



Summer 2007
Issue 304

On the Wing

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SAVE THESE DATES!
UPCOMING FALL EVENTS

Saturday & Sunday
October 13 & 14
Bird Seed Sale Weekend

Sunday, September 23
2007 Pruyin Celebration



Get into Birding!
Explore local habitats
with us this summer.

**Be an Audubon
Trailwalker in summer!**
Send trail reports online:
www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

SUMMER EVENTS

Join us! For more information call 914.666.6503 or visit
www.sawmillriveraudubon.org.

Saturday, June 9 ♦ 9:00 am ♦ Brinton Brook Sanctuary, Croton

Brinton Brook Through the Seasons

Join our monthly series of walks through our Brinton Brook Sanctuary on the second Saturday of each month. Dress for the weather. Rain or shine. Suitable for ages 4 and up. No pre-registration necessary. Free and open to the general public. Meet at the main entrance off of Route 9A north of Croton.

Saturday, June 9 ♦ 7:00 to 9:00 am ♦ Boscobel, Garrison

Annual Snapping Turtle Walk at Boscobel

Staff members of National Audubon's Constitution Marsh Sanctuary will provide an educational program on one of Boscobel's most fascinating natural history events. In early-to-mid June, female snapping turtles lay their eggs. The program will feature live turtles from the marsh, after which Audubon staff will lead a walk around the grounds in search of female turtles. Coffee, juice and doughnuts served beginning at 7:00 a.m. The program will begin promptly at 7:30 a.m. \$10 for adults, \$7 for children (age 6 to 14). Reservations required by calling 845.265.3638 ext 115.

Saturday, July 14 ♦ 9:00 am ♦ Brinton Brook Sanctuary, Croton

Brinton Brook Through the Seasons

See description under Saturday, June 9. Regular second Saturday walk at Brinton.

Saturday, July 21 ♦ 10:00 am ♦ Halle Ravine, Pound Ridge

Fern Walk at Halle Ravine

Fern expert Catharine Raffaele will lead us on a fern walk at Halle Ravine, a Nature Conservancy property in Pound Ridge. Meet 9:00 am at the Millwood A&P parking lot to carpool. Free. Call to pre-register at 914.666.6503.

Saturday, August 11 ♦ 9:00 am ♦ Brinton Brook Sanctuary, Croton

Brinton Brook Through the Seasons

See description under Saturday, June 9. Regular second Saturday walk at Brinton.

Saturday, August 18 ♦ 12:00 noon ♦ Pruyin Sanctuary, Chappaqua

Butterflies at Pruyin

Trudy Battaly will lead this exploration of the garden and meadow at Pruyin Sanctuary at the height of the butterfly season. No charge. No pre-registration needed. Meet at the office/garden entrance of Pruyin Sanctuary.

Saturday, August 25 ♦ 8:00 am ♦ Van Cortlandt Manor, Croton

Birding and Breakfast at Van Cortlandt Manor

Anne Swaim will lead an early morning bird walk through the historic orchard and gardens, followed by a hearty, 18th-century style breakfast and tour of the manor. The cost of the full bird walk and breakfast is \$20 (\$18 for Historic Hudson Valley and Audubon members). The bird walk alone is \$4 (free for HHV and Audubon members.) Reservations required: 914-631-8200 ext 618.

New Board Members

Saw Mill River Audubon is pleased to announce that Jean Sparacin and Rik Kaufman were elected to the Board of Directors on April 1, 2007. We thank departing board members Elaine Mason, Chris Slagle and Burton Leiser.



On joining the board, **Jean Sparacin**, a resident of Ossining, said, "Thirty-five years ago I saw a 'brown' cardinal. This bird changed my life. Nature and the environment have become central to my world view. This will be reflected in my contribution to Audubon." Jean has already volunteered to

coordinate our June picnic for board members and friends and will be serving on the seed sale and education committees. Jean enjoys quilting and gardening as well as birding.



Rik Kaufman lives in Somers and has been involved in birding and hiking in northern Westchester for the last 15 years. His interest in birding grew from trying to identify birds seen while sailing on Long Island Sound. Rik was introduced to the Audubon birding community by former

SMRA Board Member Larry Bickford. He has been participating in Christmas Bird counts for the last 12 years. His goals as board member are to help increase awareness of the diverse habitats in northern Westchester and to help ensure their preservation.

Help! I found a baby bird!

Many people assume that baby birds need rescuing. They usually don't. Young birds do leave their nests before they can fly. Then it may be a few days before they grow tail feathers and are competent flyers. Parent birds do feed young birds, called

fledglings, even after they leave the nest and are hiding in the understory.



Grosbeak fledgling

What should you do? If the fledgling is in the open, "shoo" it to cover such as a low-growing shrub or evergreen tree. Please keep children and pets away from the area as much as possible for a few days. Please don't bring fledglings inside to feed them. It only takes a short time for young birds

to lose their escape reflexes. Without those reflexes, they are easy pickings for predators and are unlikely to survive in the wild.

The typical mortality rate for first-year songbirds is already quite high, as high as 90%. One way you can help the odds is by adding wildlife-friendly plantings on your property and reducing or eliminating the use of pesticides on your property. For more ideas on how you can make a difference, visit www.audubonathome.org

Audubon Trip to Trinidad

Thirteen members of Saw Mill River Audubon traveled to Trinidad in late April for a spectacular week of birding in the neotropical rainforest. We stayed at the Asa Wright Nature Centre (www.asawright.org) in the northern part of the island. Over 130



Photo: Carol Hurford

Kiskadee flycatcher

species of birds were seen by the group including ten species of hummingbirds and several types of tanagers and orioles. Trip options included a night drive to view owls and nightjars and a moonlit beach walk to see leatherback turtles come out of the Atlantic to lay their eggs. While in Trinidad, we were expertly guided by Roodal and David Ramlal, two Trinidad naturalists

provided for us through Caligo Ventures (www.caligo.com).

You may enjoy seeing photographs of this trip on our web site at: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/Trinidad/pictures.

Saw Mill River Audubon plans to offer extended birding trips on an annual basis, perhaps alternating trips to other countries with trips in the United States. We are currently considering a Spring 2008 birding excursion to Arizona. Are trips like this of interest to you? Do you have suggestions for other birding destinations that you would like to explore? Traveling as a group is economical and fun! Contact our office for more information and to let us know your suggestions and comments. A portion of the Trinidad trip cost (\$100/person) was a donation to the local conservation work of Saw Mill River Audubon.

Final Seed Sale

Saw Mill River Audubon is now offering 20% off the cost of our remaining inventory of bird seed. To buy seed, please contact our office at 914.666.6503 and arrange to pick up your seed during regular office hours M/W/F 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Remaining seed inventory includes: 25lb bags of both striped and black oil sunflower, both 4lb and 20lb bags of thistle and 15lb bags of peanut kernels.



Rose-breasted Grosbeaks visit feeders in spring and summer in our area

Have you subscribed to our free, private email notice list? Subscribers to our email list receive advance notice about our events and also have the option to receive this newsletter via email: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/list

Scholarships Awarded

Saw Mill River Audubon has awarded two Larry Light Scholarships this year. **Matthew LaBarbera**, an eighth grader from Eastview Middle School, will be attending the Four Feathers Wilderness Camp at Pound Ridge in August. **Thomas Albohn**, a sixth grader at Seven Bridges Middle School in Chappaqua, will be attending the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Camp DeBruce in August. Saw Mill River Audubon's Larry Light Scholarship Fund was established in memory of Greeley High School student Larry Light by his family and friends to support local students, ages 13 to 17, who wish to attend environmental camps and workshops.

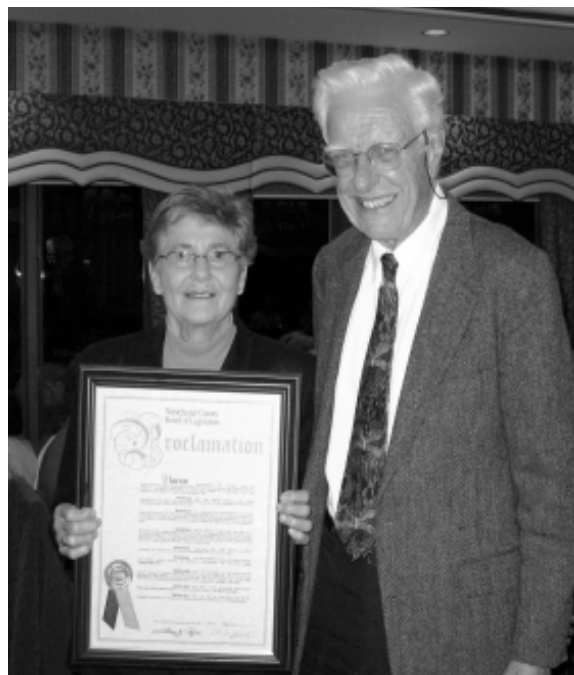


Photo: William Kellner

Midge and Bill Arnold display a proclamation from Westchester County government recognizing their service to Saw Mill River Audubon presented to them at the SMRA Annual Dinner.

Arnolds Honored at Annual Dinner

Bill and Midge Arnold were recognized for their many years of service to Saw Mill River Audubon when they received the Distinguished Service Award at the Annual Meeting and Dinner. This festive event took place on Sunday, April 1, 2007 at Travelers Rest in Millwood. Attendees were treated to an exhibition of bird photographs by Leen Provost. Also on the program was an entertaining and educational audio-visual presentation by Harper Pack about his month in Madagascar. Harper made this incredible journey as the winner of Saw Mill River Audubon's Larry Light Youth Scholarship. Make sure to join us at next year's Annual Dinner, which will be held Sunday, April 6, 2008.

Welcome Members!

Briarcliff Manor David Epstein, Sylvia Suarez, Leslie J. Wander
Buchanan Jessica Herman **Chappaqua** Susan Defelice, Okezie Okogbue, Anthony Siegel **Croton-on-Hudson** Mary Hanigan, R. Stephen and S. Carey **Hartsdale** Susan Brubaker
Katonah Laura Taylor **Maryknoll** John E. Argauer **Millwood** Rosheen Taylor **Mohegan Lake** Kenneth Whalen **Montrose** Lynn Spinola **Ossining** Olivia and Nolan Lenaghan, Catherine Palombo **Pleasantville** Susan Wagner Maguire, Kara Mason, Robert Peake, Rossano Polvara, Vivian Randall **Sleepy Hollow** Margaret Rubick, Ed Andrews, Robert Williams **Tarrytown** Wolfgang Torke **Thornwood** Tom Hickey

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



Want to Help with the Garden?

Our Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden at Pruyt Sanctuary needs your help! Volunteers gather weekly to take care of the garden. Want to learn more? Contact our office at 914.666.6503 or office@sawmillriveraudubon.org

CLEARWATER Festival

GREAT HUDSON RIVER REVIVAL

Audubon will be among the exhibitors at this year's Hudson River Clearwater Festival, Saturday and Sunday, June 16 and 17, 10:00 a.m. to dusk at Croton Point Park. Clearwater is a "great weekend on the banks of the Hudson River with music, dance, storytelling, waterfront activities, sails on tall ships, juried crafts, and environmental education displays." Musicians featured will include: Cowboy Junkies, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Bruce Cockburn, Leo Kottke, Paul Winter and the Bruce Molsky Band with Tony Trischka. Visit www.clearwater.org for more details and ticket information.

TAKE A WALK ON MONDAYS!

Explore a local nature site each Monday morning (weather permitting). Call Joan Coffey: 914.747.4763

Saw Mill River Audubon

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CELEBRATE NATURE!

Our sanctuaries provide important habitat for nesting 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 \$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

Wood ducks nest at Pinecliff Sanctuary.



Name(s)

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone/Email

You can also join or donate at our web site!

Please make checks payable to
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