

Sandy Hook/All Things Birds



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

Rare bird reports to: sightings@njudubon.org

Program Registration: Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary

11 Hardscrabble Road, 908.766.5787 scherman-hoffman@njudubon.org

For Questions and Program Information (after March 1, 2012):

Peter Bacinski, Bird Program Director,

Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary

908.766.5787 pete.bacinski@njudubon.org

Scott Barnes, Bird Program Director,

Plainsboro Preserve

609.897.9400 scott.barnes@njudubon.org

Associate Naturalists:

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

Spring 2012 Programs

March through May

Note to Readers: In case you haven't heard, New Jersey Audubon has closed its Sandy Hook Bird Observatory office but programs at Sandy Hook will continue. As part of New Jersey Audubon's NEW All Things Birds initiative, starting March 1, Pete Bacinski and Scott Barnes will bring their considerable talents to bear, respectively, at the Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary in Bernardsville and Plainsboro Preserve in Cranbury. Please note the new contact information for Pete and Scott and NEW PROGRAM REGISTRATION INFORMATION: For programs listed below that require pre-

registration, please contact the Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary at 908.766.5787 or email the center at scherman-hoffman@njudubon.org. For logistical information regarding the programs, contact Pete or Scott directly.

All of us are excited about expanding the scope of our birding program and spreading Scott's and Pete's talents to a wider geographic area. Please bear with us during this time of transition and look forward to a growing array of birding programs through All Things Birds.

FIELD TRIPS

WITH PETE BACINSKI, SCOTT BARNES AND OUR ASSOCIATE NATURALISTS

By caravan with 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 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:

Saturday, March 3

Associate naturalist Terry Carruthers will visit the western NJ reservoirs at Merrill Creek, Spruce Run, and Round Valley for late-winter specialties.

Meet at 8:45 A.M.

Saturday, March 10

Ocean County birding locations with Pete; such as Tuckerton, Cedar Run, Manahawkin, and the Barnegat Impoundments for late winter birding. Meet at 8:45 A.M.

Saturday, March 17

Join Lloyd Shaw at Pedricktown, Manington Marsh, and Featherbed Lane for early migrants. Meet at 9:00 A.M.

Saturday, March 24

Salem County birding hotspots with Scott, for early spring arrivals and local specialties. Meet at 8:45 A.M. (Special price: \$20 for members, \$25 for nonmembers.)

Saturday, March 31

Sandy Hook with Linda Mack, for early arriving spring specialties and departing winter waterfowl and gulls. Meet at 8:45 A.M.

Saturday, April 7

Bird with associate naturalist Terry Carruthers at Merrill Creek, Round Valley, and Spruce Run Reservoirs in search of early spring arrivals, raptors and waterfowl. Meet at 8:45 A.M.

Saturday, April 7

Forsythe (Brigantine) NWR for early spring migrants, raptors, and all things spring with Lloyd Shaw. Meet at 8:00 A.M.

Saturday, April 14

Join Scott Barnes at Sandy Hook for a visit to the migration watch platform. Enjoy early spring birding and the fantastic view at this hotspot. Meet at 8:45 A.M.

Continued

Sunday, April 15

Sandy Hook with associate naturalist Tom Boyle for early spring arrivals.

Meet at 7:00 A.M.

Saturday, April 21

Associate naturalist Carole Hughes will lead our first spring Garret Mountain spring migrant birding adventure.

Meet at 8:15 A.M.

Saturday April 21

Search with Scott Barnes for Little Gull at South Amboy, arguably the most reliable place in the state to find this rare visitor. South Amboy also offers a good variety of waterfowl on Raritan Bay, in woods, and freshwater marsh in a convenient small space. Meet at 8:45 A.M.

Sunday, April 22

Linda Mack will guide you at Sandy Hook in search of spring passerine migrants and northbound raptors and seabirds. Meet at 8:45 A.M.

Saturday, April 28

Atlantic County Park with Lloyd Shaw, for resident and migrant passerines. Meet at 7:30 A.M.

Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29

Pete's annual Belleplain SF/Brigantine-Forsythe NWR excursion south to meet spring birds. Meet at 8:15 A.M. (See highlight box below.)

Sunday, April 29

Sandy Hook with Scott for warblers and other spring migrants.

Meet at 8:15 A.M.

Saturday, May 5

Pete's annual first Saturday in May trip to Garret Mountain for lots of warblers and arriving passerines. Rob

Fanning, Carole Hughes and Patrick Belardo will be along to lend a hand.

Meet at 8:15 A.M.

Sunday, May 6

The Natural History of the Pine Barrens with Rick Radis; trip 1. Visit the pygmy forest of the East Plains for spring wildflowers and botany, fire ecology, herps, nesting birds, a little geology and history, and a lot more.

Meet in Warren Grove at 9:00 A.M.

Sunday, May 6

The Allendale Celery Farm with local expert Rob Fanning for spring specialties and other surprises.

Meet at 8:15 A.M.

Thursday, May 10

Garret Mountain at the prime time for warblers and arriving spring migrants; with Scott Barnes.

Meet at 8:15 A.M.

Saturday, May 12

World Series of Birding Century Run with Scott Barnes, Linda Mack, and associate naturalists. Registration required. (See Special Events.)

Tuesday, May 15

Sandy Hook birding guru Tom Boyle will do his thing on The Hook to find lots of arriving warblers and passerines. Meet at 7:00 A.M.

Thursday, May 17

Scott returns to Garret Mountain for spring migration at one of New Jersey's (the East Coast's) premier migrant traps. Meet at 8:15 A.M.

Saturday, May 19

Scott birds Sandy Hook in search of Mourning Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and much more. Meet at 8:15 A.M.

Sunday, May 20

Join Linda Mack for a great day of exciting birding in search of late migrants and Sandy Hook specialties.

Meet at 8:15 A.M.

Wednesday, May 23

A weekday birding adventure at Sandy Hook with Scott for late season migrants and other surprises.

Meet at 8:15 A.M.

Saturday, May 26

Join Pete at Old Mine Road for passerine nesters including Cerulean, and Yellow-throated Warblers, migrants, and local specialties; and perhaps a Black Bear or Bobcat.

Meet at 8:15 A.M.

Sunday, May 27

Carole Hughes on her annual birding adventure to High Point SP and Stokes SF for excellent nesting species and late migrants.

Meet at 7:00 A.M.

Wednesday, May 30

Old Mine Road with Pete Bacinski for passerines and spring migrants. Call for meeting time.

HALF DAY FRIDAY BIRDING**Fridays,****April 20, 27, May 4, 11, and 25**

Join Scott Barnes for a three-hour field trip exploring Sandy Hook for migrants including waders, raptors, gulls, terns, and songbirds at one of the best spring birding destinations in the state. Meet at Guardian Park at 8:30 A.M.

Cost: \$10 members,
\$15 nonmembers.

BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS WITH PATRICK BELARDO**Sunday, April 22**

9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

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 609.861.0700x11. *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).

BELLEPLAIN STATE FOREST/BRIGANTINE WEEKEND**Saturday, April 28 and Sunday, April 29**

Join us for one of Pete Bacinski's favorite trips, a two-day adventure in Cape May County on Saturday, and at Brigantine-Forsythe NWR on Sunday, greeting spring as it meanders northward. Come for both days or come for just one. Saturday for birding at Belleplain State Forest and Jakes Landing, or just for Sunday, with a day at Forsythe (Brigantine) NWR. Belleplain SF is an exceptional location for early migrants and residents and provides a very rewarding experience. This is an excellent time to view early returning passerine migrants and nesters. Expected birds include Summer Tanager, Yellow-breasted Chat, Prothonotary, Yellow-throated, and Hooded Warblers and, if we're lucky, Kentucky Warbler or another rarity. Sunday at Brig will feature great shorebirds in breeding plumage, passerine arrivals, raptors, and perhaps a surprise. The refuge is beautiful at this season. Call if you would like a motel recommendation.

The leaders will be Pete Bacinski and Karen Johnson (local Belleplain expert).

Cost: both days, \$50 members and \$60 nonmembers;
one day, \$30 members and \$35 nonmembers.

Meet at 8:15 A.M. Saturday and 8:45 A.M. Sunday.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29

Pete's annual Belleplain SF/Brig NWR weekend; drive south to meet spring. (See highlight box on previous page.)

Weekday Trips:

May 10, 15, 17, 23, and 30

Weekday field trips during May featuring expert leadership. This is the best time of year to see our passerine migrants in their best attire at the peak of spring migration with Garret Mountain and Sandy Hook two of the most renowned locations to experience spring passerine migration. (See highlight box on next page.)

PETE BACINSKI'S BIRDING AND NATURAL HISTORY WORKSHOPS

Sunday, March 4

2:00 p.m. at Rancocas Nature Center
"Spring Warbler Identification Workshop"

This program offers an opportunity for you to sharpen your skills at identifying America's most beautiful songsters in their finest breeding attire. The program will cover 35 species of eastern resident and migrant warblers. Images will illustrate diagnostic field marks to help you separate members of this difficult group in the field.

Saturday, March 24

10:00 a.m. at Plainsboro Preserve
"Spring Warbler Identification Workshop"

This program offers an opportunity for you to sharpen your skills at identifying America's most beautiful songsters in their finest breeding attire. The program will cover 35 species of eastern resident and migrant warblers. Images will illustrate diagnostic field marks to help you separate members of this difficult group in the field.

Saturday, March 31

2:30 p.m. at Sandy Hook Firehouse
"Colonial Waterbirds, Our Coastal Gems"

A look at New Jersey's colonial nesting herons, egrets, terns, and gulls; featuring images taken by some of America's best nature photographers. Get acquainted with this marvelous group of birds in their

Sandy Hook / All Things Birds Programs Spring 2012 Events at a Glance

Saturday, March 3	Hunterdon, Warren Reservoir Bird Run
Sunday, March 4	Spring Warbler ID Workshop at Rancocas
Saturday, March 10	Coastal Ocean County birding hotspots
Saturday, March 17	Pedricktown, Mannington and Featherbed
Saturday, March 24	Salem County Birding
Saturday, March 24	Spring Warbler ID Workshop at Plainsboro
Saturday, March 31	Sandy Hook for Early Spring Arrivals and Winter Birds
Saturday, March 31	Pete Bacinski's Colonial Waterbirds Program
Saturday, April 7	Merrill Creek, Spruce Run, and Round Valley Reservoirs
Saturday, April 7	Brigantine's Migrating Waterfowl
Saturday, April 7	Comprehensive Warbler ID Workshop
Saturday, April 14	Migration Watch at Sandy Hook
Sunday, April 15	The Hook for Great Birds
Friday, April 20	Half-Day Birding at Sandy Hook
Saturday, April 21	First of Season Trips to Garret Mountain
Saturday, April 21	South Amboy for Little Gull and Waterfowl
Sunday, April 22	Sandy Hook for Early Passerines and Raptors
Sunday, April 22	Beginning Birders Sandy Hook Walk (Free)
Friday, April 27	Half-Day Birding at Sandy Hook
Saturday, April 28	Atlantic County Park
Sat & Sun, April 28-29	Pete's Annual Belleplain/Brig Trip
Sunday, April 29	Sandy Hook for Warblers and Early Arrivals
Friday, May 4	Half-Day Birding at Sandy Hook
Saturday, May 5	Annual Garret Mountain Birding Extravaganza
Sunday, May 6	Natural History of the Pine Barrens Trip
Sunday, May 6	Allendale Celery Farm
Thursday, May 10	Garret Mountain for Great Warblers
Friday, May 11	Half-Day Birding at Sandy Hook
Saturday, May 12	WSB Century Run (<i>Must register</i>)
Tuesday, May 15	The Hook for Great Birds
Thursday, May 17	Garret Mountain for Difficult Warblers
Saturday, May 19	Sandy Hook's Special Birds
Saturday, May 19	Pete Bacinski's Spring Shorebird ID Workshop
Sunday, May 20	Sandy Hook for Great Spring Birding
Wednesday, May 23	Late Season Birds at The Hook
Friday, May 25	Half-Day Birding at Sandy Hook
Saturday, May 26	Old Mine Road Trip
Sunday, May 27	High Point SP and Stokes for Nesters
Wednesday, May 30	Old Mine Road Trip

finest breeding attire, and learn about their way of life.

Saturday, April 7

1:00 p.m. at Sandy Hook Firehouse
"Spring Warbler Identification Workshop"

Saturday, May 19

2:30 p.m. at Sandy Hook Firehouse
"Spring Shorebirds"
An ID Workshop including a comprehensive program and discussion on shorebirds will be given covering all

aspects of identification of shorebirds expected in NJ during migration. The best locations to view shorebirds will be discussed as well as shorebird calls. Workshops are \$20 for members and \$25 for nonmembers. A \$5 discount is offered if you attend the Sandy Hook for Early Spring Arrivals and Winter Birds field trip on Sandy Hook on March 31 and the Sandy Hook's Special Birds on May 19. (Both trips precede the workshops on the same dates).

Continued

WORLD SERIES OF BIRDING

Saturday, May 12

The 29th annual World Series of Birding: Come and help us celebrate this event and support our efforts by participating in one of the following ways:

First: Get out into the field with Scott Barnes, bird program director, and Linda Mack plus other associate naturalists, for a day of intensive birding on the Sandy Hook Century Run. Participate in the annual World Series of Birding, Sandy Hook-style! Spend the day scouring “The Hook” for those elusive passerines, unusual shorebirds, and lingering ducks and raptors. All proceeds benefit the “All Things Birds” program. You will caravan in the comfort of your own car or that of another friendly birder. If you cannot participate, please consider pledging toward the final total or giving a flat sum. Bring food, beverages, weather-appropriate clothing, sturdy shoes, insect repellent, binoculars, and spotting scopes. Preregistration is required. Meet at the Bayberry (B) parking lot at 5:30 A.M. for early-risers or at 8:30 A.M. at K lot for late sleepers.

Cost: \$1 or more per bird seen or heard during the day. (Expect approximately 120 species to be recorded.)

Second: Support the Sandy Hook / All Things Birds team, consisting of bird program director Pete Bacinski participating in his 29th WSB (that’s all of them folks); John, “the Stabilizing Force” Holinka; south Jersey birding machine Lloyd Shaw and extraordinary naturalist Rick Radis in their pursuit of a record-setting Ocean County run. Pledge a donation per bird toward their final total or a fixed amount. The team expects to record about 130 species.

Third: Get out there and do your own Big Day or Big Stay alone and pledge yourself, or with a team and enlist pledges from friends and relatives, to support “All Things Birds.” You are the captain and design your own strategic plan. For information: please contact the Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary at 908.766.5787 or email scherman-hoffman@njaudubon.org.

WEEKDAY MAY FIELD TRIPS

Sandy Hook / All Things Birds is endeavoring to run several weekday field trips during May featuring expert leadership. This is the best time of year to see our passerine migrants in their best attire at the peak of spring migration with Garret Mountain and Sandy Hook two of the most renowned locations to experience spring passerine migration.

Here are our offerings:

Thursday, May 10: Garret Mountain Reservation with Scott Barnes

Tuesday, May 15: Sandy Hook with Tom Boyle

Thursday, May 17: Garret Mountain Reservation with Scott Barnes

Wednesday, May 23: Sandy Hook with Scott Barnes

Wednesday, May 30: Old Mine Road with Pete Bacinski

Cost: \$15 for members and \$20 for nonmembers. Sign up for all five for \$60 for members. Preregistration required. See field trip descriptions.

THE SANDY HOOK PIPER

Thanks to:

Bill Hogelin and Anne Galli for their amazing repairs and painting at the former Sandy Hook Bird Observatory (SHBO); to our excellent weekend volunteers: Bob Lisiesky for repairs and special projects; Christine Allen, Helena Bauernschmitt, Mike Blasenheim, Colette Buchanan, Teri Catalano, Sandra Escala, Donna Juettner, Joann and Tony Lambiase, Donna Schulman, Jolanta Simonelli, John McCarthy and Linda Stehlik, Janet Stadelmeier, Susanna Treesh, and Elsie Zecchino; Irwin Lentchner for his great efforts with Inventory and POS as well as volunteer coordination; Sharon Lentchner and Linda Mack for their bookstore efforts; Bonnie Strand for maintaining the website, field trip directions and many other special projects; our wonderful weekday volunteers: Trina Anderson, Kathy Covington, Carol Coyne, Georgia Dempster, Mitch Dormont, Anne Galli, Bill Hogelin, Kevin Keating, Irwin and Sharon Lentchner, Bob Lisiesky, Judy Oakley, Dona Radey, David Royce, Andria Schanzer, Bonnie Strand, and Tom Tarlach; to our superb associate naturalists: Patrick Belardo, Tom Boyle, Michael Britt, Terry Carruthers, Brian Clough, Rob Fanning, David Harrison, Carole Hughes, Karen Johnson, Andrew Spears and Ken Witkowski; to Ron Blandon and David Rosenblatt for their excellent efforts filling in as volunteers; Anne Galli and Dona Radey for publicity and special

projects; to Tom Boyle, Mike Mandracchia, Corinne Errico, David Blinder, Kevin Keating, Howard Eskin, Trina Anderson, Richard Wolfort, and Norann Hein for photographic image donations; to Kevin Keating for special projects and problem solving; Linda Mack for all her efforts on behalf of SHBO; Elsie Zecchino for research help with Pete’s HEP Grant; to Linda Han for her assistance with writing the HEP Grant; to Lyda Spear and Kathleen Mistretta for home office assistance; to Jim O’Malley for IT assistance; to Norann Hein for computer tech support and bookstore help; to Denis Cleary and Brian Moscatello for bookstore support; to Melissa Craddock for help with inventory; to Laurie Larson for all her efforts in the name of Jersey birding; Tom Brown for his excellent banding project at the Hook and to Trina Anderson for helping with the project; to our associate naturalists and Kevin Bolton, Kevin Browne, Hugh Carola, Ray Duffy, Billy Kaselow, Ivan Kossak, Mike Newhouse and Chris Takacs for their efforts leading on the Meadowlands Festival; to Lisa Ryan for her tireless efforts working on the festival; to Trina Anderson, Sharon Lentchner and Bonnie Strand for helping with inventory: donation of material for SHBO repairs by Anne Galli and Joe Carragher; the Navesink Garden Club for their great efforts with the garden.

Continued

Introducing NJ Audubon eBird!

New Jersey Audubon is pleased to announce the launch of our new NJ Audubon eBird regional portal. The site will give birders access to news and information about current events in New Jersey birding, feature articles, bird identification tips, rare bird alerts, avian citizen science programs to participate in, and bird programming opportunities through NJ Audubon.

For centuries, people have been keeping track of bird sightings in various ways, often through personal field notes or software that can disappear over time. Through eBird, this critical information is both secure and available to conservation biologists, land managers, educators, and other birders immediately. If you're interested in the status and distribution of New Jersey's birds, want to explore data on particular species, learn about migration timing, or keep track of your personal sightings, then NJ Audubon eBird is for you!

The eBird portal is free and can be used by beginners and experts alike. You can start today by entering your latest observations, exploring interactive mapping tools, or viewing arrival/departure dates and high counts. You can make the NJ eBird page your home page and enter sightings just like you have done from the eBird website. We hope you'll consider bookmarking the New Jersey Audubon eBird regional portal and enter your sightings through it. Start today by visiting:

<http://ebird.org/content/nj>

- Scott Barnes

*Bird Program Director, Central Region
New Jersey Audubon*