



Audubon & Partners Launch Young Birders Club in Connecticut

Realizing there was a great deal of interest from younger birders and hawk watchers, the Audubon staff in Greenwich launched a new club for Connecticut's young birders on October 16, 2010. Similar clubs already exist in New York, Vermont, Ohio, and other states and provide a great opportunity for both new and more experienced young birders to teach and learn from each other. When several other organizations expressed support for the idea and a desire to be involved, the staff got the ball rolling.

The kick-off event was a great success, with eleven members, ages eight through 15 joining us for the inaugural meeting and walk here at Audubon Greenwich. The club was extremely privileged to have legendary birder and author Kenn Kaufman join our meeting and lead our initial trip. On their walk, Kenn fielded the huge numbers of questions from the kids, which ranged from separating the calls of White and Red-breasted Nuthatch to the decision-making process on English bird names at the International Ornithological Union. Their excitement and enthusiasm for the birds they saw and their time with Kenn was the perfect start to this initiative!

The Connecticut Young Birders Club will welcome anyone under the age of 18 who wants to learn more about



Members of the Connecticut Young Birders Club scanning the tidal salt marshes at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison.

birds, hone their birding skills, and chase those rarities. The goal is to help the members lead the club themselves and make their own decisions about communication and activities. At the same time, Audubon will work with other birding groups and organizations to schedule and lead monthly field trips, which will be planned for areas throughout the entire state of Connecticut and neighboring

New York to make the club as accessible as possible.

Audubon is collaborating with several groups throughout the state to make this club a success, including the Connecticut Audubon Society, the Hartford Audubon Society, and the Connecticut Ornithological Association. Trip leaders from each of these groups will help provide great experiences for the young birders in the months ahead and a Yahoo List-serve Group has been established to keep members up-to-date on field trips, bird sightings, and bird-related discussions. Future field trips may involve overnight or weekend trips (parent volunteers willing!).

People interested in joining the Connecticut Young Birders Club or volunteering as a trip leader can contact Brian O'Toole at botoole@audubon.org or 203-869-5272 x228. Please note: Club meetings and trips are only open to birders under 18 and their parents or guardians.

Winter Vacation Camp

No plans for February Vacation? Why not spend it experiencing winter at Audubon?

Campers in Grades K-3 may sign up for one, two, or all four fun-filled days of hikes, games, and crafts.

Campers in Grades 4-6 may sign up to participate in Friday's Great Backyard Bird Count and enjoy getting out around Greenwich.

Pack a snack and a lunch, and be prepared to be outside in all kinds of wintery weather conditions.

GRADES K-3: Monday, February 14-Thursdays, February 17 • 9:30 am-2:30 pm

Campers will enjoy hikes, games, crafts, and nature activities at Audubon Greenwich.

GRADES 4-6: Friday, February 18 ONLY • 9:30 am-2:30 pm

Campers will travel to two Greenwich locations in search of winter birds in support of the Great Backyard Bird Count.

Data collected will help scientists and bird enthusiasts determine where birds are across the continent.

Members: \$55/day or non-members: \$65/day. Registration forms online. Call Camp Director Lindsey DeVito for more information at 203-869-5272 x235.

AUDUBON GREENWICH NATURE PROGRAM CALENDAR

W I N T E R 2 0 1 0 - 2 0 1 1

Saturday, December 4

Woody Plants in Winter 1:00-2:30 pm

After leaves have fallen, can you tell a maple from an oak, an ash from a hickory, or a grape vine from the Oriental bittersweet vine? Come learn basic identification skills, as well as natural and cultural history, as we sort out some of our common trees, shrubs and vines in our Audubon woodlands. *Ages 7 & up. RSVP to Ted: x230.*

1ST SUNDAY BIRD WALKS AT GREENWICH POINT

Dec. 5 / Jan. 2 / Feb. 6 • Starting at 9:00 am

Join experts from the community with spotting scopes to help identify wintering birds in the rich variety of habitats at Greenwich Point. Beginners are welcome. Simply wear warm clothes, bring binoculars and meet at the second concession stand. *No RSVP required. Call Wild Wings for info: 203-637-9822.*

Saturday, December 11

Family Winter Bird Watch 12:00-1:30 pm

Learn about winter birds while helping to identify and count them for Project Feederwatch. Results are recorded with Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology and this is an ideal way to learn how to do Project Feederwatch at home with your family. *All ages. RSVP to Ted: x230.*

KAKAPO PARROT DAY

A lecture & a film about the world's rarest parrot

Saturday, December 11 2:00-5:00 pm

On remote Codfish Island, off the southern coast of New Zealand, live the last ninety-one kakapo parrots on earth. These trusting, flightless, and beautiful birds are the largest and most unusual parrots on earth. Come out in support of kakapo conservation while meeting Sy Montgomery, author of *Kakapo Rescue: Saving The World's Strangest Parrot*, and viewing the new 77-minute film, *The Unnatural History of the Kakapo*. *Talk: 2:00 pm/Signing: 3:00 pm/Film: 3:30pm. Suggested donation: \$10 to be sent to the Kakapo Recovery Project. RSVP to Jeff: x239.*



Sunday, December 12

Musica Plenti's 'Winter Solstice Concert'

Starting at 3:00 pm

Usher in the Solstice with a concert encompassing a wide range of seasonal music and newly composed works by well-known composers Alma Hamilton, Robert Puleo and Constance Walton. www.musicaplenti.org. *All ages. Suggested donation: \$20. RSVPs appreciated to Joe or Kate Humphrey at (203) 637-3058.*

Saturday, December 18

'Bird Count' Scouting Trip 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Join Audubon bird watchers for a survey of coastal and inland bird hot spots in preparation for the Annual Christmas Bird Count the following day. Bring binoculars and warm clothes. Loaner binoculars and field guides will be available. *Ages 8 & up. RSVP to Store: x221.*

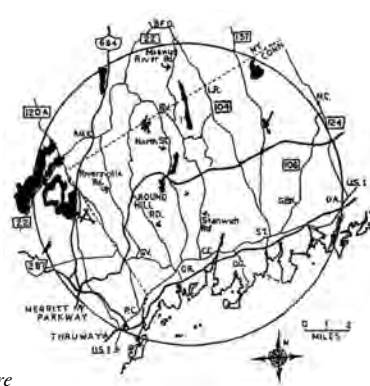
Sunday, December 19

111th Annual

Christmas Bird Count

Pre-dawn-5:00 pm

Join dozens of Audubon volunteers in search of birds throughout the 15-mile count circle during this Audubon tradition. Use a form (enclosed) to count at home or sign up to join a team for all or part of the day. The annual compilation meeting & dinner will follow the count. *Call Brian O'Toole at x221 to join a counting team and learn more about the CBC at www.audubon.org/bird/cbc.*



Saturday, January 8

TRIP: Great Meadows IBA with Brian O'Toole

8:00 am-2:00 pm

Visit great sanctuaries in Stratford for a survey for over-wintering ducks, hawks, owls, and other winter specialties. Dress warmly, bring binoculars, and a lunch. Extra binoculars and spotting scopes will be provided by the leader. *\$15 per person. RSVP early for a seat in Audubon's van. RSVP to Store: x221.*

Sunday, January 9

Exploring the World of Owls

3:30-5:30 pm

Learn about our local owls and what owls like to eat by dissecting an owl pellet. Afterwards, guests can take a guided walk to listen and call for our resident owls. *Ages 5 & up. Space is very limited. RSVP required to Store: x221.*



ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE FORUM: Environmental Priorities for Connecticut's General Assembly

Wednesday, January 12 • 7:45-9:30 am

Audubon Greenwich, the Greenwich Land Trust, and the Greenwich Conservation Commission invite you to the only legislative forum in town focused solely on the environment! With State Representatives: Livvy R. Floren (R-149), Lile R. Gibbons (R-150), Fred Camillo (R.151); State Senator: L. Scott Frantz (R-136); and Audubon Connecticut's Director for Government Affairs, Sandy Breslin. *No charge. Coffee: 7:45 am. Forum starts at 8:00 am. Greenwich Town Hall Meeting Room, 101 Field Point Road. RSVP to Jeff: x239.*

Saturday, January 15

Family-friendly Bird Count: 'Project FeederWatch'

1:00-2:30 pm

Winter is a wonderful time for our families to share the joy of birds in our own backyards. Come learn about watching and feeding winter birds and how your family can be 'Citizen Scientists' by reporting your regular backyard bird feeder observations to Cornell University. *All ages. RSVP to Store: x221.*

Saturday, January 15

Winter Moonlight Walk 6:30-8:00 pm

Hike the moonlit woods to the lake shore at Mead Lake. Listen for ice shifting, hooting owls, coyotes, or other wildlife. Dress warmly with soft (quiet) outer layers. *Ages 7 & up. RSVP to Ted: x230.*

Saturday, January 22

Old Pasture Trail Hike 1:00-3:00 pm

Come along as we explore this 1.5 mile eastern trail loop away from the center for over-wintering birds and signs of wildlife activity from mice, shrews, and sparrows to deer, fox and coyote. *Ages 6 & up. RSVP to Store: x221.*

Saturday, January 22

E4C: Family Breakfast Event 9:00-10:30 am

"E4C: Executives for Conservation" is a special series of events for families with younger children. Guests enjoy a family-friendly breakfast followed by a fun animal-themed program in Audubon's Education Center. *\$25 per family. Space is always limited for these events. To stay updated, request special "E4C event invites" & be the first to know the details and have a chance to RSVP early. To sign up, email Jeff at jcordulack@audubon.org.*

AUDUBON GREENWICH'S WINTER FILM FESTIVAL

"End of the Line"

A film about unsustainable fishing practices

Friday, January 28 6:00-9:00 pm

This is the first major feature documentary film to reveal the devastating effect that global over-fishing is having on fish stocks and the health of our oceans. Filmed over two years, the film follows the indefatigable investigative reporter Charles Clover as he confronts the politicians and celebrity restaurateurs who exhibit little regard for the damage their policies – and their menus – are doing to the oceans. 90 minutes. *Space limited. \$15 for adults includes a wine & cheese reception from 6-7 pm. Under 21 years old: \$5. RSVPs required to Jeff: x239.*



"InGREEDients"

A film about the many products added to foods

Friday, February 25 6:00-9:00 pm

Do you know what partially hydrogenated oil is and what else is added to our food? Learn from leading researchers and the most respected scientists and healthcare professionals in the world when cutting-edge animations entertain, inspire, and at times frighten audiences of all ages. <http://ingredientsmovie.com>. *Space limited. \$15 for adults includes a wine & cheese reception from 6-7 pm. Under 21 years old: \$5. RSVPs required to Jeff: x239.*



Saturday, January 29

Insects in Winter Walk 1:00-2:30 pm

Learn how insects survive winter's cold and help us search out some of the hardy insects which are active on the snow and along our winter-chilled Byram river, as well as those hidden away under logs, tree bark, and other retreats. *RSVP to Store: x221.*

Saturday, February 5

'EagleFest'

on the Hudson River

9:00 am-4:00 pm

Visit the Hudson River in search of the magnificent bald eagles that spend winter along these icy waters. During this special day, guests enjoy warming tents, exhibits, live eagle programs, and pre-register for eagle-watching bus tours leaving from Croton Point Park. *For details: call (914) 762-2912 or visit: www.teatown.org. Snow date: Feb. 6.*





Winter Vacation Camp

February 14-17: Grades K-3
February 18: Grades 4-6



Explore the winter season and have fun learning how plants and animals survive New England's winter conditions. Sign up for single or multiple days. *For details, visit the Audubon Greenwich website or contact Ted at x230.*

13TH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

February 18-21

The GBBC is a four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent.

Saturday, February 19

GBBC walk with Ted Gilman 1:00-2:30 pm

Join Audubon Naturalist Ted Gilman for this citizen science effort when he checks the bird feeders and takes a short walk in the meadows and forest to ID and count birds. Afterwards, return to the center for hot chocolate and report the bird sightings to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology via the internet.

All ages. RSVP to Ted: x230 or visit www.birdsource.org/gbbc to learn how to participate at home.



Common Grackles are frequent visitors to feeders at Audubon Greenwich. Stop by our Nature Store for bird seed, new feeders, and other supplies.

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.

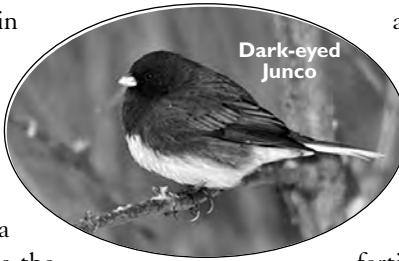
STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH AUDUBON PROGRAMS! Send a blank email to: AudubonGreenwichNews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com for weekly program reminders.

WINTER 2010-2011

Natural History Notes

By Ted Gilman, Education Specialist

A winter wren, like a tiny, feathered, fidgety 'jack in the box', constantly appearing and disappearing in a brush pile, stone wall, or log pile as it searches for slumbering spiders or insects, keeping up its steady piping notes all the while; a midnight coyote chorus responding to the local fire whistle and adding to the special spell of a winter's night as Orion the Hunter patrols across the blue-black sky; the hissing sound of cross-country skis on snow as you venture forth on a winter's day to seek out the latest news in the animal world, as recorded in the snowy prints of mice and squirrels, voles and rabbits, and the foot and wing prints of the predators pursuing them; a sudden streak of light across the night sky announces the return of the annual mid-December light show of the Geminid meteor shower, bright reminder of comet tails from the past; the bright scarlet glow of winterberry holly berries in late afternoon sun telling the robins, mockingbirds, cedar waxwings, and bluebirds of their availability for survival food; a rustling beneath the snow in an apple orchard reminds us of the hidden world of runways as the meadow voles hide from fox, coyote, owl and hawk; deep blue moonlight shadows of the delicate structures of tree branches spread across the January snow; a river otter alternately running and sliding on its belly



across the ice, as it travels from one open fishing hole to the next; dense clusters of birch seeds, held on branch tips high above the forest floor, attract wintering goldfinches and juncos, as well as visitors from the far north such as pine siskins and redpolls, which irrupt southward when their normal winter food supplies have failed; fertilized queen yellow jackets, bald faced hornets,

and paper wasps lie cold and dormant in their winter hiding places, beneath logs or stones, or in cracks in trees or building walls, as they await the returning warmth of spring and the time to begin the construction of their paper mache communal homes; a female great-horned owl nestling low over her eggs to keep the February snow and cold off her future offspring; goldeneye ducks, seemingly unmindful of the frigid waters, constantly surface diving in Long Island Sound to harvest the small crabs, snails and mussels along the rocky bottom; snow buntings, dressed in a mix of buff, white, and black scamper about among the windblown seaside grasses, biding their time until they're ready to return to the arctic tundra to raise another generation; brilliant green twigs of sassafras, emerging from the snow-covered ground, providing hope for those in search of summer's return...

 Audubon GREENWICH
613 Riversville Road
Greenwich, CT 06831

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SAVE THE DATES

- **December 11**
Kakapo Parrot Day
- **January 12**
Legislative Forum
- **January 28**
Film: 'End of the Line'
- **February 25**
Film: 'INGREDIENTS'

Backyard & Feeder Reporting Form

Christmas Bird Count Sunday, December 19, 2010



**Black-capped
 Chickadee**

Are you a bird lover, bird enthusiast, or beginning birder?

Do you have a bird feeder in your yard and would like to participate in the Christmas backyard and feederwatch event?

If so, then please join us for our annual Christmas Bird Count!

The Christmas Bird Count covers the entire 24-hour period from midnight to midnight on Sunday, December 19, 2010. This offers individuals a special opportunity to go out in the darkness on a pre-dawn search to listen for owls or come out at daylight to count birds by sight and

sound in the field. To sign up, please call Brian O'Toole at 203-869-5272 x221.

Counters who prefer to stay home and conduct a count at their own feeders and yards can use this form to report results.

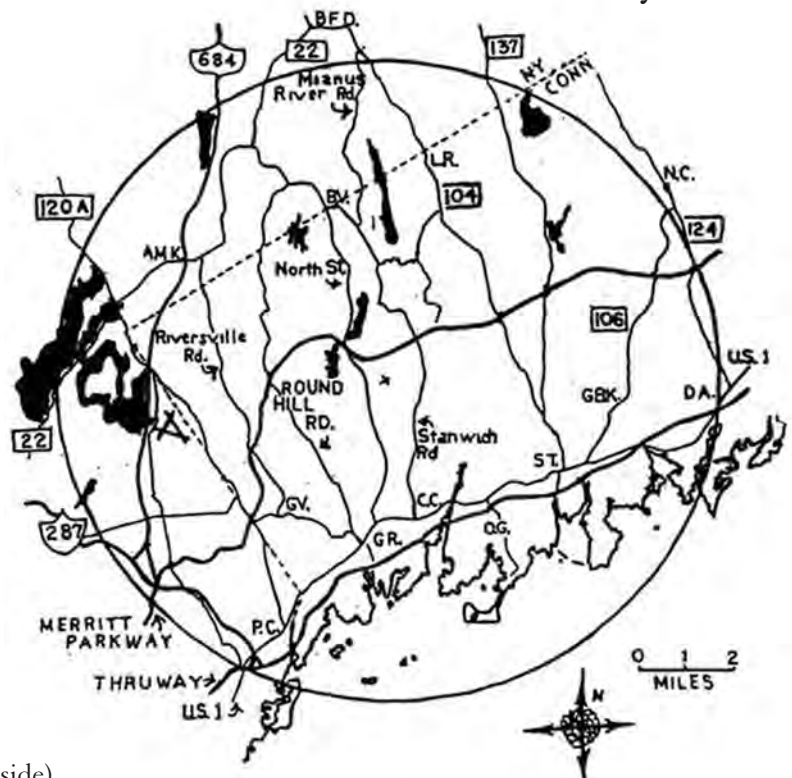
HOW TO PARTICIPATE

**1. Count Date: December 19, 2010.
 Record all bird observations made in the Greenwich-Stamford territory.**

This is an important policy that ensures the quality and usefulness of the data collected. Please contact Audubon to find a count in your area.

- The Greenwich-Stamford territory is a 15 mile diameter circle covering 67 square miles in area.
 - The centerpoint is defined at 41° 05'N, 73° 37'W, or approximately 1/2 mile south of the Merritt Parkway and 1/2 mile east of North Street in Greenwich.
 - The territory includes:
 - Greenwich
 - Stamford
 - western Darien
 - western New Canaan
 - Byram Lake in North Castle and Bedford, NY
 - Silver Lake in Harrison, NY
 - eastern North Manursing Island in Rye, NY.
- (continued on other side)

Greenwich-Stamford Christmas Bird Count Territory



2. Each time you see a species, count the number of individuals in view at one time.

To ensure that your Christmas Bird Count data can be used for scientific research, each participant must count birds in the exact same way.

3. If you later see a larger number of individuals of a species in view at one time, revise your count to reflect the larger number.

Do not add this figure to the previous total.

4. Submit only the largest number of individuals of each species in view at one time.

By following this method, you will never report an individual bird more than once.

5. Submit this form by December 24.

Please mail to:

Gary Palmer, 34 Field Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807

(203) 661-4897 or email:

GEJLPALMER@YAHOO.COM



BACKYARD AND FEEDER CHECK LIST



December 19, 2010

# of Individuals	Species
_____	Wild Turkey
_____	Sharp-shinned Hawk
_____	Cooper's Hawk
_____	Red-tailed Hawk
_____	Rock Pigeon
_____	Mourning Dove
_____	Red-bellied Woodpecker
_____	Downy Woodpecker
_____	Pileated Woodpecker
_____	Blue Jay
_____	American Crow
_____	Black-capped Chickadee
_____	Tufted Titmouse

# of Individuals	Species
_____	White-breasted Nuthatch
_____	Red-breasted Nuthatch
_____	Carolina Wren
_____	American Robin
_____	Northern Mockingbird
_____	European Starling
_____	Eastern Towhee
_____	American Tree Sparrow
_____	Field Sparrow
_____	Fox Sparrow
_____	Song Sparrow
_____	White-throated Sparrow
_____	Dark-eyed Junco

# of Individuals	Species
_____	Northern Cardinal
_____	Red-winged Blackbird
_____	Common Grackle
_____	Brown-headed Cowbird
_____	Purple Finch
_____	House Finch
_____	Pine Siskin
_____	American Goldfinch
_____	Common Redpoll
_____	House Sparrow
_____	Other (please specify)_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please fill out the information below

Last name _____ First name _____

Feeder Address _____

Hours watching feeder _____

Telephone _____ email _____

Please mail this form by December 24 to: Gary Palmer, 34 Field Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807 • Phone: (203) 661-4897 or email: GEJLPALMER@YAHOO.COM