Fyke Nature Association
Spring Newsletter

Vol. 73 — No. 1 — 2026

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.

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, 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

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***Friday, March 27, 2026* - Monthly Meeting 8:00 PM at the Allendale Community Center**
Birds of Southern Africa and Madagascar – Endemics Galore! - Featuring Kevin Watson

Join birder and photographer Kevin Watson for an exploration of the fascinating birds (and a few animals) of southern Africa and Madagascar. We'll visit deserts, mountains, grasslands and seashores of Namibia and South Africa.

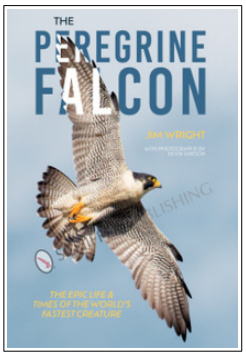
Then we'll head east to the island of Madagascar, where millions of years of isolation have resulted in many strange and unique species. As well as a multitude of endemic plants and animals, Madagascar is home to over one hundred endemic bird species, including five bird families found nowhere else on Earth. Kevin will share images of many of these unique creatures.

No registration is required.

Drakensburg Rockjumper, endemic to mountain slopes in South Africa and Lesotho by Kevin Watson

***Tuesday, June 2, 2026* - Co-Sponsored Talk 7:00 PM at the Allendale Community Center**
Fierce and Fastest

In this co-sponsored talk with Fyke and the Lee Memorial Library, Jim Wright, author of the acclaimed new book **The Peregrine Falcon**, tells all about these incredible raptors in this lavishly illustrated talk: how they can travel at 200 mph, why they nearly went extinct, how they were saved (in the unlikeliest way), and how they became an internet superstar. Even if you think you know a lot about peregrines, prepare to be surprised.



Long-time Fyke member and Allendale resident Jim Wright also wrote **The Screech Owl Companion** and **The Real James Bond**. He is a marsh warden at the Celery Farm Natural Area and the birding columnist for The Record.

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Events & Field Trips

Friday, February 13-Monday, February 16, 2026 - Great Backyard Bird Count

In 1998 by, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society launched the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) ~ the first online citizen science project to collect information on wild birds and to display the results in near real time.

Each February, for four days, the world comes together for the love of birds. Spend time in your favorite places watching birds. Identify them, count them, and submit them to help scientists better understand and protect birds around the world.

If you already use eBird or Merlin, your submissions during the four days count toward GBBC.

For more information visit: https://www.birdcount.org/

Saturday, March 7, 2026 - 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM at Ridgewood High School
Super Science Saturday

This annual event at the Ridgewood High School features many displays and presentations across a wide variety of S.T.E.M. topics. You can find the Fyke table near the entrance hosted by Mike LeFebvre.

From the Super Science Saturday About Us page: *Super Science Saturday, hailed as the "Greatest Science Extravaganza in Northern New Jersey," brings fun and excitement to science through professional presenters and student projects.*

Find out more on their website: https://www.supersciencesaturday.org

Saturday, March 7, 2026 - 6:00 PM at Halifax Road
Woodcocks at Dusk

Meet at the end of Halifax Road in Mahwah for a chance to see the dramatic courtship display of these otherwise reclusive birds. What we hope to witness goes something like this:
First, male woodcocks utter a distinctive one-note peent call with a buzzy, nasal quality. They then flutter high into the air and circle repeatedly, allowing the rushing air to rise in a winnowing whistle as it passes over their wings. To finish off, they acrobatically descend back to the very same spot they took off from and repeat the process in the hopes

of attracting a female. There are no guarantees in birding, but with luck you will have a memorable experience.

Contact Mike Limatola mike.limatola@gmail.com to let him know to expect you. Alternate date Saturday, March 14.

Saturday, March 28, 2026
74th Anniversary of the Fyke Founding Organizational Meeting in 1952

***Saturday, April 11, 2026* - 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**
Annual Spring Celery Farm Cleanup

The winter snow melt reveals what has been left behind by certain visitors or blown in or carried down the flooded Allendale Brook. Many hands make light work. Bring gloves and a tool if you have one to assist in grabbing and picking up trash, such as a rake, broom handle with a nail at the end, or grabbers. Garbage bags will be provided.

Meet at the end of Green Way. Rain date Sunday, April 12.

Sunday, June 14, 2026, Sunday
45th Anniversary of the 1981 Celery Farm Dedication

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.

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

Stopping An Unnecessary Cell Tower **By Jim Wright**

The word came last month at the last minute: The Bergen County Commissioners were holding a hearing on a plan to build a 500-foot-tall tower on protected Green Acres parkland in the Ramapo Mountains to facilitate high-speed stock trading.

The action alert from the New Jersey Highlands Coalition said it all: Although the tower backers had argued that a lack of cellular coverage in Ramapo Valley County Reservation justified the need for the tower, they ignored the fact that "over 20 towers exist within a 10 mile radius could provide the deficient coverage in the park, including one tower just feet outside the border of the reservation. If a communications tower for private use can be built here, it can be built anywhere."

I volunteered to speak on behalf of the Fyke Nature Association. As former Fyke President Hugh Carola wrote when he alerted our group, "Fyke was born in the Ramapos, and the connection is still there. … This proposal is a travesty, pure & simple."

The hearing was packed with opponents to the proposal – to the point where additional chairs had to be brought in to accommodate the crowd. Each speaker had up to three minutes to give testimony. I said a few words about how the unneeded cell tower would be a blot on the Ramapo Mountain viewshed. speaker after speaker gave persuasive arguments against the gigantic eyesore.

The hearing lasted an hour, and everyone left the county-government building in Hackensack unsure and apprehensive of the outcome.

In late January, we heard the good news from David Epstein of the Land Conservancy of New Jersey: "The horrendous tower proposal in the Ramapo Mountains has been withdrawn. Thank you, Fyke for attending the Commission meeting and standing against this outrageous proposal. Seeing the public disapproval appears to have been a big part of this. What a huge relief!!"

Added Jeff Tittel, former director of the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club: "Sometimes the good guys win."

Christmas Bird Count **Rob and Lisa Fanning**

Another great Ramsey Count is in the books! Below are the results:.

	A Carola	B Terchek	C Fanning	D Kantrowitz	E Streatfeild / West	F Schmitt	G Poalillo	H Schwenker	Species Total
Snow Goose									
Canada Goose	53	46	345	118	1350	53	17	93	2075
Mute Swan	5		5	5	27	2		17	61
Wood Duck			4						4
Shoveler							2		2
Gadwall			10	2	13	15			40
American Wigeon					27				27
Black Duck			10	3	4			2	19
Mallard	21	29	41	39	38	15	77	179	439
Green-winged Teal									0
Redhead					52				52
Ring-necked Duck	21		3		130	7			161
Lesser Scaup					4				4
Greater/ Lesser Scaup			3						3
Bufflehead	14		2	2	10	7	17	24	76
Com. Goldeneye						2	1		3
Hooded Merganser	17	9	10	19	56		10	14	135
Com. Merganser	27	1	6	3	25	11	1500	190	1763
Ruddy Duck								1	1
Wild Turkey	53		4	38					95
Common Loon									0
Horned Grebe									0
Pied-billed Grebe									0
Double Crested Cormorant							2		2
Great Blue Heron		1	1	2			4	3	11
Black Vulture	2	3	2	13		1	4	1	26
Turkey Vulture	1	10	17	6	9	1	7	3	54
Bald Eagle	5		1	1	2	2	4	2	17
Sharp-shinned Hawk						1		1	2
Cooper's Hawk		2	1	2	6	1	2		14
Red-shouldered Hawk			1	1			2		4
Red-tailed Hawk	4	2	2	6	6	5	10	3	38
American Kestrel		1							1
Merlin			2		1				3

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	A Carola	B Terchek	C Fanning	D Kantrowitz	E Streatfeild / West	F Schmitt	G Poalillo	H Schwenker	Species Total
Virginia Rail			CW						CW
Am. Coot					22				22
Ring-billed Gull	2		9	2	65	1	51	73	203
Herring Gull					2		2	2	6
Rock Pigeon	41		73	32	208				354
Mourning Dove	12	20	15	10	70	11	4	19	161
E. Screech-Owl							1		1
Great Horned Owl	1		1						2
Barred Owl			CW			CW			CW
Belted Kingfisher	4	1	1		1		2		9
Red-bellied Wood.	5	8	15	17	14	5	8	6	78
Yellow-bellied Sap.				2	1	2	2		7
Downy Woodpecker	10	7	11	10	7	4	17	14	80
Hairy Woodpecker	5		7	3	3	1	6		25
N. (Yel.-sh.) Flicker	1		1	3	1	3	8	7	24
Pileated Woodpecker	5		2	4	1	4	5	1	22
Peregrine Falcon			1						1
Blue Jay	3	32	39	16	72	24	15	34	235
Am. Crow	17	15	21	4	64	19	8	19	167
Fish Crow		2		1	4		1		8
Crow Sp.									0
Com. Raven	53	1	2	2		1	5	3	67
Black-capped Chick.	8	3	5	9	3	20	25	18	91
Tufted Titmouse	19	11	12	17	13	31	37	34	174
Red-breasted Nut.		2	7	1		2	11	6	29
White-breasted Nut.	21	6	13	13	6	18	14	16	107
Brown Creeper			1	1			2	2	6
Carolina Wren	7	2	7	3	2	3	3	1	28
Winter Wren	2		1	2			1		6
Golden-crowned King.	3		4	3			5		15
Ruby-crowned King.			1	6		1			8
E. Bluebird	6		2				4	11	23
Hermit Thrush	1								1
Am. Robin	21	1	40	8	21	18	12		121
Gray Catbird				1					1

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	A Carola	B Terchek	C Fanning	D Kantrowitz	E Streatfeild / West	F Schmitt	G Poalillo	H Schwenker	Species Total
Brown Thrasher					1				1
N. Mockingbird	3	3	4	2	4	2	3	1	22
Eur. Starling	48	31	119	47	96	11	16	76	444
Cedar Waxwing				4					4
Yellow-rumped Warb.									0
Am. Tree Sparrow	2		4				2		8
Chipping Sparrow									0
Field Sparrow	4			2					6
Fox Sparrow					3				3
Song Sparrow	31	10	11	8	15	3	24	1	103
Swamp Sparrow			3				5		8
Savannah Sparrow							1		1
White-throated Sp.	25	16	8	33	28	13	11	12	146
Dark-eyed Junco	62	38	64	54	99	64	125	49	555
Eastern Towhee									0
Common Grackle			9						9
N. Cardinal	11	10	16	12	18	22	12	11	112
Red-winged Blackbird	2	75	1	3					81
Rusty Blackbird			1		1				2
Purple Finch	4								4
House Finch	4		16	1	3	6	10	22	62
Am. Goldfinch	39		26	10	22	2	9	29	137
House Sparrow	21	32	61	12	53	5	21	40	245
Swallow Sp.							1		1
Red Crossbill							4		4
COUNT OF SPECIES	47	32	58	52	49	41	54	40	83 + 2 CW
PAR	49	36	54	53	48	44	51	49	
OVER/UNDER PAR	-2	-4	4	-1	1	-3	3	-9	

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Field and Feeder Notes **By Judith Cinquina**

Many species (of migrant birds) linger into early October but by late October and November, most are gone. Great-crested Flycatcher is no exception…But a funny thing happens in late fall: Southwesterly winds behind warm fronts often carry with them small numbers of wandering migrants from the south and southwest…Ash-throated Flycatcher, a close cousin of the Great Crested (both in the genus Myiarchus) is another species that occasionally drifts up from the southwest in late fall. Though never seen by the dozens this species has become annual in Cape May in November and early December. In other words, if you see a Myiarchus flycatcher in Cape May in late fall it is actually more likely to be an Ash-throated than our familiar Great Crested!

Michael O'Brien, Tigrina Times Online Birding Magazine Cape May Bird Observatory, 11/12/2008.

Michael O'Brien's Myiarchus rule applies to north Jersey too. The Myiarchus flycatcher reported by Doug Morel, November 16th at Teaneck Creek Conservancy was a western Ash-throated Flycatcher. He stated it was a "continuing bird" near the Puffin parking lot and seen "flitting around in saplings and low branches near the footbridge before flying off into thick vegetation near the building adjacent to parking lot". O'Brien describes the Ash-throated as slightly smaller and slimmer than our Great Crested, with a slimmer bill and "often" more peaked crest. It also appears "washed out overall," he continues, "being paler and browner/grayer on the upperparts, paler yellow on the belly, and much paler gray (almost white) on the throat". Both John Coyle and Brian Kenney found the flycatcher near the Conservancy parking lot the next day. Always a rare bird in the Fyke area or anywhere in NJ, it was very surprising that a second Ash-throated turned up at DeKorte in the Meadowlands. John managed to photograph both. They both arrived on November 15th, and no, it wasn't one bird flitting from Teaneck to Lynhurst and back. On the 16th, one was noted at the Teaneck Conservancy and the other at DeKorte during the same 10 o'clock hour.

Ash-throated Flycatcher by John Coyle

On the 20th, Lisa Potash and Alice Leurck found the DeKorte Ash-throated moving along the Kingsland overlook and behind the observatory at DeKorte. John Coyle observed it there hunting low, just above the honeysuckle, just like it hunted at Teaneck, "hunkering down low in vegetation", a behavior confirmed by Cardiff and Dittman (2020) Ash-throated Flycatcher, Birds of the World on line. They write, "Generally prefers open habitats with relatively sparse understory, foraging relatively low in vegetation strata, and preferring to capture prey by sallying to foliage or ground rather than by aerial pursuit of flying insects." Unlike most flycatchers, Ash-throated Flycatchers tend not to return to the same perch after capturing an insect. According to Grinnell and Storer (1924), in A.C Bent's Life Histories of N. American Flycatchers (1963 Dover edition), it prefers to "go after" its prey rather than wait passively for an insect to fly by. Also, unlike other flycatchers, it does not maintain a restricted territory but ranges widely. Perhaps it's that wanderlust, in part, that sometimes sends them our way in the fall.

A sprinkling of single Evening Grosbeaks was discovered in NJ in December. One male turned up at the Frank M. Chapman Birding Trail along the Hackensack River in New Bridge, December 28th. Both Daniel

Carola and Doug Morel saw and heard it at close range. Doug wrote that it was originally found by a group from Bergen County Audubon. Short-tailed and chunky, an Evening Grosbeak has a large head, huge ivory bill, glossy black wings and a golden body. It was unknown in the east until 1890, when their winter flocks began to spread across the northeast, peaking in January of 1950 when 3,000 were reported in Bergen County alone. Winter irruptions of Evening Grosbeaks in NJ have declined significantly since the mid-1980s, with birds observed less frequently and in far fewer numbers, according to Boyle (The Birds of NJ, 2011). The most I ever counted in my Upper Saddle River yard was 12 in January 1979. They descended onto my sunflower feeders and fought for perches. Their chunky bodies and short wings made them appear graceless as they hovered at perches. Their favorite wild foods are box elder and maple tree seeds. On January 11th, Doug and Daniel also found the adult Red-headed Woodpecker reported at Saddle River County Park. Red-headed Woodpeckers have wintered at the park off and on at least since 2002. When they turn up, they depend on the dead trees there for roosting and storing acorns.

Large raptors wait for the strong cold winds of late fall to migrate over NJ, and some stay the winter. Stephanie Seymour counted a large share of this movement over her Ringwood yard, November 16th. The highlight was the "beautiful" immature Golden Eagle that flew over at 11:31 AM. Her six hour watch ended with a count of six Bald Eagles, 15 Red-shouldered and 11 Red-tailed hawks, among others. Doug Morel spotted another Golden Eagle over Westwood, January 8th. It was a mostly dark adult with a noticeable dark tail band and lacked the large head and bill of an American Eagle. Doug caught it circling fairly low and wrote it was "greeted and escorted on its way by a local Red-tailed Hawk and a Sharpie". Doug, Daniel Carola, and Ryan Griffin reported a light morph Rough-legged Hawk at River Barge Park in Carlstadt, January 5th. Ryan spotted it perched "in dead trees near the marsh in the direction of the oil tanks." It was flushed by a flat-bottomed boat coming up the river, and it headed north and disappeared. Other Fyke members, including John Coyle found another Rough-leg at nearby DeKorte Park in Lynhurst in late December and early January. Any winter sighting of this tundra specialist is a nice treat. Slender and long-winged like an Osprey, it hovers like a Kestrel over open ground hunting rodents, and comes in two morphs, dark and light. So far this winter, both morphs were spotted in and around DeKorte.

River Barge Park also produced an Iceland Gull January 9th. A bit larger than a Ring-billed, John Coyle described it as a "first cycle bird, pale with tan spotting throughout its body. Brian Kenney and others found it sitting on the docks there, January 10th. John Coyle also went for the Lesser Black-backed Gull at Hudson River Walk in Edgewater, January 2nd. He described it as "not as big and bulky" as a Herring Gull but bigger than a Ring-billed. He wrote, it had a "blotchy dark charcoal-gray colored mantle and dark colored bill". In a mixed group with Black-backed Gulls, adult Lessers are easy to spot if you can see their bright yellow legs. Great Black-backs have pale pink legs. Since 1980, wintering Lesser Black-backed Gulls have been increasing in NJ, especially along our coast.

Pectoral Sandpiper by Lisa Potash

Every fall, Crestwood Lake is drained and attracts a variety of birds. Ryan Griffin observed a Pectoral Sandpiper there on November 2. He wrote that it was "flushed by an angry Killdeer which chased it to the other side of the lake, where it resumed foraging". Lisa Potash was among the Fyke members who visited the site during October and November, when up to eight Pectoral Sandpipers, five Wilson's Snipe, a single Solitary Sandpiper and four American Pipits hunted the mudflats.

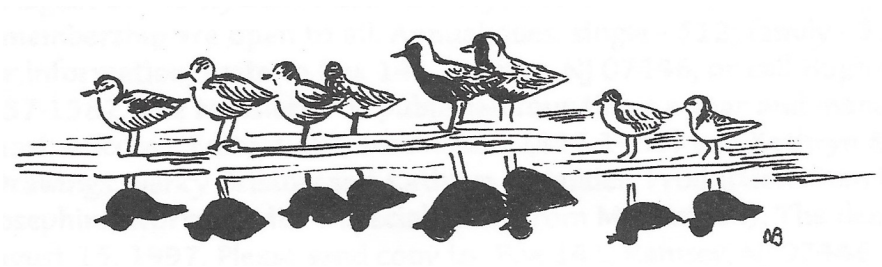
She grabbed a photo of two of the Pectorals. Over the years, a variety of fall sparrows were found there at the edges of the phragmites (reeds) bordering the lake, but this year the phragmites were cut far back, eliminating the refuge they provided and the sparrows that depended on that protection.

Eight Sandhill Cranes sailed high over the Celery Farm (CF) heading southwest, November 16th, Brian Kenney reported. They were so high that Julie McCall only managed a disappointing and "vaguely impressionistic photo". She described the Cranes as "comparable in size to Great Blue Herons, long legs and long necks outstretched". They flew in a "relatively tight formation" that shifted as they dealt with the wind, she observed. The Hour on the Tower crew's list for that morning also included an American Woodcock, Cooper's Hawk, two Bald Eagles, both kinglets and a Brown Creeper, among others. It seems as if the CF's Virginia Rail has always hung out at No Name Culvert in the winter. Julie, Brian Kenney and Neil MacLennan all detected the rail there this fall and winter, even when most of the water was frozen. In fact, this fall-winter, the CF produced many fall-winter species that are easy to miss on your year list, like Rusty Blackbird, Winter Wren, Fox and American Tree Sparrow, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. The CF continues to hold treasure for all aspiring birders.

On December 23, 2025, Dark-eyed Juncos made the New York Times. You may have heard the story about the country mouse and the city mouse, but you probably aren't familiar with the city Junco. Emily Anthes, author of the article Beak of an Urban Bird Evolved When Humans Stayed Home, explains that two decades ago the forest-dwelling Juncos moved onto the University of California campus in Los Angeles and diverged from their "wildland" counterparts, "adopting different breeding behaviors and showing different physical traits, including shorter wings". They also developed "stubbier beaks", perhaps in response to the available food on the campus. COVID closed down the campus in 2020, and the next year, fledgling Juncos developed the longer, slimmer beaks of their wilder relatives. The campus reopened in 2022-23 and the Juncos shifted back to their more urban traits, including the stubby bill. Researchers suspect, but have no direct proof, that the metamorphosis might be related to the lack of human food scraps when COVID closed the campus. This suggests we don't have to venture to the Galapagos Islands to see evolution in action (See The Beak of the Finch by Jonathan Weiner, 1994). Perhaps we should merely pay more attention to the birds in our own backyards.

Dark-eyed Junco by Alice Leurck

In the next couple of months, we will be looking for signs of spring, like your first Phoebe or a Brown Creeper singing its warbler-like song in early March. Whether it's birds at your feeder, in your yard or in the field, we welcome news of them all. Please let us know what you find 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.



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Website Notes Spring 2026 **By Tom Mitchell**

Website Traffic Increase Noted

The gradual increase in website traffic over the past several years has taken a dramatic turn. Traffic increased by a healthy 15% in 2024 over the previous year, but in 2025 it surged by 60% more than the 2024 total. It's not like we are a big time destination, but we had more than 18K visitors in 2025.

Usually the number of website visitors drops off in the fall and winter, since fewer people venture out around Lake Appert. However, this year the last three months of 2025 saw a dramatic increase in website visitors. The number of web page views per day has roughly tripled. There were almost as many visitors after October 1 than for the entire year prior to October 1.

There's no one thing that is drawing people in, but we seem to have been discovered and our visitors are enjoying exploring all the varied content that has accumulated. We are getting many international visitors who like to look at the nature photos we feature on the website.

Website Content Update

The transition to a membership year based on when your dues payment is sent has gone well. The individual reminder messages have produced a good number of membership renewals. Fyke has also attracted quite a few new members in the past year, joining the group of long-time loyal members.

These days most of the dues payments are done through PayPal, which sends notification messages to Fyke. To make the chore of recording the dues less work, code has been developed to import the data from those messages directly into our records. The donations notifications are also parsed and read so that saving the information takes just one click.

Once the reminder messages were set up, the next step was to add acknowledgment messages when dues payments and donations are received. The messages have been dressed up with the Fyke logo and large font Fyke Nature Association in the heading. Our Corresponding Secretary, Mimi Brauch, continues to send written thank you messages for large donations. Extending this messaging functionality further, Frank Alcaide can now extract volunteer email lists from time sheet data and insert them into notification messages that are sent out from the Fyke Volunteer Coordinator email account that have the Fyke logo and heading and include a link to unsubscribe from future mailings.

The Dues and Donations page has been simplified. Now there's just one button for Individual and one for Family memberships. The cellphone display is just one column, making it much easier to read the button images.

A demo of a scheduler has been developed for the State Line Hawk Watch that has many other possible applications. Jim Wright has replaced Karl Soehnlein as the coordinator and he asked whether something could

be developed to relieve the coordinator of the chore of maintaining the schedule for who will be the hawk counters each day responsible for recording the raptor counts during the season. Yes, of course!

The website has lots of information scattered in various places about the Mt Peter Hawk Watch and also the State Line Hawk Watch. And with even more items arriving recently reporting on the 2025 season it was time to consolidate it all into a Hawk Watch Information page. A link to the web page will be included in the Events page listing for the hawk watches next fall. You can find it using the Website Index listed as Local Hawk Watch Information.

Celery Farm Annual Checklist 2025 Report

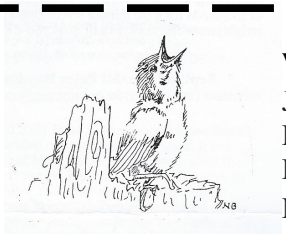
We had 5 people who recorded more than 100 species in 2025 using the First-of-Year checklist. Fred Weber totaled 140, followed by Lynn McKenzie with 133, Brian Kenney with 129, Doug Morel with 115, and Kevin Watson with 106. There were 163 species reported by everyone combined. Heidi Petri has the current 2026 high count as of this writing. Thanks to their efforts and others, we now have data covering the last three years with reported sightings of 190 species. You can view the first report dates each year for those species here.

2025 Volunteer Effort Acknowledgment

Over the course of the year 132 people participated in the ongoing weekly activities, including the Spring Planting on the west side of Lake Appert and the Fall Planting in the Green Way Meadow. An astounding total of more than 3,899 hours combined were recorded, equivalent to 487 8-hour days. Here are the people with top hours totals:

Christian Alcaide	Ryan Griffin	Pam White	Spencer Dosik
Frank Alcaide	Barbara Bodden	Darren Kapturski	Sinan Li
Steven Alcaide	Siân Roberts	Hiba Rahman	Marion Stoll Russell
Tracey Schiess	Noel Schulz	Meghan Reynolds	Bruce Davis
Aaron Alcaide	Jason Willey	Jeff Dugal	Joseph Larsen

Fyke donations more than doubled in 2025, primarily as a result of the generous response to the Celery Farm Wish List that was introduced last summer.



Welcome New Members:

Jean Clements, Mahwah
Benjamin Gojman, Allendale
Darren Kapturski, Allendale
Matthew Klinger, Woodcliff Lake
John Moran, Glen Rock
Claire Whitcomb, Madison
Steve Wostbrock, Wyckoff

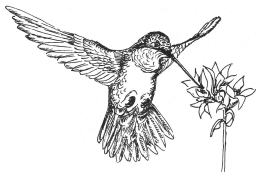
* Information is accurate at the time of printing. Please check The Fyke Nature Association Home for any updates.

Board of Trustees:		**Chairpersons:**	
President:	Mike Limatola	Celery Farm:	Mike Limatola
First Vice President:	Mike Lefebvre		Gabriele Schmitt
Second Vice President:	Sue Dougherty		Jim Wright
Treasurer:	Ivan Kossak	Conservation:	Mike Lefebvre
Recording Secretary:	Gloria Antaramian	Programs:	Monica Cardoza
Corresponding Secretary:	Mimi Brauch	Newsletter:	Crista Trippodi Murphy
Trustees:	Darlene Lembo	Publicity:	Mike Lefebvre
	Doug Morel	Website Content:	Tom Mitchell
	Jim Wright	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 Summer 2026 issue is March 20, 2026. Please send material via e-mail to Crista Trippodi Murphy at: crista430@gmail.com

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