



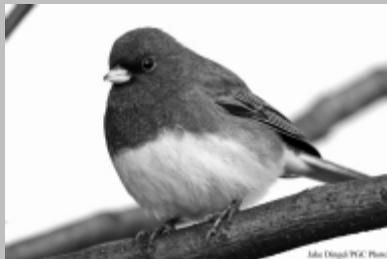
On the Wing

Winter 2011–2012

News from Saw Mill River Audubon

Issue 326

- 1 Winter Events**
- 2 Chapter News**
SMRA Scholarships ♦ New Members
- 3 TogetherGreen Grant**
- 4 Project FeederWatch**
More Events
- Contact Us!**
People ♦ Memberships & Donations



The dark-eyed junco is a welcomed winter visitor to our feeders.

Need More Seed? Winter Seed Sales

Third Saturday Seed Sales
9:30am–12:30pm

Saturday, December 17
Saturday, January 21
Saturday, February 18

At Pruyn Sanctuary
Office entrance.

Volunteers available on Saturday
sale dates to help load your car.
Seed also available
Monday/Wednesday/Friday
10:30 am to 3:30 pm

Bird Seed is a
fun Holiday Gift!

SPECIAL EVENT: Hudson River EagleFest 2012

Saturday, February 4 ♦ 9:00 am–4:00 pm



The annual Hudson River EagleFest is a wonderful opportunity to view and celebrate the majestic bald eagles that overwinter along the Hudson River. Experienced guides with spotting scopes will be located at the **Riverfront Green in Peekskill, George's Island County Park in Montrose, and the Croton River boat ramp** (just beyond the Croton train station). This year viewing sites have been added at the Kathryn V

Davis Riverwalk Center at the **Kingsland Point County Park in Sleepy Hollow** and **Steamboat Riverfront Park in Verplanck**. Visit the main exhibition tent in **Croton Point Park** all day for more special exhibits, lectures, and theatrical presentations for children and adults. Two-hour bus tours hosted by environmental educators will leave the main tent at 9:30 am and 2:00 pm. Seating is limited. Visit www.teatown.org/eaglefest for more information.



The EagleFest is organized by Teatown Lake Reservation. The Croton River boat ramp and George's Island warming tents are sponsored by Saw Mill River Audubon. Visit www.teatown.org/eaglefest for the full schedule of bird walks, educational presentations, eagle viewing sites, and more. Although no reservations are needed for eagle viewing, **reservations are required for some of the special EagleFest events**, so be sure to check the EagleFest website.



Attracting Winter Backyard Birds

Saturday, December 10 ♦ 10:00 am ♦ Croton Point Park Nature Center

Saw Mill River Audubon is offering this workshop in partnership with the Croton Point Nature Center. Come and learn about different seeds and feeders that attract winter birds. Learn what different birds like to eat and answers to frequently asked questions about bird feeding in our area. Free and open to the public. Best for ages 8 and up. No pre-registration necessary.



Area Christmas Bird Counts

Saturday, December 17 ♦ Peekskill

Sunday, December 18 ♦ Greenwich-Stamford

Monday, December 26 ♦ Bronx-Westchester

Friday, December 30 ♦ Putnam County

Details on page 3 inside.



More Winter Events Page 3 inside



TogetherGreen Grant



Saw Mill River Audubon was one of only five organizations nationwide awarded a 2011–12 planning grant from **TogetherGreen**, a joint initiative between Audubon and Toyota to fund conservation projects, train environmental leaders, and

offer volunteer opportunities that significantly benefit the environment. The **TogetherGreen Innovation Grants Program** supports creative, ambitious conservation partnerships that engage diverse communities and find innovative solutions to environmental challenges.

The goal of the project—led by SMRA—is to forge a partnership between lower Hudson Valley Audubon chapters and community-based organizations providing outreach to recent Latino immigrants. If the project is successful, we hope to apply for an Innovation Grant that will expand our environmental education to this community and create opportunities throughout the Lower Hudson Valley for hands-on conservation projects.

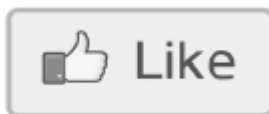
To read more about our project or others funded by the *TogetherGreen* program, visit: www.togethergreen.org/Projects/Grantee.aspx

Help Us Connect!

We'd like to make sure that our neighbors know about all the many great SMRA activities and programs, so everyone can join in. Newspapers and newsletters are no longer the only ways to know what's going on. There are blogs and e-newspapers, online calendars, Facebook pages, and Twitter feeds, among others.



The SMRA publicity committee would love your help in assembling a list of the online places you rely on to know what's happening on the weekends or to track local (or not so local) nature events and phenomena.



Please send an email to office@sawmillriveraudubon.org with your favorite and best links, pages, and Twitterers. Help us get the word out!

Thank You Volunteers!

Here's a hearty thank you and job well done to the many hard-working volunteers who made our **Annual Seed Sale Weekend** in October possible. Proceeds from the sale further Saw Mill River Audubon's mission of environmental education and conservation.

Once again, we'd like to extend a special thank you to **Pizza Station of Chappaqua** for providing the delicious pies that kept our volunteers going!



Photo: Ken Novensterm

Hard-working volunteers take a well-deserved break at SMRA's Annual Seed Sale.

Apply for a Scholarship

Are you or someone you know interested in learning more about the environment? If so, Saw Mill River Audubon encourages you to apply for one of our environmental education scholarships. The **Larry Light Memorial Scholarship Fund for Youth** was established to assist young people ages 13 to 17 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**. Applications are due December 31, 2011. For more information or to download an application visit: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/Scholarships.html

Welcome Members

Briarcliff Manor Albert J. Girardi, Elizabeth Gottlieb **Buchanan** Sheila Gorey **Chappaqua** Janice Bass, Katie Vaz **Cortlandt Manor** Armen Balemian **Croton-on-Hudson** John Callaghan, Marc Holzer, Linda Pellet **Hawthorne** Bruno Delau, Anthony Dellorso **Mohegan Lake** Alice Callahan **Montrose** Edward Fagan **Ossining** Carolyn Bauer, Tracey Cataldo, Brian Curran, Sally O. Evans, Fred Green, Harald Plochberger, Brenda Timm, Anne Walker **Peekskill** Deborah Perykasz **Pleasantville** Molly Burnett, Lauren Cooper, Janet Maslin Cheever **Sleepy Hollow** Patricia Kappmeyer, Ludlow B. Smethurst **Tarrytown** Barbara Rissmeyer **Thornwood** Anurag Anand **Valhalla** Joan Alderisio, Erin Archuleta, Judith Barbarite

CITIZEN SCIENCE**Join Project
FeederWatch**

Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, and other locales in North America. FeederWatchers periodically count the birds they see at their feeders from November through early April and send their counts to Project FeederWatch. FeederWatch data help scientists track broadscale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance.



Anyone with an interest in birds can participate! FeederWatch is conducted by people of all skill levels and backgrounds, including children, families, schools, youth groups, and bird clubs.

Project FeederWatch is operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada. Participants count birds that appear in their count sites because of something that they have provided (plantings, food, or water). Bird counts are reported to scientists at the Cornell Lab on paper data forms or to the FeederWatch website.

Project FeederWatch data are used to document and understand the distribution and abundance of birds that visit feeders. There is a \$15 annual fee to participate. A research kit with instructions and other materials is mailed to each participant.

Data from Project FeederWatch are important because they provide information about bird population biology that cannot be learned by any other method. Visit www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw to register and learn more.

If you want to help with the ongoing FeederWatch at Croton Point, call or email Saw Mill River Audubon!

MORE WINTER EVENTS**DECEMBER****Saturday, December 10 ♦ 9:00 am
Second Saturday Walk At
Brinton Brook**

This winter we are offering monthly walks at our largest sanctuary: Brinton Brook in Croton-on-Hudson. No pre-registration needed. Ages 6 and up. Held regardless of weather except in cases of severe weather or road closures.

**Sunday, December 11 ♦ 9:00 am
Christmas Count Scouting**

Join Charlie Roberto on birding drive around the area to scout birds. Cross-listed with Teatown. Meet in main parking area of Teatown.

**Saturday, December 17 ♦ All Day
Peekskill Area
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 Monday, December 26** and **Putnam County on Friday, December 30**. For more information about this international citizen science project with a long tradition, visit: birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count

JANUARY**Sunday, 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.

**Saturday, January 7 ♦ 9:00 am
Croton Point for Eagles**

Our annual tradition continues with this popular birding walk led by Charlie Roberto. Call or email to pre-register. Meet at the Croton River boat ramp.

JANUARY**Saturday, January 14 ♦ 9:00 am
Second Saturday Walk
At Brinton Brook**

See December 10 listing for details.

**Sunday, January 15, Evening
to Monday, January 16, Evening
Montauk Birding Overnight**

Meet up with us for dinner 7:00 pm on Sunday at special dining/lodging location in Montauk. We'll spend Sunday night in Montauk in order to wake up to a great day of birding at the end of Long Island! Contact us ASAP if interested in trip details by calling our office (914) 666-6503 or emailing office@sawmillriveraudubon.org

FEBRUARY**Saturday, February 4 ♦ All Day
Hudson River EagleFest**

Celebrate the bald eagle on the Hudson River with this all day festival along the Westchester County shoreline of the Hudson. Coordinated by Teatown Lake Reservation and supported by Saw Mill River Audubon. Details on page 1.

**Saturday, Feb 18 to Monday, Feb 20
Weekend Birding: Cape Ann**

Join us on this holiday weekend for a winter birding excursion to Cape Ann in Massachusetts. Co-sponsored with Bronx River-Sound Shore Audubon. Contact us ASAP if interested in trip details by calling our office (914) 666-6503 or emailing office@sawmillriveraudubon.org

**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 before the trip

so we know to expect you. 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 office

Deadline for Next Newsletter: **Jan. 1**
SAVE THE DATE
Annual Audubon Dinner April 1

Saw Mill River Audubon

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Chappaqua, New York 10514
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www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

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CELEBRATE NATURE

"I believe a leaf of grass is no less than the journey-work of the stars." *Walt Whitman*

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.

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 \$30 \$_____

My employer will match my gift.

I'D LIKE TO JOIN
Saw Mill River Audubon!

Basic Chapter Membership:

- Enclosed is \$30**
 Please send me planned giving info

Name(s)

Address

City/State/Zip

Please make checks payable to:

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275 Millwood Road
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