



Fyke Nature Association Spring Newsletter

Vol. 69 — No. 1 — 2023
www.fykenature.org

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.

PLEASE NOTE: We require all who attend live presentations at the Allendale Municipal Building to wear a mask as long as you're indoors. Even if you think you don't need one, wear it in consideration of others. If you're not feeling well, have Covid-type symptoms or just feel like you're not ready for an indoor gathering, please do not come. Instead, wait for the recording of the meeting we plan to make and post online afterward. No registration is required for live presentations.

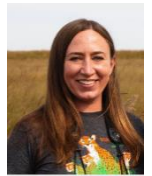
Zoom presentations require registration. A video of each one will eventually be posted under Programs on www.fykenature.org.

February 24, 2023, Friday – Monthly Meeting: 8:00 p.m. vis Zoom Grassland Birds Are Thriving in the Least Likely Place, Dr. Shannon Curley and Jose Ramirez-Garofalo

The number of birds in North America has fallen by about 30 percent over the past 50 years, and grassland birds have suffered particularly large losses. But something of a miracle is happening to grassland species on a small scale—on Staten Island.

At the 2,000-acre Freshkills Park, formerly the site of the world's largest landfill, 1,000 acres have been restored to grasslands. And grassland birds are thriving. In just a short time Freshkills has become the home of 300-plus pairs of nesting Savannah Sparrows, 82 pairs of Grasshopper Sparrows (likely the largest population in the region), and 8 pairs of Sedge Wrens, plus Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks.

In this zoom presentation, two researchers—Dr. Shannon Curley and Jose Ramirez-Garofalo—present their ongoing research involving grassland birds at Freshkills, and highlight the conservation successes in a maturing grassland habitat. Shannon is an ecologist with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, and an adjunct professor at CUNY College of Staten Island. Jose is a PhD student in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources at Rutgers University.



Dr. Shannon Curley



Jose Ramirez-Garofalo

March 4, 2023, Saturday – Field Trip: Woodcocks, Halifax Road, Mahwah

Meet at Halifax Road, Mahwah, 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 5, 2023.

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

“I wonder if the snow loves the trees and fields, that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says, “Go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again.”

~ Lewis Carroll

**March 24, 2023, Friday – Monthly meeting: 8:00 p.m. live at the Allendale Municipal Building
Avian Rehabilitation, or How to Live with a Loon in the Bathtub, Giselle Smisko**

A fuzzy ball of a bird has just fallen 30 feet from its nest and now sits in your hands. What do you do? Many people have faced this dilemma and found themselves feeling more helpless than the bird. Giselle Smisko of the Avian Wildlife Center, Wantage, along with a few of her Avian Wildlife Center Ambassador birds, discusses how she handles that situation and many others confronting wildlife rehabilitators and the public. Practical information will be offered on how people can prevent many of the problems that threaten our wildlife.

The nonprofit Avian Wildlife Center was founded in 1993 by Giselle and John Smisko to promote the conservation of native bird species. The volunteer-run organization admits hundreds of birds annually with the goal of returning them healthy to the wild.



April 1, 2023, Saturday – 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 2, 2023.

**The 70th Ramsey Christmas Bird Count
By Rob Fanning**

This year's Christmas Bird Count (CBC), was the milestone 70th Ramsey CBC held (one year was cancelled) It took place on Saturday December 17, 2022. It produced a very respectable 84 species (5 more than last year), plus 1 count week bird (Virginia Rail at the Celery Farm) Count day was blessed with good weather, with partly sunny skies for a good portion of the day, and Temps mostly in the 40s. For the 2nd year in a row this was one of the more comfortable CBCs I've experienced in over 30 years of doing this count. Most lakes, ponds, and streams were open or at least partially open.

While new no species were added to the cumulative, as expected, some extremely good birds were turned up by our stalwart teams, comprising 8 groups totaling approx 25 participants. The rarest finds were were: Golden Eagle by Team D (6th time ever, last in 2009); Iceland Gull (3rd ever, last in 1980), and Osprey (2nd ever, last in 1991) Some other notable finds were: American Kestrel (Team H), Barred Owl (Team C), Marsh Wren (Team C), Pine Siskin (Team H), Purple Finch (Team F), and Canvasback (30, Team E), and Pintail (Team E)

TEAMS H tallied the most species with 54, followed by Team C with 52, while Team C and G both had 50. The COVETED BLUE JAY AWARD stays with Team B with 50, edging out Team C who had 48. Team C did reclaim the (equally coveted?) HOUSE SPARROW award with 97, while Team B tallied 77.

Species that were seen in good and/or above average numbers included:

CANADA GOOSE: 220	RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: 74
N. SHOVELER: 14	BROWN CREEPER: 9
RING-NECKED DUCK: 277	RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: 4
HOODED MERGANSER: 340	GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET: 21
COM. MERGANSER: 2947	E.BLUEBIRD: 53
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK: 38	DE JUNCO: 632
BALD EAGLE: 23	AMERICAN GOLDFINCH: 91
RED-TAILED HAWK: 38	COMMON GRACKLE: 61

Species that came in below average and/or poor numbers included:

HERRING GULL: 17
WILD TURKEY: 4
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: 170
SONG SPARROW: 46
CEDAR WAXWING: 24

MOCKINGBIRD: 12
HOUSE FINCH: 33
TREE SPARROW: 5
HOUSE SPARROW: 308
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD: 2

The following species (usually seen) were completely MISSED on the count: Green-winged Teal, Merlin, Great Black-backed Gull, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Fox Sparrow, and Rusty Blackbird.

As always, a huge THANK YOU to all of our hard-working and dedicated participants for continuing this long-standing tradition, while contributing to important citizen science data. Without you, there simply wouldn't be a count. Thank you all!

Co-compiler Lisa Ann Fanning and myself would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and birdy 2023!

PS: Save the date/ mark your calendars for next year's CBC, which is scheduled for Sat. 12/16/2023.

2023 First Bird Of The Year By Carol Flanagan

My first was a predawn bird of the year was a Female Northern Cardinal, a great way to start the year!

Tufted Titmouse, five, were the most frequently seen.

Your editor thinks the most humorous was posted by **Michael Gallo**, A pigeon, I spent New Year's day in the Bronx.

Furthest away report, **Jeff Hollyhead**, My first 2023 bird was a robin but erithacus rubecula, aka the tiny European robin redbreast, seen near the lovely town of Lichfield in the English Midlands.

Reports listed in no particular order:

Janet Tedesco, Female Cardinal

Jim Wright, Female Red-bellied Woodpecker

Holly Cowen, Mourning Dove

Patty Finn, Tufted Titmouse

Margery Cleveland, Doves feeding on the ground.

Stephanie Seymour, My first birds both heard and seen were 6 American Crows, who flew into a tree above my feeders, waiting for me to scatter seed on the ground for them! They know me and wait for me every day. Haha!

Tom Jaeger, My first Bird of the year was a two fer, House Finch and a Black-capped Chickadee.

Lisa Fanning, Our chipper Carolina Wren singing up a storm was my first bird of 2023!

Karen Chatten, The first birds I saw this morning were Tufted Titmouse (two) at my feeder.

Darlene Lembo, Blue Jay

Bill Drummond, American Crow

Maryann and Bill Fahey, Male Downy Woodpecker

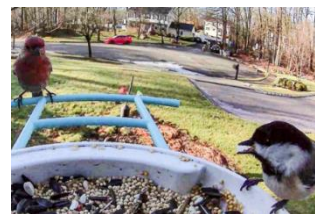
Monica Cardoza, House Sparrow

Ruth Friedkin, My resident Wild Turkey on my door step every morning and no I do not feed him but my steps are in the sun and I think he uses the steps to warm up.

Signe Myhren, In Montvale, the only bird I have seen at my suet feeder today is a Downy Woodpecker.



© Jim Wright



© Tom Jaeger

Ivan Kossak, This year gave me my best "First Bird of the Year" ever: a Merlin perched on a dead tree in Centennial Park in Lincoln Park.

Gabriele Schmitt, A pair of Northern Cardinals

CC a.k.a. Charles West, Black-capped Chick-a-dee-dee-dee

Hugh Carola, House Finch

Mimi Brauch, Red-bellied Woodpecker quickly followed by American Crow.

Barbara Dilger, My first look out my window had the Hairy Woodpecker on my suet and two White-throated Sparrows under the feeder! Here is a blurry phone snap through the window of the Hairy.

Alice Leurck, Turkey Vulture.

Molly Gardener, A small flock (6-7) titmouse. A good sign, I don't think I got that many in total last year.

Suzanne Ishii, Peregrine falcon on high rise opposite my home

Loren Anderson, 23 Fish Crows in a single tree, wishing the neighborhood a noisy new year.

Lisa Potash, Got up, looked out the window to the bay cove and saw FOY group of Buffleheads chasing one another, and popping up from underneath the surface. They always bring a smile to my face!

Erin Meyer, Female House Finch on the bird feeder!

Sue Dougherty and Mike Limatola, Turkey Vulture, followed soon after by a Red-tailed Hawk along 287 near Franklin Lakes.

Mark Kantrowitz, White-throated Sparrow

Betty McDonnell, I came into kitchen about 7:30 AM and all feeders were full of regulars. However, the bird that caught my eyes was a Starling eating my mealworms. I brought the feeder inside before all of his 40 friends could empty it.

Crista Murphy, White-breasted Nuthatch was my first of the year.

Linda Wasserman, Tufted Titmouse

Carol Dickman, Northern Harrier (Disposal Road)

Rob Fanning, Dark-eyed Junco

Marianne Herrmann, Northern Shoveler. I heard a lot of birds before that but saw that one first.

Amy Griffin, Tufted Titmouse was at my birdfeeder at 6:30 a.m.

Robert Thurston, One of my own-Golden Pheasant, but in the wild a Downy Woodpecker on my suet feeder.

Karen Moll, Tufted Titmouse

Mike Lefebvre. Dark-eyed Junco. Love hearing it's call.

Patti Vernon, Red-tailed Hawk perched on a nearby tree.

Barbara Sapanara, Turkey Vulture, I've come to like them knowing they are the "sanitation engineers" of the planet!



©Barbara Dilger

Field and Feeder Notes

By Judith Cinquina

Last summer while my father and I were extracting honey at the apiary...we noted a golden eagle teaching its young one to fly. It was about ten o'clock. The mother started from the nest in the crags, and roughly handling the young one, she allowed him to drop...about ninety feet, then she would swoop down under him, wings spread, and he would alight on her back. She would soar to the top of the range with him and repeat the process. Once she waited perhaps fifteen minutes between flights...the farthest she let him fall was 150 feet.

My father and I watched this, spellbound, for over an hour. I do not know whether the young one gained confidence by this method or not. A few days later father and I rode to the cliff...The nest was empty. (Miss F. E. Shuman.)

From: Life histories of N. American Birds of Prey by Bent, Arthur Cleveland, 1961 Dover Edition

Doug Morel was preparing to go home for lunch, December 17 as his Ramsey Christmas Bird Count (CBC) group headed south for lunch in Betty McDonnell's Mahwah kitchen, when he

spotted a darkish eagle over private property off of 202. It was not as mottled as a young Bald Eagle, was not very high overhead, and had bright white at the base of its tail, set off by a dark terminal band. He had only seen one Golden Eagle before, and the identity didn't click until CBC team leader Mark Kantrowitz called to announce they had just spotted a young Golden Eagle. The team was sitting at Betty's table looking over her property through her sliding glass doors, when team member Loren Anderson called their attention to a large dark bird that was eagle-size but had its wings up slightly like a vulture. Loren wrote, "It was low, not flapping, coasting first left to right, then turned and headed toward us." Mark picked up his binoculars and announced, "That's an interesting bird." With that, Loren grabbed her binoculars and headed out the door in her stocking feet. She knew it was an eagle, but it didn't look like any Bald Eagle she had seen before. She ran for her camera but didn't get back in time. Mark viewed the bird through the window and announced as she came back inside in her soggy socks that it was a Golden Eagle, a "Life" bird for Loren and a rare bird for NJ.

Statewide, the average CBC Golden Eagle count is only three, according to Boyle, *Birds of NJ*, 2011. Golden eagles bred in upstate New York, New Hampshire and Maine prior to 1970, but that population is now extinct. Researchers associated with the Eastern Golden Eagle Working Group have established the presence of golden eagles in remote parts of the NY Catskills each winter through a decade-long effort involving local volunteers. But this population migrates to eastern Canada to breed. We have no local breeders. Trudy Battaly in her 2021 Northeast Hawk Watch Hawk Migration Report wrote, "Golden eagles have definitely increased well beyond the counts in the 1980's, but have not shown any clear trend since the mid-1990's." Stephanie Seymour conducts the closest hawk watch site in the Fyke area from her Ringwood deck. This fall she scored five Golden eagles, and last fall she counted six, primarily young birds. Their numbers peak around mid-November during migration in our state. One wandering around our area in December is unheard of, but so is an eyewitness report of an eagle mom dropping her youngster from a cliff and catching it mid-air. Both are exciting but singular events.



© Stephanie Seymour

Betty MacDonnell's Mahwah yard seems to be a hot spot for birds. In addition to the CBC Golden Eagle, an Evening Grosbeak visited her feeding station, November 7. After a resident bear destroyed four of her feeders, Betty had been taking her feeders in at night. The local birds aware when food comes out, queue up each morning for breakfast, and the grosbeak waited with them. "I have not had one at my feeders in at least 15 years," Betty wrote. On November 5, eBird showed one other Evening Grosbeak sighting in nearby Rockland County but none in the immediate Fyke area. It's a rare winter resident. Betty also had a "very tame" Red-breasted Nuthatch "feeding every 45 seconds" at her feeders that same day.

Another rather rare find was a Barred Owl discovered at dawn by Doug Morel, December 17 and later refound by Rob Fanning's CBC team at the Celery Farm (CF). This was not Rob's first Barred in the CF area. One late afternoon in 2000, Rob was planning to visit Stiles who lived across the street from the CF but wasn't home. Rob happened upon Gordon Shultze and Michael Costello in Stile's driveway. Gordon was there scouting for a Barred Owl and insisted they all climb into his car and use it as a blind. As the light faded, the hoped-for owl flew out of the pines and perched nearby. After looking around for a while, it coughed up a pellet. Michael wrote up the event for the Fyke Summer 2000 newsletter. "Without a sound and with an effortless glide, he (the owl) flew towards the ground, only 20 yards in front of us, and pounced on some animal through the snow, made some noises and flew up to a low branch, presumably to finish his first meal." The owl then flew to another perch where the group had "excellent" views of this dark-eyed, large-headed, short-tailed owl who lacked ear tufts. Night was falling. "Slowly," Michael continued, "the Barred Owl worked his way through the forest in a direction

heading for the Celery Farm and disappeared from sight.” Maybe that owl and Rob ‘s CBC owl are distant relatives.

Mike Limatola and Sue Dougherty discovered an Eastern Screech Owl in Harriman State Park, January 7. Mike’s photo shows the owl was “sunning itself.” Mike and Sue were very lucky. This owl was a red morph and happened to pick a cavity in a big, old gray tree. If it had been a gray Screech, they might have walked right past it. A Screech Owl’s plumage provides it with an amazing tree-bark-like camouflage. With its eyes shut down to mere slits and its erect “erases” providing a rough, tree-bark-like outline, it can disappear in plain sight...unless it’s in the wrong tree.



© Mike Limatola and Sue Dougherty

Eleven Cooper’s Hawks were counted in the Ramsey circle on the 17th. They have made a healthy comeback after making NJ’s Threatened Species list in 1976. On the 18th, Robert Atkinson had a Coop in his Wyckoff yard. His photo was probably of a small male, its bright white undertail coverts fluffed as if it were ready to take off and display for some nearby female. Mike Gallo had another at his feeder in Mahwah. Mike wrote, “but there were no birds around.” No feeder birds is often a clue that a Coop is in the area. Feeder birds are a favorite winter food. According to Roth, Lima and Vetter in the Wilson’s Bulletin, September 2005, Coops and Sharp-shinned Hawks tend to survive better in urban areas where there are fewer owls. They also discovered, “Our urban Cooper’s Hawks were much more likely to hunt roosting prey at night by using the illumination of urban lighting and the moon, than were rural hawks.”

Nine Brown Creepers were detected on the Ramsey CBC, four of them by Janet Tercheck’s team, December 17. One was at Darlington and three more were associating in a scrubby piece of woodlands across the Mahwah River from the Sheraton Hotel. Brian Kenney noted one at Halifax in Mahwah on December 11, and the CF Tower Crew celebrated with one New Year’s Day. Boyle labels them an uncommon winter resident. He writes, “Quiet and inconspicuous, Brown Creepers are often overlooked.” That is very true. If you’re very lucky and pay attention in late March or early April, you may hear the male’s warbler-like song long before other passerine song fills the trees. It’s always a treat for bereaved ears.

Brian Kenney seems to have a knack for finding Winter Wrens, one at Halifax in Mahwah, December 11 and another at Parsons Pond, Franklin Lakes, January 4. Four days later, Neil MacLennan found one at the CF. The Ramsey CBC tallied five of these very tiny, dark wrens. Boyle states, “CBC totals show a distinct increase in recent decades.” The Winter Wren isn’t restricted to the Americas. It is also found in Europe, Asia and north Africa. No Rusty Blackbirds turned up on the CBC, but Neil reported a single at the CF, December 26. The resident CF Virginia Rail was spotted by Daniel Carola, December 30 and seen again by Neil January 6 in the brook at No Name Culvert, its favorite winter hangout.

Two Monk Parakeets were at DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst, November 5, Brian reported. It’s very surprising that this alien parakeet isn’t spotted there more often. DeKorte is less than 10 miles away from the Veteran’s Memorial Park in Edgewater, where they have thrived since 1968. Native to South America, they’re popular with the pet trade. Despite their loud, high-pitched raspy quarreling, Edgewater citizens have adopted them. About the size of a Flicker, they build bulky stick nests that sit atop poles and light fixtures and serve as an apartment house for up to 12 nests each. One Monk Parakeet apartment can be found at nearby Overpeck Park, atop the signal lights in the middle of Fort Lee Road near the stable entrance.

We don’t expect Robins on our lawns in January, but it happens. Janet Tedesco noted six on her Oakland lawn, on the 8th. On that same day, Mark Kantrowitz freed two Robins that

were trapped inside his fish pond enclosure in Hillsdale. Around that time a dozen hunted for lawn worms here in Upper Saddle River. What is amazing is not that they're here in January but that they survived the intense cold snap in December. Somewhere there must be some healthy berry crops that sustained them.

Keep your feeders clean and keep alert for early spring migrants. Be sure to let us know what you find. Much of the inspiration for this column depended on the Ramsey CBC data, so I'd like to give a big shout out to Rob and Lisa Fanning for keeping the CBC going and making the results accessible. The CBC entails some tedious work but provides fun and purpose for those in the field that day. Join our discussion group at fykenature@groups.io where many of the reports for this column originated, or send your observations to me at judyding@optonline.net.

Mount Peter 2022 By Judith Cinquina

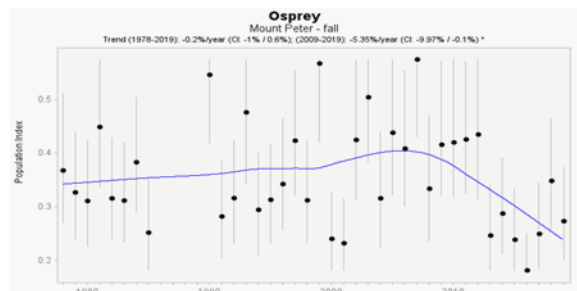
Mount Peter's 65th annual fall hawk count produced under par results for most of the 16 species we monitor, even the vultures. Seven volunteers manned the lookout for 353 hours, over 63 days from September 2 through November 15 and tallied 4,972 hawks, our lowest count since 2004. Most of the 16 species came near 50% below their 10-year average and helped drop our hawks per hour to a low 14.08. Only the Bald Eagle managed healthy numbers.

The closer we got to mid-September, the harder it became to accept counts in the double digits. Even September 16, usually the pinnacle with thousands of Broad-winged Hawks expected, produced a wimpy 414 Broad-wings on very light westerly winds. Fear that the bulk of the fall migration was moving east of us began to haunt us. Before the Broad-wings winked out entirely, Jeanne Cimorelli managed to grab a 668 count on the 26th. Our total of 3,306 was 50% below our 10-year-average of 6,646. Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks followed suit, with tepid counts of 70 and 183 respectively. Both species do best over our lookout on strong W and NW winds which didn't occur until mid-November. Matt Zeitler pulled in the best Shoulder count with eight on light NW winds, October 29. Red-tailed Hawks waited for stronger W and NW winds on November 13 and 14, producing a measly 19 each day.

Sharp-shinned Hawks have been on a steady decline since our record 2,440 in 1986. This fall, 647 were recorded, with October 18 netting the high of 59. See below for Matt Zeitler's Sharp-shinned photo taken from our lookout. Just four years ago, Cooper's Hawks set our all-time record of 176. This season 100 of them failed to show, leaving us with 76 at season's end. Their daily count never reached double digits, and their larger cousin, the Goshawk was a no show.

The last two years gave us hope that the American Kestrel was working on a comeback, but hopes were dashed this season with a mere 64 counted: 14 female, 14 male and 36 unknown. It's our second worst tally since 1961 when the lookout was manned for a paltry 12 days. We are not a falcon lookout, and the 11 Merlin and 8 Peregrine noted this season are more proof of that.

Ospreys seem to be in some sort of trouble with a low 60 noted. The last time we counted 60 Osprey was in 1966 when the lookout was manned for only 29 days. Bachelors student, Emmi Triplett from the College of Charleston, SC recently requested our data among others to determine if the increase in recent Bald Eagle numbers has had an effect on the Osprey decline in the Northeast. The charts below show



Osprey numbers declining just when Bald Eagle counts begin to climb at Mount Peter. The Osprey's 10-year average at our lookout has slowly declined from a high of 177 in 1991 to this season's 137. The question is why?

In the 1950's through the 1970's, spotting one migrant Bald Eagle was an event, and during 10 of those years, none were noted at all over Mount Peter. This season's count topped 100 for the fifth straight year, with 103 noted: 62 adult, 39 immature, and 2 unknown. That's something to celebrate. Our record stands at 177 scored just two years ago.



Golden Eagles came in a bit under our 10-year average of five, with two counted. Both came through in November. The 8th gave us a sub-adult on a moderate N wind, just over the trees, wings pulled in, as if it were going through a narrow tunnel. Strong NW winds brought another adult over the lookout on the 13th, along with an immature Bald, a convenient comparison. Tom Millard and Rick Hansen noted the Golden's smaller head, dark plumage and wingtips held in a slight dihedral.

The Northern Harrier barely showed up this fall with 16 scored: 9 immature, 2 female, 2 male and 3 unknown. We have to go back to 1964's 20-day watch to match that tally



Even the vultures ignored us this season. Both vulture tallies were below average, the Black at 26 and the Turkey with 393. It was just last season that a record 1,582 Turkey Vultures passed our lookout, including a phenomenal 851 in 45 minutes. This new Turkey Vulture phenomena occurred east of us this fall. On November 13, three miles west of our lookout, Tom Millard encountered 25 Black and 80 Turkey Vultures low over Warwick late in the afternoon. They were probably going to a roost but would never have been detected from Mount Peter. Local Ravens

have occupied our ridge since 1986, and since then we have detected some Raven migration in October and November but the 11 seen on September 16 is intriguing. Rick Hansen noted them all in one kettle, moving east. He also counted groups of 15 Ravens, October 28 and 8 on November 4 that were obviously heading south.

We had plenty of time to observe other migrants over our lookout this season, but even many of them produced low counts. Only 165 Monarchs turned up, down from 1,152 last fall. Fourteen Ruby-throated Hummingbirds was below average. One female hawked insects behind our platform September 13 and paused a moment to drink water from a tree leaf. A low 2,358 Canada Geese were noted, and 165 Brant went over in two undisciplined skeins on November 8.

Denise Farrell observed five Red-bellied Woodpeckers that seemed to be migrating, October 6, and the next day, Rick Hansen spotted seven more. According to Miller, Leonard, Brown and Conner (2020) in *Birds of the World*, some individual Red-bellied are migratory. They've been expanding "fairly rapidly" north, especially in the Northeast. However, the authors state, "The Red-bellied Woodpecker is among the most climate-sensitive species in the eastern U.S., with its distribution strongly limited by the average minimum temperature each winter." During the four hour wait for hawks that never showed, November 4, Denise counted 37 Black-capped Chickadees moving south.

Other birds of interest include a single Bobolink, September 12, Pine Siskin, October 23, and Evening Grosbeak, November 14. A single Common Loon passed the watch, October 31 and November 2 brought 34 Double-crested Cormorants.

This report was made possible by seven determined volunteers who put up with lackluster days and lonely vigils in the belief that something better was just around the bend. Big thanks go to Denise Farrell, Jeanne Cimorelli, Matt Zeitler, and Tom Millard for their help on Clean-Up Day, and to Tom for putting up and taking down our box. Visitors learned about the watch from colorful and up-dated posters created by Denise. We are grateful to the Fyke Nature Association for their continued sponsorship and to all the visitors who helped with the count and kept us sane.

Mount Peter always welcomes new leaders or anyone wanting to learn more about hawk watching. The charts featured in this report are from the new Raptor Population Index on hawkcount.org. The photo of this young Red-tailed Hawk is by Matt Zeitler. As always we remain the oldest continually run, all-volunteer watch in the country.



2022 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.	126	1,263	177	195	78	1,212	242	8	978	5,268	204	0	6	171	55	34	10,054	441
STATE LINE	113	3,508	473	351	92	1,466	450	0	559	9,886	694	0	3	571	62	80	18,334	474
MONTCLAIR	28	1,595	39	97	25	317	167	0	14	1,702	293	0	1	41	5	3	4,352	433
PURPLE CHICK	80	288	58	80	43	499	232	0	219	1,530	88	0	5	101	10	19	3,321	368
MOUNT PETER	26	393	60	103	16	647	76	0	70	3,306	183	0	2	64	11	8	4,972	353

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

SPECIES	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Black Vulture	4	104	232	107	84	96	79	136	109	77	26
Turkey Vulture	112	121	570	292	337	320	504	426	850	1,582	393
Osprey	191	126	111	114	98	111	134	123	121	122	60
Bald Eagle	130	119	79	70	95	85	112	163	177	140	103
N. Harrier	47	51	46	28	35	26	35	27	42	46	16
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1,826	1,026	1,119	1,017	1,104	841	1,469	693	1,048	871	647
Cooper's Hawk	165	64	122	74	94	121	176	82	85	114	76
N. Goshawk	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Red-shouldered Hawk	131	118	136	85	104	122	213	203	149	119	70
Broad-winged Hawk	6,073	7,611	5,685	11,256	5,894	6,874	5,071	7,360	3,865	6,769	3,306
Red-tailed Hawk	437	582	658	289	478	232	508	443	465	113	183
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Golden Eagle	3	5	10	5	3	4	6	9	1	4	2
American Kestrel	232	112	139	75	52	83	159	85	121	125	64
Merlin	23	14	23	24	15	18	15	8	20	8	11
Peregrine Falcon	20	15	12	11	13	26	23	14	13	11	8
Unidentified Eagle	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Unidentified Raptor	68	37	69	33	42	8	18	28	30	17	7
GRAND TOTAL	9,463	10,105	9,012	13,481	8,448	8,996	8,529	9,800	7,095	10,120	4,972
TOTAL HOURS	413	480	468	480	488	480	418	479	453	472	353
RAPTOR/HOUR	22.91	21.05	19.26	28.09	17.31	18.75	20.40	20.45	15.67	21.44	14.08

MOUNT PETER FALL HAWKS: 2012-2021 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.	103	511	137	117	43	1,101	110	1	138	6,646	421	0	5	118	17	17	9,808	463	20.53
Total 2022	26	393	60	103	16	647	76	0	70	3,306	183	0	2	64	11	8	4,972	353	14.08

Welcome New Members

John Crisostomo, Family membership, Allendale
Mark Friedburg, Family membership, Allendale
Colleen Hardcastle, Family membership, Oakland
Pamela Johnson, Allendale
Michael Keaveny, Family membership, Ho-ho-kus
Signe Myhren, Montvale
Nancy Sierra, Family membership, Mahwah



Fyke Board of Trustees:

President:	Mike Limatola
First Vice President:	Gabriele Schmitt
Second Vice President:	open
Treasurer:	Kurt Muenz
Recording Secretary:	open
Corresponding Secretary:	Mimi Brauch
Trustees:	Sue Dougherty Darlene Lembo Doug Morel

Chairpersons:

Celery Farm:	Stiles Thomas Mike Limatola Gabriele Schmitt Fred Weber Jim Wright
Conservation:	Gabriele Schmitt
Hawk Watch:	Judith Cinquina
Newsletter:	Carol Flanagan
Programs:	Monica Cardoza
Publicity:	Mike Lefebvre
Webmasters:	Kevin Watson Tom Mitchell

The Fyke Nature Association, a 501 (c) (3) organization, meets eight times a year. These are the meeting dates for 2022 and 2023. All are Fridays.

February 24, 2023
March 24, 2023
April 28, 2023
May 19, 2023

June – no meeting
July – no meeting
August – no meeting
September 22, 2023

October 27, 2023
November – no meeting
December 1, 2023

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 Summer 2023 issue is March 20, 2023. Send material to Box 141, Ramsey, NJ 07446, or via e-mail to carolflana@aol.com.

