



# Central Westchester Audubon Society *News*

Central Westchester Audubon Society, a Chapter of National Audubon Society serves  
Elmsford, Greenburgh, Harrison, Purchase, Rye, Rye Brook, Purchase and White Plains

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Vol.XXXIV, NO.1

September - December 2010

## Fall Programs

### To Eat and Be Eaten - Life and Death on the Plains of the Serengeti Speaker: Mickey Maxwell Cohen

Thursday, October 21, 2010  
Refreshments - 7:00 PM  
Program - 7:30 PM  
Church Street School, Room 132  
295 Church St., White Plains, NY



Join Mickey Maxwell Cohen, well known naturalist, educator and East Africa tour guide as he takes us on a slide-illustrated tour of the plains and savannahs of Tanzania where he will uncover the intricacies of the complex food web of one of the most exciting ecosystems on Earth. Program co-sponsored by Bronx River/Sound Shore Audubon.

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### Live Raptors with Master Falconer Jim Eyring



Thursday, November 18, 7:00 PM  
Church Street School Gymnasium  
295 Church St., White Plains, NY

Jim Eyring, Assistant Director of the Pace University Environmental Center in Pleasantville and master falconer, returns to thrill us with his presentation of live owls, hawks, and falcons in a free-flying demonstration.. Jim's enthusiasm and story-telling skills will capture the attention of children and adults alike. So come, bring the kids and enjoy!

**CENTRAL WESTCHESTER AUDUBON SOCIETY**

**P.O. BOX 359, WHITE PLAINS, NY 10602**

**[www.centralwestchesteraudubon.org](http://www.centralwestchesteraudubon.org)**

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**Field Trips**

Please call Doug Bloom for information on trips at (914) 713-0630 Tuesday through Saturday between 10 and 6, or evenings from about 6:30-10 PM. Beginners are always welcome All trips are with Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon.

**October 3 - Hawk Watch- Lenoir Preserve**

Meet at Lenoir at 9:30 AM. Migrating hawks and other raptors.

**October 24 - Jones Beach/ Hudson River Audubon**

Meet at 9 AM at Coast Guard Station west end. Late fall migrants

**November 14 - Jamaica Bay Refuge**

Meet in parking lot at Jamaica Bay at 9 AM. Waterfowl and other late migrants.

**December 26 - Annual Christmas Bird Count**

All day or part of day.

**January 9, 2011 - Montauk All Day Trip**

Meet at 6:15 AM at Scarsdale Village Hall. Wintering ducks and alcids.

Directions to the Church Street School: I-287 to Exit 6, North Broadway. Going west-bound (toward Tarrytown)turn left at end of ramp and turn left (south) on North Broadway. Going east-bound turn right (south) onto North Broadway. take the first right turn onto Westview Ave. Westview has a sharp left turn onto Church St. The entrance to the school parking lot is on the right.

**Important Notice**

**Room 20 at the Church Street School is no longer available for program meetings. Future meetings will be scheduled at various locations. Please check the newsletter or website for location of each program meeting.**



To check whether a program is cancelled due to inclement weather, call 914-946-1780.

## 2010 Birdathon Report

“O, what a beautiful morning. O, what a beautiful day.” That refrain from “Oklahoma” kept running through my head on Birdathon day as I watched the sun come up while having an early breakfast - a good omen for a great day of birding.

As has been his custom, Clarence Holmes, trip leader, did the early morning, 5:30am run at Read, and gave us a really good start on our list, with many species that we would not see in either Forest Park or Jamaica Bay. Clarence met the rest of the team - Jeanne and Frank Alpert, Barbara and Joe Ferrari, Susan Fried, and Will and Catharine Raffaele - in White Plains. We left as a group about 7:15am and arrived at Forest Park about 8am. As usual, we planned to stop on the sidewalk and look up quickly to see if we could tally a few bird species before entering the park. Well, to our delight and surprise the trees were alive with bird activity. Beautiful Blackburnian warblers were flitting back and forth high up in branches of the tulip trees, their fiery orange throats a nice echo of the orange in the tulip tree flowers. The Redstarts, both male and female were similarly cavorting through the branches, showing off their colorful orange and yellow patches. And above the cacophony of the traffic whizzing by, Baltimore Orioles could be heard singing their sweet, musical songs. After spending nearly an hour spotting birds high up in the trees, we made our way to the water hole in the park, the short walk affording a brief respite for our aching “warbler necks.”

At the water hole we had fabulous looks at Magnolia warblers which were abundant. Among several other warbler species was a Northern Waterthrush skulking in and out of brush and singing sweetly while hiding from view. A shy performer, he must follow the principle: “it is better to be heard than seen.” With the hour getting late and Jamaica Bay still to be birded, we decided to exit the park expeditiously, making just a few stops where bird activity dictated. Along the way, we had nice looks at a Swainson’s Thrush and a Scarlet Tanager. When we got to the railroad bridge and started on our way to our cars, Susan questioned, “Aren’t we going to look near the RR track?” It’s a good thing we followed her advice, because there in full view on a large tree stump was a striking Canada warbler, all dressed up in his black jet necklace. Thank you, Susan, for keeping us focused.

We were a hungry bunch when we arrived at Jamaica Bay for lunch. We found a picnic table under a ramada and dove into our sandwiches with gusto, happily supplementing our lunches with Barbara’s delicious “Scrumptious Bars.” Barbara has been baking for the Birdathon for many years now, so thanks to her for providing the delicious sweets which helped fuel us for the second part of the day.

Birding the west pond, we noticed, as we have in the past several years, a reduction in both shore bird and duck species. We did, however, have some good sightings, among which were Black-bellied Plovers, Red Knots, and Black and Yellow-crowned Night Herons. As usual, the Osprey nest was occupied with young, with the adults gracefully circling in the air above. A few of us walked down a short side trail to a spit of land that is usually populated by several species of gulls. The dominant species there yesterday was the Laughing Gull, and we were treated to the sight of a pair of them displaying by extending their necks up and down and by clicking bills together (a kiss?).

By the time we reached the end of the west pond, we were a fairly tired crew, but we pushed onward through the garden in our search for additional species to add to the list. We added a few – an Eastern Wood Pewee among them – while being serenaded by the ubiquitous Yellow warblers. It was nearly 5pm when we sat down to tally the day’s sightings. We totaled 96 species which included 17 species of warblers – a respectable result of our long day of birding. The best part of the Birdathon, I think, is the pleasure of being with friends who share the excitement and enjoyment of birding, all for a good cause - the CWAS Scholarship Fund. We thank all the participants for making this a great day of birding, and our sponsors for your financial support. Your generosity will help make some young scholarship recipients very happy campers.

Jeanne Alpert

## From the Audubon Newswire: David Yarnold Named Audubon President & CEO

The National Audubon Society announced that David Yarnold has been named President and Chief Executive Officer effective September 1, 2010. A passionate conservationist, Yarnold served as Executive Director of Environmental Defense Fund and was a Pulitzer Prize-winning editor at the *San Jose Mercury News*.

According to the August 12 issue of *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, "Mr. Yarnold's first act, after settling for a week or so into his new office, will be to buy a new pair of 'bins'-bird-watcher speak for binoculars." He will have a chance to see many birds and Important Bird Areas with Audubon experts across the country as Yarnold visits state offices, chapters, and Audubon initiatives from New Orleans to Mexico.

"Audubon's mission has never been more relevant. From the grassroots to state houses to national and regional policy, its wingspan is unparalleled," Yarnold said. "I'm excited by the opportunity to work with a nationwide network of Audubon Chapters and Audubon Centers that combine local concern, knowledge and action to equal conservation that makes a difference on a grand scale. It will be an honor to lead an organization whose name has meant 'trust' and 'conservation achievement' for more than a hundred years."

"David brings proven leadership in the for-profit and non-profit sectors to Audubon at a time when efforts to protect birds, habitats and the resources that sustain us are needed more than ever;" said Holt Thrasher, Audubon's Board Chair. "We all owe a debt of gratitude to Frank Gill for his outstanding leadership during this transition."

Here are excerpts from David Yarnold's message to introduce himself to the Audubon membership: "...I have a lot learn about birds and I'd like to ask your help; set me on a birding path worthy of Audubon. After an initial week in New York in September, I want to go birding with you. I'm going to spend most of that month - my first real month on the job, learning in the field. I can't think of a better way to tap into your passion and to get to know your issues and your thinking.

"While I'm a budding birder, I've run an environmental NGO for almost 5 1/2 years and I'm a life-long outdoorsman. I know that, like the people at EDF, Audubon's staff and its volunteers are there to help the planet thrive.

"...I'm thrilled to represent an organization that believes that by focusing on birds and IBA's, we get clear view of the health of nature's ecosystems - the systems that benefit humankind and birds alike. "

### *Audubon Issues and Action Alerts*

New York State Audubon members actively campaigned for the Child Safe Playing Fields Act, a measure that eliminates the use of pesticides on school grounds. After Governor Patterson signed this measure into law on May 18, 2010, Albert E. Caccese, Executive Director of Audubon New York, commented: "By eliminating the use of these chemicals at schools, we are now making these places safe and inviting for birds, other wildlife and children." The passage of this bill is one example of the power of citizen action.

The National Audubon Action Network sends email alerts on conservation issues with links to respond with comments. A current issue is the threat of expanded oil and gas development in the Arctic Ocean with risk of a major oil spill in this ecosystem. "The Beaufort and Chukchi seas provide critical habitat for America's entire threatened polar bear population, endangered bowhead whales, threatened Spectacled and Steller's Eiders, Pacific walrus, and ribbon seals. They are breeding grounds for millions of birds and important feeding grounds for deep-diving sea birds. These seas are also a main artery for bowhead and beluga whale migrations." National Audubon urges us to make our voice heard on this issue.

To receive national alerts log on to [audubon.org](http://audubon.org). Click "**Issues and Actions**" and then "**Take Action Now**". Follow the prompts to **sign up**. Go to [nyAudubon.org/IssuesAction\\_AAN.html](http://nyAudubon.org/IssuesAction_AAN.html) for coverage of New York State issues


# Central Westchester Audubon Society

## Fall Bird Seed Sale

Your Name: *(Print clearly)* \_\_\_\_\_ email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Seed	Size	Price	Number of Bags	Total Price
	<b>Black-Oil Sunflower Seed</b> All around favorite for chickadees, cardinals, titmice, others ...	20 Lbs.	\$19.50	
	40 Lbs.	\$37.00		
<b>Hulled Sunflower Seed</b> Black-Oil Sunflower seeds with all shells removed. Less Mess. No clean-up of empty shells. Seeds will not sprout	5 Lbs.	\$11.00		
	15 Lbs.	\$29.00		
	50 Lbs.	\$90.00		
<b>Safflower Seed</b> Squirrels don't like this seed! Cardinals and others do	5 lbs.	\$8.00		
	16 Lbs.	\$24.00		
	20 Lbs.	\$23.00		
<b>Millet</b> <i>Attracts ground feeders such as Juncos, White-throats</i>				
<b>Birdwise Blend</b> Sunflower Seed (60%), No  Millet	15 Lbs.	\$20.00		
<b>Patio Mix</b>	5 Lbs.	\$14.00		
	15 Lbs.	\$35.00		
<i>Attracts Goldfinch, House Finch and Pine Siskins</i>	5 Lbs.	\$13.00		
	16 Lbs.	\$36.00		
	5 Lbs.	\$13.00		
	16 Lbs.	\$43.00		
<b>Feederwise</b> Good basic blend with no Millet	13 Lbs.	\$24.00		
<b>Orange Suet Cakes.</b> Attracts greatest variety of birds	12 cakes	\$30.00		
<b>Peanut Suet Cakes.</b> Birds love it	12 cakes	\$30.00		
<b>Pure Suet Cakes.</b> Squirrels don't like it, birds do	12 cakes	\$48.00		

Deadline for Orders: **Monday, October 25**

Make your check payable to

*Central Westchester Audubon Society*

Sub - Total	
<b>Added Donation to Central Westchester Audubon Society</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	

Mail to: **CWAS Seed Sale, P.O. Box 359 White Plains, NY 10602**

**Deadline to Submit Orders:** Monday, October 25, 2010

**Pick-up Days for Seed:** Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup>. thru Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Pick-up Location:** WILD BIRD CENTER, 400 Central Park Ave. Scarsdale  
(Across from Office Depot)

Any questions? Call Hank Weber Days: 713-0630 , Evenings: 769-1379

**All Profits from our Bird Seed Sale support CWAS Activities**

Central Westchester Audubon Society  
Box 359  
White Plains, NY 10602



NON-PROFIT ORG.

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