



The Fledgling

Newsletter of the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, Inc.
www.southernadirondackaudubon.org

Vol. 30 No. 3 March 2013 – May 2013

President's Message

The beginning of March, for me, marks the beginning of spring. The days are getting longer and soon the songbirds will be singing again. We have already had reports of the Red-winged Blackbirds in the area. I am excited about getting my hummingbird feeders out and ready. I am anticipating the nesting of the bluebirds in the new bluebird boxes we erected at Hudson River Park in Queensbury.

Last month, I joined the more than 35,000 other folks from across the country for the climate change rally in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the rally was to oppose the Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada to the Gulf Coast, to request President Obama set limits on power plant emissions from both new and existing power plants, and to oppose hydraulic fracturing. This event was the largest-ever rally of its kind. In the morning before the rally, I was able to join an employee of the National Audubon policy office to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count at the National Arboretum. Although we didn't see anything that I couldn't have found in our area, I was happy to find such a wonderful place to bird in such a busy, noisy city.

I am happy to announce that Barbara Beatty has agreed to be on the Southern Adirondack Audubon Board of Directors. Barbara is an avid birder and has been an active chapter supporter for many years. With the addition of our new board members, we now have a full board. Together with many new volunteers, trip leaders, and board members, I hope to move the chapter forward to become an active local organization centering on our mission to promote appreciation, conservation, and restoration of natural ecosystems focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of

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 27 7 p.m.

**"Dark Wings-Bats and Owls"
with Peter Olesheski
of Up Yonda Farm**

Wednesday, April 24 7 p.m.

**"Birds of Bhutan"
with Bernie Grossman
of Hudson Mohawk Bird Club**

Wednesday, May 22 7 p.m.

**"Reptiles and Amphibians"
with Howard Romack**

Earth's biological diversity. I hope you will find time to join us on some of our many field trips, programs and other activities this spring.

*Pat Fitzgerald,
President*

Conservation News

SAAS Supports ANY's 2013 Conservation Policy Resolutions

In January, Southern Adirondack Audubon Society joined other chapters across the state in supporting Audubon New York's 2013 Conservation Policy Resolutions. The resolutions, created with input from local chapters, establish conservation priorities of statewide importance. They cover a range of issues from combating invasive species and reducing bird collisions with glass, to increasing environmental and wildlife funding and combating global warming. Issues of local importance include protecting the Adirondacks and restoring the Hudson River. For more information, contact Jason Goldsmith at adk_wild_jay@yahoo.com.

Governor Cuomo unveils a Green Budget

In mid-January, Governor Cuomo released his proposed budget for 2013-2014 outlining a number of very strong environmental funding initiatives. Once again, the Governor has recognized the important role environmental investments play in the state's economic recovery, and has also proposed a number of improvements needed to make our communities more resilient to the threats posed by climate change and sea level rise. Here are the highlights:

- **Increased funding for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)** On the 20th anniversary of the EPF, the Governor has proposed a \$19 million increase from last year, bringing the fund to \$153 million. This will ensure that investments in open space protection, water restoration, and innovative and environmentally-responsible programs that put people to work are enhanced. In addition to reinvesting in a number of programs cut in recent budgets, the Governor has proposed \$5 million in new funding for protection of natural infrastructure in storm recovery and sea level rise adaptation, and

a larger focus on this theme in other parts of the budget!

- **New Investments in State Parks and Clean Water Infrastructure Improvements** The Governor is proposing another significant investment through the NY Works program to address the infrastructure needs facing our State Parks and Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) facilities. By proposing a \$90 million capital investment in the state parks system and \$40 million in DEC infrastructure, including grants for wastewater infrastructure upgrades, jobs will be created and retained. Likewise, these proposals will save the state money by undertaking these projects now, rather than allowing the problems to worsen and become more costly to repair in the long term. This initiative, combined with the continued investments in the Department of Environmental Conservation and Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, show the Governor's commitment to our environmental Agencies and programs.
- **Spurring the Clean Energy Economy** Through renewed investments in the 'New York Sun Solar Program', Cleaner Greener Communities Program, and the development of a new \$1 billion Green Bank, the Governor is proposing important steps to combat climate change head on by helping consumers and municipalities bring new, renewable energy onto the grid and curb our reliance on fossil fuels.

For more information, contact Audubon New York's Director of Government Relations, Sean Mahar at smahar@audubon.org.

Jason Goldsmith

SAAS Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

Friday, March 15 10 am-12 pm
Sunday, April 21 12:30 pm-4:30 pm
Friday, May 17 10 am-12 pm

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

Interested members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Spring Field Trips

Friday, April 5 – 9 a.m.

Monthly 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 @ 792-6846 for more information. No registration required.

Sunday, March 17 – Morning

Washington County Waterfowl

Joint trip with Hudson Mohawk Bird Club

Coordinators: Joyce Miller – justlookup@yahoo.com

Lindsey Duval – eccentricvirgo@gmail.com

Join us as we search the Hudson River for migrant waterfowl such as Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ring-necked Ducks and Mergansers. In recent years, Horned Grebe, Canvasbacks and Tundra Swans have been life birds for many. Meet at the Schuylerville Central School on Route 29. This is primarily car birding. To keep cars to a minimum, we'll carpool; please avoid wearing fragrance. The trip is limited to the first 12 who register. Contact one of the leaders before 7 p.m. on March 16 to register and for meeting time. Dress warmly and bring a beverage/snack, your binoculars and a scope, if wanted. Trip will end late morning. You will be contacted if the trip is cancelled due to weather.

Saturday, April 20 – 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. Rain date is Sunday, April 21.

Friday, May 3 – 9 a.m.

Monthly 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. 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 @ 792-6846 for more information. No registration required.

Saturday, May 4 – 10 a.m.

Coles Woods' Wildflowers

Enjoy a leisurely nature walk led by wildflower expert and author Diane Collins. Meet in the Glens Falls YMCA back parking lot.

Saturday, May 18 – 9 a.m.

Nature walk at Denton Preserve

Led by naturalists Jackie Donnelly and Sue Pierce. 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 for directions or more information.

Saturday, May 25 – 8 a.m.

Gull Bay Preserve

Don Polunci will lead a trip to a rookery to see many nesting herons. Bring water, a snack, insect repellent, sunscreen, and binoculars. This trip is limited to 12 people, so call Don at 793-1531, or e-mail him at nanandonp@gmail.com.

Tuesday, May 28th – 8:00 a.m.

Lake George Eagle Kayak Trip

Kayak over to see the nesting eagles on Lake George with trip leader Eric Krantz. You must have your own kayak or canoe and flotation devices are required for each person in a boat. Bring water and a snack. To register, e-mail Eric at ekrantz3@nycap.rr.com. In case of inclement boating weather, this trip will be rescheduled by the trip leader.

Saturday, June 1 – 10 a.m.

Saratoga Battlefield National Park

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 7 – 9 a.m.

Monthly 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. 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 @ 792-6846 for more information. No registration required.

Interesting Upcoming Events

Winter Raptor Fest

Saturday & Sunday 2013 March 23 & 24
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

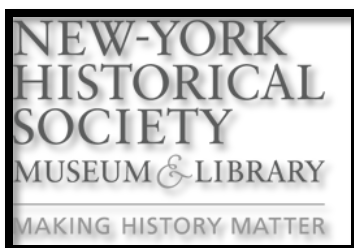


Gallup Ridge Farm, Fort Edward,
NY

The Friends of the Washington County IBA present the 3rd Annual 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

John James Audubon Exhibit

March 08, 2013 - May 19, 2013
170 Central Park West at Richard Gilder Way
New York, NY 10024



To celebrate the sesquicentennial of the New-York Historical Society's purchase of the Audubon avian watercolors, the New-York Historical Society

plans a sweeping three-part exhibition to showcase every masterpiece from its unparalleled collection of John James Audubon's preparatory watercolor models for the sumptuous double-elephant-folio print edition of *The Birds of America* (1827–38). For more information, visit the museum's website:

<http://www.nyhistory.org/exhibitions/audubons-aviary>

Earth Day Activity

Saturday, April 13 8:30 a.m.



The Feeder Canal Alliance will be holding their annual Canal Clean Sweep. Bring work gloves and your rakes and clippers for brush. Water, morning refreshments, drinks, and lunch will be provided. Meet at Murray Park, Main Street (Rte4) Hudson Falls, NY – north of the traffic circle.

Adirondack Folk School Classes



Former Southern Adirondack Audubon president, Don Polunci, will hold the following workshops at the Adirondack Folk School in Lake Luzerne.

Sunday, March 30, 9 a.m. –12 p.m.

Build a Rustic Birdhouse

Number of Students: 10-12
Materials Fee \$25.00

Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Build a Rustic Birdhouse/Feeder

Followed by a Bird Walk

Number of students: 10-12
Materials fee: \$25.00

For more information about the workshops, visit www.adirondackfolkschool.org or call 696-2400.



Welcome to new chapter supporters!

As of March 1, we have 74 chapter supporters. Our most recent new chapter supporters are:

Jeanne Polunci – Queensbury
Joy Keithline – Fort Ann
Eric Krantz – Lake George

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

Ryan Aleva
Barbara Beatty
Philip & Dorothy Bentley
Robert & Linda Bergman
Kathleen Bond
Rosamond Butler
Elizabeth Gee
Christine Germain
Barbara Hennig
Edward & Margot Hyde
Elaine Kee
Jack Reber
Leeanne & Gary Raga

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

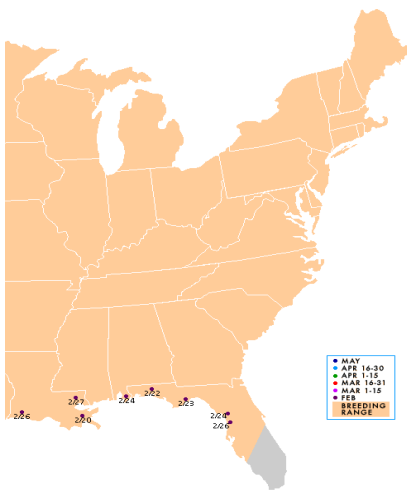
Many Thanks to the Donors of Our Letter of Appeal

The board of Southern Adirondack Audubon Society would like to extend a sincere thank you to all who responded so generously to our recent letter of appeal:

Laura Avent	Barbara Hennig
Mona Bearor	Edward & Margot Hyde
Barbara Beatty	Barbara Kolapakka
Rosamond Butler	Sandra Labrum
John Caffry	Jerry Loftus
Gerald & Stephanie Carruthers	Paul Lundberg
Maureen Coutant	Joyce Miller
Charlotte Demers	Nan & Don Polunci
Chuck Farrar	Barb Putnam
Karin Fine	Gary & Leeanne Raga
Carol Fisher & James Underwood	Jim Ries
Nancy Forgette	Harold & Carol Shippey
Ruth Goldman	Dick & Sally Spitzer
Bruce Goodale	Rey Wells
	Janice Winchip

Thank you also to Gordie Ellmers and Don Polunci for donating photographs for the appeal, and to the donors who requested to remain anonymous. Their donations although not noted, are appreciated.

Spring 2013 Migration of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds



Most Ruby-throated Hummingbirds winter between southern Mexico and northern Panama. Their migration is spread over a three-month period, which prevents a catastrophic weather event from wiping out the entire species. This means that a few birds will arrive at any location very early (the dots on the migration map), but the bulk of the population will follow later, so you may not see your first hummingbird for several more weeks. Each individual has its own internal map and schedule, and "your" birds may arrive early, late, or anywhere within a two-month span. The first arrivals of the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds have already been reported in the Gulf States! Be patient though, it will take a little over two more months for them to arrive here. Keep your eye out for them, and have your feeders clean and ready! To follow their migration, or to report your first sightings, go to the website: <http://www.hummingbirds.net/map.html>

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - 2012

On December 15, 11 adventurous birders spent a total of 37 hours, drove 332 miles, and walked 10 miles observing and counting in the Hudson Falls Circle for the Christmas Bird Count. The circle includes most of Queensbury, South Glens Falls, Hudson Falls, and Ft. Edward. Many thanks go out to Beth, Brad, and Nathan Bidwell, Pat Fitzgerald, Sandy Meents, Laurie LaFond, Jacquie Tinker, Wayne Archer, Sam Kluck, and Russ Hilliard. Their efforts resulted in a total of 54 species and 9,749 individual birds. The species and their numbers are listed below. A single loon was seen for the first time in our count history (since 1983).

Canada Goose	4,830	Herring Gull	20	Carolina Wren	1
American Black Duck	21	Great Black-backed Gull	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	2
Mallard	314	Rock Pigeon	443	Eastern Bluebird	74
Ring-necked Duck	1	Mourning Dove	42	American Robin	13
Bufflehead	2	Barred Owl	1	Northern Mockingbird	5
Common Goldeneye	173	Short-eared Owl	3	European Starling	894
Hooded Merganser	11	Belted Kingfisher	3	American Tree Sparrow	57
Common Merganser	19	Red-bellied Woodpecker	7	Song Sparrow	3
Ruddy Duck	1	Downy Woodpecker	14	Dark-eyed Junco	122
Wild Turkey	59	Hairy Woodpecker	6	Snow Bunting	36
Common Loon	1	Northern Flicker	2	Northern Cardinal	43
Great Blue Heron	2	Pileated Woodpecker	2	House Finch	36
Northern Harrier	13	Blue Jay	37	Common Redpoll	45
Cooper's Hawk	1	American Crow	1,721	American Goldfinch	136
Red-tailed Hawk	52	Common Raven	111	Evening Grosbeak	1
Rough-legged Hawk	6	Black-capped Chickadee	113	House Sparrow	156
American Kestrel	2	Tufted Titmouse	14		
Peregrine Falcon	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	4		
Ring-billed Gull	152	White-breasted Nuthatch	20		

For more information on Christmas Bird Counts, including online reports for many years for all the circles (SAAS CBC Circle Code is NYHF) check out the CBC website: <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/>

Linda White

Sandhill Cranes Wintering Nearby



Sandhill Cranes are the most common of all the world's cranes. They are tall gray birds of open grasslands, meadows, and wetlands. They congregate in huge numbers in migration and breed in the northern US and Canada. Each winter they journey to wintering grounds in the southern US and Mexico. This winter two Sandhill Cranes have been wintering on the Mohawk River in Halfmoon, NY. Each morning they have been flying off from their winter roost on the river to a cornfield at The Crossings on the Albany-Shaker Road in Colonie. After a day of eating corn, plants, and mice, they return to the river for the night. They have been known to nest at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge near Seneca Falls. (Photo by Don Polunci)

Color Marked Northern Harriers in Eastern New York



In conjunction with a study on wintering raptors, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Bureau of Wildlife has been color marking a small number of northern harriers in eastern New York State this winter at three locations: Washington County Grasslands

Important Bird Area; Cossackie Flats area in Greene County; Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge in Ulster County. The marked harriers have color dye on the underside of their primary and/or secondary flight feathers or the underside of their tail, in combinations that will allow for recognition of individual birds regardless of the site at which they were marked. Most individuals will also have a color leg band with a single white letter and number.

The purpose of the color marking is to gain information on the local movements of harriers in these important winter raptor concentration areas. The NYSDEC would appreciate receiving reports of any color marked northern harriers at these wintering sites or elsewhere. Please report the color and location of the under wing marking, color and alpha-numeric for color leg band (if possible), sex of bird (adult male or adult female/juvenile), date, and exact location of the observation. If color marking is observed, but the exact location of the color marking can't be determined, we may still be able to make individual identification based on the location of the marking and sex of the bird, so please report inconclusive color marked birds as well. Please report color marked birds by e-mailing Mark NOHA@gw.dec.state.ny.us. (Photo by Gordie Ellmers)

277 and Counting!

Thanks to many individuals who have reported bird sightings to us over the years, our SAAS chapter species list now stands at 277! Birders are always pleased to see the more common species - cardinals, jays, nuthatches, chickadees, and sparrows; however, it is a real treat to find something unusual within the chapter boundaries of Warren, Washington, and northern Saratoga counties. Currently we have over 12,000 entries in the database covering over 25 years of birding in the area. Over 3,000 of them were documented in the last two years!

Some of the more interesting records are: Northern Gannet over Saratoga Lake, American White Pelican on Lake George, Rufous Hummingbird in Cambridge, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Hudsonian Godwit at Wright's Loop in Stillwater, Northern Hawk Owl in Argyle, Cerulean Warbler on Spier Falls Road in the Town of Moreau, Prothonotary Warbler in Ballston, Clay-colored Sparrow in Gansevoort, Lewis's Woodpecker in Brant Lake, Yellow-headed Blackbird in Comstock, Connecticut Warbler at Wilton Wildlife Preserve, Little Blue Heron in Queensbury, Glossy Ibis in the Town of Easton, Red Phalarope on the Hudson River in Northumberland, and Ruddy Turnstone on Lake George. The most recently added species was observed by Jeremy Kleinberg - the Harlequin Duck on Harris Road in the Town of Stillwater on December 23, 2012.

If you observe a new species in our chapter area, please e-mail us at audubon@netheaven.com. Include your name, the date and location of the sighting, and any identifying marks you used to confirm the bird's identification. We'll add your sighting to the database and to our website. If you'd like to see the complete list of species, go to www.southernadironackaudubon.org and click on "277 Bird species" under the "Birds & Birding" tab.

-Mona Bearor

Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in volunteering with SAAS, the following opportunities are available:

- Joining the trail steward program at Moreau Lake State Park with SAAS volunteers to walk a trail, pick up trash, and report trail conditions,
- Monitoring Bluebird boxes throughout the breeding season,
- Assisting in grant-writing to raise monies for various conservation and educational projects, or
- Making a basket for our monthly raffle.

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

The Fledgling

79 Laurel Lane
Queensbury, NY 12804



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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		518-792-4446
Publicity	Carol Moyer	518-793-1960
Conservation	Jason Goldsmith	518-480-4243
Membership	Majken Sellar	518-638-8867
Website	www.southernadironackaudubon.org	
Email SAAS:	audubon@netheaven.com	

DIRECTORS

Pat Fitzgerald
Jim Ries
Linda Hoyt
Sue Pierce
Carol Moyer
Jason Goldsmith
Jim Campanell
Joyce Miller
Barbara Beatty

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

National membership in the 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 Road 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.