



Fall Newsletter
Vol. 63 – No. 4 – 2018
www.fykenature.org

Calendar of Events

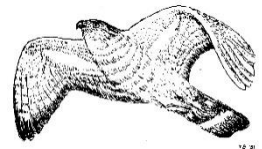
December 15, 2018 – Save the date for the Ramsey Christmas Bird Count! Lisa Fanning

September to November – State Line Hawk Watch.

Meet at the State Line lookout in Alpine. This site has easy access and park facilities. Here is a chance to look down at migrating hawks. From September through early November, volunteer observers record the migration of raptors from the lookout point at State Line Lookout, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., volunteer availability and weather conditions permitting.

September to November – Mount Peter Hawk Watch, Judith Cinquina
Mount Peter Hawk Watch: September 1 to November 15, 2018 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

Get under the Atlantic Flyway this fall and witness the southbound spectacle of raptors and songbirds. Mount Peter has reserved a spot just for you with views of the Warwick Valley clear out to the Kittatinny Mountains and access to the best homemade ice cream in the Northeast. Best times: mid-September for Broad-wings, Osprey and Bald Eagles; or mid-October – November for Red-tails and Red-shoulders and, with luck, a Golden Eagle. The watch is located above the Creamery at the top of 17A between Greenwood Lake and Warwick, NY.



Saturday, September 1, 2018 (Rain-date, Sunday September 2) Mount Peter Clean-Up

Bring work clothes, clippers, water, and a snack. We will be clearing trails, cutting small trees and picking up debris from 9 a.m. until noon. Questions, please contact Judy Cinquina at judycinq@optonline.net.

September 15 and 16 2018 -- Fyke Weekend at Mount Peter

Come one or both days and join the regulars at the lookout. We hope to catch a big Broad-winged flight. Registration not required.



**September 28, 2018 – Monthly Meeting: 8:00 p.m., Allendale Municipal Building
All About “The Bird Watcher”, Jim Wright**

Jim Wright is in his 10th year writing "the Bird Watcher" column in the The Bergen Record, well over 200 at this point. In this talk for Fyke, Jim talks about his most recent, and favorite columns, about the incredible birds, people and places he has encountered along the way. Jim asks that anyone who has a recent Wild Turducken photo that he can use in his presentation contact Jim directly. The show will feature a surprise unveiling by Stiles Thomas that only a fool would miss.

October 7, 2018 – Hawks Over the Hudson, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Fyke will be represented at “Hawks Over the Hudson” at the State Line Lookout, Palisades Interstate Park in Alpine, New Jersey, rain or shine. The program features live birds of prey presented by the Delaware Valley Raptor Center at 1 and 2:30 p.m. Between the programs, visitors can chat with the presenters, and to enjoy activities and exhibits presented by some of the member organizations of the Nature Program Cooperative. The program is free and open to all, with no advance registration required to attend. Website for this event is <http://natureprogram.org/hawksOverHudson.html>.

October 14, 2018 - The Big Sit! at the Celery Farm

The Big Sit! is an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event. Our team, The Celery Stalkers, sits in a circle 17 feet in diameter for 24 hours counting all the bird species we see or hear. The center of our circle is the Pirie – Mayhood Tower. To sign up for a 2-hour team contact Carol Flanagan, carolflana@aol.com.



October 21, 2018 (Sunday) - Field Trip: Ducks at Dusk

Meet at the Celery Farm Warden’s Watch at 5:30 p.m. To register contact Mike Limatola, 201-739-8062 or mike.limatola@gmail.com.

**October 26, 2018 - Monthly Meeting: 8:00 p.m., Allendale Municipal Building
The Chain That Saved the Colonies, Doc Bayne**

To stop the British invasion of the New England colonies during the American Revolution, Peter Townsend manufactured a Great Chain for the Continental Army at Sterling Forest. It was placed across the Hudson River at West point. Please join Doc Bayne for a presentation on how he discovered the forge that made the Great Chain. He will share the history of the iron industry that started in 1736 at Sterling Forest, and how the Sterling Forge was used to create the Great Chain.

November 3, 2018 - Field Trip: Sunrise Mountain Hawk Watch

Meet on site 10 a.m. To register contact Mike Limatola, mike.limatola@gmail.com.

**November 30, 2018 - Monthly Meeting: 8:00 p.m., Allendale Municipal Building
Members Night**

Please come and enjoy an evening of short presentations by Fyke Members or better yet, be a presenter and share your own photos, prints, collections, stories, etc. For digital presentations, please contact Kurt Muenz, elkumu@aceweb.com.

Stepping Up For Lorrimer 2018
By Gabriele Schmitt

Despite the chilly, wet weather and the soggy, muddy paths, our intrepid participants in this year's Stepping Up tallied up 68 bird species:



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| WATERFOWL - 6 | SWALLOWS - 3 |
| Canada Goose | Northern Rough-winged Swallow |
| Mute Swan | Tree Swallow |
| Wood Duck | Barn Swallow |
| Gadwall | CHICKADEES & TITMICE - 2 |
| Mallard | Black-capped Chickadee |
| American Black Duck | Tufted Titmouse |
| TURKEYS - 1 | NUTHATCHES - 1 |
| Wild Turkey | White-breasted Nuthatch |
| CORMORANTS & ANHINGAS - 1 | WRENS - 2 |
| Double-crested Cormorant | House Wren |
| HERONS, EGRETS - 4 | Carolina Wren |
| Great Blue Heron | GNATCATCHERS- 1 |
| Great Egret | Blue-grey Gnatcatcher |
| Green Heron | THRUSHES & ALLIES - 4 |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | Veery |
| VULTURES, HAWKS & ALLIES - 5 | Wood Thrush |
| Turkey Vulture | American Robin |
| Osprey | CATBIRDS, MOCKINGBIRDS -1 |
| Bald Eagle | Gray Catbird |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | STARLINGS- 1 |
| Coopers Hawk | European Starling |
| PIGEONS & DOVES - 2 | WAXWINGS - 1 |
| Rock Pigeon | Cedar Waxwing |
| Mourning Dove | WOOD WARBLERS - 7 |
| CUCKOOS - 1 | Northern Waterthrush |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | Black & White Warbler |
| SWIFTS - 1 | Blackpoll Warbler |
| Chimney Swift | Common Yellowthroat |
| HUMMINGBIRDS- 1 | American Redstart |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| WOODPECKERS - 5 | Yellow Warbler |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | NEW WORLD SPARROWS - 3 |
| Downy Woodpecker | White-throated Sparrow |
| Hairy Woodpecker | Song Sparrow |
| Northern Flicker | Swamp Sparrow |
| Pileated Woodpecker | CARDINALS & GROSBEAKS - 2 |
| TYRANT FLYCATCHERS, KINGBIRDS - 2 | Northern Cardinal |
| Willow Flycatcher | Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| Eastern Kingbird | BLACKBIRDS - 3 |
| VIREOS - 2 | Baltimore Oriole |
| Warbling Vireo | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Red-eyed Vireo | Common Grackle |
| JAYS, CROWS & RAVENS - 4 | FINCHES - 2 |
| Blue Jay | House Finch |
| American Crow | American Goldfinch |
| Fish Crow | OLD WORLD SPARROWS - 1 |
| Common Raven | House Sparrow |

Many thanks to this intrepid group who went out into the Celery Farm and left no bird species uncounted:

Kevin Watson
Jim Wright
Suzanne Serafini
Anne Keating
Brian Kenney

Charley West
Julie Bramble McCall
Alice Leurck
Loren Anderson
Karen Heifitz

Siobhan Keating
Philip Keating
Gabriele Schmitt



A check for \$1608 was presented to Patrick at Lorrimer to help pay for the children’s summer programs. Our sincere appreciation to all those who pledged and donated to this worthy cause:

Loren Anderson
John Bird
Mimi Brauch
Sara & Mike Buckley
Monica Cardoza
Malcolm Chesworth
Judy Cinquina
Holly Cowen
Phil Dahlen
Nancy Drabik

Lisa & Rob Fanning
Carol Flanagan
Molly & Herb Gardener
Darlene Lembo
Alice Leurck
Dorothy Lux
Rochana Muenthongchin
Kurt Muenz
Ravi Potluri
Joan and Bert Rottkamp

Gabriele Schmitt
Lillian & Stiles Thomas
Kevin Watson
Charley West
Penny & Dick Whitlock
Rosemarie Widmer
John Workman
Pat Finn & Jim Wright

Thank you all for helping to promote nature and stewardship in our young and future citizen-scientists.



NJ Invasive Species Strike Team Conference Report **By Gabriele Schmitt**

I attended the NJ Invasive Species Strike Team's 2018 conference on April 11, at Duke Farms. Here are a few of my notes/highlights:

There are presently 149 invasives identified in NJ, of which 71 are considered "o" or "close to o" in terms of threat level. That's the good news. There are two new invasives: East Asian Tick and Asian Flatworm. The tick was found at a farm in Hunterdon County and the pen and area around were treated. Time will tell if any of the ticks survived; the farm is under close scrutiny. As yet, it is unclear if this tick spreads any diseases to humans.

One of the presenters, botanist Jared Rosenbaum, has a lovely blog about native plants, foraging, restoration, etc., www.wildplantculture.com, great site to get "lost" in. One of Brian Zarate's interests is the Bog Turtle, which has become an endangered species in NJ due to habitat change/fragmentation and illegal collection. For more on the NJ Bog Turtle Project: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/bogturt.htm#intro>.

In addition to prescribed grazing with goats and sheep, NJ is also studying the use of water buffalo (yes, you read that right!). They may prove to be particularly effective against phragmites as they not only eat them but stomp down and destroy the rhizomes.

Sharon Petzinger spoke about the decline in our songbird populations and what's being done for them. They are faced with increasing threats to their breeding habitats: fragmentation, land-use history, lands that were used for farms, for example, take a long time to revert to land that will better suit songbirds. The endangered Golden Winged Warbler is at the top of her list. She has numerous forest restorations projects going, often working with landowners to clear overgrown forest areas and to replace invasive plants with more suitable natives.

Some interesting websites:

www.njmap2.com to see some of the changes to the land in NJ over time.

If you are looking to redo your yard, some great ideas on www.jerseyyards.org and www.wildridge.com for lawn furniture made from recycled plastics, www.toadshade.com for interesting plants.

Mike Mayer of Beneficial Insect Lab spoke about progress being made against the Emerald Ash Borer. There are now parasitoid wasps that are being released and are already having an impact.

Black swallow-wort and pale swallow-wort, which has pinkish flowers, also called "dog-strangling vine" invade fields and field edges. Black swallow-wort may also invade woodlands. Close relatives of milkweed, these species may interfere with monarch butterfly reproduction. *Hypena opulenta* is a moth found in Ukraine. The moth larva was approved for release and is due to begin controlling it. Oak Wilt is a fungus that primarily impacts red oaks and pin oaks that "scorches" the leaves. There is concern that it's moving towards NJ.

There is a bio-control set to be released in 2019 for Japanese Knot Weed!

Finally, Tama Matsuoka talked about her foraging business. She has been connecting chefs with invasives. Her company and website are <http://www.meadowsandmore.com/about-us/>. One of her favorites is Japanese Knot Weed ... tastes 'like rhubarb' and is a desired spring delicacy in Japan. Other favorites include Orange Daylily, shoots taste like a cross between Milderleek and French beans, Kudzu, Garlic Mustard (pesto), Aralia/Japanese Angelica, Mugwort.

Celery Farm Bridge Repair
By Jim Wright



A big thank you to Ken Wiegand for the bridge replacement and bridge repairs at the Celery Farm. The biggest upgrade is the new bridge near Barking Dog Corner. Ken also did repairs to the long bridge south of Barking Dog the same day. Earlier he fixed the bridge way up near the industrial park.

Thank you, Ken!



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**Field and Feeder Notes**  
By Judith Cinquina

*The Black Tern is a restless waif of the air, flitting about hither and thither with a wayward, desultory flight, light and buoyant as a butterfly. Its darting zigzag flight as it mounts into the air to chase a fluttering moth is suggestive of a flycatcher or a nighthawk; as it skims swiftly over the surface of the water it reminds me of a swallow; and its true relationship to the terns is shown as it hovers along over the billowing tops of a great sea of tall waving grass, dipping down occasionally to snatch an insect from the slender, swaying tops.*



*Bent, Arthur Cleveland, Life Histories N. Am. Birds, 1921*

A Black Tern was discovered by Rosemarie Widmer at Darlington Park, May 14. For a couple of hours late that afternoon, it hawked insects over the lake, giving Rosemarie time to alert a few Fyke members to this rare find. Normally, Black Terns migrate through the center of the country in the spring. They are more expected, although still uncommon, in the fall in NJ, especially along the coast. That said, I was with a group at the end of a day-long bird-a-thon, May 18, 1996 when three Black Terns joined a variety of swallows over Lake Appert at the Celery Farm (CF), just before sunset. Perhaps it was the low light catching their silver wings or merely our exhaustion, but they seemed like apparitions from another world. Unfortunately, even in the fall, this species is not as common as they were prior to 1950, probably because their prime habitat, fresh water marshes have disappeared. Although not quite as rare, three Caspian Terns hunted Lake Appert, April 22, according to Kevin Watson. He wrote: "Several times I saw them skim the water, perhaps to clean their bills, or to drink. When they caught fish, it was by plunging down from a height, but many times after they caught a fish, they would drop it back to the lake." Our largest tern, Caspians frequent inland lakes and reservoirs during migration, especially in the fall.

A "chanting" male Prothonotary Warbler was discovered at Mahwah Green Acres (Mary Patrick Park), May 20 by John Workman. He heard the Prothonotary's "sweet-sweet-sweet-sweet" song from almost 100 yards away and wrote that he had "flashbacks" to his "misspent youth in the cypress marshes of Arkansas." He regrets that the bird is no longer called the Golden Swamp Warbler. The Prothonotary Warbler is the only eastern warbler that nests in tree cavities, and it prefers dark water swamps where its song and plumage seem to glow. John stated the bird was still present two days later, and he sent on a report that another birder discovered the Prothonotary feeding a fledgling "grayish something" in the same area, July 28. The chick had no identifiable field marks to guarantee it wasn't a Cowbird or some other species. Although they nest regularly in south Jersey, Prothonotary Warblers have "failed to establish sustainable numbers" in the north, according to Boyle's Birds of NJ. Another Prothonotary stopped at the CF, May 3 and was observed by Daniel Carola and Ravi Potluri.

A few other "good" warblers turned up in our area. Kevin Watson had a Pine Warbler at his suet in Hackensack, April 4. It was Kevin's 112th yard bird and 21st yard warbler. The bird stayed for a couple of days frequenting the feeder and walking Kevin's deck picking up errant crumbs. John Workman found a male Golden-winged at Mahwah Green Acres, May 2. They nest not far away under the power lines in Sterling Forest, Tuxedo, NY, but they're rarely found in transit. Bob and Lisa Safer shared a Cape May with Barbara Dilger at the CF, May 4. The Cape May, which has never bred in Cape May and nests in the Boreal Forest in Canada, was still present two days later, Brian Kenny reported. And while we enjoyed a Solitary Sandpiper in the CF brook, Fred Weber related that Julie McCall observed a Mourning Warbler out in the open, walking down the trail at the CF, May 11. Usually that warbler is buried deep in shrubs or weeds and will taunt you with its song while you piece together the bits and pieces of its plumage glimpsed through foliage. Unfortunately, not one Fyke member was there to enjoy this unusual event. Rick Weiman observed half a dozen warblers along the Ramapo during a short hour walk at Soldiers Park in Mahwah, May 7. They included a N. Parula, Chestnut-sided and Canada, all low in the bushes.

Mahwah Green Acres produced two exceptional flycatchers in May, an Olive-sided and a Yellow-bellied. The Olive-sided was found by Simon Streatfeild, May 14. Like many flycatchers, it is a late migrant, coming up from South America usually by mid-May. It was flitting between trees and catching flies by the lake. Boyle writes that this species has declined "dramatically" in recent decades. He attributed the decline to extensive deforestation on its wintering grounds. Bull's Birds of NY State reports that breeding bird atlas data from 1966-1994 indicated a 92% drop in Olive-sided numbers, and that since 1980 the decline has steepened to over 13% each year. Finding one during migration takes a lot of luck. On the 20th, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was spotted at Green Acres by Doug Morel. The bird cooperated and not only perched in the open but also sang. With a song resembling that of a Least Flycatcher and a call similar to a Wood Pewee's, it's a tough bird to confirm by call. Fortunately, Doug was able to compare the call with his bird app and got a perfect match. It was another lucky find, for this

species migrates primarily west of NJ and is rare in the spring. It is a common breeder in the Adirondacks.

The Hour on the Tower crew scored two Am. Bitterns at the CF, April 22. Bitterns require extensive freshwater wetlands for nesting and their numbers have declined considerably in NJ. The CF is probably the best place to see one anywhere in our area during migration. Two Sora Rails “cavorted” and called back and forth in front of the Hour on the Tower crew, May 13 at the CF. Charlie West wrote, “Unfortunately, the ‘looks’ were less than prime.” On the 27th, the crew spotted a lone Common Nighthawk, one of the very few seen over the Fyke area this spring. Once more common as breeders in our cities, Nighthawks have declined drastically in NJ. Hopefully, more will be noted in late August and early September as they migrate back to South America. Two Red-shouldered Hawks heading in opposite directions, one empty-taloned and the other carrying prey passed by the crew, June 10, indicating somewhere there were fat and happy Red-shoulder chicks. The crew spotted hints of fall migration to come, August 12 in the form of an Am. Redstart and a Louisiana Waterthrush.



An Osprey with a red band on one of its legs stopped at the CF, April 25. Barbara Dilger and Darlene Lembo photographed the bird and recorded the information on its band. According to Jim Wright’s CF Blog, the sighting record was submitted on line and Ben Wurst of Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ responded the next day. Ben had banded that Osprey on July 1, 2016 at Barnegat Bay. On July 11, Barbara received a note from Ben that the Osprey was back at Barnegat Bay where it was born two years ago. Ben believed it was a male and had a successful nest nearby. Barbara wrote, “It is exciting to think that he made it all the way up to Allendale from his migration south of the border and now is back to his birthplace and possibly starting his own family.”

Gaby Schmitt found a Wilson’s Snipe at Crestwood Lake, April 4. This mud-loving shorebird was probably challenged to find mudflats during this very wet spring. An adult Bald Eagle perched at the CF in the largest tree along the trail south of Pirie platform April 19, according to Tom Mitchell. Mark Kantrowitz suggested his Hillsdale Mockingbird deserved a Grammy Award for imitating an Eastern Towhee, Phoebe, Belted Kingfisher, Cardinal, Starling and Titmouse in just two minutes, April 24. A Cooper’s Hawk that seems to hunt Betty McDonnell’s Mahwah yard from year to year, killed a Rose-breasted Grosbeak near Betty’s feeders, May 6. Betty lamented, “Why do they always get my favorite birds when I have a multitude of House Sparrows to offer up? Barbara Dilger’s Mother’s Day treat consisted of three male Scarlet Tanagers in Waldwick Borough Park, May 13. Usually perched high in very leafy trees where they’re impossible to find, the three cooperated and posed for photos, which Barbara shared on our Fyke Yahoo site. One was probably a first-year male and had not yet attained its bright red coloring. John Workman discovered a Phoebe with a black belly at Lake Henry, Mahwah, at the end of May. Its belly should have been off-white, John wrote. Just to make sure he hadn’t been “hallucinating,” he revisited the spot, June 11 and easily re-found the black-bellied bird on territory, paired with a normal looking Phoebe. John suspected their nest was under a nearby bridge.

A Downy, Hairy and Red-Bellied Woodpecker shared Mark Kantrowitz’s suet feeder in Hillsdale, June 23. A female Downy frequented my hummingbird feeder in Upper Saddle River, taking long drinks of the sweet liquid. At one point, a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird dive bombed her, but the Downy barely noticed. Gaby Schmitt found a Flicker chick on the ground in her Bergenfield yard, June 4. She took a photo and wrote, “They really do look like little dinosaurs at this stage.” Although she took the chick to the Raptor Trust for rehab, it failed to survive.



Migrant shorebirds, warblers, hawks and more are waiting in the wings. Get out there and let us know what you find. 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 [judycing@optonline.net](mailto:judycing@optonline.net).

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Welcome New Members!



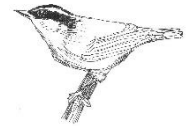
Laura A Lander, Fair Lawn, Family Membership
Jerry Mayo, Ramsey, Family Membership

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**Time to Renew Your Fyke Dues**

The new membership year for Fyke starts September 1, 2018 and ends August 31, 2019. Your annual dues should be paid now. The annual dues are \$20 for an individual membership, and \$25 for a family membership.

You can now also pay dues and make donations to Fyke conveniently online using any major credit card or PayPal. To do so, please visit our web site at [www.fykenature.org](http://www.fykenature.org) and use the link on the Home page to access the Payments and Donations page.



You may continue to join, renew or donate by mail. Checks should be made out to Fyke Nature Association, and mailed to Fyke Nature Association, Box 141, Ramsey, NJ 07446.

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To Fyke Members:



Please send items you think would be of interest to our group. News, features, articles on wildlife observation, conservation issues, book reviews, field notes, humorous first-person bird/nature related stories. All submissions will be gratefully accepted. Send material by e-mail to carolflana@aol.com or by snail mail to Fyke Nature Association, Box 141, Ramsey, NJ 07446.

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**Starting Your Holiday Shopping? Here's an Easy Way to Support Fyke**

If you shop on Amazon please go through the Fyke website. Go to [www.fykenature.org](http://www.fykenature.org), click on the shop link on the right side of the screen, and then click on the Amazon logo. This is for all items sold on Amazon, not just books. Every month AMAZON sends us a sales commission check and it doesn't cost you anything extra. The affiliate program contributes 1% to 10% to Fyke depending on the items purchased. This does not increase the cost of your purchase. Fyke is on the Smile program, but the Smile program only contributes 0.5% to Fyke.



Thank you for your participation!

(Fyke does not endorse any particular online shopping site.)

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Jim Wright  
Conservation: Gabriele Schmitt  
Hawk Watch: Judith Cinquina  
Land Trust: Hugh Carola  
Newsletter: Carol Flanagan  
Programs: Penny Whitlock  
Publicity: Gabriele Schmitt  
Webmaster: Kevin Watson

**The Fyke Nature Association**, a 501 (c) (3) organization, meets at the Allendale Municipal Building, 500 W. Crescent Avenue, Allendale, NJ 07401 on the fourth Friday of every month January to May, and in September and October. The winter meeting is the first Friday in December. (No meetings in June, July, August, and November.) **Note: In 2018 the Winter meeting will be November 30, 2018.**

Meetings and membership are open to all. Annual dues: Individual -- \$20.00; Family -- \$25.00. For further information, write to Box 141, Ramsey, NJ 07446, visit our website [www.fykenature.org](http://www.fykenature.org), or contact Mike Limatola, President, at [mike.limatola@gmail.com](mailto:mike.limatola@gmail.com). The Newsletter is published four times a year and manuscripts and artwork are welcome. Editor: Carol Flanagan, [carolflana@aol.com](mailto:carolflana@aol.com). Production: Molly Gardener, Herb Gardener, and Carol Flanagan.



**The deadline for the Winter Issue is October 22, 2018.**  
Send material to Box 141, Ramsey, NJ 07446, or via e-mail to [carolflana@aol.com](mailto:carolflana@aol.com)