



The Fledgling

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

Vol. 37 No. 3, March - May 2020

Website: <http://www.southernadirondackaudubon.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthernAdirondackAudubonSociety/>

Spring: atlas, boreal birds, woodcocks

Julie Hart will present "The Joys of Atlas-ing" on Wednesday, March 25, at 7:00 p.m. at the Saratoga Springs Public Library.



breeding bird atlas was published in New York State. Hart will talk about the history of the atlas, the importance of atlas data,



NY BREEDING BIRD ATLAS III

Atlas coordinator Julie Hart. (Courtesy image)

and how you can get involved. The eBird database will be used for data entry. Atlas-ing offers birders a way to explore new areas and provides an intimate look into the daily lives of birds. Beginner and advanced birders strengthen their skills while contributing valuable data to a large conservation-oriented project.

Hart, a native Vermonter, started birding while working as a bird conservation intern with National Audubon, Audubon New York, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. She traveled for several years doing field work around the globe before returning to Vermont to serve as the coordinator for Mountain Birdwatch with the Vermont Center for Ecostudies. She spent several years chasing Bicknell's Thrush around

the mountains of the Northeast and Hispaniola before moving to Wyoming to continue her education. She received her Master's degree studying the impacts of climate change on Cassia Crossbill in southern Idaho. Now living in the Albany area, she is the Project Coordinator for the third Breeding Bird Atlas in New York. She has participated in two bird atlases and considers atlas-ing her favorite type of birding. See page 6 to learn how to register for the atlas.

Ecologist Dr. Michale Glennon of Paul Smith's College will present "Birds and Bogs: Climate Change and Life at the Edge of the Boreal" on Wednesday, April 29 at 7:00 p.m.

This is a special "Birds & Beer" event at the **Common Roots Brewing Company Temporary Taproom** located at 30

Saratoga Ave., South Glens Falls. *This replaces the monthly program originally set for April 22, due to scheduling conflicts.*

The Adirondack Park is in the southern edge of the range for several species of boreal forest birds within eastern North America. The habitats of these boreal specialists are thought to be particularly vulnerable to climate change. Songbirds and woodpeckers have been monitored in low-elevation boreal habitats in the Adirondacks for more than a decade. Most focal species are exhibiting a pattern of decline.

For some, like the Boreal Chickadee and Lincoln's Sparrow, declines are modest. For others — Rusty Blackbird, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Black-backed Woodpecker — the declines are more troubling. Of the boreal birds, only the Palm Warbler appears to be increasing in our landscape.

Research indicates that boreal birds are more likely to persist in large, connected wetlands with a low human footprint, and may be moving northward or upslope in response to climate change.

Continued on page 3

Rusty Blackbird is a boreal species showing a modest decline. (Courtesy image)



Hart is the Project Coordinator of the Third New York State Breeding Bird Atlas (NYSBBAIII). This is a five-year community science project to document where and when birds are breeding in New York State. The atlas will document bird breeding changes over the last 20 years in New York State. The previous atlas projects started in 1980 and 2000. The atlas project will take place from 2020 through 2024 and involve thousands of volunteers from across the state.

Much has changed in the 20 years since the second

Ecuador trip in November
Page 4

Christmas Bird Count Results
Page 5

Register for Breeding Bird Atlas
Page 6

Southern Adirondack Audubon Society

P.O. Box 4076
Queensbury, NY 12804

<http://www.southernadirondackaudubon.org>
Email: info@southernadirondackaudubon.org

Board and Committees

Officers:

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

Board of Directors

2018-2020	Kim Atkins Peyton Atkins
2019-2021	Joyce Miller Rob Snell Margie Amodeo
2020-2022	Dusty Caldwell

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)

Membership Secretary: Lori Barber
(membership@southernadirondackaudubon.org)

Newsletter: Joyce Miller
(editor@southernadirondackaudubon.org)

Programs: John Loz (Interim chair)
(programs@southernadirondackaudubon.org)

Publicity: Laurel Male
(publicity@southernadirondackaudubon.org)

Southern Adirondack Audubon Society (SAAS), a certified local chapter of the National Audubon Society, has more than 580 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

Audubon N.Y. Council activities



It's been a bit over four years since I was elected President of Southern Adirondack Audubon Society. I'm now starting my third two-year term as President of SAAS. Time flies! Although it can get pretty busy outside my day job volunteering for Audubon, I still love every minute of it. I love the people in our chapter area and the birds that grace our wonderful Southern Adirondack mountain and foothills region.

Here are a few updates on my roles within the Audubon network since starting my volunteerism eight years ago.

- Last July, after serving on the Audubon New York (ANY) Council Board, I became Chair, representing 26 chapters in the state. I will serve my first two-year term in that role.
- I serve on the Council's Planning Committee that organizes the semi-annual all-chapter council meeting. Every spring, the meeting is held at the Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga Springs.
- I now serve as a board member of the overall Audubon N.Y. Board of Directors as the voice of all of our 26 grassroots led chapters and am on the Conservation Committee in that role.
- I recruited the President of Northern New York Audubon, Shelly Cihan, to join our ANY Council Board last July. Now we have more of an upstate voice on the Council Board to address conservation efforts and policies.

Most Audubon chapters, with smaller geographic areas, are concentrated in the lower Hudson Valley and on Long Island. Historically, more representatives were from downstate, with a couple reps from western N.Y. and one from the Capital Region. All of those downstate representatives have our upstate backs when it comes to supporting policies regarding our Washington County Grasslands Important Bird Area and northern New York forests. We're all one Audubon and all in this together! In the next newsletter, I'll be sharing more about what our council does and what work we are supporting, especially here in our North Country.

Past board member donates kidney

SAAS past board member and current SAAS volunteer Lori Barber of Lake George donated a kidney to a Lake George town worker in need. This article tells the heartening story: <https://www.suncommunitynews.com/articles/the-sun/lake-george-assessor-donates-kidney-to-town-worker/>.

Meet our newest board member

Dusty Caldwell

Joan "Dusty" Caldwell of Bolton Landing is the newest member of the SAAS Board of Directors.

A native of Staten Island, Dusty graduated from St. John's University with a degree in Environmental Conservation. She first worked as an Urban Park Ranger, teaching children about nature in New York City parks. Then, she trained to become a New York State trooper. She served as a trooper and investigator in the Adirondack region for 30 years.

Now retired, she has time to pursue interests such as birding and gardening. She joined us on the SAAS trip to Costa Rica in 2018. In her garden, she focuses on ways to preserve habitat for our native species. Welcome, Dusty!



Spring programs

continued from page 1

Examining changes in these habitats is helping researchers understand the future of boreal birds in the Adirondacks.

Michale Glennon is an ecologist and serves as the Science Director for the Adirondack Watershed Institute at Paul Smith's College. She previously spent 15 years as the Director of Science for the Adirondack Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society. She is interested in the effects of land use management on wildlife populations in the Adirondacks and is engaged in research ranging from issues of residential development to recreation ecology to aquatic invasive species and climate change.

She and colleague Heidi Kretser together developed an interdisciplinary research program examining the impacts of low density, rural residential development on birds and other taxa. Glennon also leads a long-term project focused on low elevation boreal bird communities in the

*Dr. Michale Glennon.
(Courtesy photo)*



Adirondacks, changes to those communities over time, and vulnerability of these species and their peatland habitats in a warming climate.

She serves as adjunct faculty for the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) and on several technical advisory boards. Glennon obtained her M.S. and Ph.D. in environmental and forest biology from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. She grew up in Lake Placid and lives in Ray Brook.

Timberdoodles, woodland hermits, bogsuckers, mudsnipe, and Labrador twisters are all names for the American Woodcock, a common, yet secretive, species of upland shorebird found throughout the eastern United States.

On Wednesday, May 27, Dr. Roger J. Masse will provide an overview of American Woodcock ecology and management at 7:00 p.m. at the **Saratoga Springs Public Library.** His talk is entitled **“American Woodcock Ecology and Management in the Northeast, USA: Recent Advances from Rhode Island, New York, and Beyond.”**

His presentation will outline his studies of behavior,



Above: American Woodcock.



Left: Dr. Roger J. Masse examines an American Woodcock as his students observe.

Photos courtesy of Dr. Masse.

management, and migration ecology of these peculiar birds. He will discuss recent and future woodcock projects conducted by his students at SUNY Cobleskill.

During the last decade, much research and management has been conducted in the Northeast to better understand aspects of American Woodcock ecology and to help preserve declining populations of this species.

Masse currently works as an Assistant Professor of Wildlife Management at SUNY Cobleskill. He earned a B.S. in wildlife biology from the University of Vermont, an M.S. in nat-

ural resources from Delaware State University, and a Ph.D. in environmental science from the University of Rhode Island (URI). During these years, a common theme to his education was applied field studies of birds. He conducted extensive studies of American Woodcock while at URI and has maintained an interest in this species ever since.

Masse routinely incorporates woodcock capture and banding activities into the courses he teaches at SUNY Cobleskill, and works with interested undergraduates to conduct independent projects related to American Woodcock and other species.

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.

SAAS Ecuador trip moved to fall

SAAS is offering a nine-day trip to the Chocó-Andes Region from October 26 to November 4. A flyer with details is attached to this newsletter, and posted on the SAAS website.

Per square mile, Ecuador has the highest biodiversity in the world, including 1,640 species of birds, many of which are rare and endemic. With assistance from an expert guide, the group will encounter a variety of birds, plants, and other wildlife while traversing a selection of Ecuador's 50 different ecosystems. Participants will explore diverse habitats at varying elevations at national and private reserves, including Alambi Cloud Forest Reserve, the subtropical rainforest at Milpe Bird Sanctuary, páramo ecosystem at Antisana Ecological Reserve, and more.

Ecuador offers approximately 130 hummingbird species, including the

Blue-winged Mountain Tanager. Photo by Reinier Munguia, courtesy of Holbrook Travel.



Giant Hummingbird, Black-tailed Trainbearer, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Tourmaline Sunangel, and Glowing Puffleg.

Other target species are the Andean Condor, Andean Cock-of-the-rock, Long-wattled Umbrellabird, Chocó Trogon, and dozens of tanagers.

The land cost is \$2,750 per person. This does not include international airfare. Single room supplement is \$295. The deposit is due by June 28, and final payment by July 23. The trip, organized by Holbrook Travel, was postponed from its original date in April. SAAS has traveled with Holbrook to Belize and Costa Rica in recent years.

Contact SAAS board member Rob Snell (birdbrane1@gmail.com) to receive specific information about enrollment. This website has details: <https://www.holbrooktravel.com/where-we-travel/americas/ecuador/ecuador-birding-choco-andes-saas>.

Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch

Andrew Mason of Oneonta reports on the 39th annual Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch near Oneonta. The project ended on Jan. 1.

Species Spotlight

Mourning Doves

By Joyce Miller, Newsletter Editor

Teardrop-shaped Mourning Doves are common birds in our area. Their sad-sounding coos and whistling wings are familiar sounds.

Mourning Doves feed on the ground, making them vulnerable to attacks by pet cats allowed outdoors. These doves build a flimsy twig nest, laying two eggs per brood. In flight, they can reach speeds of up to 55 miles an

hour.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology's All About Birds website offers these facts about Mourning Doves (https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Mourning_Dove/):

- "Mourning Doves eat roughly 12 to 20 percent of their body weight per day, or 71 calories on average.
- "During the breeding season, you might see three Mourning Doves flying in tight formation, one after another. This is a form of social display. Typically the bird in the lead is the male of a mated pair.

The second bird is an unmated male chasing his rival from the area where he hopes to nest. The third is the female of the mated pair, which seems to go along for the ride."

Dr. Gordon Ellmers provided this graceful photo of a Mourning Dove.



- Only one Golden Eagle was counted this October. A record-shattering 254 were counted in Oct. 2018. The drop to one bird this year is inexplicable. A typical October at Franklin Mt. would produce 50 or so Golden Eagles.
- Red-tail Hawks totaled 922, only half of the average of 1,727.
- All accipiters were notably down, as were Osprey and American Kestrels.
- Total raptors were 5,237, largely due to the excellent Broad-winged Hawk count in September. This makes two seasons in a row above average for total birds.

All Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch data is available at www.hawkcount.org.

Earth Day event, April 18

Glens Falls City Park will be the site of an Earth Day celebration from noon to 4:00 p.m., with music, speakers, children's activities, a bike repair clinic, local environmental groups and more. Check local media for details on this Zero Waste event.



Some of the Christmas Bird Count team gathered at the Queensbury Panera Bread to compile statistics, compare best sightings, and warm up. Some of the tired but happy birding team members are, from left above: Susan Pierce, Joyce Miller, Linda White, Beth and Brad Bidwell, and Lisa Balschunat. See Linda White's report below.

CBCers spot 49 species

By Linda White, SAAS Christmas Bird Count Compiler

Thirteen adventurous birders headed out to count each and every species in the Hudson Falls Christmas Bird Count circle on Sunday, December 15. The event was scheduled for Dec. 14, but steady rain and fog caused a one-day delay to the sunnier Sunday. The 15-mile diameter circle can be found on the Audubon website under Christmas Bird Count.

Many thanks go to Beth, Brad, and Nathan Bidwell, Jacquie Tinker, Lisa Balschunat, Mona Bearor, Rob Snell, Russ Hilliard, Joyce Miller, Sue Pierce, and first time participants Richard Pine and Jeff Gardner. Together they drove an impressive 345 miles and walked 11 miles in search of as many birds as possible. Wind picked up later in the day, so the counters faced gusts of more than 35 miles per hour later in the afternoon.

Special thanks to our feeder watchers Mike Rivette and Amy Soderholm. Mike welcomed the Queensbury party with hot mulled cider while we checked out his numerous feeders and awesome views from his lakefront deck.

Total individuals seen was 4,392 and total species 49.

Bird species seen or heard are below. Boldfaced species are notable:

Canada Goose 30, American Black Duck 2, Mallard 112, Ring-necked Duck 3, Common Goldeneye 151, Hooded Merganser 41, Common Merganser 23, Wild Turkey 33, Great Blue Heron 2, Northern Harrier 1, Cooper's Hawk 1, Bald Eagle 5, **Red-shouldered Hawk** 1, Red-tailed Hawk 27, Rough-legged Hawk 3, Ring-billed Gull 5, Rock Pigeon 341, Mourning Dove

58, Great Horned Owl 1, Barred Owl 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker 11, Downy Woodpecker 18, Hairy Woodpecker 4, Northern Flicker 2, Pileated Woodpecker 4, American Kestrel 1, Merlin 1, Blue Jay 69, American Crow 1,958, Common Raven 15, Black-capped Chickadee 95, Tufted Titmouse 33, White-breasted Nuthatch 14, **Winter Wren** 1, Carolina Wren 2, Golden-crowned Kinglet 4.

Eastern Bluebird 46, American Robin 32, Northern Mockingbird 5, European Starling 1,001, American Tree Sparrow 6, Chipping Sparrow 3, Dark-eyed Junco 52, White-throated Sparrow 8, Song Sparrow 8, Northern Cardinal 29, House Finch 20, American Goldfinch 46, House Sparrow 69.

The groups birded from 7:30 a.m. to dusk and put in a total of 38 hours. Some of the group met at Panera to compile the day's results. What a wonderful group! I'm so thankful for all the effort, enthusiasm, and dedication to this count that we began in 1983.

The many diverse habitats within the SAAS count circle make for interesting observations. It's also a fun way to meet area birders and increase birding skills. Tens of thousands of volunteers participated in more than 2,000 individual counts across North America, with some in Central and South America.

The Christmas Bird Census started in 1900 when ornithologist Frank Chapman suggested it as an alternative to Christmas "side hunts," competitions to see which teams could shoot the most birds and other animals. Instead, birders count every bird they see in the designated count areas. It is now considered the world's longest running citizen science project. Counts are held each year between December 14 and January 5.

Register now for Breeding Bird Atlas

Local birders are invited to sign up now for the New York Breeding Bird Atlas III. Julie Hart, the NYS Coordinator of the NYSBBA, will speak about the atlas project at the SAAS monthly program on March 25 at the Saratoga Springs Public Library.

From 2020 to 2024, NYBBIII will provide information on how New York's birds are faring, informing management decisions and conservation efforts. Birders of all levels are welcomed to participate.

Atlasing is really just observing bird behavior, such as singing and nest building. Participants will note the strongest breeding evidence observed, from singing to carrying food back to a nest.

The entire state is divided into 5,712 blocks that are roughly nine square miles. Approximately a third of these blocks will be designated "priority" blocks, which represent the coverage needed to understand where birds are breeding across all habitats and

regions of New York. Sightings from anywhere in the state (any block) count towards the atlas project, but the atlas isn't finished until all priority blocks are completed.

For more about this project, see:

- New York State Breeding Bird Atlas: <https://nybirds.org/ProjAtlas.htm>
- New York Breeding Bird Atlas III Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/nybba3/>
- eBirds NYBBIII page: <https://ebird.org/atlasny/about>.

Breeding season starts earlier than people may realize. In New York State, Great Horned Owls can start laying eggs in January. Canada Geese, crows, owls and many other birds can start breeding in March.

Raptor Fest, May 16-17

The 10th Annual Winter Raptor Fest returns to the Washington County Fairgrounds in Greenwich on May 16 and 17. SAAS volunteers will staff a table with children's activities. For details about the festival and the latest schedule, see: <https://winterraptorfest.com/>.

Nest box help needed

SAAS maintains four bluebird boxes in the Pine View Cemetery in Queensbury. The cemetery is located near the intersection of Quaker Road and Route 9.

During the breeding season, a volunteer checks the boxes weekly to be sure they are in good repair and to make sure that invasive House Sparrows are not nesting in the boxes.

Bluebird nesting season begins in late March and goes into late summer. Eastern Bluebirds often have three broods during the breeding season in northern New York State.

SAAS is in need of a nesting box monitor for this year. To find out more about monitoring these boxes, please contact Pat Fitzgerald at fitzgeraldsaas@yahoo.com. Training will be provided. The boxes can be checked by driving to them.

SAAS thanks volunteer Barbara Beatty for her diligent monitoring over the many years she has been checking these bluebird boxes.

Help digitize bird nesting records

From Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Secrets hidden in more than 300,000 index cards with hand-written information about nesting birds are gradually being revealed. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is partnering with [Zooniverse](https://www.zooniverse.org/), an online people-powered research tool, to digitize this valuable collection and create the largest database of nesting bird information in the U.S. This new effort is called "Nest Quest Go!"

"The Cornell Lab collected the hand-written cards for its North American Nest Record Card Program from everyday people," explains Nest Quest Go! leader Becca Rodomsky-Bish. "This was one of the Lab's first citizen-science projects, running from the 1960s to the early 2000s. The challenge has been to get all that information transcribed so it can be used in this era of the

Internet and Big Data."

Data on egg-laying dates, hatching rates, fledging success, and brood size will be merged with the Lab's [NestWatch](https://www.nestwatch.org/) citizen-science project to create the largest continuous database of nesting bird information in the United States.

"Converting historic card information into usable electronic data opens up so many doors for further research," says NestWatch project leader Robyn Bailey. "This is especially true as we try to track how changes in the environment have

affected bird reproductive patterns over the past half-century. We can explore such questions as how the decline of DDT in the food chain led to increased hatching success, or how rising spring temperatures might trigger earlier egg-laying."

"We started with the cards for the Prothonotary Warbler," says Rodomsky-Bish. "All those cards were transcribed in less than three weeks. The American Kestrel cards were completed in less than two weeks! It's a great rainy day or snowy day project that will help scientists better understand nesting birds."

Anyone who has access to a computer or smartphone can help with the digitizing project, which is expected to take several years. Cards are being transcribed species by species, with nuthatches and Mountain Bluebirds coming soon. All active species projects can be viewed on the [Nest Quest Go! organization page](https://www.nestquestgo.org/).

The image shows a 'NORTH AMERICAN NEST-RECORD CARD PROGRAM' for a 'Mountain Chickadee' (MCP) nest. The card is dated 'APR 18 2001' and includes the following handwritten information:

- Species: Mountain Chickadee (MCP)
- Year: 2001
- Location: NE of Boraman
- County: Gallatin
- State: MT
- Elevation: 5400
- Latitude: 45.40
- Longitude: 110.55
- Nest contents: 5 4 0 0 1 / 10 15
- Plant/Structure: Aspen

The card also features a grid for recording nest stages (e.g., 01 Bare ground, 02 On ground in vegetation, etc.) and a section for 'SUPPORTING NEST' with 'Aspen' written in the 'Plant or Structure' field.

About Wildflowers

The Common Blue Violet

By Diane Collins

Many varieties of violets await early spring hikers in Cole's Woods in Queensbury – purple, blue, lilac, yellow, white. More than 75 species exist in North America, most of them natives. The most common is the Common Blue Violet (*Viola sororia*). The species name means “sisterly,” resembling other species. The many kinds of blue and purple violets can be hard to tell apart as they tend to cross-pollinate and trade characteristics.

The blooms are hardy and able to adapt to most environments. One of



the most striking adaptations is the New England Violet (with elongated heart-shaped leaves) growing with other rare Arctic-type flowers in the unique “Ice Meadows” along the

headwaters of the Hudson River in the southern Adirondacks. The shape of the riverbed, scouring action of ice-filled waters, and slow melting ice mounds along the shore make for a cold and nutrient-poor habitat tolerable for the arctic-type flowers.

One might combine early spring birding with a search along the “Ice Meadows” for the New England Violet. Access is through the Warren County Hudson River Recreational Area on Golf Course Road, just outside of Warrensburg.

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.

Fisher and marten facts

SAAS had one of its largest crowds ever –106 people – for the January program with biologist Tim Watson of the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation. Here are a few of the many surprising facts he shared about fisher and American marten, drawn from his research:

- American marten are only found in the Adirondack region of New York. Fisher are found throughout the majority of the state north of New York City. Data from GPS tracking collars has shown that fisher can even live in close proximity to population centers like suburban Albany.
- American marten are much smaller than fisher, weighing in at only one or two pounds. They look bigger than they really are because of their thick fur coat. Fisher can weigh in excess of 15 pounds for adult males; females are much smaller.
- In the winter, American marten are subnivean hunters, chasing down small rodents under the snow. Fishers hunt above snow, expending a lot of energy bounding through deep snow.
- American marten tend to go after smaller prey like mice and voles. Fisher tend to go after larger prey like rabbits and squirrels. Fisher

are most well known for their ability to prey on porcupine!

- American marten are a medium brown color, but their coat color varies quite a bit. Marten also usually have a pronounced orange throat patch. Fisher are much darker in color, and only have lighter patches on their chest or belly.
- Although American marten are commonly referred to as pine marten, true pine marten only inhabit parts of Europe.

Watch N.Z. albatross on nest cam

A live webcam is now showing a Northern Royal Albatross pair raising their chick in a coastal albatross colony in Otago, on South Island, New Zealand. The webcam is made possible by a new partnership between the country's Department of Conservation (DOC) and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

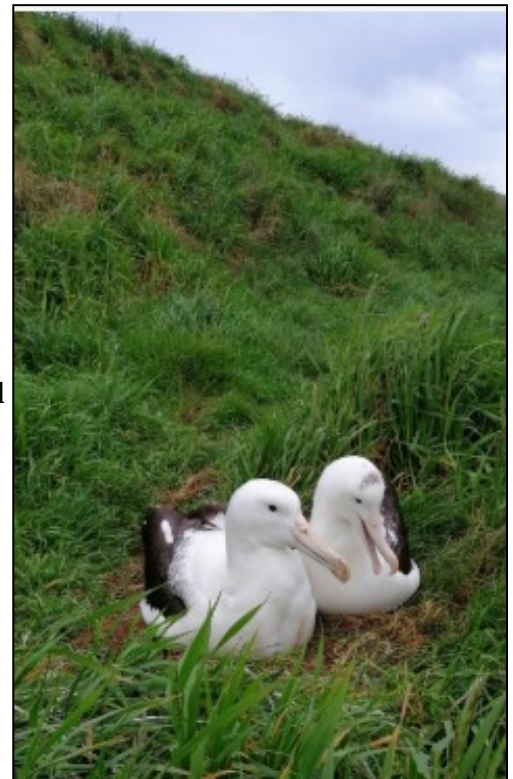
Viewers will see a 21-year-old male bird and a 25-year-old female. The egg was laid on November 14 and hatched in late January. Chicks usually fledge in September and will remain at sea for several years before returning to the breeding grounds.

The Royal Albatross is one of the largest albatrosses in the world,

with a wingspan of nine feet. It is also designated as endangered on the IUCN list and breeds only in New Zealand. See <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/royal-albatross/>.

Other webcams, for Bermuda Petrels and feeders in Ithaca, Ontario and West Texas are also available.

A Northern Royal Albatross pair, courtesy of New Zealand Royal Albatross Cam, Dec. 11, 2019, by Patricia Leonard.



Thanks to our supporters!

Currently, SAAS has more than 160 Chapter Supporters, with more than 580 National Audubon and Chapter Supporters in our chapter area.

Welcome to these Chapter Supporters:

Ashley Leemans
Mike Rivette
Emilie W. Gould
Bonnie Smith
Christine McDonald
Nina Prudden, PhD
Joey Schwartz
Peter Brooks
Dusty Caldwell
Heidi Steves
Rachel Baker
Emily Mott
Tammy Moffatt
Lori Sieman
Joy Johr
Randy and Lee Houseworth
Quinn Korzeniecki
Brendan Hathaway

Thanks also to these members and several anonymous donors, who included additional donations for our chapter operating expenses:

Barbara Beatty
Anne Best
John Caffry
Gerald Carruthers
Sharon Charbonneau

Helen & Bill Crawshaw
Alison Crocker
Charlotte Demers
Gordon Ellmers
Wally Elton
Charles Farrar
Louis P Ferrari
Patricia Fitzgerald
Nancy Forgette
Christine Germain
Bruce Goodale
Gregory & Faith Hamlin
Pamela Howard
Edward & Margot Hyde
Elaine Kee
Margaret & Alan Koechlein
Suzanne Laplante
Melissa Lingel
Bernice Mennis
Peter Miles
Joyce Miller
Helen L. Mohr
Scott Pearson
Jeanne Polunci
Don & Nan Polunci
Rosemary Pusateri
Mike Rivette
Kathleen Royka
Beth Saunders
John and Eileen Schneider
Ellen Skinner
Beth Smisloff
Bonnie Smith
John Strough
Holly Vegas
Janice Winchip

We greatly appreciate a generous donation from Dr. Martin Wasserman to support our educational efforts.

Renewal notices were sent in December for 2020. We are grateful for all who renewed their chapter supporter membership. SAAS local chapter memberships

Upcoming events

Check the [SAAS website](#) and [Facebook](#) page for details on these events:

Saturday, April 18 - Bog Meadow Brook - Rich Speidel leads a morning walk in Saratoga Springs. Register in advance.

Sunday, May 3 - Feeder Canal Bird Walk - John Loz leads a morning walk at the Five Combines Locks, in partnership with Feeder Canal Alliance.

Saturday, May 9 - Crown Point Bird Banding Station - John Loz leads a carpool trip to the bird banding station at Crown Point State Historic Site. Includes walk into fields to learn about bird banding, and perhaps an opportunity to hold and release a banded bird. Also includes a bird walk along the site's historic trails, a visit to the Crown Point Visitors Center; stop for lunch at W.A.G.S. General Store or bring your lunch. Possible afternoon visit over the Champlain Bridge into Vermont to the Dead Creek Wildlife Refuge and Visitors Center. Attendees will meet at the Log Jam Restaurant on Route 9, off of Exit 20 of the Northway at 8:00 a.m.; return to Log Jam is planned between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. Register by emailing John: president@southernadirondackaudubon.org.

Saturday, May 16 - "Birds and Beer" Bird Walk, Betar Byway - John Loz leads a bird walk at the South Glens Falls Betar Byway at 8:00 a.m., then meet at Common Roots Brewery Co. at 30 Saratoga Ave. in South Glens Falls, opening early for us at 11:00 a.m.



start with the calendar year and expire at the end of the year. To send in your Chapter Supporter renewal, the SAAS website and renew

online. Chapter memberships are \$15. Funds are used for local programming and educational activities.

First Saturday Bird Walks

SAAS continues the First Saturday monthly bird walks along the Spring Run Trail in Saratoga Springs, on **March 7, April 4** and **May 2**. They are led by Ray Perry, past Director of Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar.

The Spring Run Trail offers a variety of habitats. The path is paved or on a boardwalk. All skill levels are welcome. So far, 117 species have been recorded on [eBird](#) for the Spring Run Trail, including Red-bellied Woodpecker (pictured here, courtesy of Dr. Gordon Ellmers).

The bird walks start at 8:00 a.m. sharp at the Spring Run Trail parking area, located on East Ave. near the corner of Excelsior Avenue. If the lot is full, park just slightly down the road on Excelsior Ave. in the EBI Beverage Center parking lot, adjacent to the Spring Run Trail. For updates, check SAAS's Facebook page and website.

