Visit our Google calendar at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/calendar for more 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. To receive our newsletters in color via email, visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/enews.


September
Saturday, September 6: Field Trip: Sandy Hook National Seashore, NJ
Friday, September 12: Special Program: NY Birds & Climate Change
Saturday, September 13: Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook, Croton
Sunday, September 14: Field Trip: Larchmont Reservoir
Wednesday, September 17: Field Trip: Hook Mtn Hawk Watch, Nyack
Friday, September 26: Birders U: Birding 101 Workshop
Saturday, September 27: Field Trip: Fire Island Hawk Watch

October
Saturday, October 4 & Sunday, October 5: Bird Seed Sale Weekend
Friday, October 10 to Sunday, October 12: Fall Coastal Birding Weekend
Saturday, October 11: Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook, Croton
Saturday, October 18: Trees for Tribs Planting at Brinton Brook, Croton
Saturday, October 25: Field Trip: Great Swamp NWR, NJ

November
Saturday, November 8: Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook, Croton
Saturday, November 8: Project FeederWatch begins
Saturday, November 15: Field Trip: Leader’s Choice for Rarities
Friday, November 28: Field Trip: Turkey Mountain Hike

Check our Google calendar for additional events & in case of weather changes.
**Birding Notes**

**Avocet at Croton Point**

On July 14, shortly after finishing my morning coffee on the bench at the Croton Point Park swimming beach, naturalist Christopher Letts came rushing up to me, wondering if I'd seen the American Avocet at water's edge. The beautiful adult male bird was still in breeding plumage. We both enjoyed wonderful looks at this **bona fide** rarity, and after getting word out, a few others were able to get to the park for a glimpse before it flew off. Fortunately, also nearby in the park was Jim Bourdon, who captured the image on page 1. This sighting was rare indeed for Westchester, as I later learned from Michael Bochnik of Hudson River Audubon (keeper of the records). This bird, which later crossed over to Rockland before heading for the Bronx, will be only the fifth accepted record of an American Avocet for the County!

*Larry Trachtenberg*

**SMRA Coastal Birding**

On May 9-11 SMRA visited a series of birding hotspots along the Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean shoreline. We began at Bombay Hook NWR in Smyrna, DE, with expansive tidal salt marshes offering up views of Black-Necked Stilt, Black-bellied Plover, Yellowlegs, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher and Semipalmated Sandpipers. We were also pleased to find a Gull-billed Tern, and get scope looks at a regional rarity, a Wilson's Plover! Purple Martins filled their houses, and a few of us had a close encounter with a stunning Blue Grosbeak.

Throughout the weekend we appreciated a variety of warblers, though we were surprised at their low numbers. After a morning at Prime Hook NWR, we were treated to another local specialty at Cape Henlopen State Park: gregarious Brown-headed Nuthatches.

A ferry crossing to Cape May, New Jersey’s Reed’s Beach did not disappoint, as we were wowed by clusters of Red Knots, which migrate over 9,000 miles from Arctic breeding grounds to Tierra del Fuego in South America.

Sunday brought us to “Brig,” (aka the Edwin B. Forsythe NWR), 47,000 acres of southern New Jersey coastal habitat. The highlight was extended viewing of the secretive Clapper Rail bathing out in the open!

In sum, a fabulous weekend of bird watching (over 130 species), good company, beautiful scenery, terrific weather and some delicious meals as well!

Stay tuned for future weekend birding trips from SMRA!

*Christine McCluskey*
**Education**

**Scholarship Recipient**

Alex Chin, a freshman at Greeley High School in Chappaqua, is our 2014 Larry Light Scholarship recipient. Alex attended two weeks of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation’s Wildlife Camp this summer. Start planning for next summer! Visit our web site to apply.

**Sanctuaries**

**Sanctuary Intern**

This fall, Clayton Fagan, a recent graduate of SUNY Oneonta in Environmental Studies, will be mapping invasive species in our sanctuaries, helping with our Trees for Tribs planting (see next article), and investigating water quality in our streams.

**Trees for Tribs**

We’ll be doing another round of planting native trees and shrubs in Brin- ton Brook Sanctuary this fall. This NYS DEC program helps streamside habitats of Hudson River tributaries. Want to help? Email or call us for more details.

**Advocacy**

**Croton Point Park**

We are continuing to monitor the management of the main capped landfill at Croton Point which is valuable grassland habitat. At least three singing Grasshopper Sparrows were present this summer with confirmed breeding success seen in fledglings being fed by adults.

Coming soon is a new interpretive sign funded through Audubon New York that will highlight the park’s bird habitats.

**New York Birds and Climate Change**

As this newsletter goes to the printer, we are anticipating a major media release from National Audubon on the impact of climate change on birds. Our September public program (see calendar on page 1) will share this groundbreaking new analysis on birds and climate change gathered by National Audubon.

To learn more and track this issue, visit: www.birdsandclimate.org

**Education Outreach**

Our outreach programs for 2014-2015 are booking now! We offer classroom programs about Westchester wildlife and guided field trips to our local sanctuaries. Suitable for all grades and also for scout groups and adult community groups. Visit our web site to see more about our programs.

**Birders U**

In 2013, our seasonal, small group birding workshops were all sellouts! Birders U: Birding 101 is being offered on Friday, September 26.

**New Bench at Pruyn**

Thanks to a grant from the Camp Fire Conservation Fund, we have a new bench in Pruyn Sanctuary this summer in a great location to sit and observe both swamp and forest habitat and wildlife.
Volunteers Invited!

Come work with a friendly group of people and help support our local conservation work! Volunteers are invited for our October seed sale kickoff weekend and for our 3rd Saturday seed sales. Call or email us to be part of our seed sale team.

Want to learn more about bird feeding and birds in your backyard? Come to our Birders U: Birding 101 special edition workshop on Friday, September 26. Space is limited so call or email soon to reserve your space. See our web site for details and registration.

Look for White-throated Sparrows to arrive back in our area in late September or early October traveling from their more northern nesting grounds to spend the winter here.

Connecting People and Nature since 1953

Bird Seed Sale Kickoff!

Saturday, October 4 and Sunday, October 5, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm each day, we'll be in Chappaqua behind New Castle Town Hall for our annual bird seed sale kickoff weekend. Our bird seed sale provides important financial support for our local conservation work.

Our 2014-2015 seed sale flyer is enclosed in this newsletter and online at our web site.

Sales will continue through the fall and winter from Pruyn Sanctuary including our 3rd Saturday Sale Days.

Volunteers Invited! Come work with a friendly group of people and help support our local conservation work! Volunteers are invited for our October seed sale kick-off weekend and for our 3rd Saturday seed sales. Call or email us to be part of our seed sale team.

Our 2014-2015 seed sale flyer is enclosed in this newsletter and online at our web site.