



Winter 2008
Issue 311

On the Wing

News from Saw Mill River Audubon

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Support Audubon

Enjoy the beauty of nature this Winter! Audubon makes it easy with our great lineup walks, lectures and more! Details at right



Winter Seed Sales

9:30 am–12:30 pm

On the following Saturdays:

Sat. Dec. 20 Sat. Jan. 17

Sat. Jan. 31 Sat. Feb. 14

At Pruyn Sanctuary

Weekday sales are available
Mon/Wed/Fri 10:30 am to 3:30 pm
Call 914.666.6503 for more info.

WINTER EVENTS

Join us! For FREE registration, call 914.666.6503
or visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

Saturday December 13 ♦ 8:00 am–11:00 am ♦ Meet at Junction of Rts. 100 & 118 Get Ready for the Christmas Bird Count

This event helps participants learn about and prepare for the upcoming count (See Dec. 20 below and article on page 3). Meet at parking lot at junction of Routes 100 and 118 for carpooling to count sites. Leader: Rik Kaufman

Saturday December 20 ♦ Various times and locations Peekskill Christmas Bird Count

Last year, thousands of volunteers counted nearly 60 million birds across the Americas and beyond. Join one of the teams for our regional count and participate in a tradition that goes back over 100 years. Results are compiled at a special dinner at Teatown Lake Reservation at the end of the day. See the article on page 3 for more information. Leader: Rik Kaufman

Thursday January 1 ♦ Time and location TBD New Years Day Birding Walk

Kick off the New Year by getting outside bright and early. Bring binoculars. Leaders: Rik Kaufman and Anne Swaim



Saturday January 10 ♦ 9:00 am ♦ Croton Harmon Station and Croton Point Park Croton Point Bird Walk: Eagles and More

Meet at the Croton River boat ramp parking area (drive into parking area for Croton station and continue past station). Bring binoculars. We hope to see bald eagles and other interesting birds. This is one of our most popular local field trips!

Leader: Charlie Roberto

Saturday February 7 ♦ 9:00 am–4:00 pm ♦ Various Hudson River Sites 2009 Hudson River EagleFest

Here's another chance to see the majestic bald eagles that overwinter along the Hudson River. Guides with spotting scopes will be located at Charles Point Park in Peekskill, Georges Island County Park in Montrose and the Croton River boat ramp (see directions in Jan. 10 event above). Stop by Croton Point Park during the day for more events and exhibits.

Saturday February 21 ♦ Time and location TBD Winter Owl Prowl

See and hear some of our most fascinating local residents: the owls. Join us as we try to find these elusive birds. We'll decide on location closer to date. Leader: Trudy Battaly

Saturday February 28 ♦ 2:00 pm ♦ Ossining Public Library Bluebirds: A Conservation Success Story

Learn all about bluebirds and how local conservation efforts are helping populations recover. **BONUS: 12:30 pm nest box building workshop! Call for details.**

New Sign Graces Graff

The entrance to Saw Mill River Audubon's Graff Sanctuary in Croton-on-Hudson is now marked by the beautiful sign pictured below. A new entrance sign has also been installed at our recently-expanded Haas Sanctuary in the Town of New Castle. Support from SMRA's members and friends have made these improvements possible.



New sign at Furnace Dock Road entrance to Graff Sanctuary in Croton-on-Hudson
Photo: William Kellner

Welcome Members

Ardsey Susan Lilien **Briarcliff Manor** Ray Whitt **Chappaqua** Ola and Amy Ahlmen, Joseph Gershman, Ellen Ludwig, Erik Trinkhauser **Croton-on-Hudson** Andrew Dieckman, Jeremy and Valerie Goldman, Ed Robin **Hawthorne** Nancy, Jose, and Noah Romanchuk **Irvington** Dan Fried **Ossining** Dick and Anne Wiedenhet **Prairieville, LA** Elizabeth Michel **Yonkers** Linda Kogin

Thank You Seed Sale Volunteers!

Listed below are the dedicated volunteers who helped out at Saw Mill River Audubon's annual Seed Sale Weekend in October. Your hard work made our 2008 sale a great success. And special thanks to **Pizza Station** of Chappaqua for keeping everyone well fed and happy.

Tony Compito, Cori Cumming, Sally Dow, Ed Edelmann, Nick Fischer, Norma Goldstein, Ellen and Phil Heidelberger, Kat Kehoe, William Kellner, Jan Kessler, Joanne McAuley, Tom McEnerney, Greg and Michael Madias, Erika Miller, Ken Novenstem, Rick Renz, Jeanne Romeu, Doug and Farimah Schuerman, George Shakespear, Ponie Sheehan, Jean Sparacin, Anne Swaim, Larry Trachtenberg, Erik Trinkhauser

Still Need Seed?

If you missed our October bird seed sale you can still stock up on seed at our special Saturday sale dates. See page 1 for details. Seed may also be purchased on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Pruyne Sanctuary.

**Call the Audubon office at
914.666.6503.
for hours and more information**

Chapter Membership Renewal Changes

In order to streamline the chapter membership renewal process for SMRA, we have instituted a new policy of renewing membership only twice a year. Traditionally, we sent notices out on a monthly basis to those whose memberships were expiring. We also sent out a maximum of two reminder notices to those who failed to respond.

The new policy was instituted to simplify record-keeping, reduce postage costs, and streamline the staff time required to administer membership renewals. Most importantly, the change to a twice-yearly mailing will cut down on our paper usage and help conserve trees.

In 2009, **chapter members will receive only one renewal mailing from SMRA**, in either February or August. **We thank all our members in advance for responding promptly to these notices.** This will allow us use the funds that we are saving for our primary mission of preserving and protecting the environment.

SMRA Scholarship Winners Talk About Their Experiences

Dylan Hastings, winner of a Larry Light Scholarship, on the Acadia Institute of Oceanography Summer Camp: "The scholarship allowed me to expand greatly my knowledge of the ocean environment as well as see a new part of the country."

Andrew Park, winner of a Larry Light Scholarship, on the Westchester County Ecology Day Camp CIT training program at Cranberry Lake Preserve: "It was a great experience. We learned a tremendous amount, not only about the environment but also how to take care of it.. I liked the way each day was a themed day such as survival day and rock quarry day because we could focus on a single objective and learn a lot about it. We learned about different studies of organisms (ornithology, herpetology), survival situations (how to make a fire and build a shelter), birds such as the red-eyed vireo (has a cool call), vernal pools, and my favorite-the smells of different trees and shrubs... I wish to continue learning about the environment in school."

Mary Charbonneau, adult scholarship winner, on the Maine Audubon Education Workshop at Hog Island: "I learned a great deal and was so inspired by the other teachers, naturalists, and Hog Island

staff and facilitators. I am eager to start applying the many tips and tools that were suggested for getting kids more actively involved in the learning process."

Saw Mill River Audubon will be offering a Larry Light Scholarship in 2009. The Larry Light Memorial Scholarship Fund for Youth was established by the Light family and their friends. The scholarship assists young people ages 13 to 17 years old who wish to attend a summer camp, class or workshop with an emphasis on the environment. Examples include a Westchester County ecology day camp, an oceanography institute, or a National Wildlife Federation camp. Youth scholarship awards depend on the program cost. For more information and an application, visit sawmillriveraudubon.org/Scholarships.html

Christmas Bird Count Put Your Birdwatching Skills to Work for Conservation!

Saturday, December 20: All Day
Teams of volunteers count birds in Christmas Bird Count areas nationwide from mid-December to early January. The Peekskill CBC area held on this date includes Brinton Brook Sanctuary and other Cortlandt and Cortlandt locations. If you live in the town of Cortlandt and maintain a feeder, call our office to see about watching your feeder on this date and adding your totals to the Peekskill CBC total. If you are a moderately experienced field birder and are interested in traveling along for 4 hours or more with volunteers covering various sections of the count area, please contact Rik Kaufman, Peekskill CBC coordinator, at 914.XXX.XXXX or by email to: XXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXX.com

Keep Track of Visitors to Your Feeder this Winter

This is bird feeding season, and we encourage you to keep your own list of backyard birds and send it to us by mail or email by



March 1. We'll publish a summary of sightings in our newsletter. Below are the top 25 reported birds for our region of the country.

AUDUBON FEEDER WATCH

Fill out and return to SMRA Office by 3/1/09

✓ Rank Common Name (Scientific Name)

- 1 Mourning Dove (*Zenaidamacoura*)
- 2 Dark-eyed Junco (*Juncohyemais*)
- 3 Northern Cardinal (*Cardinaliscardinalis*)
- 4 Blue Jay (*Cyanocittacristata*)
- 5 Downy Woodpecker (*Picoidespubescens*)
- 6 Black-capped Chickadee (*Parusatricapillus*)
- 7 House Finch (*Carpodacusexicanus*)
- 8 American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*)
- 9 Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophusbiclor*)
- 10 White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sittaacolinensis*)
- 11 European Starling (*Sturnusvulgaris*)
- 12 American Crow (*Corvusbrachyrhynchus*)
- 13 House Sparrow (*Passerdomesticus*)
- 14 Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Meanerpescaolinus*)
- 15 Song Sparrow (*Melospizamelodia*)
- 16 American Robin (*Turdusmigratorius*)
- 17 Common Grackle (*Quiscalusquiscula*)
- 18 White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichiaalbicollis*)
- 19 Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoidesvillosus*)
- 20 Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaiusphoeniceus*)
- 21 Purple Finch (*Carpodacuseuropaeus*)
- 22 American Tree Sparrow (*Spizellaarborea*)
- 23 Carolina Wren (*Thryothorusludovicianus*)
- 24 Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*)
- 25 Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiterstriatus*)

Please write other sightings on a separate sheet.

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MAKE A DIFFERENCE

"Today I have grown taller from walking with the trees"
Karle Wilson Baker

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 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**

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: **January 1**

Saw Mill River Audubon's Annual Meeting & Dinner
Sunday, April 5, 2009 at Travelers Rest, Millwood

SAVE THE DATE!

PAID
PERIODICAL POSTAGE
at Chappaqua, NY
and additional offices

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