

# The Fledgling

Newsletter of the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, Inc.  
[www.southernadirondackaudubon.org](http://www.southernadirondackaudubon.org)

Vol. 29 No. 3 March 2012 – May 2012

## President's Message

Since we really didn't have winter, I am ready for spring. I can already hear the birds starting to sing. An early report of Red-winged Blackbirds and Eastern Bluebirds means the birds are on the move, looking for nesting sites. I hope the bluebirds will find the new boxes we put up at Hudson Pointe in Queensbury, SUNY Adirondack, and the Union Cemetery in Hudson Falls suitable for raising their families.

For the second event of our TogetherGreen grant, we will be working with the Feeder Canal Alliance for their annual Canal Clean Sweep. Some of the canal areas provide habitat for our spring nesting birds so this can be an opportunity to help make the area more inviting to our feathered friends. We will also be constructing fishing line receptacles to be placed near popular fishing spots around the area. Refreshments will be provided, and we will raffle off free T-shirts, caps, cloth bags, and backpacks. Bring your family, especially your children, friends, or a neighbor, and spend some time giving a hand to help the Earth. Even if you can only give an hour, come and help. We would love to see you there. More information about this event is in this newsletter and on our website.

Once again, during the spring months, baby birds are most vulnerable. North Country Wild Care is inundated this time of year with the care of nestlings and fledglings that have been injured. We would like to help them out by asking you to bring something from their wish list (see page 5) to our public program on March 28.

As you can see from our field trips and special events page, there are many opportunities to join us this spring. My thanks for your support of all of our programs and activities. I hope to see you at them this spring.

*Pat Fitzgerald*

**Please join us for the following**

### **PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

Our public programs are held at the Crandall Library in Glens Falls. Enter at the Glen St. entrance, and take the elevator to the lower level; the media room is on the left. In case of inclement weather, please call the Crandall Library at 792-6508.

Wednesday, March 28 7 p.m.

Patterns in Nature  
Eliz Lee

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Wednesday, April 18 7 p.m.

Organic Gardening Methods  
Jesse Elwert

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Wednesday, May 23 7 p.m.

Adirondack Flora and Fauna  
Maureen Coutant



## Discovery of a Maine Puffin's Winter Home!

Last summer I had the opportunity to spend a week on Hog Island in Maine. A boating field trip rewarded me with my first sighting of the Atlantic Puffins. Just recently, researchers at Audubon's Seabird Restoration Program published this report of an exciting discovery.  
*Pat Fitzgerald*

For all of us who have wondered where puffins go in the winter, at last we have our first answer, and it is surprising. Results of the first ever winter tracking of individual puffins from North America are just in, thanks to researchers at Audubon's Seabird Restoration Program, also known as Project Puffin. The first Maine puffin ever tracked spent October through December in the outer Gulf of Maine, moving northward along the continental shelf of Nova Scotia on his way to the Gulf of St. Lawrence where he spent most of January, before heading south to the far off-shore waters of the Mid-Atlantic States, nearly to Bermuda. Tiny, capsule-shaped tracking devices measure light intensity and time of day to estimate day length and plot the puffins' locations (+/- 115 miles). Unlike satellite transmitters that are attached to larger animals, these geolocators store information until the animal is re-captured and the device is removed to retrieve the data. Although several of the tagged puffins returned to Seal Island in 2010, and again in 2011, the wary birds eluded capture until June 23, 2011 when one of the puffins (named "Cabot" after a human seafaring explorer) landed on top of a puffin trap. Days later, a second puffin carrying a geocator was also captured. The precious tracking tools were removed. Both birds were later found to have roughly similar haunts at sea, though Cabot's travels were more extensive - especially his venture north into the Labrador Sea.

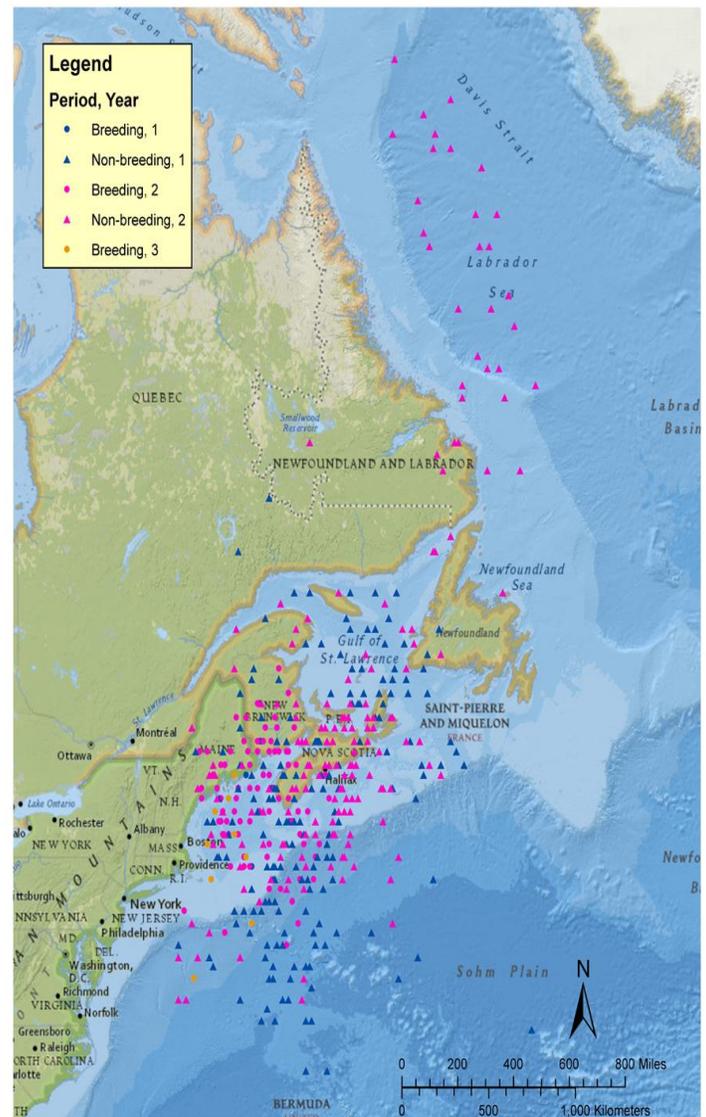
### Year 1 (June 2009 to May 2010)

Puffin Cabot was tagged with a geocator on August 2, 2009. He departed Seal Island in mid-August, heading northeast. He spent October through December in the outer Gulf of Maine, moving northward along the continental shelf of Nova Scotia on his way to the Gulf of St. Lawrence where he spent most of January, before heading south to the far off-shore waters of the Mid-Atlantic States, nearly to Bermuda. He stayed in this region from February to April, before returning to Seal Island in May 2010.

### Year 2 (May 2010 to July 2011)

After spending most of the summer at Seal Island, Cabot departed Seal Island in late July, repeating his travels

northeast along the ocean coast of Nova Scotia, past Sable Island and on to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In this second year, he kept moving north, eventually to the deep waters of the northern Labrador Sea. As in year one, Cabot then moved south to the offshore Mid-Atlantic waters, a distance of 2,800 miles. By May, he had returned to Seal Island, where he was captured on June 23, 2011. His eight-month journey covered a remarkable round trip distance of about 4,800 miles. Puffins had been absent from Seal and other Maine islands due to excessive hunting for meat and feathers in the late 19th century. They were restored to the island over an eight-year period by hand rearing and releasing chicks brought from Newfoundland. Now, more than 500 pairs nest on Seal Island.



Article adapted with permission from "Project Puffin";  
Map by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Gulf of Maine  
Coastal Program. For more information about Project  
Puffin, visit their website:

<http://projectpuffin.org/wanderingpuffins.html>

## *Spring Field Trips*

### **Sunday, March 18 – Morning: Contact leaders for start time**

#### **Washington County Waterfowl**

Joint trip with Hudson Mohawk Bird Club

Leaders: Joyce Miller – [justlookitup@yahoo.com](mailto:justlookitup@yahoo.com)

Lindsey Duval – [eccentricvirgo@gmail.com](mailto:eccentricvirgo@gmail.com)

Join us as we search the Hudson River for migrant waterfowl, such as Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, Ring-necked Ducks and Mergansers. In recent years Horned Grebes, Canvasbacks, and Tundra Swans have been life birds for many. We will meet at the Schuylerville Central School on Rte. 29. The trip is limited to the first 12 people who register. Contact one of the leaders before 7 p.m. on March 17 to register and for meeting time. Dress warmly and bring a beverage/snack, your binoculars, and a scope if you have one. We will carpool. The trip will end in late morning. You will be contacted if the trip is cancelled due to bad weather.

### **Friday, April 6 – 9 a.m.**

#### **Birding Walk at the Betar Byway**

Birding walks led by members of Southern Adirondack Audubon will begin again on the first Friday of every month starting in April, weather permitting. Each will last about one and a half hours. We will meet at 9 a.m. at the gazebo near the parking lot at the end of First Street in South Glens Falls. This is a leisurely, easy walk. Call Pat at 792-6846 for more information. No registration is required.

### **Saturday, April 14 – 8 a.m.**

#### **Bog Meadow Trail, Saratoga Springs**

Join Rich Speidel in search of spring birds and waterfowl on the Bog Meadow trail, which includes an extensive boardwalk system through wetland communities: open marsh, wet meadow, and forested wetland. Group size is limited, so call Rich to register: 623-2587.

### **Friday, May 4 – 9 a.m.**

#### **Birding Walk at the Betar Byway**

Birding walk led by members of Southern Adirondack Audubon, weather permitting. This walk will last about one and a half hours. Meet at 9 a.m. at the gazebo near the parking lot at the end of First Street in South Glens Falls. This is a leisurely, easy walk. Call Pat at 792-6846 for more information. No registration is required.

### **Saturday, May 5 – 10 a.m.**

#### **Saratoga Battlefield National Park**

Enjoy a nature walk led by National Park Ranger Linda White. Meet at the National Park Visitor's center. No reservations required.

### **Saturday, May 19 – 9 a.m.**

#### **Nature walk at Skidmore Woods**

Led by naturalist Jackie Donnelly. Stroll in a regional treasure of flora and fauna, an interesting complex of ecosystems, and learn of the wildflowers along the way. Contact Jackie at 584-6346 or [donnelly.jackie@yahoo.com](mailto:donnelly.jackie@yahoo.com) for directions or more information.

### **Saturday, May 26 – 10 a.m.**

#### **Saratoga Battlefield National Park**

Once again, join National Park Ranger Linda White as she leads her second nature walk at the park. Meet at the National Park Visitor's center. No reservations required.

### **Friday June 1 – 9 a.m.**

#### **Birding Walk at the Betar Byway**

Birding walk led by members of Southern Adirondack Audubon, weather permitting. This walk will last about one and a half hours. Meet at 9 a.m. at the gazebo near the parking lot at the end of First Street in South Glens Falls. This is a leisurely, easy walk. Call Pat at 792-6846 for more information. No registration is required.

### **Saturday, June 2 – 10 a.m.**

#### **Saratoga Battlefield National Park**

Once again, join National Park Ranger Linda White as she leads her third nature walk at the park. Meet at the National Park Visitor's center. No reservations required.

## Interesting Upcoming Events



**Friday, March 16, & Friday, March 23**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Moreau Lake State Park Eagle Watch

Join park staff on their weekly Bald Eagle survey. Moreau Lake State Park's section of the Hudson is home to wintering Bald Eagles. Registration is necessary; please call the park office at 793-0511.

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**Saturday & Sunday 2012 Winter Raptor Fest March 10 & 11 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Gallup Ridge Farm, Fort Edward, NY



Once again, Friends of the Washington County IBA present the Winter Raptor Fest. Winter Raptor Fest is a “fun” and educational fundraiser to support *Friends of the IBA* efforts to protect endangered, threatened and at-risk birds of the Washington County Grasslands Important Bird Area. For a full schedule of events, visit: [www.winterraptorfest.com](http://www.winterraptorfest.com)

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### EARTH DAY ACTIVITY

**Saturday, April 21 TogetherGreen Volunteer Work Day 8:30 a.m.**

Southern Adirondack Audubon will join the Feeder Canal Alliance for their annual Canal Clean Sweep. Bring work gloves and your favorite tools; we will supply water, morning refreshments, drinks, and lunch. Free raffle tickets for caps, T-shirts, and Audubon backpacks to all who show up to work!!

Meet at Murray Park located on Route 4 in Hudson Falls.  
(The park is located behind the Jack ‘N Jill Ice Cream stand north of the Hudson Falls traffic circle). For more information, call 792-6846 or 792-6563.



togethergreen

TOYOTA

## Tracking Day with Vince Walsh

Southern Adirondack Audubon sponsored a tracking workshop with Vince Walsh at the Kawing Crow Center in Greenfield on January 21.

The following is an excerpt from Jackie Donnelly's blog, [saratogawoodswaters.blogspot.com](http://saratogawoodswaters.blogspot.com).

Fresh snow, a fun group of nature lovers, and a fine teacher of nature awareness -- all added up to a great way to spend a cold winter's day today. Thanks to sponsorship by the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, a group of about 15 of us braved snow-slicked roads this morning to attend a workshop conducted by noted naturalist Vince Walsh at his [Kawing Crow Awareness Center](#) in Greenfield. Cozying up to a roaring woodstove and surrounded by mounted specimens representing Vince's many years of wildlife experiences, we spent the morning listening to Vince help us understand the minds and motivations of the creatures that live in the wild around us. After immersing ourselves in the lore of many woodland animals and then fueling up on lunch, we donned our cold-weather gear for further adventures outdoors, exploring the woods and marsh that surround the Kawing Crow Center. We hadn't gone more than a few steps from the door when we found our first set of tracks in the fresh snow, which provided many lessons in how to determine the size, direction, and speed of the animal that made them. We continued through the woods and came upon many other tracks, allowing us to put our new knowledge into practice. Vince is an extraordinarily engaging and enthusiastic teacher, encouraging our questions and turning even our mistaken guesses into opportunities for learning. This was at least the fourth workshop of Vince's I have attended, and I always learn something new and have a wonderful time.

*Jackie Donnelly*



Photo by Sue Pierce

## North Country Wild Care Wish List

North Country Wild Care is an organization formed in April 2001 to support the work of wildlife rehabilitators. Wildlife rehabilitators are volunteers who are licensed by the State and Federal government to care for injured, orphaned, or otherwise distressed native wildlife.

Because this region does not have a wildlife rehabilitation center, wildlife rehabilitation is home-based. This is a demanding undertaking. North Country Wild Care was organized to provide support, as well as financial assistance for the various costs associated with home-based rehabilitation, such as caging, food, medications, and to educate the public about wildlife rehabilitation. In 2009, North Country Wild Care volunteers accepted approximately 981 animals representing 99 different species. 504 were released, 338 died, 45 were transferred to other rehabilitators, 70 were euthanized, 22 were still under our care at year's end, and 2 animal was permanently kept as a non-releasable educational animal. Of those animals, there were 551 mammals, 329 birds, 89 raptors, and 12 reptiles. Included in the more unusual intakes were a bobcat, a coyote, weasels, a belted kingfisher, a black duck, an egret, a bald eagle, and turkey vultures.

Spring is an especially vulnerable time for young animals and many are brought to the rehabilitators for help. Southern Adirondack Audubon Society would like to help North Country Wild Care in their efforts to care for the animals they receive. We are asking that members bring something from the wish list below to our public program on March 28 at the Crandall Library. We will make sure it is delivered to them. The wish list of North Country Wild Care includes the following:

- pet food, dry or canned
- jars of baby food
- soft baby receiving blankets
- scales: postage, produce, etc.
- leather gloves, welding gloves, talon gloves, surgical gloves, butcher gloves
- heating pads
- cages, carriers and other pet supplies

To see a complete list of all their needs visit their website:

<http://www.northcountrywildcare.org/wish.htm>

## ***Welcome to new chapter supporters!***

We currently have 76 chapter supporters. Our most recent new chapter supporters are:

Charlotte Demers – Newcomb  
Stewart Brown – Glens Falls  
Carol Barrett – Glens Falls

Renewal notices were sent out in December. We are grateful for all who renewed their chapter supporter membership. Special thanks to the following who included an additional donation for our chapter operating expenses.

<i>Ryan G. Aleva</i>	<i>Barbara Beatty</i>
<i>Philip &amp; Dorothy Bentley</i>	<i>Robert &amp; Linda Bergman</i>
<i>Karen Bodenweiser</i>	<i>Rosamund Butler</i>
<i>Helen &amp; Bill Crawshaw</i>	<i>Charlotte Demers</i>
<i>Charles Farrar</i>	<i>Alan &amp; Elizabeth Gee</i>
<i>Edward &amp; Margot Hyde</i>	<i>Elaine Kee</i>
<i>Ruth Lamb</i>	<i>Jerry Loftus</i>
<i>Licia G. Mackey</i>	<i>Phyllis Miyauchi</i>
<i>Susan Montague</i>	<i>Don &amp; Nancy Polunci</i>
<i>Barbara J. Putnam</i>	<i>Leeanne &amp; Gary Raga</i>
<i>Ms. Beverly E. Sabeau</i>	<i>Elizabeth A. Schukis</i>
<i>Marcia Stout-Roche</i>	

Membership runs from January through December. Annual dues of \$10.00 may be sent to:  
Majken Sellar, 9 Allen Rd. Ext., Argyle, NY 12809

New chapter supporters who attend a public program, or go on a chapter-sponsored field trip can take advantage of a special offer of one-year membership for \$5.00. Checks or money orders should be made out to SAAS.

## ***Letter of Appeal Thanks***

We continue to receive donations from last year's letter of appeal. We would like to thank Barbara Kolapakka, Charlotte Mott, and Joan Rupprecht for their support and generosity.

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### ***Volunteers Needed***

If you are interested in volunteering with SAAS, you could help by

- Joining the SAAS trail steward at Moreau Lake State Park to walk a trail, pick up trash, and report trail conditions
- Monitoring Bluebirds boxes at various locations in the area
- Assisting in grant-writing to raise monies for various conservation and educational projects Making a basket for our monthly raffle.

For more information about any of these volunteer activities, call Pat Fitzgerald at 792-6846.

**Many thanks to our friends, Lois and Nancy of**



**in Saratoga Springs  
for donating the March/April raffle basket.**

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - 2011

Ten dedicated birders participated in this year's bird count that took place on December 18. Many thanks go to Mona Bearor, Joyce Miller, Jacquie Tinker, Laurie LaFond, Eli Fuller, Joan Robertson, Beth, Brad, and Nathan Bidwell for spending their time counting each and every bird. There were 52 species seen for a total of 9,447 birds and 377 miles traveled. The following birds were seen on count day.

Great Blue Heron	2	Wild Turkey	1	American Robin	82
Canada Goose	3,185	Herring Gull	19	Northern Mockingbird	8
Snow Goose	4	Ring-billed Gull	121	European Starling	1,627
Black Duck	31	Rock Pigeon	496	Cedar Waxwing	11
Mallard	818	Mourning Dove	94	American Tree Sparrow	93
Ring-necked Duck	6	Red-bellied Woodpecker	5	Chipping Sparrow	1
Common Goldeneye	123	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	Carolina Wren	1
Blue-winged Teal	1	Downy Woodpecker	14	Song Sparrow	4
Hooded Merganser	13	Hairy Woodpecker	8	Dark-eyed Junco	212
Common Merganser	36	Pileated Woodpecker	9	Northern Cardinal	39
Bald Eagle	1	Blue Jay	63	House Finch	23
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	American Crow	1,773	American Goldfinch	67
Cooper's Hawk	2	Common Raven	2	House Sparrow	233
Red-tailed Hawk	46	Black-capped Chickadee	105	Belted Kingfisher	1
Rough-legged Hawk	2	Tufted Titmouse	17	<b>Short-eared Owl</b>	<b>8</b>
Northern Harrier	8	White-breasted Nuthatch	30		
American Kestrel	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	6		
Merlin	1	Eastern Bluebird	59		

*Linda White*

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### SAAS Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

Friday, March 23    10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Friday, April 13    10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Friday, May 18    10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at Crandall Library and are  
open to the public.

Interested members are welcome and  
encouraged to attend.

# The Fledgling

79 Laurel Lane  
Queensbury, NY 12804



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U.S. POSTAGE  
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Glens Falls, NY  
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## SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK AUDUBON SOCIETY

President	Pat Fitzgerald	518-792-6846
Vice-President	OPEN	
Secretary	Linda Hoyt	518-494-2380
Treasurer	Mona Bearor	518-745-8637
Newsletter Editor	OPEN	
Education		
Publicity	Carol Moyer	518-793-1960
Conservation	Jason Goldsmith	518-480-4243
Membership	Majken Sellar	518-638-8867
Website	<a href="http://www.southernadironackaudubon.org">www.southernadironackaudubon.org</a>	
Email SAAS:	audubon@netheaven.com	

## DIRECTORS

### 2009-2012

Carol Moyer	793-1960
Jason Goldsmith	480-4243

### 2010-2013

Pat Fitzgerald	792-6846
Ginny Vogel	584-3936
Jim Ries	792-4477

### 2011-2014

Linda Hoyt	494-2380
Sue Pierce	798-2051
Pat Walters	932-3320

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the National Audubon Society includes the magazine, *Audubon*, and the SAAS newsletter, *The Fledgling*. The cost is \$20 annually for regular membership and \$15 for seniors and students. Make checks payable to "National Audubon Society," and send with name, address, and phone number to the address listed below. Membership as a "Chapter Supporter" is \$10 annually and includes *The Fledgling* and all chapter activities. Make check payable to "Southern Adirondack Audubon Society" and send with name, address, and phone number to:  
Majken Sellar, 9 Allen Rd Ext., Argyle, NY 12809

**Newsletter Submission Policy:** We welcome submissions to *The Fledgling*. Please email your articles to Audubon@netheaven.com, and include your name and contact information. We reserve the right to edit as necessary.