



## HawkWatch Weekend

Saturday, Sept. 18 and Sunday, Sept. 19

Come watch the hawks soar over the Audubon Center in Greenwich on HawkWatch weekend on Saturday, September 18 and Sunday, September 19. The main event if the weather is just right will be the hundreds of hawks that will pass overhead on their southward migration flights. It can be a spectacular sight and lasts until mid-November, but mid-September is the peak time to see this natural phenomenon. Our Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch is the perfect spot to view this amazing migration.

There will be many other fun activities. Here are a few that are confirmed at press time. There will be a live birds of prey program with Bill Robinson on both Saturday and Sunday where Bill will show us up-close and personal some hawks. Outside at the Hawk Watch location there will be "Hawk Watch School" with charts and photos and tips for identifying all the raptors overhead. Our hawk watchers have the best identification skills... come learn from them. Families can join our educators inside for fun, hands-on activities to explore the fascinating world of raptors each day. Compare your vision to a hawk's, find out how your "wingspan" matches up to an eagle's, get an up-close look at our stuffed eagles and hawks, and take a short hike to find a red-tailed hawk nest in our forest. A great program for families with children ages 6 and older.

The main theme of the day is birds of prey, of course, but other nature activities will be happening. Go on a Insect Safari to see what critters are lurking in the grass. See the Close up

Insect photography exhibit. Young Naturalists can Explore the Frog Pond for our aquatic predators. Learn how to use binoculars for the best up-close viewing of the passing hawks. Bring your binoculars or borrow ours. A highlight of the day will be "Owl Pellet Class" where families can dissect an owl "pellet" which contains the skeleton of one owl meal. It could be a mouse, a shrew or a small bird. We'll help you identify the pellet's contents as we talk about a raptor's fascinating diet. Learn all about Audubon activities from our board members and dedicated volunteers. Exhibits by local environmental groups are also planned, as well as additional activities for the whole family. Great Cajun barbeque will be on sale from Jeff's Cuisine in Norwalk. Vegetarian choices, too.

General admission for non-members is \$6 adults, \$4 children and for members \$4 adults and \$2 children. For details of times of the weekend programs, to to our website at <http://greenwich-center.audubon.org>.



### Quaker Ridge HawkWatch in Progress

*By Matt Popp, President, Board of Directors, Audubon Greenwich*

**The annual hawk watch migration has begun!**

Overhead during the day from now until mid-November, thousands of hawks of varying species are traveling southward on their seasonal migration to warmer climes. Seasonal weather patterns aid the hawks' flight efforts. North winds and thermals (areas where the ground heats up, causing the heated air to rise) are two main ways that weather helps the migrating raptors (hawks) pass over our area. Here each fall at the Audubon Center in Greenwich we staff the Quaker Ridge HawkWatch site on our field adjacent to the Kimberlin

*continued on page 3*



# 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

Matt Popp	CHAIR
Elizabeth Champlin Geske	VICE CHAIR
Lolly Prince	VICE CHAIR
Michael Nelson	TREASURER
Barry Boyd	Lisa Farrow
Camille Broderick	Paul Hicks
Lee Browne	Eaddo Kiernan
Nancy Burke	Penny Low
Sam Connor	Jane-Kerin Moffat
Susan Curtin	Jonathan Ochsner
Jane Dunn	Gary Palmer
Ann Flinn	William Ross

## AUDUBON CONNECTICUT STAFF

Tom Baptist	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Carolyn Hughes	DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Ron Brien	DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
Patrick Comins	DIR. BIRD CONSERVATION
Sandy Breslin	DIR. GOVT AFFAIRS
Joyce Leiz	MAJOR GIFTS OFFICER
Aaron Virgin	ANNUAL CAMPAIGN MANAGER
Eileen Galinski	DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE
Jennifer Palacios	EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

## AUDUBON GREENWICH STAFF

Madeline Dennis	CENTER DIRECTOR
Ted Gilman	EDUCATION SPECIALIST
Kim Kuta	EDUCATION SPECIALIST
Liz Pomper	EDUCATION SPECIALIST
Margaret Robbins	OFFICE/STORE MANAGER
Peter Rollins	SALES ASSOCIATE
Rob Sibley	GROUPS/FACILITIES MANAGER
John Fairty	CARETAKER
Macario Nicholas	CARETAKER

## AUDUBON CENTER IN GREENWICH

**Open:** 7 days a week 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 613 Riversville Road, Greenwich, CT 06831  
**Phone:** 203.869.5272 **Fax:** 203.869.4437  
**e-mail:** greenwich\_center@audubon.org  
**web:** <http://greenwich.center.audubon.org/>  
**Admission:** Members FREE;  
 Non-members: Adults \$3; Children/Seniors \$1.50

# Step Up To The Plate For Wildlife

Show your support by displaying a wildlife license plate on your vehicle. Connecticut becomes the 42nd state to offer a license plate where a portion of proceeds are used to fund wildlife programs. Thirty-five dollars from the sale of each wildlife plate will be deposited into the Wildlife Conservation Fund to benefit species in need of conservation. In addition, \$10 of each \$15 plate renewal will be deposited into the fund. The money will be used for wildlife research and management, wildlife population inventories and projects that help restore low or declining populations, and the acquisition and restoration of wildlife habitats.

Not only does the plate generate critical funding, it allows drivers to publicly display their support for Connecticut's wildlife with some eye-catching artwork. In fact, it proved so difficult to select a single plate design that two versions are being offered. Drivers can choose between the majestic bald eagle and the secretive bobcat. Both species are representative of the DEP's efforts to protect Connecticut's wildlife and its habitat.

Bald eagles, while still an endangered species in Connecticut, are making a comeback due to improvements in the quality of the environment and active management. In 1992, a pair of bald eagles nested in Connecticut for the first time since the 1950s. In 2003, six pairs of nesting bald eagles fledged 10 chicks. The DEP is working with landowners and local authorities to protect nests from disturbance and biologists band all the young each year to assist in population monitoring. Eagle watching is becoming an increasingly popular winter activity, especially along the lower Connecticut River. Bobcats are a symbol of all that is wild in Connecticut. Solitary and secretive, these seldom seen predators are a vital remnant of our natural heritage. Their presence is indicative of a healthy ecosystem and Wildlife Division biologists are collecting data to clarify the status of bobcats in the state.

Wildlife license plates are easy to order. Just mail in an application form and the required fees and you'll receive your plates by mail in four to six weeks. Applications can be found at most Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) and DEP offices or they can be found at their respective web sites: [www.ct.gov/dmv](http://www.ct.gov/dmv) and <http://dep.state.ct.us/>.

In addition to a number of key state legislators, the efforts of the following organizations made the wildlife license plate program and the Wildlife Conservation Fund a reality: Audubon Connecticut; Hartford Audubon Society; The Nature Conservancy; Connecticut Audubon Society, New Haven Bird Club; and the Audubon Council of Connecticut.



## Quaker Ridge HawkWatch in Progress

continued from page 1

Nature Education Center. The high elevation of this field is an ideal location. It is at the end of a migration funnel created by the general southwestward movement of hawks and the Long Island Sound coastline. It becomes a concentration point and is a great place to see and monitor hawk flights. Many of the hawks migrate from Canada to Central and South America. Some of the hardier species end their migration in southern New England, using our area as their winter grounds.

The most productive hawk watch period occurs during the middle of September after a cold front has passed and the sky is filled with puffy white clouds (a sign that thermals are present).

Thousands of migrating hawks are often counted on such days. Watching hawks in the beginning of October will often yield the greatest diversity of migrating hawk species per day. To see migrating golden eagles over Greenwich, one must often wait until late October or November.

From our Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch site, about 13 species of migrating hawks can be observed each year. Last fall numbers for most raptor species were in the normal range. However, last year there was a near record low of 1,044 broadwings migrating through the Quaker Ridge funnel whereas in 2002 there were 5,222 broadwings. Where were all the broadwings? One theory is that they migrated north and west of their normal route through Connecticut last year. The total number of all raptors last fall was 4,545 here as opposed to 9,626 in 2002

The Quaker Ridge HawkWatch site is open to all and is manned daily by our seasonal Hawk Watch staffer Brian O'Toole who identifies and counts each raptor flying overhead. His data is then reported to hawk watching networks nationwide. You can see our daily data on [www.hawkcount.org](http://www.hawkcount.org). Everyone is invited to stop by and talk with Brian and learn about this fascinating natural happening. We draw on volunteer hawk watchers on the weekends to count the hawks. If you have good hawk ID skills and would like to volunteer, call Matt Popp at 203-855-7879.



## Nature Store News

Margaret Robbins, Office & Store Manager

Let the Audubon Nature Store help you enjoy one of New England's most beautiful seasons. With crisp fall weather, what better time of year to get out and enjoy nature in all its glory!

To celebrate our one year anniversary of our new store in the Kimberlin Nature Education Center, we are pleased to offer the following special sales. We will again hold our popular birdseed sale for the month of October. Purchase \$75 worth of birdseed and receive a 15% discount. Enjoy a 20% discount on our Michael Michaud spring and summer line of beautiful bronze and sterling nature-themed jewelry.

A resident of Fairfield, Connecticut, Michael uses botanicals as the inspiration for his beautiful jewelry. And for the month of September only, we'll special order any piece from Michael's



catalog for you at a 25% discount!

This gorgeous jewelry is available in sterling and gold.

Our younger naturalists can join our celebration also. For the month of September



we will offer all Folkman's wildlife puppets at 20% off. These award-winning puppets are incredibly realistic, and we're sure your young naturalist will enjoy them for years to come. We'll also have a special gift for each youngster with any purchase.

For all you busy families, we now offer birthday party gift bag service. Choose from our selection of inexpensive, fun and educational toys, and we'll make up a lovely gift bag for you complete with raffia trim and a fun sticker for an additional \$1 per bag. We'll even add any other treats you'd like! We require 24-hours notice.

Our HawkWatch Weekend Festival is September 18 & 19. While you're enjoying the hawk migration and our many activities, be sure to visit the store to try out the latest in quality optics. In addition, Swarovski Optics will be available with special offers for all of you so "you'll just see more!"

The Nature Store is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. We look forward to meeting all your nature needs. Don't forget, our unique array of merchandise makes wonderful gifts for many occasions!

# Birding in Belize

By Holt Thrasher, Chairman, Audubon Connecticut

Every meadow is busy with a flurry of bird activity, every stream literally teeming with fish. And let's not forget all the reptiles and insects — biting, stinging, crawling, flying — bugs, bugs, bugs everywhere! Truly a paradise to behold. Especially unique in that over 40% of the country is still undeveloped and protected by the government.

Tom Baptist, Executive Director of Audubon CT, and Alejandro Grajal, Director of National Audubon's Latin America and Caribbean programs, recently lead a group of Audubon Connecticut members on a five day visit to several of the key forests and preserves. The group was hosted by Audubon Belize, the country's primary environmental organization, who manages several of the Country's parks including the Cockscomb Basin all on a very small operating budget.

Entering the rainforest was breathtaking. However, to the untrained eye, 99% of the activity is passing you by without a good guide or wildlife interpreter. The Belize Audubon team is made up of local experts intimately familiar with the native wildlife including many Mayan Indians who live in villages within the preserve. The Indians maintain the land and act as guides for the growing eco-tourist activity. Without a few well-cut paths and bridges, making more than a few steps into the dense jungle would be impossible.

On our trip we saw over 100 new bird species including very colorful toucans, trogons and jacamars. At the Belize Zoo, a small preserve on the outskirts of Belize City, we saw a fine specimen of a Harpy Eagle, the largest Eagle on Earth, powerfully flying around in a large preserve.

My favorite experience was spending a whole morning, starting at sun-up sitting quietly in the jungle watching this magical world wake up. What a treat. The bird calls are almost as overwhelming as the mosquitoes. Thank heaven for DEET. Later we watched an anteater devour a steady stream of ants climbing up a tree. We saw where a shy, full-grown tapir (a cow-like beast) charged off a riverbank making a fresh set of three toed tracks. While tiptoeing down a path, we caught a glimpse of a red brocket deer, which resembles a cross between a small antelope and a new born white-tailed deer fawn.

Walking along in the rainforest, we came across a set of fresh jaguar tracks no more than a few hours old. Further along the path we crossed a small river where a crocodile sat sunning himself. And at the end of a hot day your only concerns are whether Tom and Alejandro have remembered how to get back to the camp! Five days is not enough. Knowing that we just barely scratched the surface, I can't wait to return.

**(We may do it again! If you are interested in the possibility of going birding in Belize, the Galapagos or Antarctica, contact Aaron Virgin at 203-869-5272 or [avirgin@audubon.org](mailto:avirgin@audubon.org)).**



a slate-tailed trogon,  
*Trogon massena*,  
in Belize.

Photo by Holt Thrasher

Have you ever wanted to go back in time, say 400 years and see the world without the impact of human development? Hiking through the Belize's 100,000 acre Cockscomb Basin Forest Reserve is about as close as one can get to this experience. Even more exciting is the fact that, as a tropical rainforest, it is packed with over 145 mammal and 600 bird species that one typically has never seen before. So, the experience is like stepping into a whole new world.

Join our E-Advocate e-mail list to receive action-alerts on legislation affecting Connecticut's environment, birds, other wildlife and habitats, and information on what you can do to help. To join, send a blank e-mail message to:  
[AudubonActCT-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:AudubonActCT-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

For free weekly e-mail announcements of upcoming

 **Audubon** GREENWICH

events and special programs, send a blank e-mail message to:  
[<audubongreenwichnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com>](mailto:<audubongreenwichnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com>)

From salamanders and squirrels to slugs and spiders...

## Summer Nature Day Camp



By Kim Kuta, Education Specialist, Audubon Greenwich

For six weeks this summer, 177 small, energetic human mammals migrated to Audubon Greenwich from locales such as Brooklyn, NY and Greenwich, CT in search of natural adventures, leaving in their day-time absence lonely video games, still and silent swimming pools, and vacant basketball courts. With their arrival at the Center came the familiar, raucous and melodic calls of my our favorite local migrants, summer campers.

Each morning of our one-week camp sessions we greeted up to 48 summer campers in grades K-8 to our new classrooms in the Kimberlin Center. Each group of up to 12 campers searched for aquatic animals and plants in our pond, stream, and lake; and studied fascinating facts about bats, insects, snakes, and squirrels. They hiked to Leatherman's Cave, a stopping place for the legendary 1860's transient peddler, and created their own works of nature-art. Our two OTTER groups (Outstanding Teens Training in Ecological Research) in grades 6-8, designed and conducted their own research projects. Working in teams, they researched a variety of topics including: a comparative study of frogs found at Audubon Greenwich, an in-depth look at the Red-backed Salamander, and a survey of birds observed at our observation window.

Thank you to our many paid and volunteer summer staff for an exciting, adventurous, and curiosity-filled Summer Nature Day Camp. Thanks to Summer Naturalists: Maylien Herm, Phil Robbins, Caroline Sandifer, and Richard Trepp; and Assistant Summer Naturalists: Terri Belisle, Maia Gottesfeld, Peter Johnson, and Shaun Martin. Big thanks also go to our Volunteer Assistants:

Dylan Crettol, Danny  
Cunniffe, Amanda  
DeRosa, Stephen  
DeRosa, Corbin Holland,  
Kyra Lazarus, Geoff  
Weiss; and our special  
Volunteer  
Presenter: Mike  
Aurelia. We can't  
wait to do it all again  
next summer!



## 2005 Annual Campaign Begins

By Aaron Virgin, Development Manager

With the end of June, came the end of yet another Fiscal Year and the close of the Audubon Greenwich Annual Campaign. All in all it was a highly successful campaign, with over \$280,000 raised from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004, and easily surpassing the proposed goal of \$218,800. A total of 273 individual gifts were garnered from individuals, foundations, businesses, and several other non-profit organizations. Since we rely solely on donations for annual support, this past year's campaign is proof that our community desires to leave a better environment for their children.

For the current Fiscal Year, we have set the bar even higher. By the end of June our goal is to raise \$276,000 or more to continue providing the high quality science-based educational programming our community has grown to love. One of the first fundraisers will be the Inaugural Run for Conservation and Holistic Wellness Morning on October 3 (see accompanying article in this newsletter). We hope you will attend this special event and continue making Audubon Greenwich one of your priority charitable organizations for years to come.

### Welcome 221 New Members

We would like to welcome the 221 new and returning members who joined Audubon Greenwich since May. We now have 1,400 members in our area. Members are our life blood. We could not exist without them.

### BECOME AN AUDUBON MEMBER

Audubon Greenwich membership offers an opportunity, close to home, to explore the wonders of our natural environment. As a member, you help to maintain an enclave of natural beauty that can be enjoyed by everyone, and you encourage an appreciation of the natural world by supporting our environmental education school programs for local children. Every member makes a difference! Please join us today.

To become a member go to our web site [www.greenwich.center.audubon.org](http://www.greenwich.center.audubon.org) and download our membership form, fill it out and mail it to us with your payment.

*Thank you for your support !*

# Autumn 2004 Public Program Calendar

All programs are \$5 non-members, \$3 members unless otherwise indicated.

All programs meet at the Kimberlin Nature Education Center at Greenwich Audubon unless otherwise indicated.

## SEPTEMBER

### Quaker Ridge HawkWatch

**September 1 - November 19, Every day 9:00 am - 5:00 pm**  
Every day from August to November, Audubon Greenwich operates the Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch site on the field next to our building. Join our official hawk watcher Brian O'Toole, plus weekend watchers, who will be counting hawks migrating over the Audubon Center grounds. Visitors are always welcome to help us spot and identify the hundreds of migrating hawks. Bring binoculars and dress for an open, windy location. See the article on page 1 for more details.

### The Goldenrod Jungle

**Saturday, September 4, 2:00 pm-3:00 pm**

Discover the rich variety of goldenrod wildflowers and tiny wildlife that makes these plants a separate micro-habitat within its leaves and flowers. The last big flower show each year is provided by goldenrods with their beautiful small yellow flowers, from late summer until the frost. Just about every insect with an interest in flowers may be found on goldenrod. The different insects visit for nectar or pollen, eat the leaves and stems, lay eggs and spiders and birds come to prey on the insects. It's a jungle on a goldenrod.



### Bats Around Us

**Saturday, September 11, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm**

Learn about our local bats, where they live and how they navigate in the dark. They are the only truly flying mammal. Come learn how they hibernate to survive the winter, how many mosquitoes they can eat in one hour, where they hang around, and how they navigate with sophisticated sonar system. We'll take a short walk to watch twilight behavior of our local bats.



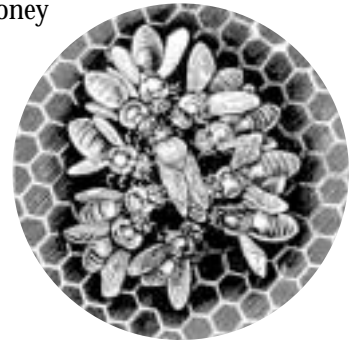
### Hawk Watch Weekend

**Saturday, September 18 & Sunday, September 19, 10 am-4 pm**  
See and learn about the hundreds of hawks passing over head at the peak of fall hawk migration. Also Live birds of prey and animal programs plus a variety of family activities. See article on Page 1 for details.

### Sweet Gold : Honey and Honeybees

**Saturday, September 25, 2:00 pm-3:30 pm**

Delve into the life history of the honey bee. Learn how bees make honey, what bees do in winter, and the difference between the worker bees, the queen bee and the drones. Taste some Audubon Greenwich honey naturally harvested from our own hives and learn about the process of honey-making.



## OCTOBER

### Autumn Songbird Migration Walk

**Saturday, October 2, 10:00 am-11:30 am**

Learn about the fall bird migration, how birds navigate to southern continents, how autumn bird plumages can be confusing and the food sources that migrating birds need. We'll go outside to see it all.

### Run for Conservation and Holistic Health

**Sunday, October 3, 10:00 am**

Register to run at the Nature Center and on backcountry roads. See article on page 8 for more information.

### Hook Mountain HawkWatch Field Trip

**Saturday, October 9, 9:00 am-2:00 pm**

Travel to the other side of the Tappan Zee Bridge to Hook Mountain near Nyack to observe migrating hawks from high above the Hudson River at this hawk watch site. The raptors love the updrafts and hundreds of hawks fly at eye level here. Moderate climb to the mountain for fabulous view of the Hudson River and the migrating hawks. Adults and children 10 years and older. Limited enrollment. **Pre-registration required.** Call 203-869-5272 for more details and to reserve space.

### Fall Foliage Walk

**Saturday, October 16, 2:00 pm-3:30 pm**

Learn to identify trees by their autumn colors, how leaves change color, why leaves fall, and learn why we should "leave some leaves for wildlife" around the edges of our yards.

### Fairchild Garden Exploration Wilderness Trail Hike

**Saturday, October 23, 2:00 pm-3:30 pm**

Join us for a walk to Audubon's gem of a sanctuary, the Fairchild Wildflower Garden, to search for wildlife and the natural fall harvest available to them as they migrate or prepare for winter.

# Autumn 2004 Public Program Calendar

All programs are \$5 non-members, \$3 members unless otherwise indicated.

All programs meet at the Kimberlin Nature Education Center at Greenwich Audubon unless otherwise indicated.

## Wonder of Nature Celebration - Flower Power

**Saturday, October 23, 6:00 pm**

It's our annual gala party and the theme is "Sixties Chic."  
See announcement below for details or call for an invitation.



## Owl Prowl

**Saturday, October 30, 7:30 pm-9:00 pm**

Learn about our local owls, meet a live owl, and then join us for a night walk to try calling/listening for owls. Limited enrollment. **Pre-registration required.** Call 203-869-5272 to reserve a space.



## NOVEMBER

### Winter Bird Feeding and How To Be a Project FeederWatch Citizen Scientist

**Saturday, Nov. 6 and Sunday, Nov. 7, 2:00 pm-3:30 pm**

Learn about the wintertime birds, bird food needs, bird seeds, feeders and feeder care. Also learn how you can be a citizen scientist by counting birds at your bird feeders for the continent-wide bird survey Project Feeder Watch. Same program both days.

## Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

**Saturday, November 13, 9:00 am-2:00 pm**

Join us for a trip to one of the best places for watching bird in the United States. We'll carpool to the refuge, near JFK airport, and walk the loop trail around the refuge to search for waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds and many migrating songbirds. Adults and children 10 years and older. Limited enrollment. Pre-registration required. Call 203-869-5272 for more details and to reserve space.

## Environmental Education in Namibia

**Wednesday, November 17, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm**

The Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust, in the dune valley of Namibia in southern Africa educates Namibians about their natural environment in the context of sustainable living and offers hands-on classes in solar cooking, water conservation and biodiversity. The center's director, Viktoria Keding, grew up in Cos Cob, CT, graduated from Greenwich High School and moved to Namibia in 1999. She will show us how a concerned group of citizens can gain a deeper understanding of the value of their natural resources.

## Black Birds

**Saturday, November 20, 2:00 pm-3:30 pm**

What are those dark lines in the autumn sky? Learn about our local black birds (grackles, red-wings, starlings, and crows), their food and migration habits. Are they a nuisance to farmers and why do they travel in those huge flocks?

## Nature Tales for Tots (Ages 3-6)

**Sundays, Oct. 31, Nov. 14, Nov. 21, Dec. 5 1:30 pm-2:30 pm.**

Young children will explore the wonders of nature as they read a story with our naturalist, sing songs, create crafts to go along with the story theme, and make discoveries at the Nature Center in this fun program with a different theme each Sunday. Space is limited, pre-registration is required.

Program fee: \$10 for non-members, \$5 for NAS members.

### October 31: "Where the Wild Things Are"

Celebrate Halloween with a journey into the mysterious and magical world of wild creatures.

### November 14: "The Dandelion Seed"

Get swept away and create your own traveling seed as we learn about the adventures of the dandelion seed and other seeds.

### November 21: "The Giving Tree" and other "thankful" stories

Pumpkins, and squash, and turkeys...celebrate all the gifts and wonders we receive from the earth.

### December 5: "When Will it Snow?"

And where do animals go? Journey into the lives of animals and plants, as they prepare for the cold, snowy days of winter.

# Join the Run for Conservation on Healthy Environment/ Healthy People Day – October 3

Come to Audubon Greenwich on Sunday, October 3 for the Inaugural Annual Run for Conservation and Holistic Wellness Morning. Anchored by a four-mile run through the Center's Fairchild Wildflower Garden and back country roads, the first "Healthy Environment/Healthy People" event will benefit the sanctuary's education programs.

A half-mile Kids' Run (for preteens) through the meadow is planned, as well as a Fitness Walk for non-runners and seniors. Other activities will include, Meditation in the Meadow with Andrew Scheffer, Master Gardening with Denise Lee, Natural Healing with Herbs by Andrea Candee, and a Nutrition and Homeopathy seminar by Dr. Gary Gruber. Trainers will be on-site offering yoga, pilates, tai-chi, strength training and endurance exercises. Refreshments will be available, and a delectable

brunch is planned for participating runners. Various corporate sponsor groups will also be on hand to display their fitness products. Our thanks to the Greenwich Department of Parks and Recreation for its assistance with this run.

The day starts at 9am with check-in and warm-up for runners. The kids 1/2 mile run begins at 9:15am, and the adults' 4 mile run begins at 10am. Admission fee for all adults (runners and non-runners) is \$15 for advance registration and \$20 on the day of the event; children under 18 years (runners and non-runners) \$10 in advance and \$10 on the day. To register, call Aaron Virgin at 203-869-5272, ext 229, email: avirgin@audubon.org, or go to our web site [www.greenwich.center.audubon.org](http://www.greenwich.center.audubon.org) for a mail-in registration form.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE

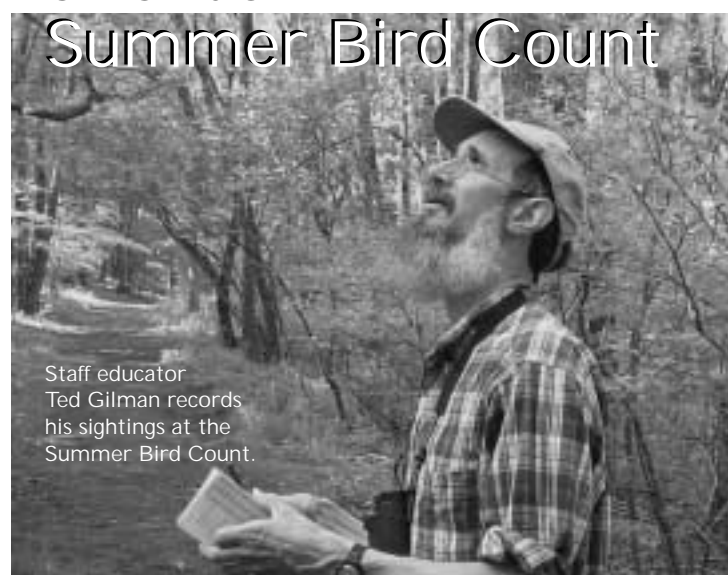


Photo by Tom Baptist

*By Gary Palmer, Board Member, Audubon Greenwich*

Fifty-five sharp observers participated on June 12 and 13 in Audubon Greenwich's 29th summer bird count in the Greenwich/Stamford area. This is part of the nationwide count this time of year. A total of 130 species were recorded in our area which encompasses a 15 mile diameter. We counted in all of Greenwich, including the Audubon Center and Greenwich Point, and in parts of Westchester and Stamford.

Of the species counted, 114 were confirmed nesting birds and the other 16 species were considered late migrants or summer visitors.

New high totals were established this summer for 22 new species this summer including 46 American Oystercatchers, 35 Osprey, 115 Wild Turkeys, 26 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, 56 Pine Warblers, 40 Orchard Orioles and 365 Baltimore Orioles. One disappointing low number was for White-eyed Vireo. Some of the interesting late-migrant/summer visitor species were: Hooded Merganser, Long-tailed Duck, Ruddy Turnstone, Blackpoll Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Also worthy of note were six Black Vultures which were a first for the summer count. This species is one that is now becoming more common to the area and a welcome addition to our list. Peregrine Falcons nested in Stamford again this year and it would seem that West Nile Virus is taking its toll on American Crow. Our yearly summer average for crows was 715 and this year's total was 287.

Thanks to all the skilled participants who came out for this important Citizen Scientist endeavor. Our next bird count will be our part in the annual Christmas Bird Count. If you have birding skills and would like to participate in any upcoming bird counts, please call us at 203-869-5272.

New high totals were established this summer for 22 new species this summer including

*46 American Oystercatchers 35 Osprey 115 Wild Turkeys 26 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds  
56 Pine Warblers 40 Orchard Orioles 365 Baltimore Orioles*

# Our Summer Butterfly Count

By Ted Gilman, Education Specialist, Audubon Greenwich

July 10 was a wonderful day for counting butterflies: blue skies, with scattered clouds, temperatures in the 70's and low 80's and gentle winds. An enthusiastic crowd of butterfly lovers of all ages joined together to discover what wealth of butterflies the Audubon Center would have to offer.

Our group included fleet-footed youngsters who used butterfly nets to carefully catch small butterflies for careful examination, identification, and then gentle release back into the wild. Carolyn Hartel, a veteran of many butterfly counts, headed up our identification team for the more difficult species of tiny skipper butterflies.

By the end of the day, our survey of the Audubon Center fields, George Bent II orchard, Indian Spring Pond area and the nearby Nichols Preserve yielded 135 butterflies of 23 species. Some of the species we identified that day were Eastern Tailed Blue, common Wood Nymph, Pearl Crescent, Orange Sulphur, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Common Buckeye, Clouded Sulphur, American Copper, Coral Hairstreak, Eastern Comma, Red Admiral, and Great Spangled Fritillary.

Our results were submitted to the North American Butterfly Association as part of the Northern Westchester County area butterfly count. The count results will be included in the annual report of butterfly counts conducted all across the country. If you would like more details about our count, butterfly gardens, or other butterfly counts around the country, please contact Ted Gilman at the Audubon Center at (203) 869-5272 ext. 230.

## *Thanks to our good friends*

A big thank you to Rob Sibley, our grounds and facilities manager for the past two years, who has done so much to improve our wildlife habitats, our properties and our buildings, both old and new. Rob will now be Conservation Director of Newtown, CT. We wish him well and will miss him. Thanks also to our former caretaker Erich Hotetz for his many years of service here at Audubon Greenwich. Additional thanks go to Maria Popp for first aid instruction for our staff, Gary Palmer for helping to put together the summer sanctuary series, Camille Broderick for hosting summer staff party, Sharon Duncalf for volunteering in the store, Muriel Gantz, our administrative volunteer on Mondays, David & Claudette Circle for hosting the Executives For Conservation program in June, the Feuerman, Ochsner and Lubarsky Families for help with the July Clean Up at Oneida, Bill Common of E-Centives and Mitch Reichgut of the JUN Group for their outstanding help with the invitation for the Wonder of Nature Celebration, Shoko Takemoto, Vietor Evans, Mary Joy Leaper, and Natural Lawn Care of America for continued donation of organic lawn care at our center.

## Grounds & Facilities Manager Position

Audubon Greenwich is now seeking to hire a responsible, self-motivated individual as grounds and facilities manager to oversee all grounds and facilities maintenance for our 645-acre environmental education center and sanctuaries. Responsibilities include supervision of maintenance staff, independent contractors and volunteers; overseeing the efficient maintenance of all buildings, building systems, vehicles, equipment and of facility grounds and properties; overseeing land management plans to restore and maintain natural habitats using current best methods for control of invasive plants, and maintenance of meadows and orchards; provide set-up and support during special events; as well as record keeping and administrative tasks.

Qualifications include knowledge of building and grounds maintenance, repair and safety procedures for tools, machinery, equipment, and vehicles; Experience in staff supervision and coordination of priorities; knowledge of organic land care and sustainable landscaping techniques and natural habitat management; graduation from high school and a minimum of five years experience in caretaking, custodial, landscaping, contracting or similar position. Salary: commensurate with experience. Excellent benefit package. On-site housing may be available. If you are interested in this position, send resume and cover letter to: Madeline Dennis, Center Director Audubon Greenwich 613 Riversville Road Greenwich, CT 06831, 203-869-5272, fax 203-869-4437, or email [Mdennis@audubon.org](mailto:Mdennis@audubon.org).

# New Wildlife Habitat Garden Blooms



If you enjoy butterflies and hummingbirds, along with the flowers that they feed on, come see the newly developed garden along the hillside between the old nature center building and dining hall. Although fall is around the corner, and many of the flowers have passed their time of bloom, there are still some fall blooming plants visited by butterflies and hummingbirds. By visiting the garden, and seeing the many types of flowers, you may be inspired to include butterfly and hummingbird needs in your own garden design at home.

Shaun Martin, Daniel Cunniffe, and Annette Cunniffe volunteered their time and effort to revitalize the garden to provide nectar-rich flowers as food sources for Audubon's local butterflies and hummingbirds. Approximately 40 species of plants were placed in the garden for that purpose. Along

with the plentiful nectar sources, other species of plants were provided primarily to be a food source for growing caterpillars of local butterflies. If you look carefully you may be able to sight a few caterpillars on their larval plants.

Twenty-three species of butterflies were seen in the garden this summer. – many of which were seen on summer butterfly count (see page 9). Hummingbird moths, Bumble Bee moth and male and female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds have also been seen in our garden. Deer became a problem early on in the planting of this garden, and a 6 ft. high fence was built to exclude the hungry critters. The fence was also extended one foot into the ground to deter woodchucks or rabbits who might find our flowers tasty.

This revitalized garden is very much in keeping with the new 'Audubon at Home' program. The program's portion of the National Audubon Society website: [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org), offers a variety of suggestions for ways that we can make the areas around our homes and workplaces more healthy for both people and wildlife, including plantings which are helpful to wildlife.

It took dedication, and a lot of physical effort to create this garden, but the beauty of the garden would not have been possible if it were not for the generous donations of all the flowers. Special thanks for their kind donations are extended to McArdules Garden Center, Shemins Nursery, Sam Bridge Nursery, Greenwich Nursery, Designs by Lee, Broken Arrow Nursery, Billy Bob's Garden Center, Troy's Garden Nursery, Roth Nursery, Pound Ridge Nursery, and the Cunniffe's garden. Thanks also to The Care of Trees, Stamford for woodchips. Thanks to everyone who made this new garden a success.

## We Need Volunteer Teacher Naturalists

Do you have an interest in the natural world and want to share it with others? Would you like to learn more about nature? Attend the Audubon Greenwich Fall Teacher Naturalist (TN) Training and learn to lead hands-on, science-based school programs. No experience is necessary, and the training is free. As a TN -in- training you will gain natural history knowledge taught by our experienced Education Specialists, enjoy social gatherings and trips to other centers, museums, and sanctuaries, receive discounts at our Nature Store, and meet other nature enthusiasts.

During the school year, hundreds of students from schools in Fairfield and Westchester Counties enjoy a break from their indoor classrooms and head to Audubon Greenwich where our trained volunteer Teacher Naturalists lead them and their teachers in a variety of hands-on, outdoor, nature education programs. Without the commitment and enthusiasm of our Teacher Naturalists, we couldn't offer school children these opportunities. We always need new teacher naturalists to join our corps of 20 dedicated volunteers.

Our eight Teacher Naturalist training sessions start this fall on Tuesday, September 9 and will be every Tuesday and Thursday until October 5. They are from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. To register for teacher naturalist training, or for more information on the volunteer program, contact the Education Department at Audubon Greenwich at (203) 869-5272 or email [greenwich\\_center@audubon.org](mailto:greenwich_center@audubon.org).

## New Audubon Greenwich Board Elected

At its annual meeting this past June, the Audubon Greenwich Board of Directors elected three new members; Mrs. Susan C. Curtin and Mrs. Ann Flinn from Greenwich and Mr. Jonathan Ochsner of Stamford. Each will serve a three-year term. Elected to their second three-year terms are: Mrs. Jane Dunn and Mrs. Eaddo Hayes Kiernan of Greenwich, Mr. Michael Nelson of Riverside who serves as our treasurer and Mr. Matthew Popp, Audubon Greenwich's president. The other Board Members of Audubon Greenwich are: Dr Barry Boyd, Mrs. Camille Broderick (secretary), Mr. H. Lee Browne, Mrs. Nancy Burke, Mrs. Elizabeth Champlin Geske (vice president), Mr. Sam Connor, Mr. Paul DeForest Hicks, Ms. Lisa Forrow, Mrs. Penny Low, Ms. Jane-Kerin Moffat, Mr. Gary Palmer, Mrs. Lolly Prince (vice president), and Mr. William Ross.

## "Small World Portraits" at Gallery

For the months of September and October the Audubon Greenwich Gallery in Kiernan Hall will be featuring "Small World Portraits" by renowned local nature photographer, Don Garbera. The summer insects remain for a little longer in Audubon's Kiernan Hall with Garbera's fascinating exhibit of the small world which exists within the "wilds" of our own backyards. The exhibit features beautiful, limited edition images of butterflies, ladybugs and bees. Don Garbera has been photographing insects for close to thirty years and his photographs consist largely of North American insects in New York, Connecticut, and the Catskill and Berkshire mountains, and his work has been exhibited in many galleries in Connecticut and Westchester County. Garbera has been a professional photographer and business writer for more than thirty-five years and is the former editor-in-chief of a major photographic industry publication, as well as a former bio-medical photographer. "My photographs are shot with a camera setup I designed, using a flash which is mounted onto the front of a fixed mount, non-focusing, flat field lens for maximum depth of field. Most of my macro photographs are shot with magnifications of one-to-one (life size on the camera's film plane) or greater," explains Garbera. We're very pleased to have this entertaining and visually stunning photography exhibit here at Audubon Greenwich. "Small World Portraits" will be on display September 1 through October 31, seven days a week from 9 am to 5 pm.

## Executives for Conservation of Audubon Greenwich

*By Jonathan Ochsner, Co-Chair, Executives for Conservation*

The mission of the Executives for Conservation (E4C) Group is to connect business leaders and their families with nature through social, business oriented, and science-based nature activities and events. Bryan Stepanian, E4C Co-Chair, and I are delighted to announce and thank our founding 'board of executives' whose members are Andrew Ashforth, Richard Granoff, Tom Torelli Jeff Marks and Andrew Shore.

E4C strives to educate Fairfield and Westchester Counties business leaders on topics including Long Island Sound, natural resource protection, wildlife and habitats, open space preservation, pesticides and conservation techniques for the home. Throughout the year, E4C holds a myriad of programs, each aligned with the mission and spirit of Audubon Greenwich. Activities include family discovery breakfasts, wilderness walks, hikes, as well as a young conservationist program for children from five to fifteen year olds.

E4C is an operating unit of Audubon Greenwich, and its purpose is to support and advance the mission of Audubon Greenwich. In that light has 'adopted' and recently restored the habitat of Oneida Sanctuary, on Oneida Drive just off Steamboat Road in Town. At Oneida, we look forward to

sharing hands-on discovery experiences with all Audubon Greenwich members. We invite you to visit Oneida to experience an authentic, rare and quite beautiful salt marsh. I would like to thank the Land Stewardship Committee and the entire Audubon Greenwich Board of Directors for their support of E4C and the habitat restoration of Oneida. I would also like to thank the following volunteer families for their help with the clean ups: Brackenridge, Broderick, Circle, Feuerman, Granoff, Lubarsky, Mortimer and Stepanian – your hard work has helped to re-create a new gem in Greenwich!

In fiscal year 2005, which began this past July, E4C plans to hold special events for couples and executive breakfasts with keynote speakers about the environment for business leaders. E4C is delighted to invite all Audubon Greenwich members to its events and open programs. In fact, our next event is a hike around Mead Lake on Saturday, September 11th at 9:00 A.M. Bryan and I are delighted to help business leaders and their families to connect with nature at Audubon Greenwich. It's a very meaningful way for us to giving back to the community and to celebrate America's great natural heritage.

FALL 2004

# Natural History Notes

By Ted Gilman, *Education Specialist*

Chipmunks collecting and storing winter provisions; migrating Monarch butterflies fluttering and soaring southward hundreds of feet overhead, while Mourning Cloak butterflies seek out secluded hibernation sites beneath loose tree bark; woodchucks accumulating a thick layer of fat to nourish themselves through the long, cold, brown-leaved winter; deer antlers shedding their velvet and being polished at buck rubs on saplings in forest clearings; autumn foliage painting a patchwork quilt of color across the landscape with each tree telling a tale of its identity and natural history; garter and northern water snakes seeking deep crevices in rocks or other sheltered spots to pass the cold winter months; millions of young birds facing the death-defying challenge of migrating over a



thousand miles to reach their wintering grounds in Latin America and the Caribbean, while other species are covering similar distances to reach our area from breeding grounds far north in the arctic; spring and summer wildflowers which have converted their flowers into seeds which can feed hungry hoards of sparrows and other seed eaters which begin arriving in late September; carpenter ants gathering in their tree trunk colonies to withstand the winter chill, but not totally secure from the chisel-like bill and harpoon/brush-like tongue of the pileated woodpecker; the first few thousands of snowflakes drifting down out of November clouds to foretell the blanket of white which may cover the landscape in winter months to come...

12 • AudubonGreenwich*InFlight*

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
STAMFORD CT  
PERMIT NO 864

Audubon GREENWICH  
613 Riverside Road  
Greenwich, CT 06831