elena Tartaglia, Ph.D

Check Facebook and our Website for updates!

Field Trips -

Please see our website or Facebook to learn how to register via Eventbrite.

Bring binoculars, water and bug spray.

Sat., March 11, 2023
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Big Brook Timberdoodles

Join MCAS for an evening at Big Brook Park to observe the ritual/display flight of the American Woodcock.

Sun, April 16, 2023
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Sandy Hook

Join this two-hour walk to look for osprey, herons, egrets and arriving spring migrants.

Sun, May 14, 2023 8:00 am - 11:00 am
Allaire State Park

It's back!! Join us for a migration walk at Allaire SP in search of Warblers and other migrant passerines!

Check Facebook and our Website for updates!

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED!

There are currently several openings for members of Monmouth Audubon’s Board and for other volunteer positions within our organization. Please consider volunteering your time to keep MCAS a vital organization, taking pride in knowing that you’ve made a difference to the community – and the birds!

Visit our Facebook page



*www.facebook.com/Monmouthaudubon
“Like” us for special messages and updates.*

HOW TO REGISTER FOR FIELD TRIPS:

Our field trips are free and open to all, but we do require registration to manage group sizes and communications in the event of a change of plans due to weather or other issues. View and register for events here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/monmouth-county-audubon-society-mcas-47703834603>

STAY TUNED FOR MEETING DETAILS

Meeting logistics are posted on our website and Facebook page.