Upcoming Events

Visit our Google calendar at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/calendar for more events, event details, and any schedule changes. Be sure to subscribe to our free, private email list to get additional details, and early notice of new trips and events, including “pop-up” trips that we may add a few days before the trip. Visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/list to subscribe.

Monday Bird Walks, 8:30 am (March & April), 7:30 am (May-September)
Check website for locations.

Every Saturday & Sunday until March 29, 9:00–11:00 am,
Project FeederWatch SMRA volunteers at Croton Point Nature Center.

Every Second Saturday, 9:00 am, Brinton Brook Sanctuary Guided Hike.

NOTE: Saturday, March 21, 9:30 am–12:30 pm Pruyn Bird Seed Sale
High quality bird seed for pick up at Pruyn Sanctuary office/garden entrance.

Spring Public Programs—See Pages 3 & 5 for Field Trips
Thursday, March 19, 7:00 pm at the Croton Free Library
For the Birds: Elizabeth Cherry
Liz Cherry will talk about her new book, For the Birds: Protecting Wildlife through the Naturalist Gaze (Rutgers University Press, 2019). Based on interviews with and observations of birders throughout the United States, she argues that learning to pay close attention to nature encourages birders to see people and animals as part of a shared ecosystem, and to participate in citizen science and wildlife conservation efforts. Books will be available for sale at a discounted price, with a portion of the proceeds going to SMRA.

Sunday, April 5, 5:00 to 8:30 pm at Kittle House, Chappaqua
Welcome to Spring Dinner and “On Unbroken Wings”

Sunday, May 3, Birding Workshop at Fahnestock SP, Hubbard Lodge
Atlas and Warblers! With Anne Swaim
Join us for this inside/outside workshop to intro/review warbler ID by sight and sound and cover what you need to know to be part of the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas. Cost is $15 per person to cover workshop costs, including a take-home warbler ID book. Contact SMRA to register and for details. Early morning option to be followed by mid-morning inside workshop and then additional guided birding outside. Space limited. Register by Friday April 24.

To enjoy this newsletter in color, visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/news
**President’s Message**

2019 was an exciting and busy year for SMRA, with our climate-change boot camp and fall birdathon among many other programs. We plan to keep the momentum going in 2020. Programs include our Annual Welcome to Spring Dinner at Crabtree’s Kittle House and our first-ever “Birding Tea” hosted by SMRA board member Cary Andrews in Croton. Both are coming up soon this spring, with details in this newsletter, so be sure to reserve your spaces!

We are also planning a number of special field trips and other events during the summer and fall. These will include a pontoon boat trip at the Meadowlands, another fall weekend birdathon, and additional climate change events.

Our usual walks, local and regional field trips, monthly public programs, and Nature Book Club continue to be great ways to connect with our community. This spring we are offering new opportunities to volunteer in our sanctuaries, supported by a grant from Audubon New York. See more about those sanctuary workdays and workshop on page 5.

I encourage everyone to take advantage of these opportunities to get more involved with our community of nature lovers. Birding with new friends or volunteering with SMRA may be just the break you need from the long election cycle and other events in the larger world.

And, in exciting news, SMRA will be hosting the NY State Ornithological Association annual meeting in Fall 2021! This will involve a full weekend of speakers, workshops, and field trips. NYSOA members from around the state will attend, and volunteers will be needed for a number of committees now being formed to prepare for this event. If you would like to get involved, please contact the SMRA office to learn more.

Valerie Lyle, SMRA President

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**The 2020 Audubon Quilt!**

**Raffle Tickets on sale now!** Patricia Loquet has created another beautiful quilt for Saw Mill River Audubon! This one-of-a-kind handmade lap quilt is entitled “Humdinger,” with hummingbird and flower images. Our 2020 birding quilt was on display at EagleFest and will be at our March public program. The winning raffle ticket will be drawn at our 2020 Annual Dinner. See the quilt in color and purchase tickets online at: [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/quilt](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/quilt)

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**In Memoriam:**

**Edward Mertz**

Edward Mertz, 74, a good friend of SMRA, passed away on January 10. He was born in the Bronx and lived most of his life in Flushing before moving to Croton-on-Hudson in 2014.

Ed was an avid sailor, fisherman, line dancer, and runner, completing several marathons including the New York City Marathon. He loved classical music and was an active member of the birding community.

In retirement he became a semiprofessional nature photographer, exhibiting works at Teatown Lake Reservation, Rockefeller State Park Preserve, and the New York Hall of Science. He also produced an annual calendar; the pictures from his 2020 calendar were on display through the end of February at Teatown.

Ed was a man of many words and talents who liked a really good party. He led a full and active life filled with friends and his loving family. We can all take a lesson from Ed in the way he approached his life. Each day was a gift and he enjoyed every moment of his marvelous present.

Donations can be made in Ed’s name to Saw Mill River Audubon at [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/memorial](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/memorial)

Bonnie Coe with Ed's Family
March Events (April – June on page 5)

Saturdays & Sundays
9:00–11:00 am
Project FeederWatch
Continues to March 29. Join
Saw Mill River Audubon
volunteers as they count
birds from inside the Croton
Point Nature Center.

Saturday, March 7
Leader’s Choice Trip
See website for details.

Saturday, March 14
9:00 am
Second Saturday Walk
at Brinton Brook
No registration. Rain or
shine. Meet in main parking.

Saturday, March 14
6:45 pm
Croton Point Woodcocks
See website for details.

Thursday, March 19
7:00 pm
For the Birds: Liz Cherry
Croton Free Library
See page 1 for details.

Saturday, March 21
3:00–5:30 pm
Birding Tea!
Andrews Home, Croton
See details below left. 
RSVP required.

Get Outside with Us!

Our field trips for the spring months are always the most
exciting to plan because they coincide with the rush of
migrating birds through the Hudson Valley. With the NY3’s
Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) in full swing, we have included
some specific outings to help you learn more about this vital
opportunity to contribute some meaningful data to science.
There’s a workshop the first weekend in May focused on the
BBA and warblers.

For those of you that are brave enough to meet Anne at 5:30
am, there are a few very early-morning trips on Thursdays
starting from mid-May. These will also focus on the BBA
and specifically search for breeding birds. Note the BBA
symbols on page 5. There is also a trip to Long Island to
give you a chance to walk along the beach while doing
shoreline birding. And, we are already planning some
exciting upcoming events for Fall 2020!

Debbie van Zyl
Welcome to Spring Program

Sunday, April 5, 2020
Crabtree’s Kittle House
11 Kittle Road | Chappaqua, New York 10514

5:00-5:45 pm Reception* & Silent Auction**
5:45 pm Dinner Seating & Buffet
6:30–7:00 pm Saw Mill River Audubon Welcome
Presentation by 2019 Larry Light Scholarship Student

7:15–8:15 pm Presentation: Naturelogues—On Unbroken Wings
The Migratory Bird Treaty Act began in 1918 when bird populations were under serious threat. Over the years, the Act has made bird conservation possible, bringing species like the Bald eagle back from the brink. Now, over 100 years later, the Act is in jeopardy and the birds it protects are threatened again. This special presentation showcases avian beauty, behavior, and diversity, weaving in the conservation movement’s successes and failures over the past century. Find encouragement from the efforts of the past and inspiration to be part of bird protection for the future.

8:15 pm 2020 Quilt Raffle & Brief Multimedia Finale Faces & Places
* For reception and dinner: cash bar available. House wines and soft drinks are included in meal price.
** Be prepared to claim any silent auction items you win with cash, check, or MC/Visa at the end of the evening.
To view our 2020 Birding Quilt or to purchase raffle tickets online, visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/quilt

This Evening Is Open to All – Invite A Friend!
Reserve using the form below OR reserve online at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/dinner

Reservation Deadline: Wednesday, April 1, 2020. Limited seating.
I will attend the April 5th dinner and reception. Please reserve ____ place(s) $__________
(Dinner and reception price is $125/person and includes house wines and soft drinks.)

I would like to purchase ___ quilt raffle tickets (1/$10 or 3/$25) $__________
I would like to make an additional contribution to support Saw Mill River Audubon $__________
I am unable to attend, but would like to make a contribution in the amount of $__________
Total enclosed $__________

Name(s) ________________________________________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________________________________
Email (for confirmation) ______________________________________________________________________
Phone (required if using credit card) ____________________________

You may also pay via MasterCard/Visa online at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/dinner

If reserving through US Mail, return this form to Saw Mill River Audubon, 275 Millwood Road, Chappaqua, New York 10514.
Please make checks payable to “Saw Mill River Audubon.”

Add credit card information below & ensure address above matches your billing address.
Account Number ________________________________
Expiration Date ____________ MasterCard ___ Visa ___
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April Events</th>
<th>May Events</th>
<th>June Events</th>
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<tr>
<td>SPECIAL EVENT</td>
<td>★ Saturday, May 3</td>
<td>★ Thursday, June 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, April 5</td>
<td>Atlas and Warblers!</td>
<td>Very Early Birding</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00–8:30 pm</td>
<td>with Anne Swain</td>
<td>at Teatown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome to</td>
<td>Workshop at Hubbard</td>
<td>Very early morning birding</td>
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<td>Spring Dinner</td>
<td>Lodge, Fahnestock SP</td>
<td>to catch the dawn chorus</td>
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<td>Crabtree's Kittle House</td>
<td>See details on page 1</td>
<td>and for NYS Breeding Bird</td>
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<tr>
<td>See story on page 3</td>
<td>and Warblers!</td>
<td>Atlas. Meet 5:30 am in</td>
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<td>and form on page 4.</td>
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<td>main parking. Leave earlier as</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>desired. Extensive walking.</td>
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<td>Saturday, April 11</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 5</td>
<td>Saturday, June 6</td>
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<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Sterling Forest Birding</td>
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| Second Saturday Walk | Nature Book Club | We expect to arrive in Ster-
| at Brinton Brook | Mt Pleasant Library P-ville | ling Forest at 7:00 am. |
| Rain or shine. Meet in main | Come join the discussion or |
| parking area. No registration | just to listen. We will be |
| required. Good for adults | discussing Seeing Trees: Discover |
| and ages 6 and up. | the Extraordinary Secrets of |
| | Everyday Trees by Nancy Ross |
| Saturday, April 18 | Hugo. | Saturday, June 11 |
| 7:00 am | | Very Early Birding |
| Long Island Birding | Very Early Birding | at Croton Point |
| Join us for morning birding | at Doodletown | See description for June 4. |
| on the Long Island coast- | Meet us at Doodletown trail | Meet in ballfield parking. |
| line. Meet 7:00 am at Point | head to explore this famed | Saturday, June 13 |
| Lookout. Register for details | warbler hotspot at dawn's | 9:00 am |
| and inquire about carpooling | early light. Extensive walk- | Second Saturday Walk |
| by emailing or calling us. | ing. For directions and site | at Brinton Brook |
| | highlights, visit our website. | See entry for Sat Apr 11 |
| | | Tuesday, June 16 |
| | | Fahnestock State Park |
| | | Breeding Birds |
| | | Meet us 7:00 am at Pelton |
| | | Pond parking lot. |
| | | ★ Thursday, June 18 |
| | | Very Early Birding |
| | | at Pruyn Sanctuary |
| | | See description June 4. Meet |
| | | in office/garden entrance. |
| | | ★ Saturday, June 20 |
| | | Bagels, Birding and BBA |
| | | at Pruyn Sanctuary |
| | | Meet in office/garden en-
| | | trance at 5:30 am. Early |
| | | morning birding for the |
| | | NYS Breeding Bird Atlas. |
| | | Coffee, tea and bagels will |
| | | be provided to fortify us. |

**Sanctuary Work Days**

**Saturday, April 25, 2020**
2:00–4:30 pm at the Woodmill Road entrance to Pruyn Sanctuary

**Sunday, May 31, 2020**
2:00–4:30 pm at the main entrance to Brinton Brook

Both workdays will install a boardwalk. No experience necessary. Bring a hammer, gloves, and water-resistant shoes or boots. Let us know if you will be attending by contacting our office in advance by email or phone.

**Trail Walker and Maintainer Workshop**

**Saturday, March 28, 2020**
2:00–4:00 pm at Croton-on-Hudson

Workshop will take place at a residence near Brinton Brook and also in the sanctuary so dress accordingly. To register call or email us by March 20.

**Sanctuary Work Days**

**Saturday, April 25, 2020**
2:00–4:30 pm at the Woodmill Road entrance to Pruyn Sanctuary

**Sunday, May 31, 2020**
2:00–4:30 pm at the main entrance to Brinton Brook

Both workdays will install a boardwalk. No experience necessary. Bring a hammer, gloves, and water-resistant shoes or boots. Let us know if you will be attending by contacting our office in advance by email or phone.

**Saw Mill River Audubon Sanctuary Events**

Do you love the outdoors? Please help us keep our sanctuaries beautiful and great places to visit by becoming an SMRA Trail Walker or Maintainer. Walkers and Maintainers visit a sanctuary regularly and report on conditions. Maintainers also perform modest maintenance activities such as clearing away vegetation that is growing onto the trails.

This spring, we are offering a sanctuary workshop and two sanctuary workdays, all supported by a grant from Audubon New York.

**Trail Walker and Maintainer Workshop**

**Saturday, March 28, 2020**
2:00–4:00 pm at Croton-on-Hudson

Workshop will take place at a residence near Brinton Brook and also in the sanctuary so dress accordingly. To register call or email us by March 20.

**Sanctuary Work Days**

**Saturday, April 25, 2020**
2:00–4:30 pm at the Woodmill Road entrance to Pruyn Sanctuary

**Sunday, May 31, 2020**
2:00–4:30 pm at the main entrance to Brinton Brook

Both workdays will install a boardwalk. No experience necessary. Bring a hammer, gloves, and water-resistant shoes or boots. Let us know if you will be attending by contacting our office in advance by email or phone.

**April Events**

- **SPECIAL EVENT**
  - **Sunday, April 5**
  - **5:00–8:30 pm**
  - **Welcome to Spring Dinner**
  - **Crabtree's Kittle House**
  - See story on page 3 and form on page 4.

- **Saturday, April 11**
  - **9:00 am**
  - **Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook**
  - Rain or shine. Meet in main parking area. No registration required. Good for adults and ages 6 and up.

- **Saturday, April 18**
  - **7:00 am**
  - **Long Island Birding**
  - Join us for morning birding on the Long Island coastline. Meet 7:00 am at Point Lookout. Register for details and inquire about carpooling by emailing or calling us.

- **Sunday, April 25**
  - **2:00–4:30 pm**
  - **Sanctuary Work Day at Pruyn Sanctuary**
  - Registration required. See details in article to left.

- **Thursday, April 30**
  - **7:15 am**
  - **Central Park Birding with Charlie Roberto**
  - Meet Charlie at 7:15 am at Central Park West and 77th Street on the corner by the park entrance. Extensive walking. Leave walk earlier as desired. Event repeats on Tue 5/26 with same details.

- **Sunday, May 31**
  - **2:00–4:30 pm**
  - **Sanctuary Work Day at Brinton Brook**
  - See details in article to left.

- **Sunday, May 31**
  - **6:30 pm**
  - **Evening Walk at Croton Point Park**
  - See details on website

**May Events**

- **★ Saturday, May 3**
  - **Atlas and Warblers! with Anne Swain**
  - Workshop at Hubbard Lodge, Fahnestock SP
  - See details on page 1.

- **Tuesday, May 5**
  - **7:00 pm**
  - **Nature Book Club**
  - Mt Pleasant Library P-ville
  - Come join the discussion or just to listen. We will be discussing Seeing Trees: Discover the Extraordinary Secrets of Everyday Trees by Nancy Ross Hugo.

- **★ Thursday, May 7**
  - **5:30 am**
  - **Very Early Birding at Doodletown**
  - Meet us at Doodletown trail head to explore this famed warbler hotspot at dawn's early light. Extensive walking. For directions and site highlights, visit our website.

- **Saturday, May 9**
  - **9:00 am**
  - **Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook**
  - See entry for Sat Apr 11.

- **★ Thursday, May 21**
  - **Very Early Birding at Rockefeller State PP**
  - Starting 5:30 am at Rockefeller State Park Preserve, catch the dawn bird chorus and do some birding before work. Meet in main parking lot.

- **Sunday, May 31**
  - **2:00–4:30 pm**
  - **Sanctuary Work Day at Hubbard Lodge, Fahnestock SP**
  - See details in article to left.

- **★ Sunday, May 31**
  - **6:30 pm**
  - **Evening Walk at Croton Point Park**
  - See details on website

**June Events**

- **★ Thursday, June 4**
  - **Very Early Birding at Teatown**
  - Very early morning birding to catch the dawn chorus and for NYS Breeding Bird Atlas. Meet 5:30 am in main parking. Leave earlier as desired. Extensive walking.

- **Saturday, June 6**
  - **Sterling Forest Birding**
  - We expect to arrive in Sterling Forest at 7:00 am. Email for RSVP & details.

- **★ Thursday, June 11**
  - **Very Early Birding at Croton Point**

- **Saturday, June 13**
  - **9:00 am**
  - **Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook**
  - See entry for Sat Apr 11.

- **Tuesday, June 16**
  - **Fahnestock State Park Breeding Birds**
  - Meet us 7:00 am at Pelton Pond parking lot.

- **★ Thursday, June 18**
  - **Very Early Birding at Pruyn Sanctuary**
  - See description June 4. Meet in office/garden entrance.

- **★ Saturday, June 20**
  - **Bagels, Birding and BBA at Pruyn Sanctuary**
  - Meet in office/garden entrance at 5:30 am. Early morning birding for the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas. Coffee, tea and bagels will be provided to fortify us.
We have more than 50 events scheduled between March and June to connect you with local habitats, birds and other wildlife. Monday bird walks. Monthly public programs. Walks in our sanctuaries. Weekend field trips to explore habitats in the Hudson Valley and beyond. We connect people with nature!

Explore Nature with Saw Mill River Audubon this Spring!

We connect people with nature!

Special Notice in this issue

2020 Annual Dinner Reservation Form

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

I wish to donate. Enclosed is:

☐ $1000 ☐ $500 ☐ $250
☐ $100 ☐ $50 ☐ $35 ☐ $____
☐ My employer will match my gift.
☐ I’d like to join Saw Mill River Audubon

Basic Chapter Membership:

☐ Enclosed is $35
☐ Please list my gift anonymously

Name(s) __________________________

Address __________________________

City / State / Zip ____________________

Email Address ______________________

Please make checks payable to: Saw Mill River Audubon

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

www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/renew

www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/donate