


Fyke Nature Association Spring Newsletter

Vol. 66 — No. 1 — 2020
www.fykenature.org

Please see “An Important Announcement About The Fyke Email List” on page 2.

Calendar of Events

Since mid-2015 Fyke's monthly speaker costs have been funded by a generous grant from the Winifred M. and George P. Pitkin Foundation.

February 28, 2020 – Monthly Meeting: 8:00 p.m., Allendale Municipal Building Jersey City - The Wildlife and Me, John Dunstan

In John’s film he shows his observations including owls, wading birds, insects, black skimmers, woodpeckers and more through the years, all in this tremendous setting in Jersey City, Liberty State Park. Using different types of equipment, he takes pictures and records footage of animals and insects that you cannot photograph with an iPhone camera. The mega zoom bridge camera gives him the opportunity to snap photos of birds flying through the sky, while the macro diopter lens lets him capture the smallest of insects. Dunstan goes at different times throughout the day, whether it is when the sun comes up or if there is fog outside, to capture a variety of scenes throughout the urban environment.

March 14, 2020 — Field Trip: Woodcocks, Greenway at the Celery Farm

Meet at the Greenway entrance to the Celery Farm at 6:30 p.m. Bring a light snack to enjoy while we wait for sunset. Leader: Mike Limatola. Please register for this trip with Mike, mike.limatola@gmail.com. Rain date is March 15, 2020.

Note: Date may change based on the arrival of the Woodcocks or the weather, please check Fyke emails or Facebook page for updates.

March 27, 2020 — Monthly meeting: 8:00 p.m., Allendale Municipal Building Iceland, Kevin Watson

Birder and photographer Kevin Watson takes us on a tour of this unique island, with its dramatic landscapes and remarkable bird life. We’ll see majestic waterfalls, black sand beaches, glaciers and blue ice caves in winter, and return for the endless daylight of mid-summer, when the skies around the seabird cliffs are full of gulls and alcids, and the rivers and lakes are home to many nesting ducks and shorebirds in full breeding plumage.

April 4, 2020 — 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, mike.limatola@gmail.com. Rain date is April 5, 2020.

“I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order.”
~ John Burroughs

An Important Announcement About The Fyke Email List **By Kurt Muenz**



Recently Yahoo Groups eliminated all their functions except email and there's concern that even this will soon be gone. Accordingly the Fyke Board has decided to discontinue the Fyke Yahoo Group. The termination date is estimated as February 29, 2020.

In its place we've established a new list serve with groups.io. I'll be the owner-administrator. We've successfully tested the new arrangement with members whose email addresses I have and it's working well. The new Group's online home page is <https://groups.io/g/fykenature>.

If you're a Fyke member and currently part of the Yahoo Group please join the new list so that you'll stay connected. If you haven't been part of the Yahoo Group, the Board recommends joining the new list, to keep up to date on Fyke and Celery Farm news and events. It will lead to a modest amount of added email from fellow Fyke members and you'll be able to contribute your own posts.

- If you're a Fyke member in good standing (i.e. Sept 2019 thru Aug 2020 dues paid) and have not received an email invitation from groups.io, to join, it's likely because I don't have your email address. So if you wish to join, please send an email to fykenature+owner@groups.io including your name and street address and I'll arrange an invitation email. Accept the invitation to join the group.

- If you have not yet paid your 2019/20 dues, please do so promptly. On receipt of your check or on-line payment, I'll arrange an invitation. If you pay by check please enclose your email address.

- If you're a past member who no longer resides in the North Jersey area but still wants to keep up with Fyke and the Celery Farm, please email fykenature+owner@groups.io including your name and street address and I'll arrange an invitation.

- Any others who want to join please follow the procedure at www.fykenature.org using "The Fyke Email List" link on the home page.

For the time being we'll continue using the Fyke Yahoo email function. I'll announce a switch-over date before the end of February. Once an invitation acceptance has been confirmed, feel free to send a "hello" type email on the new service if you'd like to check it out. Address such posts to fykenature@groups.io.

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## **The 68th Ramsey Christmas Bird Count** **By Rob and Lisa Ann Fanning**

Unseasonably mild temps and some afternoon fog made for comfortable yet at times difficult viewing conditions during the 68th Ramsey Christmas count (CBC), held on December 14, 2019. Luckily the threat of rain all week never really materialized. Most lakes and ponds, and brooks were open, resulting in good waterfowl counts for certain species. Unlike last year, this year was not a finch corruption year, not a single Red-breasted Nuthatch was found.

8 intrepid teams ventured out in the field to count our avian friends. Collectively, we tallied 77 on the day (+ 1 count week bird Peregrine Falcon).

The Highlights of this year's count were the addition of 2 birds never before recorded. The 1st was a young Rufous Hummingbird at the edge of the Celery Farm tallied by Team C (Fanning).

Many thanks to the gracious hosts Lisa and Bob Safier who first noted the bird in early November. The 2nd new bird was a female King Eider found by Team A (Daniel and Hugh Carola, and Ivan Kossak) at Sterling lake, Sterling Forest, NY. This major surprise was seen and documented by many.

Some notable species/numbers found by the teams include 1 Common Loon, 1 Long-tailed Duck, 1389 Common Merganser, 264 Hooded Merganser, 108 Ring-necked Duck, 1 Eastern Phoebe, 6 Common Raven, 6 Brown Creeper, 20 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (all-time high), 34 Flicker, 11 Pileated Woodpecker, 7 Winter Wren, 18 Bluebirds, 34 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 13 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 4 Catbirds, 1 Pine Warbler (2nd ever on the count, -Team H), 1 Yellow-rumped Warbler, 4 Hermit Thrush, 7 Field Sparrow, 11 Swamp Sparrow, 2 Fox Sparrow, and 4 Rusty Blackbirds (Celery Farm).

As always, teams battled fiercely for the traditional awards. Team E led by Coox2 once again walked away with the THE COVETED BLUE JAY AWARD with an even 100 tallied. Team D (Kantrowitz) took home the 2nd place Blue Jay award with 83. The BEST TEAM TROPHY/award went to Team A with 2 over par (49 species), while Team F (troop) took home the JOHN AND PAT BROTHERTON MEMORIAL AWARD (aka the # 2 award) for 2nd place (+1 over par, 40 species) Team C (Fanning) once again retained the HOUSE SPARROW AWARD with 141 tallied (much lower than average for the count).



Many THANKS to all those who participated, YOU are the ones that make this long-standing event a great success year after year, tabulating valuable citizen science data while helping to keep a wonderful birding tradition going strong.

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Field and Feeder Notes

By Judith Cinquina

The Rufous Hummingbird is North America's "extremist" hummingbird, widely known in the west for its aggressive nature. Venturing far from the equatorial tropics in which its ancestors evolved, it reaches the northernmost latitude of any hummingbird (61°N). After making the longest (measured in body lengths) known avian migration, individuals from Alaskan populations face a short breeding season but the longest day-length seen by any hummingbird.

~Healy and Calder (2006). Rufous Hummingbird, in The Birds of North America Online

Rufous Hummingbirds breed from Washington State, up through Canada and into Alaska and winter along the Gulf Coast and into Mexico, so what was one doing at Bob and Lisa Safier's Allendale feeder, October 29? As I'm writing this in mid-January, the young hummingbird is still there. At first, the Safiers figured the bird was just passing through, but when it stayed, they alerted Fyke birders and generously shared their rare guest. "No other western hummingbird is known to wander to this extent," Healy and Calder state. Migration for young hummers is completely instinctive. They are not guided by adults the first time they head south, and it seems young Rufous Hummers are particularly prone to wandering in the wrong direction. Sherri Williamson states in her book *Hummingbirds of North America* that Rufous wander to places where they have "little hope of over-winter survival." The Safiers' Rufous was lucky. Worried that their feeder would freeze and doom the hummer, the Safiers searched the internet and found a company in Washington State that sold heaters for hummer feeders. The good/bad news is, Williamson further informs us, that if this Rufous survives the winter, it will most likely follow the same migration route next year.

There are at least 18 accepted records of Rufous in NJ, according to Boyle in his *Birds of New Jersey* (2011), and “another twenty-four records accepted as Rufous/Allen’s Hummingbirds, most of which are surely Rufous,” he states. The Safiers’ “Rufous” falls into that second category. Rufous and Allen’s Hummers resemble one another so closely that identification must be confirmed by measurements that this bird has not been subjected to. In fact, even some male Rufous Hummers have green backs and crowns instead of the usual burnt orange or rufous and can be mistaken for Allen’s. However, the Safiers’ bird seems to have a Rufous personality. “As the hummingbird settled in,” Lisa wrote, “there were interactions with other birds that we saw from time to time. Just recently, the hummer and a Carolina Wren were sitting on the top of a shrub/tree on our berm, having a stare down.” That’s an expected behavior from a hummer known for its “aggressive nature.”

Two Great Horned Owls conversed near Lisa and Bob’s Allendale home, November 2. Fall is the time they hook up, and like Bald Eagles, they nest while snow is still possible. A Screech Owl sounded off behind my Upper Saddle River home, December 27, but I have yet to have one occupy my owl box again. Two Barred Owls became Stephanie Seymour’s 139th yard bird in Ringwood, on the 28th. When she heard hooting and high-pitched sounds, she thought at first that neighbors were having a party. Instead it proved to be two owls calling back and forth to one another.

On December 8, Charlie West wrote, “Today was full of provocative sightings!” His Hour on the Tower crew at the Celery Farm (CF) first enjoyed a male N. Harrier that perched on a bare snag. Then a Red Fox stepped out of the phragmites, trotted towards the raptor and stopped to stare at the silver, owl-faced hawk. “We couldn’t determine whether it was sheer admiration of the bird’s beauty or breakfast hunger,” Charlie wrote. Twenty minutes later, a Bald Eagle flew in and perched near the tower. Ten minutes later, a Common Raven landed next to but slightly below the eagle and began to harass the eagle and peck at its tail. After five minutes, “bored with his taunting insults being ignored,” the Raven left. Charlie declared the morning was a “classic example of the birder’s mindset: Hey, you never know.”

Two Greater White-fronted Geese were sighted on Oradell Reservoir, December 29 by Maryann Fahey. According to Boyle, this species was very rare through 1975 but has become frequent enough that it was removed from the Review List in 1999. Two forms are possible in our area: the western form with the pink bill and the rarer Greenland form with orange bill. Maryann found another two on Schlegel Lake in Washington Township, January 7 along with a female Common Goldeneye and 19 Hooded Mergansers. Doug Morel counted 275 Canvasbacks at DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst, January 11. Canvasbacks are solely a N. America species and breed primarily in our prairie potholes, a threatened habitat subject to draining and cultivation.

Two Virginia Rails were at the CF on December 8, Charlie West reported. This hardy marsh bird was still there when the Lake Appert began to ice over. By approaching quietly and watching for ripples in the water, Jim Wright detected it at No-Name Culvert, January 18. This location seems to be a favorite haunt of the Virginia Rail. The winters of ’86 and ’92 produced Virginia Rails at that exact location hunting under and alongside the ice. And speaking of ice and winter, it is amazing that some of the tiniest species like Golden-crowned Kinglets, Winter Wrens, and Brown Creepers manage to survive our winters in spite of rejecting any handouts from us. Tiny birds lose heat much faster than larger birds like a Starling or Cardinal and have less insulation. A Golden-crowned Kinglet is not a seed eater. It has to fuel its metabolism with insects, a constant supply of them. The Tower crew spotted one, December 8, and Doug Morel noted it again at the CF January 15. Now there’s a research project for someone. What is keeping that CF kinglet alive?

Doug also spotted a Winter Wren at Mahwah Green Acres (Mary Patrick Park), December 28 and Brian Kenney found another at the CF, January 15. At a mere four inches, a Winter Wren is the same size as the Golden-crowned Kinglet and is also dependent on insects. Its specialty is spiders, and

it forages primary on fallen logs. It's also been seen hunting the edges of ponds and streams for water insects. The first Brown Creeper turned up on a tree outside Rosemarie Widmer's Allendale home. Others were found at the CF, January 3, Mahwah along the Ramapo, the 7th and Ringwood, the 19th. The size of our Chickadee, the Creeper prefers live trees and specializes in plucking larvae, insects and their eggs from under tree bark with its tweezers-like bill. Rarely, it will visit feeding stations for suet or seed.

Brian Kenney seems to have the key to finding the lone Rusty Blackbird and four Wild Turkeys at the CF, both on January 5 and 18. He also noted two Fish Crows there on the 5th. Fish Crows are certainly more common along our coast, but they seem to be increasing inland. On November 29 at 3:25 p.m., I heard the nasal calls of Fish Crows approaching my Upper Saddle River neighborhood. They appeared high over my street, talking among themselves and kettling like migrant Broad-wings as they climbed higher in a swirling mass. They then peeled off, 46 of them, and headed south to a roost or perhaps to a distant warmer habitat.

A Cooper's Hawk disrupted a "Birdy 30" count for Charlie West in Allendale, December 2. It flew in, landed on his feeder pole, and of course flushed everything. Another Coop, a young one flushed my feeder birds on January 18 and then landed on my back lawn. After looking around for any movement, it padded across the lawn on its big feet, pausing often, and then systematically began to search the shrubs, walking perimeters, poking its head inside, hoping to shake something out. They're so methodical. One bird did flush but escaped. My feeder birds were on edge the rest of the day. Ten large black birds were over Ho-Ho-Kus, January 22. Jeanine Jamieson stated they flew over her neighborhood and perched in trees near her home. Of course, they were either Black or Turkey Vultures. Believe it or not, at the beginning of the 1900's, Turkey Vultures were very rare in north Jersey. Black Vultures are newcomers who have increased since arriving in the 1980's from the south. Now both species have become almost common even in our suburbs, performing janitorial services by cleaning up road kills and dead things in our communities.

A furry visitor dismantled Rosemarie Widmer's feeding station in Allendale, the second week in January. Rosemarie woke to find her feeders and her neighbor's feeders scattered, most likely by a passing bear. As of this writing, the bear has not returned.

Keep your feeders clean and share your field or feeder sightings by signing up with our discussion group at fykenature@groups.io where many of the reports for this column originated. Or send your observations to me at judyquin@optonline.net.

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**Mount Peter – 2019**  
**By Judith Cinquina**

Despite record Bald Eagles and a good buteo turnout, Mount Peter's 62nd annual fall hawk watch recorded disappointing numbers for many species of concern in 2019. The 74-day count, from September 1 through November 15, produced a healthy 9,800 raptors, averaging 20.4 hawks per hour. But Broad-winged Hawks comprised 75% of that final tally, while the Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk and American Kestrel flight dropped below average. Fortunately, near record Golden Eagles brought a bit of warmth to the cold and windy end of the season.

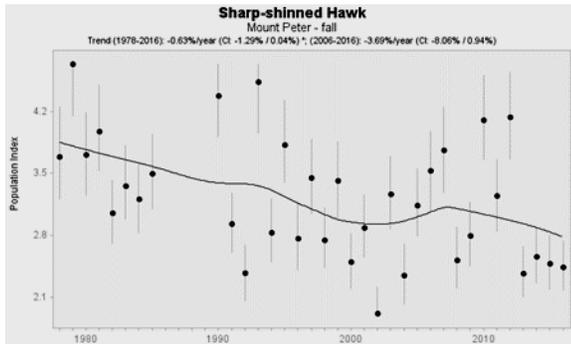
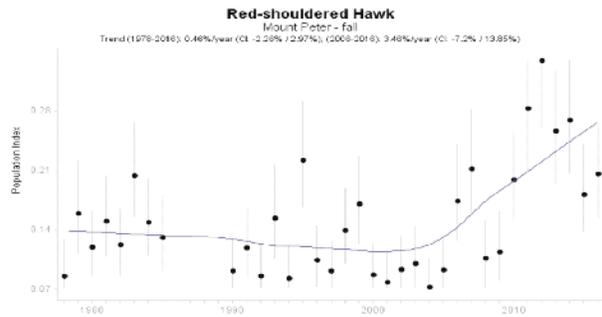


A slightly above average 7,360 Broad-wings were detected over the lookout, most mere specks out on the edge of visibility, between September 16 and 19. Volunteer Tom Millard managed to score a Broadwing trifecta, single-handedly counting 1,395 after other volunteers had left on the 16th,

between 3 and 5 pm. He then popped up to the lookout the next morning to help count the 539 leaving a nearby roost between 9 and 10 am. And finally he joined Ajit and Liza Antony and Jeanne Cimorelli on the 18th, to help score our best Broadwing day of 2,096. Most or 1,300 were noted between 3 and 4 pm. Red-shouldered Hawks had their second-best year ever with 203 recorded, just under our 213 record set in 2018: 100 adult, 22 immature, 81 unknown. 160 Red-tails also took advantage of the winds on the 8th. Their final tally was an average 443. The 82 Cooper's Hawks was also below average, and the Goshawk was a no-show.

Note: The chart includes counts from 1980 – 2016 but not the last two record fall counts. Denise Farrell grabbed our best flight of 25 on November 8 on very strong NW winds.

Chart from RPI (Raptor Population Index)



Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers were down across the Northeast. Our 693 count (not shown on chart) was our second lowest since the watch was extended into November in 1978 and was 55% lower than our 10-year average.

Chart from RPI

After a healthy bounce last season, American Kestrels managed a below average 85 this season: 12 male, 19 female and 54 unknown. Our best day was a mere 14, September 24 on moderate NW winds. Not a falcon year for us, the Merlin with 8 and the Peregrine with 14 were also below average. What's up with Osprey? They're reportedly breeding successfully in the Northeast, yet numbers are down over the lookouts. Our 123 count was below average. Although 11 moved through with the large Broad-wing push, September 18, Matt Zeitler nabbed the best count of 12 on lazy south winds, the 28th. After a terrible showing last season, the N. Harrier continued its decline, with 27 sighted, 66% lower than its 10-year average: 7 male, 6 female, 4 immature, and 10 unknown.

Eagles sustained our volunteers through the entire watch, with record Bald and near record Golden counts. Our first ever two-digit count of Bald Eagles was 12 in 1988. Then in 2012 we tallied our first triple-digit count of 130. That record was crushed this season, with a tally of 163: 114 adult, 47 immature and 2 unknown. Will Test pulled in the best day with a record 30 noted on November 3 on moderate W winds. The flight began low and moved southwest early. Later in the morning and early afternoon, the eagles were higher and in small groups or pairs that headed west towards the Kittatinny Mountains. To confuse the issue, 12 local Balds were noted but not counted that day. Will and six other leaders were rewarded with Golden Eagle sightings. Matt Zeitler and Ajit and Liza Antony scored the best days with two, November 2, 9 and 13. The 9 counted, 5 adult and 4 immature, was our second-best tally since the record 10 was made in 1994.

Vulture numbers were above average, Black -136 and Turkey-426. Ken Witkowski garnered a record day with 123 Turkeys, October 26. We had two or three local Common Ravens, but Denise Farrell noted eight migrating past the lookout November 8. It's interesting that 10 went through last year on the 10th. A healthy 1,607 Monarchs migrated past the lookout, quadrupling the number counted last season. The good news is our count is now part of a country-wide annual Monarch survey. A mere 16 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were noted in September. Once again, Denise netted our biggest Canada Goose day with 860, November 1. 5,245 were counted for the season. Denise also noted the only Brant, with 500, October 18 and 345 more, November 1. The sole Snow Goose reports came from Ajit and Liza Antony, with 85 "glinting in the sun" November 6 and 615 more, the 13th.

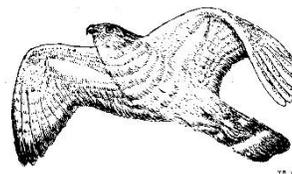
Other birds of interest: Perhaps, the most exciting and the rarest was the Parasitic Jaeger I observed just over the treetops, heading from NE to SSE, October 15, around 10:15 DST on light NW winds. It disappeared behind the trees, and I suspect it headed towards Greenwood Lake. It had a strong, gull-like wingbeat, husky chest, long-squared-off tail, and a rounded head. Peregrine-sized, it was a mottled dark gray and was probably an immature.

- September 16 3 C. Nighthawks, 2 more 9/23 (Tom Millard & Elizabeth McGrath)
- October 11 450 Double-crested Cormorants (Denise Farrell)
- November 2 2 Purple Finch (Matt Zeitler)
- 3 8 Sandhill Cranes over valley to the west (Will Test)
- 8 flock of 30 Snow Buntings (spotted by Tim Vogel)
- 11 a Woodcock flushed from trail in front of the platform (Tom Millard)

Our 11 volunteer leaders could not have produced these results without the help of friends and visitors who helped spot in-coming and kept us sane during the lulls, especially Bill Connolly, John and Liz Sherry and Rob Stone. A welcome back to Beverly Robertson, and a big thanks to sharp-eyed Jeanne Cimorelli who popped up whenever she could. Kudos to our clean-up crew: Ajit and Liza Antony, Mike Buckley, Denise Farrell, Ken Witkowski, Chris Vogel, and especially to Tom Millard who repaired the platform and Will Test who went the extra mile and with Tom spent an afternoon cleaning up a mess. As always, we are indebted to our sponsors, the Fyke Nature Association of Bergen County, NJ who supplied our insurance and to Fyke and all of you who supported our site on hawkcount.org. Our wish for our 63rd watch is a new road up to our lot and an unobstructed view to our SE from our platform. As always, we remain the oldest, continually run, all-volunteer fall watch in the country.

### 2019 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.    | 36  | 232   | 133 | 119 | 35 | 799 | 132 | 0  | 54  | 873   | 22  | 0  | 1  | 139 | 21 | 24 | 2,628 | 362 |
| STATE LINE  | 65  | 2,242 | 420 | 185 | 53 | 834 | 260 | 2  | 183 | 1,368 | 481 | 0  | 1  | 359 | 56 | 46 | 6,598 | 442 |
| MONTCLAIR   | 95  | 484   | 125 | 101 | 13 | 362 | 185 | 1  | 99  | 1,208 | 123 | 0  | 0  | 119 | 52 | 34 | 3,010 | 596 |
| MOUNT PETER | 136 | 426   | 123 | 163 | 27 | 693 | 82  | 0  | 203 | 7,360 | 443 | 0  | 9  | 85  | 8  | 14 | 9,800 | 479 |



**11 YEAR SUMMARY OF AUTUMN HAWK COUNTS AT MOUNT PETER, N.Y.**

| SPECIES             | 2009  | 2010   | 2011   | 2012  | 2013   | 2014  | 2015   | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  |
|---------------------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Black Vulture       | 42    | 77     | 38     | 4     | 104    | 232   | 107    | 84    | 96    | 79    | 136   |
| Turkey Vulture      | 177   | 189    | 221    | 112   | 121    | 570   | 292    | 337   | 320   | 504   | 426   |
| Osprey              | 176   | 203    | 187    | 191   | 126    | 111   | 114    | 98    | 111   | 134   | 123   |
| Bald Eagle          | 45    | 89     | 70     | 130   | 119    | 79    | 70     | 95    | 85    | 112   | 163   |
| N. Harrier          | 36    | 64     | 41     | 47    | 51     | 46    | 28     | 35    | 26    | 35    | 27    |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk  | 1,106 | 1,803  | 1,334  | 1,826 | 1,026  | 1,119 | 1,017  | 1,104 | 841   | 1,469 | 693   |
| Cooper's Hawk       | 89    | 119    | 152    | 165   | 64     | 122   | 74     | 94    | 121   | 176   | 82    |
| N. Goshawk          | 1     | 0      | 2      | 1     | 0      | 1     | 0      | 0     | 1     | 2     | 0     |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 38    | 94     | 94     | 131   | 118    | 136   | 85     | 104   | 122   | 213   | 203   |
| Broad-winged Hawk   | 4,505 | 8,531  | 7,417  | 6,073 | 7,611  | 5,685 | 11,256 | 5,894 | 6,874 | 5,071 | 7,360 |
| Red-tailed Hawk     | 471   | 574    | 248    | 437   | 582    | 658   | 289    | 478   | 232   | 508   | 443   |
| Rough-legged Hawk   | 0     | 2      | 0      | 0     | 0      | 0     | 0      | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| Golden Eagle        | 4     | 8      | 4      | 3     | 5      | 10    | 5      | 3     | 4     | 6     | 9     |
| American Kestrel    | 183   | 207    | 153    | 232   | 112    | 139   | 75     | 52    | 83    | 159   | 85    |
| Merlin              | 22    | 22     | 25     | 23    | 14     | 23    | 24     | 15    | 18    | 15    | 8     |
| Peregrine Falcon    | 14    | 10     | 18     | 20    | 15     | 12    | 11     | 13    | 26    | 23    | 14    |
| Unidentified Eagle  | 0     | 1      | 0      | 0     | 0      | 0     | 1      | 0     | 5     | 0     | 0     |
| Unidentified Raptor | 14    | 68     | 61     | 68    | 37     | 69    | 33     | 42    | 8     | 18    | 28    |
| GRAND TOTAL         | 6,948 | 12,061 | 10,065 | 9,463 | 10,105 | 9,012 | 13,481 | 8,448 | 8,996 | 8,529 | 9,800 |
| TOTAL HOURS         | 399   | 469    | 411    | 413   | 480    | 468   | 480    | 488   | 480   | 418   | 479   |
| RAPTOR/HOUR         | 17.41 | 25.72  | 24.49  | 22.91 | 21.05  | 19.26 | 28.09  | 17.31 | 18.75 | 20.40 | 20.45 |

**MOUNT PETER FALL HAWKS: 2009-2018 10-YEAR AVERAGE**

|              | BV  | TV  | OS  | BE  | NH | SS    | CH  | NG | RS  | BW    | RT  | RL | GE | AK  | ML | PG | TOTAL | HRS | HWKS/HR |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|-----|----|-----|-------|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|-------|-----|---------|
| 10-Year Avg: | 86  | 284 | 145 | 89  | 41 | 1,265 | 118 | 1  | 114 | 6,892 | 448 | 0  | 5  | 140 | 20 | 16 | 9,711 | 451 | 21.54   |
| Total 2019   | 136 | 426 | 123 | 163 | 27 | 693   | 82  | 0  | 203 | 7,360 | 443 | 0  | 9  | 85  | 8  | 14 | 9,800 | 479 | 20.45   |

**Submitted by Charley West:**

This poem was written by our grandson, David L. West - who, when home, lives in Morristown, NJ. He's in his junior year at Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY, majoring in scriptwriting at the college's Roy H. Park School of Communications.

April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Man

by David West

Man steps on the Earth and he looks, at her trees and her sky  
He created flags, nations, and books, so his ego was high  
The sun, it blessed him, the ocean, it spread him  
The sheep, they dressed him, the cows, they fed him  
The Earth, she continued, to give, breathe, and love  
The Earth, she continued, to forgive he thereof  
His mad mind and cruel heart, that seemed to consume  
A landscape of art that he saw as his room  
So Man walked ahead, through great war, grief, and death  
And his home, how she bled, with every shaky breathe  
If he came across beauty, he'd transform it on sight  
For it was Man's duty, to extinguish all light  
The woods, she had life, that he would hang on his wall  
While Man sharpened his knife, the Earth would recall  
All she had given, and all she had hurt  
Yet Man was forgiven, and remained on the dirt  
Her oceans he poisoned, her skies he infected  
Her eyes only moistened, with tears he rejected  
He built jungles of steel, on her sacred soft ground  
Man could not feel, so in green paper he drowned  
He shot the rhino, turned the Sahara bright red  
The seal, she was slow, so he clubbed in her head  
The Lamb couldn't bark, so he ripped off her leg  
She knew Man's heart was dark, yet the Earth would still beg  
The lion was stronger, so in chains she was kept  
While Man went to conquer Earth's oceans she wept  
He was unconcerned, he thought nothing strange  
The skies slowly burned, the winds screamed for change  
And then Man's cruelty died, and it was sublime  
Because his Mother, she cried, for the very last time.

## Welcome New Members



Mr. and Mrs. Jon Cashman, New Malden, Surrey, United Kingdom  
Kathie Hetherington and Family, Oakland  
Joseph Peraino and Family, Oakland  
Herbert Steiner and Family, Mahwah  
Nick Sweatlock, Paramus  
Marilyn Taylor, Wyckoff

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### Make Your Own Suet

- 1 1/2 cups shortening (look for palm oil free options)
- 3/4 cups nut butter (any kind)
- 3 1/2 cups wild bird seed
- 1 cup quick oats
- 1/2 cup corn meal



Mix the dry ingredients of bird seed, oats, and corn meal together and set aside.  
Combine the shortening and nut butter in a separate bowl and melt. Stir until completely combined.  
Pour the melted mixture into the dry ingredients and stir until combined.  
Freeze for one to two hours and place in your suet feeder!  
Note: Not recommended for outdoor temperatures above 50 degrees.

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### Fyke Board of Trustees:

|                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| President:               | Mike Limatola               |
| First Vice President:    | Gabriele Schmitt            |
| Second Vice President:   | Penny Whitlock              |
| Treasurer:               | Kurt Muenz                  |
| Recording Secretary:     | Molly Gardener              |
| Corresponding Secretary: | Mimi Brauch                 |
| Trustees:                | Darlene Lembo<br>Doug Morel |

### Chairpersons:

|               |                                                                  |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Celery Farm:  | Stiles Thomas<br>Mike Limatola<br>Gabriele Schmitt<br>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                                                     |

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**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.)

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, [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).

**The deadline for the Summer 2020 issue is March 23, 2020.** Send material to Box 141, Ramsey, NJ 07446, or via e-mail to [carolflana@aol.com](mailto:carolflana@aol.com).

