



April/May 2011  
Issue 323

# On the Wing

News from Saw Mill River Audubon

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Spring Programs**
- 2 Chapter News**  
Improving Our Sanctuaries  
New Members ♦ Audubon Roundtable
- 3 More Audubon Adventures**
- 4 Contact Us!**  
People ♦ Memberships & Donations



The song sparrow welcomes spring. Visit [sawmillriveraudubon.org/singers](http://sawmillriveraudubon.org/singers) to find out who is singing now!

## Final Bird Seed Sale of the Season: Saturday April 16

9:30 am–12:30 pm  
Pruyn Sanctuary

Weekday sales are available  
Mon/Wed/Fri  
10:30 am–3:30 pm  
Call 914.666.6503 for details

All sales benefit  
Saw Mill River Audubon

## SPRING ADVENTURES

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

**Saturday, April 9 ♦ 9:00 am**

### Second Saturday Walks at Brinton Brook & Pruyn

Celebrate the arrival of spring by joining us on our monthly walks at our largest sanctuaries: Brinton Brook Sanctuary in Croton and Pruyn Sanctuary in Millwood. We'll 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.



**Sunday, April 10 ♦ 6:00 pm ♦ New Castle Community Center, Chappaqua**

### Special Event: Welcome to Spring Program (Annual Dinner)

Join us from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm on April 10<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the work of Saw Mill River Audubon! This year's dinner will be a community potluck supper at the New Castle Community Center, 10 Senter St., Chappaqua. It's open to all. Our brief annual business meeting will be followed by an engaging program including images of our Costa Rica birding trip and presentations from our environmental scholarship recipients. Come spend a great evening with a welcoming community of people who enjoy the natural world and work together to protect it. To RSVP and for more information, visit: [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/Dinner](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/Dinner) or call Jean Sparacin, (914) 941-8422. Suggested donation \$10/person at the door or \$20 if you'd rather not bring food.

**Thursday, April 14 ♦ 7:30 pm ♦ Church Street School, White Plains**

### Film Screening: Gasland

Central Westchester Audubon invites you to a free screening of "Gasland," the Sundance award-winning documentary depicting the dangers of extracting natural gas by horizontal hydrofracking. This issue is of unparalleled environmental and economic importance as New York State decides whether and where to allow hydrofracking. More information at: [www.centralwestchesteraudubon.org/Programs.htm](http://www.centralwestchesteraudubon.org/Programs.htm)

**Friday, April 15 to Sunday, April 17**

### DelMarVa Birding Weekend

SMRA is excited to offer a unique opportunity to visit the DelMarVa Peninsula, which is rich in both local and migratory bird species. On Friday we will visit Prime Hook NWR in Delaware before heading to Ocean City, MD for a fun evening. Our next stop is the Marine Science Consortium in Virginia, where we will enjoy a boat ride through tidal creeks and special access to private areas on Chincoteague and Assateague Islands. We'll also have an early morning visit to Wallops Island where we'll explore the rich salt marsh habitat at the Wallops Island NWR. If time permits we will stop at Bombay Hook NWR on the way home for more great birding. Call or email us ASAP to sign up!

**SPRING EVENTS CONTINUE ON P. 3**

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Improving Our Sanctuaries

Recent studies have confirmed that forests in our region are suffering from a number of stresses that negatively impact their natural regeneration. The result can be degraded habitat and loss of biodiversity. An important tool that owners of woodlands, both public and private, can use to understand what is happening in their forests is to have a professional forester create a **Forest Management Plan (FMP)**.

With funding from the Watershed Agricultural Council, Saw Mill River Audubon hired a forester to create a FMP for its 92 acre Pruyin Sanctuary in the Town of New Castle. Now that Pruyin's FMP is complete, we are exploring ways to implement the many suggestions in the FMP for improving Pruyin's woodland and wetland habitats. Possible management strategies include removal of certain invasive plants and controlling for over-browsing by deer through increased use of deer exclosures.

SMRA has recently received more funding from the Watershed Agricultural Council to create a FMP for our Choate Sanctuary, also in the Town of New Castle. We are also looking at ways to fund FMPs for our Brinton Brook and Graff Sanctuaries in Croton-on-Hudson.



FMPs will help us improve our sanctuaries. The goal is to come up with long-term strategies to effectively manage these vital preserves. By using FMPs, we hope to ensure that the important functions performed by the forest, such as providing wildlife habitat and carbon sequestration, will continue for years to come.

### World Series of Birding

Saw Mill River Audubon is fielding a team of expert birders to participate in the 2011 World Series of Birding hosted by New Jersey Audubon on May 14. For more information visit: [www.birdcapemay.org/wsob.shtml](http://www.birdcapemay.org/wsob.shtml)

### Lower Hudson Roundtable

On April 2 Saw Mill River Audubon will host a gathering of regional Audubon leaders at the *Lower Hudson Roundtable*. Participants will include: Central Westchester Audubon, Bedford Audubon, Bronx River-Sound Shore Audubon, Hudson River Audubon (of Yonkers), Orange County, Putnam Audubon, Rockland Audubon, and Saw Mill River Audubon. We will discuss the many ways our chapters can work together to further our mission of environmental protection and education. With local and state governments facing severe cutbacks for environmental funding, the work of our regional Audubon chapters, with the help of Audubon's state and national offices, is more critical than ever.

### Stay Informed With Email Alerts

Keeping our members updated on local and regional environmental issues is an important part of Saw Mill River Audubon's mission. By signing up for our **email alert service**, we will keep you informed about important environmental matters. You may also choose to receive email alerts about upcoming Audubon events and programs. You can even elect to receive this newsletter by email. We promise to protect your email address privacy. We will not sell or share your information with any third parties. Sign up now by visiting [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org) and clicking on *Advocacy*.

### Welcome Members

**Briarcliff Manor** Sherry Alberti, Thomas Antenucci, Georgia H. Frasch, Helene Isaac, Lynn Kenner, James Vaughey  
**Buchanan** Timothy J. Fitzgerald  
**Chappaqua** MaryEllen Allegra  
**Cortlandt Manor** Christopher Brown, Barbara Campbell, Susan Coletta, Anne Leavey  
**Croton-on-Hudson** Mary Haines, Estelle B. Lee, Susan Lunden, Ann Ouchterloney, David Reitman  
**Mohegan Lake** Carolyn E. Jackson  
**Montrose** Danielle Coletta, Bruce B. Gordon  
**Ossining** Jeanne Brady, Lorraine A. Ciero, Marianne C. Falzone, Kenneth Koscielniak, Stephen McCulloch, Jr., Carol Perkins  
**Peekskill** Carolyn A. Fox  
**Pleasantville** Robert Grambau, Elissa Lefkowitz, Kyrina McCormick, Christin Simon Ogryzlo  
**Sleepy Hollow** Ruth Grant, Abraham and Cynthia Ofer  
**Somers** Patricia Humphreys  
**Tarrytown** Brenda Beardwood, Elizabeth Bollenbacher, Laura Chmielewski, Karen Gauci, Bridd McDonough

## MORE AUDUBON ADVENTURES

### APRIL

**Saturday, April 23 ♦ 6:00 am**  
**Departing from Millwood A&P**  
**Garret Mountain Birding**  
 Garret Mountain Reservation in Passaic County, New Jersey has a reputation as one of the best places to see and hear the advance flow of spring migrants passing through our area, including the first of the warblers and vireos making their way from the neotropics to the northeast US and Canada. Pre-registration required. Call 914.666.6503 or email [office@sawmillriveraudubon.org](mailto:office@sawmillriveraudubon.org)

**Saturday, April 30 ♦ 11:00am–4:00pm**  
**Senasqua Park, Croton-on-Hudson**  
**Earth Day Celebration**

The Village of Croton-on-Hudson is sponsoring this event-filled Earth Day celebration. Learn about native plants, attracting wildlife to your garden, backyard composting, organic lawn care, and much, much more! As a special bonus, SMRA will lead a bird walk: meet at Senasqua Park at 9:00 am for start.



### MAY

**\*Note Change of Date\***

**Saturday, May 7 ♦ 6:00 am**  
**Bear Mountain State Park**  
**Doodletown Birding**  
 Reliable views of cerulean and hooded warblers as well as a wealth of other spring migrants are possible at this rich bird habitat. Call 914.666.6503 or email [office@sawmillriveraudubon.org](mailto:office@sawmillriveraudubon.org) to register and for meeting location.



Yellow-rumped warbler

Photo © Elaine R. Wilson

**Thursday, May 12 ♦ 6:30 am**  
**Birding in Central Park**  
 Central Park is truly an oasis for birds in an urban desert. During mid-May the park is world famous for its concentrations of spring migrants. Call or email to register and for meeting location.

**Saturday, May 14 ♦ 9:00 am**  
**Second Saturday Walks at Brinton Brook and Pruyn**  
 See listing for April 9 on page 1.

**Wednesday, May 18 ♦ 6:00 am**  
**Early Morning Bird Walk: Angelfly Preserve, Somers**  
 The Somers Land Trust has created an excellent network of trails through the rich habitats of this 654-acre protected land offering great looks at a diversity of spring migrants and area nesters. Call or email for meeting location.



Black-and-white warbler

**Saturday, May 21 ♦ 6:00 am**  
**Departing from Millwood A&P**  
**Sterling Forest Birding**  
 Sterling Forest State Park comprises over 21,000 acres of pristine natural refuge. Both blue and golden-winged warblers and other spring migrants are likely. Call or email to register.



Expansive grassland habitat at Shawangunk Natl Wildlife Refuge

Photo © Daniel Case

**Sunday, May 29 ♦ 6:00 am**  
**Departing from Millwood A&P**  
**Shawangunk Grassland NWR**  
 Give your 2011 birding list a boost with some excellent birding at this grassland habitat in Ulster County. We'll search for grassland summer nesters including eastern meadowlarks, bobolinks and upland sandpipers, with other possibilities including grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows. Call or email to register.

### 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**

**Last Call!**  
SMRA Annual Meeting & Dinner  
Sunday, April 10, 2011. Details on page 1.

Deadline for Next Newsletter: **May 2**

**Saw Mill River Audubon**  
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**EXPERIENCE NATURE**

“There is nothing in which the birds differ more from man than the way in which they can build and yet leave a landscape as it was before.”  
*Robert Wilson Lynd*

Visit one of Saw Mill River Audubon’s sanctuaries and experience the natural world. Your gift helps us to preserve and protect these special places close to home.

You may also join, give a gift membership, or make a memorial donation online.

**I WISH TO DONATE**

Enclosed is:


\$500    \$250    \$100  
 \$50    \$30    \$\_\_\_\_\_

My employer will match my gift.

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

Basic Chapter Membership:

Enclosed is \$30



Bloodroot grows at Pruyn Sanctuary

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
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