

# PLAYING FIELD



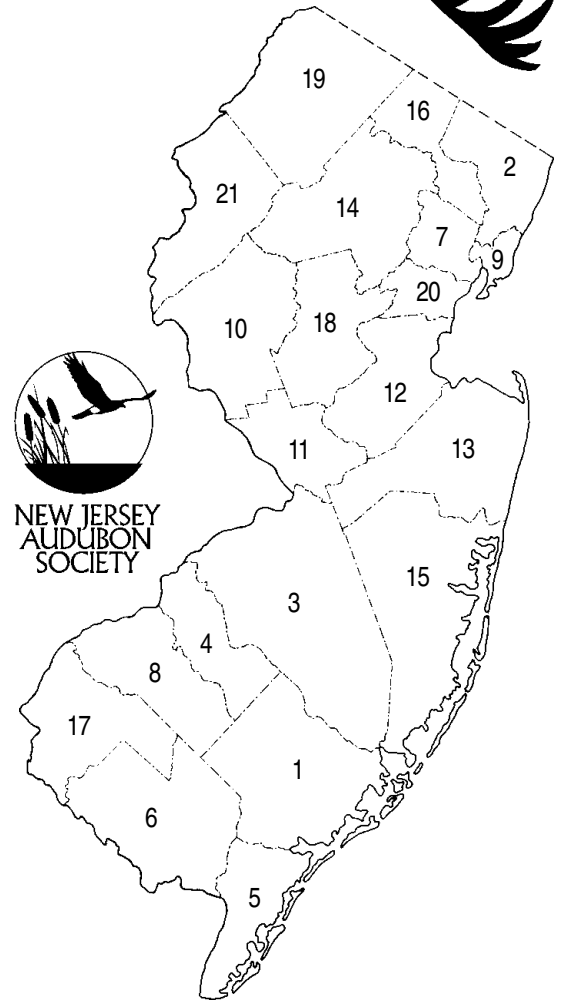
## ENTIRE STATE

New Jersey is small in stature – only 166 miles long from High Point in the north-west to Cape May Point (below the Mason-Dixon Line) in the South. At its widest point, New Jersey measures only 57 miles. The entire state is only 7,500 square miles. But it's packed with birds! Rimmed on all sides except for its relatively short northern boundary, New Jersey is an essential pit stop on the Atlantic flyway. From High Point to Cape May Point, teams may begin and end their route anywhere within the state of New Jersey.

All rules of competition apply. All vehicles except aircraft may be used. Participants are not required to travel in the same vehicle so long as there is compliance with Rule IV(b).

A team may cross into another state for convenience or expedience but no birds may be counted unless the team is within New Jersey. Birds seen in the Delaware or Hudson Rivers may be counted providing the observer is standing in New Jersey or short of midpoint on any bridge. Birds seen in Delaware Bay or the Atlantic Ocean to a distance of 100 miles, may be counted as long as the team is within New Jersey.

Any team whose members (all members) live 30 miles (or more) outside of New Jersey may register as an "out-of-region" team and compete for the Ed Stearns Award.



## LIMITED GEOGRAPHIC AREA (LGA)

The "Limited Geographic Area" (LGA) category is open to any team that conducts its birding in one **single** New Jersey county.

The LGA Award is for the team that achieves the highest percentage of par for a **single** county. The map shows the counties and the par listings for each county. Anybody have a hint as to how to play this game and win? Pick a county with a low par. A par value, the number of species likely to occur in a given New Jersey county in early May, has been established for each county. Team totals will be compared not as absolute values but as a percentage of the established county par.

**Example:** Team A birds Cape May County and records 180 species. Par is 213. Team B birds Passaic County and records 140 species. Par is 151. Team B wins! In birding a low par county, they recorded 93% of par. The Cape May County team achieved 85% of par!

A county par value will be raised by 5 species whenever that county wins the LGA.

**Example:** Somerset County par was 152, won LGA in 2000, par raised to 157 for 2001; Somerset County par was 157, won LGA in 2001, par raised to 162 for 2002.

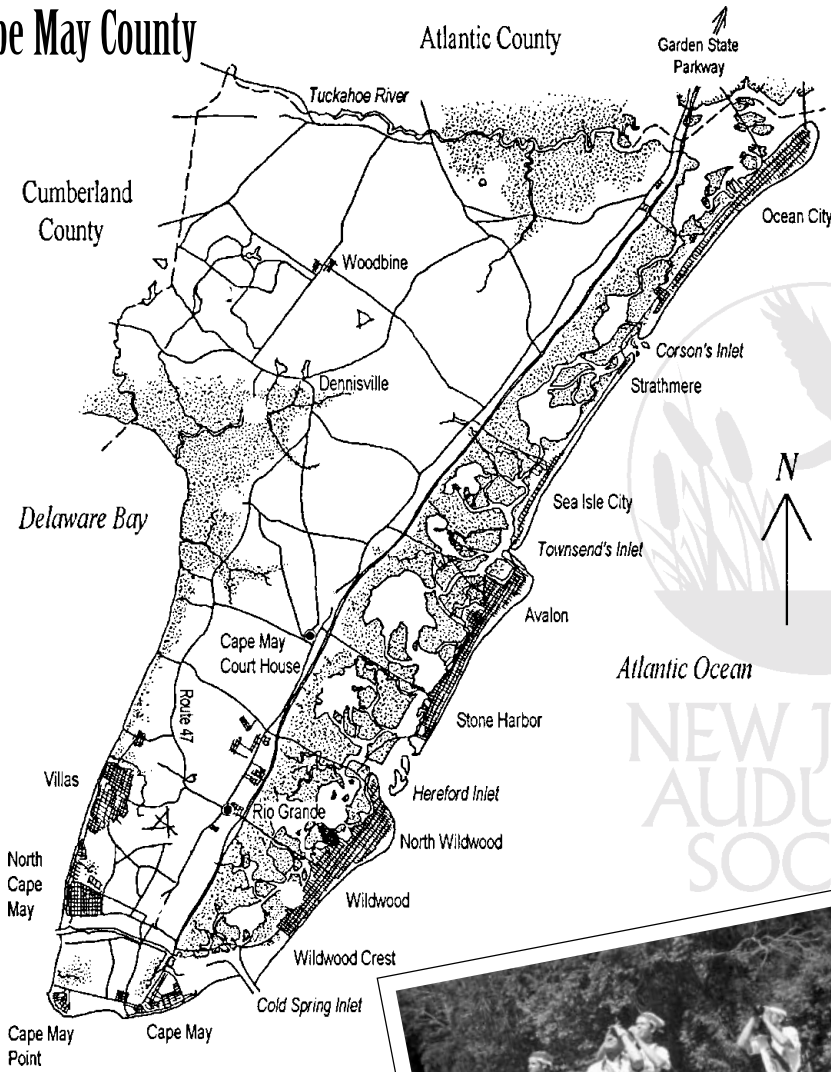
### LGA County Cup Par Values

#### Alphabetical List

COUNTY	PAR	COUNTY	PAR
1. Atlantic	201	12. Middlesex	182
2. Bergen	168	13. Monmouth	192
3. Burlington	179	14. Morris	168
4. Camden	156	15. Ocean	191
5. Cape May	213	16. Passaic	151
6. Cumberland	194	17. Salem	182
7. Essex	147	18. Somerset	162
8. Gloucester	164	19. Sussex	181
9. Hudson	150	20. Union	150
10. Hunterdon	156	21. Warren	168
11. Mercer	154		

$$\text{SPECIES} \div \text{PAR} = \% \text{ OF PAR}$$

# Cape May County



# Playing Field

## CAPE MAY COUNTY ONLY

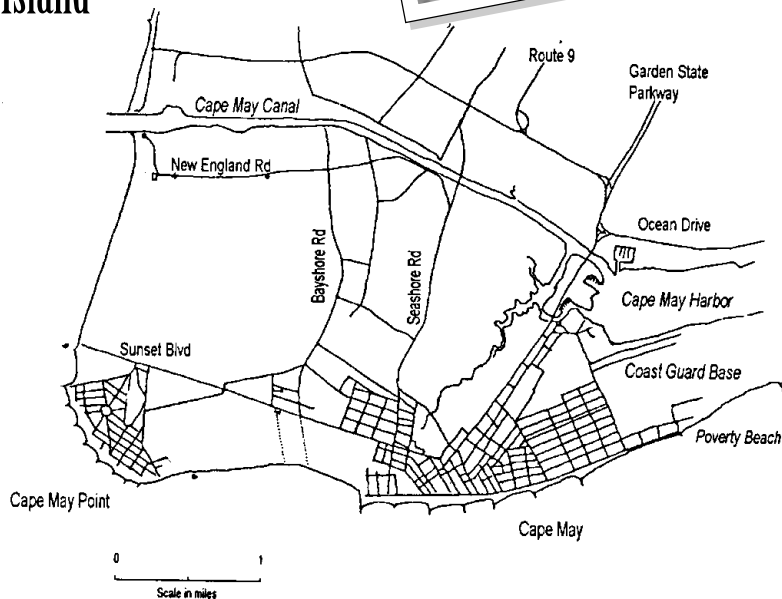
Best known for its vast concentrations of migrants, over 400 species of birds have been recorded in Cape May County. More than 200 species have been seen in a single day – evidence of its everyday avian wealth. An array of habitats types and a wealth of protected natural areas make Cape May County and the Delaware Bayshore a birding spot for all seasons.



## SOUTH OF THE CANAL: CAPE ISLAND

The very tip of Cape May is separated by the rest of the Cape May Peninsula by the Intracoastal Waterway (also known as the Cape May Canal). Known locally as “Cape Island”, most of the 400+ species that have been seen in Cape May County have been seen here. A triangular wedge, Cape Island is about 6 square miles and contains birding hotspots like Higbee Beach, Poverty Beach, Hidden Valley, The Beanery, The Nature Conservancy’s South Cape May Migratory Bird Refuge (known simply as “The Meadows”), and Cape May Point State Park, to name a few.

# Cape Island



You can spend a lot of time concentrating on these areas and see a lot of birds. World Series Teams have birded the island on foot, on bikes, and by car counting as many as 173 species on their Big Day.

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**SWAROVSKI**  
OPTIK

## DIGI DAY sponsored by Swarovski Optik

Take a shot in the World Series of Birding Photography division and vie for the highest number of species identified through the lens of a digital camera, with a digiscope, or with a digibinocular (binocular set up with a digital camera). One winner in each category.

Photography must be taken on the official WSB date with date and time info shown on the image. Prior to the event, all registered participants will receive image date instructions.

A team may consist of a two or three photographers and one spotter, who can also be the designated driver.

All WSB Rules of Competition, as stated in the official WSB Game Plan, apply unless otherwise noted. The 95% rule is not applicable for this category. Teams cannot split up and must remain within easy conversational distance.

The official WSB checklist, along with the accompanying image disc, must be submitted to WSB officials at the WSB Finish Line no later than 11 PM. Fax, e-mail, or printed images will not be accepted.

All images must be taken with a digital camera, whether attached to a scope, binoculars, or with just the camera. No spotlighting and no flash will be allowed. Each bird must be identifiable by its photograph or series of photographs (in case multiple images are needed to show the proper field marks for identification purposes) to be counted. If multiple species are identifiable within the same shot, the shot may be duplicated for each species but must be in order according to the official WSB checklist.

All images must be in the order as they appear on the official WSB checklist. Any "write-in" species should be at the end in the order they were listed on the team's checklist. Write-in reports must accompany the checklist and image disc.

Teams may show their laptop slideshow in the reception area prior to the Awards Brunch on Sunday. ■



## BIG STAY

Our Big Stay is a lot like a Hawk Watch or Sea Watch because you stay in just one place – but you're looking for much more than hawks and seabirds. The object of the Big Stay is to tally as many bird species that your team can see or hear in a single day from a single position (actually a 17-foot diameter circle).

### RULES:

All competition rules and ethics apply along with the following:

1. Observations can be made from any point within New Jersey.
2. Observations can only be made from within the borders of a count circle whose diameter does not exceed 17 feet. Once located and counting begins, the circle cannot be shifted. The same count circle must be used for the entire Stay.
3. Competing teams must consist of a minimum of 3 team members. There is no maximum limit (subject of course, to the limitations imposed by the law of physics relating to space and matter).
4. Only birds seen or heard and positively identified while team members are in the count circle may be counted (no leaving the circle for "ground truthing").
5. Team members must remain in the count circle for as long as they choose to compete within the framework of the 24-hour (midnight to midnight) count period. If any team member (or the team) leaves the circle for whatever reason, the team must call a "timeout". No bird recorded while a member(s) is/are absent may be counted.

