

Fall Newsletter
Vol. 62 – No. 3 – 2016
www.fykenature.org

Calendar Of Events

Editor's Note: Thank you to Deedee Burnside for our wonderful new logo!

September 17 and 18, 2016 - Field Trip: Fyke Weekend at Mt. Peter

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

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 AM to 4 PM, volunteer availability and weather conditions permitting.

September 23, 2016 - Monthly Meeting: 8:00 p.m., Allendale Municipal Building Reading the Woods, Donald Doc Bayne

What is living in the woods? How do you know what is there or what is not there? You just need to know what to look for! Come and learn the tell-tale signs of the forest so that next time you hike, you will know what lurks in the woods you are walking in.

October 1, 2016 - Field Trip: Saturday Celery Farm Guided Walk

This two-hour walk is for nature-lovers of all ages and birders of all levels. We'll look for bugs and weird plants as well as our feathered friends. Meet at 8 a.m. at Green Way cul-de-sac on the north end of the CF off Franklin Turnpike. Check celeryfarm.net for any updates. To register, contact Jim Wright at celeryfarm@gmail.com.

October 2, 2016 - Hawks Over the Hudson, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Not a Fyke event. State Line Lookout in Alpine will host a special nature event called "Hawks Over the Hudson." To be held rain or shine. The program will feature live birds of prey presented by the Delaware Valley Raptor Center at 1 and 2:30 PM. The program is free. No advance registration required.

October 8, 2016 - 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 Platform. To sign up for a team contact Carol Flanagan, carolflana@aol.com.

October 23, 2016 (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 28, 2016 - Monthly Meeting: 8:00 p.m., Allendale Municipal Building Jim Wright, Secrets of High Mountain

Fyke's own Jim Wright will talk about the two coolest aspects of 1,260-acre High Mountain in nearby Wayne -- the summit and the Franklin Clove. As a bonus, he will also read aloud his new ground-breaking tale about an amazing seldom-seen bird that lives on the summit (featuring illustrations by Miwa Ishikawa). Not to be missed!

October 29, 2016 10 a.m. - Field Trip: Franklin Clove Walk, Wayne/Franklin Lakes

In memory of wonderful local historian Jim Longo, Fyke's Jim Wright is leading a free walk to High Mountain's historic Franklin Clove, a ravine where Lenape Native Americans wintered more than 300 years ago. Jim W. will talk a little about the history and geology of this amazing spot -- including nearby ancient rock shelters and Buttermilk Falls. You need to have excellent balance and sturdy hiking shoes to participate; the trail is rocky and footing can be difficult. Because of parking limitations, the walk is limited to 15 people, and RSVPs are required. Carpooling will be a must. E-mail Jim W, at celeryfarm@gmail.com for more details and parking location. Rain date is Sunday, Oct. 30 at 10 a.m.

November 5, 2016 - Field Trip: Sunrise Mountain Hawk Watch.

Meet on site 10 a.m. To register contact Mike Limatola 201-739-8062 or mike.limatola@gmail.com.

December 2, 2016 - Monthly Meeting: 8:00 p.m., Allendale Municipal Building Members Night

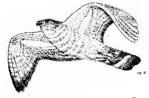
Please come and enjoy an evening of short presentations by Fyke Members or better yet, be a presenter and share your own photos, prints, collections, stories, etc. Details for presentations at this meeting will be in the Winter newsletter.

Welcome New Members!



Heidi Arnaud, Altamont, NY Christine Alber, Ridgewood Aiden Carson, Asheville, NC Rajesh Kandaswany, Wyckoff Linda & William Kempey, Allendale Patricia Price, Phillipsburg Traci & Bryan Woods, Waldwick

Visit A Hawk Watch By Judy Cinquina



We live under the Atlantic Flyway, a busy highway of songbirds, raptors and other species on the move south. Don't miss out on the spectacle. You are very lucky to live close to established hawk watches that welcome visitors and provide leaders willing to answer your questions or help you identify these avian travelers during September, October and part of November. For more detailed directions or information, go to www.hawkcount.org.

- State Line Hawk Watch at the State Line Lookout off the Palisades Parkway NJ
- Hook Mountain Hawk Watch off 9W North in Nyack, NY
- Mount Peter Hawk Watch off 17A at the mountain top between Greenwood Lake & Warwick, NY

My Celery Farm Morning

By Gabriele Schmitt

It's Sunday morning - the cats are fed, asleep again Mousse, the lab, walked and fed, now dozes. She won't get up though she sees me Grabbing my coffee, slipping out of the house. Maybe she intuits that she cannot come with me.

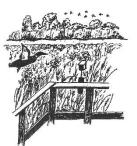


I'm heading north, driving up 17, cars flying by Rushing to? Late for what? Meeting someone? I wonder.

On Being on the radio, Krista and her guests Gently discussing the day's topic, catch my thoughts. I find myself reflecting on life, where I've been, Where I'm going.

And then I'm there - the little lot on Franklin. Bins in hand, walking the path to Pirie-Mayhood. The embrace of wooded stillness so calming. A tweet, a chirrup, a rustle in the leaves And the game of discoveries begins. Perched on branches, or flying - usually away:) They challenge me to identify them. Geese honk from the lake; mallards quack Yes, those are easy - gimmes.





Now climbing the steps to join my friends, "Good mornings" all around.

Another Hour on the Tower in full swing.

Depending what weather - we enjoy or complain.

But we laugh, we chide and laugh again,

We tally species and tell birding tales.

As the sun comes up over the trees behind us,

It lights up the western shore line,

Like a curtain going up on a stage,

For a willing and admiring audience.

Stepping Up For Lorrimer 2016

By Gabriele Schmitt

After a cold, rainy Friday, we really lucked out with the weather for this year's Stepping Up for Lorrimer. There were lots of birds to see, hear and tally for our Big Day. I thank all of you who walked the Celery Farm during your shift(s) and hope you had as much fun as I did. A special thanks to my fellow team members who helped me identify some of the many warblers we saw; it's always great to learn new species. What a magical place the Celery Farm is, with so many colors on the wing! We had a great tally for birds seen/heard during this year's Big Day -86 species.

I am very pleased to tell you that we raised \$2,002.50. As you know, this will help support the children's education programs at Lorrimer Sanctuary. A special thanks to John Brotherton to keeping tabs on all of that.

Our List:

Double-crested Cormorant Great Blue Heron Great Egret Canada Goose Mallard Wood Duck Turkey Vulture Black Vulture Osprey **Broad-winged Hawk** Red-shouldered Hawk Red-tailed Hawk Cooper's Hawk Ring-billed Gull Wild Turkey Kildeer Solitary Sandpiper Least Sandpiper Spotted Sandpiper Greater Yellowlegs Mourning Dove Yellow-billed Cuckoo Chimney Swift Ruby-throated Hummingbird Red-bellied Woodpecker Northern Flicker

Eastern Wood-Pewee Willow Flycatcher Eastern Phoebe **Great Crested Flycatcher** Eastern Kingbird Red-eyed Vireo Warbling Vireo Blue Jay American Crow Fish Crow Common Raven Tree Swallow Barn Swallow Northern Rough-winged Swallow **Tufted Titmouse** Black-capped Chickadee White-breasted Nuthatch House Wren Carolina Wren Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Wood Thrush Veery Hermit Thrush American Robin Swainson's Thrush **Gray Catbird** Cedar Waxwing Chestnut-sided Warbler

Magnolia Warbler Yellow-rumped Warbler Black-and-White Warbler Black-throated Blue Warbler Black-throated Green Warbler Blackpoll Warbler Yellow Warbler Canada Warbler Wilson's Warbler Ovenbird Northern Waterthrush Common Yellowthroat American Redstart Northern Parula Scarlet Tanager Song Sparrow Field Sparrow Swamp Sparrow Chipping Sparrow Rose-breasted Grosbeak Northern Cardinal Red-winged Bl ackbird Common Grackle Brown-headed Cowbird **Baltimore Oriole** American Goldfinch House Finch House Sparrow

Our Birders:

Downy Woodpecker

Pileated Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker



John Bird Mimi Brauch John Brotherton Sara Buckley Sue Dougherty Nancy Drabik Rajesh Kandaswamy Darlene Lembo Michael Limatola Julie McCall Doug Morrel Rochana Muenthongchin Ravi and Namita Potluri Gabriele Schmitt Suzanne Serafini Michael Tat Betsy Thomas Stiles Thomas Charley West

Thank you to the following for their generous Stepping Up pledges:

John Bird Mimi Brauch John Brotherton Michael Buckley Monica Cardoza Judy Cinquina Phil Dahlen Nancy Drabik Rob Fanning Carol Flanagan

Molly Gardener Enid Hayflick Linda Hingle Ivan Kossak Darlene Lembo Dorothy Lux Rochana Muenthongchin

Rochana Muent Kurt Muenz Ravi Potluri Bert Rottkamp Hans Sammer Gabriele Schmitt Suzanne Serafini Lillian Thomas Betsy Thomas Charley West Penny Whitlock Rosemarie Widmer John Workman Jim Wright

A Possible Solution

By COOX2 (aka Charley West)

I may have finally found the answer! To What? you might reasonably ask. To a nagging dilemma I've faced since becoming a "birder", and that is: How and Why do birds have so many ways to defeat our hearing, spotting, identifying them? The ABA (American Birding Association) has a widely disseminated "Ethics for Birders". I propose a similar Code for Birds.

I suspect the "Why" is a natural response to the disrespect and damage that we've done to the planet and the environment. Thus, to a certain degree, the adversarial retorts noted herein by our would-be/should-be avian friends we've brought upon ourselves.

This epiphany came to me on a recent trip to an area where I'd not been before; a beautiful spot with every conceivable habitat. The weather was salubrious too, and being weary from my long drive, with bins in hand I rested against a large pin oak, one with a commanding view of the varied cover. I resisted the drowsiness accompanying the early morning sun to concentrate on the bird sounds that were coming from a nearby thicket.

Peering into the brush, I was able to discern a Great Horned Owl perched on an eye-level branch, apparently "lecturing" to a varied group of birds all facing him in rapt attention, (some even seemed to be taking notes as if at some outdoor seminar.)



The GHO, obviously in charge, rattled off a proposed agenda. From his manner I had the impression that this was not an impromptu gathering but one of a scheduled series. With heightened interest I continued to eavesdrop.

"OK" he challenged, "have you all reviewed the Diversion Materials?" Many primaries were raised in apparent confirmation. A Flicker questioned, "I get the part about only revealing incomplete body silhouettes, rapid and frequent position changes, and feeding in the thickest leaf cover, but how are we supposed to keep ourselves backlighted at all times?" The "professor" acknowledged the difficulty, but commented, "Keep practicing!"

A Junco. asked, "Can we talk about false molting and sessional feathering again?" The Owl, "You'll recall that the former is the intentional removal of those feathers that provide diagnostic evidence; in your case you might choose to shed your outer rectrices. Also, you can use mud, pollen, or other natural ingredients to cover distinct body areas and serve as camouflage. The latter is self-explanatory, Hang onto juvenile plumage, shed breeding plumage ASAP! The idea's to look "different", not what's expected".

A Wood Thrush, with obvious glee, offered, "I think the vocal seminars are the best! There's nothing that causes more indecisions with birders than songs or delivery patterns that

they don't recognize. I've been practicing giving a long, slow introductory note." A Veery laughingly quipped, "I've reversed my song from a downward spiral to an upward one ala Bicknell's." "Yep", replied the GHO, "Confusion's the name of the game - and ain't it FUN!"

I was shocked to hear such blatant adversarial and mocking opinions and to realize we're seen by the birds as "The Enemy" and that we're in an undeclared war. We HAVE to change their mind-sets. To achieve that constructive goal, as an initial campaign I propose the following Coo-Mandments as a Code for Birds to exemplify. To Wit:



- 1. No intentional backlighted positioning.
- 2. No intentional directly overhead positioning.
- 3. No intentional song manipulations or ventriloquizing.
- 4. No skulking.
- 5. No unnecessary flitting-about.
- 6. No intentional feather altering.
- 7. No intentional hiding-in or use of inappropriate habitats.
- 8. No tantalizing nano-second appearances.
- 9. No secret escape routes with intent to avoid detection.
- 10. Treat All Birders with respect, even those w/o feeders.

Let's hope that the GHO and his brethren will accept these ideas as an earnest attempt by birders to reconcile any past differences and to forge a new compatibility.

Author's Notes:

The Optics Industry has been solicited to assist with funding.

Allegations that the above events were a drowsy-induced dream sequence are unfounded.

Tree TalkBy 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.



Field and Feeder NotesBy Judith Cinquina

CROWS

It is January, and there are the crows like black flowers on the snow.
While I watch they rise and float toward the frozen pond, they have seen some streak of death on the dark ice



They gather around it and consume everything, the strings and the red music of that nameless body. Then they shout, one hungry, blunt voice echoing another.

From Crows by Mary Oliver, House of Light, Beacon Press, 1990

Predation is not a pretty thing. We buy our meat already butchered and wrapped in plastic. We are so far removed from having to slaughter our own food that it comes as a shock to witness predation in the wild. But animals too must eat, and a few Fyke members bore witness to how wild animals go about it this June and July. On June 13, Betty McDonnell took a walk in her Mahwah backyard at dusk, and discovered a "good sized" juvenile Canada Goose struggling in her pond. The goose was up-side-down and something beneath the water was "circling and circling and dragging the goose lower and lower into the pond." Betty stayed until dark but never identified the predator, although she suspected it was a mammal.

Betty also found piles of goose feathers around her property. On July 29 she discovered the probable culprit, a very "healthy looking" coyote who was patrolling her pond. Her most startling encounter, however, was with a "very large" black bear on July 6. She found it standing on its back legs, reaching for one of her bird boxes. The bear ate the young Tree Swallows inside and then "lumbered off" towards another bird house. Just as it stood up, planning a second assault, Betty screamed "NO!" and the bear walked away. Betty managed to snap its picture, and thanks to Michael Gallo, it was posted on our Fyke Yahoo site.

The swallows weren't the only species to learn that a bird box is not always a safe place to nest. My local House Wren family here in Upper Saddle River found that out too. On June 24, the wren chicks were making a racket demanding more food from their father. (The male takes over feeding the first brood while the female sits on a second clutch of eggs. She has nothing to do with fledgling the first chicks.) There's a birdbath nearby that's frequented by Robins and Jays. The Jays couldn't help notice the chicks in the box opening who, I suspected, were ready to fledge. I believe the chicks may have begun to leave the box while I was enjoying dinner on our patio. When the adult wren erupted in harsh protest calls, I figured something was up. Through the shrubs behind our table, I spotted a Jay with a chick hanging from its bill and the adult Wren's incessant cries emanating all around the spot. A bit later, I observed a Jay feeding one of the youngsters nearby.

Young birds have to learn how to hunt their own food, and perhaps the immature Cooper's Hawk that turned up in Rosemarie Widmer's Allendale yard, July 27 needed a bit more instruction. First it took a bath in her birdbath. Rosemarie stated the hawk was "doing the shimmy" and splashing water all over. Next, it caught a chipmunk. Instead of plucking it, the Coop jumped around its prize, as if, Rosemarie stated, "it didn't know what to do next." So it flew up into a nearby tree, leaving the prey where it lay. The Coop just sat there, and Rosemarie had things to do. Later, she discovered the chipmunk was gone.

And speaking of Rosemarie's birdbath, she found five fledgling Jays together in her bath on June 13, and Mike Limatola photographed five Chickadee hatchlings in a nest in his Ho-Ho-Kus yard, June 3. For the Jays, five was an average number, but the Chickadee brood was a bit under par. They usually lay from six to eight eggs. Mike's photo showed the chicks in a circle, their rumps clumped in the middle and their bills pointing outward like the petal points of a flower.

Dave Kaplan wondered about the three Screech Owl chicks left on their own in a box in his Parsippany yard, May 12. He hadn't seen the female in the box in over a week, but the chicks were in the box opening every day, and he wondered if something had happened to her. According to Frederick Gehlbach in his book *The Eastern Screech Owl*, 1994, the adult owls stimulate their young to fledge by withholding some food "about midway in the last nestling week." He also pointed out that "usually females...sit in habitual food-delivery perches" with or without food in view of the owlets begging from the cavity entrance to lure them out of the cavity. Unlike the little Screech, Great Horned Owls begin nesting while snow is still falling. Their young then are ready to hunt on their own when plenty of young birds and mammals are easy prey.

On April 16, Deedee Burnside posted a photo on our Yahoo site of three Great Horned chicks in a large tree cavity near her Waldwick home. Lacking adult feathers, the three revealed facial details that are usually concealed, like the black, leather-like masks that set off their pale yellow eyes and their large, menacing bills that barely poke through adult plumage. Carol Flanagan discovered a Monk Parakeet nest near her Hawthorne home on a telephone pole on Lafayette Ave, May 12. She was surprised when two local women informed her that the large, bulky nest had been there for three years.

Last summer, while checking out the industrial park abutting the CF (Celery Farm), Fyke explorers Stiles Thomas and Jim Wright discovered nesting Rough-winged Swallows and Common Ravens. They returned this June and again found both species. Although the number of Rough-wings was down to one pair from half a dozen, they were actively feeding young. Both years the swallows nested under a trailer parked at a loading dock at an unoccupied commercial building. This species is known to nest in old burrows, under bridges or inside sewer pipes or any niche that is unoccupied, but inside a small opening under a trailer seems unique.

Ravens were nearby when Stiles visited on June 12, and one serenaded him with a surprisingly musical song. It was perched alone high in a pine tree and strung together a soft series of warbles, knocks, rattles and bell-like notes for over a quarter of an hour. A few days later, Jim returned prepared to record the Raven's song, but the Raven did not cooperate. Bernd Heinrich states in *Mind of the Raven*, 1999, that the dominant members of a Raven clan "may effectively silence almost all calls of others of their respective sex in their presence." He believes this is why some Ravens quietly sing to themselves when they're alone. Two more Ravens appeared in the pine, but all three flew off before Stiles could detect their ages. If there had been a local pilot in the area, you can believe Stiles would have convinced him to fly over the flat-roofed building looking for a possible nest. Their presence here may explain why the Hour on the Tower crew recorded Ravens so often.



Kurt Muenz wrote that Phil Dahlen discovered nesting Cliff Swallows under the Doty Road Bridge over the Ramapo in Oakland. Another colony exists at the Monksville Dam in Ringwood, just off 511. Once common in NJ, this colonial breeder nested under our bridges and in our barns but is now listed as Threatened.

A first-year Yellow-be6llied Sapsucker was photographed by Alice Leurck at the CF on March 27. Rob Fanning noted that this species is "very uncommon" at the CF, especially in the spring. Gary Frenchman spotted the first CF Palm Warbler on the 27th. April 6 brought an Adult Bald Eagle to Loren Anderson's Oakland neighborhood. She captured a photo and posted it on our Fyke Yahoo site. On the 13th three Black Vultures visited Judy Collier's Ridgefield Park neighborhood. Judy reported they were perched on a neighbor's roof. Hopefully, they didn't make a habit of roosting there. The results could be quite odiferous. On the 15th three N. Flickers entertained Nancy Drabik in Wyckoff, circling a tree trunk, and finally narrowing the display to a pair that dropped to a large, flat rock and circled one another with necks extended. Unfortunately, the pair then dropped out of sight.



After hanging a feeder 10 days before, Mike Gallo finally spotted his FOY Ruby-throated Hummingbird at his Mahwah feeder on May 7. That same day, an always exciting Worm-eating Warbler visited the Poplar Ave Nature Reserve in River Vale, Mike Kantrowitz reported. He bagged 30 species that day, including Purple Martins. A few days later, Rose-breasted

Grosbeaks were spotted, including one in Jeanine Jamieson's Ho-Ho-Kus yard. On June 8, Janet Tedesco of Oakland observed a young male Hairy with a "cream-colored" crown instead of the usual red. In his field guide, Sibley depicts such a Hairy and states it's rare but does occur. Finally, on July 31, the Hour on the Tower crew voted a "totally unexpected" Marsh Wren as the Bird of the Day, Charlie West reported.

A Louisiana Waterthrush "bobbed around" the entrance to the CF, April 11, an uncommon species at this site. The expected waterthrush here is the Northern. On the 22nd, a Little Blue Heron, another unexpected species, flew across the Lake Appert and landed near the Warden's Watch. It was joined by an "early" Sora Rail. How do I know what's early, uncommon or rare at the CF? For years I've depended on Rob Fanning who made the CF his patch and got to know the comings and goings of every feathered species that touched down in the preserve. His comments contributed valuable perspective to many of our observations, and a concerted effort by many Fyke members will be required to replace Rob's almost daily reports. And I know that the Little Blue and the Sora were first spotted by Fred Weber, because Rob generously gave credit where credit was due. Rob's efforts not only enriched this column but rewarded him with 243 different bird species at the CF including some "lifers" like Sandhill Crane, Purple Gallinule and LeConte's Sparrow. Although he's the top eBirder for this location, Rob pointed out that he has yet to catch Stiles' CF record of 245.

On his daily walks through overgrown fields in Midland Park, Tom Nicastri has been observing the Goldfinches. He describes them as "giddy with excitement" as they keep an eye on the field thistle. He writes, "They are circling the fields, singing continuously" and sometimes, he



sees three to four on one thistle. The Goldfinches "are constantly checking," he continues. "I am guessing the buds are going to split open …and it will be a finch feast. I am also guessing prickly skin on the buds is preventing them from digging in before the time is right. Either way there is joy in the Goldfinch hood."

Clean out those bird feeders. Sharpen your eyes and ears, for, by the time you receive this, the fall migration will be in full swing. Let us know what you observe. 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.

Time to Renew Your Fyke Dues

The new membership year for Fyke starts September 1, 2016 and ends August 31, 2017. This means that annual dues should be paid now. The dues schedule is: Individual -- \$15.00, and Family -- \$20.00. Checks should be made out to Fyke Nature Association, and mailed to John Brotherton, 249 E. Crescent Avenue, Mahwah, NJ 07430.



Thank	vou!	
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Starting Your Holiday Shopping? Here's an Easy Way to Support Fyke

We 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. Thank you for your participation!

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Trustees.	Darlene Lembo Doug Morel	Publicity: Webmaster:	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 Winter Issue is October 19, 2016. Send material to Box 141, Ramsey, NJ 07446, or via e-mail to carolflana@aol.com.