



Fyke Nature Association Summer Newsletter

Vol. 68 — No. 2 — 2022
www.fykenature.org

Due to Corona virus restrictions, member meetings will be online on Zoom, and a link will be sent out in advance. If you are not registered on Zoom, you can register for free at <https://zoom.us/>

Field trips will require face masks, social distancing, and no sharing of optics. Please check our website and emails for any updates on meetings and field trips.

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.

April 22, 2022, Friday – Monthly Meeting: 8:00 p.m. via Zoom What's That Tree? Identifying the Flora in the Celery Farm's Klomburg Woods, Mike Lefebvre

The 107-acre Celery Farm is filled with not only birds but a rich variety of trees and shrubs. Join Mike Lefebvre as he identifies the flora found in the Klomburg Woods, a deciduous wooded wetland just north of Lake Appert and to the east of the Green Way entrance to the Celery Farm. Mike is a nature enthusiast who has documented the flora of New Jersey's natural areas, including Garret Mountain and Rifle Camp Park, and authored the nature blog NJUrbanForest for several years. He worked in the corporate world for more than 12 years and is currently a full-time student completing a bachelor's degree in earth and environmental science from Montclair State University.



American Beech Tree © Mike Lefebvre

April 30 and May 1, 2022 – Stepping Up For The Celery Farm, Gabriele Schmitt

Fyke teams will be birding the Celery Farm from dawn to dusk in two-hour shifts; you can sign up for as many shifts as you'd like. As citizen-scientists, we are conducting an inventory of all the bird species seen that weekend.

Funds raised will be used for continued maintenance and enhancements at the Celery Farm. Please bear in mind that Fyke/The Celery Farm does not receive any funding from the Borough of Allendale. We depend on membership fees and donations.

To register a team or to sign up for a time slot, contact Gabriele Schmitt, gaby413@aol.com.

To make a donation or to pledge a per-species amount, please see the pledge form on page 7.

May 14, 2022, Saturday, Global Big Day 2022

Saturday, May 14 will provide another opportunity to get our citizen-scientists walking around CF, appreciating and counting the many birds that can be seen during Spring migration. Our counts will be sent in to become part of this worldwide conservation project. More details to follow soon.

May 20, 2022, Third Friday – Monthly Meeting: 8:00 p.m. via Zoom New Jersey Moths through the Seasons, Wade Wander

Though they share the same order of Lepidoptera, moths have long played second fiddle to butterflies. But of the nearly 180,000 species in that order, fewer than 20,000 are butterflies and skippers. The rest of the 150,000-plus species are moths. And in New Jersey, it's estimated there are more than 1,500 species of moths compared to about 125 species of butterflies. Join Wade Wander as he offers up a chronological look at the amazing diversity of moths that he has photographed at his moth lights at home in Sussex County.

Wade, along with his wife, Sharon, is a partner in Wander Ecological Consultants, investigating wetlands and conducting surveys for Endangered and Threatened species. He has been an active New Jersey naturalist since childhood, interested in birds, reptiles and amphibians, plants, and butterflies (and of course, moths and other insects). He is a past president of the New Jersey Butterfly Club, for which he is a frequent speaker and field-trip leader. At the moth station he runs at their home in Sussex County, Wade has recorded more than 1100 species of moths since 2001.



Luna Moth © Wade Wander

Mid-July 2022 – Our Tom Burr Memorial Butterfly Walk at the Celery Farm

Date to be determined and will be announced on our email list, Facebook page, and website. Our annual Celery Farm Butterfly Walk is held in memory of Tom Burr, the late Fyke member, naturalist, photographer, and friend. Meet at the end of Green Way at 10:30 a.m. for a 90-minute stroll. Dress for bright sun. Bring water and sunscreen. Rain cancels this walk.

September 1, 2022 – Mt. Peter Hawk Watch begins, Judith Cinquina

Visit Mount Peter this fall and witness one of the most spectacular migrations in the country. Fyke members can help with the count or just keep a lonely hawk watcher company. Best time to visit is between September 11 and 21 for “kettles” of Broad-winged Hawks climbing thermals up to the clouds. Mid to late October the Sharp-shinned and Cooper’s Hawks flap and glide past the lookout following the migrant songbirds, and the end of October through November 15, the big guys come through—Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks. Bald Eagles, Osprey, Peregrines, Northern Harriers, and Osprey are possible any time. And don’t forget the homemade ice cream available at the Creamery below the lookout. The watch begins September 1, 2022, and continues daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. until November 15. Contact Judy Cinquina at judycinq@optonline.net to volunteer or for more information.



Directions: The lookout is located on the top of 17A, between Greenwood Lake and Warwick, NY, and is marked by a pair of microwave towers. To reach the lookout, take Route 17 through Tuxedo to 17A and turn left. Follow 17A up the mountain and into Greenwood Lake. Keep right when you reach the lake and follow 17A up the second mountain. When you reach the top, you will see a sign for Bellvale Farms Creamery (excellent homemade ice cream) ahead. Turn right at the ice cream shop onto Kain Road and turn right again up the pot-holed dirt road to the lot or park down below.

Saturday, September 3, 2022 – Mt. Peter Clean-Up. Rain date, Sunday, September 4.

Our annual Clean-Up is scheduled for Saturday, September 3, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Rain date is Sunday, September 4, 2022. We pick up garbage, cut back trails and clear site lines that obscure incoming hawks using hand tools. We can always use volunteers. Contact Judy Cinquina at judycinq@optonline.net to volunteer or for more information.

Hello, from our New Programs Chair, Monica Cardoza

I've been a Fyke Nature member for several years, and have done my fair share of walks around Lake Appert, spotting lifers, enjoying the groomed trails, dodging turkeys, and trying to i.d. the moving black spot in the sky. Along the way, I've participated in fundraisers and the occasional clean-up. So when a Fyke email went out to members requesting someone volunteer to fill the vacant programs chair, I raised my hand.



As the new programs chair, my goal is to bring to Fyke members and potential members speakers who will surprise and enlighten. These experts in their fields may cover ground with which you're already familiar. But if I've found the right speaker, you'll come away with something new—the nugget of an idea, a previously unvisited place, a tip for finding an elusive bird.

Where will I find speakers? As a freelance writer covering outdoor recreation and conservation, and a contributing writer to New Jersey Monthly magazine, I talk to a lot of folk in the outdoor space. I've written about flower farms, hawk watches, moonlight paddling, farm breweries, oyster shell recycling, cranberry bogs, trail running, botanical drawing, and monarch migration. Recently, I wrote about the four county-level Audubon chapters in New Jersey, which appears in the April issue of NJ Monthly.

My plan is to bring the people behind some of these topics to Fyke. I realize that I have my work cut out for me. Fyke members know a lot about birds and the natural environment. But as any naturalist knows, there's always more to discover. You can't observe birds without understanding how they tie into the entire ecosystem. When you realize that, the topics present themselves: native plants, insects, amphibians, soil, fungi, lichen, waterways, turtles, beaches, farms, meadows, trails, mushrooms, butterflies and, well, you get the idea.

I welcome your feedback and suggestions. My email is monicacardoza5@gmail.com. But I also have a suggestion of my own: Consider volunteering for one of two board openings: Publicity chair, and Second Vice President chair. It's a great way to give back to an organization that has done so much to create a natural haven for people to visit and enjoy. You can find my articles on my website: www.monicacardoza.com. I don't always update it as I should, but that's because I'm probably researching the next Fyke speaker.

Field and Feeder Notes By Judith Cinquina

Only in the spring does the male Woodcock make an intentional spectacle of himself. ...As dusk settles, each male picks a spot, puffs himself up and makes an explosive “pent!” that sounds more like a frog or a machine than a bird. The peents continue every five or 10 seconds for a minute or so, until the male launches himself into flight—a whirring, bumblebee shape just visible against the fading red of the western horizon. The modified wing feathers make a madcap whistle as he climbs... (At the top) The male suddenly falters, tumbling erratically like a falling leaf; the twitter of the wings is replaced by lovely liquid gurgle that comes from the bird’s throat. Just a few yards above the ground—and certain death—the woodcock pulls up, makes a soft landing and starts the whole amazing performance again.

Scott Weidensaul, “Bird’s unique mating ritual is a feast for eyes and ears,” Philadelphia Inquirer, March 13, 1995

In March, Woodcock claim the stage. Maryann Fahey found the first one at Halifax in Mahwah, March 4. It was displaying near the pump house. Brian Kenney arrived at DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst at 5:30 pm, March 6 and in one hour counted eight Woodcock peenting and throwing themselves into the air. Tom Nicastrì recorded “Timberdoodle” serenading at Halifax Road in Mahwah around March 12. Lisa Potash counted four displaying there on the 15th and heard three others. Mike Limatola had a good turnout for a Fyke trip to Halifax to witness the Woodcock dance on the 19th. He wrote, “We had several nice views of one peenting on the trail and a few flights that we could hear but couldn’t see, due to lack of light.” Once again, Alan Pomeranz was on hand to snap a wonderful close-up of this amazing bird. Woodcock seem odd with their eyes stuck near their crowns, but that location enables them to detect enemies from all sides while their bills are plunging deep into muddy areas for worms. That long bill is very sensitive, and can detect movement in the mud. When it feels a worm, its favorite food, or an insect, the tip of its bill can open and grasp the prey, even though the rest of the bill remains closed.



© Alan Pomeranz

It is suggested that Woodcock beat the mud with their feet producing vibrations like rain, to draw worms to the surface. Bent’s Life Histories, 1962 Dover Ed quotes C. J. Maynard (1896) who spread worms on the soft ground for a captive Woodcock. The Woodcock walked over the ground slowly, pausing every few seconds to listen. Maynard wrote, “Then he would stamp with one foot, giving several sharp, quick blows, after which he would bow his head near the ground and again listen. Then suddenly he would ...plunge his bill into the earth, and draw out a worm, which he would swallow, then repeat this performance until all the worms were eaten.” A Woodcock can consume 22 earthworms in five minutes! (McAuley, Keppie & Whiting, Birds of the World Online)

Quite a few White-fronted Geese were reported this winter. Although they’re common migrants in the West, they are rare in the East and we’re lucky to find one or two in NJ. In his Audubon Water Bird Guide, 1951, Richard Pough states that no other goose has “equal speed and agility on the wing. When necessary, the bird can rise almost vertically into the air.” Old-time hunters called them “wavies” and claimed White-fronted Geese were “always fat and excellent eating.” (Bent’s Life Histories, Dover Ed. 1962) Maryann Fahey found two at Schlegel Lake in Washington Township, January 9. Brian Kenney reported singles at Overpeck Park in Teaneck and Oradell Reservoir, January 18 and February 3, respectively. Doug Morel found another single in Westwood, February 13 and yet another at Rockland Lake, March 5, both

hanging out with large Canada Geese flocks. Prior to the 1960's, reports of White-fronted were considered escapes. According to Boyle in his Birds of NJ, 2011, sightings have increased considerably since 1975, and the species was removed from the NJ Review List in 1999. Since their habitat and food requirements are similar to a Canada's and their gray/brown plumage and size is similar, they blend right in with wintering Canada flocks. Finding one requires looking through hundreds of Canadas to spot the one goose with thick orange legs. Their legs almost glow, so they're hard to miss if one is present. They also sport orange or pink bills with a white band around the base. Bull's Birds of NY State, 1998 mentions that pink-billed forms breed in Canada and orange-billed breed in Greenland, and that we get primarily Greenland geese, but I think this has yet to be verified. They nest almost around the entire top of the world.

Even in winter, raptors are on the move, some already heading north to breeding grounds. Stephanie Seymour counted 2 Cooper's Hawks, 1 Sharp-shinned/Cooper's, 2 Bald Eagles, 7 Red-shouldered, and 1 Red-tailed Hawk over her Ringwood yard, March 6. The next day, Brian Kenney counted 1 Sharp-shinned, 1 Cooper's, 1 Bald Eagle, 1 Red-shouldered and 3 Red-tailed Hawks over the Celery Farm (CF). The pair of Red-shoulders often seen at the CF prefer wet woodlands where amphibians, reptiles, small mammals and insects are reliable prey. Sagar Patel photographed one of the pair, February 20, and Charley West wrote that a Red-shouldered flew directly over the Hour on the Tower crew on March 6, a frog "dangling" from its talons. Proof of that event can be seen in a photo by Alan Pomeranz. That same day at the CF, Neil



© Alan Pomeranz



© Bob Kane

MacLennan observed an adult Bald Eagle grab a fish on its second try from Lake Appert. On the 19th, Bob Kane watched an immature Bald fly over Lake Appert a couple of times, perhaps attracted by the carp that were churning the surface. Bob suggested that maybe the carp looked too big to handle. Bob managed some photos of that second-year eagle. Suzanne and Michio Ishi were at the Edgewater Commons Shopping Plaza when an adult Bald flew in and landed on a nearby roof, February 21. Bald Eagles seem to be adapting very well even to urban areas. The first Osprey of 2022 was enjoyed by the Hour on the Tower crew, March 20.

Julie McCall sampled March birds at the CF on the 4th and came up with an interesting assortment, including hard to find treats like Virginia Rail, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, both Tree and Fox sparrows, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. A birder could be happy with even one of those species, especially in winter. Some single sightings are worth mentioning, like the single Snow Bunting found by Doug Morel in Westwood, February 6 or the lone Purple Finch reported by Neil MacLennan at the CF, February 12. The next day at the CF, Brian Kenney turned up a Hermit Thrush. The Rusty Blackbird spotted by Brian at the CF March 7 is an easy bird to miss. Doug had a very early Chipping Sparrow in Westwood on the 9th, and Neil found the first Phoebe at the CF on the 13th.

We've had a mini invasion of Yellow-rumped Warblers this winter. A high of 28 was found on our Ramsey Christmas Bird Count. Not since the mid-1980's have we found that many on our CBC. In fact, many recent CBC's list one or none. Furthermore, they remained all winter, spread around the Fyke area. Brian Kenney had six at Halifax Road in Mahwah along the ice encrusted Ramapo, February 1 and one at the Celery Farm (CF) February 13. Daniel Carola counted four there March 7. Doug Morel noted five at Mary Patrick Park in Mahwah, March 19, down from the 10 he had there January 2, and five at the NY/NJ Trail Conference in Mahwah on the 14th. At least six more were along the edge of Rockland Lake March 11. There must have

been good berry crops this fall to support the Yellow-rumps. They're especially fond of poison ivy berries and even drink the sap from the vines, if they can get at it.

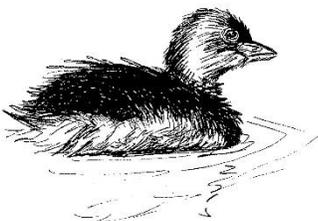
The Hour on the Tower crew brave the cold, wind, rain, and fog to sample the birds for an hour on Sundays. On February 27, in spite of the 26 F on the thermometer, the crew enjoyed a sunny and cloudless sky. Their reward was a second or third year Bald Eagle. Charley West noted Lake Appert was iced over until two Mute Swans landed and quickly broke through. The opening expanded into a nice patch of open water, "which became a magnet" Charley wrote, "drawing other species, (geese and gulls) and 'property rights' became contentious."

Spring is arriving in bits and pieces. Betty McDonnell had Bluebirds checking out her birdhouses in Mahwah on March 15, so she cleaned out the boxes and made them ready for "new rentals." On the 18th, Tree Swallows arrived to look over her "real estate." "Checking past records," Betty wrote, "this is just about the time they usually arrive, but due to colder past weeks, I didn't expect them so early. They're always welcome!" Robins began passing through in mid February, in spite of bouts of snow and ice. Those berries that supported the Yellow-rumps also fed wintering Robins. As soon as sunny spots were cleared of snow, Robins were on them hunting worms. Laura Lander of Fair Lawn encountered a large flock in Radburn. "There are always a few that seem to overwinter, but this group seemed new," she wrote, February 16. One morning when it was "sunny and warmer, I heard them singing. Happy times!"

Spring migrants don't dawdle. They pause for as short a time as possible to fatten up, and then they're on their way to claim a good territory north of us somewhere. If you want to see them, get out there. Don't dawdle and miss the show. Be sure to share what you find. Join our discussion group at fykenature@groups.io where many of the reports for this column originated. Or send your observations to me at judycing@optonline.net.



© Bob Kane



Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.

~ Rachel Carson

Tree Talk
By Judith Cinquina

On the wind is tree talk, scientists
have recently discovered. Trees
talk of disease and insect pests.
An oak is warned by other oaks---
Gypsy Moth caterpillar assault begun!
I wonder: Do trees discuss the weather?
Into my treed yard I go, deaf to
wise leaf discussions on every breeze.



2023 Celery Farm Calendar

Photos taken at the Celery Farm by Fyke members are being accepted now for the 2023 Celery Farm calendar. There is a limit of 10 photos per person. The photos should be landscape format. Non-cropped photos work best with the software used for the calendar. Please send your photos as a .jpeg email attachment. Send your photos to carolflana@aol.com by July 11, 2022. Thank you in advance for your support of Fyke Nature Association!

Stepping Up For The Celery Farm Pledge Form – 2022

Send your pledge by e-mail to Kurt Muenz, elkumu@aceweb.com. If you do not have email, you can mail your pledge to The Fyke Nature Association, Box 141, Ramsey, NJ 07446. Donations can be sent to the PO Box or can be made online at www.fykenature.org/join.php by clicking on the “Donate” button.

Yes, I want to support Stepping Up by making a pledge per bird species seen. I understand that 60 to 80 species may be recorded, however, the total could be higher if conditions are ideal.

My pledge is:
___\$1/species ___\$.75/species ___\$.50/species ___\$.25/species \$___/species

Name:

Address:

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The Fyke Nature Association, a 501 (c) (3) organization, meets eight times a year. The meeting dates for 2022, all are Fridays:

April 22, 2022
May 20, 2022
June - no meeting
July - no meeting
August - no meeting
September 23, 2022
October 28, 2022
November - no meeting
December 2, 2022

Meetings and membership are open to all. Annual dues: \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a family. For further information, write to Box 141, Ramsey, NJ 07446, visit our website www.fykenature.org, or contact Mike Limatola, President, mike.limatola@gmail.com.

The Newsletter is published four times a year and manuscripts, artwork, news, features, articles on wildlife observation, conservation issues, book reviews, field notes, and humorous first-person bird/nature related stories are welcome. All submissions will be gratefully appreciated! **The deadline for the Fall 2022 issue is August 17, 2022.** Send material to Box 141, Ramsey, NJ 07446, or via e-mail to carolflana@aol.com.

