


SMRA
 SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON™
On the Wing
Summer 2025

Vol. 71 No. 4 | Issue #386



Willet with Osprey
 Marshlands Conservancy
 Photo: Chris Kennelly



SMRA President Erik Andersen welcomes guests to our 2025 Annual Dinner in April at Travelers Rest. See more dinner photos page 5.
 Photo: Bill Kellner



Our April Croton Point bird walk drew a crowd with spring sunshine and a good diversity of birds. Our eBird list is here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S225594428> Photo: Anne Swaim



It was cold mid-March by the Atlantic Ocean on Long Beach Island! But our birders were hardy and enjoyed some good birding on our Long Island Birding field trip. Our trip list is here: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/341146> (A trip list combines multiple eBird lists, helpful on day trips or extended trips.)

Summer Highlights See more events on Page 3

We are highlighting several events below. See page 3 for field trips and more. Visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/register-programs and www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/register-trips for the latest information.

Saturday, May 31, 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm | Special Event: Birding Tea

All are invited to tea with lovely homemade goodies at Cary Andrews' house in Croton-on-Hudson. This is an informal gathering to meet other Audubon friends and to talk about creating backyard habitat and bird-friendly gardens as well as other ways we can help our fine-feathered friends. RSVP is required, and space will be limited. To RSVP, call 914-271-4138 or email oomis@aol.com. The Tea benefits Saw Mill River Audubon with a suggested donation of \$20/person. Birdy-themed clothing and bling encouraged!

Thursday, June 12, 7:00 pm | Zoom Program: Crossings: Road Ecology

Come hear live from author Ben Goldfarb about his 2023 book *Crossings: How Road Ecology Is Shaping the Future of Our Planet*. Winner of the Rachel Carson Award for Excellence in Environmental Journalism and many other nonfiction book awards, including recognition as a *New York Times Notable Book of 2023* and a *New Yorker Best Book of 2023*. An eye-opening account of the global ecological transformations wrought by roads.

Sunday, June 22, 6:00 to 11:00 am | Field Trip: Sterling Forest

Details and directions here: <https://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/sterling>
 No registration required. Check our website calendar before traveling in case of uncertain weather or any trip status change. Meeting 6:00 am at Sterling Forest Visitor Center parking. See link above for starting point and itinerary.

Saturday, June 28, 5:00 to 9:00 am | Field Trip: Nickerson Beach

No registration required. Nickerson Beach is prime territory for a diversity of shorebirds and particularly terns. Key attractions are nesting Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers and tern species. The wide open beach attracts many shoreline species. Historically, Nickerson Beach boasts 134 species for sightings in June. Details here: <https://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/nickerson>

Saturday, July 5, All Day | Northern Westchester Butterfly Count

Volunteers needed for this important annual survey of butterflies in our region. More details on page 2.

Do you prefer a paper newsletter? If you have a current membership, request a newsletter via US Mail here: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/paper
 OR call/email us at 914-666-6503 or at office@sawmillriveraudubon.org

President's Message

Let's keep it simple.

Think globally, act locally. Or, as my wife frequently reminds me, don't plant bamboo.

It will be years before we understand the full measure of damage done to the environment domestically and abroad by the current federal administration's actions and neglect. The next four years will uniquely affect our environment far into the future. I think of DDT and the Bald Eagle, and how long it took an aware and motivated public-private partnership to reestablish the population.

Unlike financial markets, nature and science don't have an immediate, retaliatory response to bad policy...so it is up to us to do our best to continue to fight the good fight. I think that means a recommitment to one's individual efforts to protect the environment.

I urge you to double down in your efforts to make a difference. Why you might ask?

First, it is wonderfully distracting from the *sturm und drang* in Washington, which could otherwise take your breath away all day, every day; today we all have neighbors caught in that dryer cycle.

Second, our environment really needs you. When I reflect on the causes—neonicotinoids, dark skies, horseshoe crabs, bird-friendly windows, wildlife overpasses, pollinator preservation—that SMRA has advocated for locally, in Albany and nationwide, I realize our voices—as your voices—and others like us are the voices that do make a difference for these important issues.

While it is increasingly difficult to know who is listening nationally, we can and do make a difference in our local community and state governments.

Advocate with your elected representatives! They need to hear from you.

Join friends or local groups who pull invasive plants in public spaces, take part in bird counts, take hikes, go for a paddle, go geocaching, and engage younger generations in adventuring and appreciating nature on a local level.

Without a dedicated effort to appreciate, preserve and improve our environment, in a couple of generations they won't even know what they've lost.

Yours for the birds,

Erik Andersen, President, Saw Mill River Audubon



*Erik Andersen,
SMRA President*

Saw Mill River Audubon

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ON THE WING (ISSN 1545-5254) (USPS 13281) 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. Periodicals Postage Paid at White Plains, NY and at additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Saw Mill River Audubon, 275 Millwood Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514.

If you are reading this on paper, you can view our full-color digital version with clickable links by visiting <https://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/news>



Help Count Butterflies on Saturday July 5

Saturday, July 5 is the North American Butterfly Count for northern Westchester County. It is run by Jeff Glassberg, the Founder of NABA and this count. This important count is a volunteer effort that has continued since the mid-80s and has documented a decline in many species of butterflies. The count covers Greenwich, Mount Kisco, Bedford, Pound Ridge, North Salem, New Castle (Chappaqua & Millwood), Ossining, and Yorktown. There is an after-count compilation dinner at a Mount Kisco restaurant. For more details and to help, contact Charlie Roberto at chasrob26@gmail.com.

Summer 2025 Schedule

Bird Walks & Field Trips

7:00 am start for most summer walks*

* except for any special field trips noted below in boldface

Details and register: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/register-trips

JUNE

Sun, Jun 1, 7:00 am, Croton Point Park

Mon, Jun 2, 7:00 am, Muscoot Farm

*** Tue, Jun 3 to Sun, Jun 8: Coastal Birding Trip**

Mon, Jun 9, 7:00 am, Croton Point Park

*** Thu, Jun 12, 5:00 am, Dawn Walk: Rockefeller SPP**

Mon, Jun 16, 7:00 am, Marshlands Conservancy

Sat, Jun 21, 7:00 am, Rockefeller SP Preserve

*** Sun, Jun 22, 6:00 am, Sterling Forest Birding**

Mon, Jun 23, 7:00 am, Rockefeller SP Preserve

*** Sat, Jun 28, 5:00 am, Nickerson Beach Nesters**

JULY

Sat, Jul 5, All Day, Butterfly Count. See page 2

*** Sun, Jul 6, 6:30 am, Marshlands Conservancy**

Mon, Jul 7, 7:00 am, Muscoot Farm

Mon, Jul 14, 7:00 am, Croton Point Park

Sat, Jul 19, 7:00 am, Rockefeller SP Preserve

Mon, Jul 21, 7:00 am, Rockefeller SP Preserve

Sat, July 26, 7:00 am, Croton Point Park

AUGUST

Sat, Aug 2, 7:00 am, Croton Point Park

*** Sun, Aug 3, 6:30 am, Marshlands Conservancy**

Mon, Aug 4, 7:00 am, Muscoot Farm

Sat, Aug 16, 7:00 am, Rockefeller SP Preserve

Mon, Aug 18, 7:00 am, Rockefeller SP Preserve

Sat, Aug 23, 7:00 am, Croton Point Park

Mon, Aug 25, 7:00 am, Croton Point Park



Pop-up Field Trips for Summer!

Be sure to subscribe to our pop-up field trips email list to get notices of additional trips we may add with just a few days notice.

Also be sure you are subscribed to our main notice list to get twice monthly reminders of upcoming SMRA events.

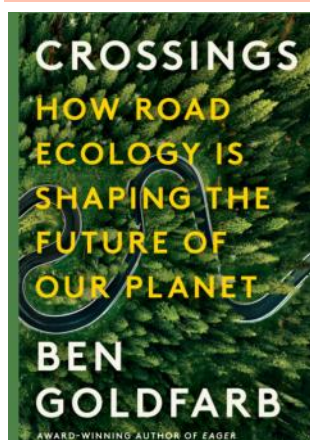
Subscribe to both of these lists at our website at: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/lists where there are additional lists for sanctuary work days, overnight trips, and garden volunteers.

Highlighted Summer Programs

More info at www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/register-programs




Birding Tea!
Saturday, May 31, 2025
3:00 to 5:30 pm
 Hosted by Cary Andrews
 Croton-on-Hudson
 RSVP & Space limited
 Benefits Saw Mill River Audubon | \$20 person donation



CROSSINGS
HOW ROAD
ECOLOGY IS
SHAPING THE
FUTURE OF
OUR PLANET
BEN
GOLDFARB
AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR OF EAGER

Audubon Nature Book Club
 Tuesday, June 17, 7:00 pm
 For Zoom link & reminders
www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

One of the best books of 2023 by *The New York Times*, *the New Yorker*, *Smithsonian*, *Science News*, and *Kirkus*



Presentation and Q&A
 with author Ben Goldfarb
 Thursday, June 12, 7:00 pm
 Audubon Zoom Program

Even More Summer Events

Second Saturday Walks, Brinton Brook Sanctuary

6/14, 7/12, 8/9, 9/13, Meet at 9:00 am in the main lot. Walk typically lasts two hours. Rain or shine but always check our website calendar before traveling. For adults and youth 8 and up. No registration required.

www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/brinton

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7:00 pm, Zoom Bird Chat

Tue, Jun 10 & 24, July 8 & 22, August 12 & 26

See upcoming topics/speakers & register for Zoom link:

www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/chat

Garden Volunteer Days at Pruyn Sanctuary

Be sure to RSVP to Garden Coordinator Mark Magel to get reminders and, especially, to get any rain changes.

Wednesdays, 10:00 am start/9:00 am after 7/9

5/28, 6/11, 6/25, 7/9, 7/23, 8/6, 8/20, 9/3

Volunteer using web form below:

www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/garden

NY/CT Audubon Chapter Leaders' Weekend: Spotlight on Bird-Window Collision Prevention

Saw Mill River Audubon participated in the Spring 2025 NY/CT Audubon Council Meeting, April 4–6 in Glens Falls, alongside leaders from 21 other chapters across New York and Connecticut. This gathering provided valuable opportunities to advance our conservation initiatives, with a focus on reducing bird-window collisions.

Bird-Window Collision Prevention Initiative

A highlight of the weekend was learning about the coordinated bird-window collision prevention project that several Audubon chapters developed together. Susan O'Handley, Delaware Otsego Audubon, presented this



Contact the SMRA office for lawn signs

joint chapter initiative on Friday evening, which provides materials, including brochures, PowerPoint presentation and script, and large banner, to help all chapters with local programming. This collaborative effort addresses one of the leading causes of bird mortality in our region.

The collision prevention focus continued with Meredith Barges of SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry and Onondaga Audubon, who introduced “Bird Collisions in the Anthropocene,” an interactive art project where participants created birds from upcycled cloth to represent actual bird collision deaths. These cloth birds will be combined with others from around the country in one or more future displays. This project combines conservation awareness with community engagement.

On Sunday, Erin McGrath, Policy Director, provided a summary of NYS legislation, and advocacy training specifically related to Lights Out initiatives and bird-friendly building policies through legislative channels.



Contact the SMRA office for brochure copies

The Onondaga Audubon team also shared their successful Lights Out Central New York collaboration, offering a blueprint for similar efforts across the region.

Additional Weekend Highlights

The meeting included presentations from National Audubon leadership, including Mike Burger, Executive Director for the NY and CT regional office, who addressed the recent State of the Birds Report showing U.S. birds declining sharply and emphasized the urgency of “bending the bird curve” to reverse population declines.

Field trips to the Betar Byway and a historical tour of Glens Falls provided opportunities for connection, despite the rainy weather. The weekend concluded with recognition of John Loz of Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, who received the Stotz Award for his significant contributions to Audubon New York.

Tom Ruth, SMRA Advocacy Chair

Scenes from Our 2025 Annual Dinner

Saw Mill River Audubon held its Annual Dinner this year on April 6 at the newly refurbished Travelers Rest in Millwood. The bright and pleasant spaces of this venue accommodated our 73 guests for a reception with displays and a silent auction, and our dinner program with presentations by our two Larry Light Youth Scholarship winners and by our speaker, Tina Morris, and an award to our hardworking New York State Senator Pete Harckham. Photos by Bill Kellner.



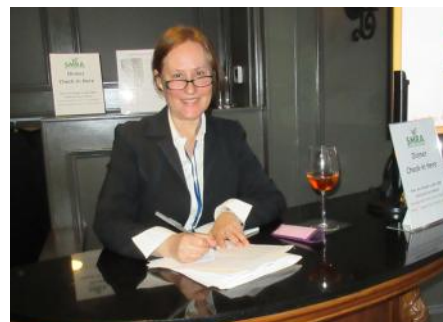
State Senator Pete Harckham was honored for his hard work on behalf of the environment. Board members Ken Novenster, Tom Ruth, and Kara Mason, along with board President Erik Andersen and Executive Director Anne Swaim, gave him a photo of a Peregrine Falcon, taken by Kara.



Arabella Pajoobi entertained us with slides and a description of her week at Girls Science + Nature Camp on Penikese Island in Buzzards Bay, Mass., for which she received a support from SMRA's Larry Light Youth Scholarship Taylor Huse from New Hampshire, our second awardee, reported on her attendance at the D.C. Youth Summit on the Environment.



Eva Andersen (R) with Tina Morris (L), author of Return to the Sky, about the restoration of Bald Eagles to New York and of threats to the species' wellbeing today. Another dinner highlight was the drawing for this pictured quilt of Charley Harper's bird art created by board member Jean Sparacin and won by her sister, Jane Trilling.



SMRA Office Manager Barbara Daniel greeted our dinner guests at Travelers Rest front desk.





275 Millwood Road

Chappaqua, New York 10514

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and additional offices



Wood Duck (female) at Pinecliff Sanctuary

Photo: Mitchell Goldfarb

Connecting People and Nature Since 1953

Explore Nature with Saw Mill River Audubon this Summer!

We have more than 40
events scheduled between

June 1 and August 31

to connect you with local
habitats, birds and other
wildlife. Small-group bird
walks. Online and in-person
programs. Sanctuary walks.

**We connect people
with nature!**



Green Herons live along wooded streams and ponds in our area. They hunt by standing still at the water's edge, in vegetation, or by walking slowly in shallow water. Green Herons eat mainly small fish such as minnows, sunfish, catfish, pickerel, and carp. They also feed on insects, spiders, crustaceans, snails, frogs and snakes. They are about the size of a crow but can be hard to spot because they hide from humans.

Photo: Steve Rappaport.

Connecting with Nature: Your gift helps us connect people and nature. **Zelle us: smrapay@gmail.com**

I wish to donate. Enclosed is:

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☐ \$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

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www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/renew

www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/donate