



Audubon Salutes Gary Palmer – 40 Years As Count Compiler

The National Audubon Society greatly appreciates Gary Palmer's four decades of commitment to the Christmas Bird Count. Each year, he has reliably coordinated the count and reported the sightings to Audubon. Thanks to him, this important 'citizen science' effort has provided accurate, long-term data for bird conservation initiatives nationwide. The following are a few of his reflections on his years counting birds in the field. *Our hats off to Gary for a job well done!*



While not birding, Gary Palmer is an avid fisherman. Pictured here in the 1960's with his catch and in 2008 with Falkland Island penguins.

Memories: 40 Years of Counting & Compiling

by Gary Palmer, November 23, 2011

My wife Jane and I have been involved in the Greenwich/Stamford Count for so many years. It has been most interesting to see the changes that have taken place. For example, we no longer find Ruffed Grouse but we have an abundance of Turkey. Years ago, we did not find Ravens or Black Vultures. I also remember spotting the first Red-bellied Woodpecker seen on a count and ever since then their numbers have been increasing.

As compiler it is rewarding to document changes in bird populations and share the excitement about unusual finds. Of course, unusual birds need documentation and that is interesting to follow up on. For instance, a Blackburnian Warbler was found by the Macauleys on Stanwich Road. This was the only sighting in the U.S. except for one in southern Texas. I followed up the next day and saw the bird for a few seconds before it flew off. Without a photo to document it, Linda Macauley and I drew pictures as best we could and submitted them. The find was accepted and noted as "well documented."

Thanks to those who have co-compiled with me these 40 years including Joe Zeranski, Tom Baptist, Pat Bailey and now Brian O'Toole who I hope someday will be writing about his 40 years of compiling.



Greenwich Bird Count Turns 100!

December 18, 2011

100 years ago in Greenwich, on a chilly December day, local birders went afield to record their sightings for the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The counting continues today and we invite everyone to join the tradition! Count birds with an Audubon group or count at home. To RSVP or for Backyard & Feeder Reporting Forms, call Ted Gilman 203-869-5272 x230.

Happy Holidays from Audubon Greenwich

by Karen Dixon, Center Director



The holiday season offers us the opportunity to celebrate our conservation successes and reflect on the benefits of our work – from the 150 bird and other wildlife species that rely on our sanctuaries to the more than 10,000 school-age children that participate in Audubon Greenwich's vibrant nature education programs each year.

Now, more than ever, we need your support. Your tax-deductible gift will strengthen our conservation efforts, protect birds and their habitats, and open more children's eyes to the wonders of nature. You can help make this a great year for the future of our wildlife and our community. Please give today!



Winter Vacation Adventures



February 14-15 & February 21-22

Sign up and explore the winter season with Audubon's nature experts. Children will play outdoors, enjoy games, and make great crafts with new friends, all while learning how wildlife weathers winter's tough conditions.

Grades K-5. 9:30 am-3:30 pm. \$65/day; \$75 for nonmembers. Sign up for one or all days. All registration information & details online. Call James at x224 or Ted at x230.

AUDUBON GREENWICH NATURE PROGRAM CALENDAR

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

Saturday, December 10

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

Come explore the eastern woods, the old fields, and the shores of Mead Lake on a one and a half mile hike to seek out winter birds, animal tracks and other evidence of wildlife activity. *All ages. RSVP to Ted at x230.*

Saturday, December 17

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

Join experienced Audubon birders for a scouting trip at local coastal and inland birding areas in preparation for the Annual Christmas Bird Count the next day. Meet at Audubon Greenwich. Bring binoculars and warm clothes. Loaner binoculars and field guides will be available. *Ages 8 & up. RSVP to Store at x221.*



Black-capped Chickadee

Saturday, December 17

Family Birding & "Christmas Bird Count"

Practice Session 2:00-3:30 pm

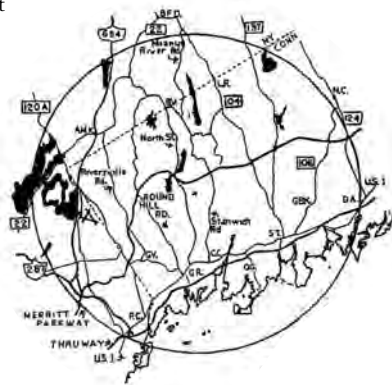
Get out and enjoy a bird class with Ted Gilman. He teaches about the many birds here for winter and explains how to be a 'citizen scientist' by counting birds at home and sending your 'data' to Audubon's scientists. Just in time, too. The next day is the Christmas Bird Count (Dec 18), the Great Backyard Bird Count (Feb. 17-20), and Project FeederWatch runs all winter long. Call Ted anytime to learn more about these great family activities that can be done at home or in the community. *All ages. RSVP to Ted at x230.*

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT:

A Greenwich Tradition since 1911

Sunday, December 18, 2011

100 years ago in Greenwich, locals picked up binoculars and joined the Christmas Bird Count (CBC), one of the oldest 'citizen science' projects in the world. This important bird research project relies on volunteers (with a range of skill levels) who count all the birds they see in one day. The count happens in two ways. Many sign up for all or part of the day with a 'count team' in the field. Others, who live within Audubon Greenwich's 15-mile wide count circle, can volunteer to count in their backyards and send the results on a CBC Reporting Form to the local Count Captain, Brian O'Toole. The data then gets compiled and sent to bird researchers and scientists worldwide. So start a new family tradition that will make a real difference. *All ages & skill levels welcome. For details about signing up, call Brian at x221.*



YOUR ULTIMATE

ENJOY MEMBER SAVINGS!

Nature Gift Shop

Great Nature-Inspired Gifts for the nature lovers in your life!

Shop at Audubon Greenwich for books, nature guides, feeders, seed, nature-inspired jewelry, binoculars and spotting scopes, and much more!

Your purchase at the Nature Store helps support Audubon's conservation programs.

Can't decide? Need a special gift? Have a bird feeding station? We're here to help! Call Brian O'Toole, the Nature Store Manager & Volunteer Coordinator at 203-869-5272 x221.

STORE HOURS:

Tues-Sat. 9 am-5 pm • Sundays 12-5 pm • Closed Mondays

1ST SUNDAY BIRD WALKS AT GREENWICH POINT

Jan. 1 / Feb. 5 / March 4 • 9:00-11:00 am

A monthly bird walk along the Long Island Sound shore. Leaders will bring spotting scopes and help everyone locate and ID wintering birds in the rich variety of habitats at Greenwich Point. All ages and beginners welcome. Held in collaboration with Wild Wings, Bruce Museum and Audubon Greenwich. Meet at the second concession stand. Wear warm clothes and bring binoculars. *No charge or RSVP required. Questions? Call Cynthia Ehlinger at 203-413-6756 or Meredith Sampson at 203-637-9822.*

Saturday, January 7

TRIP: Coastal Birding at the Edith Read Sanctuary 8:00 am-12:00 pm

Rise and shine for a survey of over-wintering ducks, herons, shorebirds, hawks, and other birds frequenting Read Sanctuary and Playland Lake in Rye, NY. Spotting scopes will be provided by the leader. Dress warmly and bring binoculars. *\$15/person. RSVP required to Ted at x230. Sign up for a spot in Audubon's van or join the carpool. Loaner binoculars are available.*

Saturday, January 7

Averting the Climate Crisis: with Peter Libre 4:00-5:30 pm

Ring in the new year with an afternoon presentation about estimating our carbon footprint, climate issues, and the relationship of health to both. Learn how to transform your way of living and improve your personal, planetary and fiscal well being. Peter Libre, trained by Al Gore's Climate Reality Project, is a Columbia University graduate performing 350 eye surgeries a year while living a low carbon lifestyle. He bikes 2,500 miles a year, keeps chickens, and grows vegetables. With solar hot water and electricity, good insulation, and a woodstove, his family's utility bills are \$25 a month. *\$5/adult. Youth are free. RSVP required to Jeff at x239. Snow date: Jan. 14.*

Saturday, January 7

Winter Moonlight Walk

6:30-8:00 pm

Come join us as we hike to Mead lake to enjoy the moonlit woods and lakeshore and listen for ice shifting, hooting owls, coyotes, or other wildlife. Dress warmly with soft, quiet outer layers. *\$5 per person. Ages 8 & up. RSVP required to Ted at x230.*



coyote

Saturday, January 14

Family Bird-watch: Lifestyles of the Birds of Winter 1:00-2:30 pm

A family-friendly class about how birds like chickadees, nuthatches, and woodpeckers survive & thrive in winter's wonderland. Also, guests can help do the weekly bird count for Project FeederWatch while learning how the family can do these bird counts at home. *RSVPs appreciated to Ted Gilman at x230.*

Saturday, January 21

Hillside Trail Hike 1:00-3:00 pm

Come along as we explore this 1.5 mile western trail loop away from the center for over-wintering birds and signs of wildlife activity from mice, shrews, and squirrels to deer, fox and coyote. *Ages 7 & up. RSVP to Store at x221.*

Saturday, January 28

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

Learn how insects survive winter's cold. Search for some hardy insects known to be active on the snow and along the winter-chilled Byram River. We will also search for insects hidden away under logs, tree bark, and other winter retreats. *Ages 5 & up. RSVP to Store at x221.*

Saturday, February 4

Hudson River 'Eagle Fest'

9:00 am-4:00 pm

Visit Croton Point Park on the Hudson River in NY to scan its icy waters for wintering bald eagles during this annual celebration of Bald Eagles. Highlights include warming tents along the river, eagle conservation exhibits, live eagle presentations, and eagle-watching bus tours. Or pick-up a self-guided Eagle Tour map for all the best places to see eagles in the winter. Note: Bus & Show tickets tend to sell out. *For tickets, visit: <http://www.teatown.org>. (Snow date: Feb. 5.)*



bald eagle

AUDUBON GREENWICH'S WINTER FILM FESTIVAL

"Mother Nature's Child"

Growing Outdoors in the Media Age

Friday, January 20 6:00-9:00 pm

Mother Nature's Child explores nature's powerful role in children's health and development through the experience of toddlers, children in middle childhood and adolescents. With interviews with experts like Richard Louv, author of Last Child in the Woods, the film asks: Why do children need unstructured time outside? What is the place of risk-taking in healthy child development? How is play a form of learning? How can city kids connect with nature? Following the film, there will be a short discussion with a guest speaker from the Connecticut Outdoor & Environmental Education Association. *\$15/person. RSVP required to Jeff at x239. Pre-film Reception at 6:00 pm & Film at 7:15 pm. Snow Date: Jan. 27.*

"American Meat"

A film & panel discussion

Saturday, January 28 4:00-7:00 pm

American Meat is a solutions-oriented macroscopic documentary surveying the current state of the U.S. meat industry. Featuring dozens of farmers across America, the film aims to be an even-handed look at animal husbandry. *\$15/person. RSVP required to Jeff at x239. Film at 4:00, followed by discussion & reception. (Snow Date: Jan. 29)*

"La Clé des champs"

(The key fields)

Saturday, February 4 5:00-7:30 pm

In the French countryside, a young boy discovers a pond outside the village which soon becomes his secret Eden. He returns, fascinated, day after day, and discovers a whole unknown world, populated by strange creatures. Then one day, a little girl becomes his accomplice and the two explore this secret paradise. Through vivid imagery and a great story, the filmmakers take us on an adventure into the heart of an ecosystem close to us, yet totally unknown to us. This event is sponsored by Focus On French Cinema & Alliance Française of Greenwich. *All ages. \$15/adult. \$10/child. RSVP required to Jeff at x239.*

Winter Vacation Adventures

February 14-15 & February 21-22

Sign up and explore the winter season with Audubon's experts. They will enjoy short nature hikes, learn how wildlife weathers winter's tough conditions, and have fun making crafts with new friends. Sign up for one or all the days. *For Grades K-5, \$65 per day. (\$75 for non-members) Registration forms & details are online. Questions? Call James at x224 or Ted at x230.*

Saturday, February 18

Great Backyard Bird Count: a 'training session' 1:00-2:30 pm

A great way to get the kids involved with science that matters, the Great Backyard Bird Count (February 17-20) is a nationwide 'citizen science' effort to research where the birds are in late winter. Count at home, in parks or neighborhoods. On Feb. 18, come with Audubon Greenwich staff when they check the bird feeding area and take a walk to count birds. Then, return to the center and report the data to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology via the internet. *Fun for all ages. RSVP to Ted at x230. To learn more, visit www.birdsource.org.*

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.

Backyard & Feeder Reporting Form

Christmas Bird Count Sunday, December 18, 2011



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 18, 2011. 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.

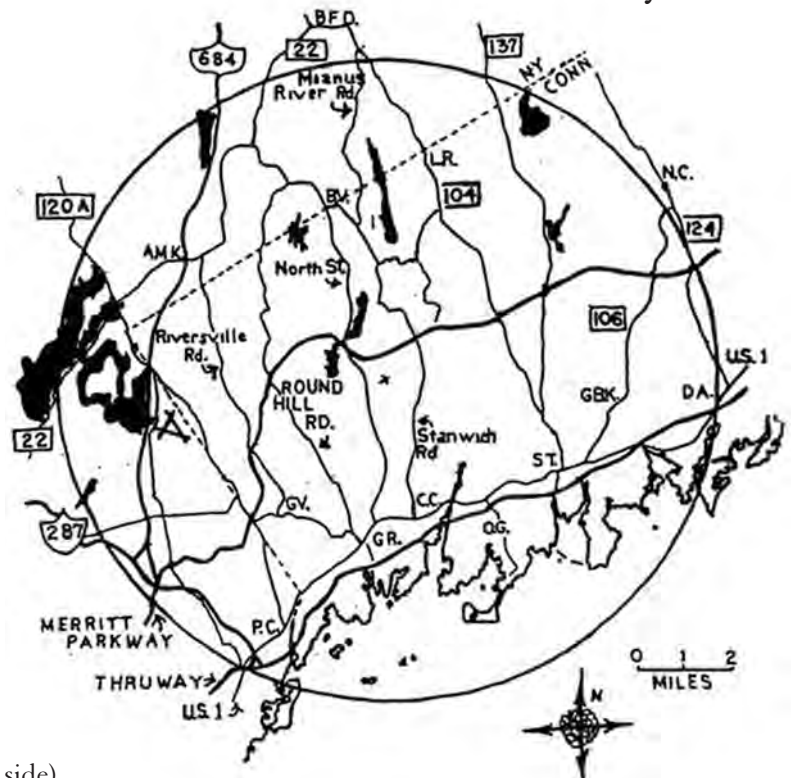
HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1. Count Date: December 18, 2011.
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 18, 2011

# 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

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Your purchase at the Nature Store helps support Audubon's conservation programs.

STORE HOURS:

Tues-Sat. 9 am-5 pm

Sundays 12-5 pm

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