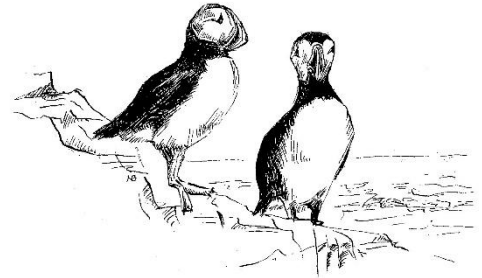


FYKE NATURE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.fykenature.org

Vol. 61 – No. 1 – Spring 2015

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Please note: Registration is required for all field trips!

February 27 - Monthly Meeting: 8:00 p.m., Allendale Municipal Building

Paul Sadowski, The Role of Fungi in the Ecosystem of the Greenbrook Sanctuary

10,000 years ago, the Palisades were a glaciated, barren rockscape. Today they are home to a thriving ecosystem. Paul Sadowski will discuss the fungi of Greenbrook Sanctuary and how they help to bring this change about. They function in many ecological roles, contributing to the health of the biome.

March 7 - 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 27 - Monthly meeting: 8:00 p.m., Allendale Municipal Building

Bob DeCandido, Asia Birds East to West and Back Again

Bob DeCandido will show us photos of select Asian locations including Israel, Thailand, Borneo and Malaysia taken by Deborah Allen and himself. They have studied insects and plants as well as birds, with special attention to bird migration in Thailand.

April 4 - 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 11, 2015.

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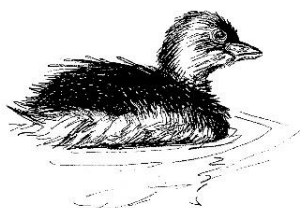
## Welcome New Members!

Gil Hawkins, Leonia  
Mary McCartney, Ramsey  
Jennifer & Roy Vertraete, Ringwood



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Dues Reminder Notice



We are now well into our dues year (9-1-2014 to 8-31-2015) 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.

Celery Farm -- New Spillway Bridge



A big thank you to Mike Limatola and Eagle Scout candidate, Tony Navazio, for building the new spillway bridge at the Celery Farm.

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## Red-shouldered Hawk Video Nestcam

By Jim Wright

We are pleased to announce an exciting new nature project about the Red-shouldered Hawks of Allendale -- a live, streaming-video nestcam brought to you by Fyke and by Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey. This spring, if recent nesting seasons are any indication, you'll be able to watch the secretive nesting habits of these endangered raptors 24/7 on your computer, tablet, or smartphone anywhere in the world.



We could sure use your help. A nestcam is a great educational tool -- and a great way to raise awareness that wild nature occurs all around us, even in suburban backyards. But the videocam will cost \$6,000 to buy, install, and operate, so we're asking folks to contribute through the Fyke Nature Association. We'll let everyone know when the videocam is up and running. People who contribute \$25 or more will have their names included in a special eBook about these amazing Red-shouldered Hawks.

The nest camera will be installed and operated by Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey, the non-profit group involved with the Duke Farms Eagle Cam, the Jersey City Falcon Cam, Stone Harbor Heron Cam, and the Osprey Cam at Edwin B. Forsythe NWR.

Please mail a check to Stiles Thomas, Box 75, Allendale, NJ 07401. Make checks payable to "Fyke" and label the check "Hawk Cam." Questions? Call Stiles, 201-327-3470, or e-mail Jim Wright, [wrightjamesb@gmail.com](mailto:wrightjamesb@gmail.com).

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The Celery Farm Gets a Christmas Present

By Nat Catcher

T'was the day before Christmas and what should be seen, but a new set of brushes to make your shoes clean.

Yes, the boot scraper with new handles and brushes is back. Located just off the parking lot to the left of the bridge is a new Boot Cleaner Stand. You can now clean all the debris off your shoes (or boots) before you track all that stuff into your house. You could look at it another way.... Use it to clean off all that house rubble before you track it into the Celery Farm.



Just after I installed it a group of three families showed up with multiple kids to give it a test drive. The scraper survived the test and I do declare it gave me a thumbs up.... or was it handles up?

Book Review

By COOx2 (a.k.a. Charley West)



“A Window on Eternity” by the 84 year old, two-time Pulitzer Prize winning naturalist Edward O. Wilson. *

WELCOME (?) to The Anthropocene, the name given to the present geological epoch, from the 18th Century Industrial Revolution forward, wherein human activities began to severely impact global climate and ecosystems. Essentially, it’s when we began to treat the planet as of, by, and for Humanity. Nature, per se, was for Us and the damage we do to Earth is no longer the “price of progress” but our concept of Progress.

This recital is not a book review as typically perceived but rather a distillation of the book’s final chapter. It is, however, a full-throated MUST READ recommendation for anyone concerned about what we’re doing to the planet and who’s desirous of leaving a legacy to their children and grandchildren. This is a serious, thought-provoking book.

That Chapter #11 entitled ‘The Conservation of Eternity’, is a brief nine pages of text but it is the soul of the book and of the author. More than a summation of the earlier ten chapters it’s a compendium of this paladin’s lifelong insights, hopes, and counsel, on what Homo sapiens, as the top predator of all biological life, must do to prevent self-destruction and to continue our existence.

It’s difficult to do justice to Wilson’s eloquence and to his deft, prosecutorial step-by-step presentation of evidence to the verdict, but paraphrased, only we can prevent a “death sentence”- i.e., our own Extinction - and it will require an entirely new mind set, altered priorities, and a dedicated willingness / fortitude / desire to keep our 3.5 million years of evolution going, i.e. for Eternity.

*Available @ Bergen Co. Co-op Library System, Reviewed by the NY Times – 12 Aug ’14 & 11 Nov ’14

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**Land Trust Update**

By Hugh Carola

I accompanied Dave Epstein from the Land Conservancy of NJ at the Mahwah Township November council meeting. There, Dave presented to the council plans to acquire the Venusti Tract - 50 acres of essentially all woodlands in Mahwah directly adjacent to Ramapo Reservation. The money to purchase the land will come from The Land Conservancy of New Jersey, from Green Acres grants held by Bergen SWAN and Fyke, and matching funds from the Bergen County Trust Fund. The council voted in favor of the project and fast-tracked the required approvals on its end. Bergen County will assume ownership and add it to the Reservation when the deal is done.

On a similar note, LCNJ is poised to purchase a conservation easement/development rights to all undeveloped land at Camp Yaw Paw in Mahwah - some 135+ acres. The Camp Yaw Paw Foundation is the single largest private landowner in the county. The purchase secure protection of some of the most unique wildlife habitats in Bergen and will allow the foundation to run the camp, make any improvements, etc. on the non-encumbered portion (about 50 acres) as need be and continue to run the camp as always. LCNJ will handle all easement monitoring post-purchase. LCNJ will also handle everything involved with the Venusti Tract purchase. The dedication will most likely take place in the spring or early summer.



## Field and Feeder Notes

By Judith Cinquina

*I was standing in thick brush at the time, when suddenly I heard a loud rushing of wings, rather behind me, and, on looking around, saw a quail flying past at its utmost powers of flight and about twenty feet behind was a Cooper's Hawk, but pursuing with such rapidity that I could plainly see it was gaining on the quail. I discovered in a moment that the quail was endeavoring to reach a clump of hazel bushes nearby, though apparently intending to pass them, but when about six feet above and directly over the desired cover, it suddenly dropped like a dead bird for the refuge. The hawk, however, was not to be eluded by this bit of strategy, for with an extra effort, it shot beneath its prey, at the same time turning with its back next the ground and spreading its murderous claws wide open, the quail actually falling into them; then righting up, sailed away with its prize. This I think was done in about ten seconds.*

*A.C.Bent, Life Histories of N. American Birds of Prey (part I) 1961, page 119.*

Cooper's Hawks don't always get their meal. In fact over 60% of young Coops don't make it to their first birthday simply because they starve before they master the art of the hunt. Surely, the hawk Bent mentioned had to be an experienced adult. Coops often hunt our feeding stations, but rarely do we witness their success, especially young ones like the Coop that turned up in Rosemarie Widmer's Allendale yard, January 6. It dashed into her yard, flushing all the feeder birds into a recycled Christmas tree Rosemarie had tied up in her backyard. Then it walked and hopped around the tree, peering into the branches, but the birds stayed put, and the hawk was forced to leave, empty-taloned. The Hour on the Tower crew at the Celery Farm (CF) recorded an impressive number of raptors including a Cooper's Hawk. On October 19, scribe Charlie West wrote that the Coop was involved in a "pas de deux dust-up" with a Sharpie and flushed a Kingfisher that had taken refuge in the "phrags." That day the Hour list also included an Osprey, N. Harrier, and Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks. Not a bad haul for a spot not known as a hawk watch! On November 16, the crew added a Peregrine Falcon with prey to their hour list, and on December 7, the tower crew was rewarded with an uncommon light-morph Rough-legged Hawk that Charlie wrote, "kited" right over their heads. Gaby Schmitt discovered five Bald Eagles at Oradell Reservoir on January 19. Two were adults flying close together like a mated pair. The others were immature. Six other Bald Eagles were in the West Milford area, January 1, according to Mike Lefebvre.



Yet another bird of prey excited Jeanine Jamieson in Ho-Ho-Kus, December 11. From 7:30 to 12:30 p.m. a Screech Owl perched on the outdoor light on her house. A "lifer" for Jeanine, the owl may have found a warm spot on that snowy, cold evening. Rosemarie reported a red Screech was roosting in her backyard owl box in early January. On the 4th, she observed the owl sitting in the box opening until 11 p.m. Many little Screech Owls succumb to prolonged cold and require a number of tree cavities, thick evergreens or boxes in their winter territory to roost in for survival. Even our chickadees and woodpeckers benefit from nest boxes left out for the winter, especially if they contain insulating nest material left over from the summer. A female Downy has been roosting in a hollow log bird house in my Upper Saddle River yard all fall and winter, not far from fresh water and suet that I provide. She's not dumb.

Doug Morel racked up a few uncommon birds this fall/winter season. On October 23, he counted seven Vesper Sparrows in a Paramus field. Very quiet and barely moving, Vespers hug the ground as they forage for seeds where short grass meets the dirt. They're easy to overlook. When fallow fields and farms

dominated the Jersey landscape, this species was a common breeder, but their habitat has since been urbanized, and breeding is now restricted to a couple areas in Warren and Sussex counties. Seven of them is an impressive number during migration. Two days later, Doug found an Orange-crowned Warbler in the fields at Halifax in Mahwah. Drab and often overlooked, this warbler likes brushy area preferred by our C. Yellowthroats. On October 30, Doug located the Lark Sparrow previously reported along Disposal Road in the Meadowlands. This species breeds in the west and central area of our country, and like the Orange-crowned Warbler, is a rare migrant, especially away from the coast. Other uncommon birds this season included two E. Meadowlarks reported by John Bird, October 26 at the CF's Hour on the Tower and the American Bittern that dropped into the CF November 9. Jim Wright noted that the bittern was seen from the "Pink Potty Bridge" at the north end of Lake Appert.

Best duck sighting had to go to Betty McDonnell's Common Goldeneye. On January 1, she discovered a female behind her Mahwah property, swimming and diving in the Ramapo River. Last winter's Barnacle Goose was rediscovered at the Ramsey Country Club (CC), this December 15 by Charlie West. Probably the same goose was spotted at Halifax, January 8. Phil Dahlen found it in a flock of about 70 Canadas on the river ice there. Looking for the Barnacle on January 2, Rosemarie scored a Cackling Goose on a lake off Franklin Turnpike near the Ramsey CC. And rounding out local goose sightings was the Snow Goose spotted over the CF by the Tower crew, November 28. Wild Turkeys caused a fuss in Allendale just before Thanksgiving. Scribe Charlie stated that the crew heard a "deranged" male gobbler from the Tower on November 23, "sounding as if he had some poor victim by the neck, throttling him and getting his revenge in before Thanksgiving Day." Evidently, the Tom's rage was directed at cars and pedestrians along Franklin Turnpike. The next day, three "alpha males" were in the same area. Jim Wright stated the turkeys were harassing vehicles and caused a traffic jam. He got out of his car, shooed them off the road, and drove home for his camera. When he returned, the turkeys were "at it again," Jim wrote.

Common Ravens are slowly living up to their name and turning up more often in and over our yards. Stephanie Seymour had one over her Ringwood yard, December 13. On January 1, Mark Kantrowitz enjoyed a first ever Raven in his Hillsdale yard. Four days later, Rosemarie was tying up a salvaged live Christmas tree in her Allendale backyard when a Raven dashed through with Crows in hot pursuit. Five very late E. Bluebirds were at Mahwah Green Acres (Mary Patrick Park), December 31. Boyle states in *The Birds of NJ* (2011) that Christmas Bird Count numbers for this species have increased from 70 in the 1970's to more than 2,000 in the past decade, thanks to those who have installed and monitored Bluebird trails. Simon Streatfeild surveys Mahwah Green Acres regularly. He also turned up a Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, a Sharp-shinned Hawk and eight Tree Sparrows there that day. Sometimes Tree Sparrows are hard to find – 2011 was one of those years. This season they're turning up more frequently, like the 15 Rosemarie tallied at the Overpeck Stables in Ridgefield Park, January 3. Boyle reports that Tree Sparrow numbers vary a great deal from year to year and are most common when there's a lot of snow further north.

The sole winter Red-breasted Nuthatch report I'm aware of is one at John Brotherton's Mahwah feeders on January 13. Although Pine Siskins were seen migrating south in large flocks like the 400 or so estimated at State Line Lookout, October 20, there have not been reports of flocks at feeding stations in our area. A few Purple Finches turned up at the CF, Mahwah Green Acres and a few local feeders, but none seemed to have stayed. Large flocks of C. Redpolls were reported in Cape May, January 17, but they seemed to have skipped over our area. All three species have to return north at some point, and maybe they'll appear at a feeder near you.

Keep an eye on your feeders and let us know if anything interesting turns up. 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. Or send your observations to me at [judycinq@optonline.net](mailto:judycinq@optonline.net) or call me at (201) 327-1782.

## Seeking Knowledge

By COOx2

I've been a birder for a while (a long while) but recently have begun to think about Birding from a philosophical perspective as well as how to become a "better" birder, so I decided to visit the Birding Guru. After the airport delays, missed bus schedules, and weather set-backs, I finally reached the base of the mountain and gazed up at the long, rocky, switch-backed trail leading to the obscure cave at the top. Undaunted I began the steep climb. Upon reaching the pinnacle, out-of-breath and perspiration-soaked, I came face-to-face with THE Guru. He was squatting, yoga style, at the entrance to his cave and appeared to be pondering. He had bins around his neck (8x42's I think).

Groping for the proper way to address this sage, I began with, "Your Highness (no pun intended), Quite a view you've got from up here!" He replied, "Call me Ishmael, I really liked the book!" I continued, "Why did you choose this place for your office?" "Why indeed," he retorted, "This is the mid-point and the highest elevation in the whole migration flyway, you should see my List! But that's not why you're here, how can I help?" I answered, "I was wondering why I, and many of my friends, go "Birding"? It takes a lot of time, energy, travel, and money. I'm uncertain as to return on investment, is it worth it?"

Obviously peeved by my inquiry he replied, "Depends on what you expect. Birding needn't involve your assumed criteria, lots of people enjoy birding just by looking out the window watching their feeders. No pain, no strain, no expense - save, perhaps, for a little bird food." "Well, yes, that's true", I stammered, "Some of my best days have been when I sat in one place and let the birds come to me, but on the other hand I like to visit new places and the chance to see different species".

Ah! Enlightenment! Your journey here is already a success! Different strokes for different folks!"

Somewhat chagrined I thought it best to change the focus (no pun intended), "How can I become a 'better' birder?" "That's easy" he said, "Go back to being 20 years old again! Look don't disparage yourself, you're getting to be, er, well a trifle long-of-tooth. You don't have the eyes and ears of the younger set, but you have more experience and probably more time to devote to the pastime (no pun intended). Keep On Truckin! A Bad Day Afield is better than A Good Day at Work!" "WOW! I offered facetiously, "You could be a cheer leader in a torture chamber! Intellectually I know those young punks, those fast guns that can hear a warbler change its mind, have the advantage. It's just that I'm jealous!"

"Ah! More enlightenment. Don't be Jealous, Be Curious. And see your audiologist. More importantly, for improving, nothing beats time behind the binoculars. The unexpected, the golden nugget, won't be found if you don't look. Good Looks are better than Good Luck!"

"That's for sure" I acknowledged and then admitted, "I've plagiarized the Lottery's sales pitch and use it as my own mantra, 'Hey! You Never Know!' But before I go downhill (no pun intended) may I ask what's your best sighting?" "That's simple" he said with a smile, "the White Whale."

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## **MOUNT PETER – 2014**

By Judith Cinquina

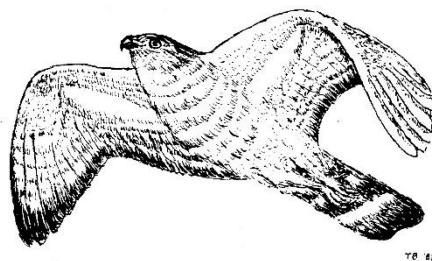
Over Mount Peter Hawk Watch's 57-year existence, the fall migration seems to have climbed higher and higher as the trees took over this once bald lookout. Our 2014, 72-day watch between September 1 and November 15 produced 9,012 raptors, but far too many of them were so high that they were mere specks and required sharp eyes and multiple observers to find and identify each one. Nevertheless, the 468 hours our 13 volunteers spent scanning the skies was rewarded with a record Red-shouldered Hawk count and near records for both Red-tailed Hawk and Golden Eagle.

Without large coastal storms to inspire the Broad-winged Hawks to move inland over our lookout, September brought us only an average 5,685. Most of the Broad-wings moved through between the 13th and 24th, with some pausing long enough to catch a snack of dragonflies and eat them on the wing. Rick Hansen grabbed the best day on the 14th, recording 2,340 on light northwest winds. The larger buteos dominated October and November, including a surprising explosion of Red-shouldered Hawks. Record numbers were recorded at Mount Peter (136), Hook Mountain (306) and State Line (512). At Mount Peter, they moved through primarily between October 20 and November 4, and most were adult-57, with immature-25, and unknown-54. Our best Red-shoulder count days were October 24 and November 4, netting 16 apiece by leaders Denise Farrell and Ajit Antony, respectively. Red-tailed Hawks scored our third best tally of all time, with 658 counted. Tom Millard brought in the best tally with 179 Tails, November 2 on strong northwest winds. For the fourth season in a row, Rough-legged Hawks failed to show up.

Accipiter numbers bounced up a bit from last year. Although still below average, 1,119 Sharp-shinned Hawks moved through, most between September 17 and October 27. They broke 100 on only one day, October 20, with 101 counted on light, south winds. Cooper's Hawks were a bit above our 10-year average with 122 noted. Our best day was claimed by Ken Witkowski with 12 on October 26. Carol Linguanti supplied us with our sole N. Goshawk in fog and drizzle, November 12. An immature, the Gos rose north of the lookout and flew directly over our platform at eye level. Carol described the Gos as "stocky" and steady and strong on 20 m/h winds. Falcons hovered around average, with Am. Kestrel numbers a bit under par at 139: 24 male, 23 female, and 92 unknown. Merlins tied last years' count of 23, a bit over the average. On September 2, one rose up behind the lookout, lugging prey. It was strafed by a Chimney Swift a couple of times before the Swift moved on. I suspected the Merlin's prey was another Swift. Twelve Peregrine Falcons came in just two under our 10-year average.

The Osprey count was an unhealthy 111. Only September 14 reached double digits, when 10 moved through with the 2000+ Broadwings. N. Harriers limped along with an under par 46 and no double digit days: 4 male, 8 female, 12 immature and 22 unknown. Down considerably from our record 130 in 2012, Bald Eagles still came in with an above average 79 count: 31 adult, a healthy 45 immature, and 3 unknown too far out to age. We were all surprised by the 10 Golden Eagles counted this season: 2 adult, 8 immature. Our former season record was 12 set in 1994. It's been a long wait for another double digit tally. For the second time, Ajit Antony tied our old daily record of three Golden Eagles, this time on November 4. Record numbers of both vultures were recorded, but the 232 Blacks and 570 Turkeys were more a result of counting earlier and paying more attention to those moving far out in the Warwick valley, like the 44 Blacks that kettled up and headed south, October 20, than an actual vulture increase.

Monarch butterflies rebounded considerably from last season's abysmal showing, with 443 tallied. Denise Farrell submitted the highest count of 144, September 19. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were almost a no-show, with a mere 12 seen. 1,221 migrant Blue Jays moved through, with Linda Peskac claiming the biggest day of 427, October 5. This season's 7,527 Canada Geese was about average. They seemed to be inspired by strong westerly winds, like those on October 12 and 19 when 1,061 and 2,895 respectively passed the lookout. The 12th and 19th also produced 50 and 93 Brant. All but one of the 42 Snow Geese noted went over October 3. Local Ravens entertained us almost daily, especially in late October when one performed an impressive series of warbles that no one on the lookout had ever heard before. Strong northwest winds inspired 20 Ravens to move south along our ridge, November 3, 15 in one, strung-out group.



Other interesting sightings included:

- 9/2 E. Wood Pewee, 2 Red-eyed Vireos, Yellow-throated Vireo, 2 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Warblers: Chestnut-sided, Blackburnian, Prairie, Black-throated Green
- 9/3 3 Scarlet Tanagers
- 9/5 Red-breasted Nuthatch, E. Phoebe
- 9/6 Least Flycatcher, House Wren
- 9/8 2 Ovenbirds
- 9/9 17 Chimney Swifts (another 19 on the 20th)
- 9/12 E. Screech Owl heard
- 9/19 250 Tree Swallow, 112 D.C. Cormorants (Denise Farrell)
- 9/21 2 E. Towhee
- 9/24 Olive-sided Flycatcher caught a bumblebee and ate it (Carol Linguanti)
- 9/26 Yellow-rumped Warbler
- 9/29 Blue-headed Vireo
- 10/1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- 10/7 Field Sparrow, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (a male, seen often through 11/10)
- 10/10 Chipping Sparrow
- 10/11 Pine Warbler
- 10/19 Dark-eyed Junco
- 10/20 White-throated Sparrow, 2 Purple Finch
- 10/22 Tree Sparrow
- 10/24 30 Pine Siskins (621 counted by 11/14, biggest day – 11/10 with 172 Siskins)
- 10/29 Hermit Thrush
- 10/30 2 Tundra Swans (Herb Stein)
- 11/2 21 C. Loons, 12 in one group (Tom Millard)

Leaders endured temperatures ranging from the 90’s to the low 20’s F., winds howling at 25 to 30 mph and occasional drizzle, sleet and snow, but they never lost their enthusiasm. Carol Linguanti’s efforts on November 12 are a case in point: In spite of fog and drizzle and a very narrow migration window, she persisted and bagged our sole N. Goshawk and one more Golden Eagle. That spirit is owned by every one of our 13 leaders, but we can’t do it alone. Some very sharp-eyed and welcome visitors have helped boost our tallies and our spirits. We are grateful for our clean-up crew, Carole Baligh, Denise Farrell, Rick Hansen, Carol Linguanti, Tom Millard, Bill O’Keefe, Gaby Schmitt, Herb Stein, Gene Tappan, Ken Witkowski, and Matt Zeitler for beating back the trees and shrubs that blocked our site lines and picking up months of accumulated litter around the platform. A special thanks to Tom for putting up and taking down our platform box. We are very grateful for the generous contribution from The Fyke Nature Association of Bergen County, NJ in support of our Mount Peter site on Hawkcount and for their continuing sponsorship. Our 57th season enables us to claim once again that we are the oldest, continually run, all-volunteer fall watch in the country.

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Winter Recipe for the Birds

In the winter, birds benefit from a high-energy suet treat. Stacy Tornio, editor of Birds & Blooms, developed this recipe with her kids using cupcake liners to stay mess-free. They’re happy to report that the birds love it. You will need:

- 1 cup shortening
- 2 cups chunky peanut butter
- 5 cups cornmeal
- Assorted nuts, birdseed or dried berries



To make a bird cupcake, melt 1 cup shortening and 2 cups chunky peanut butter over low heat, then mix in 5 cups cornmeal. Fill cupcake tins and top with your choice of nuts, birdseed or dried berries. Cool in the refrigerator. To give as a gift, arrange on a plate or stack and then wrap with cellophane. Attach a recipe card it to the cellophane so your recipient can make more. Add a bow, and you have an instant gift!

Alternative for Roundup!

An Internet search will yield many formulas for safer herbicides. No need to use Roundup anymore. The formula is 1 gallon of white vinegar, 1 cup salt and 1/4 cup liquid dish soap, some formulas recommend blue Dawn. Gently mix and pour solution in your garden sprayer. Spray directly on the offending weeds at the base using the narrow stream setting. Best if used in direct sunlight and when rain is NOT in the forecast.



Boiling water method: This is the simplest organic weed killer. Boil water in your tea kettle, pour it directly on the offending weeds. Be sure to pour close to the weed to minimize splatter and use just enough to cover the weeds.

Wildlife and Your 2014 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 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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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, or call Mike Limatola, President, at 201-739-8062. The Newsletter is published four times a year and manuscripts and artwork are welcome. Interim Editor: Carol Flanagan, carolflana@aol.com. Production: Molly Gardener, Herb Gardener, and John Brotherton.



The deadline for the Summer 2015 issue is March 25, 2015. Send material to Box 141, Ramsey, NJ 07446, or via e-mail to carolflana@aol.com.