

# The Fledgling

Newsletter of the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, Inc.

Vol. 33 No. 3, March - May 2016

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

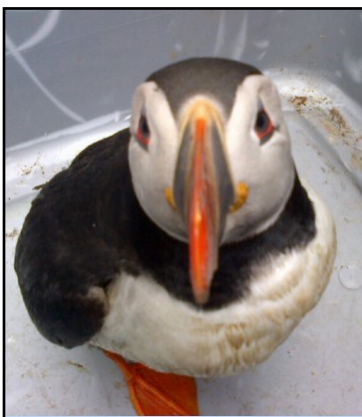
## Puffin found in Fort Ann

By Mona Bearor, Education Chair

At the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) meeting in Albany in October, I heard something I found incredible: an Atlantic Puffin was found in Washington County in 2014! Several birding friends confirmed that Dr. Jeremy Kirchman, Curator of Ornithology at the New York State Museum in Albany, told them about this bird during a behind-the-scenes tour of the ornithology research collection, which comprises nearly 20,000 bird skins, skeletons, egg sets, and frozen tissues collected over the last 150 years.

I was intrigued to hear about this. I contacted Dr. Kirchman and learned that the bird was found on a farm on South Bay Road (CR 16) in the Town of Fort Ann on May 27, 2014. N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) officer, Stephen Gonyea transported the puffin to a

*Continued on p. 2*



*The Fort Ann Puffin. (DEC file photo)*



*Steven Jay Sanford painted this image of a Yellow Warbler.*

## Spring programs: loons and more

On Wednesday, **March 23** at 7 p.m., retired wildlife ecologist and artist Steven Jay Sanford will present a slide show talk, "**Beginning Ornithology: An Introduction to the Science of Birds**" at the Saratoga Springs Public Library at 49 Henry Street in Saratoga Springs.

Steven Jay Sanford attended Cornell University. He retired in 2010 from the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation as their Chief Ecologist and was the DEC's first director of the Office of Invasive Species Coordination.

He now spends his time with his wife on his farm in South Cambridge, Washington County. His carvings and paintings reside in private collections across the United States and one museum. His work can be viewed at <http://stevenjay-sanford.com>.

Sanford prepared his bird biology program for both novice and experienced birders of all ages. Topics will include the basics of identifying birds and how to make the best of a bird feeder.

On Saturday, **April 9**, Dr. Nina Schoch will present "**Conservation Through the Lives of Adirondack Loons**" at the Saratoga Springs Public Library on Henry Street in Saratoga Springs.

The presentation provides an overview of the Common Loon's natural history and behavior and the conservation efforts of the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation. The event starts at 2 p.m. in the Harry Dutcher Community Room.

Loons breed throughout New York's Adirondack Park. They are long-lived, at the top of the aquatic food web, and are affected by factors such as pollution and human disturbance.

Dr. Nina Schoch is a wildlife veterinarian with Biodiversity Research Institute of Portland, Maine. Its Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation in Ray Brook, N.Y., researches the impact of mercury pollution on aquatic ecosystems.

*Continued on p. 7*

**Monthly Programs**  
Page 1 & 7

**Lake George Eagles**  
Page 3

**Field Trips**  
Page 8

## Southern Adirondack Audubon Society

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2016-2018	Joyce Miller Rob Snell Pat Demko

Board meetings are held monthly except July, August and December. Members are invited to attend. Contact John Loz for details.

### Committees:

**Newsletter:** Joyce Miller  
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**Conservation:** OPEN

**Membership:** Barbara Beatty  
(518-793-1454)

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 500 members in Warren, Washington, and northern Saratoga counties in New York State. Contact a board member to find out more about volunteer opportunities.

## President's Message

## Greetings from our new SAAS president

By John Loz, SAAS President

I am honored to be your local Audubon chapter's newly elected president. Before anything else, I'd like to offer my sincerest thanks to our outgoing committee and board members for all their hard work growing this chapter. I would also like to thank outgoing president Pat Fitzgerald, who has led and will continue to lead conservation efforts for this chapter with her tireless energy and passion. It will be hard to match!

A little bit about me: I have a Biology degree with a concentration in Environmental Science from Siena College. Every spring through college and for many years after, I censused amphibians and counted wood frog egg clutches, wading through the vernal pools of the Saratoga National Historical Park with my former professor. Looking to expand on my environmental education, I started to volunteer with Audubon Society of the Capital Region as a novice birder five years ago, and have just finished my term as president there. I now look forward to a new challenge as president of your chapter!

The amazing public programming and conservation work has already established this chapter as a premier environmental organization in the North Country. The board and I are committed to building on what our predecessors have worked so proudly to achieve. I look forward to meeting and talking with you at one of our upcoming events. Happy Birding!



## Puffin in Fort Ann

*Continued from page 1*

local wildlife rehabilitator. Unfortunately, it died later that same day.

The adult female bird was necropsied by DEC's Wildlife Pathology Unit. The DEC offered the bird to Dr. Kirchman for study. When he learned that it was from Washington County, he believed that it must have been an escaped aviary bird. He made several inquiries and examined the specimen carefully to rule out that possibility. He prepared the specimen as a study skin, plus partial skeleton and frozen tissues.

Dr. Kirchman contacted puffin expert Dr. Stephen Kress, Director of the Seabird Restoration Program and Vice President for Bird Conservation of the National Audubon Society. Dr. Kress reviewed the photos of the skin and read the report submitted to the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC). He speculated that it was a wild bird because there was no evidence of prolonged captivity and no bands. He also noted that the nearest captive colony

is in Montreal. Dr. Kress thought the bird may have found its way to Lake Champlain and then traveled down the Champlain Canal.

Dr. Kirchman also contacted biologist Dr. Shaibel Mitra, Editor of *The Kingbird*, NYSOA's quarterly journal. Dr. Mitra agreed that it was an odd finding, but not unbelievable.

According to NYSARC, puffins have been seen at sea within New York State waters. But this is the only Atlantic Puffin ever recorded to be sighted on land in New York State.

So how did this bird end up in Fort Ann? That mystery will most likely never be solved. I wanted to speak to the finder, but the names of those that salvage and collect bird specimens are never released. I found nothing in the weather records to support the theory that a storm of some kind had pushed this bird off course.

I love hearing of these rare birds that find their way to our area. My hope is that the next one will be healthy and return to its normal breeding or wintering ground.



# Lake George Eagles chronicled

By Rosemary Pusateri  
SAAS Member

Living on crowded Ripley Point on Lake George, we try to respect the privacy of all of our neighbors. But sometimes, we cannot help noticing them.

Several years ago, we learned that we had a Bald Eagle family on Speaker Heck Island. The nest, on the west side of the island, is visible only from the lake. That island is only a couple of minutes from our dock, so from our boat we'd often see an eagle or two and their very large stick nest high in a crooked pine tree. Sometimes, the eagles have visited our home. That definitely is not snooping. After all, they came to us, not the other way around.

I can't know what the eagles will be doing in 2016, but if we are fortunate they will return to Speaker Heck

Island to raise another family. Here is what we observed during 2015.

The first time I saw any of the eagle family in 2015 was on May 1. An adult eagle was standing tall on a high branch of a tree visible from the water west of the island.

On May 16 from our boat, we saw two adult eagles, one perched on the edge of the nest. Even with field glasses, we saw no movement in the nest.

On May 27, we saw two adults at the nest, one standing tall on a branch and one over the nest with its white head bobbing down repeatedly.

On June 3, we spotted two adult eagles on the island.

On June 5, we saw a single eaglet head peek-

ing above the nest and one adult standing on a branch nearby.

After sunset on June 14, we saw two adults, the smaller male standing on a higher branch of the nest tree and the female adult hovering over the nest. In the gloaming, we could not see any young.

On June 21, we saw the adult female standing on a branch and a fledgling perched on a branch near the nest.

On June 27, we saw an adult eagle standing on a high branch north of the nest, and the larger adult female and one fledgling at the nest.

On July 14, I admit we brought a relative by boat to ogle the eagles. We saw the adult female.

On August 9: empty nest, one eagle standing on the branch. On August 14, we saw two eagles soaring. One seemed to be just learning to soar; the other was soaring gracefully.

On August 23, we saw one eagle soaring and an empty nest on Speaker

Heck Island, and a very large black headed bird standing on a high branch elsewhere.

On August 26, an eagle came to our home. Seen from our porch, the adult male brought a wriggling fish to a branch of the highest tree on our shoreline, a white pine, and just stayed there for about half an hour.

On August 28, from the lake, I saw the adult male bald eagle fly up to our same white pine tree, again perching with a meal. This time, black crows cawed and flew around the eagle. Suddenly a larger female adult screeched to the scene from over the lake. Both eagles flew southward along the shoreline, dropping something as they left our tree.

I have no notes from September. On October 8, there was a young adult (almost all-white head, smaller) on a high bare branch on the south end of Speaker Heck Island. We watched it fly over the Lake into the trees on the western shoreline.

During autumn, several times a week, I saw at least one white-headed eagle soaring high above land or water.

By December, we saw no eagles. Are these eagles snowbirds like so many of our neighbors? I have no answer. Somebody suggested eagles overwinter in the nearby wetlands. In recent years, there have been sightings by human neighbors of eagles fishing from ice floes. More than one year on the New Year's Day cruise on the Lac du Saint Sacrement, I have seen at least one eagle in the Narrows. I regret to admit I could never identify it as one of our neighbor eagles.

For more information about Bald Eagles see: All About Birds: [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bald\\_Eagle/id](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bald_Eagle/id)

Mark Cronin photographed this adult Bald Eagle on Speaker Heck Island on Lake George in June, 2015.





Dr. Gordon Ellmers photographed this male House Finch in Fort Miller, Washington County, in November, 2015.

establish territory and find mates.

They are native to desert grasslands of the western United States. In 1940, several caged House Finches were released by pet stores as unsold "Hollywood Finches," on Long Island, N.Y., according to Cornell's All About Birds website. Cornell said that the oldest known House Finch was 11 years and 7 months old.

Long-time birders recall when House Finches were more common. Eastern House Finch populations plummeted after 1994, when they were struck by mycoplasmal conjunctivitis,

an eye disease also affecting poultry. According to Project Feederwatch, it might have killed as many as half of the eastern House Finches. It has since spread around the country. It may have affected more eastern finches because they are interbred descendants of the original released birds. Western House Finches have more genetic diversity, so might not have been impacted as much. Project FeederWatch estimates that 5% to 10% of the eastern House Finches still have this disease. Cleaning seed feeders with a 10% bleach solution will help prevent the spread.

House Finches are sometimes confused with Purple Finches, which are less common in our area. House Finches' culmen (the top part of the bill) is curved; the Purple Finch's cone-shaped bill. Purple Finches are stockier, more raspberry-colored and have a wide light stripe over the eye.

For more information and to hear their songs, see this All About Birds page: [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/House\\_Finch/](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/House_Finch/)

### **Species Spotlight**

## **House Finch notes**

By Joyce Miller  
Newsletter Editor

The lively, throaty song of a male House Finch (*Haemorrhous mexicanus*) is a welcome sound of spring. This is one of the most common backyard birds in the United States.

House Finches are about 6 inches long, with a large seed-crushing bill. The male has orangey-red feathers on the head, breast and rump, brown ear patches and wings, and brown streaks on the buffy belly. The female is drabber, with no red. These birds are often seen in small flocks in the winter. They primarily eat seeds, but also plant buds, berries and fruit.

House Finches do not migrate, so we see them all year. The males become more noticeable as their singing increases as spring approaches. Birds' hormone levels rise as the length of day increases in the spring. Higher hormones trigger their singing to

### **Birding by the Month**

## **Spring migrants arriving**

By Mona Bearor  
Education Chair

Watch for these bird activities in upcoming months:

### **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. So far, 32 species have been recorded in our chapter area.





*Signage along the trail highlights some of the flora and fauna. Photo: Mona Bearor.*

can be seen in the open water. They are joined by Hooded Mergansers and Ring-necked Ducks when the water level is high. When the

water is very low, Solitary Sandpiper and Spotted Sandpiper can be seen probing for food in the mud.

Warblers found in spring have included Wilson's, Nashville, Mourning, Blackburnian, Magnolia, Palm, Tennessee and Canada - 22 species in all! American Woodcocks have been seen performing their courtship flights from the trail. Also, American Bittern have been heard in the grassy area 100-200 feet from the north trailhead accessible from Rt. 29.

During summer, Turkey Vultures can be seen soaring overhead. Woodpeckers can be seen and heard throughout the trail: Downy, Hairy, Red-bellied, Pileated and Northern Flicker. Over the larger bodies of water, Tree Swallow and Barn Swallows can be found catching insects in flight. Belted Kingfishers will perch on a dead tree and plunge head first into the water for a meal of fish. Look for both Great Blue Heron and Green Heron while walking along the bog. Also seen during summer are American Kestrels.

As fall approaches, American Goldfinch and Cedar Waxwings can be seen flying about. Look for Eastern Phoebe and Eastern Wood Pewees perched on low branches on the water edges. Also be alert for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds making their way south for the winter and Ruffed Grouse, which may be flushed while walking the trail. American Tree Sparrows will soon be seen as

they move into the area to spend the winter months.

Resident Blue Jays, Northern Cardinals and American Crows can be observed during the winter, as well as other times of the year. As the snow begins to fall, Dark-eyed Juncos join the Black-capped Chickadees, Tufted Titmice and White-breasted Nuthatches among the trees. In late winter, be on the lookout for Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

For a list of species seen here, see the SAAS website (<http://southernadirondackaudubon.org/>)

> Birding > Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail > [Bog Meadow Trail Species List](#).

### Directions:

The trail has two entrances. The Meadowbrook Road access provides a shorter walk to the seating area overlooking the pond, and in spring or rainy periods, may be the only access to this viewing area as beaver activity affects the water level. If walking in from Rt.29 at these times, be advised that calf-high waterproof footwear may be required!

**Rt. 29 Parking:** From Northway Exit 15, go north on Rt. 50 for .3 miles. At traffic light turn right onto Wiebel Ave. Go 1.1 miles and turn left at traffic light onto Rt. 29. At .5 miles parking and trailhead is on the right.

**Meadowbrook Rd. Parking:** From Northway Exit 14, go south on Rt. 9P for .6 miles. Turn left onto Meadowbrook Rd. (County Rt. 65). At 2.2 miles parking is on left. Follow the sign about 200 yards along the road to the trailhead, located behind a guard rail.

*This and other birding spots are highlighted on the SAAS website.*

### See migration progress

Birders around the world contribute their daily sightings to eBird (<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>), the bird checklist database from Cornell Lab of Ornithology. To see when migrants will arrive, go to *Explore Data > Bar Charts*, and select your state and county. Then look at the green bar graph to see which species have been reported at various times of the year.

## Birding the Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail

*By Mona Bearor  
Education Chair*

SAAS is sponsoring a field trip to Bog Meadow on Saturday, April 23. (See page 8 for trip details.) Here is a description of this birding hotspot.

The Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail in Saratoga County is a two-mile trail following an abandoned railway through open marsh, wet meadow, and forested wetland habitats. There is a parking area on either end of the trail and benches and interpretive signs along the way. The diverse habitat, level terrain and accessible location make for a very pleasing half-day of birding.

Due to its varied habitat, this trail has great potential for migrants and residents alike. More intensive birding could prove this site to host an impressive number of species and perhaps some less-common species.

Spring hosts both Rusty and Red-winged Blackbirds, along with Common Grackles in the marsh areas and wooded edges. Gray Catbird, American Robins and European Starlings are common throughout, as are Song and Swamp Sparrows. Baltimore Orioles add their brilliant color to the shady woods. Resident Canada Geese, Mallards and Wood Ducks

## Raptor Fest moves to new location

Friends of the Washington County Grasslands IBA will be moving their annual Winter Raptor Fest to the Washington County Fairgrounds in Greenwich on May 14 and 15, 2016. The new location will offer much more parking and handicapped access. This popular event is a fun way for people to see and learn about native raptors and their habitats. For event details, go to: <http://www.winterraptorfest.com/>. Additional details will be added to the schedule closer to the event in May.

Friends of the IBA is a nonprofit land trust working to conserve critical habitat for endangered Short-eared Owls and other at-risk birds of the Washington County Grasslands Important Bird Area. Visit <http://www.ibafriends.org> to learn more.

## Books offer basic birding tips

Consider increasing your birding knowledge with these titles:

- *National Geographic Birding Essentials: All the Tools, Techniques, and Tips You Need to Begin and Become a Better Birder* (2007) by Jonathan Alderfer and Jon Dunn
- *Sibley's Birding Basics* (2002) by David Allen Sibley
- *Birding by Impression: A Different Approach to Knowing and Identifying Birds* (2015) by Kevin T. Karlson and Dale Rosselet
- *The Bird Watching Answer Book: Everything You Need to Know to Enjoy Birds in Your Backyard and Beyond* (2009) by Laura Erickson
- *Pete Dunne on Bird Watching: The How-to, Where-to, and When-to of Birding* (2003) by Pete Dunne.

These are available at area libraries, such as the Southern Adirondack Library System (<http://pac.sals.edu/polaris/default.aspx>) and SUNY Adirondack Library (<http://library.sunyacc.edu>).

## Bird Count recap

By Linda White  
CBC Coordinator, Hudson Falls  
Christmas Bird Count

Since 1983, members of Southern Adirondack Audubon Society and volunteers have spent a day out counting and recording for one of the largest citizen science projects in the world. This year marks the 116th Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

Many thanks go to Brad, Beth and Nathan Bidwell, Mona Bearor, Jacquie Tinker, Joyce Miller, Russell Hilliard, Kaitlyn Breda, Terry Hall, Pat Fitzgerald, Sandy Meents and first timers Sue Seppa, Jeff and Cindy VanDerwerker, Paul Silk and Heidi Kaufmann. The VanDerwerkers planned on only a few hours but had such a blast they spent seven hours in the field. Heidi joined us for half a day. Paul joined the fun as a novice birder, and under Mona's

wing, he learned a great deal.

December 19th, our count day, brought cold and the first snow of the season. The weather seemed to be a factor in a lower number of species compared to past years: 47 compared to mid-50s. Some of the highlights included: 2 Rough-legged Hawks, 7 Northern Harriers, 27 Red-tailed Hawks, 3 Bald Eagles, 65 Bluebirds, 36 Horned Larks, 4 Great Blue Heron, 2 Northern Pintail, and 12 Red-bellied Woodpeckers.

Mona has been observing the massive crow roost near the quarry and estimated 8,000 crows. At last year's count, the estimate was 20,000.

The Bidwells found the most unusual species, a Longtail, formerly Oldsquaw Duck.

Count data can be viewed at: <http://netapp.audubon.org/cbcoobservation/>

## Welcome, new members!

Currently, 473 members of National Audubon live in our chapter area. Many of our 125 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: Paula Hasson, Fort Edward; Beverly Sabeau, Gansevoort, Dana Stimpson, Glens Falls, Pamela Howard, Greenfield Center; Nancy Conant, Greenfield Center; Barbara Baker, Saratoga Springs; Judith Staubo, Saratoga Springs; Paul & Judith Lundberg, Schaghticoke; Thomas Meath, Queensbury; Beth & Richard Saunders, Queensbury; Carol Fisher, Queensbury; Doris Harrington. Venice, Florida.

Renewal notices were sent out in January for 2016. We are grateful for all who renewed their chapter sup-

porter membership. If you have not yet sent in your Chapter Supporter renewal, it is never too late; see the back page.

Thanks also to these members and several anonymous donors, who included an additional donation for our chapter operating expenses: Barbara Beatty, Karen Bodenweiser, Kathleen Bond, Ronald & Sally Briggs, Rosamund Butler, Gerald Carruthers, Janet Chapman, Maureen Coutant, Charlotte Demers, Charles Farrar, Nancy Forgette, Christine Germain, Bruce Goodale, Doris Harrington, Linda J. Hoyt, Elaine Kee, Paul & Judith Lundberg, Raymond A. Maddocks, MD, Laurel Male, Mary Lacreata, Peter & Linda Miles, Phyllis Miyauchi, Helen L. Mohr, Charlotte D. Mott, Elise Olson, Don & Nancy Polunci, Jeanne Polunci, Rosemary Pusateri, Leeanne & Gary Raga, Karen Randall, John Reber, Joan Rech, Steven Scalia, Elizabeth A. Schukis, Donald Sevits, Frank Sollosy, Judy Staubo, Carol Fisher & James Underwood, Holly Vegas, Denise Wells, Janice Winchip.



# Spring Programs

continued from p.1

Joan Collins will present “**All About Birds**,” a multimedia introduction to birding on Wednesday, **April 27**. The program will be held at 7 p.m. in the Christine L. McDonald Community Room on the lower level of Crandall Public Library in Glens Falls.

Collins will use audio recordings, video, photographs and slides to discuss bird songs and calls, appearance and identification, habitats, behavior, food, migration, nesting, birding ethics and conservation. She will also display some of the many resources available to birders: books, videos, DVDs, smartphone apps and audio CDs.

Joan Collins is President of the New York State Ornithological Association and editor of its quarterly journal, *New York Birders*. She is also Vice-President of Northern New York Audubon, past President of High Peaks Audubon, and a past Board of Directors member of the Audubon Council of New York State. She is president of Adirondack Avian Expeditions & Workshops, LLC, leads birding field trips year-round, is a N.Y.S. licensed guide, an Adirondack 46er, and teaches ornithology classes.

Collins has published articles on wildlife and conservation topics in various publications including *New York Birders*, *Conservationist*, and *The Kingbird*. She authored several warbler species accounts and served as a peer reviewer for *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*. Mountain Lake PBS, *Adirondack Explorer* newspaper and *Adirondack Life* magazine have featured pieces on Collins. Her birding segments with Todd Moe can be heard on North Country Public Radio. Birders can follow her at <http://www.facebook.com/AdirondackAvian> and her website: <http://www.adirondackavian.com>.



Joan Collins spotted this Gray Jay at Sabattis Bog in November, 2015.

**Graham Cox** will present a talk on **Matty's Mountain** at Crandall Public Library in Glens Falls on Wed., **May 25** at 7 p.m.

The talk is entitled “Developing a Forest Stewardship Plan for Matty's Mountain: A Natural Haven for Our State Bird.” Matty's Mountain is the latest forested property open to birders on the slopes above Lake George Village. This 172-acre tract, surrounded by the Berry Pond State Forest unit, was recently acquired by the Lake George Land Conservancy.

Cox said that the land trust faced the decision to either leave the tract alone, or do some active forest management to improve its wildlife potential. The land trust, after much discussion, opted for some very light forest management, following recommendations in a stewardship plan. Management here will complement what is now “forever wild” on the 2,000 plus acres of the Berry Pond tract. Cox invites the public to an open discussion on a land trust's management dilemma.

Matty's Mountain is rich in wildlife including coyote, bear, deer, snowshoe hare and porcupine, Cox said. Amphibians are abundant. Among the birds are several warbler species, Ruffed Grouse, Common Raven, Ovenbird, Broad-winged Hawk; Rose-breasted

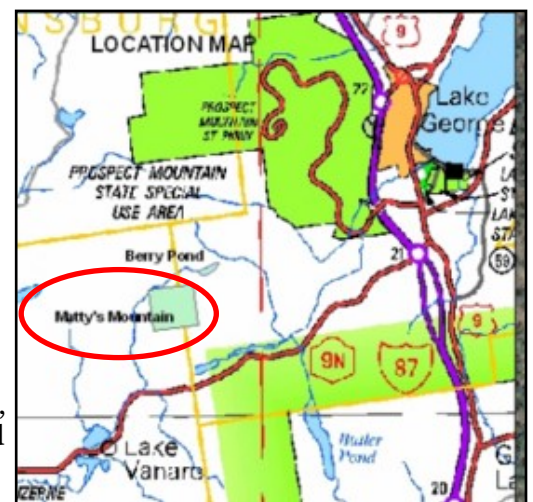
Grosbeak; Scarlet Tanager; Hermit Thrush and Veery. Many Eastern Bluebird pairs nest in tree snags in the beaver pond marsh in the eastern side of the property.

Cox divides his time between Bolton Landing and Sebastian, Florida. He recently retired from Audubon New York as coordinator of the state office's Open Space and Sustainable Forest programs. He is active with the state's Council of Forest Re-

source Organizations (CFRO) and has helped Lake George Land Trust and its Open Space Acquisition Committee in their deliberations about creating a forest stewardship plan for Matty's Mountain. He also serves on the board of Pelican Island Audubon Society in Vero Beach, Florida. He has an undergraduate degree in geography, a master's degree in economics and doctorate in ecological economics from RPI.

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

Matty's Mountain area is circled below, southwest of Lake George. The map was provided by the forestry consultants Not Just Trees for the Lake George Land Conservancy.



## Field Trips and Events

For details, see <http://southernadirondackaudubon.org/fieldtrips/fieldtrips.html>

**Sunday, March 20, Time TBA (morning) —Washington County Waterfowl** - 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 life birds for many. Meet at the Schuylerville Central School at Routes 29 and 4. The trip is limited to the first 12 who register. Contact coordinator Mona Bearor ([conservebirds@gmail.com](mailto:conservebirds@gmail.com)) before 7 p.m. on March 19 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.

**Saturday, April 23 – 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 24.

**Friday, May 6 – 8 a.m. – Bird Walk at the Betar Byway**—This birding walk along the Hudson River will be led by Rob Snell, and will last about one and a half hours. Meet at the gazebo near the parking lot at the end of First Street in South Glens Falls. This is a leisurely, easy walk. No registration is required.

**Saturday, May 14 – 8 a.m.—Hudson Crossing Park, Schuylerville**— Join Wally Elton in search of spring birds and waterfowl at Hudson Crossing Park near Lock 5 just north of Schuylerville off Rt. 4. The park includes trails along the Hudson River and the canal, a pedestrian bridge over the river, woods, a meadow and forested wetland. Drive in the access road to the gate and parking area. Contact Wally at [wally.elton@earthlink.net](mailto:wally.elton@earthlink.net) if you have questions. Rain date is Sunday, May 15th.

### Lake George Land Conservancy

Join LGLC at 8 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month. Locations alternate between the Gull Bay and Last Great Shoreline Preserves in Putnam. Hikes will be led by experienced birders; people of all levels of birding ability are welcome to participate. Findings are added to eBird.org, an online global checklist used to track observations. No RSVP required; hikes will take place rain or shine. For more information, see: <http://www.lglc.org/events-and-programs/>.

March 5	Last Great Shoreline
April 2	Gull Bay Preserve
May 7	Last Great Shoreline
June 4	Gull Bay Preserve

### Thanks to our retiring board members!

The Southern Adirondack Audubon Society extends its heartfelt thanks to these recently-retired SAAS board members for their many years of dedicated work:

- Pat Fitzgerald, President
- Jason Goldsmith, Conservation Chair
- Linda Hoyt, Board Secretary
- Jim Reis, Field Trip Coordinator
- Carol Moyers, Publicity Committee Chair.

They will receive a lifetime membership in SAAS.

### Send in your 2016 renewal today!

Memberships are renewed at the start of the calendar year. Members receive *The Fledgling* newsletter by email in March, June, September and December. Your support of local chapter efforts is tremendously appreciated. Please print clearly below or attach a mailing label:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your choices:

- ☐ I've enclosed a check made out to "Southern Adirondack Audubon Society" (chapter supporter: \$10)
- ☐ a check made out to "National Audubon Society" (national: \$20)
- ☐ I am also including a gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for chapter use.
- ☐ I would prefer to get the newsletter in paper format and am including an additional donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help cover postage and printing. (Suggested donation: \$5.)
- ☐ I am interested in volunteer opportunities.

Please mail the form and your check to **Barbara Beatty, Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, P.O. Box 4076, Queensbury, NY 12804. Thank you for your membership!**