

Essex County Environmental Center

A New Jersey Audubon Partner Site

621 B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ 07068

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E-mail: kelly.wenzel@njudubon.org / Website: <http://essex.njudubon.org>

Building hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. / Saturday, 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. / Closed Sundays
Trails: Open dawn to dusk seven days a week.

Staff: Kelly Wenzel, Project Coordinator for Urban Programs

Associate Naturalist: Dave Hall



Spring 2012 Programs

March through May

FAMILY PROGRAMS AT THE ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Programs are designed for children in kindergarten to 5th grade.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Please call 973.226.6082 or e-mail kelly.wenzel@njudubon.org to register.

SPRING SAFARI Saturday, March 10

10:30 A.M. to noon.

What plant can melt snow? Are there any flowers blooming yet? What early birds are back from winter vacation? Answer all of these questions, and more, as we explore the wooded wetland just before the start of spring! The paths may be wet, so put on your boots and explore! This program is for children ages 5 and up. Please call 973.226.6082 or e-mail kelly.wenzel@njudubon.org to register.

Cost: \$5 members, \$7 nonmembers.

EARTH DAY 2012 Saturday, April 21

11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Come out and celebrate nature on this nationally recognized day dedicated to our very own planet, EARTH! Activities include a live honeybee demonstration, nature walks, a composting demonstration, canoeing, kayaking, container gardening, fishing, music, and more. Don't miss the green vendors' tent, and the information tables of local

environmental groups, outdoor enthusiasts, and other earth-minded organizations working in our bioregion. Snacks and refreshments are included. Please call the Essex County Environmental Center at 973.228.8776 for details.

Cost: Free all day and open to the public.

WORLD SERIES OF BIRDING Saturday, May 12

The 29th annual World Series of Birding is North America's premier conservation event. This event has changed the birding landscape and raised over \$8 million for bird conservation. Every species found, every dollar raised preserves and protects critical bird habitats. Last year the event raised almost \$700,000 for the teams' various conservation causes throughout the world. For more information on how to play, pledge, or sponsor go to the website:

www.worldseriesofbirding.org or call 609.884.2736. Registration deadline for teams is April 15.

BIRD-WATCHING FIELD TRIPS IN ESSEX COUNTY

Led by Dave Hall

Spring field trips offer the opportunity to see species of birds that are passing through New Jersey on their way to breeding territories farther north and other migrants that are returning to the state to nest. The

trips also offer a chance to learn the territorial songs and behavior of birds that are resident all year long. This is a wonderful time of year to visit the Essex County parks. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Please call 973.226.6082 or e-mail kelly.wenzel@njudubon.org to register.

WEEQUAHIC PARK Thursday, March 8

8:00 to 11:30 A.M.

This Newark park is a fascinating place to view a variety of gulls, ducks, and geese, plus some woodland birds on their northward migration. Meet at the Wild Bird Center at 44 Clinton Road, West Caldwell (just off of Passaic Avenue near Bloomfield Avenue intersection) and receive a \$5-off coupon to the store.

Please call 973.226.6082 or e-mail kelly.wenzel@njudubon.org to register.

Cost: \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers.

HILLTOP RESERVATION Saturday, March 10

8:30 to 11:00 A.M.

We will explore early spring migrants and late winter sparrows at a restored meadow habitat in the reser-

Continued

Become a New Jersey Audubon member and enjoy discounts on tours, events, and field trips at all NJ Audubon centers. Members also get a 10% discount at our Nature Stores (greater discount on optics).

Essex County Environmental Center Spring 2012 Events at a Glance

Thursday, March 8 Weequahic Park
 Saturday, March 10 Hilltop Reservation
 Saturday, March 10 Spring Safari
 Thursday, March 22 Hatfield Swamp
 Thursday, April 12 Verona Park
 Saturday, April 14 South Mountain Reservation
 Saturday, April 21 Earth Day 2012
 Thursday, April 26 Troy Meadows
 Thursday, May 10 Great Piece Meadows
 Saturday, May 12 World Series of Birding
 Saturday, May 12 Master Gardener's Plant Sale
 Thursday, May 17 Becker Farm and Dinosaur Park
 Saturday, May 19 Hatfield Swamp

vation. This is also an excellent place to view raptors. Meet at the sports field parking lot near the intersection of Courter Lane and Mountain Avenue in North Caldwell. Please call 973.226.6082 or e-mail kelly.wenzel@njudubon.org to register.
 Cost: Free.

HATFIELD SWAMP Thursday, March 22

8:30 to 11:00 A.M.
 Celebrate World Water Day with a hike through our precious wetland. Early spring migrants may include both passerines and raptors; we may also encounter hundreds of waterfowl. Footing may be wet. Meet at the Wild Bird Center at 44 Clinton Road, West Caldwell (just off of Passaic Avenue near Bloomfield Avenue intersection). Please call 973.226.6082 or e-mail kelly.wenzel@njudubon.org to register.
 Cost: Free.

VERONA PARK Thursday, April 12

8:30 to 10:30 A.M.
 Take an easy walk around the pond looking for signs of early spring migrants. Meet at the boathouse near the paddle boat rental area. Please call 973.226.6082 or e-mail kelly.wenzel@njudubon.org to register. Cost: Free.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESERVATION Saturday, April 14

8:30 A.M. to noon.
 We will hike several trails in search of early signs of spring. Target species

include early spring migrants and the last of the winter sparrows. Meet at the parking lot of the Turtleback Zoo in West Orange where we will carpool to various parts of the reservation. Please call 973.226.6082 or e-mail kelly.wenzel@njudubon.org to register.
 Cost: \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers.

TROY MEADOWS Thursday, April 26

8:30 to 11:00 A.M.
 The combination of forest and field meadow habitat makes for spectacular views of middle-spring migrants that will be passing through. Footing may be wet. Meet at the Essex County Environmental Center in Roseland where we will carpool to the meadows. Please call 973.226.6082 or e-mail kelly.wenzel@njudubon.org to register.
 Cost: Free.

GREAT PIECE MEADOWS Thursday, May 10

8:00 to 11:00 A.M.
 There will be many chances to encounter wetland birds in spring including herons, sandpipers, swallows, sparrows, and much more. Footing may be wet. Meet at the parking lot of the former Charlie Brown's Restaurant in Fairfield (337 Fairfield Road, near Route 46). Please call 973.226.6082 or e-mail kelly.wenzel@njudubon.org to register.
 Cost: \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers.


ANNUAL MASTER GARDENER'S PLANT SALE Saturday, May 12

9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
 Join the Rutgers Master Gardeners for their annual plant sale. NJ Audubon will be selling its award-winning and locally grown S.A.V.E.™ brand black-oil sunflower birdseed during the sale. For more details please call the Master Gardener Hotline at 973.228.2210 Monday through Thursday, 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. The sale takes place in the parking lot of Garibaldi Hall which is next door to the Essex County Environmental Center in Roseland.

BECKER FARM AND DINOSAUR PARK Thursday, May 17

8:00 to 11:00 A.M.
 Enjoy beautiful vistas of the Passaic River Valley at the right time to discover spring migrants in all their glory, including warblers in full song. Meet at the Essex County Environmental Center in Roseland. Please call 973.226.6082 or e-mail kelly.wenzel@njudubon.org to register.
 Cost: \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers.

HATFIELD SWAMP Saturday, May 19

8:00 to 11:00 A.M.
 Late spring migrants may include both passerines and raptors, including warblers in full song. Footing may be wet. Meet at the Wild Bird Center at 44 Clinton Road, West Caldwell (just off of Passaic Avenue near Bloomfield Avenue intersection) and receive a \$5-off coupon to the store. Please call 973.226.6082 or e-mail kelly.wenzel@njudubon.org to register.
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