



SMRA
SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON
Spring 2018



Red-Shouldered Hawk. Photo: www.stevesachsphotography.com



Jewel Chaudhary with special Audubon cookies for our Members Best program.



Bob Burke, Phil Heidelberger, and SMRA Sanctuary Caretaker Danny Ferguson at January's bird seed sale, Pruyn Sanctuary.



Eagle watching on the Hudson River. Bald Eagle roost monitoring in Verplanck at dusk.

Upcoming Events

Visit our Google calendar at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/calendar for more events, event details, and any schedule changes. Be sure to subscribe to our free, private email list to get additional details, and early notice of new trips and events, including “pop-up” trips that we may add a few days before the trip. Visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/list to subscribe.

Every Monday, 8:30 am (March & April), 7:30 am (May-September)

Free Bird Walks Check web site for dates for these locations: Muscoot Farm, Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Croton Point.

Every Saturday & Sunday until April 1, 9:00–11:00 am,

Project FeederWatch SMRA volunteers at Croton Point Nature Center.

Every Second Saturday, 9:00 am, Brinton Brook Sanctuary Guided Hike.

Every Third Saturday, 9:30 am–12:30 pm Pruyn Bird Seed Sale

High quality bird seed for pick up at Pruyn Sanctuary office/garden entrance.

Every Third Sunday, 3:30 pm, Pruyn Sanctuary Guided Hike.

Spring Public Programs—See Pages 3–4 for Field Trips

Thursday, March 22, 7:00 pm at the Chappaqua Library

How Birders and eBird are Making a Difference

Join SMRA Executive Director Anne Swaim for a multimedia look at how birders and eBird, the world's largest community science effort, are making a difference in birding and habitat protection. Learn how eBird helps birders find birds and birding hotspots, discover eBird tips and tricks and track what birds are seen where and when in our area.

Sunday, April 8, 5:00 to 8:30 pm at Kittle House, Chappaqua

Welcome to Spring Dinner and Stories from the Bronx Zoo

See page 5 for details about this special evening with guest speaker Kevin Hils, Collections Manager at Wildlife Conservation Society's Bronx Zoo Ornithology Department. Entertaining images and stories from the zoo world.

Thursday, May 24, 7:00 pm at the Croton Free Library

Predators in the Landscape with Dr. Melissa Grigione

How do larger predators interact with changing landscapes? As sightings of coyotes, bobcats and bears increase in our rural-suburban landscape, the relationship between larger predators and human-influenced landscapes is of growing importance and interest. Presenter Melissa Grigione is Professor of Biology at Pace University.

To enjoy this newsletter in color, visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/news

President's Message

Saw Mill River Audubon's three main activity areas are: education, sanctuaries and advocacy. In each newsletter, we report on all three areas. Here are some highlights:

Education

Winter blues lingering? Eagerly looking forward to spring outdoor activities? The great thing about birding is that seasonal changes bring new birds and new bird activity just when you might be needing a change. We have activities and programs for everyone in every season. Check out our extensive list of spring field trips and programs in this newsletter and on our website.

Sanctuaries

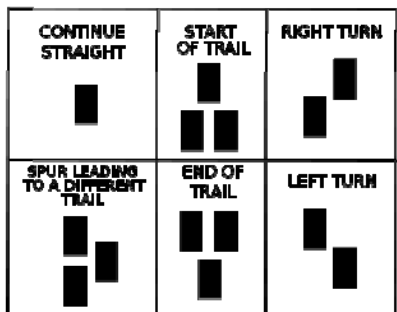
We will be offering several sanctuary work days this spring through next fall to add native plants and remove invasive plants. We invite you to come and work with us! For the latest opportunities, check our Google calendar at our web site and be sure you are subscribed to our private email notice list here: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/list

Advocacy

For advocacy efforts statewide, we partner with Audubon New York. Beginning March 1, Audubon New York has a new Executive Director, Ana Paula Tavares, who comes to Audubon after 17 years at Rainforest Alliance, an international NGO working to conserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable livelihoods by transforming land use practices, business practices and consumer behavior. This exciting appointment affirms Audubon's commitment to programs and public/private collaborations that protect and improve habitat across the state. If you would like to know more about Audubon activities around the state, sign up for Audubon New York's monthly email newsletter, *News from the Nest*, at ny.audubon.org/news/news-nest Valerie Lyle



Valerie Lyle, SMRA President



Do you know your trail markers? SMRA uses the international system of trail blazes shown above along our sanctuary trails.

SMRA Coyote Statement

In January, Saw Mill River Audubon's Board of Directors approved a public statement regarding Eastern Coyotes. We encourage our members and friends to read and share this statement. Download this statement from our web site here: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/coyotes



Photo credit: Bonnie Coe

Saw Mill River Audubon

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Watching Short-eared Owls at Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge in February. Photo: Banvir Chaudhary.



Welcome to Spring Annual Dinner

Sunday, April 8, 2018

5:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Crabtree's Kittle House, Chappaqua

Every year we welcome friends new and old for a delicious dinner along with a presentation of the year's highlights. The evening will include our brief annual meeting and election of board members and officers followed by short presentations by our two 2017 Larry Light Youth Scholarship winners. This year's guest speaker will be Kevin Hils, Collections Manager for the Wildlife Conservation Society's Bronx Zoo Ornithology Department. Kevin has also worked at the Brookfield (Chicago), Cincinnati, and Columbus (OH) zoos, and gone on birding expeditions to the rainforests of Bolivia and Guyana. It's sure to be an entertaining and interesting evening, so reserve your spot now! **See page 5 to reserve.**

Leave the Binoculars. Take the Cannoli.

As my anathema to the cold increases with each year, so does my love of indoor birding. Do you have a picture window, a feeder, and a hot cup of coffee? I'm all in. My comrades of Christmas Counts past may beckon, but these days, I enjoy staying on the warm side of the glass.

So kudos to the folks who run Project FeederWatch at Croton Point Nature Center during the winter and early spring. Every Saturday and Sunday until April 1, Bonnie Coe and a crew of cheery but serious birders take on the task of counting cardinals, chickadees, various sparrows, juncos, and other winter delights which feast on the half-dozen feeders outside the west-facing window. Birding compatriot John Phillips, Croton Point Naturalist, sees to it that the feeders are stocked, and on windy days, are not blown off their moorings.

Project FeederWatch is a great activity for birders of all levels, and parents with fussy kids can use the oldest trick in the book to bring the young ones into the fold and out of the cold: *there are cookies.* Works every time. It's also a great opportunity for bird photography. For more info see www.projectfeederwatch.org. *Brian Kluepfel*

March Events (April & May on page 4)

Saturdays & Sundays

9:00–11:00 am

Project FeederWatch

Continues to April 1, 2018. Join Saw Mill River Audubon volunteers as they count birds from inside the Croton Point Nature Center.

Sunday, March 4

10:00 am–2:00 pm

Eagles & Chili

Charlie Roberto will lead us on eagle watching along the Hudson. Meet 10:00 am at Croton boat ramp. Stay for 1:00 pm chili potluck at Croton Point Nature Center.

Email us if you can bring chili, bread, beverages or dessert but okay to come without. Co-listed event with Teatown.

Saturday, March 10

9:00 am

Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook

No registration. Rain or shine. Meet in main parking.

Saturday, March 17

7:00 am

Marshlands Conservancy and Edith Read Sanctuary

Come birding with us along Long Island Sound as winter eases into early spring. Meet 7:00 am at Marshlands.

Sunday, March 18

3:30 pm

Third Sunday Walk at Pruyn Sanctuary

No registration needed. Rain or shine. Meet at Woodmill Road trails entrance. Good for adults and kids 6 and up.

Thursday, March 22

7:00 pm

How Birders and eBird are Making a Difference Chappaqua Library

SMRA Executive Director Anne Swaim will present this program. See page 1.

Sunday, March 25

6:45 pm

Woodcocks at Croton Point

Meet at ball field parking just inside Croton Point Park. We'll walk to the landfill edge to listen and look for American Woodcock doing spring display flights at dusk. For adults and young people age 8 and older Temps below 40 or high winds will cancel. Check web site if uncertain weather.

Saturday, March 31

8:00 am

Audubon Greenwich

Meet us in the main parking for Audubon Greenwich to explore the trails and do some early spring birding. Admission free for Audubon members, \$6/adult otherwise.

The 2018 Audubon Quilt!



Raffle Tickets on sale now!

Patricia Loquet has created another beautiful quilt for Saw Mill River Audubon! This one-of-a-kind handmade quilt measures 45"x62" and is titled "Backyard Birding." The 2018 birding quilt will be on display at our EagleFest booth and upcoming public programs. The winning raffle ticket will be drawn at our 2018 Annual Dinner. **See the quilt in color and purchase tickets online:** www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/quilt

April Events

Tuesday, April 3

7:00 pm

Nature Book Club

Mount Pleasant Library

Come join in the Saw Mill River Audubon Nature Book Club. We will be discussing *The Evolution of Beauty* by Richard O. Prum, named "Best Book of the Year" by *The New York Times*, *Smithsonian* and *Wall Street Journal*. No registration necessary.

Saturday, April 7

7:00 am

Long Island Birding

Meet 7:00 am at the Coast Guard Station parking at Jones Beach State Park. After birding Jones Beach, we'll continue north to Robert Moses State Park and other Long Island locations depending on bird reports, stopping for lunch before returning to Westchester. Register by email so we know to expect you and can update you on plans.

SPECIAL EVENT

Sunday, April 8

5:00 pm to 8:30 pm

SMRA's Welcome to Spring Dinner

Crabtree's Kettle House

Special guest speaker will be Kevin Hils, Bronx Zoo. Our evening will also include presentations from our 2017 Larry Light Youth Scholarship winners, a brief annual meeting and a multimedia finale, "2017 Faces and Places" with images from the past year's events. **See page 5 to reserve your spot!**

Saturday, April 14

9:00 am

Second Saturday at Brinton Brook

See entry for Sat Mar 10

April Events

Sunday, April 15

3:30 pm

Third Sunday Walk at Pruyn Sanctuary

See entry for Sun Mar 18

Saturday, April 28

7:15 am

Central Park Birding with Charlie Roberto

Meet Charlie at 7:15 am at Central Park West and 77th Street on the corner by the park entrance.

May Events

Early Weekday Bird Walks

During spring migration, we schedule extra walks on weekday mornings, extra early to catch the dawn chorus.

All walks start 6:00 am.

Check web site for meeting place for each walk.

Fri May 4: Rockefeller SPP

Fri May 11: Croton Point Park

Fri May 18: Rockefeller SPP

Fri May 25: Pruyn Sanctuary

Rockefeller State Park Preserve parking info

Apr-Oct daily: \$7/vehicle parking payable at kiosk after entry unless you have a NYS Park Pass or a free senior pass available at park office.



Sunday, May 6

6:30 am

Dutchess County Spring Birding

Explore the rich habitats to our north for spring migrants. Morning road trip led by John Askildsen followed by lunch at local eatery. Email us for details.

Thursday, May 10

7:15 am

Central Park Birding with Charlie Roberto

See entry for Sat Apr 28

May Events

Saturday, May 12

May Birding Big Day

Starting 5:00 am at Rockefeller State Park Preserve, we will bird several locations with the goal of 100 bird species in one day. Email us for details.

Saturday, May 12

9:00 am

Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook

See entry for Sat Mar 10

Saturday, May 19

5:30 am

Very Early Morning Birding at Doodletown

Meet us on Route 9W south of Bear Mountain State Park to explore this famed warbler hotspot at dawn's early light. No registration needed. For directions and site highlights, visit www.hras.org/wtobird/doodle.html

Sunday, May 20

3:30 pm

Third Sunday Walk at Pruyn Sanctuary

See entry for Sun Mar 18

Thursday, May 24

7:00 pm

Public Program: Predators in the Landscape

Croton Free Library

See details on page 1

Fri May 25–Mon May 28 Boreal Birding Weekend

We are planning a boreal birding weekend over the Memorial Day weekend, birding in the north woods. Watch our web site and/or email us for details.

More spring events and more event details at our Google calendar.
www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

Get the latest info on our field trips

Always check the Google calendar on our web site before traveling. At our web site, subscribe to our private email list to know about last-minute "pop-up" trips that we add with short notice.

www.sawmillriveraudubon.org



Saw Mill River Audubon Sanctuary & Garden Work Days

Between April and October, we expect to host several sanctuary and garden work days in our sanctuaries and you are invited! Tasks for all energy and skill levels.

April–June 2018

Depending on grant funding we plan to establish a native grass area at Pruyn Sanctuary. Learn about native grasses and be part of our work to convert lawn to meadow.

April–September 2018

We plan to add native trees, shrubs and wildflowers at Brinton Brook Sanctuary and our other sanctuaries. Learn how to ID and plant native species

To connect with these work projects, email us or call our office to let us know of your interest. Check dates at Google calendar on our web site where you can also subscribe to our private, email notice list:
www.sawmillriveraudubon.org



Welcome to Spring Program

Sunday, April 8, 2018

Crabtree's Kittle House

11 Kittle Road | Chappaqua, New York 10514

5:00-5:45 pm Reception* & Photography Exhibit**

6:00 pm Dinner Seating & Buffet

6:30-7:15 pm Saw Mill River Audubon Annual Meeting

Presentations by 2017 Larry Light Scholarship Students

7:30-8:15 pm Guest Speaker: Kevin Hils, Bronx Zoo

8:15 pm 2018 Birding Quilt Raffle & Brief Finale "2017 Faces & Places"

* For reception and dinner: cash bar available with house wines and soft drinks included in ticket price

** To include your photography in our 2018 exhibit, visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/exhibit

For quilt raffle tickets visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/quilt

Special Notice for Members of Saw Mill River Audubon
 Sunday, April 8, 2018, 6:30 pm, is the official Annual Meeting of Saw Mill River Audubon, Inc. You are encouraged to submit your proxy ballot online in advance of this meeting whether or not you are planning to attend our "Welcome to Spring" dinner & program. Vote your proxy online at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/proxy
A paper proxy is also enclosed in this newsletter for SMRA members.

This Evening Is Open to All - Invite A Friend!

Reserve using the form below OR via the web at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/Dinner

Reservation Deadline: Friday, March 30, 2018. Limited seating.

I will attend the April 8th dinner and reception. Please reserve place(s) \$

(Dinner and reception price is \$90/person, includes house wines and soft drinks)

I would like to make an additional contribution to support Saw Mill River Audubon \$

I am unable to attend, but would like to make a contribution in the amount of \$

Total enclosed \$

Name(s)

Address

Email (for confirmation)

Phone (required if using credit card)

You may also pay by credit card online at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/Dinner. Checks payable to "Saw Mill River Audubon."
 If reserving through US Mail, return this form to **Saw Mill River Audubon, 275 Millwood Road, Chappaqua, New York 10514.**

Credit Card Information

Account Number

Expiration Date MasterCard Visa



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Return Service Requested

PERIODICAL POSTAGE
PAID
at Chappaqua, NY
and additional offices



Common Yellowthroat. Photo: Rion.

Connecting People and Nature since 1953

Explore Nature with Saw Mill River Audubon this Spring!

We have more than 50 events scheduled between March and May to connect you with local habitats, birds and other wildlife. Monday bird walks. Monthly public programs. Walks in our sanctuaries. Weekend field trips to explore habitats in the Hudson Valley and beyond.

We connect people with nature!

Special Notices
in this issue
2018 Annual Dinner
Reservation Form
2018 Proxy Ballot
(for SMRA members)

Connecting with Nature: Your gift helps us connect people and nature.

I wish to donate. Enclosed is:

\$500 \$250 \$100

\$50 \$35 \$_____

My employer will match my gift.

I'd like to join Saw Mill River Audubon

Basic Chapter Membership:

Enclosed is \$35

Please list my gift anonymously

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Email Address _____

Please make checks payable to:
Saw Mill River Audubon
and mail to our office address
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