



## Foundation Funds Project For The Birds

Audubon Connecticut was awarded a \$75,000 grant by the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven to support the work of the Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program in the Greater New Haven area.

This grant is funding a three year project to identify and protect key bird habitat in Greater New Haven. Patrick Comins, Director of Bird Conservation, and Chris Field, IBA Coordinator, will enlist and train hundreds of volunteers to conduct bird counts throughout the area. This data will be used to identify the key places (IBAs) that need protection to insure that they remain available for migrating and nesting birds. Once these places are identified, Audubon will enlist local stakeholders and volunteers to develop, support and implement protection plans. This new bird count information will form the basis of the Breeding Bird Atlas and be added to [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org), one of the world's largest databases of biodiversity records.

The atlas will give Audubon scientists the information they need to make smart conservation decisions, allowing them to identify a new suite of Important Bird Areas. In the



words of Tom Baptist, Audubon Connecticut's Executive Director "We are very excited to begin this important project that will advance environmental protection in Greater New Haven, benefit birds and engage hundreds of volunteers. This is the first time in a number of years Audubon Connecticut will be able to focus on identifying new IBA's. The IBA designation, because of its scientific underpinnings, affords these

places the highest ecological priority, giving momentum and traction to conservation efforts. We are deeply grateful to the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven for making this possible." In addition to funding the IBA effort, this grant will support Sandy Breslin, Director of Government Affairs, in her work with government bureaus and elected officials to secure regulations, legislation, and funding for land conservation and clean water projects.

*To date, Audubon Connecticut has identified 27 IBAs, three of which are globally significant. Learn more online at: [audubonct.org/IBAs.html](http://audubonct.org/IBAs.html) and watch for new IBA announcements in coming years as Audubon's work bears fruit.*

### 110th Christmas Bird Count December 20, 2009



Long-eared owl

Photo: Tom Baptist

Join dozens of Audubon volunteers in search of birds throughout the region during this annual tradition. Or use the form inside to count at home. Learn more at [www.audubon.org/bird/cbc](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc) or call Ted Gilman at Audubon Greenwich to join a counting team at x230.

### WINTER VACATION CAMP RETURNS

**February 16, 17, 18, 19**

*Experience winter in a whole new way during February's school vacation!*

**Kids in grades K-5 can come to one or more days of outdoor hikes, games, and crafts! This is a great way to find out what animals are really doing during the chilly winter months!**

February 16, 17, 18, 19 • 9:30 am-2:30 pm  
*All details & forms on website. Members: \$50 per day (Non-members: \$60) Spaces are limited.*

# AUDUBON GREENWICH NATURE PROGRAM CALENDAR

## W I N T E R 2 0 0 9 - 2 0 1 0

### Saturday, December 5

**Audubon's Animal Ambassadors 1:00-2:00 pm**  
Meet the non-human members of Audubon Greenwich's teaching team. Take a close look at our snakes, turtles, frogs, and insects during this fun class with an Audubon naturalist. *Space limited. Call the Store at x221 to sign up. After this class, the family can enjoy the music concert. See the entry below.*

### Musica Plenti's Solstice Music Festival

**Saturday, December 5 & 12 at 2:00 pm**

**Sunday, December 6 & 13 at 3:00 pm**

A celebration of music and nature to welcome the winter Solstice and the holiday season. The family-friendly events will showcase an original children's musical designed for this event by The Greenwich Performing Arts Studio (Dec. 5, 12), as well as choral concerts performed by The Bows and The Good News Gospel Choir (Dec. 6) and Musica Plenti (Dec. 13). For tickets, call 203-637-3058. Visit their website [www.musicaplenti.org](http://www.musicaplenti.org) for more information.

### Sunday, December 6

**Invasive Beetle Workshop 2:30-4:30 pm**

**With Rose Hiskes of the CT Agricultural Experiment Station**  
A two-hour training session on how to identify the Asian Long-horned Beetle (ALB), the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), infected trees. These beetles infect many trees including maple, elm, willow, birch, and poplar, killing them in 3-5 years. *RSVPs are required. No charge. To sign up, leave a message at x239.*

### Wednesday, December 9

**2009 Hawk Watch Report 7:00-8:00 pm**

The official 2009 Quaker Ridge Hawk watcher, Luke Tiller, will present this year's findings from our annual survey of raptors flying over our center. Several new records were set so come out to hear highlights from Luke's first season counting with us at Audubon Greenwich. *No RSVP required. Donations for Audubon accepted.*

### Saturday, December 12

**Family Bird Watching 12:30-2:00 pm**

Help our naturalist identify and count our local birds and report them to Project Feederwatch. Learn how your family can do these counts at your own home throughout the winter. *After this class, the family can enjoy the music concert. See the entry above. Register with Ted at x230.*

### Tuesday, December 15

**GREEN HOMES: High Efficiency Heating & Cooling Systems 7:00-9:30 pm**

Do you want to improve the energy efficiency of your home, but your house isn't suitable for an alternative energy system such as geothermal or solar? A range of options exist to make your conventional HVAC system more efficient and less costly to operate. *Suggested donation: \$10. RSVP to Jeff at x239.*

### Wednesday, December 16

**Environmental Priorities for Connecticut's**

**General Assembly 8:00-9:30 am**

Don't miss this special chance to hear from our elected officials at the only forum in Greenwich focused solely on environmental matters. Questions are encouraged. Free admission. Panelists are: State Senator L. Scott Frantz (R-36); State Representatives Livvy R. Floren (R-149), Lile R. Gibbons (R-150), Fred Camillo (D-151); and Sandy Breslin - Audubon Connecticut's Director for Government Affairs. *Meet in the Cone Room, Greenwich Town Hall, 101 Field Point Rd. RSVPs appreciated but not required. Leave a message at x239.*

### Saturday, December 19

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

Join experienced Audubon bird watchers to survey good local coastal and inland birding areas in preparation for the Annual Christmas Bird Count tomorrow on Sunday Dec. 20. Meet at the Audubon Center. Bring binoculars and warm clothes. Loaner binoculars and field guides will be available. *Ages 8 and up. RSVP to Nature Store at x221.*



Red-tailed hawk

Photo credit: Ted Gilman

### Annual Christmas Bird Count Sunday, December 20 - All Day

Join one of the oldest 'citizen science' bird research projects in the world. Contact Brian O'Toole to join one of our field counting teams or, if you live in our 15-mile count circle, conduct a backyard bird count and add your report to the count. (see enclosed flier)  
*For more details or to join a counting team, call x221.*

### Saturday, January 9

**TRIP: Long Beach/Great Meadows IBA (Stratford) 9:00 am-2:00 pm**

A coastal birding trip with Brian and Ted from Audubon. Help survey these great sanctuaries for over-wintering water birds, hawks, owls, and other birds. Dress warmly and bring binoculars. Extra binoculars will be available. *Register with Ted at x230.*

### Sunday, January 24

**TALK: Deep Travel with David Leff 2:00-3:00 pm**

Are you a deep traveler? Join David Leff for a journey that goes deep rather than far. Deep travel is a methodology that will enrich a trip anywhere. Mr. Leff is an author of numerous essays, columns, and stories, a Board Member of Audubon CT, and former Deputy Commissioner of the CT DEP. Learn more at: [www.davidkleff.com](http://www.davidkleff.com). *Suggested donation: \$5. RSVP to the Nature Store at x221. Note: Younger people can enjoy the owl pellet program while you enjoy this one.*

### Sunday, January 24

**Owls and Owl Pellets 2:00-3:00 pm**

Learn about our local owls and what owls like to eat by dissecting an owl pellet. Come learn how to be a skull and bone detective. *Ages 5 & up. Please RSVP to x221.*

### Saturday, January 30

**E4C: Family Breakfast & Live Animal Show 9:00-10:30 am**

Families are invited to join the fun at Audubon when families gather for a light breakfast and a live animal show. *All ages. \$25 per family. RSVPs required and space is limited. Leave a message for Jeff at x239.*

### Saturday, January 30

**Animal Homes and Winter Hideouts 1:00-2:30 pm**

Join us as we explore the Audubon trails through field and forest for special hiding places where our wildlife seeks shelter from the weather and predators. *All ages. RSVP to Nature Store at x221.*

### Saturday, January 30

**Full Moon Walk 6:00-8:00 pm**

Join us as we hike to Mead Lake to enjoy the moonlit woods and lakeshore and listen for ice shifting, hooting owls, coyotes, or other wildlife. *Ages 7 & up. Dress warmly with soft, quiet outer layers. RSVP required. Contact Ted at x230.*

### Saturday, February 6

**Hudson River Eagle Fest at Croton Point Park 9:00-4:00 pm**

Come scan the Hudson River shores and icy waters for wintering bald eagles. Live eagle programs, information tables, warming tents, etc. *For details visit [www.teatown.org](http://www.teatown.org).*

### Great Backyard Bird Count February 12-15

Join a nationwide effort to count birds in your own yard or neighborhood and report them to the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University. Visit [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc) or call Ted at x230 to learn more about participating.

### Saturday, February 13

**TRAINING SESSION:**

**Great Backyard Bird Count 1:00-2:30 pm**

Join us as we check our bird feeders and take a short walk on the property to identify and count local birds before returning to the center to report our bird sightings to Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology using the internet. Participants will learn basic bird ID and how to do counts in your own backyard and neighborhood. *All ages. Sign up with Ted at x230.*

### 2010 Winter Vacation Camp

**February 16-19**

*Experience winter in a whole new way!*

A wonderful wintertime nature camp for young people in Grades K-5. Sign-up early because spaces fill up fast. Registration forms and all details are online at [greenwich.audubon.org](http://greenwich.audubon.org).

*Call Lindsey at x235 for more information.*

### Saturday, February 20

**DOUBLE FEATURE:**

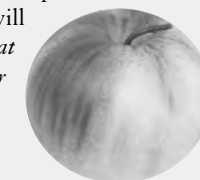
**Eagles In Alaska – Photography by Dan Burns & Meet the author of "How To Grow Your Own Tree Hugger" 2:00-3:30 pm**

The show begins with a series of incredible bald eagle photos by renowned NFL/sports photographer, Dan Burns. His striking images from Homer, Alaska capture an unusual gathering site for several dozen birds each winter. Author Wendy Rosenoff will follow with activities from her new how-to book about with raising eco-conscious youngsters. *\$4 for adults/ \$2 for children. All ages. RSVP to the Nature Store at x221.*

### Saturday, February 27

**'FRESH The Movie' & Panel Discussion 2:00-4:30 pm**

Local, organic and sustainable food movements are gaining ground and this event will kick off a series of related events. 'FRESH The Movie,' provides a vivid glimpse into our nation's broken food system, but also shows heroes who are working for change. A panel discussion follows the movie. Selected exhibitors will be onsite. All details are online. *Buy tickets online at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) for \$7 or \$15 at the door (space permitting and limited). Co-sponsored by [www.FairfieldGreenFoodGuide.com](http://www.FairfieldGreenFoodGuide.com).*



*Call Jeff at x239 for details. (Snow date: Feb. 28th)*

### Saturday, February 27

**Be An Animal Tracks and Traces Detective 2:30-3:45 pm**

Learn about the different tracks and traces left by our local animals and then join us for a short walk outside to search for animal signs. *Ages 5 & up. Please RSVP to the Nature Store at x221.*

### Saturday, February 27

**Full Moon Hike 6:30-8:30 pm**

We will hike to some of the farther corners of the Audubon property to look and listen for owls, coyotes, and other wildlife. *Ages 7 & up. Dress warmly with soft, quiet outer layers. RSVP required. Contact Ted at x230.*

Programs are suitable for all ages unless otherwise indicated. Please register by calling 203-869-5272. Programs start at the Kimberlin Nature Center at Audubon Greenwich, 613 Riversville Road. <http://greenwich.audubon.org>.

Program fees: \$3/adult members; \$5/adult non-members; \$1.50/member children and seniors; \$3/non-member children and seniors; no charge to Teacher Naturalists as part of their ongoing training.

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

# Backyard & Feeder Reporting Form

## Christmas Bird Count Sunday, December 20, 2009



Black-capped  
Chickadee

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

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

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

The Christmas Bird Count covers the entire 24-hour period from midnight to midnight on Sunday, December 20, 2009. This offers individuals a special opportunity to go out in the darkness on a pre-dawn search to listen for owls or come out at daylight to count birds by sight and

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

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

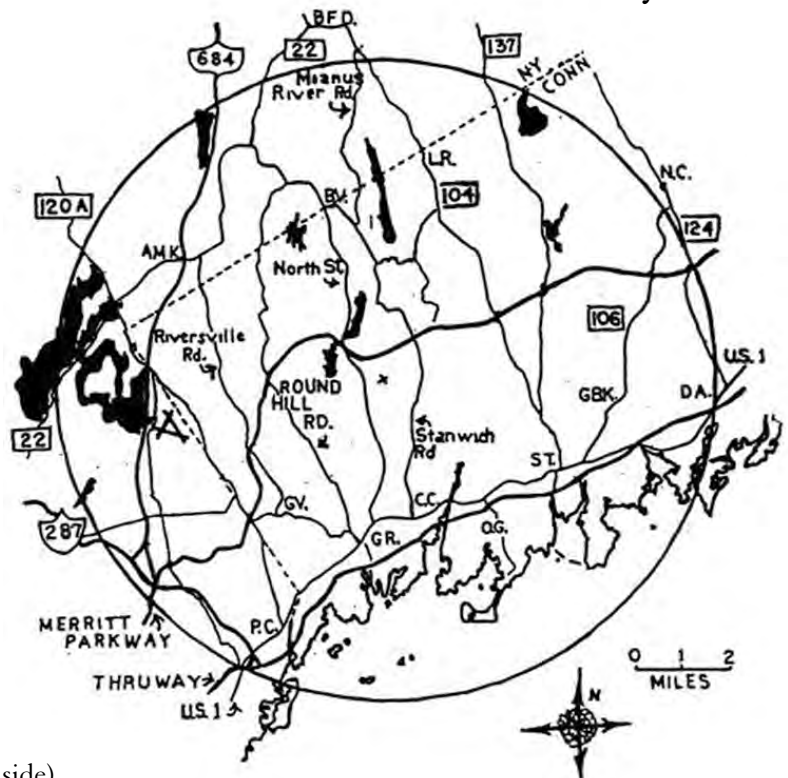
### HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1. **Count Date: December 20, 2009.**  
**Record all bird observations made in the Greenwich-Stamford territory.**

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

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

### Greenwich-Stamford Christmas Bird Count Territory



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

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

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

Do not add this figure to the previous total.

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

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

**5. Submit this form by December 24.**

Please mail to:

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

(203) 661-4897 or email:

GEJLPALMER@YAHOO.COM



**BACKYARD AND FEEDER CHECK LIST**



December 20, 2009

# of  
Individuals    Species

\_\_\_\_\_ Wild Turkey

\_\_\_\_\_ Sharp-shinned Hawk

\_\_\_\_\_ Cooper's Hawk

\_\_\_\_\_ Red-tailed Hawk

\_\_\_\_\_ Rock Pigeon

\_\_\_\_\_ Mourning Dove

\_\_\_\_\_ Red-bellied Woodpecker

\_\_\_\_\_ Downy Woodpecker

\_\_\_\_\_ Pileated Woodpecker

\_\_\_\_\_ Blue Jay

\_\_\_\_\_ American Crow

\_\_\_\_\_ Black-capped Chickadee

\_\_\_\_\_ Tufted Titmouse

# of  
Individuals    Species

\_\_\_\_\_ White-breasted Nuthatch

\_\_\_\_\_ Red-breasted Nuthatch

\_\_\_\_\_ Carolina Wren

\_\_\_\_\_ American Robin

\_\_\_\_\_ Northern Mockingbird

\_\_\_\_\_ European Starling

\_\_\_\_\_ Eastern Towhee

\_\_\_\_\_ American Tree Sparrow

\_\_\_\_\_ Field Sparrow

\_\_\_\_\_ Fox Sparrow

\_\_\_\_\_ Song Sparrow

\_\_\_\_\_ White-throated Sparrow

\_\_\_\_\_ Dark-eyed Junco

# of  
Individuals    Species

\_\_\_\_\_ Northern Cardinal

\_\_\_\_\_ Red-winged Blackbird

\_\_\_\_\_ Common Grackle

\_\_\_\_\_ Brown-headed Cowbird

\_\_\_\_\_ Purple Finch

\_\_\_\_\_ House Finch

\_\_\_\_\_ Pine Siskin

\_\_\_\_\_ American Goldfinch

\_\_\_\_\_ Common Redpoll

\_\_\_\_\_ House Sparrow

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out the information below

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_

Feeder Address \_\_\_\_\_

Hours watching feeder \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

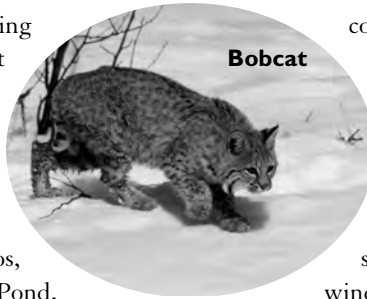
Please mail this form by December 24 to: Gary Palmer, 34 Field Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807 • Phone: (203) 661-4897 or email: GEJLPALMER@YAHOO.COM

WINTER 2009-2010

# Natural History Notes

By Ted Gilman, Education Specialist

The deep hooting of a great horned owl announcing another winter courtship season; snow flakes, like giant puffs of goose down, floating silently down to coat every branch in the winter woodland; bright red cardinals, clustered in shrubbery in the midst of a snowstorm, like so many holiday lights; deer pawing in the snow for the last fallen apples to add to their winter diet of twigs of trees and shrubs; a flock of juncos, hopping about on the frozen surface of Indian Spring Pond, feeding on the seeds of black birch trees scattered by the wind; clumps of little bluestem grass, highlighted against the snow, glowing tan to pinkish to pale orange in the warm sunset light; the blue-white light of a winter full moon, casting delicate woven shadows of bare tree branches across the January snows; a saw whet owl patiently waiting in the darkness for a mouse to emerge below a bird feeder to provide fuel to survive another cold winter night; yellow-bellied sapsuckers seeking the last frozen apples which still cling to their branches or quietly chiseling their neat rows of holes in the bark of apple trees; tiny seeds,



coated with tawny fluff, blown away from cattail seed heads, to be carried across the snowy landscape by a brisk February wind; a tan, spotted bobcat stalking silently or lying in wait in the snow for an unwary squirrel; turkey vultures roosting on a roof or tree branch with wings spread to soak up the warmth of the morning sunshine; the hissing sound of cold, dry, snowflakes being blown across the ice-crusting snow in a windswept field; meadow voles moving furtively in their tunnels beneath the snow in search of grass seeds or the nutritious inner bark of apple trees in the orchard; a winter wren, like a tiny brown feathered mouse, hops, fidgets, and darts about among fallen trees, old stumps and logs in search of hibernating insects and spiders; goldfinches, in the treetops, feasting on clusters of black birch and yellow birch seeds; the first sweet whistled two-note 'feebee' song of a black-capped chickadee, marking the advance of the new year's longer days and raising the hopes for the return of spring in winter-weary souls...

## SHOP AUDUBON AND SUPPORT BIRDS



### **Need a new feeder or simply some seed?**

Shopping at Audubon Greenwich supports the nature center and advances the Audubon mission.

Call or stop by for advice on a new feeder.

**Store Hours: Tues.-Sat. 9am-5pm • Sun. 12 noon-5pm**

### **CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY Saturday, December 19, 2009**

Shop the Nature Store and receive **15% OFF** everything\*  
\*except seed and optics.



**Clean Feeders Often:** Birds need clean feeders, especially during the cold season. Two ways to reduce bird-to-bird disease transmission is to dispose of old seed when re-filling feeders and consider a monthly or seasonal soak for feeders using a tray of hot, soapy water with a splash of bleach (a 10:1 solution is recommended). Use a bottle brush to loosen grim on the inside and the tubes will look almost new again.

 **Audubon** GREENWICH  
613 Riversville Road  
Greenwich, CT 06831

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### **Musica Plenti**

December 5, 6, 12, 13

### **Christmas Bird Count**

December 20

### **David Leff on Deep Travel**

January 24

### **'FRESH' The Movie**

February 27