



February / March 2006  
Issue 296

# On the Wing

News from Saw Mill River Audubon

## INSIDE:

### SPECIAL PULLOUT INSERTS!

#### 2005 Annual Report

*Our thanks to everyone who supported SMRA with your donations last year!*

#### 2006 Eagle Festival Map!

*Audubon members' advance map of Hudson River eagle viewing spots!*

- 1 Current Events**  
Upcoming Programs ♦
- 2 Chapter News**  
Two Grants Received ♦ Nominations  
Fund Drive Report ♦ New Members
- 3 Education & Events**  
Summer Scholarships Available ♦  
Upcoming Feb-Mar Events
- 4 Contact Us!**  
People ♦ Memberships & Donations

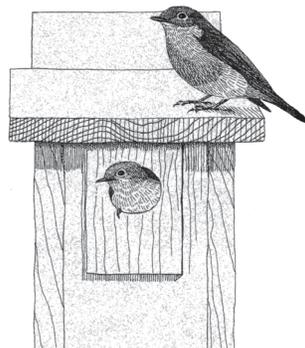


### Get into Birding!

Watch Eagles!  
Build a Bird Box!  
Feed the Birds!

### Got Seed? We do!

Buy bird seed at our sales in February and March at the shed at Pruyn Sanctuary. See event schedule on pg3 for dates and times.



## A Convocation of Eagles: Wintering Eagles on the Hudson

Sunday, February 12 ♦ 9 am to 3 pm

Don't miss the second year of this festival celebrating the Bald Eagle! This celebration of wintering eagles on the Hudson River is organized by Teatown Lake Reservation and cosponsored by Saw Mill River Audubon.

**See the enclosed insert & map!**



### Along the Hudson River ♦ 9 am to 1 pm

Guides with scopes at: Croton River Boat Ramp\*, George's Island County Park\* and Charles Point Park\* (China Pier), and (new this year) Rt 6/202 overlook and Van Cortlandt Manor! Locations with asterisks will have warming tents and hot chocolate available!

### At Teatown ♦ 10 am to 1 pm

**11 am** Close Encounters with Birds of Prey  
**12 pm** Photographing & Viewing Eagles  
**1 pm** Close Encounters with Birds of Prey  
**2 pm** History of Eagles on the Hudson

### At Jacob Burns Film Center ♦ 1pm

Showing of the film *Eagle Odyssey* followed by live bird demonstration by Flight of the Raptor. Tickets required: [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org) | 914.747.5555

## Bird Builders: Learning About Bird Nests & Bird Box Building Workshop

Saturday, March 18 ♦ Community Bible Church

**2:00 to 2:50 pm ♦ Bird Nests Program ♦ Free!**

**3:00 to 3:45 pm ♦ Bird Box Workshop ♦ \$15/box**



Look forward to spring by enjoying a multimedia presentation about birds and bird nests! Children and adults will love this program, presented by Audubon naturalist Anne Swaim, including digital images, video segments and bird songs featuring the birds of your backyard. Bring your questions and stories about bird nesting! **A time for discussion and refreshments follows the 50 minute presentation. The program is free and open to the public.**

Preregister to build a bird box that you can take home! Box building will happen at the workshop following the program. Preregistration is \$15/box; please send a check to SMRA, 275 Millwood Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514. At least two pairs of hands are needed for building so register two people per box or we can partner you with someone to help complete each other's box. One adult should accompany no more than four children per box. Program and workshop held at Community Bible Church of Northern Westchester, Route 134 & Chadeayne Road, Kitchawan.

## Grants for Sanctuary Enhancements

Saw Mill River Audubon has received two grants that will enable us to make additional enhancements to Pruyn Sanctuary.

A grant from **The New York City Environmental Fund** (administered by the Hudson River Foundation) will allow us to install two informational kiosks at Pruyn. In addition to maps of the sanctuary's trails, changing exhibits will provide seasonal information on native plants and wildlife and highlight upcoming events at the sanctuary. The kiosks, chosen for weather-resistance and ability to blend with the natural surroundings, will be installed this summer near the entrances of the sanctuary.

The second grant, from **Audubon New York**, will enable us to upgrade the interpretive trail signs at Pruyn to fiberglass-sealed panels, similar to those installed last November at Brinton Brook. The signs will provide trailside education about the plants and wildlife found in the sanctuary and heighten visitor awareness of the value of open space and native habitats.

Check future editions of *On the Wing* for information about the dedication ceremony this summer.



Crow landing and taking off in the snow

## Giving to Audubon

Now and in the Future

Thanks to the hundreds of friends who supported our 2005 annual appeal. We raised more than \$18,000, making it the most successful fund drive in our history. (Please see our 2005 annual report in this newsletter for more details.)

Supporting SMRA through the annual appeal and membership dues help us fulfill our mission, but donations and dues cover only a small percentage of our expenses. "Planned gifts" - made during your lifetime or in your will - can ensure continuing support for our sanctuaries and educational programs while creating significant tax advantages for your estate.

If you would like to receive additional information about how you may make such a gift to SMRA, please call our office at 914.666.6503 or e-mail us at [office@sawmillriveraudubon.org](mailto:office@sawmillriveraudubon.org).

**Your planned gift will help ensure that future generations continue to enjoy the natural world around us.**

## Nominations Sought for Board Elections in April

Are you interested in getting involved in protecting our local environment? If so, please consider joining our board of directors. Members live in our chapter territory. Responsibilities: attend monthly board meetings and volunteer on a committee (which may meet monthly, every other month or quarterly). To learn more, call Robert McCrillis at 914.762-8779. Thank you!



Phoebes are one of the earliest spring arrivals in mid-march.

### Nature's Calendar February

- Great horned owls on eggs
- Listen for cardinal songs
- Red-winged blackbird flocks arrive
- Look for skunk cabbage flowers

### March

- Constellation Leo in southeastern sky
- Swamp maple buds show red
- Watch for returning phoebes
- Spring peepers peep

## Welcome Members!

*We look forward to seeing you at our field trips & other events!*

**Briarcliff Manor** Elaine Bonder, Billy Cember, Greg and Kimberley Dow  
**Chappaqua** Anne Hasegawa and Ron Cypers, Richard G. Jones, Douglas Schuerman, Gray Williams  
**Cortlandt Manor** Holly Brown  
**Croton-on-Hudson** Patrick Harty, Cross Lowney, Geoffrey Uyehara, Denice Yanni  
**Hawthorne** Avril Armstrong, Virginia Bastone  
**Millwood** Doris Lim  
**Mohegan Lake** Mr. Walter Johnson, Leigh McMahon  
**Ossining** Tracy Basile, Laurie M. Corey, Anita Eddy, Stacey Irvine, Darryl Moy, Michael Newhouse, Rene Ebersole, Jeffrey and Nancy Osborne, Inger-Marie Tanier  
**Peekskill** Lillie Mikesell, Cynthia Poindexter, Mark Porterfield, A. L. Weitzman  
**Pleasantville** Marcel Gaschke, Anthony Pedatella  
**Sleepy Hollow** Robert and Betty Albertson, Spofford and Patricia Beadle, Horst and Gay Berger, Opal Broner, Edward Hanin, Greta Katzauer, William S. Kaufman, Sara Keck, Richard Neill, Betty Russell, Matthew and Sylvia Spetter, Alice Trout  
**Tarrytown** James Lipscomb  
**Thornwood** Diane Zeolla  
**Valhalla** Antonieta Jauregui, Zetta Putter, John R. Strong

**EDUCATION**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Study for Free!**  
**Scholarship Applications**  
**Due March 15**

Don't miss the opportunity to apply for our environmental education youth and adult scholarships!

The Larry Light Memorial Scholarship Fund for Youth was established by the Light family and friends to help young people ages 13 to 18 who wish to attend a summer camp, class or workshop with an emphasis on the environment.

Adults interested in attending an environmental class, camp or workshop are also invited to apply for an Audubon adult scholarship.

Applications are available from the office: 914.666.6503 or online: [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org). Applications are due March 15, 2006

**Have an Audubon Adventure in 2006!**



Children visit Pinecliff Sanctuary with Audubon Naturalist Anne Swaim

Choose from 16 different topics. We offer both indoor presentations at your location and outdoor trips at one of our sanctuaries. For ages kindergarten through senior adults! **To find our more visit our web site at [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org)**

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

**FEBRUARY**

**MARCH**

**Saturday, February 4 ♦ 9:30am-Noon**  
**Seed Sale Saturday**

Come to the seed sale shed at Pruyn Sanctuary to stock up on quality bird seed at bulk prices. All sales benefit education and conservation efforts of Saw Mill River Audubon.

**Saturday, February 11 ♦ 9:00 am**  
**Pruyn Sanctuary Walk**

Join us for the fifth of our monthly series of walks through our Pruyn Sanctuary to be held the second Saturday of each month. Dress for the weather. Rain or shine. Suitable for ages 4 and up. Leader: Anne Swaim

 **Sunday, February 12**  
**♦ ALL DAY**

**Hudson River Eagle Fest!**

Last year's premiere of this exciting all day event was a huge success. See details in special map insert!

.....  
 **What's with the Hands?**  
**It's a Grandparent Alert!**

We've added a new symbol to our event calendar to alert you to hands-on events especially good for children, parents AND grandparents!

**Saturday, March 4 ♦ 9:30am-Noon**  
**Seed Sale Saturday**

Come to the seed sale shed at Pruyn Sanctuary to stock up on quality bird seed at bulk prices. All sales benefit education and conservation efforts of Saw Mill River Audubon.

**Saturday, March 11 ♦ 9:00 am**  
**Pruyn Sanctuary Walk**

See February 11 listing for details.

 **Saturday, March 18**  
**♦ 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm**  
**Bird Builders & Box Workshop**  
**Community Bible Church**

A short and lively multimedia presentation about birds that nest in boxes will be followed by a bird box building workshop. **There is NO CHARGE to attend the multimedia program.**

There is a \$15/box charge for the box building workshop. **TO REGISTER for the workshop**, send \$15 check payable to "Saw Mill River Audubon" by March 4 to 275 Millwood Road, Chappaqua, New York 10514

**Looking ahead to April...**  
**Birding Workshop Returns!**

We expect to offer our popular birding workshop in April. Details to follow!

.....  
**Save the Date! Save the Date! Save the Date!**  
**Audubon Dinner ~ Sunday, April 9**

Annual Meeting & Board Elections

**Honoring Stanley and Rita Wecker**

Good Food ~ Great Company ~ Special Surprise Moments

Separate reservation mailing to all members to follow in early March. Watch your mail!

## Saw Mill River Audubon

275 Millwood Road  
Chappaqua, New York 10514  
914.666.6503  
Fax: 914.666.7430  
office@sawmillriveraudubon.org  
www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

### OFFICERS

**President**, Robert McCrillis  
**Vice-President**, Stan Wecker  
**Chairman of the Board**, Richard Saravay  
**Recording Secretary**, George Shakespear  
**Treasurer**, Tom McEnerney  
**Historian & Bulletin Editor**, Sophie Keyes

### STAFF

**Education Director**, Anne Swaim  
**Office Assistant**, Ellen Heidelberger  
**Marketing & Fundraising**, Barbara Campbell  
**Sanctuary Maintenance**, Dan Ferguson

**ON THE WING** 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

# CELEBRATE NATURE!

Your gift to Saw Mill River Audubon helps us encourage more people to enjoy the natural world and care about the protection of birds and other wildlife and their habitats.

When you give to our annual appeal, you can be confident that 100% of your donation supports our local education and conservation efforts.

## 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



Find the beautiful Trout Lily at Pruyn and Brinton.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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: March 1

Got Seeds? We do!  
See details inside!



PERIODICAL POSTAGE  
PAID  
at Chappaqua, NY  
and additional offices

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