

# NEWSLETTER

Of The

## Quaker Ridge Bird Club

An Email

Birding publication  
covering the greater

Rye, Greenwich, & Stamford area

Sponsored by Audubon Greenwich

### Fall 2009 Edition

Editors

Joe Zeranski & Brian O'Toole

This email is intended to foster better communication and interaction among local birders. Transmitted from time to time, it contains timely birding information including field counts, programs, surveys, events, field observations, field trips, and other birding matters of interest.

- ❖ **Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch**
- ❖ **Upcoming Events**
- ❖ **2009 Summer Bird Count Results**

### Autumn Migration Bird Walks

Every Saturday ~ 7:00 - 8:45 am

September 5, 12, 19, 26  
at Audubon Greenwich

October 10, 17, 24, 31  
at the Fairchild Sanctuary

Join us to seek out the flood of migrants heading for the tropics as well as other species arriving from the north to spend the winter with us. Bring binoculars and hiking shoes. Loaner binoculars may be available. No fee or RSVP required. For September dates, meet at the main sanctuary at 613 Riversville Road. For October dates, meet at the Fairchild parking area on North Porchuck Road in Greenwich. Contact the Nature Store at x221 for more information.

### 2009 Quaker Ridge Hawkwatch

August 20 through November 20

Staffed every day, weather permitting

*Do stop by and experience the phenomenon*

Daily results are available on the web site:

[Hawkcount.org](http://Hawkcount.org)

[[here go to Connecticut](#), then to Quaker Ridge, month summaries]

We are very excited to introduce *Luke Tiller* as our 2009 official hawk counter. Luke is an excellent birder, tour guide for Sunrise Birding and well respected in the CT birding community. The Watch will officially kick off on August 20<sup>th</sup>, but Luke will be starting on August 26<sup>th</sup> and continuing until Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. Brian Bielfelt, our former hawk watcher is off to grad school in Texas and we wish him the best of luck. He was a great hawk watcher and we will miss his enthusiasm and dedication.

### HawkWatch Festival

September 19 & 20, 2009

11:00 am-5:00 pm

Come out and celebrate the amazing annual migration of hawks and other raptors often seen above Audubon Greenwich's hawk counting site, the Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch. This 2-day event will include games, animal exhibits, hikes, talks, live birds of prey shows (1 & 3 pm), special shows (2 pm), and your last chance to enter the hybrid car raffle. Loads of eco-friendly vendors and great food on-site. For an event schedule & a list of exhibitors, visit: <http://greenwich.audubon.org> or call Jeff at x239 for more information. Audubon memberships and tickets available at the gate. No RSVP required.

### Volunteer Hawkwatchers

We rely on our dedicated volunteer captains to maintain our hawk watch on weekends. They are essential if we are to have consistent and uninterrupted coverage of the watch.

Experienced hawk observers are suitable for captains and are asked to sign up for one or two days this fall – perhaps an early date and a late one. Less experienced observers are also cherished, being of great help as spotters and for data entry.

Weekend Dates. Please look over these dates and let Brian O'Toole [203 869-5272 x 221] know when you can contribute some time.

Aug. 22, 23, 29, 30, Sept. 5, 6, 7 [Labor Day], 12, 13, 19 – 20 [Hawkwatch Festival], 26, 27, Oct. 3, 4, 10, 11, 12 [Columbus Day], 17, 18, 24, 25, 30, Nov. 1, 7, 8, 14, 15.

Friday, September 4

**The World of Bats and Moonlight Walk**

7:00 - 8:00 pm

Learn about our local bat neighbors, get an update on the 'white-nose syndrome' endangering the bats of the Northeast, and watch for bats emerging from their daytime roosts for a night's hunting. Ages: 5 & up. RSVP to Nature Store at x221.

**Saturday, September 5**  
**Autumn Migration Bird Walk: Audubon Greenwich**  
7:00 - 8:45 am

**Saturday, September 12**  
**Autumn Migration Bird Walk: Audubon Greenwich**  
7:00 - 8:45 am

**Saturday, September 19**  
**Autumn Migration Bird Walk: Audubon Greenwich**  
7:00 - 8:45 am

**Saturday, September 26**  
**Autumn Migration Bird Walk: Audubon Greenwich**  
7:00 - 8:45 am

**Audubon Volunteer Days**  
October 3 & November 7  
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Join Audubon staff and fellow volunteers to help maintain our trails and improve bird habitats at Audubon Greenwich. Wear long pants and sturdy shoes. Tools and work gloves will be provided. Heavy rain cancels the work day. Call the Nature Store to sign up and for rain updates at x221.

**Saturday, October 10**  
**Autumn Migration Bird Walk: Fairchild Sanctuary**  
7:00 - 8:45 am

**Saturday, October 17**  
**Autumn Migration Bird Walk: Fairchild Sanctuary**  
7:00 - 8:45 am

**Saturday, October 17**  
**TRIP: Hook Mountain Hawk Watch**  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Travel with us to this mountaintop viewpoint across the Hudson with excellent hawk watching and spectacular views across the autumn landscape. Involves moderate half mile hike uphill. Bring binoculars, hat, sunscreen, lunch, water bottle, hiking shoes. Ages: 8 & up. RSVP with Ted at x230.

**Sunday, October 18**  
**TRIP: Cove Island Park Bird Sanctuary**  
8:00 - 11:00 am

Visit this seaside park in search of migrating sparrows and shorebirds at this birding hotspot in Stamford, CT. Meet at Audubon Greenwich to carpool by 8 am or call ahead and meet the group at Cove Island. Ages: 8 & up. RSVP required. Call Brian at x221.

**Saturday, October 24**  
**Autumn Migration Bird Walk: Fairchild Sanctuary**  
7:00 - 8:45 am

**Sunday, October 25**  
**TRIP: Allen's Meadows**  
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join Audubon naturalists for an autumn trip in search of migrating sparrows and other songbirds frequently sighted at this birding hotspot in Wilton, CT. Meet at Audubon Greenwich to carpool by 8 am or call ahead and meet the group in Wilton. Ages: 10 & up. RSVP required. Call Brian at x221.

**Saturday, October 31**  
**Autumn Migration Bird Walk: Fairchild Sanctuary**  
7:00 - 8:45 am

**Saturday, October 31**  
**Butler Sanctuary Hawk Watch**  
1:00 - 4:00 pm

Travel with us a short distance up Rte 22 to this hilltop site with a broad panoramic view over SW Fairfield County and Long Island Sound and great potential for observing migrating hawks and other birds. Ages: 8 & up. RSVP required. Call Ted at x230.

**Saturday, November 7**  
**Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge**  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Join us for a trip to this outstanding refuge with both freshwater and saltwater habitats to search out waterbirds, raptors, and songbirds. Ages: 8 & up. RSVP required. Call Ted at x230.

**Saturday, November 14**  
**Winter Birds and Project Feederwatch**  
1:30 - 3:00 pm

Get to know backyard winter birds, how to feed them, and learn how your family can be "citizen scientists"

to help count winter birds at bird feeders in your own backyard. All ages. RSVP to Nature Store at x221.

**Saturday, November 21**

## **Mother Nature's Bird Foods Hike**

**1:00 - 2:30 pm**

Learn about the many wild foods birds seek to eat and how birds use their bills to gather it. Then hike with a guide in search of wild birds and their foods. All ages. RSVP to Nature Store at x221.

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## **2009**

### **Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count Results**

**The Basics:** June 13 & 14, 141 species, 22,627 individual birds, plus one count period species. Forty-nine observers in 29 Parties observed for 307.5 party hours. Good weather produced high numbers for many species. Since its 1976 founding, 228 count period species have been recorded, with **Red Knot** a new count species this year.

**The People:** John Askildsen, Shawn Asslein, Pat Bailey, Tom Baptist, Marty Barris, Joe Belanger, Gail Benson, Kelli Bochnik, Michael Bochnik, Thomas W. Burke (235 Highland Road, Rye, NY 10580; [tom.burke@rsmi.com](mailto:tom.burke@rsmi.com)), Al Collins, Max Collins, Annette Cunniffe, Patrick Dugan, Cynthia Ehlinger, Andrew Farnsworth, Larry Flynn, Kathy Gellman, Ted Gilman, Arthur Green, Carolyn Hartel, David Havens, Jalna Jaeger, Paul Lewis, Berna Lincoln, Stan Lincoln, Shaun Martin, Ken Mirman, Frank Novak, Jim O'Brien, Mary Ann O'Leary, Brian O'Toole, Gary Palmer (34 Field Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807; [gejlpalmer@yahoo.com](mailto:gejlpalmer@yahoo.com)), Matt Popp, Renee Recker, Rex Recker, Steve Ricker, Polly Rothstein, Meredith Sampson, Jonna Schaffer, Bob Shriber, Richard Trepp, Marvin Turner, Benjamin Van Doren, Bill Van Loan jr., Bill Wallace, Mike Warner, Jill Yolen, and Adam Zorn.

**The Birds:** Canada Goose 1415, Brant 78[all time largest number], Mute Swan 112[largest number since 1997], Wood Duck 86, Gadwall 2[2<sup>nd</sup> record in ten years], American Black Duck 40, Mallard 682, Greater Scaup 1, White-winged Scoter 5[2<sup>nd</sup> record since 1993], Long-tailed Duck 3, Red-breasted Merganser 2, Ring-necked Pheasant 3, Wild Turkey 64, Common Loon 3, Double-crested Cormorant 487, Great Blue Heron 22, Great Egret 147[2<sup>nd</sup> lowest number since 1995], Snowy Egret 44[lowest number since 1978], Little Blue Heron 1, Green Heron 40[largest number since 1991], Black-crowned Night-Heron 116[lowest number since 1990], Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 4, Black Vulture 1[4<sup>th</sup> record], Turkey Vulture 36, Osprey 51[highest number ever], Sharp-shinned Hawk 3, Cooper's Hawk 9[highest number ever], Northern Goshawk 1, Red-shouldered Hawk 4, Broad-winged Hawk 5, Red-tailed Hawk 75, Peregrine Falcon 1, Clapper Rail 5, Virginia Rail 1,

Black-bellied Plover 1, Killdeer 65[3<sup>rd</sup> highest number ever], American Oystercatcher 43, Spotted Sandpiper 7[highest number ever], Willet 2, Ruddy Turnstone 1, **Red Knot** 1[a new count species], Sanderling 1[2<sup>nd</sup> record], Semipalmated Sandpiper 5, White-rumped Sandpiper 1[3<sup>rd</sup> record], Laughing Gull 37, Ring-billed Gull 60[lowest number since 1989], Herring Gull 297[highest number since 1993], Great Black-backed Gull 162, Common Tern 321, Forster's Tern 2[6<sup>th</sup> record], Rock Pigeon 174, Mourning Dove 503, Monk Parakeet 6[lowest since 1997], Black-billed Cuckoo 1, Yellow-billed Cuckoo 6, Eastern Screech-Owl 18, Great Horned Owl 13[2<sup>nd</sup> highest total ever], Barred Owl 8, Chimney Swift 123[2<sup>nd</sup> highest total ever], Ruby-throated Hummingbird 31[highest total ever], Belted Kingfisher 12, Red-bellied Woodpecker 239, Downy Woodpecker 190, Hairy Woodpecker 62, Northern Flicker 179, Pileated Woodpecker 22, Eastern Wood-Pewee 129, Acadian Flycatcher 3, Alder Flycatcher 1[reported 3 times in the last ten years], Willow Flycatcher 56[largest total since 1996], Eastern Phoebe 66, Great Crested Flycatcher 68, Eastern Kingbird 77, White-eyed Vireo 4[lowest total since 1976], Yellow-throated Vireo 13, Warbling Vireo 172, Red-eyed Vireo 219, Blue Jay 400, American Crow 426, Fish Crow 21, Common Raven 9[5<sup>th</sup> record and highest number], Purple Martin 30[highest total ever], Tree Swallow 203, Northern Rough-winged Swallow 135[highest total ever], Bank Swallow 2, Cliff Swallow 38, Barn Swallow 359, Black-capped Chickadee 229, Tufted Titmouse 387, [Red-breasted Nuthatch 0 - 2<sup>nd</sup> miss since 1987], White-breasted Nuthatch 109, Brown Creeper 2, Carolina Wren 144, House Wren 257, Winter Wren 3, Marsh Wren 24, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 32, Eastern Bluebird 48, Veery 168[highest total since 1993], Wood Thrush 203, American Robin 2194, Gray Catbird 880, Northern Mockingbird 116, Brown Thrasher 27, European Starling 920[lowest count ever], Cedar Waxwing 294, Blue-winged Warbler 69, ["Lawrence's Warbler" 1, 1<sup>st</sup> record], Northern Parula [a count period bird], Yellow Warbler 431, Chestnut-sided Warbler 7, Black-throated Green Warbler 5, Pine Warbler 54, Prairie Warbler 34[highest count since 1988], Blackpoll Warbler 1[10<sup>th</sup> record], Black-&-White Warbler 25, American Redstart 49, Worm-eating Warbler 28, Ovenbird 84, Louisiana Waterthrush 33, Common Yellowthroat 206, Hooded Warbler 1, Canada Warbler 1[only 1 record in the previous 10 years], Scarlet Tanager 95, Eastern Towhee 65, Chipping Sparrow 390, Field Sparrow 36[highest since 1992], Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow 4, Song Sparrow 491, Swamp Sparrow 9, Northern Cardinal 402, Rose-breasted Grosbeak 41, Indigo Bunting 98, Bobolink 1[3<sup>rd</sup> record since 1997], Red-winged Blackbird 999[highest number since 1981], Common Grackle 2199, Brown-headed Cowbird 264, Orchard Oriole 44, Baltimore Oriole 287, Purple Finch [2<sup>nd</sup> record since 1990]1, House Finch 238, Pine Siskin 20[4<sup>th</sup> record, previous high 3 birds], American Goldfinch 359, and House Sparrow 1005.