



February / March 2007
Issue 302

On the Wing

News from Saw Mill River Audubon

INSIDE:

SPECIAL PULLOUT INSERTS

2006 Annual Report

Our thanks to everyone who supported SMRA with their donations last year.

2007 Eagle Festival Map

Audubon members' advance map of Hudson River eagle viewing spots.

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Upcoming Feb-Mar Events ♦
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People ♦ Memberships & Donations



Get into Birding!

Watch Eagles!

Explore Why Birds Sing!

Feed the Birds!

Got Bird Seed? We do!

Buy bird seed at our Third Saturday sales monthly until April at Pruyin Sanctuary.

See event schedule on page 3 inside for dates and times.

Hudson River EagleFest 2007

Sunday, February 11 ♦ 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Don't miss the third year of this festival celebrating the Bald Eagle's winter return to the Hudson Hills and Highlands. This celebration is organized by Teatown Lake Reservation and cosponsored by Saw Mill River Audubon and other groups.

See the enclosed map and program!

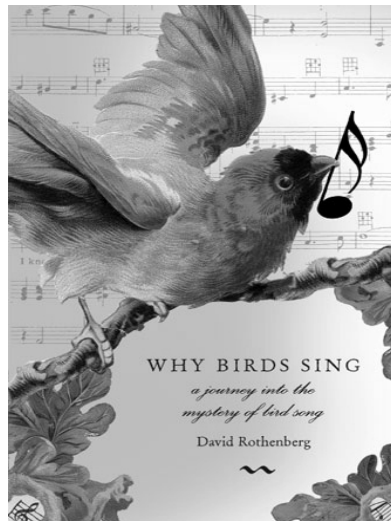
Along the Hudson River ♦ 9 am to 3 pm

Guides with scopes at: Croton River Boat Ramp*, George's Island County Park* and Charles Point Park* (China Pier), Van Cortlandt Manor, the Hudson River Museum and the Beczak Center in Yonkers, and Constitution Marsh, Garrison! Locations with asterisks above will have warming tents and hot chocolate available! (Saw Mill River Audubon is sponsoring the tent at the Croton River Boat Ramp.)

New this year! Teatown is offering a charter bus to travel to the Hudson River viewing sites. Contact Teatown at 914.762.1912 ext 110 for details and reservations. (Age 14 and up.)



Indoors at Teatown during the day will be close encounters with live birds of prey, a workshop on how to photograph eagles and a program from The Eagle Institute about the "History of Eagles on the Hudson River". See enclosed flyer for details.



Why Birds Sing?

A Journey Into the Mystery

David Rothenberg, Author/Musician

Thursday, March 22, 7:30 pm

Chappaqua Library

The New York Times said "Why Birds Sing transforms one of those taken-for-granted things into let's-think-about-it-again stuff."

By March, our day length is approaching the spring equinox and our overwintering birds -- cardinals, chickadees and others -- have begun to sing. David Rothenberg explores this

mystery through and beyond science to integrate poetry, music and philosophy. He is a composer, jazz clarinetist with six CDs released, a professor of philosophy and music at New Jersey Institute of Technology and an editor at Terra Nova books.

Why Birds Sing is currently being translated into six languages and is being developed as a BBC video production. Co-sponsored by the Chappaqua Library, this program is free and open to the public and suitable for ages 10 and up. Second Story Books will have copies of the book available for purchase and Dr. Rothenberg will sign books following the program.

The Future of the Tappan Zee Bridge - Part 1



It's a beautiful spring evening and you're headed home on the train from New York City. As you near Irvington the imposing presence of the Tappan Zee Bridge begins to dominate the view out the window. This incredible structure, spanning the mighty Hudson at one of its widest points, seems to symbolize humanity's ability to tame the landscape. A closer look, however, would reveal that this engineering marvel is showing its age and may even be near the end of its lifespan.

Originally built to handle 100,000 vehicles on a busy day, more than 135,000 vehicles now cross the Tappan Zee Bridge every day. Projections of 175,000 vehicles per day by 2025 make clear that the current span will not be up to the task. Additionally, the bridge, which opened to traffic in 1955, does not meet contemporary construction and seismic standards.

How we deal with these problems will have far-reaching environmental impacts for Westchester County and surrounding regions. Whether to modify or replace the current bridge is now being evaluated. If the Tappan Zee Bridge is replaced, should a light rail (trolley) line be added to the new structure, or perhaps a heavy rail (traditional commuter) line that would link Rockland County and beyond with Westchester and New York City? Should dedicated bus lanes or high-occupancy vehicle lanes be considered? These options will be discussed in greater detail in future articles in *On the Wing*.

Saw Mill River Audubon would like to explore this issue further perhaps with a special program sometime in 2007 about the future of the Tappan Zee crossing. We welcome your input! What happens will affect all of us. -- Bill Kellner

Save the Date!
Audubon Dinner Sunday, April 1
Annual Meeting & Board Elections
Travelers Rest, Millwood
Special Program ~ Good Food ~ Great Company
A separate reservation mailing will be sent to all members mid-February. Watch your mail.

Study for Free Scholarship Applications Due March 15

Don't miss the opportunity to apply for our environmental education youth and adult scholarships! The Larry Light Memorial Scholarship Fund for Youth was established by the Light family and friends to help young people ages 13 to 17 that wish to attend a summer camp, class or workshop with an emphasis on the environment. Adults interested in attending an environmental class, camp or workshop are also invited to apply for an Audubon adult scholarship. **Applications are available from our office by calling 914.666.6503 or online at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/news. Applications are due March 15, 2007**

Grants for Education Outreach

Over the last two months, Saw Mill River Audubon received more good news about project funding!

Audubon New York has approved a grant for an additional laptop computer and projector for our part-time educators to use in their classroom presentations. This new equipment will allow us to expand our educational outreach to additional schools.

A grant from the **Norcross Wildlife Foundation** will help us upgrade and install new trail signs at Pinecliff. Norcross was a major supporter of our 1996 initiative to install the wheelchair-accessible boardwalk at Pinecliff, so it is especially fitting that it chose to honor the tenth anniversary with this grant. The fiberglass-sealed panels are resistant to both weathering and vandalism, and will offer expanded trailside education for local schools and the community at large.

The signs will be installed this spring. Look for information about the dedication ceremony in upcoming newsletters.

Welcome Members

We look forward to seeing you at our field trips & other events!

Chappaqua Harold Kuebler, Robert and Andrea Newborn, Bonnie Selterman, Monte and Linda Shaw, John Warner, Alan Wolfert
Cortlandt Manor Joan Culkin, Nicolas Franco, Ernie Little, Brigitte Nolte
Croton-on-Hudson John G. Celeste, Christopher Chilcott, Leen Provost, George Stydahar Hawthorne Donna Albanese
Montrose Harold Soves
Ossining Yves and Rachel Martin, Aleena O. Pederson, Mark Sadan
Peekskill Jeanette Searles
Scarborough Thomas R. Leahy
Sleepy Hollow Fred and Grace Sisto
Tarrytown Brittany Bucci, Paulette Grabb, Ann Grow, Dorman Willette
Valhalla Lenore Brager

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

For more details: 914.666.6503 or www.sawmillriveraudubon.org.

F E B R U A R Y

Saturday, February 10 ♦ 9:00 am Brinton Brook Through the Seasons

Join us for our continuing series of second Saturday walks! Dress for the weather. Rain or shine. Suitable for ages 4 and up. Leader: Anne Swaim. *Call our office at 914.666.6503 for a recorded message if weather or road conditions are uncertain.*

Sunday, February 11

♦ 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Hudson River EagleFest!

This is the third year for this exciting all day event. **Snow date is Sunday, February 18.** Saw Mill River Audubon is pleased to be a co-sponsor of this event. See details in front page article and special map insert.

Saturday, February 17

♦ 9:00-11:30 am

Seed Sale Third Saturday

Come to Pruyin Sanctuary to stock up on high quality bird seed!

F E B R U A R Y

Saturday, February 24

♦ 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Greenwich Audubon Center

Tour of the new center with naturalist Ted Gilman followed by an outside walk followed by "bring your own lunch" in one of the classrooms.

Admission free for Audubon members, \$3/adults, \$1.50 for children/seniors.

M A R C H

Thursday, March 22 ♦ 7:30 pm Public Program: Why Birds Sing Chappaqua Library Theatre

David Rothenberg explores the mystery of bird song followed by book signing courtesy of Second Story Books. Co-sponsored by Chappaqua Library. Free. For ages 10 and up.

Sunday, March 25 ♦ 6:00 pm Spring Peepers at Pinecliff!

Our annual adventure walking the boardwalk at Pinecliff Sanctuary at dusk to listen and look for spring peepers and other frogs. Bring a flashlight. For ages 3 and up!

M A R C H

Saturday, March 10 ♦ 9:00 am

Brinton Brook

Through the Seasons

Join us for our continuing series of second Saturday walks!

See February listing.

Saturday, March 17

♦ 9:00-11:30 am

Seed Sale Third Saturday

Come to Pruyin Sanctuary to stock up on high quality bird seed! All sales benefit Saw Mill River Audubon.

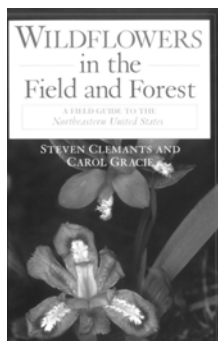
A P R I L

Sunday, April 1 ♦ 6:00 pm Annual Meeting and Dinner

Gather with us for a great meal at Travelers Rest in Millwood. Volunteer service award and a special program. Reservation forms will be mailed in mid-February.

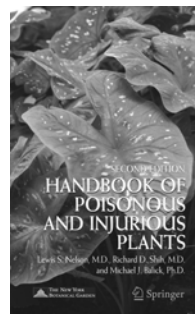
New Books of Interest

Two new, lavishly illustrated handbooks-both by local authors-provide useful, portable, and comprehensive references for nature lovers; indeed, for everyone who encounters plants in or outside the home.



Wildflowers in the Field and Forest: A Field Guide to the Northeastern United States was released by Oxford Press this past April. It features 1,450 wildflowers growing in this region of the country, from Maine to Kentucky and inland to Illinois. Nearly all species are illustrated with color photographs. Co-author Carol Gracie, a member of Bedford Audubon, is also a photographer, naturalist, botanical

researcher, and international plant explorer and logged more than 27,000 miles in identifying and photographing plants for this book. A number of the photographs come from local Westchester parks.



Handbook of Poisonous and Injurious Plants, just off the press, is a clearly structured and colorfully illustrated guidebook co-published by The New York Botanical Garden Press and Springer. It is a comprehensive and indispensable resource for hikers, gardeners, parents of small children, pet owners, physicians, nurses, and veterinarians. Authoritative yet accessible,

the book provides clear visuals to help identify individual poisonous and injurious plants, as well as information on each plant's toxins and the corresponding clinical symptoms and therapeutic treatments. The authors include Lewis S. Nelson, M.D., New York University School of Medicine, and Richard D. Shih, M.D., Morristown Memorial Hospital, Morristown, New Jersey, both experts in medical toxicology and emergency medicine. They teamed with Michael J. Balick, Ph.D., a resident of Mt. Kisco and a noted ethnobotanist at The New York Botanical Garden.

-- George Shakespear

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CELEBRATE NATURE!

Our sanctuaries provide habitat for wildlife and wildflowers. Your gift to Saw Mill River Audubon helps us to encourage people to celebrate and protect natural places!

You may also join, give a membership gift, create a special tribute gift or a memorial donation online!

I WISH TO DONATE

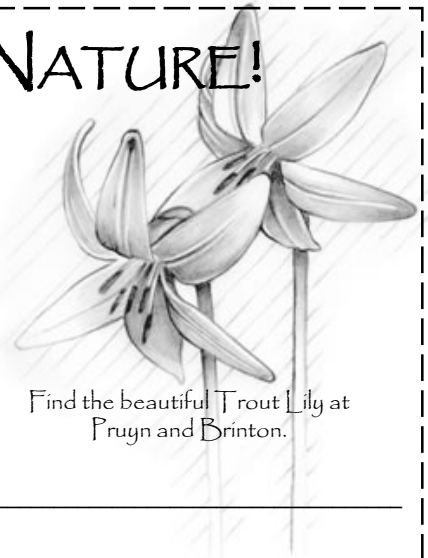
Enclosed is:

- \$500 \$250 \$100
 \$50 \$25 \$____
 My employer will match my gift.

I'D LIKE TO JOIN Saw Mill River Audubon!

Basic Chapter Membership:

- Enclosed is \$20
 Please send me information about planned giving opportunities



Find the beautiful Trout Lily at Prun and Brinton.

Name(s)

Address

City/State/Zip

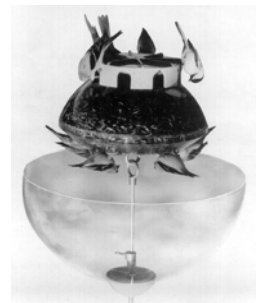
Phone/Email

You can also join or donate at our web site!

Please make checks payable to
Saw Mill River Audubon
275 Millwood Road
Chappaqua, NY 10514

Deadline for Next Newsletter: March 1

Got Bird Seed?
We do! Come to our
sale days on Sat Feb & Mar 17!



PERIODICAL POSTAGE
PAID
at Chappaqua, NY
and additional offices

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