



Summer 2011

Issue 324

On the Wing

News from Saw Mill River Audubon

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People ♦ Memberships & Donations



See the eastern tiger swallowtail at our July 17 field trip; details at right.

**Help us empty
our bird seed shed!**

We have limited quantities of 50lb bags of black oil sunflower.

25% off
while supplies last

Call our office to inquire
914.666.6503

SUMMER EVENTS

For more information call 914.666.6503 or visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org. More summer trips will be added after publication. Join our email list! * See note below

Saturday, June 11 ♦ 9:00 am

Second Saturday Walks at Brinton Brook



Celebrate the arrival of summer by joining us on our monthly walk at our largest sanctuary: Brinton Brook in Croton-on-Hudson. We'll record the progress of the season 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. **Monthly second Saturday walks at Brinton Brook will also be held on July 9 and August 13.**

Sunday, July 17 ♦ 1:00 pm ♦ Pruyin Sanctuary, Chappaqua

Summer Fliers at Pruyin Sanctuary

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

Sunday, August 7 ♦ 12:00 noon–5:00 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. 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 available for purchase. For details, visit Historic Hudson Valley at www.hhv.org.



Sunday, August 28, Time TBD

Birding Sandy Hook

Join us for a late summer birding field trip to Sandy Hook Bird Observatory. The Sandy Hook Bird Observatory was established in 2001 by the New Jersey Audubon Society in one of New Jersey's best year-round birding locations. Sandy Hook is a peninsula that projects northward into Raritan Bay at the northern-most point of the New Jersey coast. A major migration path in both spring and fall, Sandy Hook has attracted approximately 350 bird species and over 50 species of butterflies to its diverse habitats. Trip details to follow via our email notice list.

*** Not yet a subscriber to our private email notice list?
Visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/list**

SMRA Annual Dinner A Hit

Good food, good friends and an entertaining and educational program combined to make for a successful Annual Meeting and Dinner for Saw Mill River Audubon. Held



April 10, 2011 at the New Castle Community Center in Chappaqua, the event featured a spell-binding account by board member Larry Trachtenberg (at left) of SMRA's recent

birding expedition to Costa Rica. Listening to Larry and viewing his gorgeous slides was the next best thing to being in the rain forest.

In addition, attendees were treated to fascinating presentations by last year's winners of SMRA's Larry Light Youth Scholarships. Sophia West (at right) of Ossining, a student at the Emma Willard School, used her scholarship to take an environmental service trip to Fiji where she worked with a local community to protect the marine ecosystem. Sophia described the many threats to coral reefs as well as innovative strategies for their protection.



Benjamin Van Doren (at left), a student at White Plains High School, used his scholarship to attend the American Birding Association's Young Birder Camp Colorado. Ben treated the audience to a great slide show of the many bird species he learned about and saw in a variety of alpine and desert habitats.



This year's Annual Meeting and Dinner highlighted SMRA's mission of environmental stewardship and education. Support from our membership makes this work possible. Thank you!

Welcome New Board Members

Saw Mill River Audubon is pleased to announce that **Christopher Drury, Michael Lolya and Donna Lee Ubertalli** were elected to the Board of Directors on April 10, 2011.

New Board Member Profile

Donna Lee Ubertalli grew up canoeing and hiking along the Connecticut River. From an early age she enjoyed identifying wildflowers and trees. She studied environmental design at UMass Amherst and did her master's thesis on an export marketing plan for Vermont maple syrup. Donna Lee discovered a passion for birding when she moved to Croton-on-Hudson from New York City 2 years ago. A "Raptors for



Rookies" course taught by Anne Swaim kick-started her fascination with birds. A believer in the power of local engagement, Donna Lee is looking forward to helping SMRA further its mission of protecting the environment and spreading the joys of birding and the outdoors.

Turtle Alert.

Northern Westchester is fortunate to have viable populations of the eastern box turtle. However, their numbers are declining and the box turtle is considered a "species of concern" in



New York State. Turtle advocate and NYS licensed wildlife rehabilitator Patricia Johnson is documenting our local populations. Please contact her with sighting locations and send a digital photo, if possible, by email to turtleadvocate@gmail.com (phone 347-242-7058). Do not touch a box turtle unless it is in danger or injured. Threats to turtles come from cars, habitat loss from development and over-browsing by deer, and suburban predators like raccoons and outdoor cats, which take hatchlings. Contact Patricia Johnson for more information.

Welcome Members

Briarcliff Manor William Barnes, Nancy M. Corman, Anna Filardi, Cathy MacKey **Chappaqua** William Witkin **Cortlandt Manor** Myra J. Deleo **Croton-on-Hudson** Julia A. Adamovic, Barbara Babich, Julie Woodward **Mamaroneck** Neil Powell **North Salem** Bonnie Barrett **Peekskill** Barbara Smith **Pleasantville** Margaret Kennedy, Martin M. Slomka, Bill Wolfe **Tarrytown** Joan Smith **Valhalla** Christine Word

MORE CHAPTER NEWS

SMRA Does Delmarva

I was one of nine lucky participants who enjoyed a terrific long weekend on the Delmarva Peninsula this past April 15-17. The peninsula, which includes parts of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, is well-known for excellent coastal birding. It did not disappoint!

We made stops at Prime Hook and Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuges in Delaware, followed by a delicious meal of local seafood in Ocean City, Maryland.



Map provided by www.worldatlas.com



Piping plovers

Better yet, sign up for our private email notice list to receive advance notification of upcoming trips and programs. To enroll, visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/list. Your email address privacy will be protected and your email address will never be given, shared, or sold to any other organization or entity by Saw Mill River Audubon. --Christine Smith

Article photos: Christine Smith

Attention Young Birders

Are you a young birder between the ages of 10 and 19? The **New York State Young Birders Club** provides community, friendship, and fun for young people who have a passion for wild birds and their habitats. The **New York State Young Birders Club** is a special project of the **New York State Ornithological Association**. Club activities include field trips, annual meetings and other events. In addition, youth members communicate via the club website, a private mailing list, and an online discussion group. For more information, visit nysyoungbirders.org



Most of the weekend was spent at The Marine Science Consortium in Virginia, which provided special access to Chincoteague and Assateague Islands for great bird sightings

(Carolina chickadees, marbled godwits, buff-breasted sandpipers, Caspian terns, brown-headed nuthatches and blue grosbeaks). We were treated to a thrilling close-up viewing of the wild pony round-up.

At the Wallops Flight Facility, part of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center on Wallops Island, the group delighted in a sunrise beach walk where we saw threatened piping plovers.



Interested in future trips with Saw Mill River Audubon? Check our website for upcoming events.



Saw Mill River Audubon
275 Millwood Road
Chappaqua, New York 10514

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

Deadline for Next Newsletter: **Aug. 1**

Saw Mill River Audubon

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

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MAKE A GIFT TO WILDLIFE

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." *Anne Frank*

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.



North American opossum,
our only native marsupial

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**
 Please send planned gift information

Name(s)

Address

City/State/Zip

Please make checks payable to:

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