



The Fledgling

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

Vol. 27 No. 1

Sept 2010 – Nov 2010

President's Message

A friend had contacted the National Audubon Society to volunteer to help with the Gulf Oil disaster. She received a call from the Audubon division coordinating the volunteers & was thanked for offering, but said they needed experienced rehabilitators and she could best help by setting up a feeder station and keeping the feeders well stocked in the hope that if the birds were well fed it would prevent them from stopping in the affected areas. I went to their website www.audubon.org and found the following information:

Protect and restore bird habitats near your home. *By gardening with native plants, reducing yard chemical use, removing trash from local waterways, removing invasive species, joining workdays in nearby parks and refuges, and speaking up for the special places near you, you can make a difference for birds, many of which may migrate through the Gulf region at some point during their lives.*

There's lots more information on their website – check it out and make a difference!

Pat Walters

SAAS Board of Directors Meeting Schedule set

Friday, September 17 – 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Friday, October 22 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Friday November 12 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 Pm
No Board Meeting in December

All meetings will be held at Crandall Library and interested members are encouraged to attend.

SAAS Calendar

Our public programs are held at the Crandall Library in City Park, 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 library at 792-6508

Public Programs

September 22, 7:00 P.M. SHORELINES This slide and music program explores the birdlife and scenery of America's seashores. From the sandy beaches of the Atlantic, the subtle splendor of the Great Lakes, to the dramatic cliffs and sea stacks of the Pacific Presented by Denise and Scott Stoner. Scott's photographic work has been published in Birder's World Magazine and Denise's in the NYS Conservationist.

October 27, 7:00 P.M. Adventures with SAAS

November 17, 7:00 P.M. Adventures with SAAS

**Please check our website for updates
on the above two programs**

**Special presentation of "Ghost Bird" on
Sunday November 7th 2010 at the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation Hall
see page 6 for further information**

Field Trips and Events

Monthly Coffee Walks at the Betar Byway

Birding walks led by members of Southern Adirondack Audubon will be held the first Friday of every month. Each will last about one and a half hours. Meet 9 A.M. at the Gazebo near the parking lot at the end of First Street in South Glens Falls. In case of inclement weather please call 793-1960

We will meet for coffee afterwards at the Peppermill to talk about the birds we see.

Birding by Car

We will meet in the morning, form a carpool, and then drive along the Towpath, a gravel road off Route 196 in Hudson Falls, stopping at times to get closer looks. With its varied habitat, this road supports an excellent variety of birds.

Reservations are required. - contact Pat Walters 518-793-1960. Meeting time & place will be given upon registration. First Saturday in October and November weather permitting.

Moreau Nature Fest

Saturday September 18, 2010 10am-4pm
at the Moreau State Park (just off of Route 9) In addition to all the other activities, SAAS will have a table at this event: make a pine cone birdfeeder, test your bird identification skills, bird gift basket raffle, pick up brochures, free nature magazines, ask questions or just bring your stories to share.



Phone Tree Field Trips

If you would like to add your telephone # to our phone tree for impromptu field trips for unusual or interesting bird sightings, please contact Pat at 793-1960



Audubon Adventures



Camp Moreau Kids had great fun exploring the natural world through the Audubon Adventures Program taught by Andrea Bello, Special Projects Coordinator for the Moreau Community Center.

Volunteer Corner

SAAS is looking for individuals who are willing to co-lead our monthly birding walks at the Betar Byway in South Glens Falls. Volunteers will be paired with experienced leaders. No experience in birds or leading trips required. For more information contact Jason at 480-4243 or adk_wild_jay@yahoo.com.

Volunteers are needed for handing out information at various events. Get to know more about SAAS while informing others! No experience necessary. Volunteers will partner with one of our directors or officers and can sign up for as little as 2 hours. Help is needed on September 11, & September 18.

For more information contact Jason at 480-4243 or adk_wild_jay@yahoo.com or Pat at 793-1960 or birdladycamper@aol.com

SAAS has many opportunities for volunteers to share their expertise and knowledge, make new friends and perhaps learn new skills. Please join us and help support and expand our efforts.

Child Safe Playing Fields Act Signed into Law

Last May, Governor Paterson signed into law the Child Safe Playing Fields Act, an important measure that eliminates the use of pesticides on school grounds. This bill will save schools money while protecting children and birds from the dangers of pesticides. "Each year, millions of pounds of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers are used on schools and lawns across the state and nation, creating one of the largest sources of pollution runoff and causing the death of over 7 million birds annually. By eliminating the use of these chemicals at schools, we are now making these places safe and inviting for birds, other wildlife, and children," said Albert E. Caccese Executive Director of Audubon New York.

With habitat loss remaining the leading threat to birds in the state, residential backyards and schoolyards are becoming increasingly more important for the survival of bird and wildlife species. In addition to creating safer habitats for birds and children at schools throughout the state, this legislation also provides an important first step toward reducing the use of aesthetic lawn care pesticides at homes by building more awareness in parents of the dangers pesticides pose for children and birds alike.

Jason Goldsmith

Welcome to new chapter supporters!

We would like to thank all of you who support the local chapter with your annual dues. All donations support the monthly public programs, local conservation issues, educational programs, field trips, and the newsletter. Our most recent chapter supporters are:

Barbara Cloran	Indian Lake
Susan Montague	Fort Ann
Susan Finch	Hudson Falls
Rey Wells	Greenwich
Alexander & Marine Zagoreos	Eagle Bridge

ELECTION NOTICE

**SAAS fall elections will be held
October 27, 2010 ~ 7pm
at the Crandall Library in City
Park, Glens Falls**

**There are three Board of Director
positions open. Please email or
call any board member or officer
to place a name on the ballot for
one of these positions.**

Reduce – Reuse – Recycle

Do you use dry Swiffer cloths to clean your floors?



If so, stop buying those refills only to throw them away after one use! Reduce your consumption—and save money—by using a microfiber cleaning cloth on your Swiffer mop. When done

simply shake it outdoors, and then toss in the laundry for reuse! No microfiber cloths in the house? Then simply take an old t-shirt that was destined for the trash, and cut a piece to fit the mop. When slightly dampened it will pick up dust and small particles easily!

Remember that reducing your consumption is the most efficient thing you can do for the environment, and reusing beats recycling, for even recycling expends energy.

Do you have a tip that you'd like to pass along? Send it to the Editor; we'll choose one to publish in each issue.

Cleaning out that freezer?



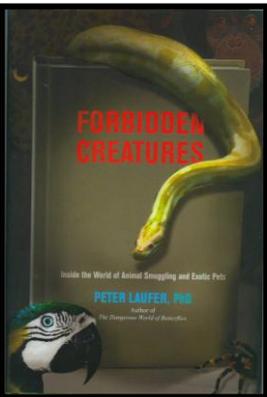
I recently completed a long-overdue task—cleaning out my freezer. Before throwing away several packages of year-old meat, I remembered that wildlife rehabilitators can often use it to feed their charges. I contacted Molly Gallagher of Silver Lair Sanctuary in Thurman and was pleased that she was indeed happy to take the meat off my hands. It would be used to feed her two resident foxes, silver fox Dylan and gray fox Joey, and her fox and raccoon orphans of the year. Silver foxes are bred as exotic pets, and can never be released to the wild. You can read more about exotic animal breeding in the *Forbidden Creatures* book review below.

If you find yourself with “freezer meat” and would like to donate it, you may contact Molly at nypossum@earthlink.net
Other items that Molly can always put to good use are:

Chain link fencing, the pre-made panels are the best. Hardware Cloth Lumber, framing & plywood, Wooden screen doors Good quality Dog or Cat

Food, cans or kibble Vinyl exam gloves, Porcupine Gloves (very strong leather gauntlets) Plastic outdoor playground equipment & large plastic toys, Stuffed animals, Non-fraying baby blankets, fleece, Kitchen cabinets

Mona Bearor



Forbidden Creatures

Inside the World of Animal Smuggling and Exotic Pets

By Peter Laufer ©2010

Investigative journalist, Peter Laufer, leads us on a journey into a world with which few of us are familiar—the breeding, buying, selling, and smuggling of exotic animals.

In an attempt to get inside the heads of those who keep exotic—and often dangerous—animals as pets, Laufer interviews breeders and brokers who operate within the law, as well as smugglers who willingly break the law to supply an increasing demand for monkeys and chimpanzees, huge snakes, big cats – even poisonous spiders.

I have often been curious as to why anyone would keep a bird in a cage, a snake in an aquarium, or a monkey in their bedroom. I had hoped this book would supply answers, and lay to rest my fears that the numbers of imported exotic animals is on the rise. However, this book leads me to no better understanding of those who choose to make pets of these animals. Rarity, the urge to dominate, the “naughty factor,” and simply thinking it is “cool” to own an exotic animal, are reasons given by those who harbor these often dangerous animals. I simply cannot comprehend that any of these reasons would justify my neighbor keeping a chimpanzee capable of killing me. Perhaps the book was not meant to make you understand; perhaps it was written simply to make you *think*.

I learned that our country is slow to prohibit the importation, breeding, and sale of exotic animals. The U.S. and Europe are the major markets for exotics; a seemingly inexhaustible demand backed by huge sums of money have caused some exotics in many third world countries to be plundered to near extinction. Bears, kangaroos, zebras, camels, lions, lynx, turtles, all manner of monkeys, snakes, and birds—the list goes on and on—can be purchased legally from private breeders or at auction in many U.S. states, and there is no national accounting of exotics. It is estimated that there are more tigers in Texas than in the total world-wide wild population!

Laufer approaches all aspects of the exotic animal trade with equal fervor—from obsessive owners to legal breeders to illegal smugglers. He provides a fascinating look at this multi-billion dollar business. Read this book and I guarantee you won't soon forget the people, the stories, —or the animals.

Mona Bearor

UPDATE ON OSPREY NEST



Photo courtesy of Don Polunci

.In 2008 many of us observed a pair of Osprey building a nest on a power pole just south of the village of Fort Edward. They were not successful at nesting that year. National Grid removed the nest, built a platform, and replaced the nest at the site. Last year they returned, but the nest failed.

This spring there was plenty of mating activity, which resulted in a successful brood. Three chicks appeared after approximately 5 weeks of incubation. I watched as both the male and female brought fish from the nearby river to feed the chicks. I am happy to report that all three chicks fledged at about 7 to 8 weeks of age.

Ospreys mate for life. The typical lifespan is 7-10 years. Their diet consists of 99% fish, and when the parents transport fish to the nest, the head of the fish faces forward for an aerodynamic trip. The fledged juveniles are as large as their parents, but they have white-fringed feathers.

Don Polunci

Ghost Bird
Sunday, November 7, 2010
12:30pm

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Hall
21 Weeks Rd., Queensbury, NY



Southern Adirondack Audubon and the Social Action Committee of the Unitarian Universalists of Queensbury invite you to join us for a **free** screening of this critically acclaimed Scott Crocker film.

The alleged sighting of a long-extinct species, the subsequent five-year search, and the controversy surrounding both, will no doubt foster a lively discussion period following the film.

Ghost Bird is not simply a film about a bird. It is a feature length documentary about an extinct giant woodpecker, a small town in Arkansas hoping to reverse its misfortunes, and the tireless odyssey of the bird-watchers and scientists searching for the Holy Grail of birds, the elusive Ivory Billed Woodpecker.

Reviews:

“Beautifully crafted... heartbreaking, ironic and infuriating. ***It's a stunner.***” – *npr*

“Critics’ pick! This ***spellbinding*** documentary takes a small item from recent history...and turns it into a cosmic lament for the forest primeval and man’s search for environmental redemption.” – *New York Magazine*

“Crocker has turned a bird-watching tale into a multilayered story that will fascinate practically everybody” – *The New York Times*

Kestrel Fledgling Success



Photo Courtesy Barb Putnam

This spring, Southern Adirondack Audubon Society and several other local Audubon chapters are participating with Audubon New York in a TogetherGreen grant sponsored by Toyota to help increase the Kestrel population in New York State.

Early this year ten Kestrel boxes were built by young people of the Washington County Youth Bureau, under the direction of Cathy Sweet of Washington County Cooperative Extension. Volunteers identified local Kestrel habitat to place the boxes and found willing property owners to mount and monitor them.

Thanks to Jason Goldsmith, Laurie Lafond, Mona Bearor, and Don Polunci for helping to find places to put the nest boxes.

By the middle of March, the Kestrel nesting boxes were placed locally in Fort Edward, Whitehall, Saratoga, Hartford, Gansevoort, Comstock, and Cambridge.

Special thanks to the land owners and monitors who have been faithfully watching the bird activity around the boxes: Barb Putnam, Chrys Nestle, Emily Debolt, Sue Morin, Janice and Rupert Harris, Linda White, Linda Herman, Tommy and Gretchen Ellis, Bonnie Sanders, and Katelyn Chamberlin.

Kestrel activity was reported around several of the boxes, and in one box Kestrel residents hatched three fledglings.

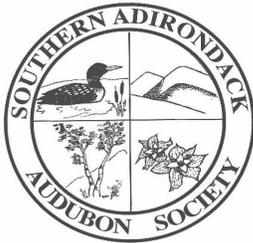
Pat Fitzgerald



Photo Courtesy Barb Putnam

The Fledgling

6 Edgewood Drive
South Glens Falls NY 12803



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Glens Falls, NY
Permit No.81

Vol. 27 No. 1 – Fall 2010

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Carol Moyer	793-1960
Jason Goldsmith	480-4243

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:
Pat Fitzgerald, 79 Laurel Ln., Queensbury, NY 12804

Newsletter Submission Policy: We welcome submissions to The Fledgling. 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 email, please contact Pat Walters at 518-793-1960.