



# BIRD STUDY MERIT BADGE CLASS

Saturday April 4th, 2009 - 9A.M. to 3 P.M. - Plainsboro Preserve



Interested in the fastest-growing outdoor activity in America?

Bird Study Merit Badge is easy and a lot of fun! With a little pre-study, you'll complete most, if not all, of the requirements in this one-day class.

The New Jersey Audubon Society's Plainsboro Preserve will host a Bird Study Merit Badge class on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Instruction & demos will be from 9AM to 12 PM, followed by a bird walk ending at 3 PM. If we don't see 20 species on our walk, Scouts will be able to complete the badge on their own or at free morning bird walks on any other weekend. The course is **limited to the first 30 Boy Scouts who submit their forms** with a \$15.00 non-refundable registration fee.

### Directions to New Jersey Audubon's Plainsboro Preserve:

From US Route 1, take the Scudders Mill Road exit. Follow to the fifth traffic light (Dey Road). Make a left onto Dey Road and head east for about 1/2 mile to the first traffic light (Scotts Corner Road). Turn left onto Scotts Corner Road. Follow for about 1/4 mile past the Community park on your left. The preserve entrance will be on your left. Turn into the entry gate and follow the entry road back to the parking lot on your right. (More info can be found at <http://www.njaudubon.org/Centers/Plainsboro/>)

### How to participate:

Mail the completed registration form with a fifteen-dollar check (payable to New Jersey Audubon Society) to **Plainsboro Preserve, 80 Scotts Corner Road, Cranbury, NJ 08512** by March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009. If you have any questions, call the preserve at (609) 897-9400. Class is limited to 24 pre-registered Boy Scouts, who have completed the pre-work below:

### MANDATORY PRE-WORK BEFORE CLASS (about three hours of reading)

1. Completely read the 1999 printing of the Bird Study Merit Badge pamphlet.
2. Learn the field marks of these local birds from a field guide before class:

<i>Double Crest. Cormorant</i>	<i>Peregrine Falcon</i>	<i>Red-Bellied Woodpecker</i>	<i>Yellow-rumped Warbler</i>
<i>Great Blue Heron</i>	<i>Wild Turkey</i>	<i>Northern Flicker</i>	<i>Northern Mockingbird</i>
<i>Great Egret</i>	<i>Killdeer</i>	<i>Tree Swallow</i>	<i>Northern Cardinal</i>
<i>Mute Swan</i>	<i>Sanderling</i>	<i>Blue Jay</i>	<i>White-Throated sparrow</i>
<i>Canada Goose</i>	<i>Laughing Gull</i>	<i>American Crow</i>	<i>Song Sparrow</i>
<i>Mallard</i>	<i>Herring Gull</i>	<i>Black-capped Chickadee</i>	<i>Dark-Eyed Junco</i>
<i>Turkey Vulture</i>	<i>Common Tern</i>	<i>Tufted Titmouse</i>	<i>Red-Winged Blackbird</i>
<i>Osprey</i>	<i>Rock Dove</i>	<i>Eastern Bluebird</i>	<i>Common Grackle</i>
<i>Bald Eagle</i>	<i>Mourning Dove</i>	<i>American Robin</i>	<i>House Finch</i>
<i>Sharp-Shinned Hawk</i>	<i>Great Horned Owl</i>	<i>Gray Catbird</i>	<i>American Goldfinch</i>
<i>Red-Tailed Hawk</i>	<i>Eastern Screech Owl</i>	<i>Northern Mockingbird</i>	<i>House Sparrow</i>
<i>American Kestrel</i>	<i>Downy Woodpecker</i>	<i>Red-Eyed Vireo</i>	<i>European Starling</i>

If you observe any birds before the class, record them in a notebook as shown in requirement five. They will count!

### Bring the following to class:

- A *Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern North America* by Roger Tory Peterson (borrow a copy from your public library if you can't afford your own)
- A good pair of binoculars (the absolute best ones you can borrow, ideally 7x35)
- Suitable hiking shoes, clothing and equipment (see Boy Scout handbook pages 204 & 207)
- Bird Study Merit Badge Pamphlet (1999 Edition)
- Small spiral notebook in a zip lock plastic bag
- Two pencils
- Pocketknife
- Bag Lunch
- Merit badge application signed by Scoutmaster.
- A clean, empty one gallon plastic milk jug (will be made into a birdfeeder with the scissors)
- Large Scissors (for cutting milk jug)
- Small backpack
- Water Bottle
- Raingear

### Bird Study Merit Badge Registration Form (Please return by March 27<sup>th</sup> with check for fifteen dollars)

Scout \_\_\_\_\_ of Troop \_\_\_\_\_ living at \_\_\_\_\_

has my permission to participate in the Bird Study Merit Badge program. In the event of an emergency, I authorize any necessary medical treatment in the event that I can't be reached at (\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_.

Parent or Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_