FALL ADVENTURES

We have an exciting lineup of field trips this autumn. This fall we are offering monthly walks at two of our wildlife sanctuaries. Further afield, our fall field trips highlight the annual southward migration of birds at regional hotspots for raptors, shorebirds and more. Check our web site for the latest updates: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

Saturday, September 11 • 9:00 am • Both Brinton Brook & Pruyn Sanctuaries
Second Saturday Walks
This year, we are offering monthly walks at our two largest sanctuaries: Brinton Brook in Croton on Hudson and Pruyn in Millwood. Come record the progress of the season with photos and nature notes. An online journal on our FaceBook page will be updated after each walk. No pre-registration needed. Good for all ages. Michael Madias leads at Brinton Brook and Anne Swaim leads the walk at Pruyn.

Saturday, September 18 • 6:00 am (from Millwood)
Day Trip to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary
Travel with us to this famed Pennsylvania hawk sanctuary, the first place in the world to protect the fall migration of birds of prey. We expect to view good numbers of broad-winged hawks and other species as they make their way south along the Kittatinny Ridge of the Appalachian Mountains. Call or email to register.

Sunday, September 26 • 12 noon–1:00 pm • Pinecliff Sanctuary, Chappaqua
Wildlife Tracks and Traces
Explore Pinecliff Sanctuary in early fall. Jointly sponsored with the Town of New Castle. Register by calling the Town of New Castle Recreation Department: 914-238-3909 or visit www.newcastle-ny.org. Fee: $5 for adults (children free). Space limited to 25. Leader: Anne Swaim

Sunday, October 3 • 8:00 am • Connecticut Shoreline
Birding on Long Island Sound
We'll be birding at two significant habitats along the Long Island Sound shoreline in Connecticut: Hammonasset Beach State Park (www.tinyurl.com/hammo-sp) and the Connecticut Audubon Society Coastal Center at Milford Point (www.tinyurl.com/ccas-milford). Call or email to register.

Friday, October 8–Monday, October 11 • Weekend Trip
Cornell Lab of Ornithology & Montezuma NWR
Enjoy the fall colors on Columbus Day weekend as we travel to the Ithaca region for this weekend birding field trip. We’ll get a behind-the-scenes tour of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology at Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary and experience great fall birding at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Call or email to register and for final details on cost and transportation.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES CONTINUE ON PAGE 3
Join Us in March for a Costa Rica Sampler!

Saw Mill River Audubon is offering a seven-day birding trip to Costa Rica from March 21 to March 27, 2010 with an optional three-day extension to March 30. We have secured an excellent trip price through Holbrook Travel of $1547 per person, double occupancy which includes both airfare and a tax-deductible donation to Saw Mill River Audubon. The extension cost is $847 which includes additional in-country transportation. Space is quite limited. At the time of this newsletter publication, this trip is already filling up!

For more information and to reserve your spot, visit www.holbrooktravel.com/SawMillRiverAudubon

Scholarship Winners Report on Their Experiences

Saw Mill River Audubon awarded two Larry Light Youth Environmental Scholarships last spring. With our chapter’s financial support, Sophia West from Ossining, a Junior at Emma Willard School, went to Fiji in June on an environmental service trip while Benjamin Van Doren, a sophomore at White Plains High School, attended the American Birding Association’s Camp Colorado youth birding camp. As our scholarship winners make clear in the following reports, both had richly rewarding learning experiences.

From Benjamin Van Doren
I’d like to thank you very much for the scholarship to American Birding Association’s Camp Colorado this summer. I had a great time with 16 other young birders and renowned expert Michael O’Brien (as well as several other leaders.) We had the opportunity to explore, learn about, and enjoy birding in a diverse array of habitats including 14,000 foot peaks, short-grass prairie, sagebrush fields, and riparian corridors. We were taught several birding-by-ear techniques, had opportunities to try our hands at field sketching, and were made aware of the increasing pressures endangering birds and habitat in the state. But we did also find heartening signs like Russell Davis, a conservationist-rancher, who agreed to help protect Mountain Plovers on his land, even when his colleagues thought it was a foolish idea. Overall it was a great experience.

From Sophia West
Thanks to the generosity of the Saw Mill Audubon’s Larry Light Memorial Scholarship, I had the opportunity to go abroad for the first time and pursue my interest in environmental science by participating in a special program on marine biology. Under the auspices of the youth travel and educational organization Rustic Pathways, I traveled with several other teens to Fiji. In addition to helping clean polluted beaches and learning local customs, we worked closely with the local village of Malakati to set up a marine park. Due to overfishing and increased tourism and boat traffic, many local villages have noticed a steep decline in fish populations and coral reef health. While in Fiji, we worked with the nonprofit organization Reef Check to set up such a marine park, and developed a transect line that will be checked twice a year by professional divers to ensure the continued health of the area.

Our Larry Light Scholarship Fund welcomes your donations so that Saw Mill River Audubon may continue to encourage young environmentalists. You may donate securely online at our web site: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/Donate.
Fall 2010

M O R E  A U D U B O N  A D V E N T U R E S

For more details: 914.666.6503 or www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

O C T O B E R
(continued from page 1)

Friday, Oct. 8–Monday, Oct. 11
Weekend Trip to Cornell Lab of Ornithology & Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge
See description on page 1. Call or email ASAP for details on cost and transportation options.

Saturday, October 9 ♦ 9:00 am
Second Saturday Walks at both Brinton Brook & Pruyn Sanctuaries
See listing for September 11 on page 1 for details.

Sunday, October 10 ♦ 2:00 pm
Fall Colors at Lasdon Arboretum
Led by Cornell Cooperative Extension tree experts, learn how to identify our native trees in fall colors and also after the leaves fall. Call or email to register.

Sunday, October 17 ♦ 12 noon–1:30 pm
The Forest in Fall: Pruyn Sanctuary
Jointly sponsored with the Town of New Castle. Come explore Pruyn Sanctuary in early fall. Registration will be through the Town of New Castle Recreation Department. Call 914-238-3909 or visit www.newcastle-ny.org
Fee: $5/adults (children free). Space limited to 25. Leader: Anne Swaim

Saturday & Sunday, October 16 & 17
9:00 am–2:00 pm
New Castle Town Hall
44th Annual SEED SALE
Our annual bird seed sale offers you high-quality bird seed at bulk prices while supporting our local conservation efforts. We renew our inventory each fall and offer a convenient pickup at the parking lot behind New Castle Town Hall in Chappaqua during our sale weekend. Please see the seed sale flyer enclosed with this issue or visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/seedsale for more information and to order online. Gift certificates are available! Seed sales continue throughout the year with pickup at our office at Pruyn Sanctuary.

Saturday, October 30 ♦ 8:00 am
Fall Sparrows and More at Marshlands Conservancy
Join us as we visit the Marshlands Conservancy in Rye and the nearby Edith Read Sanctuary for great fall birding. Call or email to register.

Sunday, November 7 ♦ 6:00 am (departing from Millwood)
The Atlantic Coast Migration
The Atlantic Coast of Long Island offers a glimpse into the shoreline seabird and waterfowl migration as well as possibilities for late migrating land birds. Birding stops are expected to include Shinnecock and Jones Beach with other stops added or substituted depending on local reports. Call or email to register

Saturday, November 13 ♦ 9:00 am
Second Saturday Walks at both Brinton Brook & Pruyn Sanctuaries
See listing for September 11 on page 1 for details.

Saturday, November 27 ♦ 7:00 am (departing from Millwood)
New Jersey Meadowlands/ Richard W. DeKorte Park
Marsh harriers, American kestrels, winter sparrows and abundant waterfowl are all possibilities in the 2,000 acres of the Meadowlands in late November. Call or email to register

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Information for All Field Trips
All are welcome regardless of ability to donate.
We ask you to call 914-666.6503 OR email office@sawmillriveraudubon.org before the trip so we know to expect you on the trip. Most trips run rain or shine. If we do need to cancel a trip we will call or email (your preference) to all who are registered and we will also put a notice on our web site and our office answering machine.

Personalized Field Trips & Programs
Saw Mill River Audubon offers personalized field trips in our sanctuaries and personalized presentations about local wildlife for your school or community group. Contact our office for more details at 914-666-6503 or through email to office@sawmillriveraudubon.org. For topics and costs, visit our web site at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org.

Do you know this bird?
Check out our enclosed 2010-11 schedule of field trips to find out its name and the names of nine other birds we expect to see on our trips.
Deadline for Next Newsletter: November 1

Saw Mill River Audubon
275 Millwood Road
Chappaqua, New York 10514

CELEBRATE NATURE
“In the eternal youth of Nature you may renew your own.”
John Muir

Our sanctuaries provide important habitat for migrating birds. 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  ☐ $20  ☐ $____
☐ My employer will match my gift.

I’d Like to Join Saw Mill River Audubon!
Basic Chapter Membership:
☐ Enclosed is $25
☐ 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

Juncos come from the north to overwinter here. Look for their return to our sanctuaries this fall.
## September 2010

**Saturday, September 11, 9:00 am**
**Second Saturday Walks**
**At Brinton Brook & Pruyn Sanctuaries**
This year we will offer monthly walks at both of our largest sanctuaries: Brinton Brook Sanctuary in Croton and Pruyn Sanctuary in Millwood. Come walk with us to record progress of seasons with photos and nature notes. An online journal on FaceBook will be added to with each walk. No pre-registration needed. Good for all ages. Held regardless of weather except in cases of severe thunderstorm or road closures. Brinton leader: Michael Madias, Jr. Pruyn leader: Anne Swaim

**Saturday, September 18, 6:00 am departing from Millwood**
**Day Trip to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary**
Travel with us to this famed Pennsylvania hawk sanctuary, the first place in the world to protect the fall migration of birds of prey. We expect to view good numbers of broad-winged hawks and other raptors. Call or email to register.

**Sunday, September 26, 12 noon to 1:00 pm**
**Wildlife Tracks and Traces: Pinecliff Sanctuary**
Jointly sponsored with the Town of New Castle. Come explore Pinecliff Sanctuary in early fall. Registration will be through the Town of New Castle Recreation Department. Call 914-238-3909 or visit www.newcastle-ny.org $5/adults. Children free. Space limited to 25. Leader: Anne Swaim

## October 2010 (continued)

**Saturday, October 9, 9:00 am**
**Second Saturday Walks at Brinton Brook & Pruyn**
See listing for September 11.

**Sunday, October 10, 2:00 pm**
**Fall Colors at Lasdon Arboretum**
Led by Cornell Cooperative Extension tree experts, learn how to identify our native trees in fall colors and also after the leaves fall. Call or email to register.

**Saturday October 16 and Sunday, October 17**
**Bird Seed Sale Weekend. 10:00 am to 2:00 pm each day.**
See flyer or visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/SeedSale

**Saturday, October 30, 8:00 am**
**Fall Sparrows and More at Marshlands**
Marshlands Sanctuary in Rye and the nearby Edith Read Sanctuary both offer great fall birding. Call or email to register.

## November 2010

**Saturday, November 7**
**6:00 am departing from Millwood**
**Atlantic Coast Migration**
The Atlantic Coast of Long Island offers a glimpse into the shoreline seabird and waterfowl migration as well as possibilities for late migrating land birds. Birding stops are expected to include Shinnecock and Jones Beach with other stops added or substituted depending on local reports. Call or email to register

**Saturday, November 13, 9:00 am**
**Second Saturday Walks at Brinton Brook & Pruyn**
See listing for September 11.

**Saturday, November 27, 7:00 am departing from Millwood**
**Hackensack Meadows/ Richard W. DeKorte State Park**
Marsh harriers, American kestrel, winter sparrows and abundant waterfowl are all possibilities in the 2,000 acres of the Meadowlands in late November. Call or email to register.
December 2010

Saturday December 4
Winter Weekend at Brigantine
Thousands of snow geese and other wintering waterfowl may be seen at Forsythe (aka Brigantine) National Wildlife Refuge just north of Atlantic City. Join us for one or both days: come down Saturday morning and return Saturday night or stay over for additional birding on Sunday. Will include stop at Barnegat. Call or email for details on trip cost and transportation options.

Saturday, December 11, 9:00 am
Second Saturday Walks at Brinton Brook & Pruyn
See listing for September 11.

Saturday, December 18, dawn to dusk
Peekskill Christmas Bird Count
National census of birds in various count circles. Contact our office for more information.

Sunday, December 26, dawn to dusk
Bronx Westchester Christmas Bird Count
National census of birds in various count circles. Contact our office for more information.

Wednesday, December 29, 7:00 am from Millwood
Shawangunk National Wildlife Refuge
Add to your 2010 birding list with some excellent birding at this grassland habitat in Orange County. This refuge was recently closed for habitat improvements. Come see the changes and enjoy a great day of winter birding. Call or email to register.

January 2011

Saturday, January 1, 9:00 am
New Year’s Walk at Rockwood Hall
Start off the year with an invigorating walk along the Hudson River shoreline at Rockwood Hall State Park. Eagle views are quite likely. Spotting scopes provided. Dress very warmly! Call or email to register.

Sunday, January 2, dawn to dusk
Putnam Christmas Bird Count
National census of birds in various count circles. Contact our office for more information.

Saturday, January 8, 7:00 am
Croton Point Eagles
Our annual tradition continues with this popular birding walk at Croton Point County Park led by Charlie Roberto. Call or email to register.

Saturday, January 8, 9am
Second Saturday Walks at Brinton Brook & Pruyn
See listing for September 11.

January 2011 (continued)

Monday, January 17, 8:00 am
Long Island Winter Ducks
We plan to visit various locations along the Long Island shoreline for winter ducks. Call or email to register.

Sunday, January 30, 8:00 am departing from Millwood
Owl Prowl
We will visit various locations in the metro NYC area depending on local reports of daytime roosting owls. Carpooling available from Millwood or follow along with us in your own vehicle. Call or email to register.

February 2011

Saturday, February 5, All Day
Hudson River EagleFest
Celebrate the Bald Eagle on the Hudson River with this all day festival along the Westchester county shoreline of the River organized by Teatown Lake Reservation and supported by Saw Mill River Audubon. See details from Teatown closer to the event by visiting www.teatown.org

Saturday, February 12, 9:00 am
Second Saturday Walks at Brinton Brook & Pruyn
See listing on September 11.

Monday, February 21, 8:00 am departing from Millwood
Greenwich Point Park, Old Greenwich, CT
We will search for winter birds on the Long Island Sound including: Common and Red-Throated Loons, Long-tailed Ducks, Common Goldeneye and more. Call or email to register.

March 2011

Saturday, March 12, 9:00 am
Second Saturday Walks at Brinton Brook & Pruyn
See listing on September 11.

Monday, March 21 to Sunday, March 27
Costa Rica Sampler Trip
Optional extension to Wednesday, March 30. See our web site or newsletter for details.

Sunday, March 20, 7:30am departing from Millwood
Celebrate Spring: Edith Read Sanctuary
Lingering winter waterfowl and the first vanguard of spring shorebird migrants are both likely including: Lesser and Greater Scaup, Redheads and Pintails as well as Ruddy Turnstones and Purple Sandpipers on the rock jetties. Call or email to register.
April 2011

Sunday, April 3, 6:00 pm
Saw Mill River Audubon Annual Dinner
Join us for our annual gathering featuring presentations by student environmental scholarship recipients and much more. Details to follow on our website and in later newsletters. Save the date!

Saturday, April 9, 9:00 am
Second Saturday Walks at Brinton Brook & Pruyn
See listing for September 11

Saturday, April 23, 6:00 am departing from Millwood
Garret Mountain Birding
Garret Mountain Reservation in Passaic County, New Jersey has a reputation as one of the best places to see and hear the first flow of spring migrants including the first of the warblers and vireos making their way north from the neotropics. Call or email to register.

Thursday, April 28 to Sunday, May 1
DelMarVa Birding Weekend
A group from Saw Mill River Audubon is planning to attend this celebratory weekend. Details online here: http://delmarva-almanac.com/index.php/contrib/birdingweekenddates

May 2011

Saturday, May 7, 5:30 am from Millwood
Prospect Park Birding
Last year's spring birding trip to Prospect Park offered spectacular looks at spring migrants. Call or email to register.

Thursday, May 12, 6:30 am
Birding in Central Park
During mid-May, Central Park is world-famous for its concentrations of spring migrants. Call or email to register.

Saturday, May 14, 6:00 am
Doodletown and Mine Road Birding
Reliable views of Cerulean and Hooded Warblers as well as a wealth of other spring migrants are possible at this rich bird habitat within Bear Mountain State Park. Call or email to register.

Saturday, May 14, 9:00 am
Second Saturday Walks at Brinton Brook & Pruyn
See listing for September 11.

Wednesday, May 18, 6:00 am
Early Morning Bird Walk: Anglefly Preserve, Somers
The Somers Land Trust has created an excellent network of trails through the rich habitats of this 654-acre property. We can expect a diversity of spring migrants and area nesters. Call or email to register.

May 2011 (continued)

Saturday, May 21, 6:00 am departing from Millwood
Sterling Forest Spring Birding
Both Blue and Golden-winged warblers and other spring migrants are often reported at this 21,00+ acre preserved open space near Tuxedo, New York. Call or email to register.

Sunday, May 29, 6:00 am departing from Millwood
Shawangunk Grasslands NWR
We will be searching for grassland summer nesters including Eastern Meadowlarks, Boblinks and Upland Sandpipers with other possibilities including Grasshopper or Henslow's Sparrows. Call or email to register.

June 2011

Saturday, June 11, 9:00 am
Second Saturday Walks at Brinton Brook & Pruyn
See listing for September 11

Saturday, June 18, 5:00 am departing from Millwood
Basha Kill Birding
The Basha Kill River valley, with over 3,000 acres of freshwater wetlands, lies between the Shawangunks and Catskills and offers great birding in early summer. Call or email to register.

Information for All Field Trips

We ask you to call our office at 914-666.6503 OR email us at office@sawmillriveraudubon.org before all SMRA-led trips that require registration so that we know to expect you.

Most trips run rain or shine. If we do need to cancel a trip, we will call or email all who are registered. Please let us know which contact you prefer. We will also put a notice on our web site and our office answering machine in the event of trip changes or cancellations.

To support our local conservation efforts, we also ask for a voluntary donation of $5 per adult for SMRA-led trips.

Children & youth under 18 free.
All are welcome regardless of ability to donate.
Saw Mill River Audubon

Education

**We teach** the importance of native habitats and wildlife through classroom and field-based programs, and make presentations to community groups about sound environmental practices.

**We offer** dozens of public programs and field trips with a broad natural history and environmental focus.

**We sponsor** local students and educators through summer scholarships for environmental study.

Advocacy

**We monitor** local land use and wildlife issues, and provide a reasoned voice for the environment based on the twin principles of sound science and sustainable development.

**We collaborate** with local, county, and state governments, other environmental groups, community organizations, and area businesses, and take action on issues of shared concern.

**We work** with other Audubon chapters to offer programs and events.

Habitat Conservation

**We protect** more than 300 acres of open space and critical wildlife habitat in eight sanctuaries, open year-round to the public.

**We maintain** marked hiking trails in seven sanctuaries that feature a wide variety of habitats; an arboretum, wildflower meadow, and butterfly and hummingbird garden in Pruyn Sanctuary; and a wheelchair-accessible boardwalk through the wetlands of Pinecliff Sanctuary.

**We educate** homeowners about alternatives to toxic pesticides, the value of landscaping with native plants, and respecting birds, wildlife, and local habitats.

For more than 50 years, Saw Mill River Audubon has pursued its mission to maintain environmental quality for all living things by protecting natural ecosystems through education, advocacy, and habitat conservation.

Our Staff & Volunteers

Our small part-time staff supports an active group of volunteers who help prepare our newsletter, monitor and maintain our sanctuaries, arboretum, and garden, coordinate field trips and events, and serve on more than a dozen committees involved with our local conservation efforts.

How You Can Help

Participate in our programs. Become a volunteer. Visit our web site, www.sawmillriveraudubon.org, to find out more about our activities and support our efforts through a tax-deductible contribution.