



Audubon Appeals to Professionals on Organics

As part of a campaign aimed at highlighting health hazards associated with synthetic and toxic lawn care products, Audubon Greenwich's Audubon at Home is hosting a free workshop for lawn care and golf course professionals. Featured speaker, Chip Osborne, a nationally-recognized expert on organic lawn care, will discuss techniques for achieving a great looking lawn or turf without the use on synthetic pesticides or fertilizers. Participants will learn how to landscape organically, benefiting both the environment and our community.

You can help our efforts by inviting your lawn care person and/or your golf club manager. Or send us the contact information and Audubon staffers will gladly contact them for you. Invitee contact information can be left with Christy Pennoyer at the RSVP number to the right. Thank you for helping to create a healthier neighborhood.

Thursday, January 10, 2008

CHIP OSBORNE - ORGANIC LAWNS & GOLF COURSES Workshops For Professionals

- 9:00-11:30 am: Lawn Care Session
 - 1:30-3:30 pm: Golf Course Session
- No charge. RSVP: 203-869-5272 x225
Snow Day: January 11

2007 Hawk Watch Highlights

By Brian Biefelt

Record-breaking year! Come hear the results on Dec. 2 or read the full report online. Asterisk (*) denotes record year.



Red-shouldered
Hawk

American Kestrel	717
Bald Eagle	169*
Black Vulture	40
Golden Eagle	11
Turkey Vulture	577
Merlin	121*
Northern Harrier	302
Osprey	780
Peregrine	58*
Cooper's Hawk	652*
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4856*
Northern Goshawk	27*
Red-shouldered Hawk	334*
Broad-winged Hawk	9327
Red-tailed Hawk	315
Unidentified spp.	196

Steve Beal and his family generously donated the materials and news signs for the Hawk Watch kiosk and Mike Warner skillfully rebuilt it with a handful of helpers. Many thanks to them and special thanks to Brian Biefelt and the 2007 team of volunteer hawk watchers! Job well done!

GREEN SITES FOR THE WINTER BLUES

- This spring, try buying only native plants for your landscaping needs. The Audubon at Home website has many ideas for natives and how to attract birds to your property. www.audubonathome.com
- Learn about easy steps you can take to help fight global warming at Audubon's website: www.audubon.org/globalwarming

Get updated! Sign up for the weekly AGNEWS email of events. Send a blank email to: audubongreenwichnews-subscribe@yahogroups.com

2008 Winter Vacation Camp

Experience winter in a whole new way!

Campers spend one, two, or all three days playing fun games, making cool nature crafts, and going on snowy hikes.

- Feb. 19th - Animal Homes & Hideouts
- Feb. 20th - Winter Survival Strategies
- Feb. 21st - Winter Explorers

Camp hours: 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. Grades K-5

Cost: \$50/day (members) or \$60/day (non-members)

Registration required: starts December 1st.

Contact Lindsey at 203.869.5272 x 235.



AUDUBON GREENWICH NATURE PROGRAM CALENDAR

W I N T E R 2 0 0 7 - 0 8

Sunday, Dec. 2, Jan. 6, Feb. 3

BIRDING: "First Sundays" at Greenwich Point Park 9:00 am

Join us for fun, friendly, and fantastic bird watching at the Point, on the 1st Sunday of every month. Meet at second concession stand. Guides are experienced and knowledgeable birders from Audubon Greenwich, Bruce Museum, & Wild Wings. Beginners to experts and all ages are welcome. For more information, call 203-637-9822.

Saturday, December 1

E4C: Story Time with Ernie Anastos 9:00-10:30 am

Following breakfast, television anchor Ernie Anastos will read his children's book, *Ernie & The Big News*, as we gather around the fireplace in our historic barn. Pre-registration required. Please RSVP to Jeff at 203-869-5272 x239. \$25 per family includes a copy of the book. Additional copies are \$15.00.

Saturday, December 1

Life Under Wraps - Trees in Winter 1:00-2:30 pm

Learn to identify trees in winter by their buds, bark, and branching patterns. We'll touch on holiday trees, too, and how trees survive winter.

Sunday, December 2

2007 HawkWatch Report & Christmas Bird Count Preview 2:30-4:30 pm

Hear the HawkWatch report from Brian Biffel, the returning hawk counter, and enjoy this fun, annual gathering of birders and naturalists. Learn details and trends from the 2007 HawkWatch season. Come review the hawks and sign up to help a Christmas Count team or do a backyard count to contribute to the effort. Newcomers can join a team and returning area captains can get their Christmas Bird Count packets. Co-sponsored by the Quaker Ridge Bird Club. For more information about bird club activities, call Brian O'Toole in the Nature Store.

Saturday, December 15

Christmas Bird Count: 'family practice session' 10:00-11:30 am

Bring the kids to review our local feeder birds and take a short bird walk to seek out birds eating from the feeders. Then enjoy hot chocolate while reviewing how to do a home-based count on Sunday. Sign up with Ted at 203-869-5272 x230. All ages.



Black-capped Chickadee

SHOP FOR THE HOLIDAYS AT
AUDUBON'S NATURE STORE - 7 DAYS A WEEK

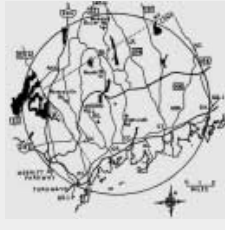
Bird Seed Sale - December and February -
Buy \$50 or more of seed and receive 15% off.

Annual Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 16, 2007

24 hours - midnight to midnight

Join pre-dawn owling teams, a daytime field team, or count in your own yard! Go online: www.greenwich.audubon.org for backyard count forms or more information about the count. No registration fee for backyard & feeder reports. Call Brian at 203-869-5272 x221 or Ted at x230 to sign up for this exciting citizen science project.



The day of counting will be followed by a 'compilation' meeting about birds sighted & a festive homemade dinner. Birders and their guests should meet in the Kimberlin Nature Education Center at 5:00 pm. RSVP for dinner so we can plan ahead. \$5 registration fee for field counters.

Saturday, January 5

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

Start the New Year off right with an invigorating hike on the winter landscape to seek out winter birds and signs of our secretive mammals such as coyote, fox, and mice. Ages 7 & up.

Sunday, January 6

T4C: Teens for Conservation - Join the "First Sunday" Bird Walk at Greenwich Point 9:00-10:30 am

A great way to get outdoors and see birds with experienced guides. Meet at second concession stand. No park permit required. Please sign-up and come prepared for the weather. Binoculars will be available to share. Call Jeff at 203-613-8813 to sign up or for more information about T4C. Ages 12 & up.

Sunday, January 6

COOL IT! - A Climate Change Contest for Middle & High School Students 10:30-12:00 noon

Laurel Kohl from the Institute for Sustainable Energy will present exciting ways for young people to get involved in climate change issues by creating real-world change and trying to win prizes. All the details are listed at: www.coolitchallenge.org but come and hear it first-hand from the contest organizer when she gives an update on climate change and how to participate in solutions to this global challenge. No charge. All ages welcome. RSVP in James Flynn at 203-869-5272 x224.



Thursday, January 10

ORGANIC LAWN & GOLF COURSE WORKSHOPS FOR PROFESSIONALS

Presented by Chip Osborne of the Living Lawn, Grassroots Healthy Lawn Program, NOFA Organic Land Program, and Osborne Organics

Choice of Two Sessions

- A) 9:00 - 11:30 am: Natural Lawn & Turf Management: Improve Business Naturally. *For Lawn & Landscaping Professionals*
- B) 1:30 - 3:30 pm: Natural Golf Course Management: Choices and Challenges. *For Golf Course Professionals*

No charge for this event but an RSVP is requested. Sign up with Christy Pennoyer at (203) 869-5272 x225.

Saturday, January 12

BIRDING: Marshlands Conservancy & Edith Read Sanctuaries 9:00 am-12:30 pm

Join Audubon Naturalists when we survey coastal areas for over-wintering ducks, grebes, loons, gulls, and cormorants and nearby woodlands and fields areas for sparrows, finches, and maybe even an owl. Pre-register with Ted at 203-869-5272 x230. Ages 7 & up. Carpool to Marshlands leaves at 9:00 am or call ahead for directions.

Sunday, February 3

Papermaking - Recycling for Valentine's Day 10:00-11:30 am

Papermaking is a fun, family activity that also aids us with the 3 Rs - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Come learn how to make beautiful, handcrafted paper and create cards for Valentine's Day. Suitable for all ages but parent supervision and involvement is necessary. Please RSVP. Call the Nature Store to sign up: 203-869-5272 x221.

Saturday, February 16

Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) 1:00-2:30 pm

We will conduct a count at our bird observation window and then take a short bird walk on our sanctuary. Then we'll come back inside for hot chocolate and a demonstration of how you can report your own neighborhood sightings for the GBBC throughout the weekend. More information at: www.birdsource.org

Sunday, February 17

Cougars of the Northeast 3:00-5:00 pm

The Mountain Lion, also known as the Cougar, Panther, Puma, or Catamount, is the most widely distributed mammal in the Americas. They live in many different types of habitats, from deserts to humid coast range forest, and from sea level to 10,000-foot elevations. Some occupy areas adjacent to towns and cities and make occasional appearances in suburban backyards. Learn more about Mountain Lions and their presence in Southern New England from Bill Betty, a Rhode Island native who studies these amazing creatures.



Friday, February 22

Winter Moonlight Walk 7:30-9:00 pm

Join us for a walk in the winter moonlight as we enjoy shadows, animal sounds, and reflections of moonlight on the winter landscape. Registration required. Call Ted at 203-869-5272 x230. Ages: 8 & up.

Saturday, February 23

T4C: Teens for Conservation - Bird-counting for Project Feederwatch 1:00-2:00 pm

Join other citizen scientists at the bird-feeder window to help us do our weekly count. Learn winter bird identification and how to do feeder counts at home and record online. For more information about Project Feederwatch, visit: www.birdsource.org. RSVP required: Call Ted at 203-869-5272. Ages: 12 & up.

Saturday, February 23

World of the Red-tailed Hawk 2:00-3:30 pm

Red-tailed Hawks are a common neighbor for many of us in this area. Enjoy this chance to take a close look at the life history and habits of this impressive predator. Call the Nature Store to sign up: 203-869-5272 x221. Ages: 5 & up.

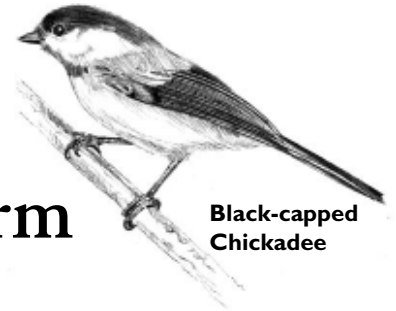
Programs are suitable for all ages unless otherwise indicated. Please register by calling 203-869-5272. Programs start at the Kimberlin Nature Center at Audubon Greenwich, 613 Riversville Rd. Program fees: \$3/adult members; \$5/adult non-members; \$1.50/member children and seniors; \$3/non-member children and seniors; no charge to Teacher Naturalists as part of their ongoing training.

Audubon Greenwich • 613 Riversville Road • Greenwich, CT 06831 • 203-869-5272 • greenwich.audubon.org

Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 16, 2007

Backyard & Feeder Reporting Form



**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 in on the fun at our annual Christmas Bird Count!

The Christmas Bird Count covers the entire 24-hour period from midnight to midnight on Sunday, December 16, 2007. 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 Ted Gilman at 203-869-5272 x230.

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

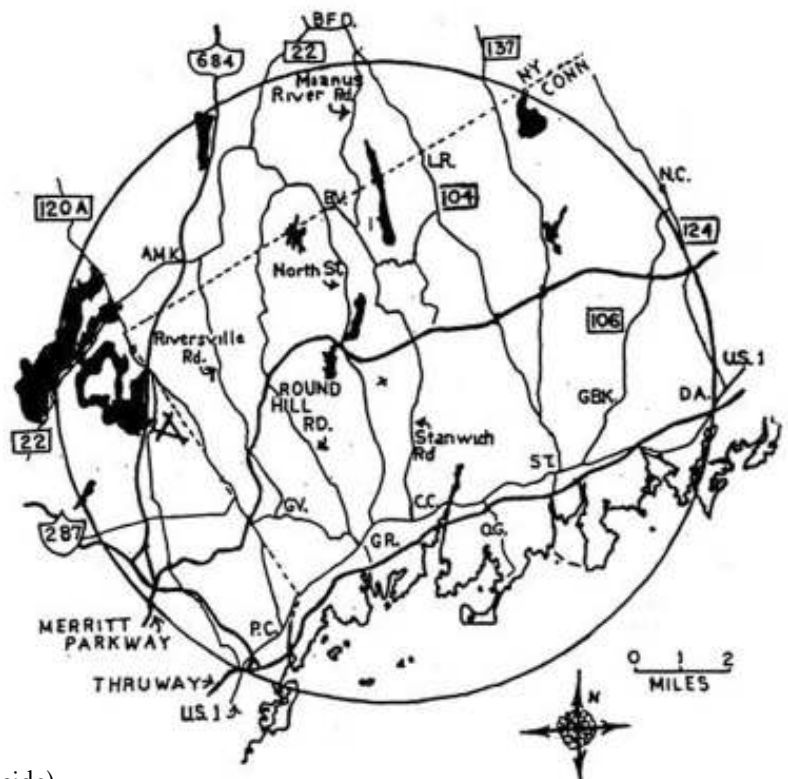
1. Count Date: December 16, 2007. Record all bird observations made in the Greenwich-Stamford territory.

This is an important policy which ensures the quality and usefulness of the data collected (if you would like to count birds in another region, please contact the Audubon Chapter which covers that 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 16, 2007

# 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 _____

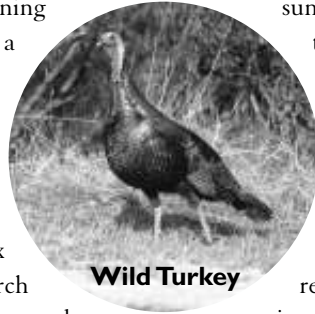
Please mail this form by December 24 to: Gary Palmer, 34 Field Road, Cos-Cob, CT 06807 • phone: (203) 661-4897 or email: gejlpalmer@yahoo.com

WINTER 2007-08

Natural History Notes

By Ted Gilman, Education Specialist

The swirling featherlike patterns of frost on an early morning window tracing the dance of moisture and cold air; a pileated woodpecker making the chips fly as it excavates in the heartwood of a rotting tree to get at a colony of hibernating carpenter ants; a straight line of fox tracks suddenly diverted and interrupted by a disturbed patch of trailside snow and a tiny spot of blood showing where a meadow vole had been captured to help the fox survive another cold winter day; hopeful birders, in search of northern finches, scan evergreen groves and the treetop seed clusters of birch trees in hopes of spotting winter treasures such as crossbills or redpolls driven south by insufficient food in their boreal forest homeland; a Cooper's hawk making a sudden dash from its hiding place in nearby trees to capture a sparrow, junco, or jay frequenting a backyard feeder; pink, gray, and violet tones of a winter



sunset silhouetting the fine natural sculpture of bare winter trees; wild turkeys scratching through the snow to seek out remnants of autumn's acorn and beechnut crop; shrub branches snipped off at a 45 degree angle or raspberry canes stripped of their bark indicating a cottontail rabbit's midnight snack; a robin puffed up against the winter cold in a sheltered thicket nourished by dried grapes, perhaps with just a little taste of summer remaining; a male northern harrier, ash gray with black wingtips, swooping low over snow-covered fields in search of an errant meadow vole or incautious sparrow; winterberry holly berries glowing red in late afternoon sunlight against a carpet of white snow; the silence of a soft feather-like snowfall, quietly adding another layer of insulation above the forest floor filled with flower buds and small creatures awaiting the return of spring's warmth once again...

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of three long-time supporters of conservation, David Agnew, Charles Sweatt, and Charles Upham. The board and staff of Audubon Greenwich extend their heartfelt condolences to their families.

David Agnew was a tremendous force for conservation, intelligent land-use regulation, and environmental protection. His leadership, experience, and wonderful sense of humor will all be deeply missed.

Charles H. Sweatt was a member of the Board of Directors of Greenwich Audubon Society during the 1970s and 80s, and was an avid birder and conservationist. His many contributions to Audubon will long be remembered.

Charles Upham was a staunch advocate of conservation zoning and many of his initiatives led to the preservation of open space in Greenwich. He worked tirelessly to protect Greenwich's natural resources, and inspired countless others to do the same.

♻️ PRINTED WITH VEGETABLE-BASED INKS ON RECYCLED PAPER MANUFACTURED WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES. ♻️
PLEASE RECYCLE.

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

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Fall Hawk Watch Report
Sunday, December 1st

Annual Bird Count
Sunday, December 16th

Organic Lawn & Golf Course Mgmt.
Thursday, January 10th

Read the electronic version of *In Flight* online and sign up for newsletters by email – contact: jcordulack@audubon.org