

# FYKE NATURE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.fykenature.org

Vol. 60 – No. 1 – Spring 2014

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**Please note: Registration is required for all field trips!**

### **February 28 - Monthly Meeting: 8:00 p.m., Allendale Municipal Building**

#### **Herb Houghton - The Puffins of Machias Seal Island.**

Herb Houghton, an outstanding, photographer will give a slideshow presentation focusing on The Puffins of Machias Seal Island. He will also add common murre, razorbills and gannets along with the actual seals of Machias Seal Island. Herb will get into the nursing grounds including Herring gull predation on the chicks and the burrow type nests and the single chicks that each pair has.

### **March 8 - Field Trip: Woodcocks at the Great Swamp NWR.**

Meet at the Great Swamp at the Heronry parking lot at 4 p.m. There will be some late day birding. Bring a light snack to enjoy while we wait for sunset. Leader: Mike Limatola. Please register for this trip with Mike at 201-739-8062 or mike.limatola@gmail.com.

### **March 28 - Monthly meeting: 8:00 p.m., Allendale Municipal Building**

#### **Dave Magpiong - "Life Takes Flight: The Joy, Inspiration, and Benefits of Birding".**

This lively presentation focuses on the many parallels between our lives and the bird world. Together, we'll explore how birds have impacted our history, culture, and technology as well as the incredible benefits that birding holds for enthusiasts. You're sure to be amused as we examine some unexpected parallels between the social lives of humans and birds.

### **April 5 - Celery Farm Cleanup**

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the end of Greenway for a few hours of active conservation. We hope you will join us to spruce up the preserve. Many hands make light work! Marsh Warden Mike Limatola is the Coordinator, 201-739-8062 or mike.limatola@gmail.com. Rain date is April 13, 2013.

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### **Dues Reminder Notice**

We are now well into our dues year (9-1-2013 to 8-31-2014) and not everyone has paid their dues. A special reminder is included in this newsletter for those who have not yet renewed their membership. Dues are \$15.00 for individual membership and \$20.00 for family membership. Make checks payable to Fyke Nature Association and mail to John Brotherton, 249 E. Crescent Avenue, Mahwah, NJ 07430.

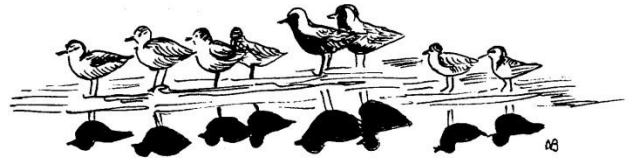
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*...I shall smile when wreaths of snow  
Blossom where the rose should grow...  
~ Emily Brontë*

## Finally, Sanibel and “Ding” Darling

By Mimi Brauch



When friends asked me if I wanted to join them at their condo on Sanibel Island, it took about one good intake of breath to say “yes.” The timing, toward the end of January, made it particularly appealing, especially with crowds and prices below their peak. Most of all, it was the only place in Florida I had a real desire to go. “Ding” Darling was the primary goal. While I’m not exactly sure what I expected, this experience could not have suited me any better than it did. Everything from weather to accommodations to food to birding and shelling was excellent.

Though travel arrangements became more complicated than I anticipated, two nights at a motel worked out well. Bicycles free to the guests had me pedaling along with others in this hugely bike-riding population, and birding the area behind the motel made for a good introduction. This spot borders a lagoon where I was told alligators lurked. Only coots were on the water, but the thickets, trees, and air overhead teemed with birdlife. Grackles hid in and swarmed the palms, peeping osprey circled, white ibis glided over. Yellow-rumps and red-bellied woodpeckers were everywhere. The occasional blue-gray gnatcatcher and pine warbler hopped in the pines. When I tried to read beside the pool, a pileated woodpecker banging the bark off a palm made concentrating nearly impossible. Anyone who wants to see pileateds can watch them at close range. They are common on Sanibel.

When it was time to link up with my friends, we rode out to their condo near Captiva. On the way, I got the first of many red-shouldered hawks. Good start. A luggage-drop turnaround later, we were headed to J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge. The legend comes to life at the visitors’ center. Here “Ding’s” cartoons are on display along with refuge and natural history information. From this point we began the first, for me, of several drives through the refuge. Abundance is the name of the game -- roseate spoonbills, white pelicans, wood storks, osprey, blue-winged teal, egrets, herons of all varieties, including many yellow-crowned night herons. It’s hard to do the four miles in less than an hour when the routine is drive -- stop -- get out -- drive -- stop -- frame photo -- click -- drive -- stop -- get out -- fix scope -- drive -- stop for great egret in the middle of the road.

In addition to the main refuge of mangrove swamps and lagoons, the Bailey Tract is a quite different environment of open fields and lagoon. An eye-level anhinga required no binoculars, but alligators on a lagoon did. With some patience, I watched nostrils emerge to reveal a snout attached to an enormous alligator that slowly worked its way along a bank and into the woods. Following its progress with binoculars, I moved from tail tip in the water to head, which I could barely detect in the thicket above. A couple of its compatriots were less active. Birds on and along the water included many coot and some moorhen, a good sampling of herons, and four hooded mergansers, something of a rarity to the southern birders.

Between the birding hours, I worked in shelling time. My friends’ condo is a slow five-minute walk to the beach. Access via a bridge over a lagoon brings bird distraction, predictably white ibis and egrets, but also little blue and tri-colored herons and red-shoulders overhead. Birders have to stop and check ...in case. However, this inhibits getting to the beach, clearly a must for the shells and shorebirds.



I wanted to see for myself why Sanibel is one of the shelling capitals of the world, to learn about the varieties, to share my friends’ enthusiasm for this pursuit, and to collect some shells of my own. It took me about an hour to understand why they’re hooked. The quest is seductive, similar to the birder’s search for just one new bird. I finally decided to forfeit my binoculars for the shell bag when my glasses came close to being swamped as I swept into the surf for a new shell. I know I missed a lot of

shorebirds, but sanderlings, willets, ruddy turnstones, royal and Sandwich terns were difficult to miss. I now have the requisite Florida shell bowl and a crib sheet from the shell museum for the quick ID.

Then there were the Dairy Queen bald eagles. I'd never have thought to look for an eagle's nest where this one is any more than I'd have thought to look up to an apartment building ledge on Central Park West for a hawk's nest. But there they were, known to local birders the way "Pale Male" is. Osprey and red-shoulders thrive on Sanibel, but so do other raptors. My highlight was a peregrine falcon that got in the way of my looking for something else.

I haven't even reviewed my count for this trip and don't think I had a life bird, but this trip was about realizing a wish. I can think of little that would have made it any better. Do I want to go back? I can hear it again: "Wanna do one more loop through "Ding" Darling?" Could be a plan.

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**The Fantasy at Golden Pond** (The following story is perhaps true . . .)  
By Charley West



The hearing had been deemed necessary to assess the circumstances of a bird sighting posted by a customarily reliable source. The post, however, stretched the bounds of credulity. To wit: On or about 3 Nov '13, John Workman, et ux, et fil, witnessed, **in Bergen County, NJ, 4 – Count 'Em! – 4 Golden Eagles – all at the same time!** An event of such magnitude cried out for greater public awareness.\*

The hearing took place in the old Court House at the south end of the Town Square, Main Street, where live oaks still shade the street-side benches. Inside the weather-beaten, paint-peeling, two-story wooden building the air was redolent from the smoke of cheap cigars. It certainly wasn't a proper setting for what was perhaps the most important hearing of the current era.

The shrill voice of the bailiff echoed off the mahogany walls of the Chamber, "All rise! God Bless America and God Help These Proceedings! The Honorable Henry Richard Whitlock, presiding."

With that preface, Administrative Law Judge Whitlock, his ebony gold lame-trimmed robes flowing, swirled onto the bench, and, smiling in his own inimitable way, chortled a courteous "Please be seated. This hearing is now in session. Is the Plaintiff ready?"

"Yes your Honor" was the response from Counsel Rob Fanning. "May it please the Court; we stipulate that the Defendants are all talented, experienced birders, and honest and trustworthy citizens of the community. Furthermore we acknowledge that Mr. Workman, a gentleman of high repute, maintains an exhaustively detailed field notebook. However, while usually accurate, in the current instance we suggest that inadvertent errors may have crept in."

"To support our contentions we note: 1. No photographs have been presented; 2. There are no witnesses other than the Defendants; 3. Such an occurrence had never before, nor since, been reported in NJ. Also, the alleged sightings were made during a strenuous hike to admire fall foliage and after a lunch accompanied by unknown libations. Lastly, though no blood samples were taken it should be noted that certain medications have been approved for use in NJ."

A raucous "Objection your Honor! Speculative and not in evidence!" bellowed from the Defense table, which generated an irritated "Sustained!" from the bench, which lead to a stated "We rest our case." from the Plaintiffs, and a further peeved reply from Judge Whitlock "And as weak as it is your case needs a lot of rest!"

ALJ Whitlock then scanned the Defense table where sat Counselor Stiles Thomas looking amazingly like Atticus Finch.

“Do you have any questions regarding previous testimony?”

“What’s that your Honor? I didn’t quite hear you. Is this about Mockingbirds? I’ve never carved one of those.”

“Yes, I see that you’ve brought your tools with you and it appears from your practicing on the table’s legs that you’re a better wood carver than a lawyer!”

“Thank you Judge, I feel the same way myself.”

“What’s to become of that pile of wood chips beneath your table?”

“Am I feeling chipper? Yes I am thank you.”

“No, I was asking you about the mess you’ve made.”

“I was a master sergeant in the Airborne not a mess sergeant.”

“Forget it, you seem to have an audio problem.”

“No, I worked in the insurance industry not in radio.”

Seeing no future in further conversation with Counsel Stiles, Judge Whitlock turned to Counsel for the Plaintiffs. “Mr. Fanning, I know you’re a good friend of Mr. Workman, it must be difficult for you to serve as Counsel here. May I ask whom do you represent?”

“Yes, “Rusty” is a solid friend and great birder. Unfortunately I’m not at liberty to divulge my ostensible “employer”, at least not until the check clears. All I can say is that he’s kind of strange and perhaps a little cuckoo.”

“Thank you Mr. Fanning.”

Et sic ad iudicium: “I find for the Defendants and their sightings are hereby validated and upheld and suitable for chiseling in stone, or perhaps wood.”

/s/ HRW, ALJ, aka Dick - Nov-2013

\* Author’s Note: For perspective, teams of experienced hawk watchers, many from the Fyke Nature Association, observing at Stateline Hawk Watch 7 hours a day, 7 days a week, for 2 1/2 months, tallied only 3 Golden Eagles.

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**Field and Feeder Notes**

By Judith Cinquina

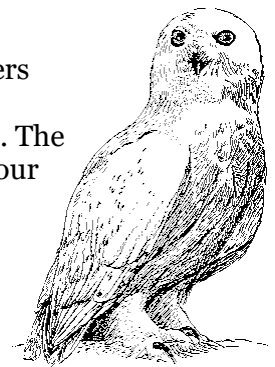
*Barnacle Geese are so named because in the past people believed that the birds, who suddenly arrived, seemingly from nowhere, in the Autumn, and disappeared just as mysteriously in the Spring, actually hatched from Barnacles along the seashore! When Britain was Roman Catholic this interesting story had some practical advantages, Barnacle Geese were considered 'fish' rather than 'fowl' and therefore could be eaten on Fridays!*



From: [wildlifetrust.org.uk/scottish/](http://wildlifetrust.org.uk/scottish/)

Barnacle Geese breed in the high Arctic and Greenland, often in tight colonies on cliffs and don't even eat barnacles. They eat grasses like other geese. They winter primarily in Europe and rarely wander into New Jersey. In fact, the species wasn't added to our state list until 2008, after a decade of population increases in Greenland. The few seen here up to that time were suspected of having escaped from zoos or collections. In December, one was discovered in the company of a Snow Goose and Canadas in the Ramsey Country Club area, and on December 6, Charlie West found the same group on the athletic field at the Ramsey High School. About the size of a Snow Goose or a small Canada, the Barnacle has a petite black bill and a small white face (or tinted yellow in this case) set off by a black hood that falls down its short neck and over its upper chest, and a silvery back barred with black. Of course the geese disappeared after the December 14th snowstorm and were nowhere to be found for our annual Christmas Count, January 4. But on January 15th, the Barnacle and friends reappeared magically at Ramsey High School and the Ramsey Country Club. Barnacle Geese are known to keep their family units together until the next breeding season, and true to form, this Barnacle seemed to be part of a family unit of three young hybrid Canada/Barnacle Geese and one medium-sized Canada. A protected species since the 1940's, Barnacle Geese are not naturally as wary as most wild geese, so it's easy to write one off as "suspect" when it's discovered with tame local geese. Paul Lehman and Edward Brinkley wrote about this problem in a November 2008 "Changing Seasons" column in *North American Birds*, and asked: "What do you do with rather tame birds that join Canada Geese in more urban setting?" I can't answer that question, but I think Charlie and other Fyke members who saw this handsome goose would agree that we could at least enjoy them.

Dozens of Snowy Owls invaded the Northeast this winter, even wandering as far south as Jacksonville, FL and many spent time in our state. Some Fyke members enjoyed two at DeKorte Park in the Meadowlands in January. If you viewed Barbara Dilger's owl photos on the Fyke Yahoo site, you may have noticed something strange. The Snowy she photographed at DeKorte had two tiny black ear tufts. Check out any of your field guides or peruse photos on the Internet, and you will not see this feature. A Newfoundland blogger, Bruce Mactavish (<http://brucemactavish1.blogspot.com>) discussed the Snowy invasion and their "tufts" on his December 11, 2013 blog. After some sleuthing, he attributed the irruption to a boom year for Snowy Owls in the Northern Quebec area. One photograph he posted showed a Quebec-area nest surrounded by 70 lemmings and eight voles, yet the owls' eggs had not yet hatched. Evidently, an abundance of lemmings, Snowy Owls' favorite prey, resulted in an explosion of fledged young owls. Adults put pressure on their young to leave their territories; otherwise the food supply would become so depleted that even the adults couldn't survive. These young, spread out all over the Northeast, are not as adept at hunting as the adults, and a large percentage are emaciated or have already died. Posted on Bruce's blog are many photos of young owls, and every one shows the tiny ear tufts that Barbara's photo depicted. The blogger theorized that the tufts might be conspicuous because the owls are skinny. Certainly, these stressed out, inexperienced young don't need the pressure of humans pursuing them. Wish the folks I heard about who went out on the ice at DeKorte in search of them understood that.



I witnessed the police interacting with other folks who had trespassed up the landfill after Short-eared Owls, also at DeKorte on January 12. These owls were conveniently visible from Disposal Road, even without binoculars. Why do people insist on putting more pressure on species trying to survive a cold winter just to get a closer look or capture a better photo? There were three Short-ears hunting the landfill that day, a good sign that rodents have recovered from Sandy's havoc, even if the boardwalks at DeKorte haven't. Short-ears do have tiny ear tufts (feathers) that are shown in field guides. Of course, these are merely to enhance their camouflage and have nothing to do with their real ears, hidden under feathers within their facial disks. Another owl with ear tufts is our common Screech Owl. One turned up in Betty McDonnell's Mahwah yard as a pile of feathers in late December. Betty sent me two of the feathers to identify. I noted barring and a rusty color on the leading edges. The trailing edges of the

feathers were quite soft and loose. Both feathers were bowed, as if they lifted a heavy weight. I shared the feathers later with Rob and Lisa Fanning. Lisa took one and waved it next to her ear. It made no sound, no whiff of wind like a stiff goose feather would make. She and Rob concluded, they were probably from an owl. Stiles Thomas took a look and suggested they were from a red morph Screech Owl, a species preyed upon by most other owls and raptors. Screech Owls have heavy wing loading, which means they can't out-fly most predators, a reason they tend to roost in tree cavities and hunt after sunset. They also have the signature soft, fluffy feathers of most owls to enhance their silent hunt for prey.

Now here's a mystery I'd like solved. Where are New Jersey's migrant Golden Eagles coming from? Four Golden's thermaled over Oradell Reservoir on November 3, according to John Workman. John and family took advantage of a sunny afternoon for a hike, when the lone adult and three young Golden's circled over their heads. As if to assure John that these were indeed Golden's, four Bald Eagles shared the same sky for comparison. Obviously, something is going on, for Chimney Rock Hawk Watch in Somerset County counted a record 22 Golden Eagles this past fall. It recorded six on the 3rd, Hook Mountain noted one more, and State Line recorded another. Counting John's four, that's 12 altogether on that one day. And if you count all those seen from those watches between November 2 and 5, and include Montclair and Mount Peter and John's four, the total is 25 Golden Eagles. That's impressive. But where are they coming from?

An abundant berry crop at Mahwah Green Acres along the Ramapo River attracted upwards of 100 Bluebirds and at least 117 Cedar Waxwings, November 6. The birds fed on bittersweet, poison ivy and other berries. A number of Fyke members and friends particularly enjoyed one large Bluebird flock fluttering and chattering like wrens overhead. Their soft mellow whistles and occasional courtship songs were all over the area. It's interesting that 600 Bluebirds and 400 Waxwings were reported from Higbee Beach, Cape May that same day. Evidently, the birds were ready to head south. By the next day, most were gone. But enough berries remained to sustain the Hermit Thrush Simon Streatfield found there, January 13.

Usually you have to walk far into the woods to find a woodpecker, and then they're shy and difficult to see well. Winter brings them in to our feeders where Michael and Sara Buckley enjoyed a Red-bellied in Allendale, January 3. "Its red head was brilliant against the white snow," Sara wrote. The male shouldn't get all the praise. Check out his female She has a sweet blush of sunset at the base of her bill and an iridescent red nape that sets off her gray crown. She dare not have the eye-popping crown of her mate, or she would be too conspicuous while sitting with her head in a nest cavity opening. Janet Tercheck's Christmas Bird Count (CBC) team counted three Red-bellieds, three Downies, 1 Hairy, 1 Flicker and 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in a few short blocks along the bike trail behind the Ramsey Interstate Mall, January 4. That's an impressive number for such an urban area. Rosemarie Widmer had two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in her yard and another two at Darlington in late December. On January 7, one returned to her Allendale yard, hammered at her frozen birdbath and ate ice chips. The behavior would have surprised Rosemarie much more if she hadn't watched one of her Downy Woodpeckers do the same thing on November 15.

A few Golden-crowned Kinglets visited Deedee Burnside's Waldwick yard, at the tail end of their peak migration period, October 30. Occasionally they overwinter with us. Betty McDonnell spotted a single one along the Ramapo River near her Mahwah home, January 2. Darlene Lembo and crew observed a Winter Wren from their lofty Hour on the Tower perch at the Celery Farm, November 17. This is a late date for this tiny, dark wren, but occasionally they do stay for the winter. Bill Boyle, in his book *The Birds of New Jersey 2011*, stated that Winter Wrens seem to be increasing on CBC's recently. A very late Black and White Warbler explored a dogwood in Enid Hayflick's Ridgewood yard, November 12. Although this warbler can probe bark and crevices just like a Creeper and isn't dependent on flying insects, this is an unusually late date



for this species. They customarily winter only as far north as North Carolina. Enid reported that a Fox Sparrow was “doing an excellent towhee impersonation” under her feeders, January 12. The real deal, a female Towhee scratched under her feeders, January 5. That same day, Mike Limatola had two males in his HoHoKus yard.

Let’s all vow to make life easier for our wintering birds. Keep you feeders clean and give our feathered guests some space to hunt and rest so we can enjoy their offspring in years to come. Post your sightings on our Yahoo site or send your observations to me at judycinq@optonline.net or call me at (201) 327-1782. For information on the latest bird sightings, go to [www.fykenature.org](http://www.fykenature.org) and sign up with our discussion group where many of the reports for this column originated.

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## **MOUNT PETER – 2013**

By Judith Cinquina

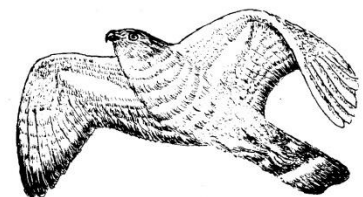
Dedicated volunteers manned Mount Peter’s 2013 hawk watch a record 480 hours in 76 straight days between September 1 and November 15, and recorded a healthy 10,105 raptors, averaging 21.05 hawks per hour. Although no seasonal records were broken, Red-shouldered Hawks set a new daily record, and both the Shoulders and Bald Eagles brought in their second highest tallies in our 56-year history.

Buteos came in strong this fall. An above average 7,611 Broad-winged Hawks padded our final tally, with most moving through between September 13 and 22. Carol Linguanti scored the best day with 2,684 on slow southwest winds, September 20. Red-shouldered Hawks followed last year’s record 131, with their second best tally ever at 118: 50 adult, 11 immature, 57 unknown. Twenty-four went through, October 27 under Ken Witkowski’s watch, trumping John Tramantano’s old record of 23 Shoulders (10/16/82). Red-tailed Hawks also did quite well, finally feeling enough cold under their tails to bring 582 over our lookout. Tom Millard claimed the best day with 211, November 3 on moderate west winds. Rough-legged Hawks ignored us again this season.

An under par 1,026 Sharp-shinned Hawks passed our lookout, with Carol Linguanti garnering a weak best of 99, October 18 on moderate west winds. After a record 165 counted last year, Cooper’s Hawks plummeted to a disappointing 64 this season. No Goshawk made an appearance. American Kestrel numbers were also disappointing, with a below average 112 recorded: 28 male, 15 female, and 69 unknown. Merlins came in at a below average 14. The only falcon that did well was the Peregrine, with a slightly above average 15 noted.

Osprey numbers dipped, with only 126 tallied. Rick Hansen claimed the best day with 26, September 13 on moderate northwest winds. Although they usually move through on peak Broadwing days, Osprey failed to join them this season. N. Harrier number hovered around average with 51 counted: 7 male, 4 female, 12 immature and 28 unknown.

Bald Eagles pulled off our second best year with 119 observed: 73 adult, 42 immature, and 4 unknown. Herb Stein scored the best day, counting nine on strong west winds, September 5. A pair of Bald Eagles probably has established a territory just north of the lookout. They were observed over two dozen different days interacting with and possibly escorting migrants out of their territory before returning north, a behavior we have observed in our local Red-tails. An average five Golden Eagles delighted a lucky few this fall: 1 adult and 4 immature. Ajit Antony was rewarded with one on three different days: October 22 and November 4 and 12. Vultures prove difficult to monitor from Mount Peter with both species hunting the farms below all season. However, a record 104 Black Vultures was noted, with 23 kettling up in the west valley, September 30 and heading south and another 26 counted November 11. Turkey Vultures came in at a below average 121.



Monarch Butterflies were almost a no-show this season, with only 81 recorded. Forty-five Ruby-throated Hummingbirds went over, most on September 3 and 4 with 10 hummers apiece. The 196 Blue Jays seen between October 2 and 3 could barely be called a migration. Canada Geese did better with 6,149 moving through between September 23 and October 25. That last day, Carol Linguanti scored a high of 2,174. Messy formations of Brant headed due east over the lookout in October, with 370 noted, 335 of them on October 28. The only Snow Goose detected was one in a flock of Canadas, September 24. Local C. Ravens were with us daily, interacting with local and migrant raptors, performing barrel rolls, and billing and cooing while perched on the towers. Five others migrated past the lookout November 11, followed by two more on the 12th. Other interesting sightings included:

9/1	Great-crested Flycatcher, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos, Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9/20	2 Winter Wrens, 1st Purple Finch (a pair 10/29 & a single 11/15)
9/3	1st E. Phoebe	9/21	1st C. Loon (another 11/6)
9/4	1st Black-throated Blue	9/23	adult Red-headed Woodpecker (immature 9/26)
9/6	1st Scarlet Tanager, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 12 D.C. Cormorants (25 more 10/25)	9/24	1st Chipping Sparrow (18 more 10/30) adult Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (immature 10/15, 16,22)
9/8	36 Chimney Swifts	9/25	1st E. Towhee
9/9	1st E. Wood Pewee, 1st Black-throated Green, Yellow-rumped Warblers and Blue-headed Vireo	9/29	3 Catbirds
9/10	C. Nighthawk, Nashville Warbler	10/2	1st Golden-crowned Kinglets
9/12	Olive-sided Flycatcher (another 9/26)	10/4	1st White-throated Sparrow
9/13	1st Black & White and Blackpoll Warblers	10/10	13 E. Bluebirds (others around almost daily)
9/14	17 Tree Swallows, Blackburnian, Magnolia & Am. Redstart Warblers	10/23	1st Rose-breasted Grosbeak
9/16	1st Pileated Woodpecker, 1st Palm Warbler	10/26	our only Red-breasted Nuthatch
		10/28	5 Am. Pipits
		11/10	Hermit Thrush
			2 C. Mergansers

Not one day passed this season without one of our leaders putting in time on the lookout, even on drizzly, foggy days. We are fortunate to have such an enthusiastic crew. Thank you all. But we can't do it alone. We are equally grateful to our many visitors, especially three sharp-eyed regulars who contributed much to the count and our sanity: Bill Connolly, Bill O'Keefe and Rob Stone. Welcome back to Linda Peskac who first joined our crew in 1991. A very big thanks goes out to our clean-up crew, Carole Baligh, Denise Farrell, Tom Millard, Rochana Muenthongchin, Gabrielle Schmitt, Herb Stein, Gene Tappan and Ken Witkowski, who helped us beat back the encroaching flora that seems determined to shut us down. Special thanks to Tom for installing and taking down our box on the platform. We are very grateful for generous contributions from The Fyke Nature Association and from Ajit and Liza Antony in support of the Mount Peter site on Hawkcount. And I would like to express my personal appreciation to Ajit, Denise Farrell, Carol Linguanti, Ken Witkowski and Matt Zeitler for entering their data into Hawkcount and making my job much easier. Finally, we are grateful for the NY Department of Environmental Conservation's regular clean-ups and for our founders and sponsors, the Fyke Nature Association of Bergen Count, NJ. For yet another year, we remain the oldest, continually run, all-volunteer fall watch in the country.

### 2013 FALL HAWK WATCH RESULTS

WATCH	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	TOTAL	HRS
HOOK MT.	48	163	272	162	125	2,048	182	0	180	4,933	127	0	8	208	67	39	8,582	507
STATE LINE	196	1,126	423	93	71	1,656	164	1	190	4,896	304	0	4	372	37	37	9,725	455
MONTCLAIR	51	775	200	117	41	1,178	161	0	157	8,383	145	0	5	259	74	25	11,617	557
MOUNT PETER	104	121	126	119	51	1,026	64	0	118	7,611	582	0	5	112	14	15	10,105	480





## Wildlife and Your 2013 New Jersey State Income Tax

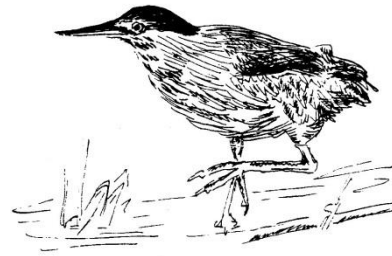
You can help protect New Jersey's bald eagles and all other rare wildlife by supporting the New Jersey Endangered Wildlife Fund when you file your state income tax this year and every year. The Endangered and Nongame Species Program is responsible for protecting and managing nearly 500 wildlife species, including 73 species currently listed as endangered or threatened.

Simply look for Line 59 on your NJ 1040 income tax return, and check-off for wildlife. Or remind your tax preparer that you want to make a contribution. Every dollar you donate goes directly to the DEP's Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP), enabling biologists to continue their work to restore, conserve and enhance New Jersey's populations of rare species. What's more, your contribution is matched with an equal amount of federal funding, further strengthening efforts to protect hundreds of imperiled species.

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### Fyke Board of Trustees:

President:	Mike Limatola
First Vice President:	Jim Wright
Second Vice President:	Penny Whitlock
Treasurer:	John Brotherton
Recording Secretary:	Molly Gardener
Corresponding Secretary:	Mimi Brauch
Trustees:	Carol Flanagan Darlene Lembo



### Chairpersons:

Celery Farm:	Stiles Thomas and Mike Limatola
Conservation:	Jim Wright
Hawk Watch:	Judy Cinquina
Land Trust:	Hugh Carola
Newsletter:	Carol Flanagan
Programs:	Penny Whitlock
Publicity:	Gabriele Schmitt
Webmaster:	Kevin Watson

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**The Fyke Nature Association**, a 501 (c) (3) organization, meets the fourth Friday of every month except June, July, August, and December at the **Allendale Municipal Building**, 500 W. Crescent Avenue, Allendale, NJ 07401. Meetings and membership are open to all. Annual dues: Individual -- \$15.00; Family -- \$20.00. For further information, write to Box 141, Ramsey, NJ 07446, visit our website [www.fykenature.org](http://www.fykenature.org), or call Mike Limatola, President, at 201-739-8062.

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