

# The Fledgling

Newsletter of the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, Inc. (SAAS)

Vol. 36 No. 4, June — August 2019

Visit SAAS at: <http://www.southernadirondackaudubon.org>

## Intern monitors eagle nest

By Elizabeth Roos, SAAS intern

Since March, I have been monitoring a Bald Eagle nest site in Mechanicville in Saratoga County.

The nest is located in a pine tree right on the edge of the Hudson River. The eagles chose the spot despite the apparent loudness of the road, a bridge not 200 feet from the site, and an almost urban environment.

I have watched the pair of Bald Eagles progress from just sitting by the nest (sometimes together, sometimes not) early in the season, to apparently incubating eggs while sitting low in the nest during bitterly cold early April afternoons, to feeding the newly hatched chicks just this past week [early May]. It's been an interesting experience watching this Bald Eagle family grow.

Each time I visit, I think about how far the population of Bald Eagles in New York State has come since the 1960s, when only two Bald Eagles were left in the entire state. Thankfully, the population in New York has rebounded to an estimated 323 breeding pairs as of July 2017—a



SAAS intern Liz Roos photographed this eagle on its nest in Mechanicville on March 28.

long way since those two in the 1960s. This tale has been repeated throughout the country, and it is perhaps one of New York's greatest ecological rebound stories.

DDT is considered the main culprit for the dire condition of the eagle population in the 1960s. This pesticide is a harmful chemical compound that made its way up the food chain. It weakened and



Red-winged Blackbird  
Donald Quintana/Audubon Photography Awards  
2018 Professional Honorable Mention

## Audubon photos, June 26-July 27

The National Audubon Society's **Audubon Photography Awards Show** will be exhibited for three weeks this summer at the [Folklife Center](#) in **Crandall Public Library** in Glens Falls, from **June 26 to July 17**. The award-winning wildlife photo show is sponsored by our Audubon chapter.

An **opening reception** with light snacks is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 26**, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

A panel of five judges selected these 12 photo from more than 7,000 entries submitted from around North America. The images were selected on technical quality, originality and artistic merit.

Look for pop-up exhibits of this travelling menagerie of birds around the region throughout the summer. On Friday, September 6, a special evening reception will be held at the [Pember Museum of Natural History](#) in Granville. Details will be posted on the SAAS website closer to the date.

fractured eggshells, killing the birds inside when the shells broke prematurely.

In the end, the crisis was averted. The population of Bald Eagles was able to rebound from DDT poisoning, thanks to a handful of determined men and women.

*Continued on page 3*

**SAAS on Instagram**  
Page 2

**Invasive Species Talk, July 10**  
Page 3

**Native Fish Talk, July 18**  
Page 3

## Southern Adirondack Audubon Society

P.O. Box 4076  
Queensbury, NY 12804

<http://www.southernadirondackaudubon.org>

### Email:

[info@southernadirondackaudubon.org](mailto:info@southernadirondackaudubon.org)

## Board and Committees

### Officers:

President: John Loz  
([president@southernadirondackaudubon.org](mailto:president@southernadirondackaudubon.org))  
Vice-President: OPEN  
Treasurer: Sharon Charbonneau  
Secretary: Margie Amodeo

### Board of Directors

2019-2021 Joyce Miller  
Rob Snell  
Margie Amodeo  
2018-2020 Kim Atkins  
Peyton Atkins

Board meetings are held monthly except July, August and December. Members are invited to attend. Contact John Loz for details.

### Committees:

**Conservation:** OPEN

**Education:** Mona Bearor  
([education@southernadirondackaudubon.org](mailto:education@southernadirondackaudubon.org))

**Membership Secretary:** Lori Barber  
([membership@southernadirondackaudubon.org](mailto:membership@southernadirondackaudubon.org))

**Newsletter:** Joyce Miller  
([editor@southernadirondackaudubon.org](mailto:editor@southernadirondackaudubon.org))

**Programs:** John Loz (Interim chair)  
([programs@southernadirondackaudubon.org](mailto:programs@southernadirondackaudubon.org))

**Publicity:** Laurel Male  
([publicity@southernadirondackaudubon.org](mailto:publicity@southernadirondackaudubon.org))

Southern Adirondack Audubon Society (SAAS), a certified local chapter of the National Audubon Society, has more than 530 members in Warren, Washington, northern Saratoga and southern Hamilton counties in New York State. SAAS's primary goal is to protect the environment by preserving natural habitats and promoting environmental education. Contact a board member to learn about SAAS volunteer opportunities.

## President's Message

# Follow SAAS on Instagram!

By John Loz, SAAS President



I love taking pictures. I was the photography editor for my high school yearbook. Back in the late 1980s, I'd take pictures in black and white with my trusty Pentax and develop the film in the bomb shelter of my parent's house, which made for a perfect darkroom.

Today, I simply have my cell phone. It takes some very detailed and high quality color pictures, which I upload to my computer. My, how times have changed. I've been meaning to purchase a digital SLR (single-lens reflex) camera to take higher quality pictures of birds in the field, but I always just find myself on the run and out birding when I can, hauling my spotting scope along. I have found I can take pictures of stationary birds with my phone held steady against the eyepiece of my spotting scope and get some pretty neat bird pictures — it's called "digiscoping." I've even taken close-up video of an Osprey eating a fish on a snag with my phone and spotting scope.

I've shared a few pictures on our SAAS Facebook page and would like to have others share bird images from around the region on our brand new SAAS *Instagram page!* Search for "[adkbirds](https://www.instagram.com/adkbirds/)" on Instagram to see what we're seeing in the region, or go to <https://www.instagram.com/adkbirds/>.

Do you have pictures or video you'd like to share with our SAAS community through our Instagram page? Email your digital images or bird stories to [president@southernadirondackaudubon.org](mailto:president@southernadirondackaudubon.org) and we'll post them for the world to see! Thanks for helping to get our Instagram page going, and Happy Birding!

## Meet our Intern

### Liz Roos

Liz Roos, a senior at Shenendhowa High School in Clifton Park, served as an intern for SAAS this spring. She works with Audubon through the Career Exploration and Internship Program at her school. In collaboration with Audubon, she works as a Bald Eagle nest watcher, responsible for observing and documenting the nest's activity. See her article on the front page of this newsletter.

"I've always been interested in birds, ever since I was little, but it wasn't until seventh grade that I became interested in birds of prey, such as hawks, falcons, eagles and owls," Liz said. "From then on, I began to focus on studying everything I could about raptors. I got every book I could take out from the library, read every resource I could on the internet, and so on. It was through this search that I learned about falconry." Liz is now a N.Y.S. licensed apprentice falconer and volunteers with programs about birds of prey. She cares for and trains her own hawk, a two-year-old Red-tailed Hawk named Auburn, pictured above. "I have had her for more than 1-1/2 years and hope to release Auburn back into the wild by next spring," she said.



Roos will attend SUNY Geneseo as an English major this coming fall. She hopes to pursue her passion for working with birds in her free time.





Image of a Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), from John Treadwell Nichols's *Fishes of the Vicinity of New York City*. Retrieved from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brook\\_trout#/media/File:Brook\\_trout\\_1918.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brook_trout#/media/File:Brook_trout_1918.jpg).

## Native fish program in Luzerne, July 18

Southern Adirondack Audubon is bringing Lisa Holst to the **Hadley-Luzerne Public Library** at 19 Main St, Lake Luzerne to present **“Native Adirondack Fish and Piscivorous Birds”** on **Thursday, July 18** at 7:00 p.m.

She will offer a brief history of the fish communities of the Adirondacks, including the history of degradation that shaped the Adirondack Park Preserve.

The program will briefly touch on effects of acid rain and invasive species. Holst will share profiles of some lesser known native Adirondack fish species. The program will wrap up by discussing the ongoing restoration of endangered Adirondack fish species, how the recovery

of certain bird species is affecting fish and fisheries, and how piscivorous (fish-eating) birds are affected by environmental contamination.

Lisa Holst has worked for the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation for 26 years in various planning and restoration roles. She has been the Rare Fish Unit leader since 2008, responsible for assessment, management and restoration of imperiled species of freshwater fish statewide.

She attributes her interest in fish to spending summers on (and in) the St. Lawrence River and watching too much of *The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau* on TV as a child. She holds a B.S. in Marine Biology from Southampton College of Long Island University. She resides in Niskayuna with her husband and daughter.

I have yet to see the Bald Eagle hatchlings themselves. I’ve observed one of the parent Bald Eagles feeding something that was obscured from my vision, as I looked through a scope from across the Hudson River. I am excited to watch the eaglets develop and grow throughout the weeks.

I’m thankful to have this opportunity. I can’t wait to watch the next generation of Bald Eagles grow up and play their part in the ecological world.

## Invasive Plants talk, July 10 in Saratoga

**“Invasive Species: Roadside Invaders”** will be presented on **Wednesday, July 10** in the H. Dutcher Community Room of the **Saratoga Springs Public Library** at 7:00 p.m. The event is sponsored by the library and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Kristopher Williams from Cornell Cooperative Extension will discuss identification and management of these terrestrial aliens and their impact on our landscape. John Loz, president of the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, will be available to answer questions about past removal projects.

Invasive species have become a major environmental problem, as they out-compete and displace native vegetation and damage local habitats by reducing biodiversity.

The top local invasive plant species will be covered, as well as where to report invasive species populations and how to get involved in local volunteer projects.

## Eagles

*Continued from page 1*

Now, I have the ability to observe the Bald Eagle nest in Mechanicville—and the two Bald Eagles who sit very comfortably in their large platform nest, despite the busy road right next door.

I’ve observed some interesting be-

haviors. For example, I watched an Osprey fly past the nest and upriver, while one eagle sitting in the nest called out angrily as it passed by.

I learned that Ospreys and Bald Eagles are actually rivals, especially when it comes to nesting sites. Bald Eagles will claim an Osprey nest for their own, surprising the pair of Ospreys who migrate back later in the season.



Follow SAAS on Instagram at [“adkbirds.”](https://www.instagram.com/adkbirds) See page 2 for details.

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Production of this issue of *The Fledgling* newsletter is provided by Edward Jones, 34 Congress Street, Suite 102, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

## N.Y.S. Breeding Bird Atlas starts in 2020

In 2020, New York will conduct its third Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA III) project. [Julie Hart](#) ([eBird profile](#)) is the Atlas Project Coordinator.

From 2020 to 2025, birders from across the state will document breeding evidence of birds, according to the BBA III website. The data will be entered into the eBird online checklist site. The use of eBird will add to the ease and speed of reporting sightings.

New York's first two atlases were held from 1980 to 1985 and 2000 to 2005. Thousands of volunteers, including many SAAS members, recorded breeding bird observations using paper reporting forms.

Results provided researchers with very detailed information on the distribution of New York's birds.

The BBA site reports that surprising differences were found between the first two atlases: northward expansion of Black Vultures and Red-bellied Woodpeckers



and the southward expansion of Merlin.

The information collected in BBA III may answer many questions about bird species trends. Among them are how far Black Vultures and Fish Crows have spread and which new species have moved into the state.

The New York BBA project is a collaborative effort between the New York Natural Heritage Program, New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA), Cornell Lab of Ornithology, New York Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Audubon New York, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) and the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation.

To learn more about using eBird, take the [free introductory course](#). Birders have used eBird for a decade to record bird species seen around the world.

Birders of all experience levels are invited to participate in BBA III. See <https://ebird.org/atlasny/about> for details. Updates will be posted on the BBA [Atlas Facebook page](#).

### ***About Wildflowers***

## **Indian Cucumber Root**

*By Diane Collins*

Indian Cucumber Root (*Medeola virginiana*) is a native northeastern perennial plant in the Lily family. It's about two feet tall, likes partial shade and can be seen blooming trailside in Cole's Woods in late spring. Plants that are going to flower put out two tiers of leaves. Otherwise, one sees only a single whorl of leaves on the lower tier that resemble the leaves of the starflower. (The veins of the cucumber-root leaf however run parallel.) The small flowers dangle on large pedicels with six greenish-yellow petals curving backwards and six red-orange protruding stamens. The late summer berries are dark purple and sit above the upper leaves.

The common name stems from the fact that the root tastes and smells like a cucumber and was used for food by Native Americans. The Iroquois used the plant as an anticonvulsant and pediatric aid. Research indicates that because of its medicinal properties, the genus *Medeola* was supposedly named for the mythical sorceress Medea.

*Wildflower photographer Diane Collins is the author of "Trailside Wildflowers in Cole's Woods," available through <http://www.wildflowersinyourownbackyard.com>. Diane sells her booklet at SAAS monthly meetings for \$10: proceeds go to The Friends of Cole's Woods and our Audubon chapter. Cole's Woods is located in both the City of Glens Falls and the Town of Queensbury, next to Crandall Park.*





## The River and The Wall documentary has local ties

Glens Falls native Heather Mackey is one of five adventurers who traveled the 1,200 miles of wilderness along the Rio Grande River bordering Mexico in the new documentary *The River and the Wall*. They investigated the impact that building a border wall would have on the region.

The film was shown to a sold-out audience of 300 people at the Wood Theater in Glens Falls on May 4. Mackey came home for the showing and answered questions after the film. A second showing on May 22

also sold out. The film has been shown at film festivals around the country.

Here's more from the film's website: "Conservation filmmaker Ben Masters realizes the urgency of documenting the last remaining wilderness in Texas as the threat of new border wall construction looms ahead. Masters recruits NatGeo Explorer Filipe DeAndrade, ornithologist Heather Mackey, river guide Austin Alvarado, and conservationist Jay Kleberg to join him on the two-and-a-half-month journey down 1,200 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border. They set out to document the borderlands and explore the potential impacts of a wall on the natural

environment, but as the wilderness gives way to the more populated and heavily trafficked Lower Rio Grande Valley, they come face-to-face with the human side of the immigration debate and enter uncharted emotional waters."

For an NCPR interview with Heather Mackey, go to <https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/38575/20190502/film-along-us-mexico-border-glens-falls-woman-finds-wild-remote-beauty>.

See the website <https://theriverandthewall.com/> for more information. The film is available as a DVD and can be downloaded on iTunes and other streaming services.

### Species Spotlight

## Eastern Kingbird

By Joyce Miller, Newsletter Editor

In the summer throughout most of North America, the Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) is a common sight, perched on treetops or utility wires over grassy

fields, flitting quickly from its perch to nab flying insects.

They're dapper birds, with a dark gray back, head and bill contrasting with a clean white belly. Look for the diagnostic white tail band, which can usually be seen well from a distance.

Harder to spot is a little hidden crest of red feathers on its head. When excited, it raises this crest and snaps its bill as it defends its territory. It will even challenge large birds like Blue Jays and hawks.

The call of this flycatcher sounds like electric sparks: *tzzt! tzzt!* Once you learn that call, you'll hear it frequently! The male also has a high, sharp and twittery song, used in courtship and to defend territory. About eight inches long, they have one brood (nest-ful) a year.

Eastern Kingbirds winter in the forests of Central and western South America. They live a very different life there, eating fruit instead of insects and congregating in flocks, according to Cornell Lab of Ornithology's website All About Birds. For more information, see [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern\\_Kingbird/](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern_Kingbird/).

Don Polunci of Queensbury provided these Eastern Kingbird photographs.



## Mountain Birdwatch: Hike mountains and count birds

By Jason Hill, Conservation Biologist, Vermont Center for Ecostudies

If you're passionate about the mountains, consider participating in Mountain Birdwatch: a citizen science project managed by the Vermont Center for Ecostudies in Norwich, Vermont. The Mountain Birdwatch project aims to elucidate the population ecology of montane birds.

With a short list of 10 bird species (e.g., Blackpoll Warbler and Bick-



Above: White-throat Sparrow, by Troi Perkins. Left: Blackpoll Warbler, by Kent McFarland. These are two of the species studied in this project.



nell's Thrush) and one loud mammal (Red Squirrel) to survey, a simple protocol, concise training materials and one-on-one help for participants, just about anyone with an interest in birds can join. Surveys take place on any morning you choose in June, on a high-elevation hiking trail in the spruce-fir forests, and you'll be done in a few hours. It's that simple.

Observers must have good hearing and the ability to navigate the steep trails of our region. For more information, check out <http://www.mountainbirdwatch.org> or contact Jason Hill ([jhill@vtecostudies.org](mailto:jhill@vtecostudies.org)).

You don't have to be an expert, just enthusiastic.

## Google searches reveal most popular bird species

Cornell researchers have determined which of the 621 North American bird species are currently the most popular and which characteristics of species drive human interest.

They cross-referenced a decade of Google searches with citizen science observations. Study findings were published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"Google Trends data describe how often people search for birds and provide a snapshot of public interest in different species," says researcher Justin Schuetz, Cornell alumnus and lead author of the study. "In general, large birds, such as hawks and

grouse drew more attention than small birds. People also expressed more interest in birds that visit feeders, are endangered, or have been chosen as sports team mascots. In addition, we found that owls—more than any other group of birds—were the subject of public curiosity."

Cornell Lab of Ornithology scientists categorized the results into four "cultural niche spaces":

- **Celebrity** birds that everybody loves, such as Barn Owl;
- **Friend or Enemy** birds that are flashpoints for public debate, such as Greater Sage-Grouse;
- **Stranger** birds that people see but don't know the species identity, such as Lincoln's Sparrow;
- **Neighbor** birds that are regional favorites, such as the Black-Crested Titmouse in Texas.

Co-author and Cornell Lab of Ornithology researcher Alison Johnston notes that Google data cannot reveal the underlying motivations for searches, but knowing which species capture public interest does matter for conservation. Conservationists could then try to raise awareness around lesser-known species, she noted.

Understanding people's interest in different bird species can also help conservation organizations focus their efforts, according to Schuetz.

For example, "conservation groups might want to identify species in need of help that are regionally well-known but don't have a reputation beyond that region. These species could be good candidates for stewardship programs that encourage a sense of regional pride."



## Visit Arizona in September with SAAS!

Only a few spaces remain for the SAAS-sponsored birding trip to Tucson, Arizona, from September 7 to 13. The registration deadline has been extended to **June 15**.

The trip will visit the American Museum of Natural History's Southwestern Research Station (SWRS) in the Chiricahua Mountains of southeastern Arizona. The tour will focus on birds as well as the abundant flora and fauna from the summer monsoon rains. The cost is \$1,500 per person, double occupancy. A \$100 deposit is requested. For more information, contact SAAS board member Rob Snell at [birdbrane1@gmail.com](mailto:birdbrane1@gmail.com). Details are on the SAAS website.



Photo: AMNH's Southwestern Research Station.



*This Barn Owl was photographed by SAAS board member Peyton Atkins at the 2018 Winter Raptor Fest in Greenwich, Washington County.*

from N.Y.S. Parks, OSI and the Capital Region Economic Development Council," said GBT founder and Executive Director Laurie LaFond.

The purchase permanently protects critical habitat in the heart of the Washington County Grasslands Important Bird Area (IBA) for state endangered Short-eared Owls and a dozen other threatened and at-risk grassland birds. The purchase expands conserved lands in the Grassland Bird Trust's Alfred Z. Solomon Viewing Area to 78 acres.

## Grassland Bird Trust: new name, more land

The Friends of the IBA (Important Bird Area) now has a new name, Grassland Bird Trust (GBT).

This name "better reflects the group's mission to conserve endangered, threatened and rapidly declining grassland birds across New York State - and eventually beyond," stated an April 11 email from the GBT.

The GBT also officially acquired another 64 acres of critical habitat in February. The two-year project was completed on schedule with a \$63,000 grant from the N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (Parks), a \$50,000 grant from the Open Space Institute (OSI) and donations from Grassland Bird Trust members and supporters. "This purchase wouldn't have been possible without support

Landowners interested in learning more about GBT's conservation initiatives should contact Grassland Bird Trust at 518-499-0012.

The group sponsors the annual Winter Raptor Fest in mid-May in Greenwich at the Washington County Fairgrounds.

## Climate Watch project continues

The spring Audubon Climate Watch survey takes place from May 15 through June 15. The local survey focuses on both Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches.

Since June 2017, SAAS volunteers have participated in National Audubon Society's citizen science project in winter and spring. The goal is to learn how specific bird species are affected by climate change.

Volunteers use a specific protocol established by National Audubon: using grid maps of a specific area, birders conduct 12 counts on the same day. All birds seen or heard within 100 meters (328 feet) of survey points should be included.

The Climate Watch project was developed after National Audubon issued a report in 2014, entitled *Birds and Climate Change*. It focused on risks faced by North American bird species from climate change. Details are available at <http://www.audubon.org/conservation/climate-watchprogram>. Contact SAAS board member Rob Snell for more information at [birdbrane1@gmail.com](mailto:birdbrane1@gmail.com).

## Airport issue update

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will not fund the proposed expansion to the Warren County Airport in Queensbury, according to a May 10 *Post-Star* newspaper article entitled "FAA tells Warren County that runway extension is not needed."

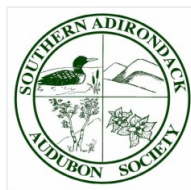
The expansion has been discussed for several years. SAAS attorney John Caffrey wrote against the expansion in the article "Big Cedar Swamp Update" on page 5 of the [March issue of \*The Fledgling\*](#).

According to *The Post-Star* article, the FAA will not fund the expansion because the extension was "no longer needed, due in part to changes in types of planes used since the proposal was made." The issue will be discussed at the next Board of Supervisors Facilities Committee meeting on May 31.

## Welcome, new members!

Currently, 559 members of National Audubon live in our chapter area.

Many of our 133 chapter supporters belong to National Audubon Society and also financially support our local efforts of conservation and education.



Chapter memberships start with the calendar year.

Our newest chapter supporters are:

Annemarie Carberry, Queensbury  
Lauren Cohen, Wilton  
Lisa Cohen, Saratoga Springs  
Cheryl Eifler, Malta  
Debra Ferguson, Athens  
Thomas Meyer, Queensbury  
Steve Miller, Queensbury  
Catherine Corrigan, Glens Falls  
Nancy A. Luther, Saratoga Springs  
Richard and Miok Salz, Ossining  
Scott Dexter, Saratoga Springs  
Gregory Wait, Corinth  
Denise Prichard, Stony Creek  
Thomas Meyer, Queensbury

Special thanks to these members who supported SAAS with a donation to our recent letter of appeal, and/or donated extra money for chapter expenses when renewing their memberships:

David and Margaret Amodeo  
Ramona Bearor  
Helen Mohr  
Kathleen Roberts  
Carol Runge  
Marilyn Zaborek  
Martin Wasserman  
James and Christie Brown  
Paul Farhart  
Sharon Charbonneau

Chapter supporter dues are the main support for our chapter activities.

Gift memberships are available, and will be announced with an appropriate card at your request.

Mountain Mint is one of the native perennials that may be added to the new Lions garden in Greenfield Center. (Photo of heads and bracts, by S.B. Johnny, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2380487>.)



## Summer Events

**Wednesday, June 26 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Opening Reception** for National Audubon Society's Audubon Photography Awards Show, Folklife Center, Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls.

**Wednesday, July 10 - 7:00 p.m.**

**"Invasive Species: Roadside Invaders"** by Kristopher Williams and John Loz, Saratoga Springs Public Library.

**Thursday, July 18 - 7:00 p.m.**

**"Native Adirondack Fish and Piscivorous Birds"** by Lisa Holst Hadley-Luzerne Public Library, Lake Luzerne.

See articles on p. 1 and 3 for details. For updates on summer events, check SAAS's Facebook page and website.

## Lions and SAAS plant bird-friendly garden

The Town of Greenfield Lions Club is working with SAAS to create a bird-friendly perennial garden in Greenfield Center Park in Saratoga County, during the first weekend in June.

The 20-acre park, also known as the Brigham Road Park, is located just off Route 9N on Brigham Road. Stone dust walking trails extend through the wooded property.

Volunteers will plant native wildflowers to beautify the park as well as encourage native bird population growth and support. Rob Snell, a member of the SAAS board and the Lions, is coordinating the effort with Jesse Elwert Peters of Jessecology, an organic gardening and eco-friendly landscaping company based in Saratoga Springs.

Among the native perennial plants that could be added are Giant Yellow Hyssop (*Agastache nepetoides*),

Anise Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*), Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*), Cutleaf Coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*), Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*), Blue Mistflower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*), Goatsbeard or Black Cohosh (*Aruncus* or *Actaea*) and Culver's Root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*).

## Report bird nests to NestWatch

Anyone who finds a bird's nest can help scientists by reporting to the free NestWatch project at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

They can report its location, the species using it, number of eggs laid, and other important milestones as the adult birds incubate, raise, and fledge their young. NestWatch collects, analyzes, and distributes data, serving as a warehouse of nesting bird information.

NestWatchers, in turn, get to witness the start of new life and help to preserve it with their valuable information.

NestWatch's website and mobile app is now accepting reports, enabling scientists to compare birds across their global breeding range.

Register for the project at [NestWatch.org](http://NestWatch.org) and learn more about how to monitor nests without disturbing birds.