



The Fledgling

Vol. 19, No. 1, September - November, 2001

From the President

Joseph Kern



Dear visitors, friends and members of the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society: It seems as though much time has passed since we were together at the Crandall Library. I miss the beautiful slide shows of birds and bogs, bushes and all the other forms of natural life of our planet.

I seems to me that it will be another long delay before we will all be greeting each other with happy smiles and hellos. But not to worry, the board has been continuing to do its job and we plan on beginning the new season with some first rate presentations.

This year we also plan on continuing and yes, even improving some of the many projects, Educational and other, for which we are proudly known.

Volunteer organizations, as you must surely already know, are, generally having difficulty in getting new enthusiasts to come on board and do this important work. We are so happy to be able to tell you that after our new editor joined us last year, two other new volunteers joined to help us with this important commitment. This makes us all at SAAS very happy. You will learn more about these brave new Caretakers Of The Planet as our meetings take place and our newsletter reaches you. Could we use more people power? YES!

Although this note from the president could go on for quite a while I will mercifully end here and let you get on with your enjoyment of the summer. I am looking forward to seeing you at our next Audubon gathering.



SAAS Calendar

Monthly chapter meetings are held at the Crandall Library, on the fourth Wednesday of the month, except as noted below. For changes and updates, please check this column in each issue. Mark your calendar and join us for some exciting presentations by guest speakers featured below. Guests are welcome. Bring one with you!

THE MEETINGS WILL START PROMPTLY AT 7PM.
PLEASE BE ON TIME.

September 26	Bob Budliger Raptor Identification
October 24	Scott and Denise Stoner Sanibel and the Everglades
November 28	Bill Gorman Wading Birds

Bob Budliger is a retired Director of Education at DEC, and a life long birder. He has participated in the Pinnacle Hawk Watch with Bob Kirker for four years. Bob will give a slide illustrated discussion of hawks, migration, identification and watching.

Scott and Denise Stoner are long time birders and active members of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club. Scott is current president of the Albany chapter of Audubon. Join them in a photo-journey to two of Florida's crown jewels: Sanibel Island and the Everglades National Park. Although seriously threatened, South Florida has enough birds and natural beauty to delight the visitor. Learn why it is still worth saving.

Bill Gorman is also a long time birder, member of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club, where he has served on the Board of Directors and in many other positions, and member of the ABA. He has conducted Breeding Bird Surveys for the Department of the Interior, and gone birding in North and South America, the Atlantic, the Pacific, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and Europe. Bill likes to chase rare birds and take wild life movies, some of which, pertaining to wading birds, he will share with us.

Membership Survey: Field Guides

Mona Bearor

Our Members Say..... they just can't have too many field guides! The 10 members who responded to my survey by phone and email have a total of 75 field guides - an average of 7.5 each. The high was 22 by one member and the low was 3.

Surprisingly, the Audubon guide received only 1 vote as favorite, as did Sibley's and Robbins. Peterson's Eastern edition was runner-up with 3 votes mostly due to what members felt was superiority of the artwork. With 4 votes the favorite field guide was the National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America. The reasons cited included the following: the inclusion of many juvenile pictures in addition to both adult sexes; the fact that the territory maps are included on the regular page rather than being a separate look up; and, having all North American birds in a compact volume that can be used for all North American travel. All these reasons plus good pictures for identification made this the one guide that was the overall choice of most members.

Next survey topic: Local Birding Haunts

What is your favorite location for birding and what are you likely to see there? Please limit your answers to areas easily visited as a day trip. Please contact me with information for this survey at 518-745-8637 or email me at jessie@netheaven.com. This column is about you, the members, and I need your input.

I'd like to thank those who responded to this survey and encourage others to join in next time. The more we learn from each other and about each other, the more enjoyable our Audubon experience will be!



Bird Class in High School

Linda White

Mike Reeves, a teacher in the South Glens Falls High School, will be teaching a class in Ornithology this fall. This course has been something Mike has wanted to happen for a long time. About 40 students have signed up, and will be exploring the many aspects of ornithology. The plan is to culminate the course with a field trip to the Saratoga Battlefield coinciding with the Christmas Bird Count.

We at Audubon are excited that such a course will be offered for the first time in this area. We salute Mike for bringing this course about. We look forward to its success, and are here to offer any type of assistance.

Editor's Corner

Ewa Hammer

This summer, my husband and I signed up as volunteers for the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas. It was a wonderful and completely new way of looking at the birds, for instead of just finding and identifying them, we had to observe and document specific behaviours indicative of nesting. It was more challenging than I expected. We ended up identifying 29 species engaged in what appeared to be nesting behaviour but were only able to confirm 7 species with the required evidence. Fortunately, we have three more years to add to our findings. If you are interested in joining this project, there are three more years left and you are not too late to start. The nesting period is late spring to mid-summer and this gives an interesting focus to bird walk, or even bird observation at your feeder. There are many sectors of the State that are poorly covered and if you happen to reside in or visit one of those, your contribution will be especially valuable. If interested, please contact: Karen Hunsinger, NYS Breeding Bird Atlas Coordinator, at NYS DEC, 5th Fl, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754. By phone at: 518-478-3061; or by e-mail at: fwbb.gw.dec.state.ny.us. Good luck, good hunting and best of all have a good time.

It seems too soon for summer to be over. I suppose we still have a few short weeks left, but school is starting, the leaves have begun to turn in the North Country, and the birds are no longer nesting. It is beginning to feel like fall.

As a new season starts at SAAS, we have some new features at *The Fledgling*. Three writers have agreed to send us material for each issue: Bob Kirker will continue to delight us with his adventures, Barb Putnam will educate us about a new bird and answer your questions to Barbolink, and Nanci Vineyard will inform us about the latest environmental issues. Last but not least, my Assistant Editor, Mona Bearor will give a survey report on the topic of the issue, write about home landscaping to attract birds, and give us a tour of internet sites interesting to birders. I hope you agree that these volunteers have greatly increased the enjoyment and educational value of our newsletter with their contributions. As always, *The Fledgling* welcomes your questions, comments and suggestions.

This is also the time when Board terms expire and new Officers are elected. At the annual Board of Directors picnic in August many exciting new proposals for the future were expressed and discussed. I sincerely hope our next general meeting, on September 27th, is well attended. Elections for Board members will take place at the October meeting and now is the time to voice your suggestions and concerns. Please come prepared to ask any questions you may have, share your thoughts and ideas for the direction you want SAAS to take. You will be rewarded with the knowledge that you have helped shape the future of your chapter, and with a wonderful presentation by Bob Budliger as well.

Adventures on the 700 Trail

Bob Kirker

Riders of the Rio Grande

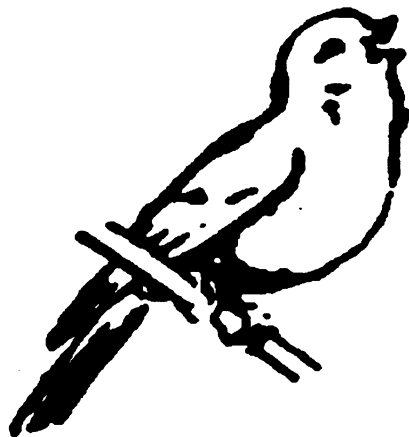
We met Joe at Falcon Dam. Sam Madison and I were trying to find the Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl. We were pretty beat as it was hot and humid as only south Texas can be in early May.

Joe was a transplanted from Ohio ex-newspaper editor and current president of the Texas Ornithological Society. Sam and I had previously seen the Common Black-Hawk at the dam and observed it flying downstream.

Joe wanted to check out the nest as next week was the annual meeting of the T.O.S. and he was scouting out for the field trips. He asked us if we wanted to ride with him downstream to try to locate said nest. Naturally, we agreed. As we drove along in his jeep the conversation drifted to trespass. Joe mentioned an individual who had been shot and killed trespassing. Texas is a strong personal rights state. The case did not even go to trial.

We stopped and parked the vehicle about 2 miles downstream from the dam. As we followed the trail through a narrow gorge, I felt as if we were in a pre-1939 John Wayne movie or Zane Grey's, *A Robbers' Roost*. We emerged upon a narrow flat plain about 100 yards from the Rio Grande Canyon wall. Starting to walk across the plain, I spotted a survey monument at the edge of the canyon. Excited as only a surveyor can be to find an old survey monument, especially a Spanish era one, I surged ahead of the other two. I was about 150 feet from the monument and 50 feet ahead of Joe and Sam, when the sharp crack of a rifle came from my right. The bullet hit in front of me about 35 feet in the dry ground throwing up a dust cloud. None of us said a word, we just reversed course and headed back to the Jeep.

Joe had supposedly cleared the entry. Probably there was a communication breakdown between the owner and the range foreman. I would like to have overheard the subsequent phone conversation between Joe and the owner.



American Goldfinch

Barb Putnam

One of our prettiest summer birds is the goldfinch. During the breeding season, the male American goldfinch is a bright yellow with black wings and black tail. He sports a black forehead. The female is brownish with splotches of yellow, dark wings and tail. The American goldfinch is sometimes called a "wild canary".

During much of the year, they live in flocks. Goldfinches will come to feeders that contain mixed seed or sunflower seeds, but they are particularly fond of niger seed (also called thistle seed). It is a little more expensive and you need a special feeder for thistle seed (one with very small openings), but it is well worth the bother.

If you watch goldfinches fly you will notice they have a very bouncy flight. As they are flying, they will often call. One of their vocalizations has been written as "per-chick-o-ree". I have also heard it referred to as "poh-tay-toe chip" (kids love to hear that one).

The American goldfinch is one of the latest nesters in our area - often nesting in late July. During the breeding season you will hear their warbling song. The nest may be in a shrub fairly low to the ground where you can peek in. When the young fledge, they can be easily seen begging from their parents.

In the winter, the males lose their bright color and look more like the females. We have goldfinches in our area year round, but whether they are the same birds or birds that have moved down from the north, I do not know.

Ask Barbolink

(Cont. from page 7)

you saw, but a bald eagle would have a large head and golden eagles are very rare around here. Perhaps an osprey? (I am just guessing, of course).

Bald eagles have been making a nice comeback since the days of DDT. They can be seen in our area during all seasons. Your best bet to sight one away from a nest in our area is probably during the winter. Check places where there is some open water such as near the Conkingville Dam, along the Spier Falls Rd or down in the Cohoes area. Besides fish, you may see one on the ice eating carrion. The identification of an adult is not difficult (a large dark bird with a bright white head and tail), but the young take up to four years to gain breeding plumage. During their first two years of life, the head is dark and there are white patches along the body, wings, and the base of the tail which can be very confusing. The size of the head may be helpful - even young bald eagles have a large head. When in doubt, check a field guide that shows both adult and immature plumages of various raptors to help make the ID.

Will There Be Any Birds Left To Watch?

Nanci Vineyard

Anyone who truly loves birds should be alarmed by the bad news that keeps coming in wave after wave concerning our avian friends. This past week it was reported in the news that one person had become ill with West Nile Virus in the state of New York and spraying was immediately resumed. ONE PERSON! One person's illness was used as a rationalization and justification for cranking up all those airplanes just waiting on the tarmac, loaded with thousands of pounds of pesticides, to begin spraying untold thousands of acres of people, crops and habitat. I still stand by my opinion that some serious investigative journalism would expose some politicians either receiving outright kickbacks or at least owning heavy investments in the chemical companies producing the products being used to combat West Nile Virus. The studies being performed on dead birds continue to show that the deaths are in an overwhelming majority of cases the direct result of contact with pesticides, not the West Nile Virus.

Our own Adirondack Park Agency is again reconsidering its policy on the erection of more cell towers within the Blue Line. A study done by the American Bird Conservancy (ABC), as reported in the June, 2001 issue of *Birder's World*, posits that up to possibly 40 million birds are killed annually by communications towers. And yet, the APA and the industries who lobby and influence that governing body, insist that we need to be able to talk on cell phones everywhere, all the time. The ABC report further found that over 230 species were killed in collisions with the tall, steel towers, more than 50 of which are already considered rare or endangered, with migratory songbirds being the most at-risk.

Underlying all other problems, of course, is the relentless procreation of human beings, who, in addition to the good old-fashioned way of over-populating the planet, have now added a cadre of technological means by which previously infertile couples can replicate their genes, fertility drugs producing septuplets, frozen, donated sperm, surrogate mothers, embryonic manipulation of every sort, with outright cloning looming on the near horizon. And yet in the midst of this frantic festival of homo sapiens reproduction, every day we hear or read more stories concerning the devastating effects of loss of habitat on birds and other wildlife.

Rachel Carson spent the last years of her life stoically battling breast cancer without complaint to see through to publication her phenomenal book, *The Silent Spring*. Thanks to Ms. Carson's diligence, talent, and fearlessness, the toxic chemical DDT was banned in the United States, (it continues to this day to be manufactured here and sold for use in other countries), thereby averting a

total decimation of our songbird populations. She pressed on in the face of unmitigated personal pain and testified during the final months of her life before a Senate Committee, gaining the interest of a young President, John F. Kennedy, and spurring the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency. Unfortunately, we forgot the lesson Ms. Carson taught, if indeed we ever learned it, and have not stayed the course on protecting life for birds. In addition, the current administration led by George W. Bush is leaving no stone unturned in their haste to gut the EPA, the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Air and Water Standards, and to expand oil drilling in National Monument sites and the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge.

Perhaps it would serve us all well to reacquaint ourselves with the actual words of John James Audubon who wrote so descriptively and fondly of the birds he encountered. Speaking of the wild turkey, he said, "The males, or as they are more commonly called, the gobblers, associate in parties of from ten to a hundred, and search for food apart from the females, while the latter are seen either advancing singly, each with its brood of young, or in connexion with other families, forming parties often amounting to 70 or 80 individuals." Writing of the whooping crane, Audubon had this to say, "The most imposing and stentorian of all North American fowl, a creature out of some world to which belong great auks and dodoes and ostriches, the whooping crane was the marvel of the pioneers." And finally, when describing the ivory-billed woodpecker Audubon noted, "When wounded and brought to the ground, the Ivory-bill immediately makes for the nearest tree, and ascends it with great rapidity and perseverance . . . They sometimes cling to the bark with their claws so firmly as to remain cramped to the spot for several hours after death. When taken by the hand, which is rather a hazardous undertaking, they strike with great violence, and inflict very severe wounds with their bill as well as claws, which are extremely sharp and strong. On such occasions, this bird utters a mournful and very piteous cry." The ivory-billed woodpecker was formally declared extinct in January, 1996. What can you do? Take action! Write the APA, send money to the No Spray Coalition (718-670-7110 or www.nospray.org), and write your Senators and Congressmen repeatedly. Tell the Bush Administration that you are tired of subsidizing the timber industry with taxpayer dollars. Tell them you are tired of subsidizing the oil industry which showed record, astronomical profits last year, in no small part due to handsome government tax breaks. Do your own part to consume less. Analyze your own purchasing and consumption habits.

(cont. on page 5)

Wandering the Web

Mona Bearor

If you are an "online" birder you may already know that there are numerous websites for birds. If you are new to birding or the online world, you may be unaware of all the information that is available just for the browsing. There are websites that help you identify new birds, others have information about feeding backyard birds, and there are even sites that have birdhouse plans to download and build. Many sites have cameras set up in birdhouses and at feeders so we can watch our feathered friends in real time. Each issue, in this column we will present a website to you with a description of what is available at that site in the hopes that it will enrich your birding experiences.

This issue's featured site is "PETERSON Online" located at www.petersononline.com. Sponsored by Houghton Mifflin, it has a wealth of birding information for both the novice and experienced birder. As with virtually all commercial websites, "PETERSON Online" was created to interest you in purchasing their products - field guides, birding magazines, etc. However, even if not interested in a purchase, there is much here of value and it is presented in an organized and interesting manner.

The Identifications section highlights many individual birds with artwork by Roger Tory Peterson and text taken from the "Peterson Multimedia Guides"; similar to the information found in paper field guides.

The Peterson's Perspective is a tutorial packed with birding tips intended for the novice birder; however, the experienced birder can also find interesting and helpful reminders here.

There is also a link to *The Bird Watcher's Digest* which has reprints of many articles from this publication - some highlight individual species, some are general birding articles or question and answer type articles. All are full of valuable information.

The link to *Kingbird Highway* leads you to a serialization of the Kenn Kaufman book, chronicling the famous birder's attempt to break the record for the most North American species observed in one year.

If all this has not quenched your thirst for birding knowledge, the Links and Resources is an extensive list of further sources of information. I found the "Links by State and Province" particularly helpful.

When you are looking for specific information and don't have the time to browse the many pages on this site, the "Search" feature on the homepage will produce a list of all articles on a given subject that may be found anywhere on the website.

We hope that this site may find a place on your list of favorite websites and that it will provide you with valuable information and online birding pleasure.

Annual Meeting and Elections

Joan Robertson

The Annual meeting of the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society will be held at the October general meeting, in the Crandall Library Auditorium.

The terms of three of the nine Board members are ending. Our by-laws state: The directors shall be elected by a plurality of the members voting at the Annual Meeting of the members. Nominations from the floor will be accepted.

The by-laws also provide that the Board of Directors, at its regular meeting in October shall elect those officers of the Society whose terms expire. The President and the Secretary have fulfilled their two year terms. They may be re-elected or the two offices may be declared open. Anyone interested in becoming more involved in SAAS should contact a Board Member. Everyone should plan to attend the meeting on October 24th on time to participate in the voting.

Will There Be Any Birds Left To Watch?

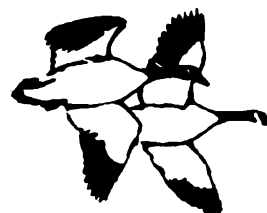
(cont. from pg. 4)

Most importantly, if you are at the family planning stage, consider limiting your family to a zero or negative population growth size, and consider adoption as a healthy, loving alternative to procreation. If you are of a certain age, counsel your grown children to do the same, and, it's never too early to begin telling those grandchildren about the birds and the bees and loss of habitat.

Notice

(from time to time, space permitting, we will post notices that may be of interest to our members. This is a free service for members of our chapter only. Please limit content to birding or environmental topics)

For Sale: Swarovski Binoculars, 7X42, very little used, perfect condition. \$550. Call Leon at 518-648-5301.



Home Landscaping for the Birds

By Mona Bearor

With the continuing decline in wild habitat for all creatures, the creation of bird-friendly areas becomes even more important. In this column we will present to you plants that can be used in the home landscape in our area that provide food, nest sites, or temporary cover for our backyard birds and will help attract them to your property. In this issue, I will describe the Serviceberry – Amelanchier.

According to many specialists in wildlife landscaping, the Serviceberry family is one of the most important native food sources for birds, especially for those fattening up for fall migration. The berries are a preferred food of northern flicker, blue jay, American crow, gray catbird, American robin, hermit thrush, Swainson's thrush, veery, Bohemian waxwing, cedar waxwing, American redstart, northern oriole and evening grosbeak and are eaten by over 30 other species. Serviceberry's early flowering in spring also makes it an important initial source of pollen and nectar for bees and other insects.

Serviceberry is just one name for the many trees and shrubs in the Amelanchier family. Others are shadblow or shadbush, both derived from the bloom time being concurrent with the time when the shad swim upriver to spawn, in early spring in eastern North America; and juneberry, a name derived from the month the berries ripen in some varieties. Since hybrids can form when two varieties interbreed, positive identification may be difficult, but the species itself is easy to recognize. Bark is light to darker gray streaked with distinctive vertical lines. The smooth young bark becomes more flaked with age. The varieties in this family can vary from a 2 foot spreading shrub to a tree reaching 25 feet or more. The clouds of white or pink flowers are 5 petalled and arranged in elegant clusters. Serviceberry is one of our first trees to flower, and since this happens before the leaves have even fully developed, the tree in bloom lends a beautiful soft, lacy look to the barren early spring landscape. When the leaves do emerge, they resemble the leaves of the apple tree, a close relative. The fruits are borne in clusters and each berry is usually less than a half inch in diameter although some types are larger. In June, July, or August, dependent on species, edible berries turn dark purple and are sweet and juicy. Most species also have an excellent yellow-gold or red-orange fall color.

This plant is widely distributed in New England. Serviceberry can be found growing in most conditions, except where it is extremely wet or in the deepest shade. It grows and fruits best in full sun and on moist, well-drained soil but can be found naturally along roadsides, in woods and woodland borders and often at the edge of wetlands or stream banks. Since it is so adaptable and has very attractive flowers and foliage, Serviceberry is well suited for plantings around the home. It is resistant to air pollution and suitable for urban plantings. This plant can be used in a wide variety of locations in the home landscape but, when young, needs to be protected from browsing rabbits and deer. Some species of Serviceberry make elegant specimen trees and are also effective planted in groups in naturalized settings.

As positive identification may be difficult, purchase stock from a trusted nursery. Here are several preferred species:

Amelanchier alnifolia - A 10 to 25 foot tall tree form having nearly black fruit, three quarters of an inch in diameter which ripens in July.

Amelanchier humulis - A shrub form that grows to about 4 feet tall and has an upright growth habit. The fruit ripen in August. This species adapts well to dry soil.

Amelanchier laevis - Allegheny Serviceberry - This tree can attain heights of 40 feet or more if grown in optimal conditions. It is often grown as an ornamental. The fruit are red and ripen in July.

Amelanchier sanguinea - A 6 to 8 foot shrub that is one of the best Amelanchiers for fruit production. The large fruit ripen in August and September and may be almost an inch in diameter.

Amelanchier stolonifera - A four foot shrub that spreads by suckers. The fruit ripen in July. This species is especially useful in semi-wild plantings and for stabilizing soil, especially on embankments.

If unable to locate one of these, you can ask your nursery to suggest an Amelanchier that will meet your specific requirements. The Serviceberry can be one of the most valuable additions to the home landscape and with so many varieties to choose from, we hope you will decide to add one to your property. You will enjoy the increased bird activity gained from just one or two of these plants, and the birds will thank you.

Ask Barbolink

Barb Putnam

Q: Bill & Florence H wondered if it is unusual to have ruby-throated hummingbirds sitting atop a flagpole with other hummingbirds whizzing around.

A: Birds in general will often perch in the same spot - a flagpole sounds like an ideal lookout. Hummingbirds in particular are very aggressive around a food source such as a feeder or flower patch. An individual bird will spend hours defending an area from all other hummingbirds.

Q: Ewa H & Bill H remarked on the scarcity of evening grosbeaks during the last few years.

A: Many birds are quite regular in their comings and goings while others are more unpredictable. Some birds vary enormously in abundance from year to year. The winter finches are a good example. Evening grosbeaks, pine siskins, and common redpolls may be present in large numbers one winter and absent the next. Other wanderers include both species of crossbills and pine grosbeaks. This really helps to make winter birding more interesting.

Q: Rosemary P wrote:

About 8 one morning in June, I was swimming in our tiny bay on the west side of Lake George when I saw a huge bird on a short branch of a dead tree taller than the forest on our "forever wild" narrow point. Because Orcutt Bay faces northward, and this dead tree was to the east, the bird was backlit and hard to see. It was very tall, maybe two feet, and wide, with darker flanks, lighter middle, and not a noticeable head. A noise or splash alarmed the bird and it took off. It flew over the mouth of the bay and then southward down the other arm of land, disappearing forever from my sight. Judging by the roof of the house it flew over, the wingspan was easily 6 feet. The underside of the wings appeared to have had a slightly rusty or reddish tint, but that may have been the morning sun. I did not notice the breast which had appeared so light when the bird was perched, and I did not notice the head. According to Peterson's Guide, I may have spotted a golden or bald eagle (the only eagle I have seen in the wild). I have seen turkey vultures in Myakka Park in Florida; they are much smaller. Could it have been an eagle?

A: There is a good possibility you saw an eagle - they have been increasing in numbers. You probably would have recognized an adult, but the young ones are much more difficult to ID. If you have access to the National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds or The Sibley Guide to Birds you will be treated to more pictures of immature birds than in the Peterson guide. I can't say for sure what

From the Membership Chair

Claire Hunter



Gift Memberships: Audubon membership makes a nice gift which includes the Audubon magazine as well as our newsletter The Fledgling. Our chapter will send a gift card on request. Student membership is \$15. See the back of this newsletter for more membership information.

Renewals: If you need assistance, please contact me.

I hope you all saw some good birds this past summer. Goldfinches are nesting in or near my yard, though I haven't been able as yet to discover where.

Audubon Adventures

Linda White

Once again it is time to sign up for Audubon Adventures. For those of you not familiar with this program, it is an innovative environmental newspaper just for kids. It is also the name of the multi-disciplinary curriculum enhancement program for grades 3 to 6 published by the National Audubon Society. Audubon Adventures contains learning objectives and methods aligned with the latest national education standards, making it easy to integrate into school curricula. Since its inception in 1984, the program has reached more than 7 million youngsters across the United States. The Audubon Adventures classroom kits contain: four separate packets of the newspaper with 32 copies per packet, a classroom resource manual filled with hands on activities, duplicating masters and research material, and Internet projects. This year the topics will fall under the umbrella of "Classification in a World of Biodiversity." The topics are - "So Different, So alike: The Diverse World of Mammals" - "They Call Us Cold-Blooded..." about cold-blooded animals - "Who needs a Backbone?," about invertebrates - "The Feather Factor," about birds, and all their variations.

By joining the program teachers will qualify for a free membership to the Audubon society. This membership includes a one-year subscription to "Audubon" magazine, affiliation with local Audubon chapters, and invitations to summer ecology programs. Classroom Kits are \$35 plus \$6.50 for shipping and handling. Individual Kits are \$19 plus \$5.50 for shipping and handling. Our chapter will sponsor eight classrooms this year. If you are interested in the Audubon Adventures program please contact Linda White, education coordinator, at 792-4446 or by e-mail at blwhite@juno.com

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the National Audubon Society and Southern Adirondack Audubon includes the bimonthly magazine *Audubon* and SAAS newsletter, *The Fledgling*. The cost is \$20 for regular memberships and \$15 for seniors. Make check payable to "National Audubon Society" and send with name/address/phone number to: Claire Hunter, 3 Edgewood Drive, PO Box 1382, South Glens Falls, NY 12803-1382.

Newsletter Submission Policy

We welcome all submissions to *The Fledgling* and will utilize them as space permits. Please include your name and contact number, e-mail preferred. All submissions must be e-mailed to the editor no later than the 15th of the month preceding publication and will be edited as needed. If you cannot e-mail, please submit to Barb Putnam at 190 Palmer Ridge Rd., Gansevoort, NY 12831, at least a week before deadline. Be sure to include your phone number and call her at 792-7542 before sending material.

The Fledgling

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