



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

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MAY, 2009

Programs

Alaskan Conservation Issues

Thursday, May 14, 2009

7:00PM

Room 20 at Church St. School

295 Church St., White Plains, NY

Speaker: Lauren Hierl

The spectacular public lands of Alaska, featuring incredibly diverse wildlife, face critical conservation threats from oil drilling to logging. Come learn what is being done to protect them and what you can do to help!

Lauren Hierl is the National Audubon Society's traveling ambassador for protecting Alaska's natural riches. She received her BA in Environmental Studies from Dartmouth College, and Master of Environmental Management and Master of Public Policy degrees from Duke University. She is excited to be working on the critical conservation threats facing our public lands in Alaska.



Garden News

An article written by a 5th grade student for the school newspaper:

Scientists Become Artists

By: Rachel Cutsumpas

Did you know that the courtyard scientists are working on an art project? This project is special because we are not just using markers or paint. We are allowed to use all of the materials in the art room, so it is almost like open art. Open art is when you get to use any of the materials in the art room.

First, we looked in the courtyard for objects. Some of the objects that people are using are stones, leaves, little plants, fungus, and tree bark. Next we looked at our object with our eyes and under the microscope. I chose the fungus as my object. When I looked at it under the microscope it was amazing! The bottom of the fungus almost looked like it was cheetah skin. I would have never expected to see something like that on the bottom of a fungus. We sketched a quick drawing of our object and then drew it on a bigger piece of paper.

Now we are in the process of painting and adding texture to our artwork. To add texture to our artwork we are using glitter, string, raffia (it is like hay), and many other materials. If you would like to see some of our artwork in progress there is a small bulletin board near Mrs. Podell's room and the auditorium.

All of the artwork is Wonderful!!!

CENTRAL WESTCHESTER AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 359, WHITE PLAINS, NY 10602

www.centralwestchesteraudubon.org

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Directions to Education House

5 Homeside Lane is located off North St. in White Plains. Going south on Mamaroneck Avenue from downtown White Plains, make a left turn on Ridgeway. Go down Ridgeway to the traffic light (firehouse on the left) and turn right on to North Street. Homeside Lane is the third right and Education House is the first building on the left. Parking in the driveway.

Field Trips

Saturday, May 2nd, Our Annual Kelisky/Ferone Memorial Walk. Meet 8 AM at Education House for car-pooling. We will be going to the Institute for Eco System Studies in Millbrook, NY. Bring water and your lunch.

Wednesday Warbler Walks in May (6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, rain or shine) Hosted by Rye Nature Center, co-sponsored by CWAS. The Nature Center will open at 7:45 for coffee and tea. The walks will start promptly at 8 AM and end at 9 AM. Leader: Hank Weber. Loaner binoculars available. Rye Nature Center is a hot spot for warblers and the walk is easy.

Saturday, May 9th, 7 AM, Our Annual Birdathon. Rain Date: May 16th. Meet at Education House for car-pooling. At the height of spring migration, we will visit Forest Park in Queens and the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Dress in layers and bring water and a lunch. Binoculars are a must; spotting scopes if you have them. Facilities at Jamaica Bay.

Sunday, May 24, 7 AM, Doodletown Rd. Meet 8 AM at Doodletown Rd. If you wish to arrange car-pooling, please call Jeanne Alpert at 946-1780 by Friday, May 22nd. This is a hotspot for migrating song-birds. We should see a variety of warblers, flycatchers, indigo buntings, orioles, and perhaps cuckoos. The trail is a bit steep and rocky at the beginning, so sturdy shoes are a good idea. No facilities. Be sure to bring water. Co-sponsored with Bronx River/Sound Shore Audubon.

Program Cancellation

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

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.

Birds and Climate Change

What are Purple Finches, Boreal Chickadees and Black Ducks telling us about climate change? They are all telling us that **climate change is here, now**. They are telling us that **we must act now** to address this urgent problem. They are showing us a **pattern of ecological disruption** that tells an alarming story.

Audubon's report, *Birds and Climate Change: Ecological Disruption in Motion*, looks at the last 40 years of Christmas Bird count data and concludes that 58% of the species studied have moved significantly northward as winter temperatures increase, with the Purple Finch shifting the furthest – 433 miles. These findings present new and powerful evidence that global warming is having a serious impact on natural systems. Northward movement was detected among species of every type, including more than 70% of forest and feeder birds.

Birds are among the most adaptable of wildlife – as long as they can find suitable habitat, they are able to travel substantial distances north, inland, or to higher latitudes. That is one of the things that makes them sensitive environmental indicators – alerting us to ecological disruption, often before it directly affects us.

Only grassland species were an exception to the northward movement, with only 38% mirroring this trend. But far from being good news for species like the Eastern Meadowlark, this reflects the reality of severely depleted grassland habitat and suggest that these species now face a double threat from the combined stresses of habitat loss and climate adaptation.

It is the complete picture of widespread movement and the failure of some species to move at all that illustrates the impacts of climate change on birds. They are sending us a powerful signal that we need to take policy action to curb climate change and its impacts, and help wildlife and ecosystems adapt to unavoidable habitat changes even as we work to curb climate change itself.

You can read the full report and its findings on the Audubon website, or you can visit www.birdsandclimate.org, an Audubon-linked site containing a petition you can sign about global warming and an interactive quiz. You can join the Audubon Facebook group, Holy Shift! What Birds Tell Us About Global Warming and invite your friends. Visit www.birdcount.org to learn how you can become involved in The Great Backyard Bird Count.

You can help stop the introduction and spread of invasive species

Help protect native plants and animals by following these **six easy guidelines**:

- Verify that the plants you are buying for your yard or garden are not invasive. Replace invasive plants in your garden with non-invasive alternatives. Ask your local nursery staff for help in identifying invasive plants!
- When boating, clean your boat thoroughly before transporting it to a different body of water.
- Clean your boots before you hike in a new area to get rid of hitchhiking weed seeds and pathogens.
- Don't "pack a pest" when traveling. Fruits and vegetables, plants, insects and animals can carry pests or become invasive themselves. Don't move firewood (it can harbor forest pests), clean your bags and boots after each hike, and throw out food before you travel from place to place.
- Don't release aquarium fish and plants, live bait or other exotic animals into the wild. If you plan to own an exotic pet, do your research and plan ahead to make sure you can commit to looking after it.
- Volunteer at your local park, refuge or other wildlife area to help remove invasive species. Help educate others about the threat.

Central Westchester Audubon Society
Box 359
White Plains, NY 10602



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Birdathon 2009
Saturday, May 9, 7 AM
Rain Date, Saturday, May 16
Meet at 7AM at Education House
for Carpooling

Or if you if you wish to join an exclusive club, meet the few early birders at 5:30 AM at Read Sanctuary to get a jump start on our list. Early birders will return to Education House by 7 AM to join the rest of us for car pooling.

Our first stop will be Forest Park in Queens where the air will be full of bird song. If things go as planned, the famed “water hole” will provide us with some spectacular warbler sightings, and along the paths we should tally several other migrants and residents. We will leave Forest Park around 11:30 and head for Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

CENTRAL WESTCHESTER AUDUBON
2009 BIRDATHON PLEDGE CARD

_____ I am happy to pledge \$ _____
per species in support of your Birdathon
_____ My tax deductible gift of \$ _____
is enclosed, payable to: **CENTRAL WESTCHESTER**
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My employer matches gifts
_____ Matching form enclosed:

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Thank you for supporting our birdathon.
All contributions are tax deductible and will help
support the CWAS scholarship fund and the edu-
catinal activities of our chapter.