

THE



OSPREY

Newsletter of the

Monmouth County Audubon Society

www.monmouthaudubon.org

Over **50 Years** of Birds and Conservation

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➤ **Announcing MCAS's Bird Conservation Grant**

by Mike Davenport

The Monmouth County Audubon Society (MCAS) is pleased to announce a new grant program to promote bird conservation in Monmouth County.

The MCAS Bird Conservation Grant Program will award a maximum of \$3,000 in grants in early 2022. 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; and native tree/shrub plantings.

To promote the new grant, a new web page was created and a press release was circulated within the County in November 2021. Applications for this grant cycle were due on March 1, 2022 and are currently under review to select the project(s) which will receive a grant. If this first year of the grant proves to be a success, MCAS will continue to provide grants in upcoming years - so keep an eye on our website!

To learn more about the Bird Conservation Grant, please visit:

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



A tree swallow at a nest box. Photo by John Gallant.

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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

► Items of note – local tidbits of interest

Volunteers urgently needed! In the column to the left is a list of the people that power the Monmouth County Audubon Society by volunteering their time to run the many programs that benefit the community and our environment. Please note that there are several openings and 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!

Reminder: Ted Engberg Conservation Scholarship... For 17 years, Monmouth County Audubon Society has awarded \$1,500 scholarships to qualified Monmouth County high school students continuing their education in a field related to wildlife conservation. The scholarship is awarded in memory of Ted Engberg, who was on the MCAS Board and a generous donor for decades.

Full information on the scholarship and the application are available on our website, www.monmouthaudubon.org. Students graduating from a Monmouth County high school can also get information through their Guidance Office.

The one-page application requires: name and contact information; high school transcript with current GPA; a letter of acceptance from a four-year college or university, and a 500-word essay, "Why wildlife conservation is important to me." Applicants must be residents of Monmouth County.

Application deadlines will be posted on the MCAS website.



Great blue heron. Photo by John Gallant.

► Noteworthy Sightings in Monmouth County

by Rob Fanning

- Vesper Sparrow: 11/1 Sandy Hook
- Clay-colored Sparrow: 11/10 Sandy Hook
- Chipping Sparrow: 1/6 Huber Woods (rare in winter)
- Snow Buntings: 12/5 SH (50+)
- Horned Larks: 12/5 SH (15+)
- **Pink-footed Goose: 12/8 -12/10 Thompson Park fields
- Snow Goose: (2) 12/9+ Thompson park and vicinity
- Greater White-fronted Goose: 1/2 Thompson
- Cackling Goose: 1/4 Thompson
- **Wood Stork: 2 birds present at Sandy Hook from 12/19 on with one last seen on 1/2
- Glaucous Gull: 1/4 S Hook
- Iceland Gull: 1/16 lake Takanassee
- Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1/25 Neptune
- Black-headed Gull: adult continuing at Manasquan Inlet thru period (Nov - Feb)
- **Common Gull: 1/23 S Hook (1st NJ record)
- Razorbill: 35+ at SH 1/24
- Trumpeter Swan: 2 at Manasquan Res 1/25
- Snowy Owl: several reports from SH thru period
- Cattle Egret: 11/2 Wall Township
- Common Gallinule: 11/5 Sandy Hook
- Golden Eagle: 11/13 marshes near Route 35
- **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: 11/18 Sandy Hook adult male
- **Painted Bunting: private feeder in Long Branch mid-Nov (female type)
- Wilson's Snipe: 2 at Colts Neck 12/14
- Baltimore Oriole: various reports of wintering birds at feeders several locations
- Little Gull: 2/17 Sandy Hook
- Barnacle Goose: 2/18 Shark River estuary

** indicates very rare for Monmouth



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Sandy Hook. Photo by Rob Fanning



Black-headed Gull, Manasquan Inlet. Photo by Lisa Ann Fanning



➤ **Bird Collision Monitors: Documenting the Impact of Windows & Lights on Birds**

by Mike Davenport

According to the National Audubon Society, window collisions are one of the leading direct human causes of bird mortality. A 2014 study by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Smithsonian Institution estimated that between 365 million to one billion birds are killed annually by building collisions in the U.S.

Bird Safe Philly (BSP) is a coalition of dedicated individuals and organizations working to protect native birds in the Philadelphia area from a variety of issues that can harm them, especially collisions with glass and artificial lights. Organizational support comes from the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, Audubon Mid-Atlantic, Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, National Audubon Society, Valley Forge Audubon Society and the Wyncote Audubon Society.



These Parula Warblers were found on the pavement in the Center City area on September 27, 2020. Photo by Stephen Maciejewski.

Bird Collision Monitors document the casualties from collisions with glass. They patrol the sidewalks, pathways and streets on specific routes in Philadelphia’s Center City to document and collect injured and dead birds. Stephen Maciejewski is a founding member of both Bird Safe Philly and Lights Out Philly. He is currently an active Bird Collision Monitor for Bird Safe Philly and has previously worked on the Bird Collision Research Project from 2008-2011, under the auspices of The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, The National Audubon Society, The Philadelphia Zoological Gardens and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Stephen is a lifelong birder, starting when he was an adolescent. Early on, he was a member of the Pennypack Bird Club and received a scholarship from the club to attend an Audubon Summer Camp in Connecticut. He also volunteered as a bird bander at the Pennypack Environmental Center.

The following is an account by Stephen of what led to the founding of Birds Safe Philly and Lights Out Philly:

October 2, 2020 will be a day I will never forget. It started as a regular day of collecting dead and injured migratory birds. First a few collisions, then many more, people walking by pointed out even more birds. Others stopped to asked what was happening?

Birds seemed to be falling out of the sky!

At the time, I did not know I was witnessing a historic event. I just happened to be there, to do my usual monitoring, to photograph, document, but as it turns out, to discover a catastrophic mass kill in Center City, when thousands of migratory birds died on the streets of Philadelphia. It was truly a horrific event.

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People told me that the streets downtown were littered with dead and dying birds. A stranger stopped to show me a photo, she took of a Yellowthroat which had landed on her handbag. I felt like a war correspondent. I could not change the outcome but I could show what was happening.

I was bagging birds near a dumpster by the Comcast Technology Center on Cuthbert St. when one of the custodians emptied his large dustpan in front of me. This created a large pile of living and dead birds.

I remembered reading letters from my sister, Mania Maciejewski, an Army nurse during the Vietnam War. She was a triage nurse stationed at Cu Chi. I now did the same. When I was finished, I had a collection of over 70 living and dead birds on the sidewalk. Took some photos and moved on to the next site.

Hours later, friends suggested I contact The Philadelphia Inquirer. Inquirer reporter Frank Kummer wrote an article and decided to use my photo of the 70+ dead birds, along with their own photos and text for the story. His story had legs, and that photo I took, flew around the world. It was reprinted in India, Pakistan, friends sent it to me from China, all over Europe, S. America, Australia, Africa and throughout the USA. CBS, CNN, BBC covered it. The photo was shocking. Reality was much worse. Over 400+ birds at just one building.

I ran out of bags. Could no longer process one bird at a time into individual bags but had to collect their bodies in shopping bags. I phoned Keith Russell, Program Manager for Urban Conservation of Mid Atlantic Audubon to tell him about what was happening. I was so upset I could barely speak. He quickly came downtown and joined me and saw the carnage first hand.

It was a profoundly moving day. I felt as if the laws of nature and the boundaries of life were no longer working. Even today, 15 months later, I feel overwhelmed by all the death I witnessed on that day.



The day of the massive kill in Center City, Philadelphia. Photo by Stephen Maciejewski on October 2, 2020 at 7:37 AM.

There were other documented massive kills in Philly before:

- September 9,1948 at the PSFS - 207 birds
- May 21-22, 1915 at City Hall - 324 birds

This time, this thoroughly documented massive kill galvanized support to do something. Within days, an Op-Ed signed by Robert Peck of the ANS, Keith Russell of Audubon PA and Linda Widopp of the DVOC appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer advocating for a "Lights Out Philly" program. After a lot of advocacy work and building relationship with the business community, especially BOMA-Business Owners Management Association by people on the BSP committee "Lights Out Philly" went into effect on March 15, 2021.

Monmouth County Audubon reached out to Stephen with a few questions for this edition of our newsletter.

What is your role as the leader of the Bird Safe Philly?

My job is to train, teach, instill interests, encourage empathy, discover new routes, build awareness and create allies in the uphill task to save birds from pain and death.

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What is your typical day during the peak migration?

Up at 4:30 AM. Make a cup of coffee with three scopes and drink half of it. Few bathrooms are available. Walk to my site. Start early to find the birds that hit during the night, before the cleaning staff picks them up. Workers start at 6 AM. At 5:30 AM, I walk my route as many times as I can until 8. Often it is 9:30 when I am finished. The number of rounds I make is influenced by the number of birds I find.

What is the average number of dead and injured birds you collect per day during the migration season?

That is hard to say. This Fall migration season, the average was 4 a day but there are days when I find no birds and then there are days when you find 15 birds. We also have to arrange to get birds that are in a state of shock to rehab. I get very anxious when I have 5 injured birds in brown bags and I have no drivers to transport them to rehab. Luckily, we now have 16 caring and dedicated drivers on call to transport birds to rehab.



Eastern Bluebird. Photo by Stephen Maciejewski.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Photo by Stephen Maciejewski.

Do one group of birds suffer death or injury than others? Such as small song birds versus large birds or raptors?

We don't know why, but we find an inordinate number of some birds more than others. The top most common birds I find are:

- Ovenbirds
- Black-throated Blue Warblers
- Black and White Warblers
- Northern Parula Warblers
- Common Yellowthroat
- White-throated Sparrows
- Dark-eyed Juncos

Many birders have a Life List. It's a list of the number of birds they have seen and when they first saw them. I keep a Dead List. Unfortunately, my list is approaching 100. Some that I have found are: American Woodcock, Fox Sparrows, Brown Thrashers, Mockingbirds, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Blue-headed Vireos, Indigo Buntings, Scarlet Tanagers, Nighthawks, both Black and Yellowed-billed Cuckoos, Blue Jays, Kingfishers, many Thrushes and Warblers, Wrens, and even Rails.

After you collect the dead birds, what happens to them?

Each bird is placed in a plastic bag, gets a label and is assigned an ID number. I put the date, time, locations, compass direction and name/names of people who found it. I always give credit to the citizen scientists at all of these building who save birds for me, both living and dead. I take the dead birds to the ANS and leave them in a freezer. Later a skin will be made. The contents of their stomach may be analyzed and any lice on the birds will be collected.

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How about the injured birds?

If you find an injured bird, please collect it so someone does not walk on it or a cat gets it. Place it in a brown paper bag and let it rest until you can take it to a wildlife rehabber ASAP. We have a great relationship with the Schuylkill Wildlife Center at 304 Port Royal Rd. Phila. 215 482 7300. It is part of The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Educational.

Do weather patterns also play a role in their demise?

Yes, it appears that catastrophic kills occur under specific weather conditions, like a low ceiling of clouds and rainy conditions during peaks of migrations. Combined with bright lights this becomes deadly.

Are these large mortality events a problem we can solve?

If we lower the lights, I think we can prevent many of these catastrophic bird kills but countless birds will still die until we do all something about glass.

How can you can help minimize collisions at home?

For Glass, here are some suggestions:

(1) Cover the glass

Place dense patterns (stripes, dots, etc.) on the outer glass surface using commercial products designed for this purpose. Feather Friendly has a number of these products available. Or use craft paper, tape, stickers, paint, and markers designed to be used on glass. Patterns that can effectively prevent collisions can be created that still allow people to easily see through windows and other glass surfaces.

(2) Make the Glass appear Opaque

Completely cover the outer glass surface with paint, perforated vinyl film, or other materials that will make the glass appear opaque.

(3) Use Physical Barriers

Place physical barriers like screens, netting, hanging cords, or scrims in front of the glass. As long as the physical barriers do not contain open spaces that are larger than 2 x 2 inches, or the hanging cords are spaced no wider than 4 inches apart. This will effectively discourage most birds from trying to fly through the openings in the glass.

Also, using glass made with ceramic frits, acid etchings, UV reflecting, will help. We need to remember that most collisions occur at OUR HOMES and not at high rise buildings. I am sure you heard a thud on your window at your house. Even closing the curtains can work, if the sun is shining on the window, but if not, they will still reflect the outdoors.

When it comes to Lights, here are some suggestions:

(1) Reduce the amount and intensity of artificial light by curtailing vanity lighting and close curtains on brightly lit interiors.

(2) Change the color patterns

White, red, and yellow light attracts birds migrating at night much more than blue or green light.

(3) Reduce the time that the lights are on

Install motion sensors for security reasons instead of leaving the lights on at all hours.

(4) Change the direction of the lighting

Have the light face downward not upward or shield it.



Stephen Maciejewski.

► Spotted Lanternfly: Beautiful But Highly Destructive

by Lisa Ann Fanning

Nature is amazing, with its beautifully colored creatures that create wonder and awe, and the Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) (“SLF”) is no exception to that rule. Adults are beautifully adorned with pink wings with black spots, and a bright crimson on the hindwings, this member of the leafhopper family can almost be mistaken for a colorful moth or butterfly when it spreads its 2 inch wings and flies.

A member of the order Hemiptera, they are related to cicadas, brown marmorated stink bugs, aphids and leafhoppers and are typical to that order, in that they have mouthparts that pierce and suck plants with high sugar content which allow them to feed on sap, making it a threat to many fruit crops and trees. Economically, this represents a threat to the wine, orchard and logging industries. According to the USDA, the following crops are most at risk:

- Almonds
- Apples
- Apricots
- Cherries
- Grapes
- Hops
- Maple Trees
- Nectarines
- Oak Trees
- Peaches
- Pine Trees
- Plums
- Poplar Trees
- Sycamore Trees
- Walnut Trees
- Willow Trees

The non-native tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is its preferred host tree, so if you have this ornamental tree planted, consider removing it to mitigate risk of spread.

Native to China, the Spotted Lanternfly was first detected in the United States in Pennsylvania in 2014. It is believed to have “hitchhiked” on a stone shipment from China to one of the ports in Pennsylvania. Since 2014, this destructive bug has been documented in Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia, and shows no sign of slowing its spread.

In fall of 2021, Douglas Fisher, NJ Secretary of Agriculture announced that the NJ Department of Agriculture (NJDA) was adding Monmouth County to the state’s “quarantine zone.” This zone also includes the counties of Morris, Middlesex, Essex, Union, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer, Salem, Somerset and Warren.

One of the first steps in controlling SLF is to know the signs of its existence at any of its life cycle stages. Adults are easy to identify by their flamboyant field marks, but they do not survive the winter. Egg masses contain 30 to 50 eggs and do survive the winter, only to hatch in the spring, so if you see the egg masses, destroy them to prevent the spread of this invasive species.

In its nymph stages, it looks nothing like the adult, so again, familiarity is key to knowing what to target for removal. Adults are known “hitchhikers” so inspect your car and belongings when traveling from a known location of infestation.



An adult spotted lanternfly. Photo by Lisa Ann Fanning.

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Some people recommend the use of sticky traps (a highly adhesive ring of tape that is placed around a tree, similar in concept to a “roach motel.” This is not recommended because other wildlife may become trapped, injured or killed in these contraptions. Innocent victims like birds, animals, pollinators and other beneficial insects are being destroyed by the thousands in some areas, so please do not use these.

If you do see a spotted lanternfly, kill it and report the sighting to NJDA using their online reporting tool: nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/pests-diseases/spotted-lanternfly/#reporting-tool. Photos are helpful in this process as well.



Penn State Spotted Lanternfly graphic..

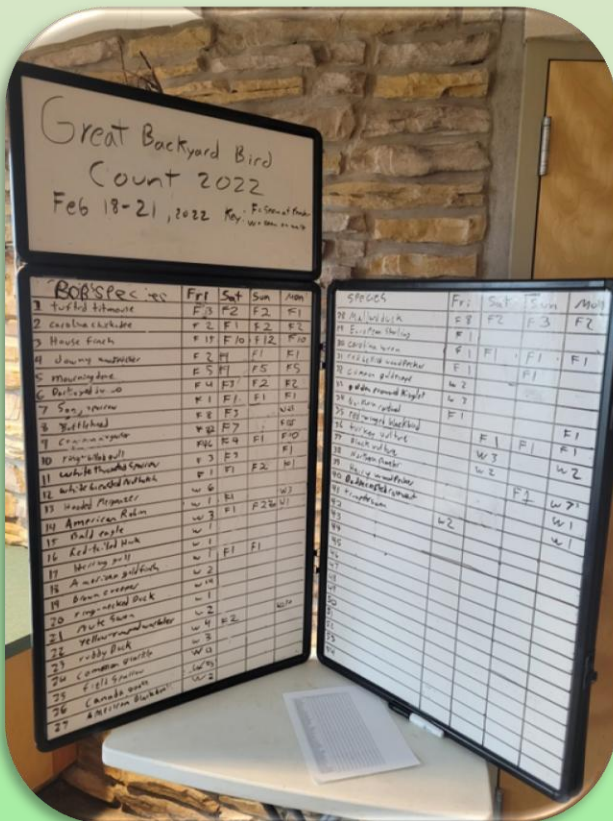


Photo on Left - The “big board” from the 2022 Great Backyard Bird Count at Manasquan Reservoir between February 18-21. A total of 41 species were observed this year.
Photo by Paul Mandala.



*Yellow-rumped Warbler.
Photo by Jack Bradshaw*

MONMOUTH OPEN SPACE SPOTLIGHT

► Jackson Woods Park

Location: Route 36 (Ocean Blvd), Long Branch, NJ

Acreage: approx. 13

Habitat(s): Wetlands, wetland forest, freshwater pond.

E-Bird Stats*: 127 species & 139 checklists.

**as of Jan. 2022*

Located off the southbound side of Route 36 in northern Long Branch, Jackson Woods Park is a township-owned and managed park. The park features walking trails which wind through forests, freshwater wetlands, and along the perimeter of a small pond. The park was formed in 1991 when a farmhouse & wetlands property that had been slated for redevelopment was preserved as open space. Although preserved, the park was left unattended for years, becoming overgrown, and then was further damaged by Super Storm Sandy. But in April 2018, a group of concerned citizens (the Friends of Jackson Woods) formed and has revitalized the park to benefit the community. Aside from being a natural oasis within a highly developed area, natural areas along the shore such as this provide critical resting and foraging habitat for migrating birds during both the Spring and Fall migrations.



RESOURCES

- Solid Air: Invisible Killer- Saving Billions of Birds from Windows. 2021. Dr. Daniel Klem Jr.
- National Audubon Society: "Reducing Collisions with Glass": <https://www.audubon.org/news/reducing-collisions-glass>
- National Audubon Society: "Philadelphia Sees Largest Mass Collision Event in the City in 70 Years": <https://www.audubon.org/news/philadelphia-sees-largest-mass-collision-event-city-70-years>
- Bird Safe Philly: <https://www.birdsafephilly.org/>



➤ **coming up (see website for more details)**

Programs - All Programs will be virtual on Zoom. Please check the MCAS website for program descriptions and Zoom access details.

Wed., March 9	8:00 pm	Wed., May 11	8:00 pm
Wild for Bats. Paul Mandala, MCPS Naturalist.		Project Terrapin : Diamondback Research & Conservation.	
Wed., April 13	8:00 pm	Michael Haughwout,	
Women in Birding-a Force beyond Feathers. Debbie Beer.		science teacher at Rumson/Fair Haven High School.	

Field Trips - Please preregister via email to monmouthaudubon@gmail.com Masks or face coverings are optional per current COVID19 recommendations for outdoor activities. Bring binoculars, water and bug spray.

Sat., March 12	5:30 pm	Sat., May 7	8:00 am
"Timberdoodle Walk" Big Brook Park. Route 520, Marlboro; meet in main parking lot.		Thompson Park. Meet at Old Orchard picnic lot/ shelter.	
Sun., April 10	10:00 am		
Sandy Hook Bird Walk. Meet at E lot at south end.			

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Amazon has a program called AmazonSmile. Instead of logging in at www.amazon.com when you shop, enter smile.amazon.com. You will be asked which organization you want to benefit – just select us. This small change in your routine offers big benefits – 0.5% of every purchase you make goes back to MCAS in the form of a donation! It costs you nothing to participate, so why not Smile!