



December 2006 /  
January 2007  
Issue 301

# On the Wing

News from Saw Mill River Audubon

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## Audubon Connects Children & Nature

Joyce Remkus



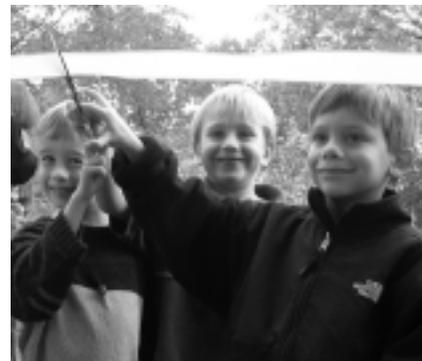
Exploring the meadow at Prugn

## Get Outside this Winter!

Every Second Sat ♦ 9:00 am  
Brinton Brook Through the Seasons  
Join us for our continuing series of second Saturday walks! Suitable for ages 4 and up. Call our office to check on walk status and entry road conditions if the weather is uncertain. Bundle up and come enjoy the winter landscape in our largest sanctuary in Croton-on-Hudson! Details page 3.

## Pruyn Sanctuary Celebrated!

On Sunday, October 22, Audubon members and friends gathered to celebrate Prugn Sanctuary. More than one hundred visitors enjoyed: close looks at birds of prey, guided sanctuary walks, a children's nature hunt, music and refreshments, and a ribbon cutting for the new interpretive trail signs and kiosks. [More pictures on page 4.]



Deborah Woodard

Ribbon Cutting Moment

Joyce Remkus



Falconer James Eyring & Friends

Our thanks to James Eyring for thrilling looks at his birds up close and in flight, to the Northern Westchester Flutes for their music, to Chappaqua Transportation for buses, and to the New Castle Police Department for overseeing pedestrian and traffic safety.

We thank board members, staff and volunteers for all your work that made this day possible. We also thank you, our members and donors, for your financial support that enables Saw Mill River Audubon to protect wildlife habitat, like Prugn Sanctuary, and to present public events that connect people with nature.



Yves Martin

James Eyring & Close-Up of Gyrfalcon

Deborah Woodard



Some of our board members and staff gathered for a group photo at the end of the Prugn Celebration.

**From left to right:** Joan Coffey, Sophie Keyes, George Shakespear, Ponie Sheehan, Jeanne Romeu, Ken Novenster, Dan Ferguson, Phil Heidelberger, Robert McCrillis, Ellen Heidelberger, Anne Swaim, and Barbara Campbell.

### Protecting our Wildlife Sanctuaries



This photograph is of an illegal deer stand removed from Brinton Brook Sanctuary this fall. Deer stands are used by bowhunters as a perch for shooting deer. Saw Mill River Audubon does not allow hunting on our lands. When we find deer stands on our land, we remove them. **If you ever spot a deer stand in our sanctuaries, please contact our office immediately.** If you hunt or know a hunter or allow hunting on your land, please consider the following statement for hunters from the NY Department of Environmental Conservation web site ([www.dec.state.ny.us](http://www.dec.state.ny.us)):

*Permanent stands nailed into trees are dumb and deadly. On state lands, it is illegal to place nails or other hardware into trees, or to build permanent structures, such as tree stands, platforms and blinds. On private lands, it is illegal to cut or remove trees or other plants, or to cut limbs or damage bark (such as from putting up blinds or tree stands, or cutting shooting lanes or trails) without the landowner's permission. (Visit the DEC site for more details.)*

We thank board member Michael Madias, Jr. for locating and removing this deer stand. This is the fifth deer stand removed from our properties this year. (Four were at Brinton Brook and one was at Pruyin Sanctuary.) It is only through the efforts of our volunteers and neighbors that we are able to maintain our properties as wildlife sanctuaries and keep them safe for visitors. Thanks to Michael also for the photograph above.

### An Inside View: Our US Post Office Periodical Form

Perhaps you have seen forms like the one to the right in other publications. We are required to publish this form annually in our newsletter to maintain our periodical postage permit.

Mailing under this permit is cheaper and faster than bulk mail. **This means we can do more for the environment with the money we save and you also receive your newsletter faster!**

If you look at the numbers on this form, you will see that we print a certain number of extra newsletters to distribute at events and in our sanctuary map boxes. Our thanks to Sophie Keyes for her ongoing work to maintain this permit that helps us use your donations wisely and spread the word about Audubon's mission.

13. Publication Title <b>ON THE WING</b>		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below <b>08/17/06</b> (7/07/07)	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		2,020	2,300
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation	(1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions (State or Form 3541 - include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)	18	13
	(2) Paid In-County Subscriptions (State on Form 3541 - include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)	841	850
	(3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution		
	(4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS		
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b (1) through 15b (4))		859	863
d. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, Compliment, etc. and other free)	(1) Outside-County as stated on Form 3541		
	(2) In-County as stated on Form 3541	155	105
	(3) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS		
e. Free Distribution Outside-the-Mail (Carriers or other means)		700	700
f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e)		855	805
g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f)		1,714	1,668
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18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner		Date	
<i>Sophie J. Keyes / Editor</i>		10/22/06	

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and penalties).

### New Audubon Educators!

Saw Mill River Audubon has engaged the services of two part-time environmental educators to lead our classroom and field trip programs for local schools and organizations. **Patricia Mutolo** comes to us with over 20 years of teaching experience in the Chappaqua School District. Pat will be teaching our school classroom programs.

We are also pleased to welcome **Laura Infield** who will be leading our school field trips. We will be sharing her talents with Northern Westchester-Putnam BOCES. Laura, a 2004 graduate of Binghamton University, has led outdoor experiences for students of all ages.

**Anne Swaim**, now Executive Director of Saw Mill River Audubon, previously led both our classroom and field trip programs. This staffing change will allow Saw Mill River Audubon to expand its mission in sanctuary stewardship, environmental advocacy and environmental education.

Welcome to Audubon, Laura and Pat!



### Welcome Members

**Briarcliff Manor** Patrick McCarty, Dr. Lenore B. Munitz **Chappaqua** Katie Brennan and Pascal Saremsky, Howard B. Demb, Charles Harper Pack, Jana Peters **Cortlandt Manor** Jacob Miller **Croton-on-Hudson** Steve Bayer, Warren Burholt, Ruth Kaplan, Marcia McCraw **Hawthorne** Paul Impelluso **Millwood** Bonzillah Glasgow **Mohegan Lake** Flora McManus **Ossining** Birna Avenius, John Giler, Bruce Masserman, Anne Winston **Peekskill** Angela Aiello, Carol Capobianco, Manny John Cortez, Wendy Porterfield **Pleasantville** Mary Brazell and Merrill Ben Richmond, Dennis Mark DeMello, Joanne Willard **Tarrytown** Annie Murphy, Jim Kittler, Dr. Howard Smith **Valhalla** Ruth Gilcher **Verplanck** Margaret Lloyd

# AUDUBON ADVENTURES

For more and latest details: 914.666.6503 or [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org).

## DECEMBER

**Sunday, Dec 3 ♦ 9:00 am**

### Teatown Bird Census Walk

Led by Charlie Roberto, this walk will census the birds at Teatown Lake. Meet 9:00 am in the main parking lot of Teatown. Bring binoculars.

**Saturday, Dec 9 ♦ 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. Meet at the sanctuary main entrance.



**Sunday, Dec 10 ♦ 9:00 am**

### Waterfowl at Tarrytown Reservoir

We'll walk along the reservoir and look for overwintering waterfowl. Dress warmly and bring binoculars. Scopes will be shared. Leaders: Bob Keyes and Larry Trachtenberg. Meet at the Eastview Park and Ride Lot south of the reservoir.

**Saturday, Dec 16 ♦ 9:00 to 11:30 am**

### Third Saturday Bird Seed Sale

Our bird seed shed will be open for sales every third Saturday during the winter for you to purchase our high-quality bird seed. This ongoing bird seed sale supports the work of Saw Mill River Audubon. Bird seed is also available for sale during regular office hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. Visit our web site for details.

## JANUARY

**Saturday, January 13 ♦ 9:00 am**

### Croton Point Walk for Eagles and More!

Come, look for overwintering bald eagles and other winter birds. Led by Charlie Roberto. Free and open to the public. Dress warmly and bring binoculars. Scopes will be available for shared viewing. Meet at the Croton boat ramp.

## JANUARY

**Saturday, Jan 13 ♦ 9:00 am**

### Brinton Brook Through the Seasons

Join us for our continuing series of second Saturday walks! See description on Dec 9. Call our office at 914.666.6503 to check on walk status and entrance road conditions if the weather is uncertain.

## FREE PUBLIC PROGRAM

**Friday, Jan 19 ♦ 7:30 pm**

### *A Day in the Life of a Backyard Bird: Audubon at Home and You!*

Chappaqua Library

Sean Mahar, Associate Director of Conservation for Audubon New York, presents this lively program linking your backyard to the health of birds and other wildlife and the overall health of our planet! Find out what you can do to live more lightly and be more healthy in your own backyard.

**Saturday, Jan 20 ♦ 9:00 to 11:30 am**

### Saturday Bird Seed Sale

Our bird seed shed will be open for sales every third Saturday. See description on Dec 16 or visit our web site for details.



**Sunday, Jan 28 ♦ 10:00 am**

### Winter Plant Walk

with Carol Levine at Muscoot Farm  
Come learn more about identifying trees and other plants in the winter with Carol Levine, author and instructor at the New York Botanical Garden. Meet 10 am in the parking lot of Muscoot Farm, Route 100, Somers. Free and open to the public.

## FEBRUARY

**Saturday, Feb 10 ♦ 9:00 am**

### Brinton Brook Through the Seasons

Join us for our continuing series of second Saturday walks! See description on Dec 9. Call our office at 914.666.6503 to check on walk status and entrance road conditions if the weather is uncertain.

**Sunday, Feb 11 ♦ All Day**

### 3rd Annual Hudson River Eagle Fest!

For the last two years, this exciting all day event has drawn big crowds! Viewing stations on the shore of the Hudson River will feature volunteer guides to help you spot eagles. Warming tents with hot cocoa and more information about the return of the bald eagle to the Hudson River will be at each location. Additional activities will be offered all day at Teatown Lake Reservation. This event is organized by Teatown Lake Reservation and cosponsored by Saw Mill River Audubon and other local environmental groups. *Details to follow.*

**Saturday, Feb 17 ♦ 9:00 to 11:30 am**

### Saturday Bird Seed Sale

Our bird seed shed will be open for sales every third Saturday. See description on Dec 16 or visit our web site for details.

## LAST CALL

### Travel with Audubon to Trinidad!

**Mon, April 23 to Fri, April 27, 2007**

Share with us the delights of neotropical birding with a five-day stay at the world-renowned Asa Wright Nature Centre on the island of Trinidad.

**Limited to 18, only five spaces remain as we go to print.**

**We have the minimum needed for this trip to happen! Will you join us?**

For more details visit this web page: [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/Trinidad](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/Trinidad)

**Contact our office by Dec 15**

to reserve your space with a \$100 per person deposit payable to SMRA.

# AUDUBON VIEWS

Work Day Photos: Carol Hurford



## Pruyn Sanctuary Work Day October 7

Left to Right: Phil Heidelberg,  
Cindy O'Hanley, Tom McEnerney

Michael Madias, Jr



Michael Madias, Jr

## Bird Seed Sale Workers October 15

Left to Right: Sophie Keyes, Jeanne Romeu, Ken Novenstern,  
Ellen Heidelberg, Larry Trachtenberg

## Birding at Brinton October 14

Joyce Remkus



## Walking at Pruyn October 22



Anne Swaim

## New Trail Signs and Kiosks now installed at Pruyn Sanctuary

## NATURE NOTES



## Coyotes in Westchester

Yes, they are here! You might have heard their chorus of howls in the night. Or maybe you saw one furtively loping across the road in the dawn's light. More and more, coyotes have been making their presence known right here in Westchester County. In recent years the coyote has been reclaiming its historic range and even spreading into new areas in the eastern United States.

Now, an important research project seeks to gain an understanding of these animals in our area. The New York Suburban Coyote Study is a collaboration of Cornell University and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation and the Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Westchester County are helping in the project. And the public is being asked to participate by reporting coyote sightings. Visit the study's web site at: [nycoyote.org](http://nycoyote.org). There's a coyote sighting reporting form on the web site as well as important information about coyote-human interactions.

### Tracking Local Coyotes

So far, the New York Suburban Coyote Study has trapped and fitted 13 coyotes with radio-tracking collars in the Westchester towns of Mount Pleasant and Greenburgh. Once collared, the coyotes are released. In Yorktown, two coyotes have been collared; the study's goal is to have a total of 15 coyotes with tracking collars in the towns of Yorktown and Somers. The radio-tracking collars will help document the lives of these elusive animals by providing detailed information about their movements.

### A Few Facts About Coyotes

Adult coyotes are similar in size to medium-sized dogs. They weigh between 20 and 50 pounds. Females are smaller than males. While coyotes can breed with dogs, offspring of such matings rarely reproduce, so the phenomenon of "coydogs" is thought to be uncommon. Coyotes are highly adaptable animals and can thrive in many different environments. While they don't like thick, unbroken forest, our suburban landscape of woodlots and lawns seems to appeal to them. Some coyotes lead solitary lives while others live in packs of up to seven individuals.



Coyote Track

The coyote diet is quite varied. Among the foods they eat are rodents, snakes, birds, insects, berries and fruit. They are also capable of killing deer but this may be relatively rare. Fawns or already injured or sick adult deer are more likely to be coyote meals. Cats and small dogs that are allowed to roam untended, especially after dark, are also potential meals for coyotes. When you visit the New York Suburban Coyote web site, be sure to click on the link for "Sightings: What To Do?" to learn how to live alongside coyotes and keep your pets and your family safe. Coyotes are important for a healthy habitat. — *Bill Kellner*

### Audubon Welcomes Dogs On Leashes But...

The presence of coyotes (see article above) is yet another good reason to keep your dogs leashed when you visit our sanctuaries. We have had some unhappy reports at Brinton Brook Sanctuary of dogs running loose and causing problems for other trail walkers. **If you walk in our sanctuaries with your dog OR if you live adjacent to one of our sanctuaries, please don't let your dog run loose.** It is a risk for your dog and it is unfriendly and unneighborly. (And, of course, remember to pick up after your dog as you would on your own land.) Thank you for doing your part to protect our sanctuaries.

### Thanks to our Bird Seed Sale Volunteers & Donors!

Our 40th Annual Bird Seed Sale weekend was a great success.

**Thank you to all who purchased bird seed from us.** Our seed sale continues through the winter! (See calendar on page 3). **We are grateful to our seed sale workers:** Cori Cumming, Sally Dow, Trish Foy, Phil Heidelberger, Jan Kessler, Keith Kevan, Sophie Keyes, Michael Madias, Elaine Mason, Tom McEnerney, Harper Pack, Jeff and Ryan Pinerio, Rick Renz, Jeanne Romeu, Stanley Rosenthal, Richard Saravay, Ponie Sheehan, Meredith Smith, Anne Swaim, and Larry Trachtenberg.

**Our thanks to Ken Novenster for chairing the 2006 Bird Seed Sale. Great job, Ken!**

**Special recognition and appreciation to Starbucks of Chappaqua for providing coffee and Pizza Station in Chappaqua for providing pizza to sustain our bird seed sale workers this year!**

## Saw Mill River Audubon

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office@sawmillriveraudubon.org  
www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

### OFFICERS

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Chairman of the Board, Richard Saravay  
Recording Secretary, Jeanne Romeu  
Treasurer, Tom McEnerney  
Historian & Bulletin Editor, Sophie Keyes

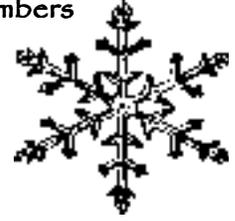
### STAFF

Executive Director, Anne Swaim  
Office Assistant, Ellen Heidelberg  
Marketing & Fundraising, Barbara Campbell  
Sanctuary Maintenance, Danny Ferguson

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# EACH ONE IS DIFFERENT

Even as every snowflake is unique, so are our members and donors. But all are joined together to help protect environmental quality here where we live. Your gift to Saw Mill River Audubon helps us encourage more people to enjoy the natural world and care about its protection.



You may also join, give a gift membership, create a special tribute gift or memorial donation online: [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/gifts](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/gifts)

## 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 planned giving info

Name(s)

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone/Email

Please make checks payable to:

**Saw Mill River Audubon**  
275 Millwood Road  
Chappaqua, NY 10514

Deadline for Next Newsletter: January 1

Got Bird Seeds?  
We do! Come to our  
Third Saturday sale days!



Photo: Leen Provost

PERIODICAL POSTAGE  
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and additional offices

Sophie Keyes, Editor  
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