



Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch now until mid-November

by Brian O'Toole, Audubon Nature Store Sales Associate and Hawk Watcher



The powerful Peregrine Falcon always generates excitement for the hawk watchers.

Do you know what a "kettle" of hawks is? Can you tell the difference between a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a Cooper's Hawk? That's okay if you answered "no" because between August 22nd and November 18th, hawk watchers at Audubon Greenwich can help you answer those questions. They will be there to enjoy the fall migration of thousands of raptors that will pass over the Quaker Ridge Hawkwatch site.

Since the early 1980's, hawk-watchers have gathered on the lawn adjacent to the Kimberlin Nature Center to witness this spectacle of nature. A daily count kept of all hawks that fly past this location is registered as part of an important citizen science program. Every migrating hawk detected by our observers is identified and counted with the aid of high-powered binoculars and spotting scopes. To accomplish this, experts use a combination of clues that



include size, shape, flight pattern and coloration of the bird in order to make a positive identification. A full-time hawk-counter works on site Monday through Friday and volunteers staff the site each weekend. Last year, Quaker Ridge hawkwatchers counted 13,187 raptors for the season, down from our average of 21,000. In the 20 years of this Hawkwatch, 17 species have been spotted, including the Swainson's Hawk, a rare vagrant from the west.

Continued on page 10

Internship program funded by Reba and Dave Williams

Audubon Greenwich is pleased to announce it received a \$1 million dollar grant endowment from Reba and Dave Williams to invigorate its internship program. A portion of the gift will also provide for a much-needed renovation of a residence on the Audubon sanctuary, once the home of Eleanor Clovis who made the original donation of the Audubon Center in 1941. The house, originally built in the 1920s, has long-served as housing for Audubon personnel. Now it will provide housing for Audubon Greenwich interns. Principal from the endowment will fund the intern program throughout the year and will make various projects possible, including habitat management research, ornithological studies, and the development of new education programs. Everyone at Audubon Greenwich thanks Dave and Reba for their outstanding generosity and far-sighted vision that will enable Audubon to continue to provide high-quality science education and out-of-door experiences in nature.



Hawk Watch Weekend at Audubon Greenwich

Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 17 & 18 • 11 am-5 pm

Celebrate the spectacular hawk migration passing over Audubon's Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch site!

THE 2-DAY FESTIVAL WILL FEATURE:

- presentations by The Raptor Project - the largest traveling collection of birds of prey from all over the world
- migratory bird games
- visits to Indian Spring Pond
- wildlife movies
- face painters
- food & fun for the whole family
- As a special treat Bruce Babbitt, former Secretary of Interior and Governor of Arizona, will speak on Sunday at 3 pm.

Festival admission: \$10 adults, \$7 children. Audubon Greenwich Members: \$7 adults, \$5 children. Call (203) 869-5272 for more information.

IN THIS ISSUE

BRUCE BABBITT TO SPEAK..... p. 2
 DANCING WITH NATURE..... p. 5
 NEW BOARD ELECTED p. 8
 SUMMER BIRD COUNT p. 9
 SUMMER BUTTERFLY COUNT p. 9



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.*

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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

Nature Icons © Audubon 2004



Bruce Babbitt to speak at HawkWatch Weekend Sunday, September 18

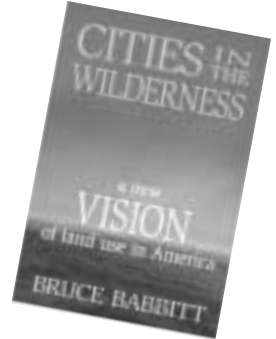
Mark your calendars for a special Audubon Greenwich presentation by former U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt on the debut of his book, *Cities in the Wilderness: A New Vision of Land Use in America*. Brilliantly and gracefully written, former Secretary of the Interior and Governor of Arizona

Bruce Babbitt brings fresh thought – and fresh air – to questions of how we can build a future we want to live in.

In *Cities in the Wilderness*, Babbitt surveys our national history of land use, exposing the economic and political pressures that shape environmental policy and gleaning lessons from groundbreaking conservation work. From saving a significant swath of desert in Southern California to retiring an aging dam in Maine, he recounts how major conservation projects were assembled despite the naysayers, the self-interested parties, and the ideologues.

From this venerable yet tumultuous past comes a vision and a program for how it should be done: a federal leadership role in land use planning, a way of thinking about open space that retains local control while acknowledging national interests. This book celebrates key accomplishments in the environmental field while planning for greater ones – and Bruce Babbitt is an inspirational guide along that path.

A book signing will follow Mr. Babbitt's talk and presentation. Please call and register for this special event. This event is part of Audubon's **HawkWatch Weekend Festival**. General admission is \$10 for adults & \$7 for children and senior citizens. Audubon members pay only \$7 for Adults & \$5 for Children and senior citizens.



Welcome 132 new members

We would like to welcome the 132 new members who joined Audubon Greenwich since May. We now have 1508 members in our Audubon Greenwich chapter. Members are our life blood. We could not exist without them. Every member makes a difference. Please join us today or consider a gift membership for a friend. Audubon Greenwich membership offers an opportunity, close to home, to explore the wonders of our natural environment. Members receive: *AUDUBON*, the National Audubon Society's magazine; this quarterly newsletter, *In Flight*, with advance notice of local events and Audubon Greenwich news; reduced and free fees to programs year-round, 10% discount in our Nature Store, and special travel opportunities; free admission to Audubon Greenwich sanctuaries and many other National Audubon Society centers and sanctuaries nation-wide. Basic membership is \$35 for one year. To become a member, or to give a gift membership, go to our web site www.greenwich.center.audubon.org and download our membership form and mail it to us with your payment, or call us at 203-869-5272 for a membership form. Thank you for your members' support!

Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 17 & 18
11:00 am-5:00 pm • RAIN OR SHINE

Hawk Watch Weekend

A Centennial Migration Festival

Celebrate the spectacular hawk migration passing overhead during this 2-day festival at Audubon's Quaker Ridge HawkWatch site - one of the highest points in Greenwich, CT.

Featuring

- Flying raptor presentations by The Raptor Project with birds of prey from all over the world. The birds will be available for viewing all day long on both days.

Other activities will include:

- Migratory bird games
- Children's nature crafts
- Owl Pellet Dissection
- Pond Exploration at Indian Spring Pond
- Audubon Adventure Films & Other Wildlife Videos
- Nature Face Painting
- And other fun for the whole family
- Food for sale

Special Event, Sunday at 3 pm

- Special Talk & *Book Premier* with Bruce Babbitt
Former US Secretary of Interior and Governor of Arizona

General admission:

\$10 adults, \$7 children/seniors.

Audubon Greenwich members: \$7 adults, \$5 children/seniors.



Jonathan Woods of The Raptor Project

 Audubon GREENWICH

613 Riversville Road, Greenwich, CT 06831
203.869.5272

www.greenwich.center.audubon.org



Environmental Breakfast Forum with State Legislators November 16 at Greenwich Town Hall

Audubon Greenwich hosts the "Environmental Breakfast Forum" with State Legislators at Greenwich Town Hall (Cone Room) Wednesday, Nov. 16, 8:00-9:30 am. Join Audubon staff and greet Senator Bill Nickerson, and Representatives Dolly Powers, Livvy Floren, and Lile Gibbons for a continental breakfast and an informative, timely discussion of environmental issues likely to come before Connecticut's legislature in 2006. Bring your friends, neighbors – and above all, bring your environmental concerns and questions. Sandy Breslin, Audubon CT's Director of Government Affairs, will open the forum with an overview of Audubon's priorities for the session. After the legislators have responded and explained their environmental concerns, the discussion will be open to questions from the floor. Admission to the forum is free. Contributions to defray the cost of breakfast will be gratefully received. For more information, please contact Sandy Breslin at 203-264-5098 x307.

Sign up for E-Advocate and Speak Up for Connecticut Wildlife

Join Audubon's E-Advocate email list for timely action-alerts on what you can do to help with key legislation affecting Connecticut's environment, birds, other wildlife and their habitats.

This is a free, no-obligation list open to anyone regardless of their Audubon membership status.

To join, simply send a blank email to:

AudubonActCT-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

or contact Audubon Connecticut's Director of Governmental Affairs, Sandy Breslin, at 203-264-5098.

Join the Audubon team – Join a committee

Join one of our committees and make a real difference locally. The following Audubon Greenwich committees would like to meet people interested in serving as committee members:

Land Stewardship Committee: The Land Stewardship Committee oversees Audubon Greenwich sanctuaries, conducts ongoing monitoring and implements management plans for projects such as invasive plant control, and trail maintenance. If you have a specific skill or an interest in land management, call chair Sam Connor at 203-625-9422 for more information about joining this committee.

Science Committee: The Science Committee conducts research and citizen science programs that involve and educate a broad range of participants. The committee advises other committees and the staff about scientific issues and develops programs that broaden science-based partnerships with other organizations. If you have an interest in natural science research or a specific skill, please call chair Gary Palmer at 203-661-4897 for information about joining this committee.

Birding Committee: The Birding Committee conducts scientific bird surveys including the Christmas Bird Count, supports bird and habitat protection, provides forums for birders to socialize and work together to expand their knowledge of bird life. If you are a local birder or want to get more involved in bird research, please call Gary Palmer at 203-661-4897 for more information about joining this committee.

Public Policy Committee: The Public Policy Committee promotes awareness and understanding of regional public policy issues that impact the conservation of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. The committee works in partnership with other local environmental organizations and helps shape Audubon's legislative agenda for Connecticut. If you are interested in joining the committee, please call acting chair Lolly Prince at 203-661-8110 for more information.

Education Committee: The Education Committee acts as a resource for Audubon's education staff and its wide range of educational programs. The Committee also works in partnership with other local educational groups. If you have an interest in natural science education and are interested in joining this committee, please call chair Camille Broderick at 203-618-0033.

Thank you Audubon friends

Audubon Greenwich could never accomplish all that we do without support from our generous adult and teen volunteers who serve as office helpers, teacher naturalists, trail crew and many other ways.

The following individuals and groups, among many others, gave their time generously this spring and summer. Mary Joy Leaper, Becky Belise, and Muriel Gantz helped in the office. Rory Kyle and Ross Silverman helped with natural history projects. Dara Reid and Wildlife in Crises rehabilitated wildlife and even released them at our events. Cynthia Ehlinger and Brian O'Toole led great birding trips. Greenwich High School, Rye Country Day and Byram Hills High School provided interns and the Broderick family cared for our animals on exhibit. A special thank you to Natural Lawn of America and Richard Leonard for their marvelous donation of lawn care services! Special thanks also to our 26 volunteer Teacher Naturalists who taught 4,800 students this past school year. Their dedication and enthusiasm is tremendous. We could never do it without them!

Goose management in Greenwich

This past spring and summer the Town of Greenwich sought ways to manage the local population of resident Canada geese to prevent negative impacts and allows affected recreation areas to be enjoyed by the public. Canada geese have always been present in Connecticut as a migrant and wintering species. However since the 1930s, the 'giant' race of Canada geese has begun nesting in our area as the result of the escape and possible intentional release of captive birds. These 'resident' populations of Canada geese have grown significantly in recent decades and there have been increasing complaints from the public because of their growing abundance and despoiling of lawn areas and other concerns. Earlier this year the town of Greenwich sought a permit from the CT Dept. of Environmental Protection to euthanize 200 resident Canada geese. However, due to input from Audubon, other conservation groups and the members of the public, the Town instituted other control measures.

The Town's three-part management plan included 'egg addling' (a process where eggs are either shaken, coated with vegetable oil, or punctured to prevent the egg from developing). The plan also utilized dogs and handlers to chase geese from sites where they congregate. The third component was an education campaign with signs and pamphlets to teach park visitors about problems associated with the feeding of geese.

Audubon Greenwich supports the town's new management program and also recommended that making some park areas less attractive to geese through habitat alteration be considered as an environmentally sound, long-term goose deterrent. Techniques such as placing physical barriers along shorelines, leaving areas unmowed or planted with tall grasses, wildflowers or shrubs have all proved effective. These landscaping techniques would also provide for greater habitat diversity.

Interestingly, Audubon's Summer Bird Counts reveal that the population of Canada geese in the greater Greenwich/Stamford area has declined for five straight years, from 1,952 birds in 2000 to 1,084 this past June. This suggests that local control measures, coupled with predatory pressure from the local coyote population, might be reducing goose numbers. Audubon Greenwich also assisted the town in counting and monitoring goose populations specifically in Town parks this summer. Preliminary data from our supplemental summer counts found that the Town's techniques were successful to a degree as geese numbers decreased in Binney and Bruce Parks from June to August. Audubon will continue to monitor geese populations in the coming years. This is but one way that our citizen science activities can assist important policy-making authorities.

Summer Camp Success

By Jeff Cordulack, Education Program Manager

It was a wonderful summer at Audubon Greenwich. The weather provided its typical hot and hazy days and our campers showed up in large numbers, including many who attended the camp with special scholarships. These generous scholarships were from a variety of sources including the Central Westchester Audubon Society, The Knollwood Garden Club, The Woman's Club of Greenwich Gardeners, summer camp parents and other distinguished members of our community.



Throughout the summer, over 250 children explored, searched, created, learned, shared and grew to be better caretakers of the environment. Our sincere thanks goes out to our summer staff and volunteers who were led magnificently by Liz Pomper and Lindsey White. We could not have done it without everyone's dedicated help. Summer staff: Terry Belisle, Dylan Crettol, Marina DeLuca, Virginia Dreux, Shaun Martin, Kristin Quell, Phillip Robbins, and Caroline Sandifer. Volunteer Councilors: Stephen DeRosa, Juulia Endberg, William Kencel, Kyra Lazarus, Zachary Mell, Veronica Li, Peter Rubino, Gregory Ryan, Alexander Stavrou, and Richard Trepp.

Dancing with Nature

October 1 at Belle Haven Club

One hundred years ago, women and men came together to form the National Audubon Society in order to stop the slaughter of egrets, herons, and other beautiful birds. Since then Audubon has been at the forefront of thousands of campaigns that have resulted in preserving millions of acres of vital wildlife habitat, educating millions of people about the beauty of nature, alerting the public to the dangers of pesticides, and saving many species of birds from the brink of extinction.



Please join us On October 1 for a festive night of dinner and dancing at the Belle Haven Club as we celebrate these 100 years of Audubon's successful education and conservation efforts. Gaze upon the magnificent Long Island Sound, and witness the fruits of our labors as Osprey and Egrets abound, while enjoying the beauty the Belle Haven vista has to offer. All proceeds from Dancing with Nature benefit the education and conservation programs of Audubon Greenwich. With your help, we can connect even more people with nature than ever before! The evening begins with cocktails at 6:30 pm. For dinner tickets and more information, please contact: John Hannan (203) 869-5272 ext. 234

AUDUBON GREENWICH NATURE PROGRAM CALENDAR

FALL 2005

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 3

Stories in Silk: Spiders and their webs 2:00 - 3:30 pm

September is the best spider-time. Join naturalist Ted Gilman, a life-long spider lover, for an exploration of the world of spiders with slides, specimens and a walk outside to seek out spiders at the pond, and in the field and forest. Ages five and up.

Saturday, September 10

E4C - Hawk Habitats on Quaker Ridge 9:00 - 10:30 am

Join naturalist Ted Gilman and the Executives for Conservation families for a light breakfast as Ted shows hawk specimens and feathers and explains why Audubon Greenwich's Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch site is a hot spot for migrating hawks. Then go on a short walk to visit the spots where hawks often search for their meals. \$25 per family. Reservations necessary. Call Jeff at 203-869-5272 x239 to register.

Saturday, September 10

Hawk Watching for Beginners 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Learn all about hawks that fly over Audubon and the tips and techniques to identify them. What are the differences between falcons, vultures and eagles? How, why and where do these amazing raptors travel along their long migration routes. After the program, you can join the Hawk Watch. Bring binoculars, or borrow ours. Ages eight and up.

Saturday, September 24

Honey Harvest Day 2:00 - 4:30 pm

Our honeybees were very busy this summer and the hives are brimming with honey. Our friends from the Backyard Beekeepers Association will collect, spin and bottle the honey straight from the honeycombs. You can participate in this sticky fun. All ages.



HAWK WATCH ON QUAKER RIDGE • Sept. 1 - Nov 18. Everyday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Quaker Ridge is one of the premier sites in the northeast for viewing the hawk migration. It is a great time to learn how to tell those flying hawks apart with our expert hawk watchers who will be there to help. Hawk watching occurs daily on the lawn adjacent to our parking lot. All ages welcome from beginners to experts. Call us for more information.



OCTOBER

Saturday, October 1

Hook Mountain Hawk Watch Trip 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Hook Mountain, on the west side of the Hudson River, provides spectacular views of migrating hawk. This trip involves a moderate 1/2-mile hike uphill from the parking area - but the view is worth the climb. Meet at the Audubon Center; bring binoculars, bag lunch, and water. Group size limited. Registration required: contact Ted at 203-869-5272 x230. Ages nine and up. Adult must accompany children.

Saturday, October 8

Photography Hike at Fairchild Wildflower Garden 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Discover the hidden wonders in the Fairchild Wildflower Garden - a quiet corner of Greenwich located on North Porchuck Road. Search for autumn plants, fungus, fruits, nuts and the squirrels, chipmunks and migrating birds that seek them as food. Bring a camera to capture memories of New England's famous foliage and learn about macro-photography. Registration requested. Sign up by calling Jeff at 203-869-5272 x239. Ages five and up.



Shelf Fungus

Saturday, October 15

The World of Squirrels and Chipmunks 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Learn surprising new things about these frisky animals that are busy preparing nests and storing food supplies for the long winter. The program will include a look at indoor displays followed by an outdoor search for squirrels, chipmunks, and signs of their activities. Ages five and up.

Saturday, October 15

Autumn Moonlight Hike 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Shhh... walk quietly when you come on a moonlit exploration of our fields, forest, and wetland edges. Look and listen for secretive nighttime creatures and do some sky watching, too. Bring a flashlight, sturdy shoes and wear soft, quiet clothing. Group size is limited. Registration is required: call Ted at 203-869-5272 x230. Ages seven and up

Saturday, October 22

Fall Foliage Walk 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Come enjoy the blaze of autumn colors across Audubon Greenwich's forests and learn about the processes that give us this annual spectacle. Bring a camera to capture the brilliant red, gold and yellows of the Connecticut fall. Ages five and up.

Sunday, October 23

Birding Trip: Cove Island Park "Bird Sanctuary" in Stamford 8:00 - 10:00 am

Big plans for Cove Island - Stamford has announced plans to convert a brush dumping ground into a bird sanctuary. Join Brian O'Toole and Patrick Dugan for this visit to one of Audubon's "Important Bird Areas" with migrating rarities like the Dickcissel, Blue Grosbeak and Clay-colored, Lark and Grasshopper Sparrows as well as Savannah, Field, Lincoln's, and Swamp Sparrows. Also nearby are gulls, and ducks arriving for the winter, and Monk Parakeets too. For directions, contact Brian or Jeff at 203-869-5272. Registration required. Ages nine and up.

Saturday, October 29

Bats, Bats, Bats 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Join Audubon naturalist Liz Pomper, a real bat enthusiast, for an afternoon learning about bats for this Halloween weekend. See this amazing mammal through pictures, hands-on activities, and games, and make a bat craft to take home. Registration requested. Ages five and up.

Sunday, October 30

"Birds of Central Park" with author Cal Vornberger 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Cal Vornberger, author of the new book "Birds of Central Park" will share the birding highlights and secrets of Central Park. Many birds migrating from Canada to South America stop in this green oasis surrounded by concrete - an essential stopover area along the Atlantic flyway. His hardcover book features over 200 species with remarkable nature photography and a removable foldout pocket guide. Cal will sign books for sale after the presentation.



NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 5

Leaf Litter Critters 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Explore the forest floor where many fungi and small creatures help to turn fallen leaves into soil for future generations of flowers and trees. We will take a short walk to examine the forest floor and bring some of the creatures back to the center for a closer look under our video-microscope. All ages.



Sunday, November 6

Birding Trip: Central Park, NYC 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

A special birding trip, to complement our Oct. 30 "Birds of Central Park" presentation. Join Patrick Comins, the Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon Connecticut, and explore the park's hot bird spots. After birding, we will visit the bird exhibits at the American Museum of Natural History. Audubon van riders/carpool will meet at Audubon Greenwich at 8:30 am or you may arrange to meet the group in NYC. Group size limited. Reservations required. Call to register.

Saturday, November 12

E4C Family Breakfast 9:00 - 10:30 am

Executives for Conservation host nature programs for young children every other month. New participants are always welcome. For the November topic and to join this fun family event, contact Madeline Dennis at 203-869-5272 x226.



Saturday, November 12

Backyard Birding & Project FeederWatch 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Learn about winter birds that visit your backyard, their habitat requirements, different birdseeds and proper feeder care. Also learn about Project FeederWatch, and how your family can take part and be citizen scientists by counting birds at your feeders as part of this continent-wide bird survey. Children can make a simple feeder to take home. Reservations requested. Contact Ted at 203-869-5272 x 230 to sign up.

Sunday, November 13

Birding Trip: Jamaica Bay, NY 8:00 am - 12:00 noon

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on Long Island is a hot spot for birders. The diversity of birds is impressive and many can be seen at close range. Previous trips yielded Snow Geese, Brant, American Oystercatchers, American Wigeon, Grebes, and Peregrine Falcons. The garden area usually reveals woodland birds such as Kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Cedar Waxwings and Hermit Thrush. Carpool will leave Audubon Greenwich at 8 am. Reserve a space in our van or meet us there. Call Brian O'Toole at 203-869-5272 x228. Registration required.

Saturday, November 19

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

An invigorating walk in search of red-tailed hawks, woodpeckers, bluebirds, hermit thrushes, tracks and signs of coyote. We will also look at the newly bare trees and learn to identify them by their bark and branching patterns. Ages eight and up.

Sunday, November 20

Turkey Traits and Territory 12:30 - 2:00 pm

Learn more about the history, habitat and behavior of the large forest dweller, the American Wild Turkey. Join Audubon's naturalist Lindsey White. Examine a real turkey specimen; then head out to search for signs of turkey and learn about their favorite foods, and their dusting and roosting spots. A fun, turkey craft for kids will follow. Ages five and up.

Saturday & Sunday, September 17 & 18

Hawk Watch Festival at Audubon Greenwich 11 am - 5 pm, Rain or Shine

Celebrate the spectacular hawk migration that passes over the Hawk Watch site - one of the highest points in Greenwich. The 2-day festival will feature live bird presentations by The Raptor Project - the largest traveling collection of birds of prey from all over the world. Other activities will include games, movies, face painters, food and fun for the whole family. As a special treat, Bruce Babbitt, former Secretary of Interior and Governor of Arizona, will speak at 3 pm on Sunday. Festival admission: \$10 adults, \$7 children. Audubon Greenwich members: \$7 adults, \$5 children. Call 203-869-5272 for information or go to www.greenwich.center.audubon.org. All ages.



Programs are suitable for all ages unless otherwise indicated. Please register for all programs by calling 203-869-5272 to reserve your spot. Programs start at the Kimberlin Nature Center at Audubon Greenwich, 613 Riversville Rd., Greenwich, CT, unless noted otherwise. Program fees are \$3.00 for adult members, \$5.00 for adult non-members, \$1.50 for member children and seniors, \$3.00 for non-member children and seniors. These programs are no charge to Teacher Naturalists as part of their ongoing training.

New Board of Directors Elected

Audubon Greenwich elected a new board of directors for its fiscal year, which began this July. **Elizabeth Champlin Geske** was elected chair. Elizabeth, who lives in Riverside, previously served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Greenwich Audubon Society, the Riverside Association, and the Executive Board of Riverside School PTA and worked as vice president for the Investment Management Institute in Greenwich; for IBM Eastern Europe, and Institutional Investor. She is a freelance writer and editor.

We want to thank Matt Popp for his fine service as board chairman for the past 6 years as he continues on the board. Paul Hicks and Lolly Prince were elected as vice chairs, Michael Nelson was re-elected as treasurer. Elected to second member terms were Barry Boyd, Camille Broderick, and H. Lee Browne. Also continuing to serve on the board are Nancy Burke, Sam Connor, Susan Curtin, Jane Dunn, Ann Flinn, Lisa Forrow, Eaddo Kiernan, and Jonathan Ochsner.

Four members were newly elected to the board: **Barbara J. Basney** of Stamford is director of global advertising for Xerox Corporation in Stamford. Prior to Xerox, Barbara spent more than 15 years in marketing and advertising for various Fortune

500 corporations and works with several universities in support of student mentoring programs. **Jim Hoffman** of Old Greenwich is a realtor with Round Hill Partners. Jim was President of Hoffman Engineering Consultants in Virginia, and senior director of Flour Corporation Telecommunication Systems. He is a retired United States Navy Captain and on the boards of the English Speaking Union and the CT Dept. of Veterans Affairs, and a member of the Greenwich RTM. **Rani Newman Mathura** of Greenwich practices law with Cummings & Lockwood. Rani is a member of the Junior League of Greenwich, and the American Bar Association where she serves as the Coordinator of pro bono Disaster Legal Services. **Kelli List Wells** of Stamford is the U.S. Education Program Director for the GE Foundation in Fairfield. Wells spent 10 years as a licensed financial advisor. She is a member of the executive board of GE's Elfun Volunteers; President of Fairfield Co. Contributions Group; on the Stamford Mayors council for School Readiness; and the advisory board for Council for Opportunity in Education in Washington.

Three retiring board members were elected honorary board members in recognition of their many years of service both to Audubon Greenwich and to the

Greenwich Audubon Society. **Jane-Kerin Moffat** has been active on the local Greenwich Audubon Society board since the mid 1980s. She is a former president and current secretary of the Audubon Council of Connecticut, an independent association of Audubon chapters and allied organizations. She is the Council's elected representative to the Audubon Connecticut board of directors, and has been chair of Audubon Greenwich's Advocacy Committee. **Gary Palmer** has been a board member of the Greenwich Audubon Society in some capacity since the mid-1960s, led field trips for many years, and has co-compiled the Greenwich-Stamford Christmas and Summer Bird Counts since 1970. Gary was one of the original Quaker Ridge hawk watchers. He is chair of Audubon Greenwich's Science Committee. **Bill Ross** he has been a member and chairman of the Greenwich Conservation Commission and on the boards of the Greenwich Land Trust, the Connecticut Nature Conservancy, the Greenwich Point Committee, the National Audubon Society and the Greenwich Audubon Society as chapter president, and has been an active invaluable member of numerous Audubon Greenwich Committees.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED

We are pleased to announce that the Nature of Discovery capital campaign in support of the Audubon Greenwich Kimberlin Nature Education Center has been officially brought to a successful conclusion. This \$11 million campaign has ensured that Audubon's first Education Center, started in 1942, will provide children and adults with a state of the art facility long into the future.

It has been just two years since we opened the doors here and already we are seeing fabulous results. In the last 12 months more than 30,000 people have visited your Center. More than 6,000 children have participated in educational activities that open their minds to the wonders of nature. These figures, combined with the growing public programs, art exhibits, and the best nature store in the region make your Center one of the most well utilized resources in our community.

But your Center is not just a building. As Audubon celebrates its 100th year the Kimberlin Nature Education Center acts as the gateway to our real classroom here in Greenwich and that is our sanctuary. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the Capital Campaign Executive Committee, especially its Co-Chairs Marshall & Vallory Clark, Susie Hilfiger, and Eaddo Kiernan, and every one who participated in the campaign.

Summer Bird Count yields good results and 3 new species

by Ted Gilman, Audubon Greenwich education specialist

On a hot, muggy weekend, Saturday and Sunday, June 11 and 12, several dozen birders in small teams spread out over our 15-mile diameter summer bird count circle to conduct our Annual Summer Bird Count. The count total was 129 species with four more species seen in the week-long count period before and after the two count days.

Special highlights for the count included three species which were totally new to the count: three Wilson's storm-petrels seen off Stamford's shoreline; and, three days later, a Manx shearwater and a northern gannet were spotted off the Rye shoreline. Other notable species included: breeding winter wrens at the Marshlands Conservancy in Rye, a yellow-crowned night heron at the Bartlett Arboretum, a peregrine falcon in Stamford, purple martins in Byram and Rye, and a yellow-breasted chat in Old Greenwich. At the Audubon Center our team was treated to an early morning sighting of a barred owl as well as a pair of coyotes. Less encouraging were the lack of any swamp sparrows and minimal sightings of clapper rail, brown creeper, chestnut-sided warbler, prairie warbler and field sparrow.

These figures are reminders of our on-going challenge of protecting a good variety and richness of habitats in our area ranging from salt marsh to old field/thicket areas and mature woodlands. To ensure a good variety of bird species for the future, we need to maintain and protect a good variety of healthy natural habitats to sustain them. A hearty thank you to our compiler Tom Burke and the hard-working counters that joined us. We hope you can join us next year.

Barred Owls breed at Greenwich Center

Over the last year, Barred Owls have been seen and heard by birders on the grounds of the Audubon Center. During the annual summer bird count, staffers Ted Gilman and Liz Pomper, along with Kathy Gellman, observed a barred owl during an early morning survey in the northern part of the property. In mid-July, while doing a breeding bird survey visit to the same area, Ted Gilman, Rory Kyle and Ross Silverman observed a young owl being harassed by blue jays. After following the owl for several minutes, they were finally able to see the youngster's dark brown eyes and confirm that it was a barred owl rather than the more common, great horned owl which has bright yellow eyes. The sighting of this young barred owl confirms that breeding barred owls nested on the property. This is the first breeding record for barred owls on the Audubon Center grounds for at least 30 years.



Three new species were spotted at this year's Summer Bird Count:

- Wilson's storm-petrel
- Manx shearwater
- northern gannet



Many bees and butterflies are drawn to the lovely garden designed by Shaun Martin and Annette Cunniffe. This 'wildlife habitat' garden was created to provide nectar-rich flowers for Audubon's local insect and bird population.

22 Species at Summer Butterfly Count

On Sunday, July 10, a team of Audubon staff and volunteers tallied 175 butterflies of 22 species during our annual survey of fields on the Audubon Center grounds and the nearby Nichols preserve. We were participating as part of the national butterfly counts conducted by the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). Our records are submitted to NABA as part of the Northern Westchester County count circle.

One troubling observation, among the many good butterfly sightings was the lack of a single monarch butterfly sighting all day. This reminds us of the need to protect and encourage the growth of milkweeds in our communities and along our roads as well as the need for continued cooperation with other states and the people of Mexico to help protect these wonderful butterflies. Since the official butterfly count day, we have seen Monarch butterfly activity in our gardens, including egg laying on our local milkweeds.

Our volunteer butterfly count team included: Pat Bailey, Ioa Byrne, Annette Cunniffe, Cynthia Ehlinger, Ted Gilman, Carolyn Hartel, Shaun Martin, and Brian O'Toole.

Butterflies observed included:

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Cabbage White
Clouded Sulphur
Orange Sulphur
Coral Hairstreak
Banded Hairstreak
Striped Hairstreak
Eastern Tailed Blue
Great Spangled Fritillary
Pearl Crescent
Eastern Comma
Mourning Cloak
American Lady
Painted Lady
Red Admiral
Common Wood Nymph
Silver-spotted Skipper
Least Skipper
European Skipper
Northern Broken Dash
Little Glasswing
Dun Skipper
Plus several unidentified butterflies

School Days

by Liz Pomper, Audubon Greenwich Education Specialist

"Did you invent Saturday school?...Because its the best idea ever!" the fourth-grader said as we headed out to explore the schoolyard. Yes, it was a Saturday morning when eighteen 3rd & 4th graders reported dutifully to their Greenwich elementary school for an enrichment program. The goal of the enrichment program was to give the students with the most need, some extra help and encouragement to work hard with their studies.



Each Saturday throughout the spring, the students spent an hour learning about science and nature with me. Afterwards, they broke into groups for workshops with school staff that focused on reading and math. During their time with Audubon, they studied different nature topics each week, on subjects including birds, bats, owl pellets, reptiles, amphibians and trees. On "Portable Pond" day, I brought buckets full of water – and living organisms – from Audubon's Indian

Spring Pond into the classroom. During "H2Olympics," the students participated in events, such as balancing water drops on the surface of a penny, to learn about some of the unique properties of water. We also spent many days outside studying their schoolyard.

Their reading specialist coordinated her curriculum with our nature topics and made use of *Audubon Adventures* award-winning educational newspapers. Throughout the spring, they worked on creating an imaginary animal and reporting on its special adaptations and habitat requirements.

This special program was a great success. The principal reported that the students showed improvement on their test scores and the students reported that they were excited about science and nature, when they used to think of science as boring. Moreover, our participation in the program helped us fulfill Audubon's goal of reaching out to under-served audiences with our conservation message.

No, I didn't invent Saturday school, but it was a pretty good idea.

Go Birding along the Maine Coast in Spring

Save the date and sign up now for

The Waterways of Coastal Maine

May 24-31, 2006. This exciting trip will be a cruise aboard the comfortable *Nantucket Clipper*. It is a great value - all shore excursions are included! Margaret Robbins of Audubon Greenwich will lead the adventure. Margaret, a birder since childhood, has taught many classes about bird biology and identification to adults and youth. Contact Beth Ryan-Rowland at 800-967-7425 or 212-979-3066 for details.



Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch

continued from page 1



The sleek and powerful Peregrine Falcon is a favorite of many hawkwatchers and generates much excitement among the observers. Some of the common species here are the Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Osprey, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Merlin and even Bald Eagles. In 2004, 82 Bald Eagles were recorded – the second highest total for our site counts.

The highlight of the fall season is the passage of Broad-winged Hawks, the most numerous raptor seen during the count. In a brief period from mid to late September, if weather conditions are ideal, thousands of Broad-wings will pass by the watch. In 1995, an unbelievable 31,000 were counted in a single day! It is quite a sight to see large groups of Broad-wings swirling and circling in air thermals high in the sky.

Weather is an enormous factor in migration and records of changes are kept by hourly observations. The first few days that follow the passage of a cold front with accompanying northwest winds and clear skies often produce the best hawk flights. Days with head winds coming from the south are unappealing to raptors trying to head south for the winter. In an effort to keep close tabs on the health of North America's raptor population, meticulous records are kept and then submitted to Northeast Hawkwatch, an organization who keeps important count data from various Hawkwatch sites.

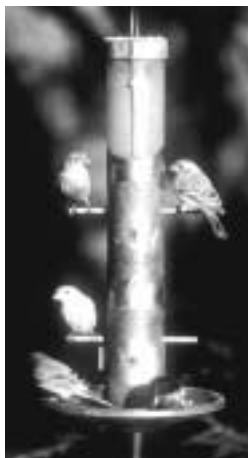
The peak periods in the season to see the largest number of hawks would be from mid-September to mid-October mostly due to the abundant Broad-winged Hawks. This would also be the best time to observe a magnificent Bald Eagle. As the weather gets colder in mid-October to mid-November, Cooper's Hawks, Northern Goshawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, Turkey Vultures and Golden Eagles increase in numbers.

Hawkwatchers of all levels of experience are welcome to stop by the Hawkwatch lawn, seven days a week, approx. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. from August 22 to November 18 to enjoy the wonder of hawk migration. There are many experts on hand to help you with identification and teach you the finer points of hawk watching. Their trained eyes are constantly scanning the skies in search of southward bound hawks. If you are already a skilled hawk watcher and would like to volunteer to count on weekends, contact Brian O'Toole at 203-869-5272 x228. For detailed information on the Quaker Ridge Hawkwatch site, visit www.hawkcount.org.

Nature Store News Fall 2005

Time To Welcome The Birds Back!

Audubon Greenwich's Nature Store offers expert advice on all aspects of feeding birds including how to keep your feeders clean and what type of seed to use to attract the birds you want. We can also tell you how to set-up feeders in your yard and keep squirrels away if they are getting more than their share. Take advantage of our special Seed Sale in October, December and February - 15% off any \$75 purchase!



Special Store Event: Dec 3, 1:00 pm

Skin Care by Nature with Dawyn Cloud-Alter, B.B.S., M.S.M.F.T., C.F.H., Connecticut Family Herbalist.

Meet the creator and find out how these natural products can enhance, nourish, and protect your body's largest organ - your skin. These products will be available in our Nature Store. Great gift idea!



Nature Store Needs Sales Staff

Audubon Greenwich is seeking a part-time sales person for our beautiful, busy and fun nature store on Saturdays. Sales duties include processing sales, answering phones and visitor's questions, and keeping the store neat and stocked. Qualifications: Must be at least 15 years old and able to commit to every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Knowledge of nature, optics and bird feeding a plus. Must be able to lift up to 50 lb bags of seed. Salary: \$8 per hour for qualified candidate. We are also seeking volunteer help on Sundays and/or Mondays. Contact Margaret Robbins, Store Manager, at 203-869-5272.

Nature Arts Exhibits This Fall

Exhibits in the Nature Arts Gallery are sponsored by Northern Trust. "Northern Trust is proud to be the sponsor of the Audubon Greenwich Nature Arts Gallery," says Jeff Kauffman, President & CEO, Personal Financial Services- Greater New York. "Northern Trust has a long tradition of caring for the communities in which we do business and of giving back to them. The Gallery offers a wonderful opportunity to experience nature through art."

Another Side of Sanctuaries -

Large Oils on Canvas by Peter C. Stone

September and October in the Nature Arts Gallery

RECEPTION: Saturday, September 10th, 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Peter C. Stone's contemporary Tonalist paintings have been described as "...luminous spiritual journeys..." that celebrate nature and Native lands.

On exhibit will be an exhibition of his large works that went into the making of his highly praised book *Sanctuaries*

(TWC/Temple Hill, 2003), a work that "truly and visually celebrates the joy and transcendence of life, growth, and love." (*Midwest Book Review*) "The longer one studies these paintings, the more one sees, and the clearer one's mind feels." (*Fearless Reviews*) "Mr. Stone's ability to match evocative words with evocative scenery is haunting..." (*Heartland Reviews*). Mr. Stone's exhibit at Audubon Greenwich is sponsored by Northern Trust.



"Moon Path" by Peter C. Stone

J.M. Carnright's "PrimitiveFuturisms"

Sculpture Exhibit

October 2 - Jan. 5 on the main floor, downstairs lobby and outside

RECEPTION: October 2 from 1:30- 5:00 pm

with live music by Hayes Kavanagh's NYC Jazz Band

J.M. Carnright has been a working artist for over 40 years. He has exhibited in New York's Chelsea, SOHO, East Village and 57th Street galleries and in the 1980's prominent Los Angeles' Kirk deGooyer Gallery. J.M. Carnright's studio is located in the The NEST Artist Factory Complex in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Carnright's wood sculptures and wallworks are embedded with precious and semi precious stones including raw rubies, amethysts, emeralds, diamonds, crystals and primordial fossils and rock, presenting a compelling abstract exploration of time. "PrimitiveFuturisms" artworks offer objects and imagery indicative of nature's primal force. Numerous variations of huge to standard size timbers are selected for artworks of cedar, cherry, pine and walnut and other woods. Many sculptures are monolithic in design. Other wood is uniquely formed into abstract animals.

AUTIMN 2005

Natural History Notes

By Ted Gilman, Education Specialist

Monarch butterflies and broad-winged hawks floating high overhead as they migrate southwest towards Mexico; honeybees gathering their last major supply of nectar and pollen from goldenrods and asters before they settle into their hives for a long winter; male deer polishing their antlers on young saplings in preparation for the autumn rut; squirrels and chipmunks scampering about to gather acorns, hickory nuts and other seeds for their winter food supply; a few spring peepers calling as the daylength and temperature drop back to their levels of early April; chubby woodchucks spending more and more time in their dens until they finally disappear to hibernate in October; glistening spider webs adorning the goldenrod meadow as their builders wait for a careless honeybee or grasshopper to blunder into their silken snare; dark brown young eagles, on their first flight south, soaring high over Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch bringing



Grey Squirrel

calls of excitement from the hawkwatchers on the lawn below; tupelo, red maple, Virginia creeper, sumac, and scarlet oak adding their various shades of red to the autumn landscape; the wasp societies in yellowjacket and bald-faced hornet nests undergoing collapse, followed by killing frosts, with only the fertilized queens surviving as hibernators under dead leaves and logs to start new colonies next spring; long, shallow v's of snow geese flashing white and black as they pass high overhead on their way south to coastal marshes and farmland from New Jersey to the Carolinas; the multi-colored blizzard of autumn leaves floating through the air on the first windy day after the peak of autumn colors; the last katydid and grasshopper yielding to winter's inevitable cold bringing silence to field and forest until the next generation of insect musicians strikes up the chorus next summer...

♻️ PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER WITH VEGETABLE-BASED INKS. PLEASE RECYCLE. ♻️

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AUGUST 22 - NOVEMBER 18

Daily Hawk Watch

Count raptors with experts

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 17 & 18

Hawk Watch Weekend

Live hawk shows with The Raptor Project; Bruce Babbitt speaks on land use on Sunday. See page 3.

SATURDAY, OCT. 1

Dancing with Nature: Celebrate 100 Years of Audubon

With live music, auction and dancing in support of conservation.