

Sandy Hook Bird Observatory



20 Hartshorne Drive, Highlands, NJ 07732

Phone: 732.872.2500 / Fax: 732.872.2577 / Voice of New Jersey Rare Bird Alert: 732.872.2595

E-mail: shbo@njudubon.org / Website: <http://shbo.njudubon.org>

Rare bird reports to: sightings@njudubon.org

HOURS: Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. / Sunday, 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. / Closed Mondays

CLOSINGS: Saturday and Sunday, December 24 and 25, for the Christmas Holiday,
and Saturday, December 31, and Sunday, January 1, for New Year's Weekend

Staff:

Peter Bacinski, Sanctuary Director

Scott Barnes, Senior Naturalist

Irwin Lentchner, Volunteer Coordinator

Sharon Lentchner, Volunteer Nature Store Manager

Linda Mack, Volunteer Nature Store Manager

Associate Naturalists:

Patrick Belardo, Tom Boyle, Michael Britt,
Tom Brown, Terry Carruthers, Brian Clough,
Rob Fanning, David Harrison, Carole Hughes,
Andy Lamy, Linda Mack, Rick Radis,
Lloyd Shaw, Andrew Spears,
and Ken Witkowski

Winter 2011-12 Programs

December through February

FIELD TRIPS

WITH PETE BACINSKI, SCOTT BARNES AND OUR ASSOCIATE NATURALISTS

By caravan with director Pete Bacinski, Scott Barnes, or our associate naturalists to seasonally productive birding or natural areas. **Please include your e-mail address and phone number** with your check or when you register.

Single trips: \$15 members, \$20 nonmembers, and SHBO volunteers \$10, with no cancellations or refunds. Trips go in any weather, usually to midafternoon. Bring lunch, weather-appropriate gear, binoculars, and scopes. Directions are available on our website at

<http://www.njudubon.org/SectionCenters/SectionSHBO/FieldTripDirections.aspx>

Trips include:

Thursday, December 1

Winter Pine Barrens botany and birds at the Parker Preserve and Whitesbog. Meet at 9:00 A.M.

Saturday, December 3

Sandy Hook south with senior naturalist Scott Barnes looking for winter specialties on The Hook and birding hotspots to the south. Meet at 8:45 A.M.

NEW ENGLAND VAN TRIP ON PRESIDENTS' WEEKEND

Friday to Monday, February 17 to 20, 2012

Join us for our annual adventure to one of America's greatest winter birding areas. We will visit Newburyport, Amesbury, and Salisbury for hot birding locations around the Merrimack River and Parker River NWR (Plum Island). And then we will bird the spectacular Cape Ann Peninsula (Rockport and Gloucester) in Massachusetts in search of alcids, rare gulls, waterfowl, Bald Eagles, Snowy Owls, Lapland Longspurs, unusual winter passerines (especially finches), and other raptors. We will monitor hotlines for rarities and may venture up to Maine if the birds are right. Previous trips have featured Eared Grebe, Dovekie, Thick-billed Murre, Razorbill, Gyrfalcon, Bohemian Waxwing, and Thayer's Gull. We get raves for our wonderful choice of eateries. Package includes van transportation and lodging.

Cost is \$575, plus single supplement of \$75. Van(s) leave Sandy Hook at 7:00 A.M. and Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary at 8:15 A.M., returning Monday evening. Participation limited to 14. Please register by February 10, 2012, by sending a \$50 per person (nonrefundable) deposit.

Sunday, December 4

Sandy Hook with Tom Boyle for winter waterfowl, seabirds, and landbirds.

Meet at 8:00 A.M.

Sunday, December 4

Merrill Creek, Round Valley and Spruce Run Reservoirs, and Alpha Grasslands are possible destinations in search of winter waterfowl, raptors, gulls, and other birds of the season with Terry Caruthers.

Meet at 8:45 A.M.

Saturday, December 10

Manasquan Inlet and North Shore ponds with Pete for wintering waterfowl, gulls, and seabirds.

Meet at 8:45 A.M.

Saturday, December 10

Urban Farms at Mantua Creek WMA in Gloucester County, with Lloyd Shaw, for wintering waterfowl and American Pipits.

Meet at 9:00 A.M.

Continued

Saturday, January 7

Barnegat Light SP for Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and gulls; and Manahawkin for Short-eared Owls at dusk. A late start for those who like to sleep in: Meet at noon.

Sunday, January 8

Join Linda Mack at Sandy Hook, for avian winter specialties. Meet at 8:45 A.M.

Saturday, January 14

The N.J. Meadowlands with Carole Hughes for raptors, passerines, gulls, and waterfowl. Meet at 8:45 A.M.

Saturday, January 21

Shark River Estuary and other local birding haunts, with Lloyd Shaw, for wintering waterfowl and gulls. Meet at 9:00 A.M.

Saturday, January 28

North Shore ponds and Manasquan Inlet with Scott Barnes for loons, grebes, waterfowl, gulls, and seabirds. Meet at 8:45 A.M.

Sunday, January 29

The Wallkill River NWR, with refuge expert Ken Witkowski, for raptors, waterfowl, and passerines. Meet at 8:45 A.M.

Saturday, February 4

Join Pete for a tour of Ocean County coastal birding locations, for wintering waterfowl, raptors, gulls, and other species. Meet at 8:45 A.M.

Sunday, February 5

Visit the Great Swamp NWR, for wintering raptors, passerines, and waterfowl with Carole Hughes. Meet at 8:45 A.M.

Saturday, February 11

Sandy Hook to Allenhurst with Scott Barnes for seabirds, gulls, waterfowl, and the unexpected. Meet at 8:45 A.M.

Friday, February 17, through Monday, February 20

SHBO's annual winter adventure to New England, for great winter birding. (See highlight box.)

Saturday, February 18

Barnegat Light SP, with Lloyd Shaw, for Harlequin Ducks, gulls, and seabirds; and then to Manahawkin or Cedar Run for raptors and surprises. Meet at 10:00 A.M.

Sunday, February 19

Wallkill River NWR and the Shawangunk Grasslands, with associate naturalist Mike Britt, in search of passerines, raptors, waterfowl, and perhaps an encounter with serendipity. Meet at 8:45 A.M.

Sandy Hook Bird Observatory

Saturday, February 25

Sandy Hook and birding hotspots south for gulls, seabirds, and waterfowl, with Linda Mack. Meet at 8:45 A.M.

Sunday, February 26

Merrill Creek, Round Valley, and Spruce Run Reservoirs, and Alpha Grasslands are possibilities in search of winter waterfowl, raptors, gulls, and the unexpected with Terry Caruthers. Meet at 8:45 A.M.

BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS WITH PATRICK BELARDO**Sunday, February 12**

8:00 A.M. to noon
If you are new to birding, this is the bird walk for you. Join Patrick as he introduces you to the fundamentals of bird identification while visiting the diverse habitats of Sandy Hook. Bring binoculars and wear appropriate clothing for the weather. Meet at the Bayberry (B) lot. Free to the public, but please preregister by calling 732.872.2500.

SPECIAL EVENTS**Friday, February 17, through Monday, February 20**

SHBO's annual winter adventure to New England for great winter birding. (See highlight box)

CENTER CLOSINGS

The Sandy Hook Bird Observatory will be closed on Saturday and Sunday, December 24 and 25, for the Christmas Holiday, and Saturday, December 31 and Sunday, January 1, for New Year's Weekend.

THE SANDY HOOK PIPER**Thanks to:**

Our great crew of weekend volunteers: Christine Allen, Helena Bauernschmitt, Patrick Belardo, Mike Blasenheim, Colette Buchanan, Teri Catalano, Sandra Escala, Laura Hardy, Donna Juettner, Elaine Long,


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).

John McCarthy and Linda Stehlik, Janet Stadelmeier and Susanna Treesh; we welcome new weekend volunteers Jolanta Simonelli and Diego DeAssis; we bid a fond farewell to weekend volunteers and wish them well: Patrick Belardo, Frank Katusa and Elaine Long; our great admiration to our weekday volunteers: Bonnie Strand, Andria Schanzer, Mitch Dormont, Irwin and Sharon Lentchner, Kathy Covington, Bob Lisiesky, Trina Anderson, David Royce, Carol Coyne, Georgia Dempster, Kevin Keating, Tom Tarlach, Anne Galli, Bill Hogelin, and Dona Radey; we wish Judy Oakley well and hope to see her back here soon; to Irwin Lentchner for his outstanding work with the RMS system, volunteer coordination and inventory; to Bonnie Strand for her duties as SHBO webmaster, field trip registrar and for special projects; to Kevin Keating for organizing the Sandy Hook Butterfly Count and his great ability to solve computer issues; to Anne Galli and Dona Radey for PR and special projects and advice; to Bill Hogelin and Bob Lisiesky for maintenance work; to Sharon Lentchner and Linda Mack for management of the bookstore; to the Navesink Garden Club for maintaining our butterfly garden; to our wonderful associate naturalists: Patrick Belardo, Mike Britt, Terry Carruthers, Rob Fanning, David Harrison, Carole Hughes, Andy Lamy, Linda Mack, Rick Radis, Lloyd Shaw, Andrew Spears and Ken Witkowski, plus a special appearance by young Billy Kaselow at Garret Mountain in May; to Norann Hein for all her great knowledge of computers; to Jim O'Malley for help with IT issues; to Lyda Spear for home office assistance; to Kathleen Mistretta for her help with eco-travel; to Stephen Bagen for accounting issue assistance; to Diane Costa for her great efforts in getting a reasonably priced internet connection for SHBO; to Denis Cleary and Brian Moscatello for help with bookstore needs; to Henry Fallon for computer supervision; to Jeanne MacArthur-Heuser of the Park Service for her great efforts with nesting Piping Plovers on Sandy Hook; to Ron Blandon and David Rosenblatt for their great fill-in

Continued

volunteer efforts; to Laurie Larson for her help with the RBA and all her efforts on behalf of N.J. birding; to Linda Haan for her special assistance with winning the HEP grant; to Mike Mandracchia for images and driving on field trips; to Tom Boyle for great images; to Tom Brown, our new associate naturalist and official bird bander; and to Trina Anderson for her assistance with the bird-banding project.

SPECIAL DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The Sandy Hook Bird Observatory has an immediate need for volunteer help on weekends to help open the center and work the bookstore and gift shop and on weekdays also to help in the store and to assist our staff. For weekends, we are looking for a commitment of one or more Saturday mornings, afternoons or all day or one or more Sundays 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. per month. For weekdays, we are also looking for a weekly one-day commitment to help at the center from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. or 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Tuesday through Friday. If you can help us during these periods, please do not hesitate to call SHBO and ask for Pete or Scott. Please come be a part of our wonderful SHBO volunteer family. 

Sandy Hook Bird Observatory Winter 2011-12 Events at a Glance

- Thursday, December 1 Winter Pine Barrens Botany and Birds
- Saturday, December 3 Scott Barnes at Sandy Hook for Early Winter Birding
- Sunday, December 4 Tom Boyle Scours The Hook
- Sunday, December 4 Merrill Creek, Round Valley, and Spruce Run Reservoirs, and Alpha Grasslands
- Saturday, December 10 Manasquan Inlet and North Shore Ponds with Pete Bacinski
- Saturday, December 10 Lloyd Shaw at Mantua Creek/Urban Farms in Gloucester
- Saturday, January 7 Noon at Barnegat Light and Dusk at Manahawkin
- Sunday, January 8 Linda Mack's Winter Birding at The Hook
- Saturday, January 14 N.J. Meadowlands/DeKorte for Wintering Birds with Carole Hughes
- Saturday, January 21 Shark River Estuary with Lloyd Shaw
- Saturday, January 28 North Shore Ponds with Scott Barnes
- Sunday, January 29 Wallkill River NWR with Ken Witkowski
- Saturday, February 4 Ocean County Coastal Birding with Pete Bacinski
- Sunday, February 5 Great Swamp NWR with Carole Hughes
- Saturday, February 11 Sandy Hook to Allenhurst with Scott Barnes
- Sunday, February 12 Beginning Birders Trip at Sandy Hook with Patrick Belardo
- Fri to Mon, Feb 17-20 Annual Winter Birding Van Trip to New England
- Saturday, February 18 Barnegat Light SP/Manahawkin
- Sunday, February 19 Wallkill River NWR and Shawangunk Grasslands with Mike Britt
- Saturday, February 25 Sandy Hook with Linda Mack
- Sunday, February 26 Merrill Creek, Round Valley, and Spruce Run Reservoirs, and Alpha Grasslands