



# Central Westchester Audubon Society News

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

VOL. XXXII, NO. 3

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2009

## *Program*

### **Creatures of the Westchester Night: Adventures in Camera Trapping**

Thursday, January 15, 2009

7:30PM

Room 20 at Church St. School  
295 Church St., White Plains, NY  
Speaker: Fred W. Koontz, Ph.D.



Dr. Fred Koontz, Executive Director of Teatown Lake Reservation, will describe an ongoing study of the mammals living in Yorktown's 834-acre Teatown Lake Reservation using automated cameras, known as "camera traps." The presentation will focus especially on how scientists detect the presence of coyotes, foxes, and other rare carnivores. Participants also will be able to see a demonstration trap and learn how they can begin their own camera trapping projects.

### **Northward Bound: A six month journey from Georgia to Maine**

Thursday, February 26, 2009

7:30PM

Room 20 at Church St. School  
295 Church St., White Plains, NY  
Speaker: Dan Aitchison



Come experience the stories, adventures, sights and sounds of the Appalachian Trail, as Don Aitchison presents his slide show on his six-month, 2,174 mile trek north. Untamed wildlife, unpredictable weather, too much gear, and the unique people along the way make for a humorous and interesting program. Don is the assistant curator of the Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation.

## *Field Trips*

**Sunday, February 1st. Pelham Bay Park, Daytime Owl Prowl.** A winter walk in search of Saw-whet, Great-horned and Long-eared Owls. This is also a good location for a variety of wintering ducks. Meet at **8AM** in the Orchard Beach parking lot, left front corner towards the beach as you enter the lot. This walk is co-sponsored with Bronx River/Sound Shore Audubon and Hudson River Audubon.

**Saturday, February 7th: Croton Point Park & possibly George's Island.** This is our annual trip in search of wintering bald eagles. Leader is Hank Weber of the Wild Bird Center in Scarsdale, which is co-sponsoring this trip. Meet at **8:45AM** in the parking lot of Croton Point Park, or **8AM** at the store.

**Saturday, February 7th.** (Alternate date in case of bad weather is February 8th) **Hudson River Eagle Fest. Teatown Lake Reservation's Hudson River Eagle Fest:** Annual celebration of the winter return of Bald Eagles to the Hudson Hills and Highlands. There will be educational programs, exhibits and children's activities and Bald Eagle viewing at several locations along the Hudson River. Warming tents and hot chocolate will be available at several sites. For complete details check the website: [www.teatown.org](http://www.teatown.org) or call 762-2912, Ext. 110.



CENTRAL WESTCHESTER AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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## ***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 2009 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. 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.

*Thank you for a great week. I really liked seeing the pet turtle in the nature center. I also had fun ponding and biking. I want to go back next summer.*



*Jake Furry*

*Thank you for sending me to Marshlands camp. I saw wild turkeys with their babies. We caught a praying mantis. We made ink with dogbane and goldenrod and we wrote with it. We caught blue crabs when we went seining. My favorite part was reaching to the bottom of the pond and pulling out clay.*

*Patrick Adamo*

### **Directions to Church St. School**

Take I-287, Cross-Westchester Expressway, 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 (toward Rye): turn right (south) at top of ramp on North Broadway. Then take the first right, immediately after expressway ramp, on to 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.

### **Program Cancellation**

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

### **Pecans**

We still have a few bags of the mammoth Georgia Pecans left. If interested, please call Beth daSilva at 949-5249.

**REORDER YOUR BIRDSEED NOW**

**Deadline to submit orders:** Thursday, January 22, 2009  
**Pickup dates:** Wednesday, January 28 to Sunday, February 1, 2009  
**Pickup location:** Wild Bird Center, 400 Central Park Ave., Scarsdale (Across from Office Depot)

Name: (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

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

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone with Area Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Seed		Unit Price	Quantity	Total
Black Oil Sunflower Seed	20 lbs	20.00		
	40 lbs.	40.00		
Hulled Sunflower Seed	5 lbs.	13.00		
	20 lbs.	43.00		
	50 lbs.	95.00		
Nyger/Thistle	8 lbs.	19.00		
	20 lbs.	42.00		
Safflower Seed	5 lbs.	8.00		
	20 lbs.	28.00		
	50 lbs.	65.00		
Birdwise Blend	5 lbs.	8.00		
	20 lbs.	25.00		
Hopper Mix:	4 lbs.	7.00		
	20 lbs.	29.00		
	40 lbs.	57.00		
Millet	25 lbs.	19.00		
Patio Mix	5 lbs.	11.00		
	20 lbs.	39.00		
Cardinal Blend	4 lbs.	7.00		
	20 lbs	28.00		
Woodpecker Mix	4 lbs.	9.50		
	20 lbs	42.00		
Cracked Corn	25 lbs.	14.00		
Orange Suet Cakes	12 cakes	30.00		
Peanut Suet Cakes	12 cakes	30.00		
Pure Suet Cakes	12 cakes	48.00		
<b>Donation to CWAS</b>				
<b>Total</b>				

Please make your check payable to: **CENTRAL WESTCHESTER AUDUBON SOCIETY** and mail with your order form to **CWAS, P.O. Box 359, White Plains, NY, 10602, Attn: Birdseed.** Check and order form must be received by January 22, 2009. We will be accepting orders at the January 15th open meeting. You can pick up your seed on any of the 5 pick-up dates listed above. **All our seed is of the highest quality and guaranteed to be 99% pure seed. Questions? Please call Hank Weber at 713-0630 or 669-5576.**

**Return to an English Garden**

When Colin and I left England for the US for 2 years, I wondered how the birds would fare and whether or not they would desert our garden for greener pastures. On visits home during those two years we noticed that there were fewer birds than previously in the garden especially during our winter visits.

When we returned home permanently in September I started to feed the birds again. We had bought a new seed feeder and a new nut feeder and also filled up another nut feeder that was in the garden. I wondered how long it would be before the birds found the new feeders or realised there were nuts in the old feeder



Great Tit

again. Within the first day a number of birds were seen feeding on the old feeder and the next day a few birds visited the other two feeders. As the days progressed more birds began feeding on all the feeders. There are times when the birds seem very busy and a large number visit the garden and there are other days when few are seen. At the moment there is still plenty of natural food available for them but I am confident that as the weather gets colder more will visit the garden.

Up until now I have seen about seventeen different species feeding in the garden. Those most commonly seen are tits; these are small birds similar to, but unrelated to, chickadees.



Blackbird

Three different members of the tit family have been very regular visitors to the garden eating both food that has been put out and natural food. The most common is the blue tit so called because of the prevalence of blue in its cap. The other two are the great tit, which as its name suggests is the largest member of the tit family, and the coal tit. One day a flock of long-tailed tits also passed through. These are fairly common and out of the breeding season tend to be seen in small flocks. They are quite small and distinguished by their long tails.

Other common visitors are blackbirds who tend to spend their time eating windfall apples and turning over leaves looking for worms. Another common bird regularly seen is the robin which is unrelated to the American robin and much smaller only being about the size of a sparrow. Most days I have seen wood pigeons feed-



Robin

*(continued on next page)*



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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WHITE PLAINS, NY  
10602

**Time to Reorder Birdseed**  
**Camp Scholarship Announcement**  
**For Summer 2009**

**Return to an English Garden,** *continued from previous page*

ing on the ground in the garden. These generally feed in the fields but with increases in house building are now seen in gardens larger numbers. The other larger bird which is seen most days is the magpie. This noisy bird is very similar to the black-billed magpie seen in the western USA. Other members of the crow family which occasionally feed in the garden are jays and carrion crows. The carrion crow is virtually indistinguishable from the American crow but the jay is very different being larger than the blue jay and mainly pink in colour.



Jay

Among other birds that have been seen are the wren, nuthatches, treecreepers and goldcrests. There is only one species of wren in England and that is the one known as the winter wren in America. There is also only one species of nuthatch and treecreeper in England. The nuthatch is very similar to the red-breasted nuthatch and the treecreeper is almost identical to the brown creeper. Goldcrests are the smallest British bird and are members of the same family as kinglets.

One bird which used to be a common visitor on the nut feeder is the greater spotted woodpecker which is similar in

in size and colouring to the hairy woodpecker. One has visited a few times and will probably come more often once winter sets in. Another bird which has been an occasional visitor so far is the chaffinch but once again will probably become more common in winter when natural food becomes scarcer.

I am hoping that the number of bird and species so far not returned will increase with time and numbers will return to what they were before we went away.

Jean Coates  
Former board member of CWAS

***12th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count***  
***February 13-16, 2009***

- Discover more about the birds around you.
- Track results in real time online.
- Count anywhere—in your backyard, balcony, schoolyard, park, refuge and contribute valuable information for science and conservation.
- All ages and skill levels welcome.
- No fee or registration required.

Take part by visiting:  
[www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc)