



# The Fledgling

Newsletter of the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, Inc.  
[www.southernadirondackaudubon.org](http://www.southernadirondackaudubon.org)

Vol. 30 No. 4 June 2013 – August 2013

## President's Message

There has been a lot of activity for Southern Adirondack Audubon in recent months. At the Audubon New York Spring Council, held at the Gideon Putnam in Saratoga Springs, we were commended for making fishing line containers available. Several other Audubon Chapters showed interest in the containers so information about building the containers was distributed. Although we find a bit of trash in our containers, we continue to take wads of fishing line out of them. Each time we do, I think of the waterfowl that could have been caught in the line, and am grateful to the fishing community for using these containers properly. Southern Adirondack Board members also led a walk at Moreau Lake State Park for the participants of Spring Council. The snowfall before the walk did not help us sight many bird species, but the walk introduced Audubon leaders from all over the State to the beauty of the park.

On June 1, Southern Adirondack Audubon participated in Wilton Wildlife Preserve's Festival. We helped children make bird feeders, gave out information about Audubon and birding, and signed up new chapter supporters. There were live bird presentations, activities for children, and educational information from other local environmental organizations.

If you haven't visited our website recently, take a look at the new format. Many thanks to Mona Bearor for her work in taking it to a new level and for her many years of service as our webmaster.

Continuing our annual tradition, we will have a potluck supper night on June 26. This is a time to socialize with members and directors before the final program of the year. We continue to offer bird walks and nature walks throughout the summer. I hope you will join us.

*Pat Fitzgerald*  
President

**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, June 26 - 7 p.m.**

**"Thailand - Birding, Buddhas, and the Bangkok to Burma Railroad"  
with Gregg Recer**

*This is our potluck supper night. If you would like to join us, come at 6 p.m. and bring a food item to share. Please bring your own silverware and plates. We will provide cups, napkins, and cold beverages.*

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**July and August**

**No Public Programs.**

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**Wednesday, September 25 7 p.m.**

**"Birding Trinidad and Tobago"  
with Joyce Miller**

## *Conservation News*

### **NY State Passes 2013-2014 Budget: \$19 Million Increase to the Environmental Protection Fund**

After years of flat or reduced funding, the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) was increased by \$19 million to \$153 million with the approval of the New York State 2013-2014 budget. SAAS, along with other Audubon chapters and environmental groups from across the state, has been pushing for the last decade to increase this critical source of funds that provides benefits to every resident across the state.

The EPF provides funding for local and state parks, beaches, and zoos. It helps preserve open space, including forests and farms, and combats invasive species. It also provides assistance to communities and businesses for storm resilience, recycling programs, water quality protection, and pollution prevention. While economic times are tough, the EPF has proven repeatedly to be a smart investment. EPF programs deliver a \$7 return for every \$1 invested while improving the quality of life for all New Yorkers.

SAAS thanks its many members who have spent so much time over the years writing letters, calling their representatives, and meeting officials, informing them of the importance of the EPF and urging them to increase the fund.

*Jason Goldsmith*

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### *Southern Adirondack Audubon Hosts North Country Wild Care*



(Photo by Ken Beckley)

Dave Larrow, a wildlife rehabilitator with North Country Wild Care, spoke at our May program. North Country Wild Care was formed in 2001 to support licensed wildlife rehabilitators in the care of orphaned and injured wildlife, to encourage and foster the education and training of wildlife rehabilitators, to educate the public about wildlife rehabilitators, and to encourage and foster local wildlife research. Dave gave an animated program with the help of his Red-tailed Hawk and a beautiful Great-horned Owl. Both birds are injured and are not able to be released into the wild. Dave not only rehabilitates birds, but also has cared for and released raccoons, squirrels, turtles, deer, and numerous other critters. He averages 300 animals per year. His main goal is to nurture the animals back to health and release them to the wild.

He stressed that the animals he takes in are not pets; he does not name them. Many times the animals are in need of the medical care of a veterinarian. Because the rehabilitators are volunteers, they are always in need of items to help with the care of the injured animals. Southern Adirondack Audubon asked members attending the program to bring an item from North Country Wild Care's wish list to help Dave and his work. As expected, the donations began pouring in. If you were not able to come to the program, but would like to make a donation to North Country Wild Care, you can find their wish list on their website:

<http://northcountrywildcare.org/wish.htm>

## Summer Field Trips

**Saturday, June 29 – 8:30 a.m.**

**Five Combines Feeder Canal Park**

Leader: Jim Ries 792-4477 (jimries@roadrunner.com)

*Joint trip with Hudson Mohawk Bird Club*

We will walk the bike trail for about 2 miles along the Five Combines and Feeder Canal. The habitat ranges from field edges to wetland areas to stands of tall hardwood trees and should provide for some great birding. Meet at the Five Combines Feeder Canal parking lot off Burgoyne Avenue.

Directions: From Northway Exit 17 turn north on Rt. 9, travel about one mile to Rt. 197 (Reynolds Rd.), turn right and travel five miles into Ft. Edward. Turn left onto Rt. 4, drive one-half mile, then take a right turn on Maple Avenue just past Ft. Edward Elementary School. Bear left onto Burgoyne Avenue and travel about one and one-half miles to the parking lot, just past Jones Avenue, on the right.

**Friday, July 5 – 8 a.m.**

**Monthly Walk at the Betar Byway**

Birding walks, led by members of Southern Adirondack Audubon, are scheduled on the first Friday of every month, weather permitting. Each will last about one and a half hours. Meet at 8 a.m. at the gazebo near the parking lot at the end of First Street in South Glens Falls. This is a leisurely, easy walk. Call Pat @ 792-6846 for more information. No registration required.

**Saturday, July 13 – 7:30 a.m.**

**Birding the Towpath Rd.**

Leader: Mona Bearor 518-745-8637

(conservebirds@gmail.com)

Mid-summer can be a difficult time to find good birding - not so with the Towpath Rd. out of Hudson Falls. Over 60 species have been recorded on this one road in the months of July and August! We will drive the 4-mile length of this road, stopping intermittently to listen and observe. Carpooling is a must, as in many spots there is not enough room for cars to pull off. Bring a drink and a snack as we may be out for several hours. The trip is limited to 9, and you must register by calling or emailing the trip leader, at which time you will be informed of the meeting place.

**Friday, August 2 – 8 a.m.**

**Monthly Walk at the Betar Byway**

Birding walks, led by members of Southern Adirondack Audubon, are scheduled on the first Friday of every month, weather permitting. Each will last about one and a half hours. Meet at 8 a.m. at the gazebo near the parking lot at the end of First Street in South Glens Falls. This is a leisurely, easy walk. Call Pat @ 792-6846 for more information. No registration required.

**Friday, September 6 – 8 a.m.**

**Monthly Walk at the Betar Byway**

Birding walks, led by members of Southern Adirondack Audubon, are scheduled on the first Friday of every month, weather permitting. Each will last about one and a half hours. Meet at 8 a.m. at the gazebo near the parking lot at the end of First Street in South Glens Falls. This is a leisurely, easy walk. Call Pat @ 792-6846 for more information. No registration required.



## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - 2012 Correction

CBC Correction – The CBC report from South Glens Falls was inadvertently omitted from the results printed in the March issue of *The Fledgling*. Birders Wally Elton and Joanne Bennett spent 4 hours searching the South Glens Falls streets and reported 23 species with a total of 366 individual birds. Most importantly, they found three White-throated Sparrows, bringing the total number of species submitted by the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society count to 55, and the total number of individual birds to 10,090. Many thanks to Wally Elton for bringing this oversight to our attention. For more information on Christmas Bird Counts, including online reports for many years for all the circles (SAAS CBC Circle Code is NYHF) check out the CBC website: <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/>

## Hummingbird Feeders



You may not have seen any yet, but the hummingbirds are back. Attracting them is easily done. Put up a hummingbird feeder and fill it with a solution of sugar water that you can make with 1 cup of water and ¼ cup of sugar. This mixture most closely approximates the sugar content of the nectar of the flowers favored by the hummingbirds. Be sure to clean your feeder frequently. In addition to feeders, you can plant flowers that attract these birds. For more information about which flowers to plant, visit the website: <http://www.hummingbirds.net/attract.html>.

## From the Membership Desk



Of our 493 total members, 92 are Chapter Supporters - our most valuable category of membership as the entire \$10 annual dues remains within the chapter area. We are pleased to welcome nine new Chapter Supporters since the last newsletter. They are:

Heidi Karkoski - Fort. Ticonderoga  
Joy Keithline - Fort Ann  
Eric Krantz - Lake George  
John Loz - Albany  
Bernice Mennis - Fort Ann  
Stephen Nichols - Fort. Edward  
Elsie & John Olson - Cambridge  
Heidi Ono - Queensbury  
Jeanne Polunci - Queensbury  
Edna VanDorsten - Bolton Landing  
Karen Fallas - Lake George

Gift memberships in SAAS are available for family or friends that would enjoy our newsletter or appreciate having a schedule of monthly programs and field trips. We will send an appropriate card to announce your gift. For more information, or to order a gift membership, contact Mona Bearor. Mona may be reached at 518-745-8637 or by email: [audubon@netheaven.org](mailto:audubon@netheaven.org)

### Volunteers Needed

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

- Joining the trail steward program at Moreau Lake State Park with SAAS volunteers to walk a trail, pick up trash, and report trail conditions,
- Assisting in grant-writing to raise monies for various conservation and educational projects, or
- Making a basket for our monthly raffle.

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

## *A "Wild" Ride at the Great Escape*

In mid-April, our chapter was notified that a pair of Osprey was attempting to nest at the Great Escape theme park. The pair had chosen to nest on the outstretched wings of the huge bird atop the Condor Ride! At first thought it is rather comical, however, raptors nesting in any theme park is not a good idea. Hazards to the birds would be numerous, and hazards to humans from falling nest debris could be equally disastrous.



Although the nest material was removed more than once, and fencing wire was placed to discourage the birds from rebuilding, the birds persisted. New York State DEC was notified, and they met with park officials, making suggestions that might discourage the birds from that particular location. Vertical structures with Mylar strips were used, as was a sprinkler device that spewed a constant spray of water. There is good nesting habitat on Great Escape property, as well as in the Rush Pond marsh, and SAAS offered to partner with either the park or the town of Queensbury to erect a nesting platform for the birds in hopes of luring them to a more suitable area. SAAS member, Mark Cronin, generously donated materials for a nesting platform, and together with Don Polunci, a platform was completed. As of this writing, DEC

is sourcing a pole and negotiating the location of the nest site with park officials. The birds have not been seen for several days and we hope they have moved to a more appropriate location. If we find that they have nested elsewhere, the platform will not go to waste; there are many locations within the SAAS chapter area that would support nesting Osprey, and we will erect it at another site. Kudos to Mark Cronin for the above photo, for his very generous donation of materials, and to both Mark and Don for their carpentry skills.

*-Mona Bearor*

### **SAAS Board of Directors Meeting Schedule**

Sunday, June 23 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
at Crandall Library

Meetings are open to the public.  
Interested members are welcome and  
encouraged to attend.

The board does not meet in July and August.

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79 Laurel Lane  
Queensbury, NY 12804



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## SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK AUDUBON SOCIETY

President	Pat Fitzgerald	518-792-6846
Vice-President	OPEN	
Secretary	Linda Hoyt	518-494-2380
Treasurer	Mona Bearor	518-745-8637
Newsletter Editor	OPEN	
Education		518-792-4446
Publicity	Carol Moyer	518-793-1960
Conservation	Jason Goldsmith	518-480-4243
Membership	Majken Sellar	518-638-8867
Website	<a href="http://www.southernadirondackaudubon.org">www.southernadirondackaudubon.org</a>	
Email SAAS:	audubon@netheaven.com	

## DIRECTORS

**2010-2013**  
Jim Campinell  
Pat Fitzgerald  
Jim Ries  
**2011-2014**  
Barbara Beatty  
Linda Hoyt  
Sue Pierce  
**2012-2014**  
Jason Goldsmith  
Joyce Miller  
Carol Moyer

## 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:  
Mona Bearor, 4 Windy Lane, South Glens Falls, NY 12803

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