

The Fledgling

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

Vol. 29 No. 1 September 2011 – November 2011

President's Message

This summer I had the privilege of attending an Audubon Leadership Program on Hog Island in Maine. Hog Island is a 330-acre island in midcoast Maine's beautiful Muscongus Bay. Programs about coastal wildlife in Maine have been offered throughout the summer for the past 75 years educating adults, children, and families. The session I attended was designed especially for active Chapter leaders to help build and deepen our expertise and ability to enhance Audubon's effectiveness at all levels. It was led by top-level State and National Audubon program staff and experienced Chapter staff and volunteers. A combination of information-packed interactive workshops, special presentations, and lively discussions filled my days. Daily sessions included an in-depth focus on key Audubon conservation programs such as IBAs, education and citizen science, as well as State-Chapter partnership opportunities, fundraising, leadership development and training. David Yarnold, president of the National Audubon Society, made a visit to the island while I was there. He addressed the attendees, explaining his vision for the future, including the Atlantic Flyway Initiative, and answered our many questions. We also had time for a Maine boat cruise to look for Atlantic Puffins and other seabirds. I came home with many ideas and renewed energy to make Southern Adirondack Audubon a vibrant organization focused on conservation of critical habitat for the birds and other wildlife in our area.

In June, I was notified that SAAS was awarded a TogetherGreen grant to promote a healthy environment through volunteerism. This grant will enable us to sponsor events that will enhance the ecology of our area. On September 17, we will be working with the Lake

Please join us for the following

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Our public programs are held at the Crandall Library in Glens Falls. Enter at the Glen St. entrance, and take the elevator to the lower level; the media room is on the left.

In case of inclement weather, please call the Crandall Library at 792-6508.

Wednesday, September 28 7 p.m.

**"Migratory Birds"
with Neil Gifford**

Wednesday, October 26 7 p.m.

**"Nepal"
with John and Barb Youker**

Wednesday November 30 7 p.m.

**"Biking across America"
with Steve Mackey**

George Association in the Westbrook area of the old Gaslight Village. Our goal is to remove invasive species and replace them with native plants that will be more beneficial to the native wildlife. More information about this event is in this newsletter and on our website. Please consider joining our team of volunteers and helping us restore and maintain this important ecosystem. I hope to see you there.

Pat Fitzgerald, President

A Message from the Real President

Below is a message all local chapters received from David Yarnold, president of the National Audubon Society, regarding the restoration of the Gulf Coast. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who sent postcards to your representative in Washington, D.C. to get legislation passed.

After more than a year of difficult negotiation, senators representing the Gulf Coast from Texas to Florida have finally **reached agreement on a proposal to restore the Gulf coast** following the devastation of the BP oil spill.

The details of the agreement will be unveiled in the coming days, but what is certain is this will represent an **unprecedented investment in restoring coastal Louisiana** and other critical habitats of the Gulf coast.

The agreement will **direct at least \$5 billion toward Gulf restoration**, drawing from BP penalties under the Clean Water Act levied as a result of the Deepwater Horizon disaster. Audubon chapter leaders and activists have helped keep the pressure on legislators to reach this agreement. Audubon's national policy office, along with our partners from Environmental Defense Fund and National Wildlife Federation, has worked tirelessly with members of Congress from both parties to bring this conservation achievement within reach.

Now the real work begins and in the coming months, we will be calling on all of our supporters to help us move this agreement toward passage through both the House and Senate, to deliver to America's Gulf region the long-term restoration it so desperately needs.

This is an important moment and **we will need your help to see this through to victory. Thank you** for your support and I look forward to continuing our important work together on behalf of birds, wildlife, and America's great natural heritage.

Sincerely,



President & CEO
National Audubon Society



Mark your Calendars for WinterRaptorFest 2012

March 10 & 11, 2012
Gallup Ridge Farm
Fort Edward

Live Birds of Prey programs sponsored by Adirondack Wildlife Refuge & Rehab Center, The Wildlife Institute of Eastern New York, North Country Wild Care, and New York State Wildlife Rehab Council will offer you a chance to see and learn about many of the owls, hawks, and falcons native to the Washington County Grasslands Important Bird Area. New York State DEC will offer a fascinating look into their program to monitor state endangered Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers; an Audubon presentation about the decline of American Kestrels and what you can do to help. Youth snowshoe races, horse-drawn sleigh rides, kid's activities, exhibitor tables and more will round out the weekend fun! Visit the website below for more information about WinterRaptorFest.



Friends
OF THE IBA
WWW.WINTERRAPTORFEST.COM

Fall Field Trip and Events Schedule

**Saturday, September 17
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

TogetherGreen Volunteer Work Day

Joining forces with the Lake George Association, we will be removing invasive species and planting native plants along Westbrook Creek in Lake George. Bring work gloves and your favorite tools; we will supply water, refreshments, drinks. Free raffle tickets for t-shirts and Audubon backpacks to all who show up to work!!

Meet at the corner of Westbrook Road and Beach Road.

(There is room for parking on Westbrook Road.)
For more information, call 792-6846 or 668-3553.

**Saturday, September 17 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Raptor Awareness Day – Crandall Park**

Features Live Birds of Prey programs by Adirondack Wildlife Refuge & Rehab Center, The Wildlife Institute of Eastern New York and North Country Wild Care. Exhibitors/vendors highlight natural and agricultural resources of Washington County Grasslands region; co-sponsored by Washington County Tourism Association.

Friday, October 7 9 a.m.

Monthly Walk at the Betar Byway

Birding walks led by members of Southern Adirondack Audubon will be held the first Friday of every month at 9 a.m. We will meet at the gazebo near the parking lot at the end of First Street in South Glens Falls. In case of inclement weather, please call Pat Walters at 932-3320.

Saturday, October 8 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.



Native Animals, Ecology, and Animal Tracking Workshop

Vince Walsh of Kawing Crow Awareness Center and Southern Adirondack Audubon Society will be holding a workshop focusing on North East native animals, ecology, and animal tracking on October 8 at the Kawing Crow Awareness Center in

Greenfield. The day will begin with a tour of KCAC's extensive natural history collection, including over 40 full animal mounts, skins, skulls, scats and plaster casts of tracks. We will then move outside for field time to visit different habitats and look for animal signs. **This workshop is limited to 20.**

Participants are encouraged to bring natural history items they have collected to identify and discuss. You will also need to bring your lunch and beverage and dress for the weather. Call Pat at 792-6846 to register.

Saturday, October 15 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Raptor Rapture – Live Birds of Prey New York State Museum, Albany, NY

Bird-themed Family Fun Day with Live Birds of Prey. Presentations in Carol Huxley Theater, about birds and their habitat such as: "How Birds Migrate", "Silent Wings" a "Make & Take" craft activity and other informational displays and activities for children provided by NYS Museum Staff. This event is sponsored by Friends of the IBA and co-sponsored by NYS Museum.

Friday, November 4 9 a.m.

Monthly Walk at the Betar Byway

Birding walks led by members of Southern Adirondack Audubon will be held the first Friday of every month. We will meet at 9 a.m. at the gazebo near the parking lot at the end of First Street in South Glens Falls. In case of inclement weather, please call Pat Walters at 932-3320.

Two Important Recycling Programs in Our Area

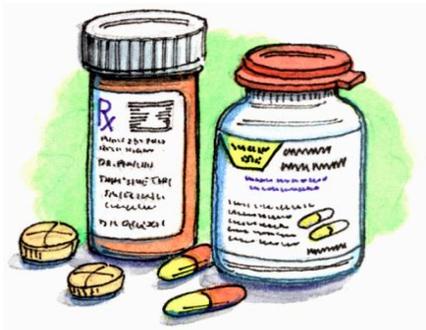
We now have local solutions to two nagging disposal problems - unused medications and outdated electronics.

Safe Medication Disposal

The local Walgreens pharmacy participates in the Sharps, Inc. TakeAway[®] Unused Medication Environmental Return System. This is a mouthful of a name for a simple process; you simply purchase an 8x11 postage-paid envelope for \$3.99, fill it with your unused medications (controlled substances excluded), and mail it! This is a great way to dispose of unused over-the-counter and prescription medications in an environmentally safe manner. The disposal is done in a licensed facility in Texas, and is strictly monitored for compliance. An e-mail to Hannaford confirmed that they will be participating in this program soon, as well.

E-cycle your E-waste!

E-waste is the fastest growing waste stream in this country as these machines become an ever-increasing part of our lives. Desktop computers and laptops, tablets, gaming and audio devices, cell phones, TVs - the list is endless. Best Buy stores have a recycling program in place that allows you to drop off unused items, regardless of origin or brand, for safe disposal. They make sure their recycling partners adhere to strict standards, and that waste is handled responsibly so that it does not end up in foreign countries or domestic landfills. More information and a list of all products that may be taken to local stores are available on the Best Buy website.



Mona Bearor

SPECIAL THANKS

The board of Southern Adirondack Audubon Society would like to extend a sincere thank you to all who responded so generously to our recent letter of appeal.

<i>Dick Bartlett</i>	<i>Jeannine Bovard</i>
<i>John Caffry</i>	<i>Ruth Goldman</i>
<i>Brendan Hathaway</i>	<i>Ed and Margot Hyde</i>
<i>Todd Jorgensen</i>	<i>Ruth & Sandy Lamb</i>
<i>Bernice Mennis</i>	<i>Joyce Miller</i>
<i>Peter & Linda Miles</i>	<i>Charlotte Mott</i>
<i>Faith E. Parker</i>	<i>Leeanne & Gary Raga</i>
<i>Jim Ries</i>	<i>Joan Robertson</i>
<i>Harold & Carol Shippey</i>	<i>Frank Sollosy</i>
<i>Dick & Sally Spitzer</i>	<i>Virginia Vogel</i>
<i>Don & Earla Woodworth</i>	<i>Ethel Wynn</i>
<i>Marilyn Zaborek</i>	

We would also like to thank Don Polunci and Gordie Ellmers for donating their photography during this appeal.

* * * * *

SAAS Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

Friday, September 23	10:00 a.m. ó 12:00 p.m.
Friday, October 21	10:00 a.m. ó 12:00 p.m.
Friday, November 18	10:00 a.m. ó 12:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at Crandall Library and are open to the public.

Interested members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

LOONS IN TROUBLE

Earlier this summer, while boating on beautiful Lake Abanakee, my husband Don encountered several Common Loons swimming at the west end of the lake. Luckily, he had his camera, and was able to get some great photographs of the loons. Don noticed that one loon appeared to be distressed, as it was shaking its head violently. Upon closer inspection, he discovered that the loon had fishing line wrapped around its beak.

Don notified Dr. Nina Schoch, Wildlife Veterinarian, who coordinates the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation. He also contacted Ben Tabor, NYS DEC Region 5 Wildlife Technician. Photos of the bird were sent to both parties. A team of six people searched for the loon for two days and one night. They successfully captured the bird and removed the fishing line and hook.

One of the greatest threats to the safety and health of our waterfowl is fishing line and tackle carelessly discarded by anglers. Fishing line can take 600 years to decompose. Line wrapped around the beak of a loon or other bird can result in an inability to swallow, resulting in death by strangulation or starvation. If caught around legs or wings, it causes a tourniquet effect and loss of limbs. The bird is unable to fly or defend itself from predators. Often, by the time these birds are caught, they are too ill to recover.



Photo by Don Polunci

How can we help?

If you see a loon in trouble, notify Dr. Nina Schoch (nina.schoch@briloon.org), or North Country Wild Care (518 964-6740) for more information. **Do not attempt to capture the bird.**

Other ways you can help:

- Volunteer for clean up at streams or beaches, and pick up any monofilament fishing line improperly discarded.
- Begin a fishing line recycling program. Erect PVC pipes, mounted vertically, with the entrances covered, to hold fishing line. See photo. Go to www.fishinglinerecycling.org for more information.
- Print and display posters in areas where people fish. Go to www.helpwildlife.com for poster information.

Nan Polunci



Project FeederWatch



Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. FeederWatchers periodically count the birds they see at their feeders from November through early April and send their counts to Project FeederWatch. FeederWatch data help scientists track broad scale

movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. Anyone with an interest in birds can participate. FeederWatch is conducted by people of all skill levels and backgrounds, including children, families, individuals, classrooms, retired persons, youth groups, nature centers, and bird clubs. All you need to do is pick a site (like your backyard) and count birds that appear in your count site because of something that you have provided (plantings, food, or water). For each species, you will report only the highest number of individuals that you see *in view at one time*. By following this procedure, you are certain to avoid counting the same bird more than once. Then, select your own bird-count days--two consecutive days once every two weeks (or every week if you enter data online and you choose to count that often). Count during all or part of those days. You will report your bird counts to scientists at the Lab of Ornithology either over our web site or on paper data forms. There is a \$15 annual participation fee (\$12 for Lab members), which covers materials, staff support, web design, data analysis, and a year-end report (*Winter Bird Highlights*). Participation fees support project FeederWatch almost entirely. Without the support of participants, this project would not be possible. Participants receive a Research Kit, which contains instructions, a bird identification poster, a wall calendar, a resource guide to bird feeding, and a tally sheet—everything you need to start counting your birds. U.S. participants receive a subscription to the Lab of Ornithology's newsletter, *BirdScope*. You can find more information about Project FeederWatch at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/>.



Membership Corner

By Majken Sellar

Welcome to new chapter supporters!

As of September 1, we have 110 chapter supporters. Our most recent new chapter supporters are:

Diane Collins
Scott Florence
Cori Christensen
John Cordes
Suzanne Usher

Glens Falls
Middle Grove
Ballston Spa
Glens Falls
Queensbury

Membership runs from January through December. We will be sending out renewal notices at the end of the year. In order to save on postage we send only one notice.

Annual dues of \$10.00 may be sent to:
Majken Sellar, 9 Allen Rd. Ext., Argyle, NY 12809

New chapter supporters who attend a public program, or go on a chapter-sponsored field trip can take advantage of a special offer of one-year membership for \$5.00. Checks or money orders should be made out to SAAS.



Join Us On

facebook

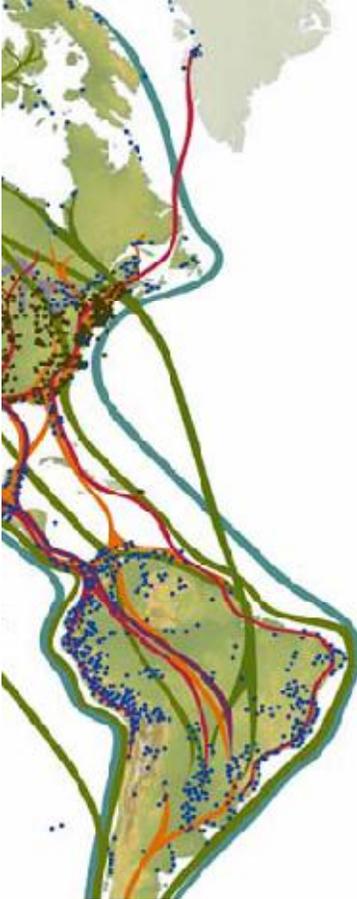
Now you can
visit us on
Facebook!

Let us know what birds you are seeing, ask questions about birds you see, or activities you are interested in.

Special thanks to Lindsey Duval for setting up our Facebook page.

Atlantic Flyway Initiative

The Atlantic Flyway is a super highway in the sky! From South America to Canada, it handles hundreds of species of birds and millions of individual birds during any single migration season. The heaviest traffic is at night, and rush hour can last for weeks.



There are literally tens of thousands of exits and rest stops along the Flyway, all leading to the same thing: natural habitat that suits the needs of specific species for refueling or breeding. In the United States, on the eastern seaboard, human populations are dense. We compete with birds for space in almost every possible type of habitat required by a startling diversity of bird species.

Audubon is facing and solving the threats and challenges of habitat destruction, pollution, climate change, and population growth with ***the Atlantic Flyway Initiative (AFI)***. The

AFI is a strategic conservation initiative that targets specific bird habitats within our forests, salt marshes, barrier islands and on coastal beaches. A variety of innovative strategies and tools can be used to protect habitat, such as working with landowners both public and private, restoring the high marsh in coastal wetlands, initiating social marketing campaigns to change human behavior in beach communities, and doing the bulk of the work within existing critical habitat identified as Important Bird Areas. In these ways, we can meet the challenges facing our birdlife and their habitats.

Audubon is responding with a unique multi-state effort that will draw on the grassroots power of its Chapters, local Centers and integrated science, education and advocacy programs to safeguard the forest, grassland, coastal, and salt marsh habitats of the Flyway. I hope you will agree that Southern Adirondack Audubon should be a part of this important initiative. With the Fort Edwards Grasslands IBA in our chapter area and

the migratory birds that go through on their way to their breeding grounds, we have the perfect opportunity to be part of the larger picture of birding. More information about how we can participate will become available as National Audubon and Audubon New York lead us forward in this initiative.

* * * * *

Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in volunteering with SAAS, the following opportunities are available:

- Helping to install Bluebird boxes at Hudson Pointe,
- Accompanying SAAS monitor to check Bluebird boxes in Hudson Falls,
- Walking the SAAS trail steward at Moreau Lake State Park to walk a trail, pick up trash, and report trail conditions,
- Assisting in grant-writing to raise monies for various conservation and educational projects,
- Making a basket for our monthly raffle, and
- Monitoring the winter raptors in the Fort Edwards Grasslands IBA with SAAS chapter members.

For more information about any of these volunteer activities, call Pat Fitzgerald at 792-6846.



Photo by Gordie Ellmers

The Fledgling

79 Laurel Lane
Queensbury, NY 12804



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
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Glens Falls, NY
Permit No.81

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SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK AUDUBON SOCIETY

President	Pat Fitzgerald	518-792-6846
Vice-President	OPEN	
Secretary	Linda Hoyt	518-494-2380
Treasurer	Virginia Vogel	518-584-3936
Newsletter Editor	OPEN	
Education	Linda White	518-792-4446
Publicity	Carol Moyer	518-793-1960
Conservation	Jason Goldsmith	518-480-4243
Membership	Majken Sellar	518-638-8867
Website	www.southernadirondackaudubon.org	
Email SAAS:	audubon@netheaven.com	

DIRECTORS

2008-2011

Linda Hoyt	494-2380
Linda White	792-4446
Pat Walters	932-3320

2009-2012

Carol Moyer	793-1960
Jason Goldsmith	480-4243

2010-2013

Pat Fitzgerald	792-6846
Ginny Vogel	584-3936

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

National membership in the Audubon Society includes the magazine, *Audubon*, and the SAAS newsletter, *The Fledgling*. The cost is \$20 annually for regular membership and \$15 for seniors and students. Make checks payable to "National Audubon Society," and send with name, address, and phone number to the address listed below. Membership as a "Chapter Supporter" is \$10 annually and includes *The Fledgling* and all chapter activities. Make check payable to "Southern Adirondack Audubon Society" and send with name, address, and phone number to:
Majken Sellar, 9 Allen Rd. Ext., Argyle, NY 12809

Newsletter Submission Policy: We welcome submissions to *The Fledgling*. Please email your articles to Audubon@netheaven.com, and include your name and contact information. We reserve the right to edit as necessary.