

Essex County Environmental Center

A New Jersey Audubon Partner Site

621 B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ 07068

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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.

CLOSINGS: Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 25



Staff: Kelly Wenzel, Environmental Educator

Associate Naturalist: Dave Hall

Autumn 2010 Programs

September through November

THURSDAY MORNING BIRD-WATCHING FIELD TRIPS

Led by Dave Hall, Associate Naturalist

Have you ever wanted to “bird watch” but didn’t know where to begin? Would you like to find some of the hidden gems in Essex County? Let New Jersey Audubon be your guide! Walks encourage beginners and challenge experts!

This is a wonderful time of year to view the fall migrants, and Dave has once again planned many exciting birding field trips. Many of these trips are to Essex County parks, the oldest county park system in the United States. Dave will set an easy pace, and most of the trails are level and wide, although a few have steep trail sections and are a little muddy. This is a wonderful time of year to visit the Essex County parks.

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

BECKER TRACT AND WALTER KIDDE DINOSAUR PARK Thursday, September 9

8:30 to 10:30 A.M.

Walk along the rim of the Passaic River Valley for superb views and interesting birdlife. Meet in the parking lot of the Essex County Environmental Center in Roseland. Cost: free.

MONTCLAIR HAWK WATCH

Thursday, September 23

9:00 A.M. to noon

With fall migration in full swing, you are sure to see a variety of hawks. Meet at the parking area on Edgecliff Road or, if you arrive late, join us by climbing the stairway to the Hawk Watch. Bring a hat, water, and a folding chair.

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

GROVER CLEVELAND PARK AND THE TROTTER TRACT

Thursday, October 7

8:30 to 11:00 A.M.

This is a great time for woodland birds. We will visit this beautiful Essex County park and also explore a nearby reserve in Essex Fells. Meet at the tennis courts at Grover Cleveland Park. Cost: free.

BRANCH BROOK PARK

Thursday, October 21

8:30 to 11:00 A.M.

Take a leisurely walk in this Olmstead-designed park in Newark. This is an amazing place for migrating birds including thrushes, wrens, waterfowl and more. Meet at the Cherry Blossom Visitor’s Center parking lot (for a map and directions see <http://essex.njudubon.org>).

HATFIELD SWAMP

Thursday, November 4

8:30 to 11:30 A.M.

We will have a great chance to find migrating birds and maybe some

native wildlife. Depending on recent weather, you may want to wear boots. Meet at the parking lot of the Marshall’s in West Caldwell, near the corner of Bloomfield Avenue and Passaic Street.

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

WEEQUAHIC PARK

Thursday, November 18

9:00 to 11:00 A.M.

Hidden Gem This area attracts a wonderful set of waterfowl in the fall, and all can be viewed along an easy trail around the lake. We expect to find a good selection of wintering ducks. Meet at the park at the large parking area on the west end of the lake. Cost: free.

SATURDAY BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

Led by Dave Hall, Associate Naturalist

HATFIELD SWAMP

Saturday, September 11

8:30 A.M. to noon

Migrants might include hummingbirds, warblers, and many more. Might be muddy. Meet at the parking lot of the Marshall’s in West

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).

Caldwell, near the corner of Bloomfield Avenue and Passaic Street.
Cost: \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

Saturday, October 9

8:30 to 11:30 A.M.

Essex County's largest developed park has many good hiking trails leading into different habitats. At the peak of the fall migration, we will search for passerines, raptors, and maybe a few waterfowl. Meet at the Turtle Back Zoo parking lot in West Orange.

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

CANOE BROOK RESERVOIR

Saturday, November 20

8:30 to 11:30 A.M.

NJ Audubon has been granted access to Canoe brook, one of the best places in Essex County for wintering waterfowl. Also discover hawks and perhaps a Bald Eagle. Preregistration is required for this field trip. Map and directions provided upon registration.

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

SATURDAY FAMILY PROGRAMS

Led by Kelly Wenzel,
Environmental Educator

Autumn is a great time to experience the great outdoors! Discover backyard birds, enjoy the bounty of autumn, and learn all about turkeys during our fun fall activities. All family programs are designed with children in mind, are hands-on, and include an outdoor experience. All family programs take place at the Essex County Environmental Center in Roseland. Programs are designed for children in kindergarten to 5th grade. Please call 973.226.6082 or e-mail kelly.wenzel@njudubon.org to register.

BACKYARD BIRDS AND FEEDERS

Saturday, September 11

10:30 A.M. to noon

What birds can we expect to see in our backyards in autumn? Learn how to make a recycled bird feeder and discover how you can help your backyard visitors get ready for winter. We will walk outside to see and hear some familiar friends.

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

Essex County Environmental Center

Essex County Environmental Center Autumn 2010 Events at a Glance

Thursday, September 9 Becker Tract and Walter Kidde Dinosaur Park

Thursday, September 9 Holiday Hike at Grover Cleveland Park

Saturday, September 11 Hatfield Swamp

Saturday, September 11 Backyard Birds And Feeders

Monday, September 13 Grover Cleveland Park Wonder Walk

Thursday, September 23 Montclair Hawk Watch

Saturday, October 2 Essex County Octoberfest 2010

Thursday, October 7 Grover Cleveland Park and Trotter Tract

Saturday, October 9 South Mountain Reservation

Monday, October 11 Holiday Hike at Branch Brook Park

Thursday, October 14 Branch Brook Park Wonder Walk

Thursday, October 21 Birding at Branch Brook Park

Thursday, November 4 Hatfield Swamp

Thursday, November 4 Holiday Hike at South Mountain Reservation

Monday, November 8 South Mountain Reservation Wonder Walk

Saturday, November 13 Turkey Time

Thursday, November 18 Weequahic Park

Saturday, November 20 Canoe Brook Reservoir

ESSEX COUNTY OCTOBERFEST 2010

Saturday, October 9

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

Come celebrate autumn! There will be fun-filled activities for the entire family: games, canoeing, activities, crafts, and food.

Cost: free all day and open to the public.

TURKEY TIME

Saturday, November 13

10:30 A.M. to noon

Have you ever seen a wild turkey? Ben Franklin wanted it to be our national bird. Come prepared for an outdoor walk to try your luck with a turkey "caller." Bring home a turkey decoration for your Thanksgiving table.

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

HOLIDAY HIKES

Led by Kelly Wenzel,
Environmental Educator

Don't just sit around on your day off from school – enjoy the great outdoors! Come hike with us and learn about your local parks and wildlife. These hikes have no agenda, so just come prepared to have fun! Programs are designed for children in Kindergarten to 5th grade. Please e-mail kelly.wenzel@njudubon.org or call 973.226.6082 to register.

GROVER CLEVELAND PARK

Thursday, September 9

9:30 to 11:00 A.M.

This is a great time to see woodland birds. Meet at the tennis courts at Grover Cleveland Park.

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

BRANCH BROOK PARK

Monday, October 11

9:30 to 11:00 A.M.

This is an amazing place for migrating birds including thrushes, wrens, waterfowl, and more. Meet at the Cherry Blossom Visitor's Center parking lot in Branch Brook Park, Newark (go online to <http://essex.njudubon.org> for a map and directions).

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

SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

Thursday, November 4

9:30 to 11:00 A.M.

Essex County's largest developed park has many good hiking trails leading into different habitats. At the peak of the fall migration, we will search for passerines, raptors, and maybe a few waterfowl. Meet at the Tulip Springs parking area.

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

Continued

WONDER WALKS

Led by Kelly Wenzel,
Environmental Educator

Get your little tykes out and about with these fabulous walks. Designed for safe exploration, these walks allow your child to discover nature with their senses. Programs are designed for children ages 18 months to 5 years and their caregivers. Children should either be walking or in a carrier. Strollers are not recommended. Please call 973.226.6082 or email kelly.wenzel@njudubon.org to register.

GROVER CLEVELAND PARK **Monday, September 13**

10:00 to 11:00 A.M.

We will explore the forest to find migrating birds and explore what they eat along the way! Meet at the tennis courts at Grover Cleveland Park.

Cost (per child):

\$5 members, \$7 nonmembers.

BRANCH BROOK PARK **Thursday, October 14**

10:00 to 11:00 A.M.

Enjoy the gem of the Essex County Park System with your child(ren). Explore hidden habitats and walk among the magnificent trees to find wildlife getting ready to hibernate. Meet at the Cherry Blossom visitor's center parking lot in Branch Brook Park, Newark (for map and directions see <http://essex.njudubon.org>).

Cost (per child):

\$5 members, \$7 nonmembers.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN **RESERVATION** **Monday, November 8**

10:00 to 11:00 A.M.

Bundle up and explore the forest to find out who is ready for winter! We will walk through the pine forest and look for owls roosting up high. Meet at Tulip Springs parking area.

Cost (per child):

\$5 members, \$7 nonmembers.