



On the Wing

News from Saw Mill River Audubon

April/May 2008
Issue 308

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SPECIAL INSERT

CARE for Nature: Learn how **you** can make a difference at home.



Look for Black-and-white warblers returning to our forests this spring

Spring Bird Seed Sale

Saturday April 19

Saturday May 17

9:30 am–12:30 pm
Bird Seed Shed, Rt. 133
Prugn Sanctuary

All sales benefit
Saw Mill River Audubon

Have You Returned Your Board Proxy?

Our annual election of board members and officers will be held on Sunday, April 6, 2008. Please fill out and return your proxy by mail.

SPRING ADVENTURES

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

Saturday, April 12 ♦ 9:00 am ♦ Pinecliff Sanctuary, Chappaqua

Pinecliff Through the Seasons

Explore Saw Mill River Audubon's sanctuaries in our continuing series of second Saturday walks! Held rain or shine. Meet at main parking lot.

Leader: Michael Madias, Jr.

Wednesday, May 7 ♦ 7:30 am ♦ Teatown Lake Reservation

Early AM Bird Walk

Meet in the main parking area. Bring binoculars. For directions to Teatown visit: www.teatown.org/vi/directions.htm

Leader: Charlie Roberto



Saturday, May 10 ♦ 9:00 am ♦ Graff Sanctuary, Croton-on-Hudson

Graff Through the Seasons

Explore Saw Mill River Audubon's sanctuaries in our continuing series of second Saturday walks! Held rain or shine. Meet at the Furnace Dock Road entrance.

Leader: Michael Madias, Jr.

Wednesday, May 14 ♦ 7:30 am ♦ Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Tarrytown

Early AM Bird Walk

Meet in the main parking area. Bring binoculars. For directions or more information, contact our office. Parking fee may be charged by the park. Leader: Richard Nelson

Saturday, May 17 ♦ 6:30 am ♦ Bear Mountain State Park

Bird Walk: Doodletown and Iona Island

Just south of Bear Mountain State Park's headquarters and overlooking the Hudson River, Doodletown is an "Important Bird Area," a significant location for the health of bird populations and our environment. Meet at the pull-over parking area by Iona Island.

Contact our office for directions. Leaders: Larry Trachtenberg & Rik Kaufmann

Wednesday, May 21 ♦ 7:30 am ♦ Glazier Arboretum, Chappaqua

Early AM Bird Walk

Meet in the main parking area. Bring binoculars. For directions or more information, contact our office. Leader: Anne Swaim

Wednesday, May 28 ♦ 7:30 am ♦ Kitchawan Preserve, Ossining

Early AM Bird Walk

Meet in the main parking area. Bring binoculars. For directions or more information, contact our office. Leader: Larry Trachtenberg

Saturday, May 31 ♦ 10:00 am ♦ Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Tarrytown

Workshop: Suburban Forests

Workshop and woods walk co-sponsored by Audubon. Call to confirm & for details.

An Earth Day Invitation from Audubon New York

On April 15th, 2008, leading environmental groups will once again be hosting Earth Day Lobby Day in the state capital. This important event will bring together interested advocates from across the state to celebrate Earth Day and urge the legislature to pass legislation that is critical to protecting New York's environment. Once again, Audubon New York is sponsoring this event. Chapter members are invited to join Audubon New York for this important day in Albany.

By attending Earth Day Lobby Day, you will be able to meet with your elected officials in the Senate and Assembly and advocate for their support of measures that will increase protection of wetlands, provide incentives for reducing personal carbon footprints, and protect the state's water and open space resources. Your voice will join hundreds of others and help us make a difference for the environment in New York.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Laura McCarthy, Audubon New York's Grassroots Coordinator, by calling 518-869-9731 or sending an email to lmccarthy@audubon.org. Include your name and full address so that we can connect you with your appropriate elected officials.



Our thanks to the **New York State Ornithological Association** for a grant to Saw Mill River Audubon to support Eastern bluebird nesting.



Saw Mill River Audubon volunteer Nelly Ballofet at Kitchawan Preserve installs a new bluebird box purchased with funds from the New York State Ornithological Association

Welcome Members

Armonk Simon Ziff **Briarcliff Manor** Bill Allan, Diane Rapp
Buchanan Ashley Morris, Katherine Somers
Chappaqua Theodore W. Anderson, Cornelia Bowen, Barbara Gerrard, Eileen Jagoda, W. Olson and S. Pippin, Elizabeth Sherrill **Cortlandt Manor** Pedro Alcalde, Lucie Brown, Brian Kennedy **Croton-on-Hudson** Diane Alden, Paul Correale, Jessica Dieckman, Kathryn Kennedy, Agnes, John and Claire Leyden **Hastings-on-Hudson** Thomas Tucker
Mohegan Lake Maryann Kelly **Montrose** Silvia Estebanez, Theresa McHale **Mount Kisco** Milton Recht
New York Richard Masur and Eileen Henry
Ossining Ingemar Asp, Pat Burnett, Mairead Carroll, Steve Casey, Lindsay Cochran, Christine Ellsberg, Paul Kleiman, Cindy J. Polera, Kristin Quell **Peekskill** Amy Nilsson
Pleasantville Mary Furth, Janet Kokiadis
Sleepy Hollow Michael S. Miller, Jean Sudol
Tarrytown Edward and Wendy Leyman, Stephen J. Marks, Timeless Seasons **Valhalla** Catherine T. Brown, Judith Follmann, Marjorie Galenson
Yorktown Heights Ron and Olivia Buehl

On the Wing (Al Vuelo)
 is now available in Spanish
 on our web site:
www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/alvuelo

Issues and Advocacy

Local Communities Combat Climate Change

When Australia signed the Kyoto Protocol last December, the U.S. became the only industrialized country which has not signed the international climate protection agreement. This lack of action to combat global warming at the national level does not mean that state and local governments have also dropped the ball when it comes to dealing with climate change. Led by California and New York, a number of states have taken measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Writing in the February 2008 issue of *New York State Conservationist*, the magazine of the state's Department of Environmental Conservation, Peter Iwanowicz, Director of the New York State Office of Climate Change, said, "climate change affects us all. To ensure a healthier planet—and protect New York's future—we must combat it through every means at our disposal. And rather than continuing to wait for Washington, D.C. to take the necessary steps to protect our state and nation, New York is leading the way."

Two communities in our area have responded to this call to begin tackling the problem of global warming. In February, the **Town of New Castle**, working with the state Office of Climate Change, became the first community in New York to adopt a resolution committing the town to reducing its contribution to global warming. A newly created town task force will assess how the community can reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. The task force will work to reduce electricity consumption in municipal buildings and increase the fuel efficiency of the town's vehicle fleet. The pledge also commits the town to encourage green practices in the construction and renovation of houses and commercial buildings. New Castle hopes to "lead by example" and seeks the involvement of all residents and businesses as well as schools, community groups, and faith-based organizations.



Also in February, the **Town of Yorktown** joined over 800 towns and cities across the country when the entire Town Board signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. The Agreement encourages signatories to meet or exceed targets set in the Kyoto Protocol for reducing global warming pollution. A first step for Yorktown is to conduct an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions for the community to establish a baseline. As with New Castle, Yorktown's government is pledging to work for energy conservation in municipal operations and to educate the general public on how everyone can join in the effort to combat climate change. As Jerry Robock, co-chair of the citizen advocacy group Green Yorktown said at the signing ceremony, "We, the residents of Yorktown, fully support our town government in these initiatives and welcome green town policies that will most certainly evolve."

For more information visit the following Websites:

New York State Office of Climate Change: www.dec.ny.gov/about/37869.html

U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement: www.usmayors.org/climateprotection

Green Yorktown: www.greenyorktown.org

Clean Up Your Neighborhood

A great way to get involved with your community is to participate in a neighborhood cleanup. On Saturday, April 19, the Town of Yorktown is celebrating Earth Day by sponsoring a town-wide event known as the Battle of Yorktown. Volunteers will pick up litter and debris along roadsides from Kitchawan and Teatown up to Mohegan Lake. Call 914-245-4438 to find out about your neighborhood. At last year's Battle of Yorktown, 527 volunteers removed over 24 tons of trash! If you do not live in Yorktown, find out when your town is having its own roadside cleanup or help to organize one!

Join the New York Beach Cleanup

Plan to be at an ocean beach, a river, sound, stream, wetland, or lake on Saturday, September 20, 2008, to join a cleanup team and participate in the New York Beach Cleanup, organized annually by the American Littoral Society as part of the International Coastal Cleanup, a worldwide effort of The Ocean Conservancy to document and remove marine debris. Litter is not only unsightly; it poses threats to humans and wildlife. Birds become entangled in discarded fishing line and 6-pack ring holders; marine mammals ingest plastics that can obstruct their intestinal tract. Cleanup sites will be listed on the American Littoral Society's website: www.alsnyc.org

Saw Mill River Audubon

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

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IT'S IN YOUR HANDS

Caring for our planet begins right here at home. Saw Mill River Audubon needs your support to maintain and expand our programs.

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 \$20 \$_____

My employer will match my gift.

Name(s)

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone/Email

I'D LIKE TO JOIN Saw Mill River Audubon!

Basic Chapter Membership:

Enclosed is \$20

Please send me planned giving info

Please make checks payable to:

Saw Mill River Audubon
275 Millwood Road
Chappaqua, NY 10514

Deadline for Next Newsletter: May 1

LAST CALL!
Saw Mill River Audubon's Annual Meeting & Dinner
Sunday, April 6 at Travelers Rest, Millwood
Call 914.666.6503 to reserve your place!

PERIODICAL POSTAGE
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