

The Fledgling

Newsletter of the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, Inc.

Vol. 33 No. 4, June - August 2016

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

Wilton Wildlife featured on June 22

Margo Olson will present **"Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park and the Saratoga Sandplains Ecosystem"** on Wednesday, **June 22**, as part of the monthly program of the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society (SAAS).

The program will be held in the Christine L. McDonald Community Room on the lower level of Crandall Library in downtown Glens Falls. The free program starts at 7 p.m.

The largest population of the endangered Karner blue butterfly in the eastern United States is found in Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park (WWPP). The Preserve & Park is a non-profit organization that partners with the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Saratoga County and the Town of Wilton. The protection of lands within the Saratoga Sandplains ecosystem and the creation of additional acreage of the meadow habitat that is required by the butterfly has been a priority effort of the DEC and TNC.

The presentation will cover the formation of the Preserve & Park, the fire-dependent Sandplains ecosystem, the natural history of the Karner blue butterfly, and an overview of other threatened species and

The presentation will also cover the benefits of the early successional habitat that is being created for a host of important bird species. Several citizen science projects relating to these bird species will be highlighted.

Margo Olson is the Executive Director of the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park. She began her career in environmental education as an Interpretive Ranger for the National Park Service in Grand Canyon and Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks. She worked as an Environmental Educator for the Five Rivers Environmental Center in Delmar, N.Y. before developing environmental programming, exhibits and curricula as Director of Education at the Junior Museum in Troy, which is now the Children's Museum of Science and Technology. She was the Curator of Education at the National Museum of Racing and worked at Skidmore College in the Office of Campus Life. She has served on several community boards including Planned Parenthood and Temple



The largest population of the endangered Karner blue butterfly in the eastern United States is found in Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park. (Photo credit: Brian Teague.)

Sinai and chaired committees for Lake Avenue School, Temple Sinai, Children and Nature Saratoga, among others.

Southern Adirondack Audubon Society (SAAS) is a certified local chapter of the National Audubon Society.

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

No monthly programs are held in July or August. SAAS's next 2016 monthly program is on Sept. 28: "Birding in Belize" by Kevin Watson.

Egg Dates for Local Species
Page 3

Field Trips
Page 8

SAAS Belize Trip in January
Page 9-10

Southern Adirondack Audubon Society

P.O. Box 4076
Queensbury, NY 12804

<http://www.southernadirondackaudubon.org>

Email:

info@southernadirondackaudubon.org

Board and Committees

Officers:

President: John Loz
Vice-President: Lori Barber
Secretary: Lori Barber (Acting)
Treasurer: Sharon Charbonneau

Board of Directors:

2014-2016	OPEN OPEN OPEN
2015-2017	Barbara Beatty Jody Schleicher Laurel Male
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
(editor@southernadirondackaudubon.org)

Education: Mona Bearor
(saasmona@gmail.com)

Publicity: Laurel Male
(publicity@southernadirondackaudubon.org)

Conservation: OPEN

Membership: Barbara Beatty
(membership@southernadirondackaudubon.org)

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

President's Message

There's a lot going on at our adopted IBA!

By John Loz, SAAS President



On Saturday April 16, SAAS conducted its Third Annual Washington County Grasslands Clean-up in partnership with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to clear the habitat of refuse that had collected over the winter. Eight volunteers walked the fields and hedgerows of this 286 acre DEC Wildlife Management Area (WMA), picking up litter and getting the grasslands ready for nesting and breeding season. Girl Scout cookies were the reward for those that helped that day! More importantly, a universally recognized "Important Bird Area" sign was attached to the info kiosk at the trailhead. Until then, there had not been any indication to the public that this has been an Audubon NY designated IBA for nearly 20 years! Our partner in this effort to preserve this DEC-designated Wildlife Management Area is our very hard-working and very supportive Jed Hayden from DEC. To the left is my photo of Jed doing the honors of attaching the Important Bird Area signage.



Five days later, on April 20, I was invited to make a few remarks at a press conference unveiling a newly built observation platform at the IBA (photo below). While enjoying the 360-degree view overlooking 2,000 acres of mixed farmland and protected DEC habitat, the DEC kindly recognized Southern Adirondack Audubon Society as an important conservation partner in the protection and stewardship of the Washington County Grasslands. Those attending - from the press to local dignitaries - were treated to sightings of female Bluebirds, an aerial ballet of Tree Swallows and three Northern Harriers taking to the sky over the bucolic landscape. I encourage you to take the short .25 mile hike out to the platform to admire the rolling hills and distant mountains and know that there are volunteers working hard to protect these precious lands for our feathered friends. News of the event was carried in the media, including *The Saratogian*, WAMC public radio, *The Post-Star* (http://poststar.com/news/local/dec-spotlights-washington-county-birding-site/article_9f3aee78-ac79-56a4-9058-80e543a798fo.html) and WNYT (<http://wnyt.com/news/washington-county-grasslands/4112847/>)



SAAS President John Loz and others spoke at the unveiling of the new IBA platform. (Photo credit: Pat Fitzgerald.)

Some exciting news: our chapter is sponsoring a 10-day birding trip to Belize in January! Information is included at the end of this newsletter. Check the SAAS website for more information, and come to our June meeting.

Finally, we are saddened to hear of the recent passing of Linda Hoyt of Brant Lake, long-time board member, past chapter president and most recently, board secretary. See page 3 for more about Linda's contributions to our chapter.

Marking the passing of a SAAS president

SAAS past president Linda Hoyt died on May 12 at her home in Brant Lake. Linda became a Chapter Supporter and member of SAAS in 1997 when a Lewis's Woodpecker came to her yard. These woodpeckers are normally found only in the western United States. She contacted Audubon and several SAAS members went to her home to see the woodpecker.

She took on the role of SAAS board secretary in 1998. In 2002, she was elected president, serving for two terms (2002-2006). In 2007, she became board secretary again and held that position until 2015 when she "retired" from the board to spend time with her daughters and grandchildren.

Local egg dates, hummingbird tips added to website

SAAS website editor Mona Bearor has created several very useful documents about our area's birds:

- a PDF file offering *Egg Dates for Species that Breed in the SAAS Chapter Area*, providing the earliest date for eggs, unfledged juveniles and fledglings for more than 175 breeding bird species in our area. For instance, Osprey fledglings have been sighted as early as June 18, and as late as July 25. It is available on the SAAS Birding page, <http://www.southernadirondackaudubon.org/birding/birding.html>.
- See "How to Attract Hummingbirds" and "Important Ways You Can Help Birds" under the "New" list on the Education page, <http://www.southernadirondackaudubon.org/education/education.html>.

Creating bird-friendly yards

Below are some tips gleaned from several sources about attracting birds to your yard:

- Use native plants. See the *New York Flora Atlas*, (<http://newyork.plantatlas.usf.edu/>; click a county; sort for "Native").
- Reduce lawn size. Use native grasses in lawns.
- Create a brush pile. Birds will use them for quick cover from predators.
- Provide a water feature.
- Keep cats indoors. See American Bird Conservancy's *Cats Indoors!* (<https://abcbirds.org/program/cats-indoors/cats-and-birds/>).
- Use Cornell Lab of Ornithology's *YardMap* website (<http://content.yardmap.org/>), a citizen-science project offering articles, model yards and a forum for questions.

Betar Byway trip finds 36 species

Sunshine and calm winds afforded a very pleasant bird walk on May 6 for six birders along the Betar Byway. The Betar Byway is a walking/biking path along the Hudson River in South Glens Falls. Led by SAAS board member Rob Snell, the group tallied 36 species.

However, not one warbler species was seen or heard, not even a token Yellow-rumped Warbler, unusual for early May.

Some notable sightings included

a Broad-winged Hawk chased by an American Crow, a flock of Cedar Waxwings glowing in the sunlight, an Eastern Kingbird (FOY - first of the year

- for many participants), perhaps a last-of-season Ring-necked Duck, and of course, those harbingers of spring, Blue-headed Vireo and House Wrens. The trip checklist can be found on eBird, the online checklist run by Cornell's Lab of Ornithology: <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S29442089>.

See the SAAS website's *Birding* page for more information about bird species that can be seen along the Betar Byway.



Birders on the Betar Byway trip saw species such as Eastern Bluebird, left. (Photo credits: Rob Snell.)





A male Yellow Warbler pauses on a honeysuckle bush. Don Polunci snapped this photo near the Osprey nest along Route 4, in the Town of Fort Edward.

enough to become caught in large spider webs. Garter snakes, Red Squirrels, Blue Jays and American Crows are among the animals that will eat Yellow Warblers.

Yellow Warblers have thin bills that can easily grab small insects. Because warblers are insect-eaters, they do not visit backyard seed feeders.

Yellow Warblers are often the first warbler species to arrive

in upstate New York, in mid-April. Their spring trip from Central and South America usually entails flying directly across the Gulf of Mexico to the southern United States. Partners in Flight reports that about 90 million Yellow Warblers spend the summer in North America. The North American Breeding Bird Survey found that their population is slowly declining, according to Cornell's *All About Birds*.

Yellow Warbler nests are made of grass and other plant material, placed in the fork of a shrubby tree. Brown-headed Cowbirds often lay eggs in Yellow Warbler nests, but the warbler often just builds another nest over that parasitized nest.

According to *Longevity Records of North American Birds*, a recaptured banded Yellow Warbler female was known to be at least 11 years old.

Species Spotlight

Yellow Warbler

By Joyce Miller, Newsletter Editor

The one warbler everyone in this region has probably heard in the spring is the Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*). Whether listening in your backyard, walking across a parking lot or strolling on the Warren County Bikeway, you'll often hear the male's quick whistling song "sweet, sweet, sweeter than sweet!" Listen to the sound clip on this Cornell's *All About Birds* web page: https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Yellow_Warbler/id. These warblers tend to prefer shrubby, moist areas.

The bright yellow male has chestnut stripes down its chest and a greenish back. The female is also bright yellow but has no belly stripes. Yellow Warblers are about five inches long, tiny

Birding by the Month: Summer

By Mona Bearor, Education Chair

June

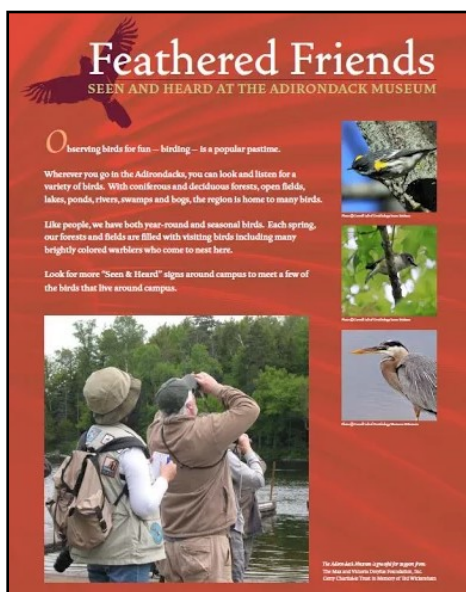
- Baltimore Orioles are nest building and feeding young; you can easily find them on the Towpath Road in Hudson Falls and on the Betar Trail in South Glens Falls.
- Bobolinks are singing and displaying in the agricultural grasslands. It is a real treat to listen to them and watch their courtship behavior.
- Now is the time to try to find the eight species of sparrows that reside in our area in the summer months. Look and listen for Chipping, Field, Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper, Henslow's, Song and Swamp Sparrows.

July

- Shorebirds are on their way south already. Keep an eye on short grassy fields or any bare or plowed ground after a rain.
- Swallows form large flocks in preparation for migration. Look for them on utility wires in open agricultural areas.
- Get out and bird the Towpath Road in Hudson Falls. Even on these hot mid-summer days there is a lot of action!

August

- Great Egrets visit the area. They are known for post-breeding wandering, and are seen annually along the Hudson River from West River Road.
- Common Nighthawks begin migrating south at mid-month; look for them along river valleys at dusk as they fly silently overhead.
- Raptors begin to migrate south. Watch for them locally or visit the Franklin Mountain hawk watch in Oneonta.

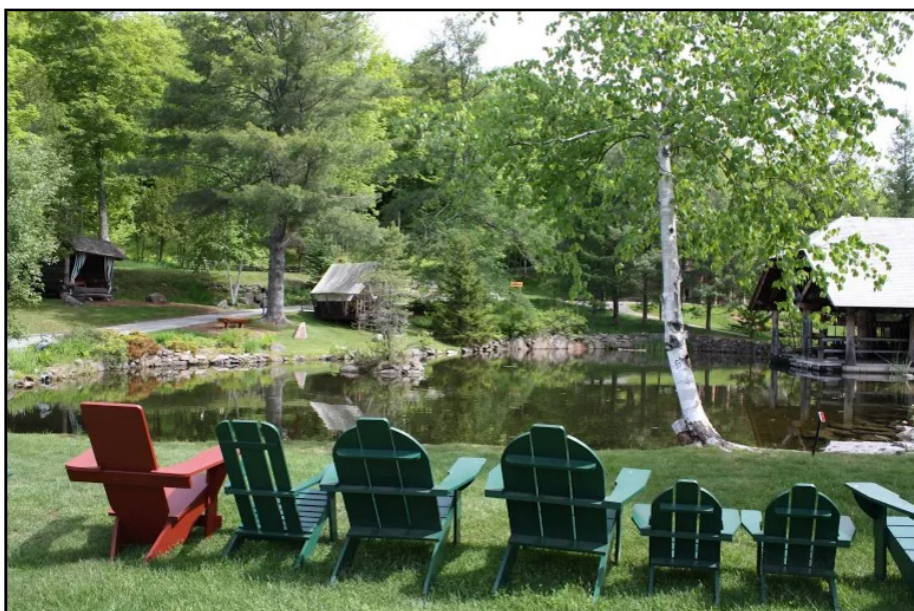


Adirondack Museum offers birding panels

While strolling across the campus of the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake, visitors often see a flash of color as a bird flies by, or hear a delicate song called from the bushes. From Black-capped Chickadees to Bohemian Waxwings, the occasional Osprey or Great Blue or Green Heron measuring up the fish in the pond, the museum grounds are filled with bird life all year.

This summer, visitors can learn more about some of the birds commonly seen and heard on the museum's property. Outdoor signs sprinkled

Visitors to the Adirondack Museum can learn about birds from new displays (above). The museum offers many scenic spots to watch birds, such as the idyllic spot below. (Photos courtesy of Adirondack Museum.)



Tips to increase your birding skills

We asked our SAAS board members for tips on how they became better birders. Membership chair Barbara Beatty offered these suggestions:

- *Going on birding field trips really helped me as a beginning birder. My first trip was the mid-March Hudson River waterfowl trip. I learned a lot on that trip, not only about identifying species, but also about good birding ethics when with a group. It was a great experience for me and got me off to a good start. Experienced leaders are not only informative but also inspiring and can provide a foundation to build on for someone who is serious about birding.*
- *The other thing that helped me was to use the Cornell Lab of Ornithology website, All About Birds. Their wonderful pictures, narratives and recordings were and still are a very useful tool for me.*

SAAS's upcoming field trips are listed on page 8.

throughout the campus will introduce select species and feature notes on size, coloring, field marks and songs. The signs will offer historical quotes from birders such as John Burroughs, Theodore Roosevelt and Florence Merriam Bailey.

"Feathered Friends," an interactive display in the Merwin Hill Pavilion, will highlight birding in the Adirondacks. Past SAAS President Don Polunci will be among the artisans in residence during July and August.

Visitors of all ages can discover more about birds in the Adirondacks and learn some basic tips to identify birds. Visit <http://www.adkmuseum.org/> for details.

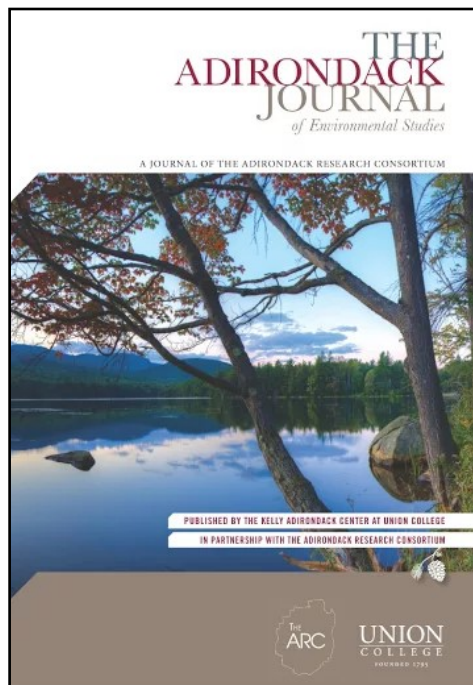
- From Micaela Hall, Public Programs Manager/Museum Educator, Adirondack Museum

Amazon Smiles earns money for SAAS

You can now donate to our chapter by shopping on the AmazonSmile website. Log in with your existing Amazon.com account or sign up for a new account by clicking on the AmazonSmile logo. Then, choose *Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, Inc.* from the dropdown menu, and Amazon will donate .5% of your purchase price to SAAS! After your initial login, AmazonSmile will remember that you have chosen Southern Adirondack Audubon Society each time you shop on the site.

Cornell's live bird cams online

Cornell Lab of Ornithology's *All About Birds* site offers intimate views of nesting birds and feeders through live web cameras. This nesting season features California Condors in California, Barn Owls in Texas, Laysan Albatross in Hawaii, Red-tailed Hawks in Ithaca, NY, and even Lance-tailed Manakins in Panama. A pond and feeder at the Cornell campus also offers live nature scenes and sounds. Watch live at <http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/>.



This issue of Adirondack Journal of Environmental Studies focusing on Adirondack birds. (Image credit: Adirondack Research Consortium.)

Adirondack birds featured in new journal issue

The Adirondack Research Consortium and Union College of Schenectady have partnered to publish Volume 20 of the *Adirondack Journal of Environmental Studies* (AJES).

The avian-themed edition features Teddy Roosevelt's summer bird list and Larry Master's Christmas bird count. It features 11 articles, an organizational profile of Northern New York Audubon and color photos by Larry Master. Leading scientists have contributed research to the journal, including "Songbird Research from Sphagnum Bog to Alpine Summit" by Amy Sauer and David Evers, and "State of the Birds in Exurbia" by Michale Glennon and Heidi Kretser.

To receive a copy of Volume 20 of AJES, become an "AJES Member" of the Adirondack Research Consortium and the Kelly Adirondack Center. In addition to supporting the ongoing publication of AJES, members will receive updates on future volumes of

the journal.

The Adirondack Research Consortium is a not-for-profit research-based organization located on the campus of Paul Smith's College. Founded in 1795, Union College is an independent liberal arts college committed to integrating the humanities and social sciences with science and engineering in new and exciting ways. Union is publishing the journal through the Kelly Adirondack Center (<http://muse.union.edu/adirondack/>).

Contact Dan Fitts at info@adkresearch.org or Caleb Northrop at northroc@union.edu with any questions.

Welcome, new members!

Currently, 530 members of National Audubon live in our chapter area. Many of our 169 chapter supporters belong to National Audubon Society and financially support our local efforts of conservation and education.

Chapter supporter dues are the main support for our activities. Gift memberships are available, and will be

announced with an appropriate card at your request.

Our newest chapter supporters are:

Joanne Armstrong, Glens Falls
Kathleen Royka, Saratoga Springs
Dennis Jones, Schuylerville
Kevin Heckeler, West Sand Lake
Suzanne Laplante, Gansevoort
Tracy Battles, Saratoga Springs
Tom & Denise Bennett, Ballston Lake
Mark Silo, Loudonville
Jackie Tinker, Valley Falls
John Tuohy, Ballston Spa
Gene & Jane Sevi, Saratoga Springs

Renewal notices were sent out in January for 2016. We are grateful for all who renewed their chapter supporter membership. You may now donate to, join, or renew through PayPal on the SAAS site. If you have not yet sent in your Chapter Supporter renewal, it is never too late. You can find our membership form on the SAAS membership page: <http://www.southernadirondackaudubon.org/membership/>.

Thanks also to Paul Farhart and Robert Bergman, members who included an additional donation for our chapter operating expenses.

Chapter grows with "Western Territories"

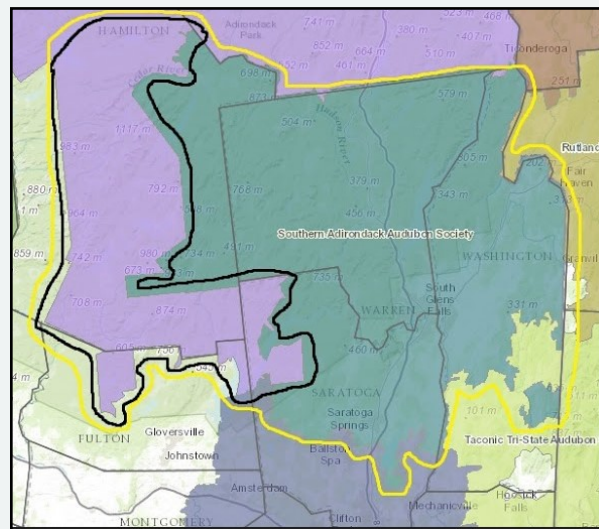
By John Loz, SAAS President

This past fall, Northern New York Audubon graciously agreed to transfer six zip codes from their chapter area to Southern Adirondack Audubon (SAAS). Geographically, it made sense, and, with new SAAS volunteers living in those areas, our Audubon chapter felt we'd be able to service those Hamilton County communities with greater impact and frequency.

We are excited to welcome the towns of Northville, Caroga Lake, Speculator, Lake Pleasant, Piseco and Blue Mountain Lake. Additionally, the Adirondack Museum now falls within our chapter's borders - wel-

come! Our President and Membership Chair will meet with the museum's Public Programs and Membership Chairs to see how we can collaborate with each other and bring you more unique birding events to you.

SAAS's existing territory is in green; purple area is being added to our chapter. (Image credit: National Audubon Society.)



When a life bird is a state record!

By Paul Saffold

Paul Saffold is a former long-time member of SAAS who now lives in West Virginia.

My wife, Theresa, and I often have morning coffee on the deck overlooking a waterfall she built into a ledge in our backyard. It is a small water feature with a drop of only about 18 inches - just enough to make noise. It is a real magnet for birds.

Theresa often uses a camera rather than binoculars and has gotten some nice bird photos. Some of those photos have really helped with identification, especially when the warblers are passing through our hometown in Inwood, Berkeley County, West Virginia!

On October 14, 2015, we were about ready to come back inside when I saw a bird that I knew I had never seen before. I said to Theresa, "Get a picture, it's something different!" But she couldn't see the bird, only the motion in the shrub - it just wouldn't sit still long enough. Then it flew and I didn't see where it went. Luckily, Theresa followed it up into a Hackberry tree and snapped a single photo before it flew off. She wasn't sure at the time that the bird was even in the photo!

We looked in our Peterson's field guide, and on the page with the Black-and-White, Blackpoll, and Black-throated Blue Warblers was the bird I remembered seeing: a gray and white warbler with prominent yellow spots near the eyes. Those yellow spots really stood out in the morning sun! I then checked other books and some online resources and I was sure of the identification. It was a Black-throated Gray Warbler, a bird of the western United States!

All this happened by 10 a.m. However, this species had never been rec-

orded in West Virginia, so who would believe me? Probably no one.

I was excited that I had a new life bird and a rare one at that for this area, but

Late that afternoon, I put the camera card into the computer to look at the day's shots and *BINGO* - one photo actually did have the bird in it. Then I was really excited! Next, I sent the picture to my brother and



Above, Theresa Safford's photo of the Black-throated Gray Warbler. Left, an illustration showing the diagnostic markings.

sister-in-law who are both long-time avid birders and also to a birding friend in New York State for their opinions. They all agreed with my ID. So I signed up for WV-BIRDS and posted the sighting online. I followed with my first post to eBird. Then I couldn't go to sleep.

Over the next few days, I heard from several birders who had seen the postings. Among them were two members of the West Virginia Birds Record Committee (WVBRC). The official West Virginia state bird list is maintained by the Brooks Bird Club of Wheeling, W.V. They asked me to fill out a sightings report and submit it to the committee for review because there was no previous record of the Black-throated Gray Warbler in West Virginia.

The very next day, a member of the WVBRC stated that Theresa's photo was definitive, but official acceptance would have to wait until the committee officially met. On Nov, 28, 2015, I received an email from a reviewer at eBird. He gave provisional recogni-

tion to the sighting. In March of 2016, I was notified by the Brooks Bird Club records committee that the sighting has been recognized as the first documented record of that species in West Virginia. It will be written up in the next issue of *The Redstart*, the club's publication.

We never realized when Theresa created that small waterfall what an attraction it would be - and never dreamed it would bring us a first West Virginia state record bird!

Listen to birding expert Rich Guthrie

WAMC Northeast Public Radio (90.3 FM, Albany) offers Vox Pop, a live call-in talk program featuring experts in various areas. Regional birding expert Richard Guthrie is featured on Vox Pop about once a month. To check when the next show is scheduled and to listen to podcasts of recorded shows anytime, visit <http://wamc.org/post/birding-rich-guthrie-2#stream/0>.

Field Trips and Events

For details and updates, see

<http://southernadirondackaudubon.org/fieldtrips/fieldtrips.html>

Thursday, June 2, Wildflower Walk, 10 a.m., Coles Woods, Crandall Park, Queensbury. Local author Diane Collins, wildflower photographer and author of *Trailside Wildflowers in Coles Woods*, will lead a walk to identify wildflowers. Her wildflower booklet will be available to the walkers for \$5. Meet in the parking lot behind the YMCA on Glen Street. Please call Diane at 792-2811 to sign-up. (Also offered on Thursday, June 16.)

Friday to Sunday, June 3 - 5, 14th Annual Great Adirondack Birding Celebration, Paul Smith's College Visitor Interpretive Center (VIC), Paul Smiths. Field trips and talks focusing on boreal birds of the Adirondacks. Possible sightings include Bicknell's Thrush, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, more. Beginning birders welcomed. Friday: all-day birding field trips led by John and Pat Thaxton or Brian McAllister. Saturday and Sunday morning field trips seek out boreal birding hot spots. Keynote lecturer on Saturday: Dr. Jeremy J. Kirchman of N.Y.S. Museum, on "The Adirondack Archipelago". Contact 518-327-6234 or email vicbirding@gmail.com, or visit <http://www.adirondackvic.org/Great-Adirondack-Birding-Celebration-2016.html>.

Saturday, June 4, Gull Bay Preserve Hike, 8 a.m., northern Washington County. Join Lake George Land Conservancy on the first Saturday of each month. Hike 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/>.

Saturday, June 4, National Trails Day event, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Waterfront Park, Main St. Northville. Join the Northville Merchants Association and other area organizations for local hikes; also Adirondack artisans, vendors, exhibits and rescue demonstrations. Confirm details with NMA at <https://www.facebook.com/NorthvilleMerchantsAssociation/>.

Sunday, June 5, Wilton Wildlife Festival, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Historic Camp Saratoga, Scout Rd., Gansevoort. Nature walks, live animals, lupine planting, nature crafts by SAAS, fire tower tours, food, hands-on activities, much more. Free. See <http://www.wiltonpreserve.org/calendar#> for details.

Friday to Sunday, June 10 - 12, 2016 Adirondack Birding Festival, Hamilton County. Features birding walks and seminars throughout Hamilton County. All field trips are free. Registration is required for each outdoor event. Also: Dr. Nina Schoch talks about Loon Natural History at the Adirondack Museum at 4:30 p.m. on June 11; also, dinner cruise (cost). Visit <http://www.adirondackexperience.com/events/adirondack-birding-festival> and click PDF for more. To register, call (800) 648-5239 or (518) 548-3076 Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Thursday, June 16, Wildflower Walk, 10 a.m., Coles Woods, Crandall Park, Queensbury. Local author Diane Collins, wildflower photographer and author of *Trailside Wildflowers in Coles Woods*, will lead a walk to identify wildflowers. Her wildflower booklet will be available to the walkers for \$5. Meet in the parking lot behind the YMCA on Glen Street. Please call Diane at 792-2811 to sign-up.

For more regional birding field trips, visit Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's website: <https://hmbc.net/content/field-trips>.



Birding in the Catskills

The Ashokan Center in Olivebridge, N.Y. offers the event "Taking Flight - Birding in the Catskills," described as the "best of a birding conference with a birding festival," from Friday, June 10 to Sunday, June 12. For more about this program of the Catskill Center, see the full schedule: <http://catskillcenter.org/taking-flight-about/>. To register, visit <http://catskillcenter.org/taking-flight-registration/>.

Like us on Facebook!

"Like" Southern Adirondack Audubon Society's Facebook page to get the latest information about our events. More than 800 people have liked



BELIZE

Blue-crowned Motmot (*Momotus momota*)



BELIZE BIRDING

SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK AUDUBON SOCIETY
January 7-16, 2017



In addition to its rich Maya history and Caribbean-influenced culture, the small country of Belize offers birders a huge diversity of migrant and resident species in lush and varied ecosystems. Join Southern Adirondack Audubon Society and explore habitats that include wetlands, pine forest, tropical moist forest, and a mangrove island on this unforgettable 10-day adventure.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Support sustainable, bird-based tourism and hemispheric conservation in Belize.
- Go birding at Crooked Tree Sanctuary, a vital habitat for migratory and resident wetland species.
- Journey by boat up the New River to the ruins of Lamanai, once a prominent ceremonial center of the Maya civilization.
- Hike through the towering jungle of Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, also known as Jaguar Preserve.
- Learn about the diversity of endemic butterflies at Green Hills Butterfly Ranch.
- Boat to Man O' War Caye, a major nesting site of the Magnificent Frigatebird.
- Bird around the Belize Zoo and see some of the country's shyest wildlife on a walk through the zoo.

holbrooktravel.com | 800-451-7111

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

JANUARY 7 - CROOKED TREE

Upon arrival in Belize, transfer from the airport to Bird's Eye View Lodge. Enjoy dinner and an orientation this evening. *Overnight at Bird's Eye View Lodge. (D)*

JANUARY 8 - CROOKED TREE

Today travel by boat up the New River to the Maya ruins of Lamanai, with birding along the way. Lamanai, meaning "submerged crocodile," was once a prominent ceremonial center of the Maya civilization. The surrounding forest is home to hundreds of species, like the Collared Aracari, Snail Kite, flycatchers, and tanagers. *Overnight at Bird's Eye View Lodge. (BLD)*

JANUARY 9 - CROOKED TREE

Early this morning take a boat trip on the lagoon for birding. Visit the Crooked Tree Sanctuary, containing both wetland and terrestrial habitats. Learn about the Belize Audubon Society's role in the creation of this park. While here, be on the lookout for Northern Jacana, Sungrebe, and Jabiru, among others. This afternoon enjoy time to explore the area on your own. Talk with a local researcher or conservationist this evening. *Overnight at Bird's Eye View Lodge. (BLD)*

JANUARY 10 - SAN IGNACIO

Begin today with early birding and after breakfast travel to Pook's Hill Reserve. En route, stop at the Belize Zoo, which exhibits more than 125 native animals. Outside the zoo, watch for the Common Tody-flycatcher, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Blue-gray Tanager, and Olive Sparrow. Settle in at Pook's Hill this afternoon and enjoy dinner at the lodge. *Overnight at Pook's Hill Lodge. (BLD)*

JANUARY 11 - SAN IGNACIO

Wake up today for early morning birding at Pook's Hill, described as a "birder's paradise." Spot toucans, trogons, orioles, woodpeckers, and hawks, just to name a few. After breakfast head out for a hike in the primary rainforest of Pook's Reserve. Following lunch go for a swim or inner tubing on the Roaring River. Meet at the Maya plaza later for a short talk about the archaeological history of the Pook's Hill site and the Maya people who lived in the valley. Take an optional night walk after dinner. *Overnight at Pook's Hill Lodge. (BLD)*

JANUARY 12- SAN IGNACIO

Early birding before breakfast. Afterwards depart for Hidden Valley Inn and Reserve (Mountain Pine Ridge Valley) for birding and lunch. Travel back to Pook's Hill, stopping en route at Green Hills Butterfly Ranch to discover the biodiversity of this small country's native butterflies. More than 200 bird species have also been recorded on the 100 acre property; watch for the dozens of hummingbirds that are attracted to feeders in the area. *Overnight at Pook's Hill Lodge. (BLD)*

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:

Contact Debbie Sturdivant Jordan at 866-748-6146 or debbie@holbrooktravel.com | <http://holbrook.travel/saabelize>

JANUARY 13 - HOPKINS

Early birding, then depart for Jaguar Reef Lodge, stopping en route at the Blue Hole National Park for birding. Afternoon boat trip on the Sittee River. Relax at the beachfront lodge near the quaint fishing village of Hopkins. *Overnight at Jaguar Reef Lodge. (BLD)*

JANUARY 14 - HOPKINS

Depart early today with boxed breakfast and lunch for a full day at the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, also known as Jaguar Preserve. Hike through the towering jungle, making your way to one of the park's many impressive waterfalls. The reserve's varying ecosystems provide protection for species like the Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Keel-billed Motmot, and Crested Guan. Stop at the Maya Center Mayan Museum before returning to Jaguar Reef Lodge. *Overnight at Jaguar Reef Lodge. (BLD)*

JANUARY 15 - HOPKINS

Today take a boat trip to Bird Island, known as Man O' War Caye, to see rookeries and go snorkeling if desired. This bird sanctuary is a major nesting site for the Magnificent Frigatebird and is also home to a large community of Brown Boobies. *Overnight at Jaguar Reef Lodge. (BLD)*

JANUARY 16 - FAREWELL

Depart in time to catch your flight home. (B)



PHOTO BY BRIAN GRATWICKE



PHOTO BY DAVID TATE

PROGRAM PRICING

\$2,900 (12 participants)

Cost does not include gratuities or international airfare from Albany, estimated at \$900.

THE FINE PRINT

Price is based on double occupancy; single occupancy arrangements are offered at additional cost. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is required to secure your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable until September 09, 2016 excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than October 04, 2016. Cancellations received after this date are not refundable. Traveltrip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.