



The Fledgling

Newsletter of the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, Inc.

Vol. 32 No. 3, March - May 2015

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

This newsletter is in color online!

Christmas Bird Count reports

By Linda White,
SAAS CBC Compiler

The 115th Christmas Bird Count for the Hudson Falls Circle took place on December 14, 2014. The weather cooperated for a rewarding and fun day of birding. Volunteers put in a total of 161 hours, traveled 398 miles by car, and hiked 3.5 miles to count each and every bird in their territory. This count had three first time sightings: Double-crested Cormorant, Surf Scoter and Lark Sparrow.

The Lark Sparrow was spotted in Ft. Edward by Jeannette Roundy who, fortunately, was able to video this rare bird. A form for rare bird sightings will be completed and submitted to Audubon with Jeannette's video. After this documentation is reviewed and verified, credit for that species will be given. Dr. Gordon Ellmers reported seeing a Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher off of Clark Road prior to the count. Unfortunately this was out of our circle and just out of

Continued on page 6

Costa Rican birds, thru-hiking and big cats featured in spring talks

This spring's monthly program talks will cover hummingbird banding in Costa Rica, thru-hiking the long-distance Pacific Crest Trail and the biology of the big cat species in the Adirondacks. The Southern Adirondack Audubon Society's monthly programs are held in the Christine L. McDonald Community Room on the lower level of Crandall Library in downtown Glens Falls. Programs start at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Pat Fitzgerald, president of Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, will present a photographic slide show, "Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and Other Birds of Costa Rica" on **March 25**. Pat spent two weeks in Costa Rica in November. This Central American country, a leader in conservation, is considered a birder's paradise.



Pat Fitzgerald snapped this photo of a Chestnut-mandibled Toucan in Costa Rica.

More than 25% of Costa Rica's land is protected, resulting in unspoiled territory for almost 900 resident and migrant bird species including more than 50 kinds of hummingbirds.

Fitzgerald became a partner in science the first week by assisting with the capture and banding of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and other North American migrants. She then spent a week at Selva Verde Lodge and Rainforest Reserve, located in the lush lowlands of northeastern Costa Rica. The lodge is designed to have a minimum impact on the environment, and participates in the Certification for Sustainable Tourism program. The avifauna of Selva Verde is abundant, and the feeding

stations facilitate observation and identification of the many species that frequent the area. She then visited an organic, shade-grown coffee farm, dedicated to producing the finest coffee, while protecting and preserving the native flora and fauna.

Continued on page 3



Spring Programs
Page 1-3-5

Spring Field Trips
Page 7

Winter Raptor Fest
Page 8

Southern Adirondack Audubon Society Board and Committees

<http://www.southernadirondackaudubon.org>

Email: info@southernadirondackaudubon.org

Officers:

President: Pat Fitzgerald (518-792-6846;
fitzgeraldsaas@yahoo.com)
Vice-President: OPEN
Secretary: Linda Hoyt (518-494-2380)
Treasurer: Mona Bearor (518-745-8637)

Board of Directors:

2012 - 2015	Jason Goldsmith Joyce Miller Carol Moyer
2013 - 2016	Jim Campinell Pat Fitzgerald Jim Ries
2014 - 2017	Barbara Beatty Linda Hoyt

Board meetings are held monthly. Members are invited to attend. Contact Pat Fitzgerald for details.

Committees:

Newsletter: Joyce Miller (editor@southernadirondackaudubon.org)
Education: Mona Bearor (518-745-8637)
Publicity: Carol Moyer (518-793-1960)
Conservation: Jason Goldsmith (518-480-4243)

Southern Adirondack Audubon Society (SAAS) is a certified local chapter of the National Audubon Society. The organization's primary goal is to protect the environment by preserving natural habitats and promoting environmental education. The group has more than 450 members in Warren, Washington, and northern Saratoga counties in New York State.

Board meetings scheduled

SAAS board meetings are held at Crandall Library in downtown Glens Falls and are open to the public. Spring meeting dates are scheduled from 3 to 5 p.m. on these Sundays:

- **March 22**
- **April 19**
- **May 24**

We welcome interested members. Please join us and help your chapter thrive!

President's Message:

SAAS supports petition to add prison land to park

By Pat Fitzgerald, SAAS President

In late December, Saratoga Plan collaborated with Change.org to start a petition asking Governor Cuomo to transfer the management of the lands surrounding the now-closed McGregor Prison to the Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation to expand Moreau Lake State Park.

Supporters of the petition saw this as an opportunity to preserve the land for future generations. Shortly after the petition was circulated on the Internet and Facebook, more than 1000 signatures were gathered. I then placed the same petition on National Audubon's website, and 150 more signatures were added.

Recently, with petitions in hand, a coalition of interested groups, including Saratoga Plan, Open Space Initiative, Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, Audubon New York, and local members of the New York State Assembly met with representatives from the Governor's office. The purpose of the meeting was to present the petitions and to discuss the feasibility of adding the lands to the Moreau Lake State Park.

Although no direct answer was given or date set for transferring the lands, the meeting was very positive with everyone agreeing that this would be a good step in protecting habitat and increasing open space in a growing and developing area.

Now that spring is in sight, our field trips at the Betar Byway and other birding sites around the area will begin. We will be hosting a table at the Winter Raptor Fest, in Fort Edward, on March 28 and also at local Farmers' Markets throughout the summer. Stop by and let us know what birds you are seeing, and pick up some information about invasive species, gardening for wildlife, and other topics.

Conservation News:

Fort Edward updates Master Plan

By Jason Goldsmith, SAAS Conservation Chair

The town of Ft. Edward is in the process of updating its master plan. This document acts as a guide for future land use decisions and will have a significant impact on the future of the Washington County Grasslands Important Bird Area (IBA). The master plan influences zoning regulations, development requirements, and open space conservation among other things. SAAS will be working to make sure that the IBA is one of the priorities in this document. If you'd like to help, contact Jason at adk_wild_jay@yahoo.com.



Left, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird is ready for its close-up in Costa Rica.
Photo: Pat Fitzgerald

the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in South Carolina, and monitoring federal lands in Texas for the Golden-cheeked Warbler and the Black-capped Vireo. She is especially interested in monitoring bird species that are endangered or have threatened habitats.

Pat Fitzgerald earned a B.A and an M.S. in Math and Statistics at SUNY Albany and an MS in Environmental Science at the University of Texas - San Antonio. Before retiring, she was a high school math teacher, a school administrator, a psychometrician, and a ranger at Yosemite National Park in California.

Spring programs

Continued from page 1

Fitzgerald has been president of Southern Adirondack Audubon Society since 2010. She has participated in many birding research programs including the Maui Parrotbill Recovery Program in Hawaii, the search for

Steve Mackey will discuss **“Thru-hiking the Pacific Crest Trail”** on **Wednesday, April 22**. Over 2600 miles long and traversing California, Oregon and Washington, the PCT crosses over 57 major mountain passes.

Mackey will describe his five-month hike in 2014 from the town of Campo on the U.S.-Mexican border to the end at the U.S.-Canadian border near Manning Provincial Park. “Thru-hiking” is the term for hiking a long-distance trail from end to end.

Steve Mackey is the owner of the Luzerne Market. He majored in Forestry at Paul Smith’s College and the State University College of Forestry at Syracuse University. He is an Adirondack 46’er and a Winter Adirondack 46’er. He also thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail in 2009, hiked the John Muir Trail in 2011, and bicycled across the US in 2012.

Wildlife biologist Paul G. Jensen will present a talk on **“Big Cats of the Adirondacks”** on **Wednesday, May 27** at 7 p.m.

The program is cosponsored by the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society and Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club.

Jensen will talk about the biology, management and current and historical populations and distribution of the Canada lynx, bobcat and mountain lion in New York and the Northeast, and how these species may fare in the future.

Continued on page 5

Steve Mackey pauses at a dramatic overlook along the scenic Pacific Coast Trail.



Species Spotlight

Red-winged Blackbird

By Joyce Miller, Newsletter Editor

The exuberant *conk-a-reeee* call of the male Red-winged Blackbird is always a welcomed sound of spring. This abundant bird can be found in fields and marshy areas. In our area, they are most often seen from early March to November.

The male's flashy red epaulets are edged in yellow, and can be covered or puffed out in display. Males will aggressively attack and chase away hawks, horses and even people that trespass into their territory. The female Red-wing looks very different from the black-and-red male. She has light eyebrow streaks, thick brown streaks on her buffy body, a buffy-orange throat, and the tell-tale sharp, cone-shaped blackbird bill. She skulks in the cattails instead of singing from a high perch like the loud male. She responds to the male with a *chuck* call. Genetic testing of offspring has discovered that the males and females are rarely monogamous.

Red-winged Blackbirds eat insects, seeds and grain. The species will winter as far south as Central America and breed as far north as northern Canada. Red-wings will join other birds such as grackles and starlings to form colossal winter flocks, sometimes numbering in the millions. Banded Red-wings have been recaptured that were more than 15 years old.



Don Polunci caught this male Red-winged Blackbird in mid-"Conk-a-ree." For more: about this species, see [http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-winged Blackbird/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-winged%20Blackbird/id)

Birding by the Month

Spring birds arriving

By Mona Bearor, Education Chair

Look for birds returning from the south, and other species departing for nesting territory in the north.

March

- Waterfowl are on the move. Check open water for unusual species - including that elusive Cackling Goose.
- Red-winged Blackbirds are everywhere. Enjoy watching their behavior as the males fight for the best territory and show off for the females.
- Wintering birds will leave our area soon. Travel the Fort Edward IBA (Important Bird Area) for a last look at Rough-legged Hawks, Short-eared Owls, Snowy Owls and Northern Shrikes.

April

- Osprey return; keep an eye on the nest on Route 4 south of Fort Edward - but don't get too close!
- The well-camouflaged Wilson's Snipe can be found in wet areas of open fields. American Woodcock will be displaying at dusk.
- The first warbler species return: watch for Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Palm, Pine and Louisiana Waterthrush.

May

- The Spring chorus is at its peak. Take time to listen to the incredible variety of birdsong at dawn.
- Many species of flycatchers and vireos are heard in all types of habitat. Try to get a good view before the leaves obscure them. Learn their songs so you can identify them when they are hidden.
- May is warbler heaven. There have been 32 species recorded in our chapter area - can you find them all?



This breathtaking scene along the Pacific Coast Trail was photographed by Steve Mackey during his 2,600 mile thru-hike in 2014.

Spring programs

Continued from page 3

Jensen is a Senior Wildlife Biologist for the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources at the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation office in Warrensburg. His responsibilities include furbearer management and research as well as wildlife management planning for Adirondack Forest Preserve units (e.g., Wilderness Areas and Wild Forest) in NYSDEC Region 5. He earned a Ph.D. in 2013 from the Department of Natural Resource Sciences at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. His doctoral research focused on the ecology and management of American martens (*Martes americana*) in the Adirondack Park.

Before joining the DEC in 2003, Jensen worked in Alaska monitoring caribou and other large mammals on the Arctic Coastal Plain and con-

ducted research with the New York Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Cornell University. He received his M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of New Hampshire and B.S. in Environmental Biology from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Please avoid wearing fragranced products to the program. Fragranced products trigger allergies, asthma and migraines in others attending the event.

Watch owlets grow on new web cams

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Bird Cams website now offers a new live camera, featuring a pair of nesting Great Horned Owls on Skidaway Island in Savannah, Georgia.

The owls took over a Bald Eagle nest in a tree 80 feet above a salt marsh. Two chicks hatched in early February. The female has been seen snacking on leftover Clapper Rail, tending to the chicks, as well as hissing and snapping her bill as American Crows caw nearby.

Go to <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/> > Bird Cams. Other webcams feature the nests of Red-tailed Hawks, Laysan Albatross, Great Blue Herons and Barn Owls.

In May, Paul Jensen will talk about big cats such as this Bobcat. (Photo: Alan Vernon, Creative Commons, 2004.)



Membership update

Currently, 460 members of National Audubon live in our chapter area. Many of our 138 chapter supporters belong to National Audubon Society and also financially support our local efforts of conservation and education. Chapter supporter dues are the main support for our chapter activities. Gift memberships are available, and will be announced with an appropriate card at your request. Our newest chapter supporters are:

Kathleen Crotty	Fort Ann
Louis Palmer	Fort Ann
Paul Farhart	Glens Falls
John Racoppi	Warrensburg
John Strough	Queensbury
Janet Chapman	Saratoga
Denise Wells	Queensbury

Renewal notices were sent out in January. We are grateful for all who renewed their chapter supporter membership, and to these members who included an additional donation for our chapter operating expenses.

Ryan G. Aleva
Richard Bartlett
Barbara Beatty
Carol Blackwell
Kathleen Bond
Rosamund Butler
Janet Chapman
Barbara Cloran
Kathleen Crotty
Gordon Ellmers
Charles Farrar
Nancy Forgette
Elizabeth Gee
Christine Germain
Bruce Goodale
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Don & Nancy Polunci
Jeanne Polunci
Leeanne & Gary Raga
John Reber
Elizabeth A. Schukis
Joan & Robert Stevens
James Underwood
Janice Winchip

Thanks to Donors

By Nan Polunci, SAAS Member

The Southern Adirondack Audubon Society Board extends a sincere "thank you!" to all who responded so generously to our letter of appeal:

Virginia Vogel
Ruth Goldman
William Davidson
John Freeman
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Countryman
Edward and Margot Hyde
Ruth Blaney
Bernice Mennis
Leeanne and Gary Raga
Chuck Farrar
Eric Krantz
Rosamond Butler
Pat Fitzgerald
Mona Bearor
Donald Woodworth
Laura M. Avent
Melanie Houck
Rosemary Pusateri
Kathleen Bond
Mark and Amy Cronin
Joan Rupprecht
Brendan Hathaway
Jean Polunci
Reynold Wells
Marilyn Zaborek
Margo and Jeff Olson
John Caffry
Amy Godine
Rita and Phil McIntire
Barbara Putnam
David Hall
Deborah Gorman

Thank you also to Dr. Gordie Ellmers and Mark Cronin for donating photographs for the appeal, and to the donors who requested to remain anonymous. Their donations, although not noted, are greatly appreciated.

The Fundraising Committee thanks everyone for supporting our raffle baskets by purchasing tickets at our programs and events. Proceeds support important chapter activities such as public programs and conservation efforts. Special thanks to individuals who have donated items to our baskets and to Price Chopper and Hannaford for donations of gift certificates and products.

Christmas Count

Continued from front page

the Wilton Circle but it would have been a great addition.

This year, a total of 60 species were seen, breaking our count record. Two of those species were for count week. We are allowed to count a species seen three days prior and three days after count day.

Below are the species and numbers counted, in taxonomic order:

Snow Goose 350, Canada Goose 1,436, American Black Duck 78, Mallard 331, Northern Pintail 2 (count week), Bufflehead (count week), Common Goldeneye 184, Hooded Merganser 26, Common Merganser 24, Ruffed Grouse 1, Wild Turkey 58, Common Loon 1, Bald Eagle 2, Northern Harrier 1, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Cooper's Hawk 2, Red-tailed Hawk 40, Rough-legged Hawk 5, Merlin 3, Peregrine Falcon 2, Ring-billed Gull 2, Herring Gull 3, **Cormorant 1.**

Rock Pigeon 457, Mourning Dove 444, Great Horned Owl 1, Barred Owl 1, Belted Kingfisher 3, Red-bellied Woodpecker 17, Downy Woodpecker 37, Hairy Woodpecker 15, Northern Flicker 9, Pileated Woodpecker 17, Blue Jay 268, **American Crow 2,424**, plus an estimated **20,000**, Common Raven 2, Horned Lark 88, Black-capped Chickadee 156, Tufted Titmouse 156, Red-breasted Nuthatch 2, White-breasted Nuthatch 36, Brown Creeper 1, Carolina Wren 8, Eastern Kingbird 41, American Robin 166, Northern Mockingbird 29, European Starling 1,602, Cedar Waxwing 18.

American Tree Sparrow 222, Chipping Sparrow 5, Song Sparrow 12, White-throated Sparrow 16, Dark-eyed Junco 364, **Lark Sparrow 1**, Snow Bunting 57, Northern Cardinal 144, Red-winged Blackbird 1, House Finch 23, American Goldfinch 133, House Sparrow 305, and **Surf Scoter 1.**

Yes, that was 20,000 crows! Where did they come from? Many people have observed large numbers of crows this winter but this was something we didn't expect. A veteran and very experienced birder, Terry



American Crow. (Photo: MDF, Creative Commons, 2007.)

Hall, observed a massive and continuous band of crows pass overhead in Ft. Edward from 4:20 to 4:40 p.m. He counted 100 crows every 6 seconds, and estimated 20,000 crows heading across the river going in a west – northwest direction. This phenomenon has been repeated and it would appear that the crows are roosting along the river behind the paper mills on the Glens Falls and South Glens Falls border. Mona Bearor spent countless hours tracking those crows and most likely they find some warmth in their choice of a roosting site. At daylight they take off in search of food and by late afternoon they head back to their roost.

It is only with the dedication and keen observations from our volunteers that this count was possible.

Thanks to Brad, Beth, and Nathan Bidwell, Terry Hall, Laurie LaFond, Mona Bearor, Jacquie Tinker, Lisa Balschunat, Kaitlyn Breda (a student at SUNY ESF and first time participant), Barbara and John Youker, Russ Hillard, Paul Farhart (another first time participant), Pat Fitzgerald, Sandy Meents, and Sue Seppa (also a first timer).

This is citizen science at its best and we are so fortunate to have such an amazing group.

Spring Field trips:

March 13—Register by 7 p.m. for March 14 Washington County Waterfowl field trip.

Saturday, March 14, Time TBA (morning) —Washington Country Waterfowl

Contact coordinator Mona Bearor (conservebirds@gmail.com) by 7 p.m. on March 13 to register. Joint trip with Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club. Join us as we search the Hudson for migrant waterfowl such as Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ring-necked Ducks and Mergansers. In recent years, Horned Grebe, Canvasbacks and Tundra Swans have been lifebirds for many. Meet at the Schuylerville Central School at Routes 29 and 4. The trip is limited to the first 12 who register. Contact the leader before 7 p.m. on March 13 to register and for meeting time. Dress warmly and bring a beverage/snack, your binoculars and a scope if you have one. We will carpool. Trip will end late morning. You will be contacted if the trip is cancelled due to weather.

Friday, April 3 – 9 a.m. – Monthly Walk at the Betar Byway (also on May 1 and June 5)

Birding walks led by members of Southern Adirondack Audubon are held on the first Friday of every month starting in April, weather permitting. Each will last about one and a half hours. We will meet at 9 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 at 792-6846 for more information. No registration required.

Saturday, April 25 – 8 a.m. – Bog Meadow Trail, Saratoga Springs

Join Rich Speidel in search of spring birds and waterfowl on the Bog Meadow trail, which includes an extensive boardwalk system through wetland communities: open marsh, wet meadow and forested wetland. Group size is limited, so call Rich to register: 623-2587. Rain date is Sunday, April 26.

Friday, May 1 – 9 a.m. – Monthly Birding Walk at the Betar Byway — See April 3 description.

Saturday, May 16 – 8 a.m. – Rush Pond, Queensbury

Birding walk led by Pat Fitzgerald and Jim Ries on the trails of Rush Pond in Queensbury. Easy trails along a small stream and forested woodlands to Rush Pond. Meet in the parking lot on West Mountain Road and Gurney Lane. Call Pat at 792-6846 for more information. No registration required.

Saturday, May 23 – 8 a.m. – Five Combines Feeder Canal Park

Led by Jim Ries, 792-4477 (jimries@roadrunner.com) and Carol Blackwell. We will walk the bike trail for about 2 miles along Five Combines and Feeder Canal. The habitat ranges from field edges to wetland areas to stands of tall hardwood trees and should provide for 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.

Sunday, May 24 – 8 a.m.—Hudson Crossing Park, Schuylerville

Led by Jim Ries, 792-4477 (jimries@roadrunner.com) and Carol Blackwell. Located just north of Schuylerville on Route 4, Hudson River Crossing Park is part of the Champlain Canal, Lock 5 Island. We will walk through the wooded areas along the river on the paved trails. Meet at the Lock 5 parking lot.

May 31– Deadline for Washington County Grasslands trip on June 14.

Friday, June 5 – 9 a.m. – Monthly Birding Walk at the Betar Byway — See April 3 description.

Sunday, June 14, Washington County Grasslands *Joint trip with Hudson Mohawk Bird Club and Southern Adirondack Audubon.*

Coordinators: Tom Williams 857-2176 (trwdsd@yahoo.com); Pat Fitzgerald 792-6846 (fitzgeraldsaas@yahoo.com) ** RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR THIS TRIP BY **MAY 31**. ** Washington County Grasslands State Forest Area encompasses nearly 300 acres of prime grassland habitat. The area supports almost a dozen threatened and rapidly declining grassland bird species, including Northern Harrier, Upland Sandpiper, Horned Lark, American Kestrel, Eastern Meadowlark, Sedge Wren, Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrows. A half mile trail starting just past the kiosk follows a wooded hedgerow before emerging into the open and cresting a grassy knoll. The trail end offers views of the surrounding fields, and is a great spot to watch and listen to songbirds in spring and summer. We will also visit a nearby private property that is part of the Washington County Watchable Wildlife project. There will be a limit of sixteen participants (including the coordinators) for this trip. Contact the coordinators for reservations. HMBC members: Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the CDTA Park-and-Ride at Hannaford in Latham Farms, off Erin St. in Latham. Alternatively, SAAS participants can meet at the I-87 Exit 18 Park and Ride across from UHaul at 7:15 a.m. Participants must be willing to carpool to the destination as parking there is limited.



The Fledgling
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Queensbury, NY 12804

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Winter Raptor Fest set for March 28-29

Friends of the IBA will hold its annual Winter Raptor Fest on March 28-29 at the Gallup Farm on Blackhouse Road in Fort Edward.

The event is a chance to learn more about grassland raptors such as Short-eared Owls, Northern Harriers, Bald Eagles, Ospreys, Snowy Owls, American Kestrels and more. The weekend offers live bird of prey programs, "free-flight" raptor demonstrations, horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides, children's activities, food vendors and other events. Admission: \$10 adults; \$5 for children.

Southern Adirondack Audubon Society (SAAS) will be among several participating groups. Visit us at our table for information and activities. Proceeds from the Winter Raptor Fest supports the Friends of the IBA's work to protect endangered Short-eared Owls and other at-risk birds of the Washington County Grasslands Important Bird Area (IBA) and conserve their habitat. The Washington County Grasslands is a 13,000 acre expanse of fields and meadows. See <http://www.winter-raptorfest.com/> for details.

Climate Change Conference

"Adirondack Climate Reality: 2015, Hope, Resilience, Action" will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 21 at the SUNY Plattsburgh Branch Campus building at SUNY Adirondack, Bay Road, Queensbury. Several presenters will offer information on the science, psychology and other aspects of climate change. The conference can be attended in person or online. Registration is free. For more information, see: <http://www.plattsburgh.edu/branchcampus/acc/climate.php>.

SAAS monthly programs

Programs are scheduled at 7 p.m. on these **Wednesdays** at Crandall Library, Glens Falls:

- **March 25**: "Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and Other Birds of Costa Rica" by SAAS President Pat Fitzgerald;
- **April 22**: "Thru-hiking the Pacific Crest Trail" by long-distance hiker Steve Mackey;
- **May 27**: "Big Cats of the Adirondacks" by wildlife biologist Paul G. Jensen.

See page 1 of this issue for more.