

## Burlington County Times

### Finding feathered friends in Burlington County

By Melissa Hanejko, correspondent, October 18, 2016

Birds of a feather flock together, and now so do bird watchers, at the Riverton Library.

While you might not spot any birds flying around the library stacks, other than the occasional wayward flyer, you will find everything you need to know about birds here.

As a hobby, bird watching is inexpensive, educational and even therapeutic. After all, what could be more relaxing than an afternoon spent amidst the silence and solitude of nature?

The East Coast states are considered the prime locale for bird watching in the U.S., with New Jersey topping the list. From the vast expanse of the Pine Barrens, to the miles of beaches along the coast, New Jersey is home to a highly diverse aviary population. Burlington County alone is home to hundreds of bird species, making it a desired destination for ornithological enthusiasts.

While bird watching, or birding, is an activity for all ages and abilities, it helps to know how to get started. On Thursday at 7 p.m., visit the library at 306 Main St. for "Beginning with Birding Basics."

Participants will learn about bird classification, the proper identification of birds, topography and bird behavior. Be sure to check out the library's selection of books on the subject as well.

The program will be presented by naturalists from the Rancocas Nature Center, a center for environmental education in Westampton. The center, which sits on 210 acres of Rancocas State Park, is a perfect spot to catch a glimpse of a rare bird.

Various species of warblers, cuckoos, swallows, heron and woodpeckers have all been seen at the park. Take your newfound knowledge to the park and see how many new feathered friends you can find.

The program is ideal for all ages, from preteen through adult, and doesn't require prior registration. For more information, visit [bcls.lib.nj.us/riverton](https://bcls.lib.nj.us/riverton).