



# On the Wing

Summer 2010

News from Saw Mill River Audubon

Issue 319

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See ruby-throated hummingbirds  
at Pruyn Sanctuary this summer.

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Seed is available for sale  
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Pruyn Sanctuary office

Call 914.666.6503 for details

## SUMMER EVENTS

Join us! For more information call 914.666.6503  
or visit [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org)

Saturday, June 19 ♦ 11:00 am ♦ Greenwich Audubon Center

### Greenwich Audubon Tour

Enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of the green building features of the Kimberlin Nature Education Center at Audubon Greenwich led by Center Director Karen Dixon. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy with us after the tour to be followed by birding on the grounds of the Center. Pre-registration required. Please call or email in advance. Carpooling from Millwood A&P leaves 10:15am. Call/email for shared rides. This field trip is supported in part by a grant from ConEdison.

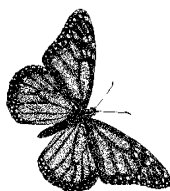


Kimberlin Nature Center,  
Photo: Audubon Greenwich

Saturday, July 24 ♦ 10:00 am

Pruyn Sanctuary, Chappaqua

### Summer Fliers at Pruyn Sanctuary



Come stroll through the garden, aboretum and woodland trails of Pruyn Sanctuary to learn more about butterflies, dragonflies, hummingbirds and other birds that may be seen at high summer in the sanctuary. Trip leaders: Trudy Battaly and Drew Panko. Pre-registration required. Please call or email in advance. Suggested donation \$5/adults, children 12 and under are free.

Sunday, August 1 ♦ 12:00 noon-6:00 pm ♦ Van Cortlandt Manor, Croton

### River Day at Van Cortlandt Manor

River Day is a celebration of the Hudson River and its tributaries. Take a boat-ride and experience the river as it was in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Hands-on activities include fishing, hearth cooking, and brick making, plus modern boat building with several organizations. Visitors can enjoy boating, music, picnic food, and storytelling. In addition there will be current day environmental and recreational activities including a table from Saw Mill River Audubon. Stop by and visit us! Food and beverages will be available for purchase. For more details, visit Historic Hudson Valley at [www.hudsonvalley.org](http://www.hudsonvalley.org).



Saturday, August 28 ♦ 8:30 am

Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Queens

### The Fall Migration Begins:

### Jamaica Bay NWR

Join us for a birding trip to the Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Queens. We're meeting at 8:30 am at the Visitor's Center at the refuge. Bring lunch, water and dress for the weather. Please call or email to pre-register. Let us know if you are interested in carpooling with us from the Millwood A&P, leaving 7:30am, returning around 2:30pm.

## New Board Member

Christine Smith caught the birding bug when she moved from Long Island to Westchester 10 years ago. Soon, checking out local birding hotspots like Croton Point and Rockefeller State Park became the focus of her weekends. After receiving a bird book as a Christmas gift she began keeping a Life List and was officially hooked. Christine enjoys field trips, where she can get outdoors and explore new places with her fellow birders. This past January she coordinated a fun Winter Wonderland birding trip to the Adirondacks for SMRA, and soon after was invited to serve on the Board of Directors. She hopes to work on event and field trip planning, and wherever she can help make a difference.



## New Tree Added at Pruyn

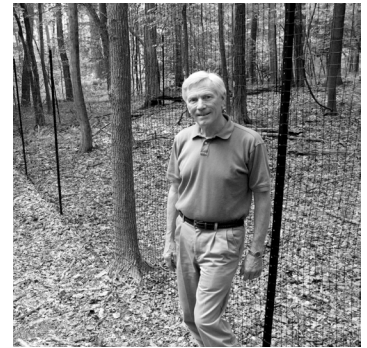


SMRA Executive Director Anne Swaim and board member Tom McEnerney installing plaque honoring Stan Wecker

Long-time Saw Mill River Audubon leader Stanley Wecker died on January 7, 2010. On May 7 we planted a memorial tree at SMRA's Pruyn Sanctuary Arboretum to honor Stan's memory. The Board of Directors is also encouraging memorial gifts in Stan's honor to support our environmental scholarship program for adults. Online gifts may be made at: [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/Donate](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/Donate)

## Pruyn Deer Enclosures

Numerous studies have shown that the increase in deer populations in the northeast U.S. has led to a loss of forest regeneration and a loss of the "middle layer" or understory of our forests. Deer overbrowsing of forest habitat is associated with serious declines in the populations of some species of birds and other wildlife. To monitor the effects of deer browsing in our sanctuaries, Saw Mill River Audubon has built two deer enclosures at its Pruyn Sanctuary. This project was supported by a grant from Audubon New York.



Nick Fischer at deer enclosure

To find out about this project, On the Wing spoke to SMRA Board member Nick Fischer who coordinated our deer enclosure project at Pruyn Sanctuary this spring.

OtW: What is a deer enclosure?

NF: It's a fenced-in area whose purpose is to exclude deer. The idea is to evaluate what happens in the forest understory when the deer no longer have access to the seedling plants.

OtW: How big are the enclosures?

NF: Each of our enclosures measures 50 by 100 feet or approximately one-eighth of an acre. We are using a special synthetic fencing material that is 7½ feet high.

OtW: How will we study the effect of the enclosures in preventing deer browsing?

NF: We'll start with a baseline assessment of the canopy trees and the forest understory in the enclosure. We'll see how many and what type of seedlings we have at the outset. We'll evaluate their growth over time and make comparisons with the forest adjacent to but outside the enclosure.

OtW: Who is helping out with this project?

NF: SMRA will be engaging students who participate in its environmental education programs to help out with study design and data collection. Three of our spring high school interns, Nick Beach and Austin Gellis from Horace Greeley High School and Ian O'Mahony from Croton Harmon High School helped with fence construction and maintenance. Greeley science teacher and intern advisor Bob Oddo helped out as well. SMRA board member Michael Madias, aided by my son, Tristan, installed the fence posts. Finally, another board member, Donna Lassiter, has been a key volunteer. I'd like to thank all the volunteers who have made this project possible.

# Everyday Ways to Help Keep Cool And Save Energy



On the Wing is sponsored in part by a generous grant from ConEdison, which will help cover printing and distribution as well as making possible this column.

Air conditioning has made life in the summertime a lot more pleasant. But our home air conditioners can be real energy hogs. In summer, air conditioning may account for more than 60% of your electric bill. In this article we'll look at ways to stay cool while using less energy. By following these tips you'll be able to save money, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and keep our air a little bit cleaner.

✓ The first and easiest AC savings tip is to turn off your air conditioner and open the windows when the weather permits. If your air conditioner or cooling system has a temperature setting that is set by the user, keep it at 78° or higher. You'll use 3-4% more electricity for every degree below 78° and even at the higher setting, the AC is doing its job of dehumidifying the air and keeping your house comfortable.

✓ Fans use a tiny fraction of electricity compared to air conditioners. While a fan does not cool a room, it can make you feel up to 8° cooler, allowing you to turn off your AC or raise its temperature setting. If you have a ceiling fan, use it-just make sure that you set the fan to blow the air down.

✓ Keeping air conditioners off when you are not home is more efficient than cooling a vacant house. For window air conditioners, inexpensive timer switches can be set to turn the units on about a half hour before your scheduled arrival back home. For central air, install a programmable thermostat and use the built-in timer.

✓ Cleaning or replacing AC filters on a regular basis is a simple way to save electricity. Another tip is to position your outside condenser or window unit to avoid direct sunlight as much as possible. A shaded unit consumes up to 10% less electricity.

✓ When purchasing new window air conditioners or central AC systems, look for Energy Star qualified products. Today's air conditioners are much more efficient than units built just a few years ago.

A federal tax credit of up to \$1,500 is available for certain central air systems or heat pumps installed in 2010.



Check with your installing contractor or [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) for more information. Finally, Con Edison has rebates available for installation of designated energy efficient cooling systems.

Visit [www.coned.com/energyefficiency/residential.asp](http://www.coned.com/energyefficiency/residential.asp) for more details.

## Spring Birding

Our spring birding trips delighted participants with great looks at a wide variety of spring migrants and returning local nesters.

We visited Teatown Lake Reservation, Croton Point County Park, Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Muscote Farm, Prospect Park in Brooklyn, Central Park in Manhattan, as well as Doodletown and Iona Island! Our spring field trips were supported in part through a grant from ConEdison.

A cumulative total of 26 species of wood warblers were seen on our spring trips along with spring favorites such as: scarlet tanagers, baltimore and orchard orioles, four species of vireo, six species of thrush (including the American robin, eastern bluebird, wood thrush, veery, hermit thrush and Swainson's thrush.) Come along with us this summer for more birding!

## Welcome Members

Chappaqua Kristy Rudel, Fred Tamalonis, Jerry and Mary Watson, William Wedge and Margaret Christ Cortlandt Manor Marlene Lopez, Fiona McGovern, America V. Santiago, Kathy Schleimer  
Croton-on-Hudson Linda Conte, John D. Grant, Susan MacKey, Nina Prudden, Carol Seaver Hartsdale Sandra Forster  
Hastings-on-Hudson Anthony Gentile Hawthorne James Cahill  
Millwood Max Kovalsky, Jeffrey H. Shein Montrose John Miller, Anita Reber New York Judith Mogul Ossining Jean Bonito,  
Nancy Erts, Debbie S. Kesler, Matt Lenaghan, John Pavlik,  
Anthony Scheinman Peekskill Lisa De Micco, Suzanne Di Micco, Joanna Farkas, Shelley S. Kessler, Barbara J. Lipp, Wei Liu,  
Roberto Rodriguez, Donna Swamy Pleasantville Linda Cooley,  
Fred Feucht, Sandra Gelman, Joe and Adrienne Magnemi,  
James Manolatos Sleepy Hollow Stuart Blumin, Susan Dowdell  
Tarrytown Jay Albrecht, Janice Collins, Johanna Dominguez,  
William Driscoll, Judith Levine, Bridget S. McCarthy, Aldo Rafanelli, Delina Sheehan, Arlene Skaf Thornwood Jennifer McAlwee-Bossio Valhalla Joanne Whalen



## Saw Mill River Audubon

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and additional offices

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## MAKE A GIFT TO WILDLIFE

"The bluebird carries the sky on his back." Thoreau

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.



Find opossum tracks at  
Brinton Brook Sanctuary!

### 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

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