



Fall 2009

Issue 315

# On the Wing

News from Saw Mill River Audubon

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SMRA Scholarships ♦ New Members  
New Trail Map for Haas Sanctuary

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People ♦ Memberships & Donations



Know this raptor? Answer on page 3.  
Come to our fall events to learn more!

### Bird Seed Sale!

Our annual seed sale weekend is **October 3rd and 4th**. See page 3 and the enclosed flyer.

Each year we buy bulk quantities of high quality bird seed and re-sell to members and friends.

This is an important fundraiser for our local conservation work.

**Advance order deadline is September 25!**

*iLéanos en español!* en  
[www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/)  
[alvuelo](mailto:alvuelo)

## FALL FOCUS: RAPTORS



Our field trips and programs this fall are centered around the theme of raptors, another name for birds of prey including eagles, hawks and falcons. We are offering a series of field trips to area hawk watches plus three workshops where you can learn more about: basic raptor identification (September 12), raptor photography (September 25) and a behind-the-scenes look at hawk watches (November 3). We're also presenting a public program at the Chappaqua Library on October 29 in celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of Edgar Allan Poe featuring live raptors and a live raven! Finally, don't miss our special program on biodiversity on September 15, co-sponsored with the Croton Arboretum. Detailed descriptions of our exciting lineup of fall field trips can be found on page 3 of this newsletter; our indoor programs and lectures are described below on this page and on page 3. Visit our web site for more details: [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org). Directions to the hawk watches listed on page 3 (and additional hawk watches in our region and past year counts) may be found at the Northeast Hawk Watch web site: [www.battaly.com/nehw](http://www.battaly.com/nehw)

### Saturday, September 12 ♦ 2:00 pm ♦ Westmoreland Sanctuary, Mt. Kisco Workshop: Raptors for Rookies

This one hour, multimedia workshop will help you identify New York birds of prey such as hawks, eagles and falcons. Good for beginners or for those wanting to brush up on their skills before our fall field trips to area hawk watches. For ages 10 and up.

**Presenter: Anne Swaim.** No cost but space will be limited. Advance registration required. Contact our office at 914.666.6503 or email [office@sawmillriveraudubon.org](mailto:office@sawmillriveraudubon.org) with name, number registering and contact phone or email.

### Friday, September 25 ♦ 7:30 pm ♦ Ossining Public Library Workshop: Raptor Photography

A chance encounter with an osprey nest on Long Island Sound in 1999 started Dr. Steven Sachs on his passion for bird photography, concentrating on raptors. Steve's web site, [www.stevesachsphotography.com](http://www.stevesachsphotography.com), offers a selection of his stunning photographs of birds of prey. At this program, Steve will discuss his photographs as they are displayed on the library's large theater screen. He will offer helpful tips for everyone interested in bird and nature photography. Suitable for ages 10 and up. No admission charge but \$5/person donation suggested to support the local environmental work of Saw Mill River Audubon.

### Thursday, October 29 ♦ 7:30 pm ♦ Chappaqua Public Library Program: Ravens And Raptors

To celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Edgar Allan Poe, we have joined with the Chappaqua Library to offer a special program with a live raven and live raptors! Learn how ravens compare with raptors. The live birds are presented by Erin



O'Connell of the Sharon Connecticut Audubon Center. Seating is limited. **Doors open at 7:00 pm and will close with no further admittance once seating capacity has been reached.** No admission charge but \$5/person donation is encouraged to cover presentation costs and to support the local environmental work of Saw Mill River Audubon. Suggested for ages 5 through adult.

## Study for Free!

**Summer 2010 Scholarship Applications  
Due December 31**

This summer is not yet over but we are already looking ahead to next summer! Through the generosity of members and friends of Saw Mill River Audubon, we offer an annual summer scholarship program for adults and youth who want to expand their environmental learning. These scholarships are "interest based" not need based. That means we award these scholarships to those who can already demonstrate that they have an interest in the environment. This may be through volunteer activities, work experience and/or classwork.

The Larry Light Memorial Scholarship Fund for youth was established by the Light family and friends to help young people ages 13 to 17 who wish to attend a summer camp, class or workshop with an emphasis on the environment.

We particularly encourage students interested in participating in New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation camps. More information about these camps may be found at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html>. It is up to the youth and his or her family to research and select the summer program in which the student wishes to participate.

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

We have moved up our deadline to December 31, 2009 to make it easier for families and adults to meet camp and program registration deadlines. We will notify successful applicants by January 15, 2010. Applications are available from our office, 914.666.6503 or [office@sawmillriveraudubon.org](mailto:office@sawmillriveraudubon.org). Applications are due December 31, 2009

## Welcome Members

**Briarcliff Manor** Dominic Arbitno, Doris Phillips  
**Chappaqua** Lorna R. Catullo, Trudy Hickox, Harry and Amy Paul, Peter and Stacey Stambleck  
**Cortlandt Manor** Anna M. Haddad, William Phillips, Lewis and Judy Silver  
**Croton-on-Hudson** Mary Cronin and Jay Pozenel, Sid Franks, Charles Henley, Allen Noreika, Mary B. Noyes, Rosemarie Raffa  
**Lutz, FL** Jane Trilling  
**Mohegan Lake** Gloria L. Gannon  
**Mount Kisco** Brian Bubb and Vicki Lins  
**New York** Carleen Gilot  
**Ossining** Barbara Hough, Heide E. Mason  
**Pleasantville** Stephanie Hickey, Irene Ioffe, Julie Anne Todd  
**Scarsdale** Deborah Russell  
**Tarrytown** Harriet Allen, Elliot Chase, Michael Pressman, Tom Ruth  
**Yorktown Heights** Evelyn Jones

## New Trails and New Map For Expanded Haas Sanctuary

Saw Mill River Audubon volunteers, board members, and staff have been hard at work at Haas Sanctuary the past few months establishing new trails, adding nest boxes, mapping the trails with GPS and studying the meadow plants. As this newsletter went to print, a Boy Scout Eagle project was underway restoring the stone wall along Sheather Road. We also anticipate adding a map box, kiosk and sign at the new entrance on Sheather Road. We are grateful to Campbell Engineering of Chappaqua for their generous assistance in helping us with a survey of the new entrance area. Haas Sanctuary work has been supported by a grant from the New York City Environmental Fund administered for NYSDEC by the Hudson River Foundation. Contact our office if you would like the new Haas Sanctuary trail map sent to you or visit our web site and click on "Habitats" to download the new map.

### *Have an Audubon Adventure this year!*

We offer both indoor presentations at your location and guided trips at one of our sanctuaries. For ages kindergarten through senior adults!  
To find out more visit our web site at [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org) and click on "Education."

## Save the Paper and Read this Newsletter Online!

You are invited to change to a digital subscription of this newsletter and no longer be mailed a paper copy. To do this visit: [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/digital](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/digital) Not only will this save paper and mailing costs but you will receive your digital copy as soon as we send our final version to the printer, typically 5-8 days earlier than receiving this newsletter in the mail.

## Spring Birding Adventure Platte River Cranes

**Wednesday, March 17 to Monday, March 22, 2010**

Only a few spaces remain on Saw Mill River Audubon's trip to see the sandhill cranes of Nebraska's Platte River.

To check for availability, call the office now at 914.666.6503. Details online at: [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/cranes](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/cranes)

# AUDUBON ADVENTURES

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

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, September 15 ♦ 7:30 pm

**Program: Biodiversity—**

**Why It Matters, Croton Library**

Co-sponsored with Croton Arboretum. **Speaker, Dr. Mike Rubbo, Director of Environmental Stewardship, Teatown Lake Reservation.** Dr Rubbo oversees the management of Teatown's 834-acre preserve and directs its scientific research program. His research has focused on the ecology of vernal pool ecosystems. He has authored numerous articles on ecology and conservation in international scientific journals as well as in the popular press.

Saturday, September 19 ♦ 9:00 am

**Hawk Watch: Hook Mountain**

Hook Mountain, just north of Nyack in Rockland County, offers eye-level views of migrating hawks and falcons and a spectacular 360 degree view of the lower Hudson Valley. Meet at Rockland Lake State Park at the Executive Golf Course parking lot. Moderate 30 minute hike to the hawk watching station at the summit of Hook Mountain. Wear sturdy shoes and bring binocular and water. You may also wish to bring lunch and stay longer. **Please call or email our office to register as with all of our field trips.**

Sunday, September 27 ♦ 9:00 am

**Hawk Watch: Fire Island**

The hawk watch at the Fire Island Lighthouse has recorded exceptional counts of migrating falcons and other raptors. Meet at parking lot 5 in Robert Moses State Park. As with all our trips, see note in this page, please call or email our office to register.

OCTOBER



Red-tailed Hawk

Saturday & Sunday, October 3 & 4

9:00 am–2:00 pm

New Castle Town Hall

**43<sup>rd</sup> Annual SEED SALE**

Our annual bird seed sale offers you high-quality bird seed at bulk prices and supports our work to protect local habitats and wildlife. **This year we are pleased to offer significant reductions from last year's prices.** We renew our inventory each fall and offer a convenient **pickup at the parking lot behind New Castle Town Hall in Chappaqua** during our sale weekend. Please see the seed sale flyer enclosed with this issue or visit our web site for more information and to order online. Gift certificates are available! Seed sales continue throughout the year with pickup at our office at Pruyn Sanctuary.

Monday, October 5 ♦ 9:00 am

**Hawk Watch: Chestnut Ridge**

Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch is located in the Nature Conservancy's Butler Sanctuary east of Mount Kisco. The fall hawk watch is maintained by our sister chapter, Bedford Audubon. It offers bleacher seating and a view over the landscape surrounding the Interstate 684 corridor. Call or email our office to pre-register. **Trip Coordinator: Arthur Green.** For directions and past year counts, visit the Northeast Hawk Watch web site at: [www.battaly.com/nehw](http://www.battaly.com/nehw)

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 31 ♦ 9:00 am

**Hawk Watch: Lighthouse Point**

This hawk watch at Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven, Connecticut features excellent accipiter and falcon flights, with regular cameos by red-shouldered hawks. Please call or email our office to register. Some carpooling may be available.

NOVEMBER

Tuesday, November 3 ♦ 7:00 pm

**Program: Franklin Mountain**

**Hawk Watch, Westmoreland Sanctuary, Mount Kisco**

Andy Mason, coordinator of Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch, discusses what he has learned in 20 years of operation. A field trip to Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch is offered on November 11 (see below).

Wednesday, November 11 ♦ 9:00 am

**Hawk Watch:**

**Franklin Mountain**

The tower at Franklin Mountain is located within the Delaware Otsego Audubon Sanctuary at Otsego, New York. This is a great place to see late fall raptors including rough-legged hawks and possibly golden eagles! Call or email our office to pre-register.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### Information for All Field Trips

**Suggested donation of \$5/person.**

We ask you to call 914.666.6503 OR email [office@sawmillriveraudubon.org](mailto:office@sawmillriveraudubon.org) before the trip so we know to expect you on the trip. Most trips run rain or shine. If we do need to cancel a trip we will call or email (your preference) to all who are registered and we will also put a notice on our web site and our office answering machine.

## Saw Mill River Audubon

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

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*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

# EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world." John Muir

Your gift to Saw Mill River Audubon helps us encourage more people to enjoy the natural world and care about its protection.

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.

## I'D LIKE TO JOIN Saw Mill River Audubon!

Basic Chapter Membership:

- Enclosed is \$25  
 Please send me planned giving info

\_\_\_\_\_  
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: November 1

Last Call for Spring Birding Adventure!  
Join SMRA on our March 2010 trip to see the  
the amazing Sandhill Cranes of Nebraska.  
Call now to check availability.

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