



Art from Connecticut Forests comes to Greenwich

In celebration of the centennial anniversary of Connecticut state forests, an engaging exhibit, *Art from Connecticut Forests*, comes to Audubon Greenwich. This art exhibit will highlight the wonderful diversity of artwork that can be produced from one white oak tree. The art exhibit



opens on Saturday, January 3 and runs through February 19 and is available for viewing everyday from 9 am to 5 pm in the first floor of the Kimberlin Nature Education Center. On opening day, January 3, special craft projects and activities are planned. See our program calendar on page 6 for the details.

This special exhibit celebrates the 100th anniversary of Connecticut forests which began with Connecticut's purchase of Meshomasic State Forest, its first state forest. *Art from Connecticut Forests* holds historical significance in that Connecticut is one of the first in the United States to celebrate a forestry centennial. This exhibition will illustrate how conservation of our forests started after centuries of deforestation and how even today, in this modern age of computers and plastic, its role is significant to our daily lives. The public will see the diversity of forest products that wood provides us and

the beauty of the natural material and its flexibility while appreciating the need to conserve natural resources.

In September 2003, a 100-year-old white oak tree at Meshomasic State Forest was cut down. The artists selected the parts of the tree they wanted to work with and brought them back to their studios. The artists then created pieces such as furniture, sculpture, paper and more using every part of the tree, including branches, bark, lumber, roots, sawdust and ash. Forty-five artists lend their talents to the exhibition.

The tree provided the



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Why Count Birds In The Winter? JOIN THE Christmas Bird Count

by Gary Palmer,
Science Committee Chair

A common question asked by many is, "Why count birds during the winter?" The 100+ years of data that has been documented during the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) throughout the country, is proving to be invaluable to the study



of long-term bird populations. For instance, CBC data have shown regional declines of the American Crow (due to West Nile Virus) and the recovery of the Peregrine Falcon (thanks to dedicated conservation practices).

It may be hard to believe that casual birders could make such a significant contribution to bird conservation, but they have. More than 50,000 observers participate each year in this all-day census of early-winter bird populations using Audubon's standard counting procedures. Volunteers follow specified routes through a designated

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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 Store News

Margaret Robbins, Office & Store Manager

The cold winds are blowing and if this winter is like the last one, our wildlife friends are going to need help! At the Nature Store, we can help you take care of your wildlife with the latest and best feeders on the market as well as a new brand of very high quality birdseed from Wild Bird Delight. Just in time for you, we will again offer our seed sale for the months of December and February. Buy just \$75 of seed and receive 15% off! Water is very important to wildlife, especially in the winter when it's so difficult to find. We have wonderful heated birdbaths and portable birdbath heaters so even more birds will be attracted to your yard.

You can also choose a book on nature in winter or identifying winter trees, plants and wildlife tracks! And for your young naturalists, we have many beautifully written and illustrated winter-themed books on nature and wildlife.

The Audubon Nature Store can also meet all your needs for holiday shopping. Our very popular Holiday Critters tree is back with even more lovely and unique nature ornaments. We also have a good supply of Audubon holiday cards and many wonderful items for everyone on your holiday list.

Special sales for December include 25% off our entire line of C.L. Whittings Leaf Leather purses and accessories. These beautiful pieces of art make a wonderful gift for that special someone. For a special gift for our young friends, enjoy a 20% discount on all full-size Folkmanis puppets. These award-winning puppets are incredibly life-like and your young naturalist will enjoy them for years to come.

At the Audubon Nature Store, we are dedicated to making your holiday or every day shopping as easy and pleasurable as possible. We will gladly gift wrap your purchase for a small fee – that's one less item on your to-do list! Visit our wonderful store and experience our commitment to excellent customer service and quality merchandise. We are open 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. We will be closed only December 25 and January 1. Be sure to shop our after-holiday sale beginning December 26!



Deer Management and Sanctuary Restrictions

Audubon Greenwich continues its deer management program this winter. Please note that the Audubon Center is open to the public from 9 am to 5 pm only. There is positively no entry before 9 am nor after 5 pm. In addition, Fairchild Wildlife Garden is closed to the public every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday until January 31, 2005. Thursday through Sunday, it is open from 9 am to 5 pm.

IN THE Nature Gallery

The exhibit *Birds Time & Place: Watercolors* by Peter Wlochowski is on display now through December 31 in the Kiernan Hall Art Gallery. Peter says, "My paintings are a visual narrative of my time spent birding, hiking, camping and sailing. Unlike many wildlife painters, my painting trips are not the tour-de-force of Africa or Costa Rica, but of local haunts: the Connecticut River, Stonington, Barn Island, The Farmington and Housatonic Rivers. These recent watercolors are not panoramic landscapes, but are those intimate and elusive moments in places I know best."

Coming January 1 through February 28

Waters Edge by Marie Stile - oils, watercolors and mixed medium with a close-up look at life along the rocky coasts.

Visitor Survey – Help us help you

What would you like to learn?

Audubon Greenwich would like to know what interests you. Contact us with an idea, a subject or skill you wish to know more about. You never know...your idea may be found in the next issue of our newsletter, *"In Flight."*

Please send your ideas to:

Jeff Cordulack, Education Program Manager
at 203-869-5272 Ext. 239,
Jcordulack@audubon.org.

*We look forward to
hearing from you.*

Welcome to Jeff Cordulack



Audubon Greenwich welcomes Jeff Cordulack, our new Education Program Manager. Jeff comes to us from SoundWaters Community Center for Environmental Education in Stamford where he was their Urban Ecology Program Coordinator since 1997. Jeff has also worked at the Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, and Save the Sound. In addition, he spent a year as an Education Consultant for the Mokolodi Nature Reserve in Botswana, Africa. He is also active in the local community and serves as the President of the Environmental Council of Stamford and as a board member with the Stamford Land Conservation Trust. He feels that "it is exciting to be at Audubon Greenwich, where our mission is 'connecting people with nature.' Our work

directly helps people develop an appreciation for the surprising diversity of life forms living in the NYC metropolitan area. This helps people learn how to care for the landscape and if we care for the land, the land will care for us." We are glad to have Jeff with us.

Join the Christmas Bird Count

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15-mile (24-km) diameter circle. Ours covers the Stamford-Greenwich area (see map on newsletter insert). The results of their efforts are compiled into the longest running database in ornithology, representing over a century of unbroken data on trends of early-winter bird populations across the Americas.

The Christmas Bird Count, or "CBC," is citizen science in action.

On Sunday, December 19th we will hold the annual Greenwich-Stamford Christmas Bird Count, an all day count of our local birdlife. This includes sending out field parties of birders to assigned areas to count all birds, as well as those who enjoy counting birds at their backyard feeder. Participants are welcome to join a field party for all or part of the day. You will have an invigorating day, and know that you are truly a Citizen Scientist.

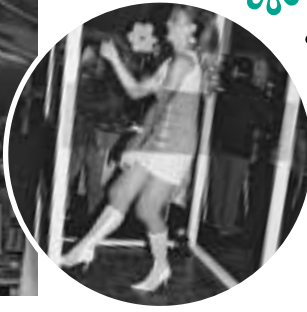
This year is the 105th CBC. The first CBC was on Christmas Day of 1900 and was organized as an alternative activity to an event called the "side hunt" where people chose sides, and then went out and shot as many birds as they could. Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman, an early officer in the new Audubon Society, recognized that declining bird populations could not withstand wanton over-hunting, and proposed to count birds on Christmas Day rather than shoot them. So began the Christmas Bird Count. The original Christmas Bird counters in 1900 tallied a total of 90 species. Last year's continental count totaled 654 species, 37 subspecies, 31 exotic species, and 63,523,744 individual birds.

Our local Connecticut count was first held in 1911 when four observers began counting the local birds. Over the years our count has tallied an average of 112 species and 25-30,000 individual birds a year. The count data is submitted to National Audubon for inclusion in their CBC database which includes all other counts conducted throughout the country. Some of the CBC data aids in the development and implementation of important conservation tools- Audubon's WatchList and Important Bird Areas Program. This is why we need you to participate in the count. Amateurs and experts alike are needed in order to make the count a success.

If you would like to join a field party on December 19th, please call Gary Palmer at 203-661-4897 or Ted Gilman at 203-869-5272 ext. 230. You can also count birds at home; for more information refer to the Backyard and Feeder Checklist enclosed in this newsletter.



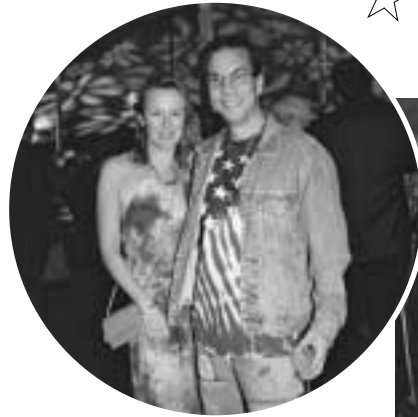
In 2003, over 60 million individual birds were counted during the Christmas Bird Count.



Above: Kevin and Joni Kimberlin, Deborah and Chuck Royce.

Audubon Feels the Flower Power at October Gala

Everyone had a groovy time at Audubon Greenwich's *Wonder of Nature - Flower Power* dinner dance gala on October 23. More than 400 nostalgic guests turned out to dance well into the night to the 60s songs of the Harbor Lights Band of New York and savored a three-course dinner served by Laurence Craig Catering. Go-go girls framed the dance floor and colorful flowers, peace and love flashed on the ceiling. Nearly \$300,000 net was raised for education programs at Audubon Greenwich. Everyone was in the 60s grove and dressed as they did 40 years ago. Joni Kimberlin (in a vintage flower-child outfit) and Kevin Kimberlin (as Sgt. Pepper) were co-chairs of the festive event along with Deborah and Chuck Royce in flowing white maharishi robes. Sabrina and Carl Forsythe chaired the auction, which was highlighted by an African safari trip won by Terry and Noni Mackin of Greenwich. Our special thanks go to the Kimberlins, Royces and Forsythes and countless others for making this a fun and successful celebration.



Above: Matt and Maria Popp



Right: Henrik Vanderlip and Louise Adams



Above: Neil and Stephanie Lubarsky with Livvy Floren



Right: Its a family affair with Christian, Elizabeth and Chris Oberbeck



Above: Sabrina Forsythe (center) with Betsi and Chris Shays



Left: Jack and Pam Woodruff

A NITE IN BELIZE

Inaugural Executives For Conservation Party

Saturday,
January 29,
2005 at
6:00 pm

Dinner and
Dancing
at Audubon
Greenwich

Honorees Richard Granoff and Thomas Torelli
Claudia & David Hirsch, Tracy & Greg Silver -
Event co-chairs

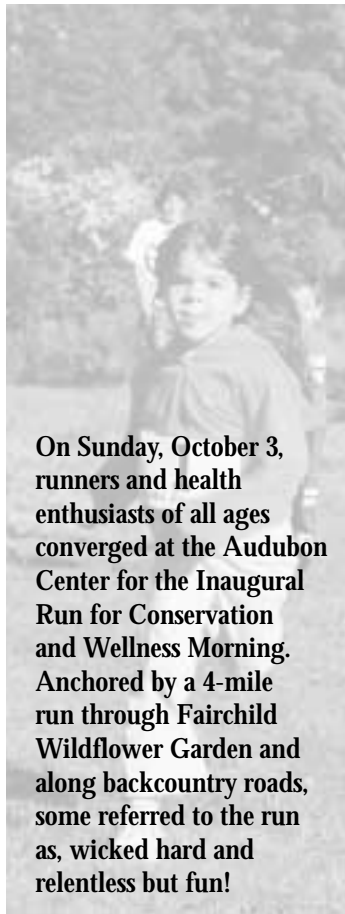
Dress: Belizean (think tropical birds,
sunshine, palm trees, ocean breezes,
waterfalls, lush emerald green mountains)

\$250 per person. For more information
on this fun night at Audubon, contact
Ron Brien at 203-869-5272, Ext. 234.



Audubon's Executives for Conservation funded and worked hard in their restoration of our Oneida Sanctuary which included a new bench, fence, street sign, interpretive sign, invasive plant clearing, and planting of native species. Pictured here at a ribbon cutting in September to celebrate the work done are Oneida Habitat restoration Chairs Ed Mortimer (far left) and Rich Granoff (far right), and Executives for Conservation Chairs Jonathan Ochsner (left) and Bryan Stepanian (right).

Run For Conservation - Naturally Fit



On Sunday, October 3, runners and health enthusiasts of all ages converged at the Audubon Center for the Inaugural Run for Conservation and Wellness Morning. Anchored by a 4-mile run through Fairchild Wildflower Garden and along backcountry roads, some referred to the run as, wicked hard and relentless but fun!

The event was developed and sponsored by the Audubon Greenwich Development Committee and chaired by new member and local resident Jim Giangrande. Over \$2,700 was raised in support of our educational programs. The highlight of the morning was seeing the new faces of families who had not visited the Audubon Center before.

A special congratulations to **David Yockelson** of Rye Brook, who was the overall winner with a strong time of 00:22:35, and to **Francoise Levinson** of Cos Cob, who led the women at 00:33:27! Thank you to all the participants who braved the grueling cross-country course!

Special thanks to the corporate sponsors who made this event possible: Luann OBrien, SavATree – The Tree and Shrub Care Company; Jim Giangrande, Strategies for Wealth Creation and Protection; Elsie Jane Pecorin, Weichert Realtors; Christian Carbonara, The Fitness Edge; Frank Lourenso, JP Morgan Chase; Steven F. Dolan, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network; Matthew Fuscaldo, Greenwich Sports Medicine; Bob Stepanian, Promotional Concepts; Robert Koshar, Greenwich Bicycles; Gina Magaudda, Barnum Financial Group; Molly Sheehy, Northern Trust; and Joseph Virgo, V-and-V Health Solutions.

We appreciate the time and dedication of our Naturally Fit Presenters: Andrea Candee, Master Herbalist; Andrew Scheffer, Meditation Expert; Dr. Gary Gruber, Nutritionist; Dan Maki, John Mazzarillo and Jeffrey Scott, Glen Gate Company, Wilton; Mary Rodica, Aveda of The Westchester, White Plains; and Adrian Somm and Kent Stivers, Eastern Mountain Sports, Stamford. Thanks also go to brunch sponsors: Cos Cob Farms; Nestle Water; Whole Foods Market; and Wilton Bagel Shop. A special thanks to our dedicated volunteers: Al Garavito, Tom Dalzell and Trey Kiernan of the Round Hill Fire Department; Jodie-Lynn Breakell, Red Cross, Greenwich Chapter; Board members Gary Palmer, Bill and Nancy Ross, and Camille Broderick; Bill Bogardus, North Street School; Bill Mongovan and members of the Greenwich High Cross-Country Team; Meejeen Yun and Mary Weiss.

Save the date the 2nd Annual Run for Conservation will be Sunday, October 2, 2005.

Winter 2004-2005 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.

DECEMBER

Animal Tracks and Traces

Saturday, December 4, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Become a nature detective for an afternoon as we seek out and interpret the footprints, food remains, homes and other signs left behind by our local but elusive wildlife.
Age 5 to adult

STORYTIME: Nature Tales for Tots - "When Will it Snow?"

Sunday, December 5, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm
See details in box on page 8

Winter's Greens

Saturday, December 11, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm
A family walk to seek out evergreen trees, ferns, mosses, and other touches of green in the winter landscape. Do not miss this chance to get the kids out of doors for a while.
Age 5 to adult

Christmas Bird Count Preview

Saturday, Dec. 18, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Learn about the history and process of the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count and get a brush-up on identifying our over-wintering birds at our feeders and on the Audubon grounds. Pre-registration is helpful. Age 8 to adult.

Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 19, An All Day Event
Teams of birders will be out in the field all day counting birds. See article on Page 1. To join a team for part or all of the day and/or to learn how to conduct a count in your own backyard, call Ted from our Education Department. 203-869-5272. Pre-registration is required.
Ages 8 to adult



Christmas Day & New Year's Day

Saturday, December 25, 2004
Saturday, January 1, 2005
The Kimberlin Nature Education Center, restrooms and our offices are closed, but you can walk at any of our sanctuaries. No admission charge.

JANUARY

Art from Connecticut Forests – Family Fun & Opening Day Reception

Saturday, January 8, beginning at 1:30 pm
Be the first to see this exciting exhibit on display on the lower level of the Audubon Center. This collaborative effort comes from artists from all over Connecticut. See article on page 1 for details. Meet some of the artists and join our naturalists for fun family activities. Artwork on display until February 19.

Opening Remarks & Artists' Reception

1:30 pm
Walk and family fun immediately after.

Trees in Winter Walk with Ted Gilman

2:00 – 3:00 pm
Everyone can come learn how to identify trees in winter by their buds, branches, seeds, bark and overall shape. Ages 5 to adult.

Family Fun with Our Naturalists

On-going from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Enjoy crafts and family activities using this amazing forest art exhibit on display downstairs. All ages.

STORYTIME: Nature Tales for Tots - "A Tree in the Ancient Forest"

Sunday, January 9, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm
See details in box on page 8.

Old Pasture Trail Hike

Saturday, January 15, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Join us as we explore the woodlands and fields on the eastern side of our sanctuary to search for sign of coyote, fox, deer, squirrels, rabbits, mice, bluebirds and red-tailed hawks.
Ages 8 to adult.



MOVIETIME: Winter Movie Series at Audubon

Sunday, January 16, 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm
See details in box on page 7

MOVIETIME: Winter Movie Series at Audubon

Sundays, January 16, January 30,
February 13 and February 27,
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Come on out for a fun, educational screening of one of Audubon's best nature videos. Subjects are diverse but may include bats, cranes, owls, hawks and much more. Movies selected are family-friendly and selected for a variety of audiences and ages. Admission included with your visitor fee; Free to Audubon members. All ages. Movie titles are listed on our website www.greenwich.center.audubon.org or call the Education Program Manager for more information.

Bald Eagles in Winter

Saturday, Jan. 22, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Do not miss this seasonal opportunity to see eagles in the wild. Always dress warmly for outdoor eagle observation. We'll travel to either the Shepaug Dam on the Housatonic River and Bent of the River Audubon Sanctuary or the Croton Point Park and George's Island Park along the Hudson River. Pre-registration required. 203-869-5272 to register & for more details. Ages 8 to adult.



STORYTIME: Nature Tales for Tots - "Stellaluna"

Sunday, January 23, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm
See details in box on page 8.

Insects on the Snow

Saturday, January 29, 10:00 am – 11:30 am
Join us as we search out winter active insects such as 'snow fleas,' stoneflies and winter scorpion flies. Then come back to the center for a cup of hot chocolate and a close-up look at our insect discoveries under our video microscope. Ages 5 to adult.

MOVIETIME: Winter Movie Series at Audubon

Sunday, January 30, 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm
See details in box above.

FEBRUARY

STORYTIME: Nature Tales for Tots - "In the Snow: Who's Been Here?"

Sunday, February 6, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm
See details in box on page 8

Field Trip to Edith Read Sanctuary in Rye, NY

Saturday, February 12, 9:00 am – 12 noon
In search of wintering birds, we'll scan the waters of Long Island Sound and Playland Lake for loons, grebes, ducks, gulls and sandpipers and check the thickets and woodlands for land birds. Pre-registration required. Call 203-869-5272 to register or for more details. Ages 8 to adult

PROJECT PUFFIN

Sunday, February 13
Please see page 11 for complete details

MOVIETIME: Winter Movie Series at Audubon

Sunday, February 13, 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm
See details in box above left.

Great Backyard Bird Count

Saturday, February 19, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Join in this 4-day, continent-wide count of birds just before spring migration begins. We'll demonstrate the count procedures here so that you can then do your own counts at home throughout this holiday weekend. Ages 5 & older.

STORYTIME: Nature Tales for Tots - "Birds in Your Backyard"

Sunday, February 20, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm
See details in box on page 8

Africa-A Year In The Bush Photo Expedition with Jeff Cordulack

Saturday, February 26, 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Education Program Manager Jeff Cordulack spent a year in Africa teaching nature conservation at the Mokolodi Nature Reserve in Botswana and traveling the continent. Join Jeff as he tells his story, shows his photographs and takes questions from the audience. Jeff will discuss his travels from the great Okavango Swamp in the south to the wild northern highlands. Ages 5 & older.

MOVIETIME: Winter Movie Series at Audubon

Sunday, February 27, 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm
See full description above

Nature Tales for Tots

For children ages 3-6

Sundays, Dec. 5, Jan. 9, Jan. 23, Feb. 6, Feb. 20, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm
Young children can explore the wonder of nature as they read a seasonal nature-related story with our naturalist, sing songs, create crafts to go along with the story theme, and make discoveries at the Nature Center with a different theme each Sunday. Come for just one program, a few, or come to all. Space is limited, pre-registration is required. Program fee: Members-\$5 for each parent/child team, Non-members-\$10 for each parent/child team. To register call Audubon Greenwich at 203-869-5272. Programs are offered on the following Sundays:

December 5:

"When Will it Snow?"

written by Bruce Hiscock

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

January 9:

"A Tree in the Ancient Forest"

written by Carol Reed-Jones

And other tree tales...Journey through the life of a tree, meet some creatures that use trees for homes, and create your own tree craft.

January 23:

"Stellaluna" written by Janell Cannon

No, it's not a bird – it's a mammal, like you and me! Learn all about bats as we play some bat games and make a bat puppet.

February 6:

"In the Snow: Who's Been Here?"

written by Lindsay Barrett George

Hop, waddle, and bound around the center as we practice looking for active winter animals and following in their footsteps – with or without snow!

February 20:

"Birds in Your Backyard"

written by Barbara Herkert

Across the country, people will be participating in the annual Great Backyard Bird Count. Learn about winter birds, watch them at our special bird viewing window, and make a bird craft.

HawkWatch Weekend in September shines despite the weather

Although the Saturday was a washout (50 hardy visitors were here that day) 500 folks were here for the glorious weather and festival fun on Sunday. On Sunday participants saw 1,558 hawks overhead including 14 bald eagles. Bill Robinson's live Birds of Prey program was spectacular and kids had lots of fun at the owl pellet workshop and exploring the life at the pond.

And everyone learned more about raptors and migration, insects, bees and Audubon.

Thanks to our 25 volunteers for making it all happen.



Give an Audubon Gift Membership

We would like to welcome the 85 new members who joined Audubon Greenwich since May. We now have 1,712 members in our area. 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.

To become a member, or to give a gift membership go to our web site www.greenwich.center.audubon.org, 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 support!

AUDUBON CENTER WISH LIST

Your donation of a wish list item is greatly appreciated... new or used.

Call Madeline at 203-869-5272, ext. 226 if you can help.

- Pentium III computer
- scanner
- composter
- taxidermy specimens
- binoculars
- map cabinet
- portable CD/tape player
- cups and mugs
- portable projector screen
- aquarium tank covers with lights
- televisions for classroom use
- Audubon or other artwork for our new building walls.
- video camera
- carport awning

Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch 2004 Report

by Brian O'Toole, Audubon Hawk Watcher

Another successful Hawkwatch season has come to an end. Over 12,500 raptors were counted migrating past the Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch at the Audubon Center of Greenwich from August 23 - November 19. As of press time a few more days of hawk watch counting remain so additional birds may still be seen. Many species showed increased numbers this year and a few records were established.



The most notable increase was the spike in the number of Black Vultures seen. 27 were recorded this year, a new high for the Watch. The previous high was seven in 2003. This species is expanding its range northward and is being seen quite regularly in our area. Eighty-two Bald Eagles were tallied, the second highest number



Brian O'Toole, our official hawk watch counter, persevered through hot summer days, as well as rain, and wind and cold.

ever recorded for Quaker Ridge. Their continued population increase is encouraging. Sharp-shinned Hawks also put in a strong showing with over 3,000 counted. It has been five years since we've had over 3,000 Sharpies in a season. Coopers Hawks have increased since the late 90s at our site. This year, 329 were seen, up from our average of 216.

One of the highlights of the fall season is the appearance of large kettles of Broad-winged Hawks. Quaker Ridge is one of the premier sites in the northeast to observe them. This year the numbers were down from our average of 15,375 but up from the past three years totals. Weather is an important factor and remnants from Hurricane Ivan consumed our area during peak Broad-wing season and many birds could have been pushed west. A dreary September 18 was a disappointment for the first day of our HawkWatch Festival, but faithful observers saw 1,337 Broad-wings the next day. September 20 was even better, when light northwest winds pushed 2,310 Broad-wings southward. Ospreys continue to do well with 619 tallied, up from our average of 583. Falcons were numerous while American

Kestrels were below average. Merlins and Peregrine Falcons demonstrated above average numbers and Northern Harriers were down. The hawkwatch is important as we monitor struggling species such as Kestrels and Harriers whose numbers appear to be dwindling due to habitat loss.

Red-Shouldered Hawks were up from an average of 119 with 147 sighted while

Red-tails were down with 224. High numbers of Turkey Vultures were seen from mid-October till early November when a high of 92 were observed on October 25.

Late in the season, we anticipate the passage of Golden Eagles. This year we were treated to two, so far down from our average of eight. More Golden's migrated west of here. Our rarest sighting was of an immature light-phase Swainson's Hawk, a western bird rarely observed here. This constitutes our 5th record for Quaker Ridge.

For more detailed info on the Quaker Ridge Hawkwatch, visit www.hawkcount.org. I'd like to thank our dedicated volunteers who made this season a success: Trudy Battaly, Al Collins, Patrick Dugan, Cynthia Ehlinger, Frank Guida, Drew Panko, Matt Popp, Mike Reese, Aaron Virgin, Bill Wallace, Mike Warner, and Joe Zeranski.

(Our sincere thanks go to Brian O'Toole who returned to us this season as our official hawk watch counter. With good humor and outstanding skill, Brian was intrepid and diligent through hot summer days, as well as rain, and wind and cold. Thank you, Brian.)

Hawkwatch Totals as of 11/4/04

Black Vulture - 27
Turkey Vulture - 529
Osprey - 619
Bald Eagle - 82
Northern Harrier - 138
Sharp-shinned Hawk - 3215
Cooper's Hawk - 329
Northern Goshawk - 9
Red-shouldered Hawk - 147
Broad-winged Hawk - 6654
Red-tailed Hawk - 224
Golden Eagle - 2
American Kestrel - 570
Merlin - 83
Peregrine Falcon - 24
Unidentified Raptor - 97
Swainson's Hawk - 1

More bird sighting from the Hawkwatch field

- Purple Martin
- Olive-Sided Flycatcher in dead tree in the meadow
- Red-Headed Woodpecker
- American Bittern over Hawkwatch
- Hooded Warbler
- Eastern Meadowlark
- Common Ravens-over Hawkwatch
- Red-Headed Woodpecker
- Mourning Warbler in the meadow
- 420 Snow Geese flying over Hawkwatch
- Wilson's Snipe (flyby)
- Vesper Sparrow
- Pine Siskins
- Yellow-Bellied Sapsuckers

Audubon Greenwich Annual Appeal Needs You

During the past year 30,000 people visited Audubon Greenwich – a new record!

Busloads of children from public and private schools, from the Bronx to Bridgeport visited the Kimberlin Nature Education Center including the Hilfiger Family Children's Learning Wing. Children continue to connect with nature through a myriad of science-based educational programs. And families too flock to Audubon's 645 preserved acres in Greenwich to discover the community's living classroom – our sanctuaries. Thank you for helping make all of this possible. Your steadfast support is helping us grow the next generation of conservationists.



As fall becomes winter and another year comes to a close, we would appreciate your continued support to further our important efforts. But first, allow us to briefly tell you about some of our opportunities for children.

Upon arrival at Audubon, children race to see our over one dozen interactive nature exhibits. Our 'touch and learn' displays prepare children for what they will see and hear on our magnificent sanctuary. Time has demonstrated that when children are provided gratifying outdoor experiences they will grow up loving nature – and one day realize that protecting nature is very important. From a very early age, children connect with nature at Audubon in a variety of ways – from our summer day camp to hiking on our over seven miles of trails. Children enjoy learning about the earth and its biological diversity through exhibits such as our working weather station; live beehive, and the Byram River Watershed and Systems of Nature exhibits, and wildlife observation windows. A large

topographical map of the sanctuary, donated by Audubon's Executives for Conservation Group, identifies the many nature and wildlife sightings for children to explore. Everyone enjoys the butterfly, fern and wildflower gardens donated by the Greenfingers, Greenwich and Hortulus Garden Clubs just

outside the building. And as you may know, our entire lower floor is devoted to classrooms – and kids learn about recycling from walking on floors made from recycled tires.

Looking toward what the future holds for our next generation of conservationists, we know that our annual appeals hold great promise and increasing significance. We need to depend on caring friends like you – to request

your partnership – so together we can continue to connect children and nature. Only this community can protect our local environment for the generations to come. We hope you will support us this year. Once again, thank you for all you do for Audubon Greenwich.



Under a blanket of freshly fallen snow, Audubon's Kimberlin Nature Education Center offers a peaceful world in which to observe our native wildlife in winter.

BECOME AN E-ADVOCATE –

Receive action alerts about Connecticut's environment and what you can do to help.

Send a blank email message to:

AudubonActCT-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

FOR WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATES –

Receive announcements about upcoming Audubon Greenwich events and special programs.

Send a blank email message to:

audubongreenwichnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com




PROJECT PUFFIN:

How We Brought Puffins Back to Maine

Sunday, February 13,

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.



Come learn about puffins, a beautiful little seabird with some very special features. Join well-known seabird expert, Pete Salmansohn, as he demonstrates puffin adaptations, creates puffin crafts and shows slides of how these little wonders were brought back to Maine. Pete will also autograph his books including "Project Puffin," "Saving Birds: Heroes Around the World" and "Giving Back to the Earth: A Teacher Activity Guide for Project Puffin and other Seabird Studies." Do not miss a chance to meet an expert who is making a difference in the world of birds. Pre-registration required. Ages 5 to adult.

Thank you *to our volunteers*

Our beekeepers, Bill Ross, Daniel Donovan, and Ellen Zampino for the harvesting of delicious Audubon honey this fall; Muriel Gantz, our weekly office assistant; eagle scout Khaled Allen for his signs project; Mary Weiss, the North Greenwich Congregational Church; our friends at Wildlife in Crisis and the students of Greenwich Country Day School for their help on Hawk Watch weekend; and the Stanwich School students for their monthly project help.

VOLUNTEER CLASSIFIEDS

Audubon Greeter – Personable, mature volunteers needed to be a host at our Kimberlin Nature Education Center. Greet visitors and answer questions about nature and about the center.

Nature Store Assistant – Personable, active volunteers needed to assist our staff and store customers, receive inventory, process sales, and set up merchandise displays in our fun store.


Weekdays and weekends according to your schedule. Volunteers will receive training and orientation. If you are interested or for more information, call Margaret at 203-869-5272 Ext. 223.

JOIN THE AUDUBON TEAM

Art from Connecticut Forests

continued from page 1

artists with branches, bark, wood, roots, sawdust, and ash. Other materials such as metals and glass were often added.



In forestry terms, its value is \$35, as the tree is starting to die back, rot at the stump and is not of the best quality. In ecological terms, this particular white oak has been selected for harvest in keeping with the traditional goal of forestry in Connecticut's State Forests. The goal is to work with nature to create a healthier, more vigorous forest. State foresters have judged that harvesting will promote growth of other trees in the immediate area. In artistic terms, this oak will touch the lives of fifty artists as they maximize the creative value of the wood, making sculptures, furniture, jewelry, pictures, charcoal, textile dyes, paper, frames, baskets, leather, pottery glazes and whatever else the artist can imagine and create.

This exhibit opened in July 2004 at the Charter Oak Cultural Center in Hartford. Art from Connecticut Forests has traveled to exhibition sites in Portland, New London, and goes on to New Milford, and Derby after Greenwich. All pieces are available for sale with the proceeds for the artwork being used to support statewide environmental education programs.

This exhibit will provide for environmental education outreach as well to new audiences using art in science education to help link human expression to natural resources. School groups and scout troops will tour the exhibit and carry out activities that link

art with science and interpretation of our world.

The art exhibit is in association with The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, the



Connecticut Forest and Parks Association, the Connecticut Commission on the Arts, and the Department of Economic Growth and Tourism. To learn more about the exhibit and see photos of the art work go to www.dep.state.ct.us/educ/art.

WINTER 2004

Natural History Notes

By *Ted Gilman, Education Specialist*

The rose, orange and violet of a winter sunset silhouetting the fine sculpture of tree branches over a snow covered landscape; the blue to violet shadows of tree shapes on a full moon walk through the January snow; juncos and tree sparrows balancing on goldenrod stems picking at the rich harvest of seeds; the various shades of winter green to be found among the mosses, lichens, Christmas ferns, pines, hemlocks and club mosses; lively bands of chickadees, titmice, nuthatches and downy woodpeckers working their way through the winter woodlands each seeking out foods in their own special way; loons, grebes, long-tailed ducks and red-breasted mergansers making a winter living by diving beneath the chilly waters of Long Island Sound to select their foods from the rich



harvest of fish, mollusks, and crustaceans below; a woodchuck curled up in its burrow in a near-death hibernation state keeping the minimum embers of life going until the warmth of spring rouses it to renew its plant eating lifestyle; tiny snow fleas (springtails), winter stoneflies and snow scorpionflies reminding us of the insect realm largely hidden away during the cold winter months; the tan, bleached leaves of young beech trees, still clinging tenaciously to their branches, as they give a dry rattle in a cold January breeze; the Geminid meteor shower animating the cold night sky of mid-December; the booming courtship calls of great-horned owls reminding us that another spring will follow this season of ice and snow....

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