



# On the Wing

Winter 2010–2011

News from Saw Mill River Audubon

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People ♦ Memberships & Donations



Evening grosbeaks  
Numbers of northern finches appear  
to be visiting our area this winter.  
Keep an eye out for grosbeaks!

## Need More Seed?

### Winter Seed Sales

9:30 am–12:30 pm

On the following Saturdays:

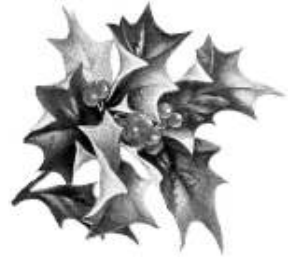
- Saturday, December 18
- Saturday, January 15
- Saturday, February 19

### At Pruyn Sanctuary

Weekday sales are available  
M/W/F 10:30 am to 3:30 pm  
Call 914.666.6503 for more info.

## WINTER EVENTS

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



Saturday, December 4–Sunday, December 5

### Winter Birding at Brigantine

Thousands of snow geese and other wintering waterfowl may be seen at the Edwin B. Forsythe (aka Brigantine) National Wildlife Refuge just north of Atlantic City. The refuge offers an eight-mile drive into the marshlands. Join us for one or both days: come down Saturday morning and return Saturday night or stay over for additional birding on Sunday. Will include stop at Barnegat. Call or email for details on trip cost and transportation options.

Saturday, December 11 ♦ 9:00 am

### Second Saturday Walks at Brinton Brook & Pruyn

This winter and spring we are offering monthly walks at both of our largest sanctuaries: Brinton Brook Sanctuary in Croton and Pruyn Sanctuary in Millwood. Come walk with us to record the progress of the seasons with photos and nature notes. An online journal on Facebook will be updated with each walk. No pre-registration needed. Good for all ages. Held regardless of weather except in cases of severe weather or road closures. Brinton leader: Michael Madias, Jr. Pruyn leader: Anne Swaim

Saturday, December 18 ♦ Dawn to Dusk ♦ Various Times and Locations

### Peekskill Christmas Bird Count

New and experienced birders are welcome to join established teams taking part in the census of birds in our local count circle. Contact the SMRA office for specific places and times of this day-long event. Other local Christmas Bird Count circles include the Bronx on Sunday, December 26 and Putnam County on Sunday January 2. For more information about this international citizen science project with a long tradition, visit: <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>



Sunday, December 19 ♦ 9:00 am ♦ Brinton Brook Sanctuary, Croton-on-Hudson  
**Sanctuary Work Day**

Call for volunteers: help us remove vines and invasive shrubs from our Brinton Brook Sanctuary. Wear work gloves and bring clippers and hand saws. Please call or email the SMRA office so that we know to you expect you. Meet at the main entrance.



Wednesday, December 29, 7:00 am (leave from Millwood)

### Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge

Add to your 2010 birding list with some excellent birding at this grassland habitat in Ulster County. The refuge is expected to reopen after habitat improvements. Come see the changes and enjoy a great day of winter birding. Pre-registration required.

WINTER ACTIVITIES CONTINUE ON P. 3

## Scholarship Applications Due December 31

Are you or someone you know interested in learning more about the environment and making a difference for the planet? If so, Saw Mill River Audubon encourages you to **apply for one of our environmental education scholarships**. For more than 50 years, we have assisted over 150 youth and adults with scholarships.

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.

Adults interested in attending an environmental class, camp or workshop are also invited to apply for an **Audubon adult scholarship**. (See article below for one camp we support.)

**Applications are due December 31, 2010.** Successful applicants will be notified in January 2011. For more information or to download an application, visit:  
[www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/Scholarships.html](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/Scholarships.html)

## Hog Island Audubon Camp Presents Educator's Week

Are you a teacher looking to further your environmental education skills? A special program for science and non-science educators will be held July 14–19, 2011 at the beautiful **Hog Island Audubon Camp** on the Maine coast. This session will generate exciting ideas for creating and incorporating environmental education activities into your curriculum and teaching. Inspiring and experienced instructors will discuss the latest trends in environmental education, such as “nature deficit disorder,” and will be sharing their favorite approaches, methods, and activities for engaging children with nature. For more information visit:  
[www.projectpuffin.org/OrnithCampsDescriptionTCHR.html](http://www.projectpuffin.org/OrnithCampsDescriptionTCHR.html)

## Remembering Rita Wecker

We note with great sadness the death of Rita Wecker on September 29, 2010. Rita served on Saw Mill River Audubon's board for over three decades. She gave so much of herself over the years, especially sharing her expertise in financial stewardship. Rita co-chaired the very first Earth Day in our area, an event sponsored by Saw Mill River Audubon that drew over 10,000 people. She was a wise and gracious woman and beloved by many. We will miss her.

## Welcome Members

**Bedford Corners** Frank Haymson **Briarcliff Manor** W. J. Cavanaugh, Jane Faber, Neelam Sinha, Victor Varga  
**Buchanan** Anthony Apollonio **Chappaqua** Paola Adriani, Mara Antonio, Anne S. Klemmer, Nancy Taylor  
**Cortlandt Manor** Mary Barrett, Richard Ferrari, William Roughley **Croton-on-Hudson** Daniel Daudier, Lorraine Graser, Lynda Long, Lakshmi Murali, Marguerite Pitts, Judith Simek, Deirdre Stapp **Hawthorne** David L. Johnson  
**Maryknoll** Lonna Weiss **Millwood** Betty Green  
**Mohegan Lake** Gail Linden, Marion Zakian **Mount Kisco** Robert and Florence Kirkwood **Ossining** Brenda Behan, Joan Hamshire, Joanne Hanig, Elaine Hartel, Donna Herman, Lewis Lolya, Gay Marglin, Ernestine Opie, Michael Schlacter, Jenny Sparrow **Peekskill** Ron Byington, Tina Costa, Doris Rodak, Florence W. Sacks **Pleasantville** Terry Brown, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Christine Pelham **Scarborough** Mary Little **Sleepy Hollow** A. Dunn, Margaret M. Waters  
**Tarrytown** John Colborn, Pamela Greig, David Larkin, Amanda C. Sauer, Ed Walsh, Ronnie Weber **Thornwood** Sharon Disador **Valhalla** Abbey Carsten, Elaine Sclar, Nancy Sklar, John Whearty **Yorktown Heights** Meryl Harris

## Thank You Volunteers!

Saw Mill River Audubon would like to express its appreciation to the many hard-working volunteers who helped make our **Annual Seed Sale Weekend** in October a great success. Proceeds from the sale further our local conservation and education work. (And our sale of bird seed continues in the winter!)

We'd like to add a special thank you to **Pizza Station of Chappaqua** for providing the delicious food that kept our volunteers going.



Volunteers at SMRA's Annual Seed Sale in October

## CITIZEN SCIENCE

## MORE AUDUBON ADVENTURES

(cont. from p. 1) more details at: [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org)

## Pruyn Deer

## Enclosure Update

In a previous edition of *On the Wing*, we wrote about the two deer enclosures that have been built at SMRA's Pruyn Sanctuary. The enclosures are fenced-in areas from which deer are excluded. The aim is to compare forest regeneration in the areas inside and outside the enclosures.



Deer enclosure at Pruyn Sanctuary

An article in the fall/winter 2010 issue of *Nature New York* entitled "Limited Regeneration Threatens New York Forests" details a study commissioned by the Nature Conservancy which found that forests in the lower Hudson Valley were among the most stressed in the state. Degradation of the forest habitat results in reductions in populations of a number of species of songbirds and other wildlife.

Over-browsing by deer of understory vegetation is one of the main factors associated with poor regeneration of the forest canopy. Climate change, invasive insects and plants, and air pollution are also associated with this problem.

The beginning of the detailed assessment of the impact of the deer enclosures await the spring growing season, but initial observations point to increased tree seedling survival inside the enclosures. The ultimate goal of studying forest regeneration is to come up with management strategies to improve the degraded forest habitat. We have also begun work with a forester to assess the forest habitat at Pruyn. A healthy forest benefits birds and other wildlife that call the forest home and allows our forest to continue its work of cleaning air and water benefitting humans and wildlife.

## JANUARY

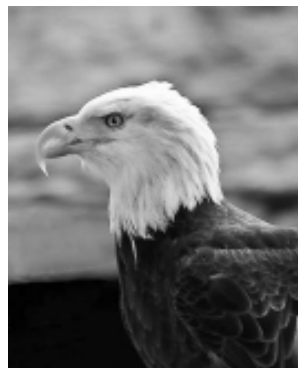


Photo: USGS/Amy Tolcin

**Saturday, January 1 ♦ 9:00 am**  
**New Year's Morning Walk at Rockwood Hall**

Start off the year with an invigorating walk along the Hudson River shoreline at Rockwood Hall State Park in Sleepy Hollow. Eagle views are quite likely. Spotting scopes provided. Dress warmly! Pre-registration required.

**Sunday, January 2 ♦ Dawn to Dusk**  
**Putnam Christmas Bird Count**

See December 18 event on page 1 for details of the Christmas Bird Count. Contact the SMRA office for specific times and places of the Putnam CBC.

**Saturday, January 8 ♦ 7:00 am**  
**Croton Point Eagles**

Our annual tradition continues with this popular birding walk at Croton Point County Park led by Charlie Roberto. Pre-registration required.

**Saturday, January 8 ♦ 9:00 am**  
**Second Saturday Walks At Brinton Brook & Pruyn**

See listing for December 11 on page 1 for details.

**Sunday, January 9 ♦ 9:00 am**  
**Sanctuary Work Day**

Help us remove vines and invasive shrubs from our Brinton Brook Sanctuary. See listing for Dec. 19 on page 1 for details.

## JANUARY

**Monday, January 17 ♦ 8:00 am**  
**Long Island Winter Ducks**

We plan to visit various locations on the Long Island Shoreline. Call or email to register.

**Thursday, January 27 ♦ 7:30 pm**  
**Program: Climate Wars**  
**Chappaqua Library**

Eric Pooley, Deputy Editor of *Business Week* and former Managing Editor of *Fortune* will discuss his well-received book, "Climate Wars: True Believers, Power Brokers, and the Fight to Save the Earth." Free and open to the public. No registration needed. Co-sponsored with Chappaqua Library.

**Sunday, January 30 ♦ 8:00 am**  
**Owl Prowl**

We plan to explore several locations in the metro NYC area depending on local reports of daytime roosting owls. Carpooling available from Millwood or follow along with us in your own vehicle. Pre-registration required.

## FEBRUARY

**Saturday, February 5 ♦ All Day**  
**Hudson River EagleFest**

Save the date! Coordinated by Teatown Lake Reservation. Supported by Saw Mill River Audubon. Visit [www.teatown.org](http://www.teatown.org) for more details.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**Information for All Field Trips**

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

(Youth & children under 18 are free.)

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

PERIODICAL POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
at Chappaqua, NY  
and additional offices

**Save the Date!**  
SMRA Annual Meeting & Dinner  
Sunday, April 10, 2011

Deadline for Next Newsletter: **January 3**

**Saw Mill River Audubon**  
275 Millwood Road  
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**CELEBRATE NATURE**

“Joy in looking and comprehending is nature's most beautiful gift.” *Albert Einstein*

Your gift to Saw Mill River Audubon helps us encourage more people to enjoy the natural world and care about its protection. You can be confident that 100% of your donation supports our local education and conservation efforts.



SMRA's sanctuaries preserve habitat for the barred owl.

**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) \_\_\_\_\_  
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