



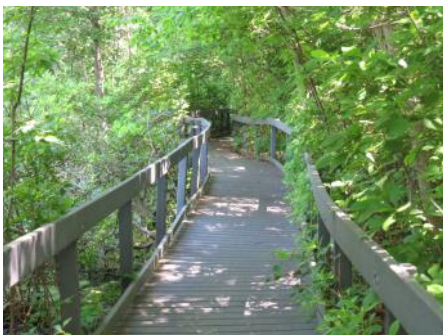
Common Tern on the wing. Photo: Jan Bass



Red-tailed Hawk with the full "blue moon," July at Croton Point. Photo: Jim Bourdon



August birding at Rockefeller State Park Preserve Photo: William Kellner



Pinecliff Sanctuary's wheelchair-accessible boardwalk. Photo: Anne Swaim

Upcoming Events

Visit our **Google calendar** at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/calendar for more fall events and event details. 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.

Every Monday, 7:30 am

Guided Birdwalks at Area Hotspots

- 1st Mon: Muscoot Farm,
- 2nd Mon: Rockefeller State Park Preserve,
- 3rd Mon: Tarrytown Lakes,
- 4th Mon: Croton Point County Park,
- 5th Mon: Location varies, see Google calendar.

Every Second Saturday, 9:00 am

Guided Hike at Brinton Brook Sanctuary

Rain or shine. Registration required for the September walk. (See page 3.)

Friday, September 11, 7:00 pm–8:30 pm

Birders U Workshop: Hawk ID

Croton Point Nature Center.

Workshop to tune up your ID skills for the fall hawk migration already underway. Includes hawk ID guide. \$15/person, member of any Audubon. \$20/person, nonmember price includes new Saw Mill River Audubon membership! Register by phone/email at 914-666-6503 or office@sawmillriveraudubon.org. Payment at workshop. Also join us for the follow-up field trip on Sat., Sep. 19.

Thursday, September 17, 7:00 pm

Public Program: In Search of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker

Teatown Lake Carriage House

We join with Teatown Lake Reservation in offering this fascinating evening program exploring the possibility of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers still existing in the United States. See our web site for details. Free of charge. Best for adults and students 10 and older. Held at Teatown Lake Reservation.

Saturday, September 19, 10:00 am

Field Trip: Hook Mountain Hawk Watch

The hawk watch site on Hook Mountain offers 360 degree views of the Lower Hudson Valley and eye-level views of migration raptors. Meet us there or car-pool from Millwood. Visit our web site and Google calendar for details.

SMRA has other great fall trips planned! Check our Google calendar for additional events and more details on above events.

SMRA Travel

For more than two decades, SMRA members and friends have enjoyed custom-designed ecotours to key birding habitats in the United States and elsewhere.

This October, twenty-six people will be traveling with SMRA to Trinidad and Tobago for an introduction to neotropical birding. For February and March 2016, we have filled two different ten-day trips to Cuba each with 13 participants led by native Cuban Arturo Kirkconnell.

Plans are now underway for a late Fall 2015 weekend to Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey and a January 2016 weekend to Montauk, Long Island.

Our travel program connects people with nature, builds community between trip participants, includes a donation to SMRA and encourages protection of quality habitats for birds, other wildlife and people.

Want notice of future trips? Subscribe to our email list at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/list

Pruyn Garden Update

Garden Coordinator Donna Lassiter led a public tour of the Pruyun Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden in August. This year, visitors enjoyed learning about the many deer-resistant plants in the garden, plants that also host butterfly larvae and provide nectar for butterflies and hummingbirds. As an additional treat, two hummingbirds and several butterflies visited during the August 15th tour.

You can download a list of the plants with full-color photos from our website: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/garden.

When the Pruyun Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden re-opened this summer, it featured a new gate that closes automatically to prevent wildlife damage to the garden. The new gate is an exact reproduction of the original classic cedar gate it replaced.

Our thanks to Campanella Fence, who fabricated and installed our new garden gate, for their expertise and assistance.

Thanks also to Donna Lassiter for overseeing this project.

Saw Mill River Audubon

275 Millwood Road Chappaqua, NY 10514
(914) 666-6503 | office@sawmillriveraudubon.org
Visit us online: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

President: Robert McCrillis

Vice President: Valerie Lyle

Treasurer: Thomas McEnerney Secretary: Joanne McAuley

Editor: Brian Kluepfel Circulation: Jean Sparacin

Executive Director: Anne Swaim

Office Manager: Ellen Heidelberger

Marketing & Fundraising: Barbara Campbell

Sanctuary Maintenance: Danny Ferguson

ON THE WING, Saw Mill River Audubon's newsletter, is published five (5) times a year (Sept/Oct/Nov, Dec/Jan, Feb/Mar, Apr/May, and June/July/Aug) for \$7.50 a year by Saw Mill River Audubon, 275 Millwood Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514. Periodical Postage #013281 at Chappaqua, NY 10514. ISSN: 1545-5254 at Chappaqua, NY and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Address changes to: Saw Mill River Audubon, 275 Millwood Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514



SMRA Garden Coordinator Donna Lassiter leading visitors through the Pruyun Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden. Photo: Greg Jacobson

Connecting with Nature: Your gift helps us connect people and nature.

I wish to donate. Enclosed is:

\$500 \$250 \$100

\$50 \$30 \$_____

My employer will match my gift.

I'd like to join Saw Mill River Audubon

Basic Chapter Membership:

Enclosed is \$30

Please list my gift anonymously

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Email Address _____

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

OR join/renew/donate online
www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/join
www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/renew
www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/donate



Education

SMRA Outreach

Saw Mill River Audubon will be offering dozens of programs and guided field trips for schools and community groups in the 2015-2016 program year. Our programs and field trips get great reviews!

Our 2015-2016 outreach will include: Westorchard, Roaring Brook and Graf-flin Schools in Chap-paqua, Furnace Woods School in Cortlandt Man- or, Todd School in Briar- cliff, Hendrick Hudson Library after-school pro- grams in Montrose, Larchmont and Pleas- antville Garden Clubs.

Connect Audubon with your school, scout troop, or community group!

Visit our web site to learn about topics and pricing: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/education.html

Contact our office for more information and to check availability. (See page 2 for our office telephone and email address.)



Advocacy

Keeping Cats Indoors

Domestic cats can make wonderful pets. But when allowed to roam outdoors, these introduced predators have serious consequences.

Cats have been introduced into new habitats across the globe with terrible re- sults. Outdoors, cats are a non-native and invasive species that threaten birds and other wildlife, disrupt ecosystems, and spread diseases.

Now numbering well over 100 million in the United States, cats kill approximately 2.4 billion birds every year in the U.S. alone, making cat predation by far the big- gest human-caused mor- tality threat to birds.

The American Bird Con- servancy’s “Cats Indoors Program” educates the public and policy makers about the many benefits to birds, cats, and people when cats are maintained indoors or under an own- er’s direct control.

With all the threats now facing our native bird populations, it truly is time to reconsider hav- ing an outdoor cat.

If you still have an out- door cat or know some- one who does, the Ameri- can Bird Conservancy’s “Cats Indoor” web page is the place to visit to learn why keeping cats indoors is better for cats, better for birds, and better for peo- ple: [www.abcbirds.org/ program/cats-indoors/](http://www.abcbirds.org/program/cats-indoors/)



Sanctuaries

Summer intern Chris Gung GPS-mapped all the trails in our six major sanctuaries this summer: Brinton Brook, Choate, Graff, Haas, Pinecliff and Pruy. Coming soon are PDF maps of our sanctuaries for use with mobile trail apps!

The **Brinton Brook Second Saturday walk on Saturday, September 12, 9:00 am** is also listed as a Hudson River Valley Ramble event. Call/email our office to register, this month only, for this walk. **More about Ramble is at www.hudsonrivervalleyramble.com**

Did you know that there are currently 17 hidden geocaches in Saw Mill River Audubon local sanctuaries? Five were placed in honor of our 60th anniversary in 2013. Find out more at: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/geocaching.html



275 Millwood Road
Chappaqua, New York 10514
Return Service Requested

**PERIODICAL POSTAGE
PAID
at Chappaqua, NY
and additional offices**



Steve Sachs photographed this American Kestrel overhead at Hook Mountain's Hawk Watch last October. This fall, look for kestrels with us at Croton Point and Hook Mountain! See more of Steve's work: www.stevesachsphotography.com

Connecting People and Nature since 1953



Selected Fall Events (continued from page 1)

Saturday & Sunday, October 3 & 4, 9:00 am–2:00 pm
Saw Mill River Audubon's Annual Fall Bird Seed Sale Weekend
New Castle Town Hall parking lot. Pre-order deadline: Friday, September 25. Walk-in sales welcome. **See flyer in this newsletter and also online at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/seed.** Support Saw Mill River Audubon!

Saturday, October 10 & November 21, 9:00 am
Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook Sanctuary
Offered every month, rain or shine. No pre-registration ever needed (except for September's walk which is part of the Hudson River Valley Ramble.)

Thursday, October 22, 7:00 pm
Public Program: New York Reptiles Conservation and Rehab
Croton Free Library
Join Erin Baker and some of her live reptile friends to learn more about the reptiles of New York: hear her stories as a reptile rehabber, and the conservation challenges facing our native reptiles. Free of charge. No pre-registration needed.

Thursday, November 12, 7:00 pm
Public Program: Exploring Bolivia, Croton Free Library
SMRA Board Member Brian Kluepfel will share his recent adventures exploring Bolivia as part of his work to help update the *Lonely Planet Guide to Bolivia*.

Saturday & Sunday, November 14 & 15, 9:00 am–11:00 am
Project FeederWatch Begins at Croton Point Nature Center.
SMRA volunteers will be present every Sat & Sun through late April to identify & count birds at the feeders.



*Red-breasted Nuthatch
at Croton Point. Nature Center
Photo: Bonnie Talluto*