

The Fledgling

Newsletter of the

Southern Adirondack Audubon Society

www.audubon.noncommercial.org

Vol. 20 No. 3

Mar - May 2003

From your President:

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas Bird Count. The data you gathered helps track bird populations and might indicate species under environmental stress or threat. If you have the Stokes Field Guide to Birds you may note under the Conservation heading for each species that both Christmas Count and Breeding Bird Survey trends are included, and sometimes a brief probable reason for an increase or decrease in that bird's population. It is you and people like you who helped make the observations that went into those entries. Our observations and counts are studied. The decline of the thrushes, especially the wood thrush, may be linked to acid rain and the changes it creates in the environment. This shows us that clean air standards need to be even stricter than they are now. We benefit and the birds benefit if action is taken to tighten and improve those standards.

A bird's life in today's world is not an easy life. In addition to whatever nature presents to birds, they must be able to survive all the things people and industry stir into the mix. Many of us try to help birds in winter, and sometimes year-round, by providing food for them. We may become aggravated when squirrels, raccoons, skunks, or deer show up to share the feast we meant for birds. They are hungry, too. Changes in the feeding area and the time of day the food is set out may help alleviate the problem of unwanted guests. I have had to rig hanging platforms. As for hawks, they must also eat. Most of the birds do react to the blue jay alarms and hide or flee.

It is distressing to see wild birds become dependent on a food source only to have it discontinued during the worst of winter's weather. What do those birds do then? Migratory birds don't seem to have mid-winter migration programmed into them. Many may be unfit to migrate. Where would they feed along the way? If they are lucky, the abandoned birds will find neighboring feeders, although the additional numbers might dismay and stretch the budget of the

neighbor. By feeding birds we take on a responsibility to continue through the winter and into spring until natural food is once again available. Our reward is the fun of watching the birds and sometimes being host to a rare bird.

-Linda Hoyt

SAAS Calendar

Monthly chapter meetings are held at the Crandall Library, on the fourth Wednesday of the month, except as may be noted below. For changes and updates, please check this column in each issue. Meetings are also published in the Post Star, on the SAAS website and on the Post Star online Events Calendar. Mark your calendar and join us for the presentations by guest speakers featured below. The meetings start promptly at 7pm. Guests are welcomed so please bring your friends with you!

March 26 "America's National Parks"
Denise and Scott Stoner will present a photographic journey of the splendor of America's National Parks - from the rocky coast of Maine to the volcanic landscapes of Hawaii.

April 30 "Our Federal Public Lands"
Mike Hudak, Environmental Advocate, will present this program which takes a close look at livestock grazing on public lands and the severe environmental damage it continues to cause to a variety of ecosystems.

May 28 "Northern Spirit"
Jeff Nadler, nature photographer, will present this digital slide show of north country scenic landscapes, birds and wildlife accompanied by a nature-inspired music score.

Please join us for these special programs!

Editor's Ramblings...



A year ago I officially assumed the position of newsletter Editor for the chapter. Feeling that the newsletter is the main contact we have with many of our members, I wanted that contact to be a pleasant one and my goal at that time was to simply provide a newsletter that our members would anticipate receiving. My hope was to provide a newsletter that would not only inform the members of chapter news and programs, field trips, and bird sightings but also provide interesting reading on a variety of natural history subjects. The continued help of the President, Board members, and long-time contributors Barb Putnum and Bob Kirker has kept my literary head above water. The newly offered works of Liza Porter, and most recently, Dorothy Bentley, have given recent issues a nudge in the direction we'd like to go - towards a diverse publication with a variety of contributors.

Although I feel my goal has been partially met there is still room for improvement and I continue to work towards that end. If you have anything you'd like to share by way of the newsletter, please contact me. I'm sure there are many ideas out there that could find a home in the *Fledgling* and I'd love to have them included. I hope the changes of the past year have pleased you and that the next year brings you an even more varied and interesting newsletter.

A special thanks to Mike Peterson of High Peaks Audubon for providing information on the Crown Point Banding Station. We are fortunate to have this yearly project which is located only a short, enjoyable drive away for most of our members. Mike's efforts, and indeed the efforts of all those who participate in the banding at this site, add valuable clues to the mystery of migration and we applaud him for that. We also thank them for inviting visitors and I hope SAAS members will set aside a day to take advantage of that offer. I plan on it!

In answer to my December plea for a new contributor to the newsletter, I received a call from Dorothy Bentley offering her article on Snow Fleas for use in the *Fledgling*. I've always wondered if they were "fact or fiction" - read the article on page 4 and learn more about this interesting creature - I'm sure you'll be as fascinated as I was. You'll soon be packing a magnifying glass as well as binoculars for those trips into the spring woods. Thank you, Dorothy, for sharing your knowledge of this remarkable insect.

My own birding education has benefited greatly from my first year of participation in Project Feeder Watch. Studying my backyard feeder birds so closely and for longer periods of time has strengthened my observation skills. If you haven't joined PFW or one of the other citizen science projects please consider doing so. In addition to the help you provide Cornell and Audubon in their bird studies, you'll reap many benefits in your personal birding skill

level. If you'd like to get involved locally, see page 3 for SAAS environmental monitoring projects.

The winter has been one reminiscent of my youth with huge snowfalls and bitter cold days. I've enjoyed using those days learning to snowshoe, and to study bird songs and field guides. I've had some pleasant days pursuing waterfowl that remained in the few areas still open on the Hudson. But daylight increases as the calendar turns and the morning chorus of birdsong becomes more apparent with each day that dawns, and I look forward to those first migrants that will pass through and signal to me the beginning of the northeast spring. I hope this issue of the *Fledgling* will keep you company as you await your own arrival of spring.

-Mona Bearor

Spring Field Trips

We are fortunate to have a great natural area right in the village of South Glens Falls - the Betar Byway. This walking/bike path follows the Hudson River and is alive with flora and fauna. So that our members and guests may learn more about this area, we have scheduled two field trips.

May 12 - Birding the Byway with Margaret and Alan Koechlein

Spring is a great time to walk the Byway path and enjoy the birds and this walk is timed for the peak of migration. Join birding experts Margaret and Alan Koechlein as they lead us through this wonderful habitat and identify both residents and migrants. The Koechleins have this block for the Breeding Bird Atlas and we hope to add some species to the impressive list of birds already known to nest here. We will meet at 8am in the parking area behind the American Legion on First St.

May 18 - Wildflowers on the Betar Byway

Member and naturalist Joan Robertson will lead this walk on which we will identify the wildflowers of the Byway on a spring afternoon. If you are new in your study of wildflowers we'd like to help you get started; if you are competent in wildflower identification, we'd like to share your knowledge. So either way, please join us for this first wildflower walk on the Byway. We will meet in the parking area behind the American Legion on First St. at 1pm.

Bring your own field guides, binoculars, drinks, etc. and prepare to have a great time. Please call Mona at 745-8637 or email ramonabearor@adelphia.net to register. Provide your name and phone number so we may contact you in case of cancellation due to inclement weather or emergency.

From the Membership Chair Claire Hunter



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO SAAS: The Spring Fledgling celebrates the 20th anniversary of the meeting that organized our "fledgling" chapter. With the enthusiastic leadership of our first president, Garry Stone, we flew into the myriad of requirements to become a chapter of National Audubon. By August 1984 we had our permanent charter. Garry taught in the Glens Falls public school system and after a few years moved to a school administration post in western New York. Organizing members Linda White, Bob Kirker, Joan Robertson and myself are still on the Board of the chapter.

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS were popular through the holiday season. Remember the spring celebrations - Passover, Easter, Mother's Day, and Graduations. For either a \$10 local chapter-only membership or a \$15 or \$20 National enrollment, the chapter will send a gift card to the recipient and list the membership on our Fledgling rolls for a year. The green enrollment forms for chapter-only membership remind us that the entire \$10 fee funds local conservation and education programs. This is becoming increasingly important as the National Audubon Society continues to reduce the support it provides to chapters.

HAPPY NEWS as we celebrate our 20th anniversary! Instead of the traditional gift of china, we have received a gift of six new chapter recruited members: Stewart Brown of Glens Falls; Barbara Dumas from Glens Falls also; Susan and Peter Goldbecker of Brant Lake; April Levett from Lake Luzerne, Karen Erwin of Saratoga and Cheryl Pusateri from Greenwich. We welcome you all to SAAS and hope to see you at program meetings. We have received 29 renewals from the national club and we thank these members for their continued support as well.

Your calls and notes are always welcome. Membership is a people job and we enjoy contact with our members.

Happy 20th Anniversary to Claire Hunter as Membership Chairperson. We are fortunate to have someone willing to do this difficult job through all the changes that the chapter has seen over the years. We appreciate all your hard work and dedication to SAAS.

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animal that could have been saved.

SAAS member Molly Gallagher is President of North Country Wild Care, a non-profit organization that supports wildlife rehabbers in our area. You may contact NCWC at 644-5798 to get a referral to someone that can assume care for the animal.

Abandoned and Injured Wildlife

Spring will be upon us soon and babies of all species will be more evident than at any other time of year. A note about injured wildlife and what you can do might help in that emergency you happen upon.

What can you do to help? Most important is to really assess the situation and not interfere unless there truly is a problem. Many baby birds leave the nest before they can fly and the young of other animal species often roam about, as any child will do, learning about their world. Usually the parent is aware of the location of the young and, although you may not realize it, is carefully watching and guarding it.

Interfering at this point could spell death for the young animal. Watch and wait to make sure there is no parent caring for the animal or in the case of an injury to be sure that the animal is truly distressed and not just using the "broken wing" or "injured mammal" ploy to lure you from its young.

When you determine that intervention is necessary, contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible. **DO NOT FEED** and do not try to care for the animal yourself - improper handling might cause the death of an

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▣ CALLING ALL BIRDERS! ▣

This is a call for those interested in birding who want to help the chapter and the environment by participating in a local citizen science project. SAAS would like to begin monitoring programs of the Carter Pond IBA and the Hudson River.

We would like to monitor the birds sighted along the Hudson in our chapter area and that is quite a stretch to cover. With the upcoming dredging of the river we feel that monitoring the bird populations on an ongoing basis would be beneficial. Interesting data about shifting waterfowl populations and nesting species may provide valuable information as this several year project moves forward.

Also, following the lead of our neighboring chapter, Rutland County Audubon Society (RCAS) we would like to start a monthly walk that would monitor the bird population of the Carter Pond IBA. RCAS leads a walk monthly in the West Rutland Marsh and recently completed a full year of monitoring and have recorded over 100 bird species in their IBA. Monitoring one area repeatedly gives not only an in-depth look at the resident and migrant species but also affords the participants a feel for the habitat as it progresses through seasonal changes.

If you would like to be a part of either of these local projects, please contact any board member.

Snowfleas

-Dorothy Bentley



During a trip to Ottawa we enjoyed a walk one morning in the forested 'green belt'. It was a beautiful, sunny morning and the snow was crisp and clean. As we continued farther along the trail, we began to notice many black dots in the snow, particularly inside footprints and depressions. We examined them more closely and saw they were not bits of dirt, but snowfleas.

Actually, they are not fleas at all, for they are not parasitic (living on the blood of the host), but an insect belonging to the order Collembola, or springtails, and feeding on decaying organic material. Kenneth Christiansen of Iowa's Grinnell College writes that "Collembola date back to well before dinosaurs, to the middle Paleozoic era, about 400 million years ago. Lungfish, those famous "living fossils" that still survive in warm spots today, were just beginning to gulp air at the brims of stagnant pools. During that time, the land began gradually to carry a patina of the first true plants. Their remains were discovered as fossilized nuclei in the late 1800s in a glassy rock called chert, near the town of Rhynie in Scotland. The chert had hardened from marshy soils at the edge of a small lake, and with those first mysterious plant fossils was found the remains of a tiny animal -- the snow flea.

"Scientists immediately appreciated their new find. The creature possessed six abdominal segments rather than the eleven of true insects, no wings, and an appendage poking down from the first segment that seemingly held the creature fast to a surface. That appendage, in fact, is how Collembola were named, combining the Greek words "coll," or glue, and "embol," meaning a wedge."

Springtails are tiny, and perhaps the most primitive of all insects, consistently wingless. There are some questions as to whether they should be classified as insects at all; in fact, some scientists have placed springtails in their own class, Collembola, rather than the Class Insecta. Snowfleas have a small tube (collophore) protruding from the front segment of the abdomen. The function of this tube is yet to be determined, but it may be used to hold on to structures and/or absorb moisture. On a more posterior segment of the snowflea's abdomen are two prongs, called furcula, that bend around and under the body. They are held in place by two small hooks on the belly. When the hooks open, the prongs spring out, push against the ground and enable the snowflea to leap into the air. The tube in front, the springing mechanism under the abdomen, and the fact that it has only six abdominal segments make it different from most insects.

Snowfleas, *Hypogastrura nivicola* (Stokes Nature Guides, a Guide to Observing Insect Lives) or *Achorutes nivicolus* (Peterson Field Guide to the Insects) winter as

adults. They mate late in the winter or early spring, and the females lay eggs just beneath the surface of the forest litter. After the eggs hatch, the nymphs feed throughout the summer. From late fall until early spring they congregate in large groups. At times they may migrate up to a distance of twenty-five meters, which is quite a migration when an individual is only a few millimeters long! These migrations may be made of millions of insects. They stay fairly concentrated as they move -- the surface ones hop, while the vast majority just beneath the leaf litter, may crawl. At night they stop, hiding under the leaf litter, but early morning finds them moving again. After a few days, the groups are gone, probably dispersed, but it is not known for certain. Some believe these migrations take place when the food supply in one area is exhausted.

Blake Newton of the University of Kentucky writes that springtails are incredibly common and are some of the most numerous creatures on earth. Some studies have shown that springtails exist by the MILLIONS per acre under ideal conditions. He also states that "the good news is, springtails are usually beneficial to the environment. Most species are decomposers and help to break down decaying plant material. Occasionally they are pests, but only if decaying plant materials are left lying around!

"And even though birds do not pay much attention to springtails, there are plenty of other creatures that love to eat them. Certain spider and centipede species thrive on springtails. In fact, scientists in our department have conducted extensive research on spider-springtail interactions (in a forest setting)"

Snowfleas may be hard to spot and you will need a magnifying glass to see anything except a small dot. They can usually be found in large groups and, at first glance, may appear as freshly ground pepper over the snow.

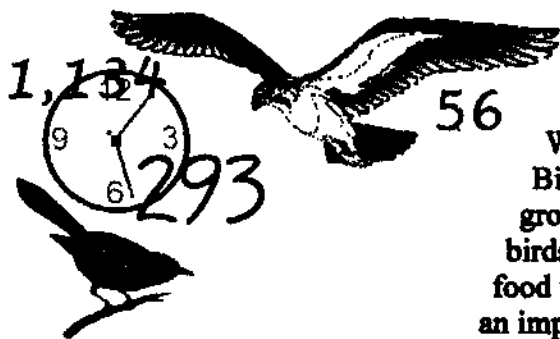
During a spring hike in the Adirondacks, my daughter pointed out "blue" patches in a mud puddle on the trail and "blue" areas around the edge of a small stream. Upon closer inspection, we realized that these were groups of snow fleas. Fortunately, we had our magnifying glass with us and were able to see them clearly.

Keep alert during your winter and early spring hikes, you may detect movement in what otherwise appears to be dirty snow or "gunk" floating on the edge of puddles or streams. Snowfleas are not always blue or black, some species are orange, brown, green or red. Happy Hiking!!

■

"Nature will bear the closest inspection. She invites us to lay our eye level with her smallest leaf, and take an insect view of its plain."

-Henry David Thoreau



The 2002 Christmas Bird Count

-Linda White, compiler

Waiting until the last official day, January 5, to participate in the Christmas Bird Count gave us some chilling results. With 24 inches of snow on the ground and much of the water areas frozen over, the number and species of birds was lower than expected. There seemed to be fewer bird feeders with food this year - or was this just our imaginations? - and combining the two was an important factor in influencing the bird distribution and abundance.

Our bird observers went out in five groups to canvas the 177 square mile area. Our count circle is divided into 4 quarters and as much of the area as possible is covered, counting all individual birds and species encountered. A total of 361 miles were logged from 7:15 until 4:45. Bob Kirker, our faithful birder, is usually out from 2am until 4am owling. Unfortunately, Bob was unable to participate this year and we really missed his input. Many thanks go out to Joyce Miller, Alison King, Mona Bearor, Beth and Brad Bidwell (Nathan, too!), Nancy Eustance, Don and Earla Woodworth, Barb Putnam, Ginny Vogel, Joan Robertson, Melissa Brewer and Joan Dobert, for making this day such a success. A total of 48 species and 6926 birds were recorded.

To put this in perspective, our first year participating in this count (1983), we had 40 species and 4271 individuals. The highest number of species seen was 59 in 1998 and the most individuals as 13,0006 in 2000. Changing habitat would seem responsible for some of the differences seen over the years. The closing of the landfills in South Glens Falls and Queensbury have made a huge impact on the gull population. In 1993 we counted over 3,000 gulls and since then the high number has been 42, recorded in 1999. There have been many more Bluebirds counted over the years -we didn't have any for the first 3 years and we had 43 in 1999. They have obviously found enough food to stay through the winter months and it is so delightful to see the blue beauties on the telephone lines and fence posts against a snowy background. The data collected over the years will be invaluable and we are happy to record this history. The results for the 2002 bird count follow.

Great Blue Heron	1	Ring-billed Gull	7	Golden-crowned Kinglet	2
Canada Goose	2	Rock Dove	1200	Eastern Bluebird	17
American Black Duck	62	Mourning Dove	748	American Robin	1
Mallard	545	Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	Northern Mockingbird	10
Ring-necked Duck	1	Downy Woodpecker	25	European Starling	1763
Common Goldeneye	70	Hairy Woodpecker	5	American Tree Sparrow	127
Hooded Merganser	14	Northern Flicker	5	Chipping Sparrow	1
Common Merganser	20	Pileated Woodpecker	4	Song Sparrow	2
Bald Eagle	1	Blue Jay	245	White-throated Sparrow	6
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	American Crow	601	Dark-eyed Junco	113
Cooper's Hawk	1	Common Raven	1	Northern Cardinal	47
Red-tailed Hawk	36	Horned Lark	234	House Finch	258
Rough-legged Hawk	13	Black-capped Chickadee	191	Common Redpoll	11
American Kestrel	2	Tufted Titmouse	54	Pine Siskin	10
Merlin	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	American Goldfinch	65
Wild Turkey	30	White-breasted Nuthatch	21	House Sparrow	324



Thank you!

The SAAS Board of Directors wish to thank Linda and Blake White for their time and ongoing effort organizing the count and keeping the records and also for providing a super meal after the count! Your hard work on behalf of the Christmas Bird Count is a valuable asset to our chapter.

Wandering the Web Mona Bearor



The "Nature of New England" website at URL www.nenature.com/index.htm has a deceptively simple looking homepage. When you first visit the page, your eye is drawn to the three main picture links - Mammals, Birds, and Butterflies. Each of these is a link to another page that holds a wealth of information about species under that heading as it relates to New England. For example, the Mammals page has links to 30 different New England mammals - bats, bobcats, deer, ermine, otter, skunks and weasels, to name a few. The pages reached by clicking on each mammal name then provide links that are species specific. Although the end pages aren't necessarily hosted by New England sites, the information presented does apply to the species selected and they are all New England residents. Likewise, the Bird and Butterflies links point you toward pages on the members of those families that reside in New England.

From the homepage some wildflower photos may be accessed as well as one of my favorite sections, the "Nature Journal". This is a daily account of the webmaster's nature observations. Although choosing to remain anonymous, the author did reveal southern Vermont as the place of residence and thus, many of the observations would be echoed in our area. These commentaries are short, clearly written, and entertaining and many contain links to additional information. Scrolling down the homepage will bring you to the "Seasons of New England." This is an article that gives general information about the current season and what changes are occurring in the natural world. Since I am new to birding, I sometimes concentrate on birds to the exclusion of all else and I like the fact that this section brings me back and reminds me of the other acts being presented in Mother Nature's continual show. Archives may be accessed if you wish to review seasons past.

The ever-present "Links" page, in this case, holds a select few from "General Birding" to "Wilderness Schools". Pleasantly, there are enough to satisfy your curiosity for more information, but not enough to overwhelm you. You may also visit the store to purchase books, birding paraphernalia, outdoor gear or gardening supplies.

Any New England resident desiring one compact site on nature or any parent looking for a way to introduce their child to the natural world could easily use this site as a textbook. There is a wealth of information available about our great Northeast area of the country. I like the simple, uncluttered way this site is presented and know you'll find a visit well worth your time.



Bird Banding - for Fun and Non-Profit! Alison King

Editor's Note: Ms. King is a Field Biologist enjoying a long-awaited visit with her family in the area while working on creating a "Nature Awareness Program" for the Lake George RV Park. We are fortunate to have the benefit of her banding experience and thank her for sharing it with our readers.

Bird banding through constant-effort mist netting is one method to track bird population sizes over time. Whether it is a year round effort or a station run during the migrations in the spring and fall, banding is interesting, fun and very important research in conservation.

My training is from the Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) in Bolinas, California. Because of the mild weather and long-term mist netting at their main field station, banding is done year round; in the spring, summer and fall six days a week and in the winter only three days a week. Many other banding stations around the country follow a MAPS Program protocol which was created by the Institute for Bird Populations in 1989 to monitor bird populations and provide conservation and management information.

At sunrise twelve meter long and six meter high mist nets are set up within the vegetation with lanes cut just wide enough for the nets and biologists to get on each side of the net. While foraging, songbirds look from tree to tree for food and look right past the fine nets, try to fly to the next tree but hit the net and fall into one of the three pockets created by loose netting horizontally affixed along the main net. Depending on the station, every 30-40 minutes, biologists carefully check all the nets and extract any bird that might be present. After intense training in the process you learn how to safely hold the birds and slowly, but as efficiently as possible, get the bird out of the net the opposite way it went in.

Once the bird is out of the net we start to collect the data. First and most importantly, you must positively identify the species, carefully taking measurements of species such as some flycatchers that may be separated in the hand only by carefully measuring distances between certain primary feathers, then calculating those numbers into an equation to determine which species it may be. Not all birds are that complicated to identify in the hand, but you must be certain of the species before it is banded! Once it is identified, we place a US Fish and Wildlife issued silver aluminum band made in all different sizes so that it fits on the bird's leg like a bracelet and marked with a unique nine digit number.

-cont on page 7 - see Banding

Banding - con't.

Using our banding manual, banders quickly determine sex when possible - either by plumage or, during the breeding season, for a species where both sexes look the same, you look for a brood patch on the abdomen which is a spot on the female's abdomen with no feathers for incubating the eggs. The male during the breeding season has an enlarged cloacal protuberance. We always check to see if the bird is molting or replacing any body feathers and how many, as well as flight feathers, noting which feathers are being replaced. This is one of a few difficult ways to age a bird. Most songbirds will not replace their primary feathers, which are the 9-10 outer most feathers on the wing, in their first year. This is a hard technique to use, but after seeing thousand's of wings, by looking at wear of the feathers and sun fade in the retained feathers versus the replaced feathers one may be able to tell if the bird is young or old.

Another technique of aging that takes much practice is called skulling. When a bird hatches, it has one layer of skull, during the next four to six months a second layer of skull will grow on top and tiny pedistules form in between to connect the two layers. Because bird's skin is so thin, if you part the feathers on the head, you can see where there are two layers of skull and where there is one. Although this is only reliable to determine first versus after first year birds for a short period of time during the year, it is still very useful and when used in combination with feather wear and molt, a bird can be very reliably aged.

A few more very quick measurements and the tiny bird is released. Songbirds store fat in a clavicle just like our wish bone hollow and when the feathers are parted you can see the yellow-orange fat that has been stored and how much. Measure the wing and weigh the tiny bird, record the date, time of day and location where the bird was caught and the little guy can be released after only about five minutes in the hand!

As we all know, it is important to collect all-important data when available. So as well as taking all this data on the birds, it is important to note the weather at least a few times a day and do a habitat assessment of the area at least once a year. This could become important to determine why or why not there was or was not any fluctuation in numbers in any given time period.

Banding is a very important part of ornithological research that helps us understand life histories, molt cycles and how birds work even more, documents population fluctuations, provides vital conservation and management information and can be a great educational tool for all generations!



Crown Point Bird Banding Station

Mike Peterson of High Peaks Audubon has been netting and banding migrating birds in the hedgerows at Crown Point for 25 years. One yellow warbler has showed up for the past nine years. "It's not much bigger than a thumb," he says, "Yet it's made nine trips to South America and back."

The banding station on the grounds of the Crown Point State Historic Site, located in thickets just west of the British fort, will open for the 28th straight season on Friday, May 9th, and will close on Memorial Day, May 26th.

The banding team camps out at the station and opens the nets at first light - about 5 a.m. The best banding usually takes place from dawn until mid-morning, but birds are usually netted throughout the day.

With no rushing brooks, Crown Point peninsula is an especially attractive outdoor experience for those plagued by blackflies at home! Wear waterproof footwear and bring breakfast/lunch/dinner, beverage, and binoculars. This is a friendly, cooperative venture, and visitors help check nets, meet other birders, and bird around the site - where over 175 species have been recorded! - when the banding is slow. High Peaks Audubon can always use extra vehicles to help transport the banding station down on the 9th and back to Elizabethtown on the 26th. Please contact Mike Peterson at High Peaks Audubon if you'd be willing to help. If you attend early this year, you'll undoubtedly wind up returning for more banter and birds.



Directions to the site: Follow Rt. 22/9N through Crown Point and approx. 4.5 miles north of the town turn right at the road that leads to the Crown Point Bridge into Vermont. About 3.5 miles further is the Historic Site on the left just before the bridge. From the main parking lot, walk uphill to the west through an old farmyard, then take the grassy, mown trail to the *left* (or south) down the field to the station - several tents and tables against the hawthorn groves to the west.

***Important!** Visitors who arrive before the gate opens, or on days that the Historic Site is closed, should park across the road and *not* between the gate and the highway. Walk in the access road and take a shortcut behind the gray restroom building down the field to the banding station. Call High Peaks Audubon (518) 946-7905 for more details!

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

National Membership in the Audubon Society includes the quarterly magazine, *Audubon*, and the SAAS newsletter, *The Fledgling*. The cost is \$20 for regular memberships and \$15 for seniors or students. Make check payable to "National Audubon Society" and send with name, address and phone number to address below. Chapter Membership is \$10 annually and includes a subscription to *The Fledgling*. Make check payable to Southern Adirondack Audubon Society and send with Name, Address, and Phone number to:

Claire Hunter, 3 Edgewood Dr., PO Box 1382, South Glens Falls, NY 12803-1382

Newsletter Submission Policy

We welcome submissions to *The Fledgling* and will utilize them as space permits. Please email your articles to the editor if possible and include your name and contact information. We reserve the right to edit as necessary. If you cannot e-mail, please submit to Barb Putnam at 190 Palmer Ridge Rd., Gansevoort, NY 12831. Please be sure to include your phone number and call her at 518-792-7542 before sending material.

The
Fledgling



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