



Fyke Nature Association

Winter Newsletter

Vol. 72 — No. 4 — 2025

www.fykenature.org

Dues Notice

Prompt Payment Appreciated

Annual dues are \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a family. You can pay online at www.fykenature.org, or by check to Fyke Nature Association mailed to Fyke Nature Association, Box 141, Ramsey, NJ 07446.

2026 Celery Farm Calendar Now Available

The 2026 Fyke Celery Farm Calendar is now available for purchase at the Lee Memorial Library, 500 W. Crescent Avenue, Allendale, NJ 07401. Your \$20 donation helps to support the Celery Farm maintenance work done by our volunteers.

Programs*

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

Friday, December 5, 2025 - Monthly Meeting, 8:00 PM, Allendale Community Center, 210 W. Crescent Ave., Allendale

A Social Get-Together Celebrating Fyke Members and Celery Farm Volunteers

Our social held last December was so successful we decided to hold it again. Join us as we come together to celebrate the dedication and passion of our incredible volunteers and members. During this in-person meeting, we'll enjoy light refreshments and conversation. Bring your questions, suggestions, nature-inspired poems, stories or art related to the preserve. It's a great opportunity to get to know one another. We look forward to seeing everyone, and celebrating the heart and soul of our preserve—you!

Friday, January 23, 2026 - Monthly Meeting, 8:00 PM via Zoom
Nomadic Birds and Their Stories with Rick Wright

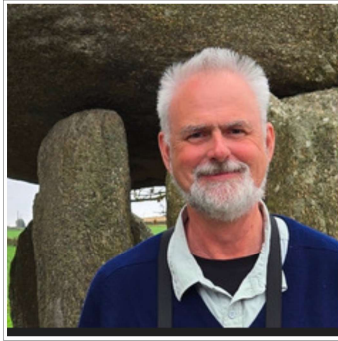
Many birds travel regularly between one place and another, migrating from site to predictable site, season by season. Others are less reliable in their movements; crossbills, nutcrackers, waxwings, and chickadees can appear at virtually any time of the year virtually anywhere, staging massive incursions into an area in one season and utterly absent the next. How have humans sought to explain these irregular invasions? Join Rick Wright to examine the sometimes startling and often humorous interpretations put forth over the ages.

A widely published writer and sought-after speaker, Rick leads Birds and Art tours worldwide for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, ventbird.com. His recent books include the Peterson Reference Guide to Sparrows of

* Information is accurate at the time of printing. Please check The Fyke Nature Association Home for any updates.

North America; the second edition of his American Birding Association Field Guide to Birds of New Jersey appeared this autumn. Rick lives in Bloomfield and in Carrboro, North Carolina, with his wife, Alison Beringer, and their jet-black lab, Quetzal.

Registration is required. A link to register will be available early January. It will be emailed to Fyke members and posted on the website under Programs. Presentations will be recorded and posted to the website soon afterward.



Rick Wright



Bohemian Waxwings

Friday, February 27, 2026 - Monthly Meeting 8:00 PM via Zoom
A Fascination with Finches with Matt Young

From backyards to wilderness peaks, finches are some of the most exciting, mysterious, and popular group of songbirds. In this information-packed presentation, finch expert Matthew Young will introduce you to the 43 finches of the United States and Canada from feeder-favorite goldfinches to Red Crossbill tribes, to poorly known mountain-top Black Rosy-Finches to endangered Hawaiian honeycreepers.

Matt co-authored with Judy Stokes *The Stokes Guide to Finches of the United States and Canada*, which covers detailed finch identification, language, behavior, irruptions, specialized maps and foraging charts on crossbills, conservation, and much more.

Registration is required. A link to register will be available early February. It will be emailed to Fyke members and posted on the website under Programs. Presentations will be recorded and posted to the website soon afterward.



Matt Young



The Stokes Guide to Finches



Events & Field Trips

Mt. Peter Hawk Watch 2025- *September 2 - November 15, 2025, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM*

The volunteer hawk watchers at Mt Peter will be conducting migratory raptor counts for the 68th season this year as the oldest all volunteer hawk watch in the country. The watch will start on Monday Sept. 1 and run through Saturday Nov. 15. Our small group of dedicated volunteers will be covering the majority of days during that period but we welcome any additional help. Anyone with hawk watching experience that would like to help out would be greatly appreciated. Beginners are also welcome and our more experienced counters are always willing to work with new comers. The watch is located [above the Creamery at the top of 17A between Greenwood Lake and Warwick, NY.](#)

If you are interested please contact Ken Witkowski by email at: kenwitkowski@yahoo.com.



State Line Hawk Watch 2025- *September 2 - November 15, 2025, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM*

State Line Hawk Watch is located in the Palisades Interstate Park in New Jersey. Our observation point is 527 feet above the Hudson River in Alpine, NJ, the highest point on the Palisades in New Jersey. We are wheelchair accessible, and there are restrooms and a refreshment stand on site. We operate each day throughout the period, weather and volunteer availability permitting. Public education is the primary focus of this hawk watch, and all are welcome.

Directions: [Google Map](#). From Palisades Interstate Parkway northbound, State Line Lookout is an unnumbered but well-marked exit two miles north of Exit 2. From Parkway southbound, take the well-marked median U-turn at Exit 3, then use caution as you merge onto the northbound Parkway, as you will have to move immediately to the right lane to exit for State Line exit.



Tally board and beautiful fall vista by Gabriele Schmitt

Christmas Bird Count- *Saturday, December 20, 2025*

Compilers Rob and Lisa Fanning

The 2025 Ramsey Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will be held on Saturday, December 20, 2025. Eight separate will continue the long-held tradition of counting (instead of shooting) each individual bird, from dawn till dusk, for the sake of bird conservation and citizen science. More information to come later.

Eagle Festival- *Sunday, January 11, 2026, 10:00 AM -2:00 PM*

Meadowland Environmental Center, 2 DeKorte Park Plaza, Lyndhurst, N.J.

Celebrate all things eagles with eagle walks and talks, information on eagles, and more. Learn about the incredible comeback of these remarkable birds. Join this free special event!

Hour on the Tower- *Every Sunday 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM at the Celery Farm*



Usually on the Pirie-Mayhood Tower platform.

Everyone is invited to join with the group of regulars who keep a list of every species of bird they can identify over the course of one hour. It's a good way to improve your birding skills and catch up on Celery Farm news. The location may shift between the Pirie-Mayhood Tower platform on the east side of Lake Appert and the Warden's Watch platform near the Franklin Turnpike parking area. [Contact Gaby Schmitt](#) to find out where to meet up.

Self-Directed Exploration Open to Fyke Members- North Harpersfield Property

George Rand and Pamela Ryder invite Fyke members to visit 135 acres of forest, field, stream, and pond in upstate NY. Please see the website to download and print [essential information](#) you must read before your visit, including directions, contact numbers, release and waiver document, lodging, and area attractions, as well as a [map of the property](#).



The Celery Stalkers' Big Sit 2025

By Jim Wright

It seemed like a good idea at the time.

The Fyke Nature Association had participated in an annual international event called the Big Sit for 30 years in a row. Why let the Celery Stalkers illustrious streak come to an end?

I volunteered to drum up a 2025 team, and enough Fykers signed up to bird-watch for the better part of the day on Sunday, Oct. 12.

* Information is accurate at the time of printing. Please check [The Fyke Nature Association Home](#) for any updates.

The rules were simple: Count the number of species your team sees from one small area in that one day, and then send your total by email to thebigist.org.

We had no illusion that we could compete with the previous year's winners, the Cape May Hawk Watch, which had tallied an impressive 136 species. They birded for 24 hours straight. (Coffee, anyone?)

Maybe we wouldn't be competitive with some of the teams in other countries either, but we figured we'd see our fair share of birds from the Pirie Platform, located on the east side of the Celery Farm's Lake Appert.

The event was strictly B.Y.O.B.-- bring your own binoculars – and the participants who did the best brought their own spotting scope.

Long story short, our Big Sit was on Oct. 12, the day that a big Nor'easter moved up the coast, with winds and overcast skies that put a bit of a kibosh on avian activity. We started at 6:30 a.m. and lasted until a bit after 4 p.m., when the weather got so wet and windy that our man of the hour (or our man of more than two hours) Ivan Kossak agreed it was time to throw in the towel – after wiping away the rainwater with it.

Here are the team members who combined to count 46 species of birds in 9 hours and 45 minutes: Carl Krag, Jim Wright, Doug Morel, Nick Sweatlock, Tom Jaeger, Sheila Keane, Alana Krag and Ivan Kossak (Note: None of our Big Sitters actually sat – the bench was too wet.)

And here's what we saw:

Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Mallard, American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Mourning Dove.

Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs, Greater Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron.

Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Great Horned Owl.

Belted Kingfisher Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker Pileated Woodpecker Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven.

Black-capped Chickadee, Carolina Wren, European Starling, Gray Catbird, American Robin, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, Common Yellowthroat, Palm Warbler, Northern Cardinal.

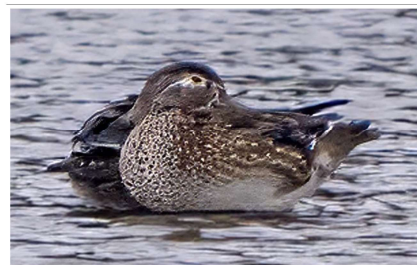
Highlights included lots of looks at Bald Eagles and other beautiful raptors.

Part of this article was adapted from Jim's Bird Watcher column in The Record.

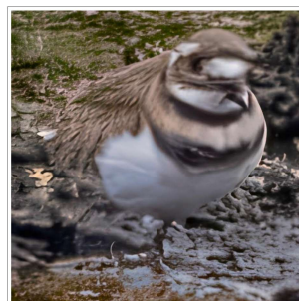
Photos:

Female Wood Duck on Lake Appert seen on the Big Sit,

Credit: Tom Jaeger Photographer Copyright 2025



*Killdeer on the shore of Lake Appert seen on the Big Sit,
Credit: Tom Jaeger Photographer Copyright 2025*



*A soggy Ivan Kossak wrapped up the Big Sit for
the Celery Stalker team. Credit: Jim Wright*

Sidebar: THE YEAR THE CELERY STALKERS WENT INTERNATIONAL

Fyke's best showing in the Big Sit came in 2004, when eight Celery Stalkers participated in a Big Sit in northern England. Not to brag, but our team (which included eight Yanks and a few Brits) had quite a showing: an incredible 85 species in 12 hours from a picturesque spot overlooking the North Sea.

Before you get too impressed, I should mention that I use the term "we" loosely. Fyke's Stiles Thomas had recruited the top local birders, and they knew the birds and terrain so well that they spotted all 85 species long before any of us Yanks did.

Many months later, when the results were announced, we learned our team came in fourth out of 122 teams worldwide. Somehow, it felt like riding the bench while your team won the World Series.

– Jim Wright

Part of this article appeared in Jim's Bird Watcher column in The Record.

***Drawing: Several Celery Stalkers competed in the
2004 Big Sit while visiting Northern England.
Credit: Illustration by Chris Archer.***



In Allendale, raptors are part of the town's fabric

By Jim Wright

Reprinted from The Record, Sept. 25, 2025

Earlier this year, Allendale's borough council made an unusual proclamation: The red-shouldered hawk is now the town's official honorary bird.

These charismatic raptors are considered endangered when nesting in New Jersey, and Allendale is one of the few known places where they've bred successfully for more than two decades.

These smaller cousins of the widespread red-tailed hawk traditionally nest in large expanses of forested wetlands, but in Allendale and sometimes in nearby Ramsey, they've gravitated toward neighborhoods when they're not hunting in the Celery Farm. Along the way, they've developed quite a following.

At a time when U.S. bird populations are declining overall, I thought it would be cool for the mayor and council to proclaim the red-shoulder to be the town's official bird. They agreed.

A confession: I stole the idea from Hoboken, 25 miles away as the red-shoulder flies. A year ago, the city named the common tern the city's honorary bird. The mile-square city (pop. 57,000) has celebrated the fact that these terns – almost once extinct – have nested since 2013 on an old pier.

In Allendale, my goal was to remind my fellow residents that these raptors are part of our town's fabric – and reason to cheer.

I've monitored these hawks in Allendale for the state's endangered species program for more than a decade. It's typically an uneventful job, although one year I had to call the Raptor Trust, the regional raptor rehab center, when a young red-shoulder fell from the nest. Fyke member Gaby Schmitt brought it to the Trust, where it was nursed back to health and released.

This spring, the resident hosting the red-shoulder nest reported the male was constantly attacking his reflection in the picture window and sliding doors. The solution: A grade-school class was having a party in a local park, and I noticed the celebration included shiny Mylar streamers. The teachers were nice enough to donate the decorations when they were done. The homeowner temporarily draped the streamers over the window and glass doors. Problem solved.

Word is that Weehawkin hopes to make the yellow-crowned night heron its official bird. How about your town? Does it have a "signature" bird that's worth celebrating – or championing? At a time when the gulf between humans and the natural world sometimes seems enormous, raising awareness can help.

The Bird Watcher column appears every other Thursday.

Here's the resolution:

HONORING THE RED-SHOULDERED HAWK AS THE BOROUGH'S OFFICIAL "HONORARY BIRD"

WHEREAS, the Borough of Allendale values its natural environment including the Celery Farm Nature Preserve and recognizes the importance of native wildlife in enhancing ecological education, and conservation awareness; and

WHEREAS, the Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) is one of the most beautiful and striking hawks known for its distinctive reddish coloring and soaring flight.

WHEREAS the Red-shouldered Hawk is an ecologically important bird of prey native to New Jersey, play a vital role in local ecosystems and are considered endangered when nesting.

WHEREAS, this majestic raptor is a regular presence at the Celery Farm, Allendale's treasured nature preserve, where it can often be seen nesting, hunting, and calling from the treetops where they can be heard all over town, captivating both seasoned birders and casual visitors. The Red-shouldered hawk lives in Allendale year-round and have successfully nested in many locations in town for more than two decades, including this year.

WHEREAS, recognizing the Red-shouldered Hawk as Allendale's "Official Honorary Bird" would raise public awareness about the importance of wildlife habitat preservation and reinforce the Borough's commitment to environmental stewardship,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I Amy Wilczynski, Mayor of Allendale as well as the Council of the Borough of Allendale, hereby designate The Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) as the Honorary Bird of the Borough of Allendale, in recognition of its ecological significance, symbolic beauty, and consistent presence at the Celery Farm Nature Preserve.

Photos: Red-shoulder hawk; Stiles Thomas and red-shoulder hawk (shown at the borough council meeting), and Mylar streamers that stopped the red-shoulder hawk from flying into a picture window

Credit: Jim Wright



Field and Feeder Notes

By Judith Cinquina

The Willet, once its passions are engaged, displays a fine high-stepping strut, and it also lifts its brilliant wing in amorous display...In spite of less flashy equipment...the Buff-breasted Sandpiper lifts a single wing, or sometimes two, at which point it turns about as if giddy with pride in its silver wing lining...Often it performs for the edification of other males, and even other species, rather than for its females, which customarily pay no attention to it whatsoever...

George Mackay, whose game lists include owls and vultures, could not bring himself to shoot this confiding bird on the one occasion that it presented itself among his decoys, but Western sportsmen were unmoved; in the hunting years, the Buff-breasted was decimated or worse. Even after all its mates had been shot down it would call out hopefully to the decoys, much preferring wooden company to none at all.

Peter Matthiessen, The Wind Birds, The Viking Press, pp 91 & 135, 1967

On August 30, John Coyle discovered a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, not on grassy turf or on an abandoned farm field full of short weedy patches where they're more expected, but in a drainage ditch in front of a behemoth warehouse construction site along Valley Brook Ave. in the Hackensack Meadowlands. The Buff-breasted was sharing the dirt trench with a variety of sandpipers, including tiny Leasts, half its size. Its unmarked buffy face and big black eyes gave it a wide-eyed, innocent look. Daniel Carola saw the Buff-breasted on the 31st and noted its "dove-like" head and sharp black bill. It even walks, bobbing its head like a



dove as it picks up insects, spiders, worms, larvae and sometimes seeds. Fledged at the northern most edge of the arctic, it may have had little contact with humans, and old timers commented about its tame, trusting behavior. This behavior may have contributed to its near decimation by commercial hunting along with habitat loss in the late 1800's. They have yet to recover.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper by John Coyle

The Buff-breasted Sandpiper has an interesting breeding behavior. According to Paul Johnsgard, *The Plovers, Sandpipers, and Snipes of the World*, 1981, it is the only North American shorebird that displays, like some grouse, in a lek; the males jumping up and down on their semi-long yellow legs and flashing their silvery white wing linings. The females visit a lek to find a mate and then raise the young on their own elsewhere. John Coyle noted the Buffy's "scaly looking back pattern," a pattern worn by immature Buffy's on their first migration. Young ones are the only Buffy's we see here in NJ, as they head south under our Atlantic flyway. Adults leave the tundra earlier than their young and head toward Argentina through the middle of the country. Like most fledgling sandpipers, the young Buff-breasted is left to find its way south on its own. It's exceedingly rare for us to see adult Buffy's in the fall or at any season here in NJ.

"One of the best tests of a field ornithologist's ability is the number of Philadelphia Vireos he (or she)

identifies in migration.” Richard Pough wrote that in 1946. Because it resembles a Warbling and sings like a Red-eyed, Philadelphia Vireos are often overlooked. But Fyke has some sharp birders among its members. Both Loren Anderson and Doug Morel discovered Philly Vireos at Halifax in Mahwah this fall on September 12th and 16th respectively. And on the 24th, Julie McCall found another at the Celery Farm (CF). She spotted it in a mixed flock with Red-eyed and Blue-headed vireos and Yellow-rumped Warblers. What is most interesting is that in the fall of 2023, Philly Vireos were seen on almost the exact same dates at both locations: September 17th for Halifax and the 22nd for the CF. If you want to add one to your year or life lists next fall, keep those dates in mind.



Philadelphia Vireo by Loren Anderson

Equally difficult to find are fall Mourning and Connecticut warblers. Both breed and hunt at ground level and skulk in thickets, and rarely pop out into full view, and can easily be mistaken for a Common Yellowthroat female, if not seen well. Both have gray hoods, olive-gray backs and yellow bellies and undertail coverts. They both breed north of us into Canada. John Coyle spotted a Mourning Warbler at DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst, September 20 and found it “extremely skittish.” He saw the bird briefly, then lost it and was unable to locate it again. That’s par for the course for that species. When they come through in the spring, they might sing for 15 minutes straight, but it’s invariably from inside a dense thicket, never to step out and take a bow.

The Connecticut Warbler is even more challenging. It walks on the ground like an Ovenbird concealed under grasses and thickets, hunting insects, spiders and snails and may occasionally sit quietly. It’s easy to overlook and has become the curse of new and experienced birders alike. Large for a warbler, it is distinctively marked with a white eyering and yellow undertail coverts that reach almost to the end of its tail. But the only chance to find one in NJ is in the fall when they follow the Atlantic coastline south towards Argentina and Brazil. In the spring they come north through the Mississippi Valley. In almost a half century of birding, I’ve known a mere handful of birders who have stared at the entire bird perched at eye level. Loren Anderson just became one of those. She found a Connecticut Warbler at Halifax in Mahwah, September 30. Her reaction was “Holy \$#!%, I think that’s a Connecticut!”; She returned early the next



morning and not only saw the Connecticut again but also other highlights including a Wilson’s Warbler, Philadelphia Vireo, Lincoln’s Sparrow, and a Green Heron eating a green frog. And that was all in one hour! Let not her photo of this elusive bird fool you. She was extremely lucky. Many birders with telephoto lenses either dipped or saw Loren’s CT Warbler briefly at Halifax, but not one posted a photo.

Connecticut Warbler by Loren Anderson

Both Louisiana and Northern waterthrushes begin to head south as far as Peru in mid-July and their numbers peak in early August, but eBird records reveal that some are now lingering into September. Loren had a late Louisiana at Halifax, September 4, along the Ramapo River. By October the Louisiana is gone from the CF and Halifax, but the Northern Waterthrush may linger into October at both sites, something to remember if you spot a late waterthrush in the Fyke area after September. Both feed on aquatic and terrestrial

insects, mollusks, crustaceans and sometimes small fish, and hunt rather like sandpipers, flipping dead leaves and bobbing their tail ends incessantly along streams and ponds. Also “late” was the Little Blue Heron that Daniel Corola spotted on Valley Brook Ave. in the Meadowlands, September 6. It was white youngster, and Daniel noted its greenish legs and bi-colored bill. Its peak fall migration occurs mid-August. Last fall one lingered at DeKorte into early October. The American Pipit seen by Brian Kenney at Crestwood Lake, October 12, was right on time. These alpine and arctic tundra breeders head south from late September into November.

I always hope that some Fyke member somewhere will come up with a wheeling flock of 100 Common Nighthawks in August, but I fear those days are over. Most observers were lucky to spot one this fall, and Stephanie Seymour’s count of two over her Ringwood yard, September 15 was nothing to celebrate. Their population is in a steep decline, due in part to the loss of their preferred breeding sites, flat, pebbled roof tops in cities like Paterson, Hackensack and Newark. C. Nighthawks don’t build nests, and cities don’t supply flat roofs anymore. Julie McCall observed an early Winter Wren at the CF, September 20. She described it as brown and compact, “with a very short and stubby upright tail.” It hopped around the brook and under the brush and on a log, performing occasional push-ups as it gave its two-syllable, kip-kip call. Another Winter Wren investigated my bird bath here in Upper Saddle River, October 9. Julie found a Sora Rail at the CF, September 21. The majority of CF Sora sightings occur at the very end of August and into September. A Brown Thrasher hunted the CF for a few days in late September, according to Neil MacLennan. He spotted it along Parnell’s Path. Perhaps it was one of the family of three that Tom and Sharon Mitchell found there last June.

Julie McCall had an outstanding day at the CF in August. “My Bird of the Day note for August 29th was ‘PEFA causing chaos’”, Julie wrote. PEFA is code for Peregrine Falcon, and Julie was standing at the CF on the Warden’s Watch with a Great Blue Heron roosting in a nearby tree and sandpipers, a “lot” of them, on the mudflats, and an Osprey enjoying a fish breakfast on the mud when the Great Blue spotted the PEFA and began squawking and took flight. The CF’s entire avian population erupted in panic and took to the sky as the Peregrine zoomed through. (This is a typical PEFA hunting strategy, flushing prey to ascertain the weakest, most vulnerable prey before returning for the kill.) The Osprey took off with its fish and headed for a perch. Julie continued, “I think I am forgetting some details of the chaos...other birds ...contributed to the racket, there was so much going on.” The Peregrine did a U-turn, made a pass at the Osprey, may or may not have stolen half of the Osprey’s breakfast and flew on. Bob Kane arrived and snapped a photo as the Osprey took off again with its headless fish. Julie called this, “Just another summer morning.”



Osprey with Fish by Bob Kane

It’s time to clean your feeders and prepare for winter birds. Sparrows like Tree, White-throated, Fox and Junco are just now arriving and Gold and Purple finches will be looking for handouts. Please share what you find at your feeders or in the field with all of us at fykenature@groups.io where many of the reports for this column originated, or send your observations to me at judycinq@optonline.net. The more details you share, the more we all learn about our birds.

Website Notes Winter 2025

By Tom Mitchell

Visitor Log Factoids

Over the past 12 months the Fyke website has seen more than 11 thousand visitors. About 64% were using smartphones. The dramatic increase in our active volunteers is reflected in the interest in the [Volunteer Opportunities](#) page, which has been viewed 1,700 times.

Photography Mini-Galleries

The photographs of several Fyke Members are now featured at the top of website pages in a kind of mini-gallery. Leslie Young's photos are on the [Home](#) page, Bob Kane's are on the [Newsletters](#) page, Lynn McKenzie's are on the [Programs](#) page, and Nancy Motto's are on the [Celery Farm Photos](#) page. In addition the [Events](#) page has photos showing people participating in past events that I have documented and the [About](#) page has some Celery Farm photos of mine.

Only one photo is displayed at the top of the page, which is selected randomly, but you can view the entire set of photos using the little white chevron arrows shown on the left and right side of the photos. You can also view the image full screen by clicking on the center of the photo.

The [Celery Farm](#) page features the photos of Kevin Watson with one photo shown for each month that automatically changes each month. You can also advance through his photos using the chevron arrows.

Volunteer Information

A [Volunteer Videos](#) page has been added that features short interviews with eight of the Celery Farm habitat restoration volunteers, some who have been doing it for years and others who have more recently become very active. The videos are a way to introduce these people to anyone who loves the Celery Farm and anyone who may be considering volunteering. Besides the wonderful improvements as a result of all the work they have done, there is a joyful happiness in the community that has come together that comes through in the videos.

A [Legacy Meadow Replanting](#) page was added with information about the Fall Planting in the Green Way Meadow. It also has one of the photo mini-galleries. There were over 3,000 seedling "plugs" planted by 58 volunteers who contributed 640 hours of their labor.

Siân Roberts has graciously taken over the work of tracking the volunteer participation, which is no small task. A total of 133 people have put in volunteer hours over the past 12 months, amassing a grand total of 3,498 hours. If you check the [Volunteer Activity Calendar](#) you will find that almost half the dates have records entered.

Historical Treasures

Carol Flanagan, who is dearly missed by everyone who knew her, left behind a treasure trove of Fyke historical information. A Celery Farm map done in 1993 shows the location of the horse barn and the Bajor

Farm buildings. Fox Run doesn't yet exist. There are also names shown for some locations that were dropped from the current map. Interested? Check out the [1993 Celery Farm Map](#).

Thanks to Carol's collection of Fyke Celery Farm calendars, the complete set of calendar photos has been uploaded for [2013](#), [2013](#), and [2016](#). Among those images you can see a Great Horned Owl fledgling and a pair of Red Fox kits.

Carol herself was a treasure. The [Volunteer Recognition](#) page now links her name to a page [Remembering Carol Flanagan](#) that has a few things she wrote for the Newsletter that were found in her archives. It seems likely that she also wrote the Fyke Song that was part of the dinner program at [Fyke's 50th Anniversary Celebration](#) in 2002 which she kept.

Bird Observations

Thanks to a dedicated handful of people who participate regularly throughout the year in the [Celery Farm First-of-Year Bird Checklist](#) we have data covering the last three years that allows for comparisons year-to-year. There are 225 species on the list, but not all are seen and which ones are not seen varies somewhat from year-to-year. Besides the [Celery Farm Report](#) that lists individual counts and the overall YTD total, you can check out the [Unseen Birds List](#) report. It showed 66 unseen as of mid-October, as compared to 59 in all of last year and 64 the year before.

Security

Unfortunately, there are bad actors out there with nothing better to do than attempt to break things, including our website. Our security measures have been adequate so far to handle the mischief-makers and everything is regularly backed up, but out of an abundance of caution, a very strict Content Security Policy has been implemented that will harden our defenses. An option for something called 2 Factor Authentication has also been added for any internal pages that require a login.

Welcome New Members:



Gosia Kosiorowska, Ramsey (family)
Joseph Larsen, Allendale (family)
Matt Flessig, Saddle River
Gail Williams, Wyckoff (family)

Board of Trustees:

President: Mike Limatola
First Vice President: Mike Lefebvre
Second Vice President: Sue Dougherty
Treasurer: Ivan Kossak
Recording Secretary: Gloria Antaramian
Corresponding Secretary: Mimi Brauch
Trustees: Darlene Lembo
Doug Morel
Jim Wright

Chairpersons:

Celery Farm: Mike Limatola
Gabriele Schmitt
Jim Wright
Conservation: Mike Lefebvre
Programs: Monica Cardoza
Newsletter: Crista Trippodi Murphy
Publicity: Mike Lefebvre
Website Content: Tom Mitchell
Hawk Watch: Ken Witkowski

The Fyke Nature Association, a 501 (c) (3) organization, meets eight times a year. These are the meeting dates for 2026. All meetings are on Fridays.

January 23, 2026
February 27, 2026
March 27, 2026
April 24, 2026
May 15, 2026
June – no meeting

July – no meeting
August – no meeting
September 25, 2026
October 23, 2026
November – no meeting
December 4, 2026

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 Fyke Nature Association 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 are gratefully appreciated!

The deadline for the Spring 2025 issue is January 16, 2026. Please send material via e-mail

