# FYKE NATURE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.fykenature.org

Vol. 62 – No. 1 – Spring 2016

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**



## February 26, 2016 - Monthly Meeting: 8:00 p.m., Allendale Municipal Building Gabriel Willow, The Mysteries of Migration

NYC naturalist Gabriel Willow gives a multimedia presentation about the mysteries of bird migration, exploring why NYC and NJ are of particular importance for migratory songbirds and other species. Learn about the latest science on avian migration, what migratory species are found in our area, what you can do to observe and conserve these species and what observation of these species can tell us about climate change and other environmental issues. We will also explore what particular challenges urban settings pose for migratory species.

### March 12, 2016 - 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 25, 2016 - Monthly meeting: 8:00 p.m., Allendale Municipal Building Jim Wright & Stiles Thomas, The Red-shouldered Hawks of Allendale

The legendary Stiles Thomas and his sidekick Jim Wright tell the story of these endangered hawks' efforts to survive, and thrive, at several locations in Allendale and nearby Ramsey over the past 15 years. The program will feature a talk by Jim, comments by Stiles, photos of Laura and her mate taken by Fyke members, plus a real-live Red-shoulder Hawk carving done by Stiles. Note: Stiles says only a total fool would miss this talk.

### April 2, 2016 - 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 3, 2016.

### Welcome New Members!



Maryann & Bill Fahey, Washington Township Barbara & Lew Figatner, Wayne Bill Gent, Rochelle Park Sharon Ayling & Thomas Mitchell, Midland Park Diane Van Kempen, Ridgewood

Birds have wings; they're free; they can fly where they want when they want. They have the kind of mobility many people envy.

~Roger Tory Peterson

### **Dues Reminder Notice**

We are now well into our dues year (9-1-2015 to 8-31-2016) 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.

### The 63rd Ramsey Christmas Bird Count By John Brotherton

Our most recent Christmas Count was held December 19, 2015. We had pleasant weather and open water. As a result our 34 observers in nine parties were able to count about 11,818 birds of 80 species, about our recent average. Some noteworthy observations were 16 Bald Eagles, American Kestrel, Killdeer, 66 Eastern Bluebirds and over 1200 Common Grackles.

The team awards battle was as intense as ever. THE COVETED BLUE JAY AWARD was again won by Team Kantrowitz with a total of 97. Team Poalillo, won the BEST TEAM TROPHY for finding 9 more species than their recent average. And finally Team Fanning won the HOUSE SPARROW TROPHY for counting 223 of this often overlooked species.

Thank you to our co-compiler, Lisa Fanning, for modernizing our record keeping enabling all to have the complete results at our recap meeting. Thank you to all counters for their work as citizen scientists contributing valuable bird data via the National Audubon Society. The results are a crucial part of the U.S. Government's natural history monitoring data base. Those with internet access can view Christmas Bird Counts from 1900 to the present through Audubon's website, www.christmasbirdcount.org. Thank you also to the Borough of Allendale for the use of the municipal building for our recap meeting. The recap meeting is one of the highlights of the day allowing everyone to share and compare the results of their day in the field.



### My Celery Farm "Mini" Big Year/Year in Review By Rob Fanning

As most of you know, the Allendale Celery Farm is my favorite place to bird, for many reasons, which are fare too many to list here. I have been birding the CF for over 30 years, and have been keeping detailed notes and records since 1998. This year I had a bit of "extra" incentive for the following reasons: A CF year list "contest" run by Jim Wright; a "Par" contest with Stiles Thomas, my CF list vs his yard list with a "handicap"; and sadly the fact that 2015 is the last year that I will be able to regularely bird the CF for an entire year. \*

The year offered challenges, as both the spring and fall migration through NJ were quite poor, and the winter season was brutal with much snow and ice. But the extra effort rewarded me with some wonderful and unexpected sightings. I should also note that I now live outside the county--so my CF birding was restricted to weekdays before work and during my lunch breaks. The first day I birded the CF was on Jan 7--and I was able to scratch out 19 species, highlighted by Rusty Blackbird. I ended the month with a modest 33 species adding goodies such as Winter Wren, Brown Creeper, Red-Shouldered Hawk, and Raven. The brutal month of February yielded only four new species. March was kinder, as I tallied an additional 30 species. The huge fish die-off was an ugly sight to see but it was an absolute bonanza/feast for the birds! I saw several adult Bald Eagles during this time as well as what may be the highlight of my CF year, an adult Glaucous Gull (!), a first record for the Celery Farm, which was nicely photographed by Jim Wright.



April was my best month for new year birds. I racked up 40 more species as the spring migration got into full swing. Highlights included Snipe, American Bittern, Ruddy Duck, American Kestrel, Broad-winged Hawk, American Redstart, Black-throated Green, and Blue-winged Warblers, a very rare for the CF Meadowlark, and my first ever for the CF Caspian Tern! (4th CF record.) The peak spring migration month of May yielded an additional 32 species, with highlights including Black-throated Blue Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Black-billed Cuckoo, Lincoln's Sparrow, Bobolink, Merlin, Purple Martin, Alder Flycatcher, Semipalmated Plover, and Canada Warbler. I ended the month with a respectable 139 species--but then the "doldrums of summer" hit--and we NJ birders know what that means. My ONLY June bird was Black-crowned Night Heron, while I eeked out three more in July, an early migrant Cliff Swallow, and two heard only Rails, Virginia and Sora.



As the fall migration got underway in earnest, August produced six more species, highlighted by a late and rare for CF Louisiana Waterthrush, and perhaps my favorite bird to observe at the CF, Nighthawks! By September migration is in full swing and the month yielded eight new birds including Peregrine Falcon and Pectoral Sandpiper. I added elevan additional species during the always interesting month of October, highlighted by Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Vesper Sparrow, and a rare for CF Brant. Oh, and

of course "Ralph" the Redhead! I had been searching and hoping to find this attractive duck at the CF for many years. There had been only one previous report, and it was not yet on the official CF checklist. Then came Ralph who stayed an amazing 40 days and was photographed by many including Jim Wright and Gerry Barrack who added Ralph to his incredible book of his "collection" of ducks seen at the CF. It was fun/challenging trying to spy Ralph each day as he would frequent different parts of the lake going unseen some days. I'm very glad that so many people got to enjoy him.

With migration winding down it would be tough to add any new birds but I did eek out several more including a flyover Horned Lark, no previous CF records or reports that I'm aware of, and a lone female Bufflehead in November. December produced a surprise flyover flock of ~125 Snow Geese during the Ramsey CBC, and a drake Canvasback found by Michael Tat, the first at the CF in about 17 years and I believe only the third record for the CF! My \*rough\* estimate is that I birded the CF close to if not more than 400 times in 2015. I birded twice a day most days during spring and fall migrations.

Thanks to Jim Wright for running this friendly contest and to all of the other good and helpful birders who "threw their hat in the ring". Other good birds were seen that I missed including Fred Weber finding a second for CF Bonaparte's Gull and hearing a Barred Owl on WSB day, and Julie McCall's excellent sighting and picture of a male Eastern Bluebird checking out the nesting box.

\* 2015 will be my last year of fully birding the CF. That is because my job is relocating to Parsippany in June. I will sorely miss birding the CF on a regular basis, and running into all the familiar as well as new faces who appreciate nature and cherish the Celery Farm as I do, but I do plan on making the occasional "guest appearance" here and there. But you can bet one thing for sure, that I'll be "Working the Farm" as hard as ever through the month of May, cherishing every visit even more than usual. I hope to see you out there...

### Field and Feeder Notes By Judith Cinquina

They (Redhead Ducks) are easily lured to shore by tolling, either by a red handkerchief raised and lowered, or by some odd moving object, for they are most inquisitive birds; sometimes a dog is trained to run along the shore and bark at the water's edge, the gunner lying concealed close by; even after being shot at, they seem to forgot the occurrence and gradually work in again to the object that had previously attracted them. Should, however, a few baldpates (Wigeon) be mixed up with them, these soon spoil the game; being more suspicious, the baldpates will keep turning and swimming back without approaching within shot, drawing the redheads with them. Even upon a flight, the baldpates lead many flocks of redheads away out of shot by their shying away from any object which they distrust and which the redheads would have unhesitatingly approached.

~Dr. Yorke (1899) from A.C. Bent's Life Histories of N. American Wild Fowl, Dover Ed. 1962

Discovered at the Celery Farm(CF), October 19 by Rob Fanning, a well-photographed drake Redhead Duck provided year and life ticks for a number of Fyke members until it finally departed for good, November 26. While the majority of its tribe overwinter along the Gulf of Mexico near Texas, the CF Redhead probably headed for the Chesapeake Bay area, where a smaller contingent survives the winter in shallow, brackish bays containing abundant



pondweeds, wigeon grass and eelgrass. Up to four more Redheads visited Franklin Lakes during the fall/winter. On December 25, Michael Tat found a male Canvasback at the CF, the first CF record since 1999, according to Rob. Jim Wright managed a few photos, but it failed to stick around. Like the Redhead, the Canvasback is in the Pochard family of ducks, and like the Redhead, it dives primarily for pondweeds, and may

have also headed to the Chesapeake Bay area to overwinter. Rare in our area, a Long-tailed Duck "in stunning white plumage" was spotted on Pompton Lake by Charlie West during our December 19 CBC. With its small, pink banded bill, dark wings and gray face set off by a snowy white crown and sides, silvery scapulars that seem to curl over its dark wings, and long tail streamers, the winter male is dazzling. Their migration usually occurs along our coast, with numbers peaking in December. The Avalon Seawatch tallied 1,823 during the fall of 2014, but they're rarely found on inland lakes. Thousands of Common Mergansers covered Lake Tappan and Oradell Reservoir in December. Interestingly, Lake Tappan supported mostly males, while females dominated the Oradell Reservoir.

Gaby Schmitt enjoyed her first-ever Iceland Gull at Oradell Reservoir, December 6. The immature (coffee-colored) gull had been reported previously and was keeping company with 100's of Ring-bills on the dam. Although a tad larger than a Ring-billed and with no black wingtips, the Iceland was difficult to spot until it stood up and revealed its pink legs. Gaby also counted four immature Bald Eagles taking test flights over the hordes of mergansers, probably searching for weakened or wounded individuals as hundreds of mergansers pattered over the water in panic. Gaby was amazed at how fast the mergansers could move to escape.

Rob discovered a Hudsonian Godwit at Clay Ave. in the Meadowlands, November 12, probably one of the three found in the area this past September. According to Rob, this was the latest date by 14 days for this species in Bergen County. Way back in 2007, Mark Kantrowitz discovered a Hudsonian on drained Sally Pond in Ringwood State Park on November 23, but that is, of course, in Passaic County. Not in NJ but at nearby Piermont Pier, NY, a Western Grebe, another rare inland species, caused some excitement, although not a first for this location. Rosemarie Widmer said that a NY birder, John Haas found the grebe. The size of a

Common Merganser, with a long black and white neck and yellow stiletto-like bill, this grebe normally winters along the Pacific Coast. It didn't stay long.

Besides enjoying the "simple pleasures" like welcoming back a flock of Juncos to her Mahwah yard, October 25, Betty McDonnell visited the CF. She was happy to find the Redhead waiting for her but also encountered an American Bittern that, she wrote, "stared at me within 30 feet." Rob found the Bittern again, November 4, "out in the open directly in front of the Scout Platform, catching minnow after minnow." It stuck around at least until November 23, when Jim Wright spotted it near No-Name Culvert. A young female Cooper's Hawk adopted my Upper Saddle River neighborhood as its territory this fall and has made a couple of passes at my feeding station with no success. On January 14, I went out to fill my feeders when two Crows flew in, one flying low right over my head. I realized something was amiss, as songbird after songbird escaped the shrub line behind my feeders. Then I heard some crashing about in the shrubs directly in front of me, and there was the Coop looking right at me, or so I imagined. Hindsight tells me the Coop only had one thing on her mind: dinner. She crashed around a bit more, ignoring my proximity, and suddenly burst out of a shrub, almost at me feet, in pursuit of a White-throated Sparrow. No luck. A bit later I heard her harsh, husky wail from the backyard. She must be very hungry. A Great Horned Owl woke me at 3:50 a.m., January 1. It called for the next 10 minutes before moving on. On the 2nd, Rosemarie Widmer discovered a gray morph Screech Owl in an old box in her Allendale yard. It's roosted in her yard off and on all month.



On November 15, Stephanie Seymour caught sight of a Pileated Woodpecker in flight behind her Ringwood home and was very surprised to observe it enter an oval-shaped roost hole for the night. Stephanie stated that the large tree it chose contained four or five holes. In the next few weeks, she saw quite a bit of Pileated activity near her home and spotted a Pileated disappearing into the same roost site one other time. According to Lawrence Kilham's research in Woodpeckers of E. North America, Pileateds, unlike most Downies and Hairies, will use old nest holes for roosting. Kilham wrote: "If there is a stand of large trees in one place.... Pileateds may build a succession of

nest hole in succeeding years, using the old ones for roosting." Stephanie's Pileated returned on January 16. Steph wrote: "Today I was outside filling my deck feeder at 3:45. I heard a Pileated Woodpecker calling, but it sounded a bit far away up the street. In a matter of seconds, the bird was making a racket from my front yard. As it was calling, it flew between my house and my neighbor's house and into the back woods. I watched as it landed on a tree that I had seen the bird roost in before. And suddenly, in one swift motion, the bird disappeared into the roost hole right before it started to rain. I just love seeing these prehistoric-looking creatures. It amazes me every single time." Mark Kantrowitz's "first significant yard bird of the year" in Hillsdale was also a Pileated, on January 3. Another Pileated worked a tree in the Halifax parking lot in Mahwah, January 16. Unfazed by a couple of nearby birders, the woodpecker continued to work while Rosemarie studied its yellow eye and the red mustache that confirmed it was a male.

While walking her dog at Overpeck Park, November 30, Judy Collier spotted a "lovely" female American Kestrel that kept just ahead of her, flying from tree to tree. Charlie West reported that the Hour on the Tower crew enjoyed a fly-by Peregrine Falcon, December 6, and it seems every week the crew was saluted with a croak from a passing Raven. Rob found a group of "at least" nine Ravens over the CF, November 2, so it's no wonder they're rather regular visitors during the Hour on the Tower! An adult Bald Eagle was photographed by Walt Staab over the CF,



October 31. Jim posted the photo on his CF Blog. The mild fall weather encouraged a couple Gray Catbirds to linger. One surprised Alice Leurck along the Ramsey Bike Path, November 24. And another persisted at Mahwah Green Acres (Mary Patrick Park). Simon Streatfeild found it

there as late as December 12. Betty McDonnell enjoyed her annual Thanksgiving hike along the Ramapo River in Mahwah and encountered a mixed flock of Tree and Field Sparrows along with a Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and a Hooded Merganser. A winter Wren was Jim Wright's 4th bird of the 2016 at the CF, January 1.

Everyone has been seeing Robins. Diane Rigg declared Robins her first bird of 2016, after finding a flock "playing" in a puddle in a Ramsey parking lot. Also on the 1st, Tim and Janet Tedesco found a flock during a stroll in Oakland. Rosemarie Widmer visited Halfax in Mahwah, January 12 and said the trees and banks along the Ramapo River were "loaded" with Robins. They enjoy bathing in the shallow edges of the river and are probably feeding on crab apples, sumac, Virginia creeper and other fruits. If you're providing thistle at your feeding station, be alert for Pine Siskins, those tiny, striped finches from the north. Up to a dozen fed at my Upper Saddle River feeder, January 17, although I've had a few almost daily this month Let us know what visits your feeders. For information on the latest bird sightings, go to 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 or call me at (201) 327-1782.

### **ODE to the WINTER WREN**



Wren of Winter little sprite Your cheerful song makes a dull day bright Doing push-ups left and right Wren of Winter Mighty Might! ~ Rob Fanning

### MOUNT PETER – 2015 By Judith Cinquina

The 2015 Mount Peter Hawk Watch was in a sweet spot this September that generated a record Broad-winged Hawk count and our second best fall season in out 58-year history. Between September 1 and November 15, our 11 volunteers recorded 13,481 hawks in 71 days. Our luck ran out, however, when a warm, listless October/November brought in low numbers for all other raptor migrants and prevented us from topping our 1984 all-time record of 14,468. Northern Harrier and American Kestrel numbers were especially dismal at 28 and 75 respectively, about 50% below their 10-year averages.

Lazy, warm weather systems this September encouraged perfect thermal production for Broad-wing migration. Between the 16th and 22nd, Mount Peter recorded an unprecedented five days of over a thousand Broad-wings. Carol Linguanti and B.A. McGrath brought in our best tally of 2,806 on the 16th, with Bill O'Keefe close behind at 2,365 the next day. By the time our last 22 were tallied on October 1, we had squeaked by our previous high of 11,044 from way back in 1971 and had racked up a new record of 11,256.

Then things went downhill. Although Red-shouldered Hawks nudged a bit past our 10year average with 85: 38 adult, 8 immature, 39 unknown, their tally of 85 was a disappointment after a record 137 just last year. Adult Shoulders spotted September 15 and October 11, heading north, and an immature, hunting around the lookout November 15, were not counted. It took 30 m/h gusts of WNW winds on November 14 to inspire the Red-tailed Hawks to get going. That day 133 caught a flight south, their lone 3-digit day this fall, bringing their final tally to 289, a far cry from the 658 noted last year. For the fifth consecutive season, Rough-legged hawks were a no-show.

Accipiter numbers were down, with Sharp-shinned Hawks never achieving a 3-digit daily count and Cooper's Hawks failing even a 2-digit number. The N. Goshawk was a no-show. All three were below their 10-year averages. Sharp-shins just about nudged past the thousand mark with 1,017, and Cooper's at 74 were far from the record 165 counted three years ago. Mount Peter has never been a falcon lookout, but our small count certainly reflects the decline in American Kestrels since 2000. The Kestrel produced our second worst count ever with 75 tallied: 19 male, 12 female, and 44 unknown. To put that in perspective, on September 11, 1965, our watch recorded 210 Kestrels in just that one day. Merlins came in a bit above average at 24. Denise Farrell brought in the best tally with 5, October 16 on strong NW winds. Peregrine Falcons were below their 10-year average at 11.

In spite of good thermal weather in September, Ospreys failed to join the Broad-wing migration and had their best day late in the season on September 26 when Tom Millard recorded 15 on light, variable winds. Their final tally of 114 is well below their 10-year average of 162. A mere 28 N. Harriers passed the lookout: 11 immature, 4 female, 4 male and 9 unknown.

In 1980, when we first extended the watch into November, we recorded 101 Harriers, but their numbers began to decline in the 1990's. After producing triple digit numbers in 2012 and 2013, the Bald Eagle seems to have settled down to numbers in the 70's the last two years. The 70 this season broke down to 40 adult, 28 immature, and 2 unknown. Leaders noted at least two adults and one immature head north on 20+ days over our 71day watch, and we suspect a pair occupies territory immediately north of the lookout. Only five Golden Eagles were counted: 2



adult, 1 sub-adult, and 1 immature, a disappointment after a good count of 10 last season. Both Black and Turkey Vultures produced above average numbers at 107 and 292 respectively. Local C. Ravens were with us daily.

Monarch Butterflies barely showed this season, with a low 134 noted. Last season, 144 were recorded in one day! Blue Jays failed to move out, perhaps because of the plentiful acorn crop this year. Our only three-digit count was 189, October 4. Few Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were noted with 15 counted. Between September 26 and October 26, a very average 7,112 Canada Geese migrated through; Matt Zeitler nailed the best count of 1,305,



October 10. Two skeins of Brant were recorded, 90 on October 18 and 47 on the 21st, but no Snow Geese were noted. Denise Farrell had a flight of 92 Double-crested Cormorants September 4, and 44 more were seen the 24th. On November 14, 17 C. Loons headed east over the lookout. Altogether, 27 were recorded beginning October 11.

Other birds of interest included:

1

September

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, E. Towhee, first Black-throated Green Warbler

- 2 2 Prairie Warblers
- 4 E. Wood Pewee, first Am. Redstart
- 5 2 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers
- 7 first Blackpoll Warbler
- 8 first Scarlet Tanager and Red-eyed Vireo
- 11 first C. Yellowthroats (4) and first Black & White Warbler
- 14 Tennessee Warbler
- 15 Canada Warbler

18 6 Chipping Sparrows

3 C. Mergansers

- 19 first E. Phoebe
- 20 first Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Magnolia Warbler
- 26 Great Blue Heron
- 27 10 Gray Catbirds

October

1

- 7 Golden-crowned Kinglets and first Dark-eyed Juncos (22 on 10/27)
- 12 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (another 10/31)
- 13 first White-throated Sparrows (3)
- 20 Palm Warbler
- 27 Fox Sparrow
- 30 Pine Siskin

November

2 American Pipit 14 550 C. Grackles



We are very pleased to announce that Austin Cleverley, a scout from troop 38 in the Pine Island, NY area has rebuilt our hawk watch platform as his Eagle Project. Our 25-year-old, twotiered platform, dedicated in 1990, was originally built by Eagle Scout John Barrack from Troop 45 in Warwick. Austin installed new flooring, benches and chicken wire. We are thrilled with the result. A big thank you to Tom Millard for overseeing the project. Special thanks also go out to Carol Linguanti for maintaining our Mount Peter Facebook page and Matt Zeitler and Bill O'Keefe for contributing photos from our watch. Matt has also updated our photos at HawkCount.org. Look for them under "general" under our Mount Peter profile. Another special mention goes to Denise Farrell for setting up an eBird account for our Mount Peter volunteers. Kudos to our clean-up crew: Denise, Tom, Gene Tappan and Matt and to Tom for putting up and taking down our box on the platform. Finally, very special thanks to all our friends and visitors who made the slow hours more interesting and the busy hours easier to manage. Originally founded in 1958 by the Fyke Nature Association of Bergen County, NJ, our volunteers deeply appreciate their continued sponsorship and their support for our Mount Peter site on hawkcount.org. With our 58th season, we continue to have the honor of being the oldest, continually run, all-volunteer fall watch in the country.

2015 FALL HAWK WATCH RESULTS																		
WATCH	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	СН	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	TOTAL	HRS
HOOK MT.	32	403	319	189	97	1,427	161	3	128	2,296	75	0	9	210	82	28	5,471	428
STATE LINE	110	2,251	857	150	86	1,431	284	0	143	1,613	377	0	1	333	49	52	7,865	470
MONTCLAIR	56	2,023	302	119	39	1,255	289	1	235	1,223	114	0	1	207	104	54	6,081	560
MOUNT PETER	107	292	114	70	28	1,017	74	0	85	11,256	289	0	5	75	24	11	13,481	480

### **Shopping Online?** Support Fyke:



While doing your online shopping, don't forget we now have a direct link to AMAZON from our website. Fyke does not endorse any particular merchant.

Log onto www.fykenature.org and you will find the link on the first page. Every month AMAZON sends us a sales commission check.

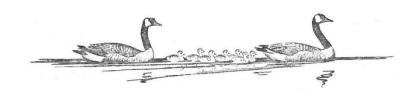
### Fyke Board of Trustees:

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**Chairpersons:** 

Stiles Thomas and Mike Limatola Jim Wright Judy Cinquina Hugh Carola Carol Flanagan Penny Whitlock Gabriele Schmitt 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.)

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 2016 issue is March 23, 2016.** Send material to Box 141, Ramsey, NJ 07446, or via e-mail to carolflana@aol.com.

