

Fairchild Sanctuary Improvements Continue

By Karen Dixon, Center Director

Audubon Greenwich's 135-acre Fairchild Sanctuary is a hidden gem among the green spaces of back country Greenwich. In 2010, the staff and Board of Directors of Audubon Greenwich launched an initiative to restore bird and wildlife habitat and improve visitor infrastructure at this special sanctuary.

Throughout the Spring, we conducted several volunteer days at Fairchild to clear trails, remove invasives, and plant native plants. In June, more than 30 employees of Pepsico spent the day at Fairchild rerouting the trail and constructing a bird blind at Shadow Pond, as well as building a sturdy trail bridge. Many thanks to all our volunteers for your hard work and enthusiasm, and to Pepsico for donating the bird blind materials. Thanks also to the New England Wildflower Society, whose knowledgeable staff helped us identify appropriate native plants with the best chance of thriving – and withstanding hungry deer – at Fairchild.

In September 2011, work will begin on the badly deteriorated parking lot at Fairchild. The project will include improving drainage and water flow, grading and repaving the parking area, and creating welcoming native landscaping around the front entrance and trailheads.

The next major project we will undertake is the construction of new boardwalks in the open meadow, replacing the nearly unusable system

of boardwalks currently in place. Volunteers will be needed for this project, so get ready to roll up your sleeves and pitch in!

**Corporate
volunteers
working hard
in the Fairchild
Wildflower
Sanctuary**



Hawk Watch Festival & Green Bazaar

OCTOBER 1 & 2
11 am - 5 pm



- Live Birds of Prey Shows with **TALONS!** at 1 & 3 pm
- 'Ossie the Osprey' Music Show with **Matt Turk Live** at 2:45 pm
- Eco-friendly Vendors & Exhibits
- Raptor Identification Classes
- Pond Searches • Games
- Great Food On-Site
- Nature Gift Shop
- Wild Hawk Counting

For Event Schedule
& 'Green' Vendor Details:
greenwich.audubon.org

203-869-5272

Festival Sponsors and Volunteers:
Call Jeff at x239

*Stay tuned for more information about the next Fairchild project with email updates from the "Friends of Fairchild."
To receive monthly updates about all things Fairchild, email us at: friendsoffairchild@audubon.org.*



Audubon GREENWICH

The Mission of Audubon Greenwich is to motivate people to conserve, restore, and enjoy nature, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats, through education, land stewardship, science, and public policy advocacy.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carl Hewitt	Chair
Jill Raker	Vice Chair
Ellen Reid	Vice Chair
Lolly Prince	Vice Chair
Steve Beal	Lauren Hampton
Allison Bourke	Suzanne Hogan
Nanny Cannon	Kristen Oddi
John Conte	Eda Peterson
Denice Crettol	Jeff Siegal
Debby Etheridge	George Sorenson
Ann Flinn	Maria Stepanian

Honorary Board Members:

Jane-Kerin Moffat William Ross Gary Palmer

AUDUBON GREENWICH STAFF

Karen Dixon	Center Director
Jeff Cordulack	Event & Communications Manager
Ted Gilman	Education Specialist
Lindsey DeVito	Education Specialist
James Flynn	Education Specialist
Brian O'Toole	Store Manager & Volunteer Coordinator
Gigi Lombardi	Office Manager
John Fairty	Grounds & Facilities Manager
Macario Nicholas	Caretaker

AUDUBON CONNECTICUT STAFF

Tom Baptist	Executive Director
Patrick Comins	Dir. Bird Conservation
Sandy Breslin	Dir. Govt Affairs
John Hannan	Director of Development
Michelle Frankel	Deputy Director of Development
Tiffany Witmer	Development Officer
Elizabeth Lane	Finance Manager
Taralynn Reynolds	Audubon At Home Coordinator

AUDUBON GREENWICH

613 Riversville Road,
Greenwich, CT 06831

203.869.5272 • <http://greenwich.audubon.org>

*Sanctuary Trails: Open seven days a week,
365 days a year, from dawn to dusk.*

*Center Building: Open Monday-Saturday,
9 am-5 pm, and from 12-5 pm on Sundays.*

Please note: Store closed on Mondays.

Admission: Members - FREE

Non-members: Adults - \$3.00

Children/Seniors - \$1.50

2011 Summer Bird Count

Prepared by Brian O'Toole & Gary Palmer

The Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count held on June 11-12, 2011 recorded 132 species and 18,712 individual birds, in spite of some challenging weather conditions on both days. The rain showers may have contributed to some of the low numbers, especially for nocturnal owls such as Screech and Great-horned. While 12 species were all time low counts, the volunteers did add one new species and tally six new count highs. The new species, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, was observed in Westchester County by Mike Warner. This bird has gradually been expanding its breeding range southward so this is not entirely unexpected.

In addition to the Sapsucker, the other new high counts were the Glossy Ibis, Cooper's Hawk, Chimney Swift, Purple Martin, and Hooded Merganser. This Merganser siting was the first count period breeding record at Laurel Reservoir in Stamford. New low counts were for Green Heron, Ring-billed Gull, Eastern Screech Owl, Great-horned Owl, Eastern Phoebe, White-eyed Vireo, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Black & White Warbler, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Eastern Towhee, and House Finch.

Other notable species located during the count period included American Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck, White-winged Scoter, Bald Eagle, Sora, American Coot, Dunlin, Glaucous Gull, Common Raven, and Blackpoll Warbler.

On behalf of Audubon Greenwich and the Quaker Ridge Bird Club, thank you to the 52 dedicated counters who continue to make this Citizen Science project possible. To become part of Winter & Summer Bird Count efforts, contact Brian O'Toole at 203-869-5272 x228.



Photo by A.J. Hand

Black-and-white Warblers have unique nuthatch-like foraging styles that benefit from stout legs, large feet, and extended hind claws for clinging to bark. Their beaks are unusually long for warblers and allow them to probe deeply into bark crevices. With this slender bill, it can easily search for dormant insects on trees and be the first warbler to return to breeding grounds in Spring. Other warblers delay their arrival until more trees blossom and insects are abundant.



100 Years and Counting in Greenwich! Annual Christmas Bird Count - December 18, 2011

2011 marks the 100th year of Christmas Bird Counting in Greenwich. Join the team and search for flocks during the annual holiday tradition.

All skill levels are welcome. Count with a team in the field or request a form to count in your backyard or nearby natural area.

Call Brian at 203-869-5272 x228 to sign up.



The View From Hawkwatch Lawn

By Luke Tiller, Official Quaker Ridge Hawk Counter 2009-2011

The hawk watching season in Greenwich is upon us and I am glad my third season at Audubon Greenwich's Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch is underway. This hawk watch runs from August 20 to November 20 and is staffed seven days a week by staff and volunteers. There are always some friendly faces around to help point out and identify birds, so everyone is invited to join us on the lawn next to the Kimberlin Nature Education Center parking lot at Audubon Greenwich.

There are probably three specific reasons that birders visit a hawkwatch: To simply enjoy the spectacle of hawk migration, to target specific rare birds in the state, and to hone ones skills at identifying birds in flight. Hawk watching allows scientists to collect important data and monitor the overall health of raptor populations across the United States.



It is also great fun, offering amazing spectacles like mass Broad-winged Hawk migrations; a chance to observe rare birds like Mississippi Kites, Sandhill Cranes and Swainson's Hawks; and a chance to see environmental success stories in action like the Bald Eagle's return from the brink or the successful reintroduction of the Peregrine Falcon.

I recently returned from an incredibly successful Spring 2011

season counting for a hawkwatch in Braddock Bay, NY. There, I tallied 107,000 raptors, including 42,000 plus in one day (Canada and the US's largest recorded spring count for a single day). Feel free to come by Quaker Ridge on Monday-Friday and talk to me about my experience trying to count that many birds at once. And if you're game, I may even teach you how to do it.

For daily results from each hawkwatch site nationwide, visit HawkCount.org.

For result from the Quaker Ridge Hawkwatch, visit www.tinyurl.com/QuakerRidge.

To learn about birding and hawkwatching in Connecticut, visit Luke Tiller's blog www.underclearskies.com.

AUTUMN BIRDING EVENTS COORDINATED BY LUKE TILLER

September 10:

Birding Tips for Beginners
(7:30-10:30 am)

September 17 & 24 / October 8 & 15:

Saturday Morning Birding
(7:00-9:00 am)

September 18:

Hawkwatching & Flying Raptor ID
(9:00am-12:00pm)

September 24:

Fall Warbler Tour
(Central Park, NYC)

October 29:

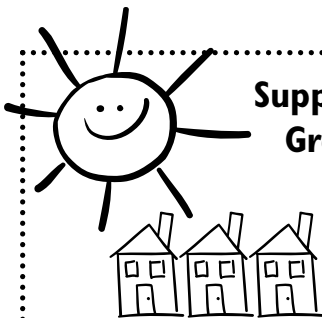
Saw-whet Owl Banding
(Mohonk Preserve, NY)

November 20:

2011 Quaker Ridge Hawk Count Report
(7:00-8:30 pm)

For details, refer to the Fall Nature Program Calendar and the Audubon Greenwich website.

To sign up for the trips, contact Luke directly at luke.tiller@gmail.com.



**Support Audubon
Greenwich with
'GREEN'
electricity
at home**

A new partnership makes it easy to choose clean, renewable energy and support Audubon Greenwich at the same time. For every Audubon supporter who registers with North American Power, Audubon will receive a donation from the company. No contracts are required and home electricity billing will continue the same way. Just the rate and the way they make the electricity changes.

Not only can you opt to buy 100% renewable energy for your home, you are likely to get lower rates on your utility bill from North American Power.

To sign up clean energy and support Audubon Greenwich today, visit: www.napower.com/audubongreenwich.

AUDUBON GREENWICH NATURE PROGRAM CALENDAR

FALL 2011

Greenwich Harbor Yacht Showcase

September 9, 10 & 11 At the Delamar Hotel

Support Audubon with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and entertainment at the Delamar Greenwich Harbor Hotel during the 'Preview Party' on Friday that will kick-off a weekend of fun. The two-day event will feature luxury yacht tours, marine exhibitors, great food, animal shows and family fun. *Saturday & Sunday is free. Friday cocktail (6-8 pm) is \$75 per person; 50% supports Audubon. For Friday tickets, contact TMK Sports & Entertainment at 203-531-3047 or for details about the weekend, visit: www.thedelamar.com.*



Long Island Sound contains 18 trillion gallons of brackish water; covers 1,320 square miles; receives water draining from 16,820 square miles of land that stretches to Canada; and a mere 21 million people live within 50 miles of it. Now that is an 'Estuary of National Significance!'

Photo: J. Cordulack

Saturday, September 10

Birding for Beginners ~ With a Twist 7:30-10:30 am

Everything you wanted to know about bird watching...but were afraid to ask. Learn how to watch birds more successfully, the merits of different field guides, binoculars, and other gadgets. Discuss the art of bird watching and hear expert tips from Luke Tiller, a professional birding guide and official Quaker Ridge hawkwatcher. *No charge. Most suitable for adults and interested youth. RSVP to the Store at x221*

Saturday, September 17

"Farm-To-Table" Dinner Party

In the historic 'Ketay-Asnes Barn' 6:00-10:00 pm

A unique, local, food-centric event showcasing organic farms, seasonal meals, and sustainably managed vineyards. Guests will be treated to exquisite wines paired with farm-fresh goodness sourced from organic & biodynamic farms. The evening will include wine education and an auction of small items to benefit Audubon's conservation and education initiatives. *\$120/person. Advance tickets are required and very limited. To reserve a table for you and your guests, contact Jeff Cordulack at x239.*

Sunday, September 18

Hawkwatching & Flying Raptor ID 9:00 am-12:00 pm

As we head into the peak of migration, professional hawkwatcher, Luke Tiller, will present a slide show and field class about how to successfully identify hawks in flight, knowing the best days to visit a hawkwatch, explain U.S. hawk migration routes and share awe inspiring facts about these incredible birds. After this event, you will be as passionate about birds as he is and likely want to join our hawkwatching site for counting between Aug. 20 and Nov. 20. *\$15/person. RSVP required to the Store at x221.*



Saturday Morning Bird Walks

September 17 & 24 / October 8 & 15 • 7:00-9:00 am

Enjoy a guided bird walk with an Audubon naturalist. Meet in the main parking area. Walking shoes and binoculars &/or camera recommended. Some loaner binoculars available. *No charge, No RSVP required. Questions? Call the Nature Store at x221.*



Sunday, September 18

Upland Watershed: The Source & Filter 2:00-4:00 pm

Join Bruce Spaman, Greenwich's Tree Warden & Superintendent of Parks & Trees, when he leads a hike at Audubon Greenwich and discusses forest management and watershed conservation. *Free of charge. RSVP required to treeconserve@optonline.net. Sponsored by The Bruce Museum & The Greenwich Tree Conservancy.*

Saturday, September 24

TRIP: Fall Warblers in Central Park (NYC)

7:00 am-4:00 pm

The perfect place for birders and photographers. Central Park is renowned for good views of good birds. Travel by van from Audubon and spend the day in this birding hot spot. The group will get lunch in the park and while racking up a good number of species passing through on migration. *Space limited. \$50/person includes handouts and round-trip transportation. RSVP to Luke Tiller: luke.tiller@gmail.com.*

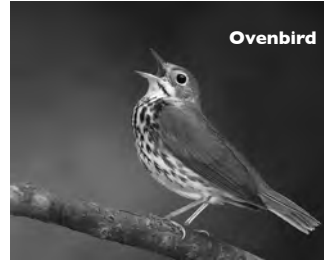


Photo by Aj. Hand

Family Pond Exploration 10:30am-12:00 pm

Search the pond's shallows with Audubon staff and get up close to the tiny creatures that call the nearby pond home. All equipment will be provided. *All ages. Space limited. RSVP to Store at x221.*

The Amazing World of Spiders 2:30-4:00 pm

Head Naturalist, Ted Gilman, will share little known insights into the world of spiders during an indoor presentation and an outdoor walk through different habitats in search for the wide variety of spiders found on this Sanctuary. *\$5/person. All ages. Cameras welcome. RSVP to Ted at x230.*

Hawk Festival & Green Bazaar

October 1 & 2 • 11:00 am-5:00 pm

Not-to-be-missed! A family-friendly, green-themed celebration of the amazing raptor migration occurring above the Center each Fall. Featuring live 'birds of prey' shows, games & activities for all ages, eco-friendly business exhibits, great food, wild hawk watching with the experts, music, and more. Check website all the details. *To be a Hawk Festival Volunteer, contact Brian at x228.*

Wednesday, October 12

Harvest Moon Hike 6:30-8:30 pm

Join a 1.5 mile hike in harvest moon light when we explore fields, forests, and the lakeshore for the sights and sounds of our wildlife neighbors. *Space is limited. \$5/person. Ages 7 & up. RSVP required to Ted at x230.*

Thursday, October 13

Peter Pyle - about Trans-Pacific Migrations 6:30-8:30 pm

Peter Pyle, from the *Institute for Bird Populations (IBP)*, will present his research on Transpacific Migration. Learn how Black-footed Albatross travel 4000 miles to feed their chicks; why turtles, tuna, and Great Whites fast; and more about the surprising journeys made by birds, insects, and bats. *\$10/adult. \$5/child. Reception will precede the lecture. RSVP to Jeff at x239.*



Black-footed albatross 7' wingspan

Green Homes, Green Buildings

Fall 2011 Lecture Series

September 15: Greening Indoor Air Quality

October 19: Green Building Rating Systems

November 17: Green Insulation & Ice Dam Prevention

December 8: Wine Cellar Design Essentials

Visit the Audubon Greenwich website for times, guest speaker details, and event sponsors. Space is limited. \$20/person. RSVPs required to Jeff at x239.

Friday, October 14

Brad Josephs - An Alaskan Adventurer 7:00-8:30 pm

Adventurer extraordinaire, Brad Josephs, will share stories and photos from his many bear-themed trips into Katmai National Park. Dan Burns will also show his best images from his August 2011 trip to Katmai N.P. *Sponsored by Dan Burns Photography. Space limited. \$10/person. Kids no charge. All ages. RSVPs required to Jeff: x239.*

Saturday, October 15

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. \$15/person. RSVP required to Ted at x230.*

Sunday, October 16

E4C: Family Breakfast & Nature Hike 9:00-10:30 am

A fun nature hike! Begin with a light breakfast at Audubon, then take the trails to Mead Lake to explore for signs of coyote, otter, songbirds or other surprises. A shorter hike will also be available. *All ages. \$25/family. RSVP required to Jeff at x239.*

TRIP: Allen's Meadows in Wilton 8:00 am-12:00 pm

Join Audubon staff for an autumn trip in search of migrating sparrows and other songbirds frequently sighted at this birding hotspot in Wilton, CT. Meet at Audubon to carpool or RSVP and meet the group in Wilton. *Ages: 10 & up. RSVP required. \$15/person. RSVP required to Brian at x221.*

Friday, October 21

FILM: Facing The Storm - about the American bison

6:00-9:00 pm

American bison once dominated the Plains, numbering in the tens of millions. This film's epic account of our tempestuous relationship with the iconic symbol of wild America thoroughly explores the future of bison in the twenty-first century. *Reception: 6-7 pm. Space limited. \$15/person. Discounts online. RSVP required to Jeff at x239.*



Saturday, October 22

The World of Falling Leaves 2:00-3:30 pm

Ever wonder what happens to all the autumn leaves? Who eats and lives in them? How migratory birds like sparrows, towhees, and thrashers benefit from them? Should people mulch or compost with them? Find out when Ted Gilman explores New England leaves and the life created by them. *All ages. RSVP to x221.*

Sunday, October 23

Nature Photo Hike: with Dan Burns 8:30-10:30 am

Take your photography to the next level during this chance to get outdoors with other photographers. Professional sports photographer, Dan Burns, will lead the hike in search of great images in this sanctuary region. *\$10/person. RSVP required to Jeff at x239.*



Friday, October 28

Enchanted Orchard 6:00-8:30 pm

An exciting night for young people when they join a tour of Audubon's Enchanted Orchard. Guests meet friendly costumed characters of woodland animals. A fun night with dinner and a live animal show will follow the Enchanted Orchard tours. *Children are encouraged to wear costumes. \$10/ person includes tours & dinner from 6-7:30 pm. Animal show starts at 7:30 pm. RSVP required to Jeff at x239.*

Saturday, October 29

TRIP: Saw-whet Owl Banding in Mohonk Preserve

6:00-10:00 pm

Come and find out what scientists are discovering about these tiny but fascinating birds. This will be an evening trip to New Paltz, NY. While nothing in life is guaranteed, this site is very productive for these diminutive owls and we expect good numbers. Rain date: October 30. *Space limited. \$50/person includes handouts and round-trip transportation. RSVP to Luke Tiller: luke.tiller@gmail.com.*

Saturday, November 12

Family Bird Watch & Project Feederwatch 2:00-3:30 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.*

Greenwich's Historical Waterfront

With Author Karen Jewell

Sunday, November 13 2:00-3:30 pm

Nestled along Connecticut's famed Gold Coast, Greenwich's storied history is well worth knowing. Drawing from her new book, *A History of the Greenwich Waterfront*, Karen Jewell's presentation will recount lost eras witnessed at Tod's Point, Great Captain Island and along the Shoreline. Books will be available in store. *All ages. Youth: no charge. \$5 per adult. RSVP to x221.*



Sunday, November 13

FILM: Nature Movie Day 3:30-5:00 pm

After a self-guided hike or history talk, enjoy hot chocolate and a nature-themed film suitable for all ages. Details about the film online. *\$5/person. Space limited. RSVP to Jeff at x239.*

Saturday, November 19

Fairchild Sanctuary Hike 1:00-3:00 pm

Come explore the varied terrain, plant and animal life, and investigate the natural happenings in Field, Forest, Pond, and River habitats found in this lovely natural preserve. Hike is approx. 1.5 miles on both level and rolling terrain. *Ages 7 & up. RSVP to store at x221.*

Programs suitable for all ages unless otherwise indicated. Register by calling 203-869-5272. Audubon Greenwich, 613 Riversville Road. <http://greenwich.audubon.org>. Programs: \$3/adult members; \$5/adult non-members; \$1.50/member children and seniors; \$3/non-member children and seniors.

STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH AUDUBON PROGRAMS! Send a blank email to: AudubonGreenwichNews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com for weekly program reminders.

KIERNAN HALL NATURE ART GALLERY

“On A Wednesday Afternoon”

An exhibition of oils on canvas

Featuring selections by Master Artist, Alex McFarlane
& Associate Artists from the Silvermine Guild of Arts

On display: September 2 to October 2, 2011

Opening reception: Friday, September 9 • 6:30-8:00 pm

Silvermine’s art exhibitions are hailed as showcases for New England talent, drawn from over 300 juried artist members. In this exhibit, the artists were selected by jury competitions at Silvermine, Carriage House in New Canaan, and Ferguson Library in Stamford.



“In Flight” by Teri DiMargo, oil on canvas

During the opening reception, guests will have the opportunity to meet the artists whose work is on display.

“From Sketch to Studio”

An African & American Wildlife Art Exhibition

Featuring Alison Nicholls

On display: December 2 to December 30, 2011

Opening reception: Saturday, December 3 • 1:00-4:00 pm

In this exhibit, which includes both African and her new North American wildlife artwork, Alison shows her original pencil & watercolor field sketches, as well as her larger watercolor and acrylic ink studio paintings. During the Opening Reception, Alison will give a 30-minute lecture starting at 2:00 pm to explain the difference between her bush-sketching and studio painting techniques. 15% of sales will benefit Audubon Greenwich and 15% will benefit African conservation projects supported by Alison.

To learn more about artwork by Alison Nicholls,
visit: www.NichollsWildlifeArt.com.



“Evening Thoughts, Zebra” acrylic ink

☆☆☆ FROM THE ☆☆☆

CAPITOL PERCH

Cast Your Vote for the Environment

Keeping Connecticut Wild Means Keeping It Local

By Sandy Breslin, Director of Governmental Affairs,
Audubon Connecticut

Longtime Speaker of the U.S. House, Thomas “Tip” O’Neill, once famously declared: “All politics is local.” His pithy comment captures a fundamental truth of our American political process. The issues that matter most to our state and federal elected officials are those that affect their home district. No matter how complicated the proposal, or how distant its potential impact, the voices that speak loudest to our lawmakers are still ours and those of our families, friends, and neighbors.

That’s a good thing because these are challenging days for the environmental and conservation issues we hold dear. The economic and budget crises facing our state and federal governments mean certain cuts to key agencies and programs like the US EPA and CT DEP (now called DEEP), challenging us to do more with less. Under the guise of jobs and the economy, longtime opponents of the environment have renewed their assaults on bedrock environmental regulations and protections with some success. In the face of these attacks, our best and most effective weapon remains our individual and collective voice.

Fortunately, in today’s wired world, communicating with our lawmakers is easy. At the State Capitol, it is still true that a dozen emails on a single issue can catapult it to the top of a lawmaker’s priority list. Emails allow us to communicate instantly and in more detail. If time permits, a typed or handwritten letter always makes a big impact. The old standards still work. A quick phone call – even when answered by a legislative aide – registers your opinion on an issue or bill and, in the case of Congress, the switchboard is open 24/7/365 days a year.

To really keep it local, nothing beats a face-to-face meeting with an elected official. Join Audubon for meetings with lawmakers in Hartford or Washington, D.C. or help Audubon Connecticut organize a local Legislative Forum event with elected officials from your town.

Most lawmakers now offer a number of options for staying in touch through email alerts, Facebook, and Twitter. Of course, nothing replaces signing up to receive Audubon Connecticut email alerts. You can also ‘Like’ Audubon Connecticut on Facebook. Our messages and postings let you know when your voice is most needed and how it can be most effective.

For ‘Audubon Advocacy’ alerts by email, visit:
www.policy.audubon.org/take-action

Or ‘Like’ Audubon Connecticut on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/AudubonCT

Annual Dragonfly & Damselfly Count – July 23, 2011

By Ted Gilman

The weather for Audubon Greenwich's annual dragonfly and damselfly count was very hot and steamy, and quickly caused the counters to wilt. Many of the dragonflies responded to these hot conditions by perching and pointing their abdomens up towards the sky. We did not record as many species and individuals as were seen on less steamy counting days in past years.



In hot weather, dragonflies like this blue dasher perch and point their abdomens towards the sky to minimize body area exposed to the sun and thus lessen the sun's heating effect.

Despite the torrid conditions, our counting team still located an interesting array of dragonflies and damselflies, including a new species for our count – the Prince Bastkettail found flying near Mead Lake. For the complete 2011 list, see box.

Special thanks to Carolyn Hartel and Marty Barris for braving the hot, steamy conditions to help conduct this year's survey. We hope that next year's count weather won't be quite so hot and will enable us to do a more complete survey.

Damselfly & Dragonfly Count

Damselflies:

Ebony Jewelwing: 3
Violet Dancer: 3
Fragile Forktail: 2

Dragonflies:

Common Green Darner: 4
Prince Baskettail: 1
Eastern Pondhawk: 5
Slaty Skimmer: 1
Widow Skimmer: 9
Twelve-spotted Skimmer: 1
Blue Dasher: 43
Eastern Amberwing: 9
Common Whitetail: 4
Black Saddlebags: 4
Meadowfly/Meadowhawk (unidentified): 2

Total Individuals Observed: 91

Butterfly Count yields 22 species

By Ted Gilman

Weather conditions provided a good day for counting butterflies with temperatures in the 80's, a mix of sun and clouds and light winds. We had a nice mix of species, including a Common Buckeye, which only shows up occasionally at the Audubon Center.

Our species list reflected the variety of larval food and habitats on our sanctuary, although we did not have as many individuals of several species as we have had in other years. We did have four monarch butterflies which is a medium number for us. This was probably a reflection of our healthy population of several species of milkweeds, which are the required food for their caterpillars.

Butterfly Count Results - July 9, 2011

	Audubon	Nichols Preserve	Total
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	1	0	1
Spicebush Swallowtail	1	0	1
Cabbage White	11	0	11
Orange Sulphur	6	4	10
Banded Hairstreak	5	0	5
Eastern Tailed Blue	1	2	3
Spring Azure	1	0	1
Great Spangled Fritillary	8	0	8
Pearl Crescent	12	3	15
Question Mark	1	0	1
Eastern Comma	0	2	2
American Lady	1	0	1
Red Admiral	1	0	1
Common Buckeye	1	0	1
Common Wood Nymph	2	0	2
Monarch	2	2	4
Silver-spotted Skipper	9	0	9
Northern Broken Dash	4	0	4
Little Glassywing	1	0	1
Dun Skipper	4	0	4

Additional butterflies sighted but not identified to species:

Anglewing sp.	1	0	
Skippers	4	0	
Brown	0	1	
Spreadwing Skipper (possibly Common Sootywing)	0	2	
Total Butterflies	77	16	93
Total Species	19	7	22

FARM-TO-TABLE DINNER IN THE BARN



In the historic 'Ketay-Asnes Barn'
Saturday, September 17

6:00-10:00 pm

Join us for a unique, local, food-centric event showcasing organic farms, seasonal meals, and sustainably managed vineyards. Guests will be treated to exquisite wines paired with farm-fresh goodness sourced from organic & biodynamic farms. The evening will include wine education and an auction of small items to benefit Audubon's conservation and education initiatives. \$120/person. Advance tickets are required and very limited. To reserve a table for you and your guests, contact Jeff Cordulack at x239.

SAVE THE DATES

Sept. 9 – Delamar Cocktail Party

Sept. 17 – Farm to Table Dinner

Oct. 1 & 2 – Hawk Festival

Oct. 13 – Trans-Pacific Migration

Nov. 13 – Greenwich Waterfront History

SUPPORT AUDUBON WHILE SHOPPING FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Shopping in Audubon Greenwich's Nature Store supports our conservation mission and helps you find the gifts you need. The Store has a great selection of bird feeders, field guides, books, toys, and a wide selection of binoculars and spotting scopes. The Store can special order many other items you are looking for. To order a special gift, call Brian O'Toole at x221.

FALL 2011

Natural History Notes

By *Ted Gilman, Education Specialist*

The shortening of autumn days bringing the restlessness of animals to move or change in preparation for winter's chill and challenges; insect-eating warblers, flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, grosbeaks, sapsuckers, and orioles, by the tens of thousands, flying across the night-time skies, using the stars as their guide to their winter homes in the American tropics; a family scanning the disc of the harvest moon with binoculars or a spotting scope to spy the fleeting images of night time migrants, while listening for their short call notes floating down from the dark skies; dragonflies with transparent wings that sparkle in the autumn sunlight, flashback and forth across meadows in pursuit of small insects, while keeping alert for the fast-moving forms of hungry, dragonfly-eating falcons; an osprey soaring upward on a September thermal beginning its long southward journey, perhaps to Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela or some tributary of the Amazon to fish away the winter months before



returning north to its nest again; brightly-colored autumn leaves drifting down to add another life-giving layer to the forest floor, sheltering next spring's wildflower potential and nourishing an immense population of millipedes, sowbugs, and snails, which in turn feed song birds such as thrushes, sparrows and towhees; bluefish, striped bass and other fish swimming beneath the waves of the slowly cooling waters of Long Island

Sound, beginning their retreat to warmer southern waters for the winter season; horned grebes with bright eyes the color of rubies, flying down out of the northern skies to spend the winter diving for small fish and crustaceans just offshore beyond the breaker zone; fertile bumblebee, yellowjacket, and bald-faced hornet queens seeking winter hiding places beneath logs, tree bark, or other sites to wait out the drifting snows and sparkling ice until the return of spring's warmth urges them to begin new generations of their kinds. . .

Be a "Teacher Naturalist" on the Audubon Trails

TRAINING DATES: SEPTEMBER 13, 15, 20, 22

Throughout the year, school and scout groups come to study nature and learn science while hiking Audubon trails. Join our naturalist training sessions and observe classes. Soon you will be on the trails sharing your passion for nature with young people.

Please contact Lindsey at 203-869-5272 x235 for more information about this special opportunity with Audubon.