



NEHW Conference ABSTRACTS

Holyoke, MA

Saturday, April 2nd 2011

Laurie Goodrich, PhD: – “Stopover Ecology of Migrating Sharp-shinned and Cooper’s Hawks in the Central Appalachians”

Description: During Autumn 2003 and 2004, 48 Sharp-shinned hawks and Cooper’s hawks were radio tagged and followed for up to 12 days during southbound migration through eastern PA. Their daily behavior, stopover timing, and habitat use will be discussed along with the implications for long-term conservation of migrating raptors.

Robert DeCandido, PhD: – “The Nesting American Kestrels of Manhattan Island, A Citizen Science Approach”

Description: The American kestrel is the most common breeding diurnal raptor in New York City with an estimated 50-100 pairs in the city, and ca. 25 pairs on Manhattan Island. Kestrels have been nesting in NYC since the early 20th century at least. From 2005 – 2010 we used the internet and a regular published on-line Kestrel Newsletter to make people aware and solicit information about our local kestrels. We evaluated NYC nest sites to determine important actors in nest site selection – the most important factor in the long-term success of these falcons in NYC.

Lawrence Fischer: - “ The Decline of the American Kestrel in the Northeast US– What We Know and What We Think We Know”

Description: We know that there has been a major loss of breeding habitat (farmland) due to re-forestation and housing developments yet suitable habitat goes unoccupied – why? Larry will focus on an apparent decline of migration weights of kestrels and the need to identify and preserve migration stopover habitat.

Susan Fogelman: - “ The Hazards of Hawk Watching”

Description: This program takes sometimes humorous, sometimes serious glimpses at some of the dangers faced by hawkwatchers. Many watchsites have their own unique stories to tell; attendees will be asked to share some of these. There are also dangers shared by every site.

Judith Cinguina: - “53 years and still counting – Mount Peter: the Longest Running All Volunteer Fall Hawk Watch in the Country”

Description: Located in Orange County, adjacent to the Appalachian Trail, just off Route 7A between Greenwood Lake and Warwick, NY; the Mount Peter Hawk Watch is conveniently located and easy to access, which is a definite plus for volunteer recruitment. But it takes more than easy access to keep a hawk watch supplied with volunteers fall after fall, from September 1st through November 15th. Judy will share some of the ways that they maintain and recruit enthusiastic and reliable volunteers at the lookout.

Shawn Carey: -“Scenes from the BP Gulf Oil Disaster”

Description: Haven't you wanted to hear about the Gulf oil disaster from someone who has actually been there? Wildlife photographer Shawn Carey shares firsthand accounts, images and video from two recent trips to the Louisiana Coast to witness and document the effects of the nation's largest oil disaster on the region and its wildlife. Find out what he observed regarding the impacts of this environmental disaster and efforts underway to fix the damage. Carey also discusses the risks facing the huge numbers of migrating birds heading through the gulf region. This talk is not about raptors per se but large numbers of osprey and bald eagles forage in the area as well as migrating peregrine falcons.

Matt Kamm: -“Raptor Breeding Trends in Massachusetts 1979-2010: Preliminary Results from the Second Breeding Bird Atlas Project”

Description: Using data from the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas, trends for breeding hawks are reviewed with an eye toward the health of raptor populations in our changing environments.

Trudy Battaly and Drew Panko:- “Saw-whets in Your Backyard?”

Description: Using radio-telemetry and visual searching we studied roost sites and movements of Northern Saw-whet Owls in various habitats in southeastern New York State. Owls were banded during fall at Westchester Community College in suburban Valhalla NY, and during winter/spring at Pelham Bay Park in New York City and the extensive woodland of Harriman and Bear Mountain State Parks. A summary of roost site characteristics will include photos and videos as well as the proportion found in or near backyards.

WINGMASTERS

Live Raptors with Julie Anne Collier and Jim Parks

Julie's programs on birds of prey focus on their ecology and special hunting adaptations, as well as on the way the birds have been portrayed in history and art. She brings several live raptors with her to programs, all of them non-releasable birds cared for under her rehabilitation permit. Her talks on Native Americans focus on their craftwork, particularly on the way that different tribes used raptor feathers. To illustrate her talks, she has researched and made reproductions of Native American headdresses, clothing, shields and weapons. Many of these are decorated with feathers molted naturally by birds she and other raptor rehabilitators care for. Julie is part Native American; her Indian heritage comes from the southeastern Creek and Chickasaw tribes.