



SMRA

SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON

April/May 2016



Turkey Vulture about to take flight. Photo: Morgan Rich



Building bird boxes at Croton Point Nature Center in February. Photo: Anne Swaim



Charlie Roberto gathering another crowd. Woodcock Walk at dusk at Croton Point in early March. Photo: Anne Swaim



SMRA photographers focused on Cuba birds! Come to our Annual Dinner on Sunday, April 3 to see what we saw this February & March on our Cuba birding trips. Photo: Lynn Salmon

Upcoming Events

Visit our **Google calendar** at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/calendar for event details or call our office at (914) 666-6503 or email us at office@sawmillriveraudubon.org. Be sure to subscribe to our free, private email list to get additional details and early notice of new trips and events. Visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/list to subscribe.

Every Monday, Starts 7:30 am in main parking at each location.

Free guided bird walks at area hotspots.

1st Mon: Muscoot Farm,

2nd Mon: Rockefeller State Park Preserve,

3rd Mon: Teatown Lake Reservation,

4th Mon: Croton Point County Park,

5th Mon: Location varies, see Google calendar.

Every Second Saturday, 9:00 am, Guided Hike at Brinton Brook Sanctuary.

Check our Google calendar for additional spring field trips!

April

Sunday, April 3: Welcome to Spring Public Dinner

Special Program: Birding in Cuba! Reserve ASAP by visiting www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/dinner. Table 9 Restaurant.

Saturday, April 9: Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook

Saturday, April 16: Third Saturday Seed Sale, Prunyn Sanctuary

Saturday, April 30: Croton Earth Day

May

Saturday, May 7: Love My Parks Day: Old Croton Aqueduct

Saturday, May 14: Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook, Croton

Saturday, May 14: Westchester Birdathon! See Page 2 for details.

Sunday, May 15: Early Morning Birding: Doodletown


Thursday Early Morning Birding

Thursday, May 5, 6:30 am, Rockefeller State Park Preserve

Thursday, May 12, 6:30 am, Croton Point Park

Thursday, May 19: 6:30 am, Ward Pound Ridge Reservation

Check our Google calendar for additional events & weather-related changes. To enjoy this newsletter in color, visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/news



Westchester Birdathon 2016

A joint effort of Saw Mill River Audubon and Rockefeller State Park Preserve
to support local bird conservation and education efforts

How Many Birds Can You Find in 24 hours in Westchester County?

**Friday, May 13, 7:00 pm, to
Saturday, May 14, 7:00 pm**

Saw Mill River Audubon and Rockefeller State Park Preserve are partnering for the First Annual Westchester Birdathon to raise funds for local bird conservation and education projects.

Join us in this effort!

Register your team (1 to 5 birders), gather pledges, and see how many birds you can see or hear in a 24-hour period in Westchester County! Yes, there are prizes and a Saturday night birders gathering!

Funds raised will benefit a multi-year study of the nesting success of wood thrushes and other species at Rockefeller SPP as well as Saw Mill River Audubon's youth education outreach. Find out more here: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/birdathon

Saw Mill River Audubon

275 Millwood Road Chappaqua, NY 10514
(914) 666-6503 | office@sawmillriveraudubon.org
Visit us online: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

President: Robert McCrillis
Vice President: Valerie Lyle

Treasurer: Thomas McEnerney Secretary: Joanne McAuley

Editor: Brian Kluepfel Circulation: Jean Sparacin

Executive Director: Anne Swaim

Office Manager: Ellen Heidelberger

Marketing & Fundraising: Barbara Campbell

Educator: Pete Salmansohn

Sanctuary Maintenance: Danny Ferguson

ON THE WING, Saw Mill River Audubon's newsletter, is published five (5) times a year (Sept/Oct/Nov, Dec/Jan, Feb/Mar, Apr/May, and June/July/Aug) for \$7.50 a year by Saw Mill River Audubon, 275 Millwood Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514. Periodical Postage #013281 at Chappaqua, NY 10514. ISSN: 1545-5254 at Chappaqua, NY and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Address changes to: Saw Mill River Audubon, 275 Millwood Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514



2016 Cuba Bird Trips

Sue O'Rourke photographed this Cuban Bare-legged Owl, one of 24+ endemic birds seen on our 2016 Cuba birding trips. Come to our Spring Dinner, Sunday, April 3 to see more pictures and hear about our trips, presented by SMRA Board Member Christine McCluskey. Reservations at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

In Memoriam

Stanley Lincoln

We were saddened to learn about the passing of Stanley Lincoln in 2015. Stan twice served as SMRA President, and was involved in the transfer of Brinton Brook & Graff Sanctuaries to SMRA as well as other key projects. Stan was also an influential leader in the NY Federation of Bird Clubs (now the NYS Ornithological Association.)

Carol Coggeshall

We received word in January of the passing of Carol Coggeshall. Carol was an active leader of several conservation groups in Westchester. She served on the SMRA board from 1956-1984 including as board president, and also led our conservation outreach efforts.

Sally Dow

We will miss Sally Dow's warm and friendly presence. SMRA Board Member Sally Dow, a resident of Croton-on-Hudson for more than 50 years, passed away at the age of 80 on January 28.

Connecting with Nature: Your gift helps us

connect people and nature.

I wish to donate. Enclosed is:

\$500 \$250 \$100

\$50 \$35 \$_____

My employer will match my gift.

I'd like to join Saw Mill River Audubon

Basic Chapter Membership:

Enclosed is \$35

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Email Address _____

Please make checks payable to:

Saw Mill River Audubon
275 Millwood Road
Chappaqua, NY 10514

OR join/renew/donate online

www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/join
www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/renew
www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/donate

Education



2016 Larry Light Youth Scholarship Award

Saw Mill River Audubon is pleased to announce our 2016 Larry Light Youth Scholarship award.

Mack Meller, a 10th grader from Bedford, will be attending the Audubon Youth Birding Camp in Maine in June.

Mack studies through the Stanford University Online High School and is also the top world-ranked youth Scrabble player! One of his references wrote: "Despite his many achievements, Mack is modest about his brilliance and happy to help others. His interest in the environment and wildlife

is infectious. Mack will be an excellent addition to any [birding] program."

Saw Mill River Audubon is delighted to recognize Mack with a Larry Light Youth Scholarship.

Come to our April 3rd Spring Dinner to hear from our 2015 Larry Light Youth Scholarship recipients: Eamon Freiburger and Josiah Weidenbeft

Sanctuaries



Second Invasive Species Grant Received

We are pleased to report that Brinton Brook Sanctuary will benefit from another grant to continue our work to control the invasive Hardy Kiwi.

Our grant comes to us through the Lower Hudson Partnership for Invasive Species Management

(www.lhprism.org) through a program funded by NYS DEC's Environmental Protection Fund.

The work will be continued by Tom Lewis of Trillium Invasive Species Management with additional work by adjoining landowners ConEdison & Hudson National Golf Club.

Sanctuary Work Day

Saturday, April 30

Meet us 9:00 am in the Brinton Brook Sanctuary parking lot to help replant the meadow with native species. Call or email our office to let us know to expect you at 914-666-6503 or office@sawmillriveraudubon.org

Advocacy



NY Audubon Council

The theme for the 2016 Spring Council meeting was "Bird Friendly Communities and Native Plants." Carol Capobianco, Westchester Native Plant Center Director and long-time friend to Audubon, shared her expertise. Look for more info about Bird Friendly Communities in the coming months.

Join the New York Audubon Action Network!

Do you want to make a difference in local, state and national issues. Let your voice be heard!

As part of the Audubon Action Network you will receive periodic email action alerts on current and pressing local, statewide, and national conservation issues. When you join, your voice will join thousands of

others calling on legislators to support conservation issues and protect New York's and our nation's great natural heritage.

Join the NY Audubon Action Network

by visiting bit.ly/NYAudubonAction



275 Millwood Road
Chappaqua, New York 10514
Return Service Requested

**PERIODICAL POSTAGE
PAID
at Chappaqua, NY
and additional offices**



Nick Hanvermale captured this wonderful image of an Eastern Screech-Owl. Of interest, its coloring appears to be a blend of the red and gray morphs found in our region. For color viewing, visit our digital newsletter at: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/news

Connecting People and Nature since 1953

Last Call: Flight of Fancy Quilt Raffle!

Patricia Loquet has designed and created this beautiful custom quilt to benefit Saw Mill River Audubon. Enter our raffle for a chance to win it! Drawing at our April 3rd Annual Dinner.. More info, color picture, and online tickets: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/quilt



SMRA Celebrates Spring!

Sunday, April 3, 2016

Saw Mill River Audubon invites you to our annual dinner, **Sunday, April 3 at Table 9 Restaurant** on the Annsville Circle, Cortlandt. Open to all, this is a relaxed and fun evening to mingle with fellow birders and outdoor lovers and celebrate the arrival of spring. This dinner is one of our favorite events of the calendar year. We hope you will join us!

Our evening begins at 5:00 pm with a reception and photography display with dinner seating at 6:00 pm. We'll have our usual brief annual meeting with a special recognition of SMRA Board President Robert

McCrillis. We'll then have brief presentations from our 2015 Larry Light Youth Scholarship recipients, Eamon Freiburger and Josiah Wiedenheft before a break for dessert.

Our feature presentation will be "Birding in Cuba," presented by SMRA Board Member Christine McCluskey and featuring pictures and stories from our February & March Cuba birding trips.

Come join us! Please note that space may be limited. For more details and online reservations, visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/dinner