

Late March & all April events
cancelled due to COVID-19



SMRA
SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON

Spring 2020



Osprey. Photo: Suzanne O'Rourke



The NYS Young Birders Club met at Mariandale in January for their 2020 kickoff gathering hosted by Saw Mill River Audubon. Photo: Anne Swaim



Visitors to SMRA's table at Teatown's EagleFest took pictures as their favorite raptor. Photo: SMRA



Saw Mill River Audubon birders in Cape Ann, Massachusetts in February. Photo: Christine McCluskey

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.

Monday Bird Walks, 8:30 am (March & April), 7:30 am (May-September)
Check website for locations.

Every Saturday & Sunday until March 29, 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**.

NOTE: Saturday, March 21, 9:30 am–12:30 pm **Pruyn Bird Seed Sale**
High quality bird seed for pick up at Pruyn Sanctuary office/garden entrance.

Spring Public Programs—See Pages 3 & 5 for Field Trips

Thursday, March 19, 7:00 pm at the Croton Free Library

For the Birds: Elizabeth Cherry

Liz Cherry will talk about her new book, *For the Birds: Protecting Wildlife through the Naturalist Gaze* (Rutgers University Press, 2019). Based on interviews with and observations of birders throughout the United States, she argues that learning to pay close attention to nature encourages birders to see people and animals as part of a shared ecosystem, and to participate in citizen science and wildlife conservation efforts. Books will be available for sale at a discounted price, with a portion of the proceeds going to SMRA.

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

Welcome to Spring Dinner and "On Unbroken Wings"

See pages 3 & 4 for event details including a presentation from Naturelogues, "On Unbroken Wings: A Story of Birds and the People who Save Them," with stunning images from Denise Hackert-Stoner and Scott Stoner.

Sunday, May 3, **Birding Workshop at Fahnestock SP, Hubbard Lodge**
Atlas and Warblers! With Anne Swaim

Join us for this inside/outside workshop to intro/review warbler ID by sight and sound and cover what you need to know to be part of the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas. Cost is \$15 per person to cover workshop costs, including a take-home warbler ID book. Contact SMRA to register and for details. Early morning option to be followed by mid-morning inside workshop and then additional guided birding outside. Space limited. Register by Friday April 24.

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

President's Message

2019 was an exciting and busy year for SMRA, with our climate-change boot camp and fall birdathon among many other programs. We plan to keep the momentum going in 2020. Programs include our Annual Welcome to Spring Dinner at Crabtree's Kittle House and our first-ever "Birding Tea" hosted by SMRA board member Cary Andrews in Croton. Both are coming up soon this spring, with details in this newsletter, so be sure to reserve your spaces!

We are also planning a number of special field trips and other events during the summer and fall. These will include a pontoon boat trip at the Meadowlands, another fall weekend birdathon, and additional climate change events.

Our usual walks, local and regional field trips, monthly public programs, and Nature Book Club continue to be great ways to connect with our community. This spring we are offering new opportunities to volunteer in our sanctuaries, supported by a grant from Audubon New York. See more about those

sanctuary workdays and workshop on page 5.

I encourage everyone to take advantage of these opportunities to get more involved with our community of nature lovers. Birding with new friends or volunteering with SMRA may be just the break you need from the long election cycle and other events in the larger world.

And, in exciting news, SMRA will be hosting the NY State Ornithological Association annual meeting in Fall 2021! This will involve a full weekend of speakers, workshops, and field trips. NYSOA members from around the state will attend, and volunteers will be needed for a number of committees now being formed to prepare for this event. If you would like to get involved, please contact the SMRA office to learn more.



Valerie Lyle, SMRA President

Valerie Lyle

*Please help make sure Saw Mill River Audubon is here for future generations
by remembering us in your will or other estate plans.*

The 2020 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 lap quilt is entitled "Humdinger," with hummingbird and flower images. Our 2020 birding quilt was on display at EagleFest and will be at our March public program. The winning raffle ticket will be drawn at our 2020 Annual Dinner. **See the quilt in color and purchase tickets online at:** www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/quilt

Saw Mill River Audubon

275 Millwood Road Chappaqua, New York 10514

914.666.6503 | office@sawmillriveraudubon.org

Visit us online: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

President: Valerie Lyle

Vice President: Thomas Ruth

Treasurer: Thomas McEnerney Secretary: William Kellner

Editor: Brian Kluepfel Circulation: Jean Sparacin

Executive Director: Anne Swaim

Office Manager: Ellen Heidelberger

Educators: Pete Salmansohn, Patricia Mutolo

Sanctuary Maintenance: Danny Ferguson

ON THE WING, Saw Mill River Audubon's newsletter, is published four (4) times a year (Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer) for \$7.50 a year by Saw Mill River Audubon, 275 Millwood Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514. Periodical Postage #013281 at Chappaqua, NY 10514.

ISSN: 1545-5254 at Chappaqua, NY and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Address changes sent to

Saw Mill River Audubon, 275 Millwood Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514

In Memoriam: Edward Mertz

Edward Mertz, 74, a good friend of SMRA, passed away on January 10. He was born in the Bronx and lived most of his life in Flushing before moving to Croton-on-Hudson in 2014.

Ed was an avid sailor, fisherman, line dancer, and runner, completing several marathons including the New York City Marathon. He loved classical music and was an active member of the birding community.

In retirement he became a semiprofessional nature photographer, exhibiting works at Teatown Lake Reservation, Rockefeller State Park Preserve, and the New York Hall of Science. He also produced an annual calendar; the pictures from his 2020 calendar were on display through the end of February at Teatown.

Ed was a man of many words and talents who liked a really good party. He led a full and active life filled with friends and his loving family. We can all take a lesson from Ed in the way he approached his life. Each day was a gift and he enjoyed every moment of his marvelous present.

Donations can be made in Ed's name to Saw Mill River Audubon at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/memorial

Bonnie Coe with Ed's Family





Welcome to Spring Annual Dinner

Sunday, April 5, 2020

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 look at the past year's highlights. We alternate a community potluck annual dinner with a restaurant annual dinner to include as many people as possible. This year we are delighted to be returning to Crabtree's Kittle House in Chappaqua for our 2020 dinner.

Our evening will include a brief bit of SMRA business followed by a short presentation by our 2019 Larry Light Youth Scholarship student. New this year will be a special silent auction of environmental experiences and art that you won't want to miss!

Our featured dinner presentation will be "On Unbroken Wings: the Story of Birds and the People Who Save Them," with stunning photography from Denise Hackert-Stoner and Scott Stoner from Naturelogues. Now more than ever, celebrate the beauty and importance of birds, consider threats to their existence, and honor the heroes working for birds worldwide.

We'll conclude the evening, as always, with our 2020 quilt raffle drawing and a short multimedia presentation featuring the "Faces and Places" of the past year of Saw Mill River Audubon activities. Will you be in the pictures?

This is always a fun and friendly evening and you should feel quite comfortable to come on your own, with our open seating, or to bring friends and family.

Past dinners have filled up quickly, so don't miss registering in advance for this evening, a most special event. **See page 4 for reservations or visit sawmillriveraudubon.org/dinner**

March Events (April – June on page 5)

Saturdays & Sundays

9:00–11:00 am

Project FeederWatch

Continues to March 29. Join Saw Mill River Audubon volunteers as they count birds from inside the Croton Point Nature Center.

Saturday, March 7

Leader's Choice Trip

See website for details.

Saturday, March 14

9:00 am

Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook

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

Saturday, March 14

6:45 pm

Croton Point Woodcocks

See website for details.

Thursday, March 19

7:00 pm

For the Birds: Liz Cherry

Croton Free Library

See page 1 for details.

Saturday, March 21

3:00–5:30 pm

Birding Tea!

Andrews Home, Croton

See details below left.

RSVP required.

Tuesday, March 24

7:00 pm

Nature Book Club

Mt Pleasant Library, P-ville

We will discuss Edward Abbey's *Desert Solitaire*.

Tuesday, March 24

7:30 pm

North American Butterfly

Association Local Chapter

Teatown Lake Reservation

Join Charlie Roberto for this inaugural meeting of a local chapter of the North American Butterfly Association.

Also Tue 4/28 and Tue 5/26.



American Woodcock

Saturday, March 28

7:00 am

Croton Point Birding

Meet in ballfield parking for some early morning birding atop the landfill grasslands and surrounding habitats. Extensive walking. Leave walk earlier as desired.

Saturday, March 28

2:00–4:00 pm

Sanctuary Volunteers

Workshop, Croton

See page 5 for details.

Get Outside with Us!

Our field trips for the spring months are always the most exciting to plan because they coincide with the rush of migrating birds through the Hudson Valley. With the *NYS Breeding Bird Atlas* (BBA) in full swing, we have included some specific outings to help you learn more about this vital opportunity to contribute some meaningful data to science. There's a workshop the first weekend in May focused on the BBA and warblers.

For those of you that are brave enough to meet Anne at 5:30 am, there are a few very early-morning trips on Thursdays starting from mid-May. These will also focus on the BBA and specifically search for breeding birds. Note the BBA symbols on page 5. There is also a trip to Long Island to give you a chance to walk along the beach while doing shoreline birding. And, we are already planning some exciting upcoming events for Fall 2020! *Debbie van Zyl*



Join us for a Birding Tea!

A proper high tea with homemade goodies and a time to chat about birds, bird friendly gardens & backyard habitats

Saturday March 21, 3:00–5:30 pm
at the home of Cary Andrews
20 Hunter Place, Croton-on-Hudson

RSVP REQUIRED 914-271-4138 or oomis@aol.com
 Space is limited. Benefits Saw Mill River Audubon with suggested donation of \$20/person.

Welcome to Spring Program

Sunday, April 5, 2020 Crabtree's Kittle House

11 Kittle Road | Chappaqua, New York 10514

5:00-5:45 pm Reception* & Silent Auction**

5:45 pm Dinner Seating & Buffet

6:30-7:00 pm Saw Mill River Audubon Welcome

Presentation by 2019 Larry Light Scholarship Student

7:15-8:15 pm Presentation: *Naturelogues—On Unbroken Wings*

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act began in 1918 when bird populations were under serious threat. Over the years, the Act has made bird conservation possible, bringing species like the Bald eagle back from the brink. Now, over 100 years later, the Act is in jeopardy and the birds it protects are threatened again. This special presentation showcases avian beauty, behavior, and diversity, weaving in the conservation movement's successes and failures over the past century. Find encouragement from the efforts of the past and inspiration to be part of bird protection for the future.



8:15 pm 2020 Quilt Raffle & Brief Multimedia Finale *Faces & Places*

* For reception and dinner: cash bar available. House wines and soft drinks are included in meal price.

** Be prepared to claim any silent auction items you win with cash, check, or MC/Visa at the end of the evening.

To view our 2020 Birding Quilt or to purchase raffle tickets online, visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/quilt

This Evening Is Open to All - Invite A Friend!

Reserve using the form below OR reserve online at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/dinner

Reservation Deadline: Wednesday, April 1, 2020. Limited seating.

I will attend the April 5th dinner and reception. Please reserve ___ place(s) \$ _____
(Dinner and reception price is \$125/person and includes house wines and soft drinks.)

I would like to purchase ___ quilt raffle tickets (1/\$10 or 3/\$25) \$ _____

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 via MasterCard/Visa online at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/dinner

If reserving through US Mail, return this form to Saw Mill River Audubon, 275 Millwood Road, Chappaqua, New York 10514.

Please make checks payable to "Saw Mill River Audubon."

Add credit card information below & ensure address above matches your billing address.

Account Number _____

Expiration Date _____ MasterCard ___ Visa ___

Saw Mill River Audubon Sanctuary Events

Do you love the outdoors? Please help us keep our sanctuaries beautiful and great places to visit by becoming an SMRA Trail Walker or Maintainer.

Walkers and Maintainers visit a sanctuary regularly and report on conditions. Maintainers also perform modest maintenance activities such as clearing away vegetation that is growing onto the trails.

This spring, we are offering a sanctuary workshop and two sanctuary workdays, all supported by a grant from Audubon New York.

Trail Walker and Maintainer Workshop

Saturday, March 28, 2020
2:00–4:00 pm
Croton-on-Hudson

Workshop will take place at a residence near Brinton Brook and also in the sanctuary so dress accordingly. To register call or email us by March 20.

Sanctuary Work Days

Saturday, April 25, 2020
2:00–4:30 pm at the Woodmill Road entrance to Prunyn Sanctuary

Sunday, May 31, 2020
2:00–4:30 pm at the main entrance to Brinton Brook
Both workdays will install a boardwalk. No experience necessary. Bring a hammer, gloves, and water-resistant shoes or boots. Let us know if you will be attending by contacting our office in advance by email or phone.

April Events

SPECIAL EVENT
Sunday, April 5
5:00–8:30 pm
Welcome to Spring Dinner
Crabtree's Kittle House
See story on page 3 and form on page 4.

Saturday, April 11
9:00 am
Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook
Rain or shine. Meet in main parking area. No registration required. Good for adults and ages 6 and up.

Saturday, April 18
7:00 am
Long Island Birding
Join us for morning birding on the Long Island coastline. Meet 7:00 am at Point Lookout. Register for details and inquire about carpooling by emailing or calling us.



Black-throated Blue Warbler

Sunday, April 25
2:00–4:30 pm
Sanctuary Work Day at Prunyn Sanctuary
Registration required. See details in article to left.

Thursday, April 30
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. Extensive walking. Leave walk earlier as desired. Event repeats on Tue 5/26 with same details.

★ Stars mark field trips above where our birding will be within NYS Breeding Bird Atlas priority blocks. Learn more at www.ebird.org/atlasny

May Events

★ **Saturday, May 3**
Atlas and Warblers!
with Anne Swaim
Workshop at Hubbard Lodge, Fahnestock SP
See details on page 1.

Tuesday, May 5
7:00 pm
Nature Book Club
Mt Pleasant Library P-ville
Come join the discussion or just to listen. We will be discussing *Seeing Trees: Discover the Extraordinary Secrets of Everyday Trees* by Nancy Ross Hugo.

★ **Thursday, May 7**
5:30 am
Very Early Birding at Doodletown
Meet us at Doodletown trail head to explore this famed warbler hotspot at dawn's early light. Extensive walking. For directions and site highlights, visit our website.

Saturday, May 9
9:00 am
Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook
See entry for Sat Apr 11.

★ **Thursday, May 21**
Very Early Birding at Rockefeller State PP
Starting 5:30 am at Rockefeller State Park Preserve, catch the dawn bird chorus and do some birding before work. Meet in main parking lot.

Sunday, May 31
2:00–4:30 pm
Sanctuary Work Day at Brinton Brook
See details in article to left.

★ **Sunday, May 31**
6:30 pm
Evening Walk at Croton Point Park
See details on website

June Events

★ **Thursday, June 4**
Very Early Birding at Teatown
Very early morning birding to catch the dawn chorus and for NYS Breeding Bird Atlas. Meet 5:30 am in main parking. Leave earlier as desired. Extensive walking.

Saturday, June 6
Sterling Forest Birding
We expect to arrive in Sterling Forest at 7:00 am. Email for RSVP & details.

★ **Thursday, June 11**
Very Early Birding at Croton Point
See description for June 4. Meet in ballfield parking.

Saturday, June 13
9:00 am
Second Saturday Walk at Brinton Brook
See entry for Sat Apr 11

Tuesday, June 16
Fahnestock State Park Breeding Birds
Meet us 7:00 am at Pelton Pond parking lot.

★ **Thursday, June 18**
Very Early Birding at Prunyn Sanctuary
See description June 4. Meet in office/garden entrance.



Northern Waterthrush

★ **Saturday, June 20**
Bagels, Birding and BBA at Prunyn Sanctuary
Meet in office/garden entrance at 5:30 am. Early morning birding for the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas. Coffee, tea and bagels will be provided to fortify us.



275 Millwood Road
 Chappaqua, New York 10514
Return Service Requested

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



Carolina Wren. Photo: Steve Rappaport

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 June 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 Notice
 in this issue
 2020 Annual Dinner
 Reservation Form**

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

I wish to donate. Enclosed is:

- \$1000 \$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
 listed inside this newsletter.

OR join/renew/donate online
www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/join
www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/renew
www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/donate