



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

Vol. XXX111, NO. 2

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2010

Winter Programs

CRASH: A Tale of Two Species

Thursday, January 21, 2010, 7:00 PM
Room 20 at Church St. School
295 Church St., White Plains, NY

Join us for a video featured on NATURE, Channel 13. Filmmaker Allison Argo (*Chimpanzees: An Unnatural History*) tells the fascinating story of nature's amazing ability to create fragile connections among the most unexpected creatures. Each year, the red knot, a small shorebird that winters on the southern tip of South America, embarks on a 10,000-mile journey to its nesting grounds in the Arctic. The pocket-sized long distance traveler instinctively times its migration precisely to coincide with the annual spawning of one of the Earth's most ancient creatures, the horseshoe crab, in the Delaware Bay. The eggs of the crab fuel the birds on one of the longest migrations on earth. But humans have harvested the horseshoe crab for fishing bait, and use its blood for medical purposes. With the crabs now in decline, the red knot is in danger. This story is a compelling example of how every species is interconnected, and of our potential to destroy those connections—or restore them. Rated TV-G.

432 Lifers and Counting: A Teenager's Fascination with Birds

Thursday, February 11, 2010, 7:00 PM
Room 20 at Church St. School
295 Church St., White Plains, NY

Our speaker, Benjamin Van Doren, from his first sentence, "Bye, bye bird," has always had a unique interest in birds. Benjamin started birding with the Feeder Watch Program in Joan Conca's third grade class at the Church Street School. Now a sophomore at White Plains High School, he is an active member of the New York State Young Birders Club and a World Series of Birding veteran. Come hear Benjamin talk about his journey from third grade feeder watcher to high school research student, and his experiences - from the excitement of finding a bird in Arizona not on the official United States checklist to being one of ten young birders to spend three days at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

CENTRAL WESTCHESTER AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

www.centralwestchesteraudubon.org

email: cwas@centralwestchesteraudubon.org

President	Jeanne Alpert	946-1780
	jsalpert@optonline.net	
Vice President	Open	
Recording Secretary	Rotating	
Treasurer	Fred Pfisterer	949-2254
	fpfisterer@verizon.net	
Birdathon	Open	
Bird Seed	Hank Weber	713-0630
Conservation		
Local	Al Gassman	288-9063
	aglandsurveyor@yahoo.com	
State/National	Catharine Raffaele	948-4061
	callen150@juno.com	
Education	Susan Fried	949-1780
Field Trips	Open	
Hospitality	Open	
Membership	Hank Weber	713-0630
Newsletter		
Editor	Catharine Raffaele	948-4061
	callen150@juno.com	
Distribution	Connie Petagine	406-0578
Pecans	Beth DaSilva	949-5249
Programs	Joan Conca	681-8967
	Barbara Ferrari	946-5741
Publicity	Open	
Scholarships	Gladys Goldmann	949-3486
	Barbara Ruskin	949-4429
Web Master	Dick Budnik	
	DickBudnik@verizon.net	
Delegate at Large	Frank Alpert	946-1780
	Jefalpert@optonline.net	

Retired Board Members: Norma Canfield, Jack O'Brian, Libby Wagner

Annual Eagle Walk, Saturday, February 6th: Croton Point Park. Meet between **8:30AM and 8:45AM** in the parking lot of Croton Point Park. Leader is Hank Weber of the Wild Bird Center in Scarsdale, which is co-sponsoring this trip. After a walk of approximately 2 hours, participants will have the opportunity to attend the various programs of Teatown Reservation's 6th Annual Eagle Fest, which runs from 10am - 3pm in the park

Audubon Kestrel Project

The American Kestrel is in big trouble, principally because of loss of habitat. For nesting, kestrels need tree cavities near their hunting grounds which are large open areas such as farms and fields. To make up for the lack of natural cavities and to stem the decline in numbers of birds, Audubon chapters in NY State are going to build nest boxes and, with the help of the Department of Transportation, put them up in areas along highways that are near their hunting grounds. The boxes are to go up by February 2010 and will be monitored thereafter for signs of successful nesting. This project is being funded by Toyota, through its "Together Green" grant program. Central Westchester's part is education: to bring this problem to your attention and make you aware of how important it is to support habitat stewardship and other beneficial state agency policies that will eventually result in protection of kestrel habitats through easements and private land stewardship programs.

Jim Eyring, in his live raptor program on November 19th helped foster appreciation of this beautiful, small falcon by flying his kestrel, "Adam" around the gym. There were many "ooh's and aah's and some ducking of heads as Adam flew low over the audience, but fortunately, he was only interested in the delicious tidbits Jim was offering. He proved to be a good ambassador for his species.

The results of the Kestrel Project may be slow in coming – perhaps a few years before the kestrel adapts to its new nesting spots. We will keep you informed as information becomes available. Meanwhile, we have an informational flyer with lots of interesting kestrel facts which we will hand out at our open meetings and which will be posted on our website.

Program Cancellations

To find out if a program is cancelled because of inclement weather, please call 914-946-1780.

Directions to Church Street School

Take 1-287, Cross Westchester Expressway, to Exit 6, North Broadway, Going west-bound (toward Tarrytown) turn left at the end of the ramp, and turn left (south) on North Broadway. going east-bound (toward Rye) turn right (south) at top of ramp on North Broadway. Then take the first right, immediately after expressway ramp, onto Westview. Westview has a sharp left turn into Church street. The entrance to the school parking lot is on the right, 0.2 miles from Westview.

CWAS Offers Camp Scholarships

CWAS will again offer camp scholarships to elementary school students who reside in the communities served by our chapter. Children entering grades 2 through 6 by September 2010 are eligible for 1-week scholarships this coming summer to the Westchester County Ecology Camps at Marshlands Conservancy in Rye and Cranberry Lake in North White Plains. This is a wonderful opportunity to encourage in your children an appreciation of the natural world.

Around mid-January we will be mailing applications to the principals of the schools in the communities we serve for distribution to teachers in the appropriate grades. If you wish your child to apply for a scholarship, ask your child's teacher or principal for an application. In addition applications will be available at the children's section of your local library, at the Marshlands and Cranberry Lake Nature Centers, and on our website. You may also call Gladys Goldmann at 949-3486, or Barbara Ruskin at 949-4429 for information. See the letters below from some very happy campers.

In camp this summer I remember tasting edible plants, catching frogs and toads, and listening to bird calls. I caught five or six frogs and one toad. They were really slimy. My camp counselors were really nice. While we were playing this game, one counselor on his Ipod touch put on a bird call that was a woodpecker and then we saw a woodpecker fly over our heads and it answered to us. We also saw a great blue heron after the woodpecker. It was really cool. We caught a ferocious diving beetle in the lake. It was orangish-red. We looked for dragon fly larvae in the lake too, just to check it out. One day we brought in white shirts and then collected ferns and put the ferns on top of the white shirts. We took a hammer and smashed the ferns on the shirts, really hard. When we took the ferns off the shirt, it had all green and brown stains on it. It was like a natural tie-dye. I would really recommend this camp and I plan to go back to it again. - Daniel J. Roma

This year at ecology camp I really liked my counselor because if you asked him a question, he stopped the whole group to show them and tell them and I thought that was very cool and interesting. What I learned in ecology camp was really cool because we learned about trees in a way that was supposed to be a game and I really enjoyed it. The way we learned about birds was really cool because we went over to the bird tower and my counselor used this application on his iPod that made bird noises and saw if we could get any calls back. I was very happy the whole time I was learning this stuff because I love nature. Thank you for the scholarship and a great time. - Benjamin Covello



Former Camper Studies Conservation

Sara Gassman was awarded a CWAS scholarship to attend Ecology Camp when she was in elementary school. She remembers catching frogs and using nets to scoop up dragon fly nymphs and tadpoles. Now a sophomore at the University of New Hampshire (UNH), Sara is majoring in Environmental Conservation, which teaches "ways to manage human activities while sustaining the Earth's ecological systems." Sara's course work includes Introduction to Natural Resources, Soil Sciences and Global Biological Change. Her campus environment is a model of conservation in action - UNH has built a processing plant to purify methane gas from a landfill that is the campus's main energy source. Sara has also had opportunities to practice advocacy. Last February she joined thousands of students from across the nation to gather in Washington D.C. for the student-led environmental conference Power Shift '09. She and fellow delegates met with Senate and Congressional aides to lobby for green laws and the creation of renewable energy programs. For the last two summers, Sara has returned to Cranberry Lake where she was a camper to work as an Assistant Counselor at Ecology Camp. Sara says that "On the first day the campers are not into getting muddy and wet," but soon they are involved with activities. It is fun to take the children hiking through the woods to hear and spot birds, to see them become excited about nature

Central Westchester Audubon Society
 Box 359
 White Plains, NY 10602

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 PERMIT NO. 702
 WHITE PLAINS, NY
 10602



CWAS Winter Bird Seed Sale ~ All profits support our conservation and educational efforts

Your Name: _____ E-Mail _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____ Phone Number _____

<i>Type of Seed</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Price per Bag</i>	<i># Bags</i>	<i>Total Price</i>
Black-Oil Sunflower Seed Number one favorite for chickadees, cardinals, titmice, others . . .	20 Lbs.	\$19.50		
	40 Lbs.	\$37.00		
Hulled Sunflower Seed Sunflower seeds with all shells removed. Less Mess. No clean-up of empty shells. Seeds will not sprout	5 Lbs.	\$8.00		
	15 Lbs	\$29.00		
Thistle / Nyger Attracts Goldfinch, House Finch, Pine Siskin	5 Lbs.	\$13.00		
	16 Lbs.	\$36.00		
Safflower Seed Squirrels don't like this seed! Cardinals and others do	5 Lbs.	\$8.00		
	16 Lbs.	\$24.00		
Birdwise Blend Scientific mix of Sunflower Seed (60%), plus Nuts and Millet . . .Attracts the greatest variety of birds	16 Lbs.	\$20.00		
FeederWiseMix Ideal all-around blend	14 Lbs.	\$20.00		
PatioWise Mix "No Mess" All shells removed. Will not germinate. 100% edible	5 Lbs.	\$14.00		
	15 Lbs.	\$35.00		
WoodpeckerWise Mix also attracts nuthatch, titmouse, chickadee and others	5 Lbs.	\$13.00		
	16 Lbs.	\$43.00		
Peanut Suet Cakes birds love it	12 cakes	\$24.00		
Orange Suet Cakes attracts greatest variety of birds	12 cakes	\$24.00		
Pure Suet Cakes squirrels don't like it, birds do	12 cakes	\$30.00		



Make your check payable to:
Central Westchester Audubon Society

Sub - Total	
Add a Donation	
Total Amount	

Mail Your Order to: CWAS Seed Sale Coordinator, P.O. Box 359, White Plains, NY 10602
 Deadline to Submit Orders: **Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010** Pick-up Days for Seed: Beginning Wednesday, January 27, 2010
 Pick-up Your Seed at: WILD BIRD CENTER, 400 Central Park Ave., Scarsdale Questions? Call: Hank Weber Days: 713-0630

