



# The Bedford Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 58, Number 3, Fall 2008  
*Celebrating 95 Years of Conservation 1913-2008*

## President's Letter

Welcome to the fall season at Bedford Audubon Society. After a busy summer studying butterflies and damselflies with both Ed Lam and our own Tait Johansson, we are ready to move on to another fine assortment of activities.

Bedford Audubon Society welcomes Cameron Rutt, of Blooming Glen, PA, as our Hawk Watch intern for the season (see article on page 3). Since Cameron will not be working on Sundays, we could use some experienced raptor counting volunteers to assist us. Please give us a call if you can help.

During the summer we continued our participation in the Westchester County Citizen Volunteer Monitoring Program (see article on page 3). This County-sponsored program aids in ensuring the safety of our water sources. I would like to extend special thanks to all our members who have served on this project; we hope we can expand our efforts next season.

The Katonah Village Library is undergoing renovations for a lengthy period of time. Our first program on September 10 will be the only one held at the library this season. Please make a note that beginning with the October 15 program, and continuing through the June 2009 program, all meetings will take place at the Katonah Memorial House, which is owned by the Women's Civic Club of Katonah and is just down the street from the library, next to the Fire House.

Carol Gracie and her Events Committee have planned an exciting season of new programs illustrating the diversity of our offerings. It will include lectures on the Birds of Paradise and Tree Kangaroos of Papua New Guinea, Snowy Owls, slime molds and a glimpse of the behavior of suburban Coyotes!

September is a busy outreach month for us. Please look for our table at three different events, starting with Greenwich Audubon's Hawk Watch Festival on Saturday and Sunday, September 13 and 14 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., followed by the South Salem Library Book Fair at Onatru Farm on Saturday, September 27, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Westmoreland Sanctuary holds its annual Fall Festival the next day, Sunday, September 28, between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Stop by and say hello at any of these events.

Recently National Audubon and the Toyota Corporation launched The Together Green Program offering grants to organizations to accomplish sustainable goals in preserving water, energy, and habitat. Working with a partner organization is one of the integral parts of this program. The idea is to assist and share in the educational benefits in learning how to promote conservation methods, and to pass on what we learn. We have submitted an application in the habitat management area to help promote the study of invasive plants and methods of removing them from our property. In addition, we hope to receive funding to expand our night watch and hawk and eagle monitoring programs. Bedford Audubon is working with The Louis Berger Group, Inc., an internationally recognized environmental consultant. We applaud Toyota and National Audubon for putting together an exciting program that promotes conservation as well as education.

Let me leave you with a quick word on our seed sale. Rising energy costs have directly affected the price of many household goods. The cost of bird seed is expected to increase again this year, but rest assured that you will receive quality seed at reasonable prices. This is an important fundraiser for our organization. Please remember that by supporting our seed sale, you are not just buying seed, but also contributing to all the free programs that we offer. We need this support to be able to sustain this service to all our members. Please help where you can.

If you have a question or concern, please feel free to call me directly.

Stay well,

**Tony Ianniello**

## The Bedford Audubon Society Newsletter

Fall 2008, Volume 58, No. 3

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Bedford Audubon Society, Inc.  
35 Todd Road, Katonah, NY 10536

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### Our Mission

The mission of the Bedford Audubon Society is to promote conservation and protection of wildlife habitats in the northern Westchester and eastern Putnam region through education, advocacy, nature study, and birdwatching.



## BAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

9/7	4:30-7:30 p.m.	Canoe Trip in Constitution Marsh
9/9	9-11 a.m.	Nature Walk Hunt-Parker Sanctuary
9/10	7:30 p.m.	<b>Return to the Lost World—Adventures With Birds of Paradise and Tree Kangaroos in New Guinea/ Katonah Village Library</b>
9/27	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	Fall Migration at Butler Sanctuary
10/4	9:00 a.m.	Hawk Watch at Lighthouse Point Park
10/15	7:30 p.m.	<b>Suburban Coyote Behavioral Ecology in Westchester County: Implications for Negative Interactions With People/ Katonah Memorial House</b>
10/18	9:00 a.m.	Fall Foliage and Fall Migration Field Trip to Bear Mountain State Park
10/22	10:00 a.m.	Excursion to Manitoaga/The Russel Wright Design Center
10/23	8-10 a.m.	Nature Walk at Hunt-Parker Sanctuary
10/26-11/8	Date and Time TBA	Owl Banding at SUNY Purchase
11/1	7:30 a.m.	Field Trip to Jamaica Bay
11/12	7:30 p.m.	<b>Snowy Owls to Saw-whet Owls: Recent Studies on Wintering Raptors in Massachusetts/ Katonah Memorial House</b>
11/13	9:30-11:30 a.m.	Nature Hike at Franklin-Fels Sanctuary
12/10	7:30 p.m.	<b>Myxomycetes! The Enigma of Slime Molds — A Window to the Imagination/ Katonah Memorial House</b>

## Cameron Rutt Appointed Hawk Watcher at the Arthur Butler Sanctuary

By Richard L. Becker

Bedford Audubon is pleased to announce that **Cameron Rutt** will be the hawk watcher at the Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch at the Arthur Butler Sanctuary in Bedford, New York.

Cameron has recently graduated with a bachelor's degree with honors in biology from Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania. He brings considerable field birding experience with him including participation in auditory bird surveys, mist netting and bird banding, and countless hours scanning the skies for raptors at Waggoner's Gap, Hawk Mountain, and Cape May.

On a personal note, Cameron has recorded close to 600 species of birds in the ABA recording area and has recently been appointed to the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee.

Come meet Cameron at the Hawk Watch. He will be on duty from 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Monday–Saturday from August 22 through November 20.

### Fall Migration at Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch



The Golden Eagle is a rare migrant at Chestnut Ridge

The Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch sits on an east-facing ridge at The Nature Conservancy's 350-acre Arthur W. Butler Sanctuary in Bedford Corners. Located in the southern foothills of the Taconic Mountains and 15 miles north of Long Island Sound, the site affords views of the hills of Putnam County to the north, the towns of Bedford,

Pound Ridge and North Castle to the east, and Greenwich and the Long Island Sound to the south.

Migrant birds follow the local ridgelines and the sound shore offering birders sitting in the Hawk Watch's bleachers views of birds of prey as they pass from east to west in front of and over the watch.

Sixteen species of birds of prey pass the Hawk Watch every fall. Many of them begin their migration from their breeding grounds in Quebec, the Canadian Maritimes, and northern New England. Others come from as far away as Alaska and the Northwest.

The most favorable weather conditions for hawk flights at Chestnut Ridge are autumn days with blue skies, puffy cumulus clouds, and northwest winds that follow a cold front out of the Great Lakes. Don't be discouraged if these weather conditions don't occur during your planned visit. West, northeast, and even south winds can produce a reasonable flight of hawks at Chestnut Ridge.

Migrant hawks don't pass through in a steady stream, so plan on spending the better part of a day there although you may catch a

good flight by stopping in for an hour or two. Bring binoculars and a spotting scope if you have them. A field guide will be of use, but Bedford Audubon's Hawk Watcher will be happy to help you spot and identify the birds.

Directions to the Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch can be found on page 5.

**CAUTION:** Once you've experienced hawk watching, you may be hooked for life. Hawks, eagles and falcons are nothing less than some of nature's most beautiful and graceful creatures.



## Bedford Audubon Members Participate in the Westchester County Citizen Volunteer Monitoring Program

By Linda Rachele Burke, Ph.D.



This summer, once again, members of Bedford Audubon Society are participating in a valuable Westchester County program that monitors the health of our community's water resources in order to create a comprehensive database. The Westchester County Citizen Volunteer Monitoring Program was established in 2003 through Safe Drinking Water Act funding distributed by the New York State Department of Environmental

Conservation. Volunteers are a necessary component of the program because government agencies do not have the resources to collect water quality information on all of the county's water bodies.

All volunteers in this program must go through a training workshop where water quality collection procedures are taught. BAS volunteers, including George Levites, Eric Stand, Jack Kozuchowski, Vi and Mark Patek, and Linda Burke, are often joined by John Jay High School students in monitoring several sites in the area.



### Summer Field Trips: Trevor Zoo and Wethersfield

By John Askildsen

On July 19, despite a forecast of temperatures in the mid nineties, twenty-two stalwart Bedford Auduboners led by former BAS president John Askildsen ventured forth for what turned out to be a most enjoyable and breezy day in the Dutchess County countryside.

The first stop, the Trevor Zoo, located at the Millbrook School, was a delightful experience. Much to the group's surprise, this was no sleepy little roadside menagerie but is a six-acre facility with winding paths that take visitors through twelve different exhibits. The Trevor Zoo has an excellent collection of wildlife from around the world, mostly, it seems, donated from other zoos. Highlights included Kea, flightless New Zealand parrots, and several species of tamarinds and marmosets. The zoo has its own

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“world of darkness” and a fairly extensive collection of birds of prey from around the world. The Snowy Owl, however, seemed out of place as it sat on the green grassy floor of its enclosure!

The second stop was Wethersfield in Amenia, the country estate of the late Chauncey Devereaux Stillman, a wealthy businessman, art collector, and conservationist. He passed away some years ago and left his estate to be preserved in perpetuity and open to the public. The group was given a house and garden tour, which revealed to us Mr. Stillman’s “eclectic tastes” for art and style. Wethersfield’s gardens are superb, with stunning views of the surrounding open countryside.

In between destinations, the group stopped at The Red Devon, a gourmet shop and restaurant, which features locally grown and raised foods and ingredients all from within 100 miles. The group raved about the tasty dishes and quality of the food.

What a great way to see a blend of the natural and the classical tamed landscape of the gilded age in the Hudson Valley!



## Summer Field Trips: NYBG and Damsels & Dragons

By Carol Gracie

In addition to the popular monthly natural history walks led by BAS naturalist, Tait Johansson, some with a focus on butterflies and dragonflies, others on birds and wildflowers, Bedford Audubon offered an array of field trips this summer.

On June 12, Carol Gracie, BAS Board member, took a group to The New York Botanical Garden to enjoy both the Darwin exhibit in the Conservatory and the display of 20 sculptures by Henry Moore that grace the grounds of the Garden. Lunch was at the Garden Café. Carol has worked at the Botanical Garden in several capacities since 1978 and was happy to share her knowledge of and enthusiasm for the Garden’s lush plant life. The Darwin exhibit included a reconstruction of Darwin’s study through which a semblance of his garden could be viewed. The colorful garden was maintained in a pristine state by removing “spent” plants and replacing them with fresh ones, often on a daily basis. Darwin’s insatiable curiosity about the natural world was demonstrated in recreations of some of his botanical experiments. In addition, the Garden Library exhibited several books and papers about Darwin’s research, including some written in his own hand.

The Henry Moore sculptures were beautifully situated throughout the Garden’s 250 acres. Of interest to many was the display of small items from Moore’s studio exhibited in the Library’s Rotunda. These included objects from nature, such as bones and shells that served as inspiration for some of Moore’s sculptures and small models used in planning his monumental sculptures. Although the Dar-



win exhibit has closed, the Moore sculptures will be on display through November 2.



Ed Lam, author of *Damselies of the Northeast* and a former program speaker for Bedford Audubon, returned to Bylane on June 22 to lead a hunt for damselflies and dragonflies in the area adjacent to the pond and stream. Seventeen people attended despite the forecast for rain. Dragonflies are most active on bright, sunny days, but with Ed’s guidance and several pairs of keen eyes we managed to capture several species of both dragonflies and damselflies; all were released after examination and patient explanation by Ed. Ed Lam is currently working on a Peterson field guide to dragonflies of North America. It is certain to be equally as informative and attractive as his damselfly book. Ed’s magnificent illustrations of damselflies and his clear text detailing what characteristics to look for make identification easy. We were fortunate that the rain held off until just after the conclusion of the walk.



## About Birds: The Yellow-rumped Warbler

By Tait Johansson



Breeding plumage  
Yellow-rumped Warbler

Photo by  
Richard L. Becker

Many birders find identifying fall warblers to be a tricky proposition. One good species to start with is the Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) since it is probably the most common fall warbler in our area.

The most consistently distinctive feature of this species’ appearance is, as its name suggests, its yellow rump patch. This patch is present in all plumages except in the juvenile plumage, which is held only from about May to August, mostly on the breeding grounds to our north. The rest of the bird’s upperparts are mostly brown to gray, with most fall birds tending to be brownish. The bird has fine, dark streaks over the background color going down the back. The wings and tail are grayer than the rest of the upperparts, and there are two white wingbars. The head is brown to gray, and grayer birds have a dark to black auricular (ear) patch. It has a broken white eyering, interrupting a white to whitish eyeline. (The eyeline is not present on duller-plumaged birds.) The Yellow-rump’s underparts are white to pale tan, the throat being the lightest. It has heavy to light dark streaking from the breast down to the sides where the streaking is the heaviest. The sides also sport a small yellow patch, visible on all but the dullest birds. Two small white patches at the corners of the upper surface of the tail are visible in flight.

In the spring and summer, the song is a high, loose, warbling trill, whereas the usual vocalizations we hear in the fall are a clipped “check” call note and a high-pitched, ascending “sweet” flight

note, especially familiar sounds along the coast in October, when the species can be impressively abundant.

Though insects make up most of its diet in summer, this species is unique among warblers in its ability to subsist almost wholly on fruit, especially bayberries, which hold high concentrations of energy-giving lipids (fats). This adaptation allows the Yellow-rumped Warbler to winter much farther north than our other warblers, being regularly found in winter as far north as Nova Scotia. In the more northern parts of its winter range, the Yellow-rumped Warbler is usually found close to the coast, almost inevitably near stands of Northern Bayberry (*Morella pensylvanica*). The fruits of Poison Ivy (*Rhus toxicodendron*) and Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) are also sometimes part of its diet.

In summer, the species frequents conifer woods mostly in boreal forests from Alaska to the Maritimes. In the Northeast its breeding range extends south to central New England and New York. In the south, it also breeds at high elevations in the Appalachians to West Virginia. Most of the time when we see yellow-rumps in our area, they are in transit between their breeding and wintering grounds. During this time, they can be found in almost any habitat, from forests to fields, foraging for insects and berries.



### Westmoreland Sanctuary's 25th Annual Fall Festival

Westmoreland Sanctuary will be holding its 25th Annual Fall Festival on Sunday, September 28. This year's event will have pony rides, a petting zoo, live animal presentations, and workshops throughout the day. Food & drink available. The Festival runs from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$4.00 Members / \$5.00 Nonmembers / \$3.00 for seniors and children under 12. For more information visit their web site at [www.westmorelandsanctuary.org](http://www.westmorelandsanctuary.org)

## FIELD TRIPS

Unless otherwise indicated, please register with Joan Becker: [jebecker@bedfordaudubon.org](mailto:jebecker@bedfordaudubon.org) or (914) 232-4806

Many trips meet at or leave by carpool from Bylane Farm, 35 Todd Road, Katonah  
(From Route 35 east, take Route 22 north. Go 1/2 mile and turn right on to Todd Road. Follow to #35)

**Note:** Each trip is given one of three levels of difficulty: **E** (easy), **M** (moderate) or **S** (strenuous). Please discuss your level of mobility with the registrar to ensure that the field trip is appropriate for you.

### Canoe Trip in Constitution Marsh, Indian Brook Road, off Route 9D, Garrison, NY. With BAS Past President John Hannan Sunday, September 7, 4:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. (Carpool from Bylane at 3:30 p.m.)

Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary is a unique 270-acre tidal marsh that has been managed by the National Audubon Society since 1970. It provides refuge for breeding and migrant birds and offers irreplaceable habitat for the plants, fish, and other wildlife of the Hudson River estuary. It has been designated an Important Bird Area by Audubon and a Bird Conservation Area by New York State.

A marsh naturalist will lead participants through winding channels lined with cattails and other marsh plants and will identify any wildlife observed. No private canoes are permitted, but favorite paddles are welcome and personal life jackets are encouraged. There is a \$20 fee for this two-hour trip (\$5 discount for Audubon members). Registration is required. **(M)**

### Nature Walk at Hunt-Parker Sanctuary With Tait Johansson Tuesday September 9, 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. Meet at Bylane Farm.

Join Bedford Audubon Naturalist, Tait Johansson on a walk to watch birds and butterflies in the meadows, fields, and woods around Bylane Farm. Bring binoculars. **(E-M)**

### Fall Migration at Butler Sanctuary The Hawk Watch, Arthur Butler Sanctuary, Chestnut Ridge Road, Bedford Corners, NY Saturday, September 27, Come anytime between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Bedford Audubon Society's hawk watcher Cameron Rutt will be on hand to help identify migrating raptors and other species. Late morning is the optimal time to see hawks flying low over the ridge, but sightings are possible all day. We should expect to see Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, Osprey, American Kestrels, and the beginning of the Red-tailed Hawk migration. Members of the Great South Bay Audubon Society will join us at the hawk watch.

No registration necessary. Bring binoculars. **(M-S)**

**Directions:** From I-684: take exit 4 (Route 172) west toward Mt. Kisco. After 100 yards, turn left onto Chestnut Ridge Road and go 1.2 miles. Turn right over bridge into parking area. Follow sign. The hawk watch bleachers sit on a ridge high above I-684 and are reached by a moderate–strenuous 10-15 minute trail hike.

### Hawk Watch at Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven, CT With Joan and Richard Becker Saturday, October 4, Carpool from Bylane Farm at 9 a.m.

Lighthouse Point is one of the most popular spots for bird watching along the East Coast. Each fall and spring, thousands of songbirds and birds of prey are seen in the migratory oasis along Morris Creek. Come spend a leisurely day bird watching along the Long Island Sound with Joan and Richard Becker, both expert birders. We should expect to see Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, American Kestrels, Northern Harrier, and Osprey. Bring

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lunch. Return to Bylane around 3 p.m. depending on the hawk flight. (E)

**Fall Foliage and Fall Migration Field Trip to Bear Mountain State Park With Tait Johansson and Peter Becker**

**Saturday, October 18. Carpool from Bylane Farm at 9 a.m.**

Join experienced birder Peter Becker and BAS resident naturalist Tait Johansson on a trip that combines the excitement of the fall raptor migration with the beauty of the changing foliage seen from the top of Bear Mountain high above the Hudson River. Bring lunch. Estimated return to Bylane 4 p.m. (E)

**Excursion to Manitoga/The Russel Wright Design Center — House Tour and Hike With BAS Director Carol Gracie**  
**Route 9D, Garrison, NY**

**Wednesday, October 22, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Departure (carpool) from Bylane Farm at 10 a.m.**

In the 1930s, '40s and, '50s, Russel Wright was an acclaimed sculptor and designer of furniture, dinnerware, glassware, and more. He established his home in Garrison and named it Manitoga, which in Algonquin means Place of the Great Spirit. Manitoga is the only 20th century modern home site open to the public in New York State.

Over three decades, until his death in 1976, Wright carefully redesigned and re-sculpted Manitoga's 75 acres using native plants, his training as a theater designer and sculptor, and his innovative design ideas. Though the landscape appears natural, it is actually a careful design of native trees, rocks, ferns, mosses, and wildflowers, with over four miles of paths that wind over creeks, into woods, among boulders, and through ferns and mountain laurel.

There is a \$15 entrance fee for adults; \$13 for seniors. Bring lunch and solid hiking boots. Registration is strictly required and limited to 9 people. (M-S)

**Nature Walk at Hunt-Parker Sanctuary With Tait Johansson**  
**Thursday, October 23, 8 a.m.–10 a.m.**

**Meet at Bylane Farm.**

This month's walk will concentrate not only on birds but also fall foliage and other interesting natural phenomena. Our expert naturalist will be able to answer your nature questions. Bring binoculars. Stop in at Bylane afterwards for a soft drink. (E-M)

**Owl Banding at SUNY Purchase**

**Between October 26 and November 8. Exact day and time to be announced**

Trudy Battally and Drew Panko have conducted owl banding in Westchester for several years with some interesting results. This is a unique opportunity to observe the delicate process of bird banding and see these elusive nocturnal raptors up close. The exact time will be determined once wind patterns and other factors have been evaluated. Participants must be available on short notice any evening between October 26 and November 8. Please contact Joan Becker at jebecker@bedfordaudubon.org or (914) 232-4806 and express your interest.

Registration is strictly limited to 8 people. Please sign up early. (M)

**Field Trip to Jamaica Bay With John Askildsen**

**Saturday, November 1. Carpool from Bylane Farm at 7:30 a.m.**

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in Queens, NY has something to offer birders year round. At this time, many species of waterfowl will be in abundance on the West and East Ponds. Bring lunch and dress warmly. Return to Bylane around 4:00 p.m. (M)

**Nature Hike at Franklin-Fels Sanctuary With Tait Johansson**

**Thursday, November 13, 9:30–11:30 a.m. Carpool from Bylane Farm.**

Join Bedford Audubon naturalist Tait Johansson for a walk through this lesser known 204-acre Bedford Audubon sanctuary. The preserve provides for easy walking with few steep inclines. Bring binoculars. (E-M)



**PROGRAMS**

*All programs are free and open to the public.  
Katonah Village Library and Katonah Memorial House  
are wheelchair accessible.*

**Return to the Lost World — Adventures With Birds of Paradise and Tree Kangaroos in New Guinea With Dr. Bruce Beehler**

**Wednesday, September 10, 7:30 p.m.**

**Katonah Village Library, 26 Bedford Road, Katonah**

Featured on CBS *60 Minutes* on December 16, 2007, and on WNYC on August 8, 2008, the eminent ornithologist, ecologist, and conservationist **Bruce Beehler** of **Conservation International** will present a lecture about his two trips in 2005 and 2007 to the Foja Mountains in the Indonesian section of New Guinea — “*a place as close to the Garden of Eden as you're going to find on Earth*” untouched by humans, a world of strange and hauntingly beautiful birds, many of them never before seen by man. The presentation will include video clips of displays of the Golden-fronted Bowerbird and Black Sicklebill.



**Bruce Beehler** has spent much of his scientific career studying the birds of the Southwest Pacific and South Asia. After conducting predoctoral and doctoral fieldwork in Papua New Guinea, Beehler worked for 10 years at the National Museum of Natural History, fol-

lowed by stints at the Wildlife Conservation Society, U.S. Department of State, and Counterpart International. Today he leads a research program that focuses on the island of New Guinea.

**Dr. Beehler** is author or coauthor of several natural history books, including *Birds of New Guinea* (Princeton), *The Birds of Paradise* (Oxford), *A Naturalist in New Guinea* (Texas), *A Biodiversity Assessment for Papua New Guinea* (Biodiversity Support Pro-

gram), and *Ecology of Papua* (Periplus). His latest book from Yale, *Lost Worlds*, focuses on the rainforests of the world.

The link to the article and video clip on the *60 Minutes* website is: <http://tinyurl.com/yts9rf>. The link to the WNYC interview with Bruce Beehler on *The Leonard Lopate Show* is: <http://tinyurl.com/58dlz5>.

**Suburban Coyote Behavioral Ecology in Westchester County: Implications for Negative Interactions with People With Dan Bogan**

**Wednesday, October 15, 7:30 p.m.**

**PLEASE NOTE NEW MEETING PLACE!**

**Katonah Memorial House, 71 Bedford Road, Katonah**

With the encroachment of human habitation on previously undeveloped areas, clashes between people and wildlife are unavoidable. This is a fact brought to our attention by frequent reports of coyotes and even black bears in backyards and, most recently, at a children's playground here in Westchester County.

Dan Bogan's presentation will focus on the current research and management issues of coyotes living in suburban areas across North America. He will also delve into the ecology research project that he is conducting in Westchester County — The New York Suburban Coyote Study. The study aims to identify the conditions of negative interactions between people and coyotes and to try to identify ways to minimize or prevent altogether these types of incidents. The ecology field crew has been studying coyotes in Westchester since spring 2006 and has documented the home range behaviors and habitat use of over 35 coyotes.



Dan Bogan preparing to release a coyote after attaching a GPS tracking collar.

**Dan Bogan** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University. He has been studying coyotes since 2000. His master's and doctoral research have focused on the habits and behaviors of coyotes living within a mix of developed lands and natural habitats.

**Snowy Owls to Saw-whet Owls: Recent Studies on Wintering Raptors in Massachusetts With Norman Smith, Director, Blue Hills Trailside Museum and Chickatawbut Hill Education Center in Milton, Massachusetts**

**Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.**

**PLEASE NOTE NEW MEETING PLACE!**

**Katonah Memorial House, 71 Bedford Road, Katonah**

Since 1981, Norman Smith has spent countless days and nights, in every imaginable weather condition, observing, capturing, banding, and color marking Snowy Owls at Logan International Airport. He has collected data on Snowy Owl roosting, hunting, and behavior while on their wintering grounds. Most recently, satellite transmitters have been attached to owls to learn more about their movements. Find out what has been learned to date, what questions remain, and how this project developed to include research on Saw-whet Owls.

**Norman Smith** has worked for the Massachusetts Audubon Society since 1974. He has studied birds of prey for over 30 years, including rehabilitating the injured and successfully fostering over 800 orphaned hawk and owl chicks into adoptive nests. His ongoing long-term projects include trapping and banding migrating hawks and owls in the Blue Hills Reservation, banding nestling hawks and owls, and doing research on Snowy Owls and other raptors wintering at Boston's Logan International Airport. He has also traveled to Alaska to study snowy owls in their native tundra habitat. His research work has been published in *National Geographic*, *National Wildlife*, *Yankee*, *Massachusetts Wildlife*, *Bird Observer*, *Nature*, *Owls of the Northern Hemisphere*, and *Owls of the World*.



**Myxomycetes! The Enigma of Slime Molds — A Window to the Imagination With David Rose, Past President of the Connecticut-Westchester Mycological Association (COMA)**

**Wednesday, December 10, 7:30 p.m.**

**PLEASE NOTE NEW MEETING PLACE!**

**Katonah Memorial House, 71 Bedford Road, Katonah**

In this illustrated talk, David Rose will explore the natural history of myxomycetes, commonly known as "slime molds." Slime molds are colorful, harmless organisms that inhabit damp woodland environments. So perplexing to science that they have been classified variously as animals, plants, and fungi (they are actually protists), these organisms are remarkable for their delicate beauty and their surprising transformation from an animal-like to a plant-like stage. Though they are not mushrooms, slime molds reproduce by spores and have traditionally been studied by mycologists for their resemblance to the fungi.



**David W. Rose** is an archivist, writer, and past president of the Connecticut-Westchester Mycological Association (COMA). As archivist, he has organized the records of many prominent mycologists and botanists at The New York Botanical Garden, and as consulting archivist he has processed the Charles Horton Peck Papers of the New York State Museum and the records of the North American Mycological Association (NAMA). Since 1998 his column,

"Notes from Underground," appeared in the COMA newsletter, *Spores Illustrated*, and now appears in *FUNGI*, a journal of amateur and professional mycology. "Notes from Underground" is a periodic essay using literary models and historical perspectives to explore the backwaters of mycology: the poetics of fungi and the individuals who have studied their marvels, all to illustrate that "mushrooms are a window to the imagination." David is presently Archivist of the March of Dimes Foundation and author of the first photographic history of the foundation in the *Arcadia Images of America* series.



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### **BAS Annual Bird Seed Sale 2008**

Bedford Audubon Society's annual wild bird seed sale is fast approaching. Whether you are a regular or a casual feeder, or are only thinking about starting to feed the birds, this is the time to consider how many bags of seed you will need. Buying wild bird seed from Bedford Audubon accomplishes two things: You are guaranteed HIGH quality seed that will surely delight your backyard feathered friends, and your purchase supports your local Audubon chapter. Order forms will be mailed in early September. Orders must be received by October 11. The pick-up date will be Saturday, November 1. If you don't receive an order form by the first week of October, call Steve Ricker at 914-234-2934 or download a form from our website. Bedford Audubon now accepts MasterCard and Visa.

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