

April/May 2014  
Issue 338

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People ♦ Memberships & Donations



Photo: Sue O'Rourke

An adult red-headed woodpecker has spent the winter at Croton Point Park.

Saw Mill River Audubon continues to monitor the habitats at Croton Point Park because it is an important area for birds and other wildlife, especially during spring and fall migration.

## Final Saturday Bird Seed Sale

Our supply of bird seed is almost sold out! Stop by for final purchases on Saturday April 19  
**At Prun Sanctuary**

Weekday sales also available  
Mon/Wed/Fri 10:30 am-3:30 pm.  
Call 914.666.6503 for more info.  
All proceeds support SMRA's local conservation work.

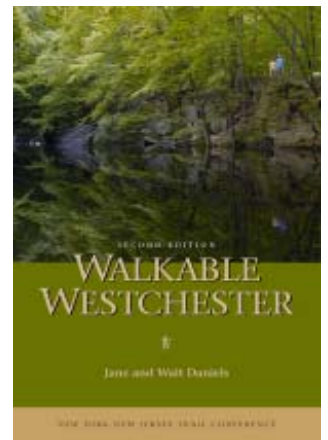
## SPRING FIELD TRIPS & PROGRAMS

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

### Book Launch: *Walkable Westchester*, 2nd Edition

Saturday, April 5 ♦ 2:00 pm  
♦ Ossining Public Library

Join authors Jane and Walt Daniels for this special event at the Ossining Library! The second edition of *Walkable Westchester* will be available on this date! The best guide to the Westchester outdoors just got even better. *Walkable Westchester*, that indispensable handbook to hiking, walking and exploring in Westchester County, has been issued in a new second edition. Including more than 600 miles of trails in over 200 parks, preserves and sanctuaries, it is the latest addition to the offerings of guidebooks and maps published by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. It is the first update of this valuable Westchester resource since its publication in 2009. Jane and Walt Daniels are Westchester residents who are long-time hikers, trail designers and builders, and open-space advocates.



### Saw Mill River Audubon Annual Dinner

Sunday, April 6 ♦ 5:00 pm ♦ Table 9 Restaurant, Annsville Circle, Cortlandt  
Join us for a fun evening with friendly people, good food and entertaining presentations. Last minute reservation may be possible. **Call our office ASAP at 914-666-6503 for last minute reservations.** This special evening will include our brief annual meeting with our 2014 board election but also stories and pictures from our trips to Yellowstone, Minnesota and Belize. Details online here: <http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/dinner>

### Public Program: Gardening with Natives

Thursday, April 24 ♦ 7:00 pm ♦ Ossining Community Center



Learn about environmentally sound landscaping and gardening by including New York native plants and excluding invasive plants. Help to support birds, butterflies and a diversity of wildlife and create a yard that is in harmony with nature. Discover some beautiful and hardy native plants for your yard and garden. Presenter will be Saw Mill River Audubon garden coordinator and Cornell Master Gardener, Donna Lassiter.

**SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS & PROGRAMS**

## Audubon Youth Scholarship

Saw Mill River Audubon is pleased to announce that Alex Chin of Chappaqua is our 2014 recipient of the Larry Light Memorial Scholarship. 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. Alex is a ninth grader at Greeley High School and an active boy scout. He will be attending the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Wildlife Camp this summer. We look forward to hearing about his learning adventures at next year's annual dinner. It is not too soon to start planning ahead for next year's scholarship applications! Info online at <http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/scholarships>

## Birds at the Window?

'Tis the season! The phone calls to our office usually start by early April. "There's a bird trying to get into the house." Or maybe, "There's a robin attacking our house!"



It's all about the reflection. It is usually the male birds, a robin or a cardinal or, in one notable case, a male red-tailed hawk repeatedly fluttering at a window. They are attempting to drive off the other male they see reflected that they assume is invading their nesting/breeding territory.

What to do? Anything that helps lessen or distract from the reflection may help, including the shifting sun angles as the season advances. Some solutions that have worked for others include: mylar strips fluttering on the outside of the window, soaping the window, placing a barrier between the bird and the window including fine mesh netting or a screen, diffusing the reflection by adding decals or art on the window, and closing the curtains or blinds.

A different problem is happening when birds hit your window once with great force, resulting in a stunned or dead bird. This is because your window is reflecting the surrounding habitat and suggesting an escape route. See this helpful web page for ideas on how to prevent these window collisions: <http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/learn/top10/windowstrikes.php>

## Saw Mill River Audubon's Belize Birding Adventure!



In addition to our day trips and occasional weekend trips, Saw Mill River Audubon also offers longer birding trips once a year to birding hotspots. In 2013, we traveled to Yellowstone (filling up two different one-week trips) and, from March 8-18, 2014, we traveled to Belize!

Our group of sixteen people visited three different lodges over ten days in Belize, including Lamanai Outpost Lodge, Chan Chich Lodge and Jaguar Reef Lodge. Our sighting list included 233 bird species and over 25 other species of wildlife including Central American mammals like black howler and spider monkeys, coatimundi and kinkajou. Among the birds were over 20 species of warblers, tanagers and orioles that winter in Belize and will be returning to the states in just a few weeks.

Photo: Sue O'Rourke



We saw a flock of orchard orioles already preparing to head north. Activities included dawn jungle birding, exploration of the Lamanai Mayan ruins, sunset boat rides, tortilla making in a local village and a night jungle drive in the back of an open truck.

In addition to our once-a-year big trip, Saw Mill River Audubon also offers long weekend trips to key birding habitats in the United States. This May we are offering a weekend spring coastal birding trip. Be sure to subscribe to our private email list for advance notice about future birding excursions. Visit [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/list](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/list)

MORE AUDUBON ADVENTURES (continued from p. 1)

APRIL (cont.)

**Mondays ♦ 7:30 am**

**Monday Morning Birdwalks**

Come along with us on a free weekly birding walk at a local birding hotspot. Call or email for directions and where to meet or if you want to borrow binoculars. Beginners encouraged! Note the earlier start time of 7:30 am for spring and summer walks.

Apr. 7 & May 5—Muscoot Farm

Apr. 14 & May 12—Rockefeller State Park

April 21—No Monday Walk

May 19—Tarrytown Lakes

Apr. 28 & May 26—Croton Point

**Saturday, April 12 ♦ 9:00 am**

**Second Saturday Walk**

Our monthly walks continue year-round at our largest sanctuary: Brinton Brook in Croton-on-Hudson. Come walk with us and experience the changing seasons. No pre-registration needed. Good for ages 6 and up. Held regardless of weather except in cases of severe weather or road closures.

**Saturday, April 19 ♦ 8:00 am**

**Field Trip: New York Botanical Garden**

Meet 8:00 am at Millwood A&P or 8:30 am at the main gate of the New York Botanical Garden. We'll be looking for early spring birds as well as spring native wildflowers in the garden. Email or call us to register so we know to expect you.

**Thursday, April 24**

**♦ 7:00 pm**

**Public Program: Gardening with Natives**

See details on page 1



MAY



**Friday, May 2 ♦ 7:30–8:30 pm**

**Birders U Workshop: Spring Warblers**

Birders U is our seasonal series of birding workshops paired with a field trip. This workshop will focus on spring warbler identification. The program will be held at the Nature Center in Croton Point County Park. A field trip for class attendees will take place the following day (Sat. May 3) at a local habitat. Cost for Audubon members is \$25 and includes an ID book specific to the workshop. Cost for non-members is \$40 and includes a new SMRA membership—a \$30 value!



**Friday, May 9 to Sunday, May 11**  
**Spring Coastal Birding**

This trip is almost full so contact us ASAP if interested. We'll be visiting four different National Wildlife Refuges on the Delaware and New Jersey coasts. Contact us via email at [office@sawmillriveraudubon.org](mailto:office@sawmillriveraudubon.org) or call our office at 914-666-6503.

**Saturday, May 10 ♦ 9:00 am**  
**Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook Sanctuary**  
See April 12 event for details.

MAY (cont.)

**Tuesday, May 13 ♦ 7:00 am**

**Central Park Birding**

Join Charlie Roberto for spring birding in Central Park! Spring migrants concentrate in Central Park on their journey north and this should be a peak date for several species. Meet at the NW corner of 77<sup>th</sup> Street and Central Park West. Carpool may be possible from Millwood A&P departing at 6:00 am. Email us if you plan to meet us or want to carpool.

**Saturday, May 17 ♦ 5:30 am**

**Field Trip: Doodletown, Iona Island and Mine Road**

Visit Doodletown, Iona Island and Mine Road at the height of the spring warbler migration! Yes, it is a crazy early start time but there's nothing like the dawn chorus of spring migrants! Meet at the parking area along Route 9D by Doodletown, south of Bear Mountain Park. Bring binoculars, water and lunch. Moderately difficult walking at start. Contact us in advance so we know whether to expect you and if you need directions.



**Thursday, May 22 ♦ 7:00 pm**

**Program: Bird Architecture Croton Free Library**

Enjoy a multimedia exploration of birds and their nests from around the world presented by SMRA Executive Director Anne Swaim. Learn how you can help nesting birds in your neighborhood.



**Saw Mill River Audubon**

275 Millwood Road  
Chappaqua, New York 10514

PERIODICAL POSTAGE  
PAID  
at Chappaqua, NY  
and additional offices

**SMRA Annual Dinner**  
Contact us ASAP for last minute reservations  
**Sunday, April 6, 2014**

Deadline for next newsletter: **May 1**

**Saw Mill River Audubon**  
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**EMBRACE THE SEASON!**

*"No winter lasts forever;  
no spring skips its turn."  
Hal Borland*



Saw Mill River Audubon has been a local voice for the environment since 1953. Your gift helps us fulfill our mission of habitat preservation, education and advocacy—for now and for generations to come.

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