

Summer 2014

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Down the shore: Christine McCluskey photographed this American oystercatcher on SMRA's recent birding trip to Delaware and New Jersey.

Editor's Message

This issue is my 36th as editor of *On the Wing*. It is also my last, as my tenure is coming to an end. It's been a wonderful 7 years. As editor, I've met so many dedicated SMRA members and volunteers and have seen first hand many of the great things this organization has accomplished.

I'm pleased to announce that Brian Kluepfel will assume the editorship of the SMRA newsletter with our fall issue. Brian is an accomplished author and birder. As editor, he will be able to tap into the rich library of experiences he has had birding in and writing about exotic locations around the globe and right here at home. I look forward to reading—and enjoying—upcoming issues.

--William Kellner

SUMMER FIELD TRIPS & PROGRAMS

Join us! For more information call 914.666.6503 or visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

Monday Morning Bird Walks

Mondays (except June 30) ♦ 7:30–9:30 am

Start your week by joining us on our free weekly birding walks at local birding hotspots. Great for beginners and experienced birders alike! Call or email for directions and where to meet or if you want to borrow binoculars; otherwise no RSVP needed. Note the earlier start time of 7:30 am for spring and summer walks.

June 2—Muscoot Farm County Park

June 9—Rockefeller State Park

June 16—Tarrytown Lakes

June 23—Croton Point County Park

July 7—Muscoot Farm County Park

July 14—Rockefeller State Park

July 21—Tarrytown Lakes

July 28—Croton Point County Park

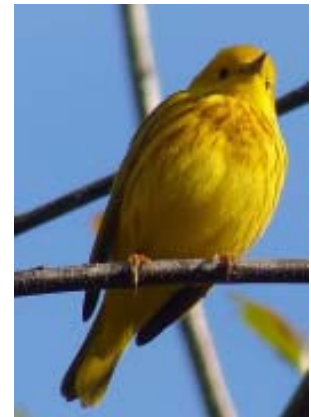
August 4—Muscoot Farm County Park

August 11—Rockefeller State Park

August 18—Tarrytown Lakes

August 25—Croton Point County Park

September 1—Muscoot Farm County Park



Christine McCluskey photographed this Yellow warbler at Rockefeller State Park Preserve in early May.

Video Birding with Evan Edelbaum

Thursday, June 12 ♦ 7:00–8:30 pm ♦ Rockefeller State Park Preserve

Come enjoy an intimate look at the birds of the Hudson Valley, including birds from Rockefeller State Park Preserve. Evan Edelbaum, the top-ranked eBirder in Westchester County, will present highlights from his videography of Westchester County birds. A bonus feature will be his short video of Costa Rica birds. Held at the Rockefeller State Park Preserve Visitor's Center at the main entrance of RSPV off Route 117 between Route 9 and the Taconic Parkway.

Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook

Saturday, June 14 ♦ 9:00–11:00 am ♦ Brinton Brook Sanctuary, Croton

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

Audubon Annual Dinner



SMRA President Robert McCrillis and Danny Ferguson, Director of Sanctuary Maintenance, at the SMRA Annual Dinner

The Table 9 Restaurant in Cortlandt Manor was the place to be on April 6, 2014. The occasion was Saw Mill River Audubon's Annual Meeting and Dinner where good food, a friendly crowd, and an entertaining and educational program combined for great Audubon community.

Members, volunteers and friends—old and new—who attended the dinner were treated to beautiful slide shows of recent SMRA birding trips to Yellowstone National Park, Minnesota and Belize. Jan Bass, Christine McCluskey and Phil Heidelberger were our tour guides as we viewed fabulous photos of birds and other wildlife from these adventures.

A special addition this year was the celebration of Executive Director Anne Swaim's 25th anniversary with SMRA. A short video by Bill Kellner and Nina Romanoff highlighting Anne's accomplishments as an environmental educator and advocate was shown, followed by presentation to Anne of the Great Egret Award from the National Audubon Society. This prestigious award recognizes an Audubon staff member or volunteer who has made significant, long-term contributions of 20 years or more



Anne Swaim (right) receives the Great Egret Award from Laura McCarthy

to Audubon's mission of conservation and environmental stewardship. Laura McCarthy, Manager of Conservation Engagement for Audubon New York, presented the Great Egret Award to Anne.

New Board Members

Jan Bass retired from a 30-year teaching career 4 years ago. Her dad taught her how to appreciate baseball at an early age by taking "little Jan" to see the "Buccos" play at Forbes Field. Perhaps it was the Pirate's mascot, the *Pittsburgh Parrot* that got her interested in avians!



Jan enjoyed photography but really fell in love with it 3 years ago after spotting two fluffy owlets "branching" on a cherry tree outside her door early one morning. She ran upstairs and got her lens. She caught "bird fever" and had to have an immediate intervention... enter Saw Mill River Audubon!

Jan is looking forward to her service on the board where she plans to use her varied skills acquired from years of teaching along with taking a sharp image of a birdie occasionally. It's all good!



After graduating from Hamilton College, **Karalyn Lamb** married a Scot and relocated to Edinburgh, where she obtained a Masters in Education before teaching English in a Scottish high school. Since returning to her hometown of Croton-on-

Hudson to raise her family she has been active in community projects; most recently in the restoration of the Croton Duck Pond. She has completed certificates in Environmental Gardening and Botany from the New York Botanical Garden and is a believer in the importance of native plants for the preservation of biodiversity. As a learning birder she enjoys exploring the interrelationships between birds and plants and looks forward to continuing her involvement with Saw Mill River Audubon's advocacy work as a member of the Croton Point group that is working to restore habitat for birds at Croton Point County Park.

Tom Ruth moved from Maplewood, NJ, to Tarrytown 8 years ago, and enthusiastically explores the many varied trails in the Hudson Valley. His experience with birding consisted of seeing a bird, thumbing through a guidebook for several minutes, and forgetting what the bird looked like before identifying it. Then he joined SMRA bird walks, where his fellow-walkers' knowledge of birds and bird song opened his eyes, and ears, to how enjoyable and edifying birding can be. Tom is looking forward to using his experience working with diverse teams to protect and promote appreciation of our natural environment.



Bird Friendly® Coffee

Most mornings I wake up to birdsong and prepare myself a hot cup of coffee. It took me decades to connect the two things.

Many of the beautiful, colorful migrants who pass through our region in the spring spend their winters in South and Central America, prime coffee-growing territory. It's become more convenient in recent decades to grow coffee plants on large, clear-cut tracts with little forest understory left for avian and other wildlife. This "unshaded monoculture" process yields the highest growth, but also requires major chemical, fertilizer, and pesticide input.

However, a movement has taken hold, almost an addendum to shade-grown coffee, called bird-friendly (BF) coffee.

The Smithsonian Migratory Bird

Center has established criteria such as canopy height, leaf litter, foliage cover etc. for the certification process (BF, in fact, is a registered trademark). The BF certification appears to be a rigorous one, ensuring both proper environmental factors and that the coffee is 100 percent organic, or grown with no pesticides at all.



Birds and Beans is a Boston (Beantown!)-based company that sells four different roasts of BF brew. B&B's coffee is grown in Nicaragua and Peru, among other countries; the list of BF growers extends to South America, most of Central America and Ethiopia. Another vendor of BF coffee is Caffè Ibis Coffee Roasting Company, which runs a cafe in Utah but also sells online.

I found it fun and interesting to try the different kinds of coffee that are out there and are grown in places that protect our beloved tanagers and warblers. Birding and coffee are two rather addictive past-times, and it's nice to connect them in my daily cup.

For a complete list of companies that sell BF-certified coffee see: <http://tiny.cc/coffee4birds>

--Brian Kluepfel

JUNE

Saturday, June 7, 9:00-11:00 am

Summer Tree Walk

Join arborist John Grant on a summer walk to explore native trees in summer. Learn about ID and value of native trees. Meet in the parking area for Rockwood Hall State Park just north of the Phelps Hospital parking garage off of Route 9 in Sleepy Hollow. Walk intended for adults and children 10 and up interested in trees. No pre-registration necessary.

Thursday, June 19–Monday June 23
Rockefeller Park Birding Blitz

Intermediate to advanced birders are invited to help conduct the first-ever Rockefeller State Park Preserve Birding Blitz. Participating birders will gather breeding bird data, which will inform ecological stewardship planning for the Preserve, a 1400+ acre Important Bird Area in Westchester County. Birders are invited to participate on one or more dates in one or more specified census areas. Email our office to connect with RSP staff to get more information. JULY

Saturday, July 12 ♦ 9:00–11:00 am

Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook Sanctuary

Enjoy the beauty of summer by walking with us Saturday morning at our largest sanctuary: Brinton Brook in Croton-on-Hudson. Good for ages 6 and up. No pre-registration necessary.

Held regardless of weather except in cases of severe weather or road closures.

Meet at main parking area off Route 9A.



JULY (cont.)

Friday, July 18 ♦ 7:30–8:30 pm

Birders U Workshop: Shorebirds

Birders U is our seasonal series of birding workshops paired with a field trip. Our fourth and final Birders U program for 2013–2014 will focus on shorebird identification just as the southward migration begins again. The workshop will be held in the Nature Center in Croton Point Park. The **Saturday field trip takes place on July 19** with the location & start time to be determined closer to that date depending on sighting reports in our region. The cost for this small group workshop/field trip experience is \$25/person for members of any Audubon group and \$40/non-members which includes a new SMR Audubon membership! Fee also includes a shorebird ID guide and specialized handouts. Space limited.

Wednesday July 30 ♦ 6:00 pm

Birds of Prey Program

The Ossining Community Center is hosting this free program with Master Class Falconer Lorrie Schumacher who will educate and entertain young and old with her trained hawks, owls and falcons.

AUGUST

Saturday, Aug. 9 ♦ 9:00–11:00 am

Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook Sanctuary

For details see July 12th entry at left.

Saturday, Aug. 16 ♦ 10:00 am–Noon Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden Tour at Pruyn

Come for a walk through the garden at Pruyn Sanctuary and learn how to attract butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. There will be over 80 species of flowers and shrubs to enjoy and a handout listing the best nectar and host plants. Led by SMRA garden coordinator and Master Gardener Donna Lassiter.

Saw Mill River Audubon
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EXPERIENCE NATURE

“We cannot win this battle to save species and environments without forging an emotional bond between ourselves and nature as well— for we will not fight to save what we do not love.”

Stephen Jay Gould



Palm warbler

Your gift to Saw Mill River Audubon helps us fulfill our mission of connecting people to nature.

Thank you!

I WISH TO DONATE

Enclosed is:

- \$500 \$250 \$100
 \$50 \$30 \$ ____

My employer will match my gift.

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Basic Chapter Membership:

- Enclosed is \$30
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