

The Fledgling

Newsletter of the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, Inc.

Vol. 34 No. 4, June – August 2017

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

"Talk and a Walk" in Johnsbury; Eagle talk in Northville

By John Loz, SAAS President

Join SAAS this summer for two events on June 3 and August 8.

A special "Talk and a Walk" will be held on **Saturday, June 3** at the Beaver House in Johnsbury, Warren County. Dave Gibson, Managing Partner of *Adirondack Wild - Friends of the Forest Preserve* and co-owner of the house, will talk about the impact of Howard Zahniser and Paul Schaefer on the Adirondack wilderness. Zahniser was the primary au-

Come to our Sunday, June 11 picnic!

SAAS will offer a **free picnic** for our members at Wilton Wildlife Preserve on **June 11**, from noon to 3:00 p.m., in place of a monthly program. The Lions Club will be the chefs, offering hamburgers, hot dogs and more. We'll also offer a bird house building workshop, a live bird of prey program, and members can enjoy the preserve. Please **RSVP by Thursday, June 1** by emailing SAAS board member Rob Snell at birdbrane1@gmail.com. Hope to see you there! No programs are held in July and August.

thor of the federally enacted Wilderness Act of 1964. Upon his death, friend and lifelong Adirondack guide, hunter and conservationist Paul Schaefer assumed ownership of the house. Schaefer founded the Friends of the Forest Preserve in 1945. Schaefer's former home in Niskayuna is now part of the *Kelly Adirondack*

Center of Union College.

The talk will be followed by a bird walk on the mile-long loop trail from Beaver House to the nearby adjacent Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area. Join our members afterwards in nearby North Creek to talk more about the Wilderness Act and support the local restaurants in town.

Please carpool if possible! Please meet promptly at 8:00 a.m. at the end of Edwards Hill Road, Bakers Mills, NY, to drive to the Beaver House. To register, call (518) 708-7825. Morning steady rain will cancel this event. You may want to bring along a folding chair.

Our **Tuesday, August 8**, evening program at the Northville Public Library
Continued on page 2

The Glens Falls People's Climate March, coinciding with more than 600 People's Climate Marches around the world on April 30, was organized by TriCounty NY Transition, a grass-roots group dedicated to protecting and appreciating the earth.

Pictured at the Audubon table are Kelly Knutson, New York Field Organizer for National Audubon Society, and SAAS past president Pat Fitzgerald. Many thanks to SAAS Chapter Supporters Diane Collins and Bernice Mennis for their work in organizing the local event and to all those who stopped by the Audubon table in Crandall Park.



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Southern Adirondack Audubon Society

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Board and Committees

Officers:

President: John Loz
(president@southernadirondackaudubon.org)
Vice-President: Lori Barber
Secretary: OPEN
Treasurer: Sharon Charbonneau

Board of Directors:

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:

Conservation: OPEN

Education: Mona Bearor
(saasmona@gmail.com)

Membership: Barbara Beatty
(membership@southernadirondackaudubon.org)

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Publicity: Laurel Male
(publicity@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 470 members in Warren, Washington, northern Saratoga and southern Hamilton counties in New York State. Contact a board member to find out more about SAAS volunteer opportunities.

President's Message

See you at the picnic!

By John Loz, SAAS President

Come to our "Chapter Supporter Thank You" Picnic!

Our chapter is 33 years old and we could not have come this far without YOU. Our volunteer board wants to show our appreciation by throwing you an outdoor picnic! It'll be a fun afternoon filled with **live birds of prey**, activities for adults and kids alike, plus lunch! It's free to paid SAAS Chapter supporters for this year, but **anyone can attend** by donating only \$10 to become a chapter supporter! I can tell you, I am really excited to hang out with you and look for birds at the Wilton Wildlife Preserve from noon to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 11. See you there!



Talk and a Walk *continued from page 1*

will feature a book signing at 6:30 p.m. and a talk at 7:00 p.m. by Darryl McGrath, local author of *Flight Paths: A Journal of Hope, Heartbreak and Miracles of New York's Bird People* (2016). She will share the story of Lois Goblet, the first DEC biologist to restore the extirpated Bald Eagle population to the Adirondacks. Copies of her book containing eight bird-related restoration stories in New York State will be for sale at the event. Cash or check only, please. The signing and talk will take place at the Northville Public Library, 341 South 3rd Street, Northville, NY 12134.

Meet our board members

Rob Snell

With this issue, we start an occasional feature introducing community residents who volunteer as board members for the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society. This issue starts with Rob Snell, who organized our June 11 Membership Picnic.

Rob joined the SAAS board in 2015 to help support his passion for birds and the environment. He acquired his love for birding and the outdoors from his mom as a child, and this bond with nature has been maintained through his life.

Rob also leads a birding class for the Academy for Lifelong Learning in Saratoga Springs, and is a member of the Town of Greenfield Lions Club and the Saratoga Springs Rotary Club.

Rob and his wife, Kathleen, have four fledged children, and live between their homes in Saratoga Springs and Great Sacandaga Lake. Rob has been a financial advisor for 37 years, and currently maintains an office for Edward Jones in Saratoga Springs.





SAAS past president Don Polunci snapped this photo of a Red-breasted Nuthatch. This species will likely be the focus species for SAAS's Audubon Climate Watch in June. Members are invited to participate in this survey.

Join our bird survey in June!

SAAS will participate in National Audubon Society's new citizen-science pilot project, **Audubon Climate Watch**, from June 1 to 15. The goal of the project is to learn how specific bird species are affected by climate change. The SAAS survey will focus on just one group of species: nuthatches, most likely Red-breasted Nuthatches, pictured to the left.

SAAS is seeking 20 volunteers to collect data about birds in our area. Volunteers would use a specific protocol established by National Audubon: using grid maps of a specific area, birders will conduct 12 counts, observing for five minutes each. They would also record the numbers and species of other birds identified within 100 meters. Contact SAAS board member Rob Snell for more information: birdbrane1@gmail.com.

Details about the program are available at the program's website, <http://www.audubon.org/news/climate-watch-program>. According to that site, Audubon issued a report in 2014, *Birds and Climate Change*, on risks faced by North American bird species from climate change. Climate Watch was developed after Audubon members asked how they could help. The Audubon Climate Watch program started in 2016, focusing on bluebirds.

Costa Rica trip set for March, 2018

SAAS is organizing a week-long birding trip to Costa Rica in March, planned by Holbrook Travel. The trip starts in Costa Rica's capital, San José, and travels to the Suria Lodge in San Gerardo de Dota and the Selva Verde Reserve in Chilamate. The cost of the trip is \$1,650, excluding airfare. See pages 9 and 10 for the itinerary and more information. In January, SAAS offered a bird-filled trip to Belize, enjoyed by 10 local birders.

Nestcams offer peeks at birdlife

Get a birds'-eye view of several nests around the country through web cameras hosted by these organizations:

- American Kestrel Partnership's Bosch KestrelCam, in Boise, Idaho: <http://kestrel.peregrinefund.org/>.
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology's *All About Birds* website offers several nestcams at <http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/>. Watch Barred Owls, Red-tailed Hawks, Ospreys, Albatrosses in Hawaii, as well as Lance-tailed Manakins in Panama. It includes bird feeder cameras in Ithaca and Ontario.

Bird-finding in the area

Summer is a great time to enjoy the area bird hotspots: Hudson Crossing Park in Schuylerville, the Towpath Road in Kingsbury, the Betar Byway in South Glens Falls, Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail in the Town of Saratoga and Carter's Pond Bird Conservation Area in the Town of Greenwich, Washington County. Visit the

SAAS Birding website, <http://www.southernadirondackaudubon.org/birding/birding.html>. The page also links to the *Bird-finding Calendar for the Capital District*, written by Tom Williams of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club.

Hummingbird helpers

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are back for the season. A nectar feeder in your yard helps them replenish their energy.

- National Audubon offers an easy [nectar recipe](#), with 1/4 cup white sugar and a cup of boiling water.
- To create a hummingbird-friendly yard with plants customized to this area, see this information sheet created by SAAS education chair Mona Bearor on the SAAS website: [Plant and They Will Come! Hummingbirds – the Crowning Glory of Your Garden](#).

May 24: Old growth trees program

On Wednesday, May 24 at 7:00 p.m., Fred Breglia, Executive Director of the Landis Arboretum in Esperance, N.Y., will give the final SAAS program for the summer: "Ancient Forests and Champion Trees" at the Saratoga Springs Public Library. He will highlight many of the old growth trees that exist throughout New York, including the Capital Region. The program is co-sponsored by Sustainable Saratoga. *No program is held in July or August.*

Public hearing reveals broad support for the Big Cedar Swamp

By John Caffry, Chapter Chair, Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

This editorial is republished with permission of the Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club. SAAS is a member of the Big Cedar Swamp Coalition.

On April 5, 2017, Warren County held a public hearing on its proposal to extend a runway at the Warren County Airport further into the Big Cedar Swamp in Queensbury. If approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), New York State DEC, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, this project would destroy over 10 acres of wetlands, and many more acres of other types of wildlife habitat. The wetlands at risk of being bulldozed include part of one of the few marl fens in the world. Marl fen habitat is ranked as Globally Rare, and 8% to 10% of it is found in the Big Cedar Swamp.

In addition to the marl fen, the wetland complex also includes extensive areas of rare northern white cedar swamp and several hundred more acres of other types of Class I wetlands. The Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter of ADK, Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, and other members of the Big Cedar Swamp Coalition have been advocating

Right: Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport (Warren County Municipal Airport) in Queensbury, New York. Photo: Wikimedia Commons, June 8, 2009. Author JBC3.

for the protection of this unique natural resource for more than three decades.

The County's environmental assessment report (EA) for the project is grossly deficient. No hydrogeological study of the project's impacts on the nearby part of the marl fen which will not be bulldozed has been performed. The EA laughably claims that impacts on wildlife will be mitigated because "there are 782 acres of adjacent forested wetland areas that wildlife can migrate [to]". Also, it contains no actual proposals to compensate for the runway's impacts on wetlands, just vague concepts such as creating new wetlands elsewhere in the county.

Attendance at the hearing has been estimated at between 150 and 200. Of the over 30 people who spoke, about 25 were opposed to the project, and the great majority of the others present supported them. John Caffry spoke on behalf of the Chapter and the Big Cedar Swamp Coalition. Over the last three-plus decades, wetlands protection has become a grassroots issue in this area - none of the numerous other people who supported this goal at the hearing mentioned any affiliation with the Coalition.

Other speakers expressed concerns about the cost of the project, the lack

of a proven need for it, noise impacts, and the effects of stormwater runoff on their nearby properties. One local resident likened the airport to a "yacht club" for pilots. In addition, several current and former local officials spoke out against the project. The only people speaking in favor of the project were a group of 5 local pilots and the Town Supervisor of Queensbury, who claimed, without any real supporting evidence, that the project would create economic development.

The County's EA can be found at http://www.warrencountyny.gov/airport/draft_ea.php [reports on the marl fen are in Appendix Q]. The next step in the process will be for the FAA to decide whether or not to require a full environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). By the time this story is published, the public comment period on that question will have closed. However, Chapter members who live in Warren County can still make their voices heard by contacting their representative on the County Board of Supervisors and asking them to vote to end the County's support for the project. The full list of Supervisors is available at <http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/bos.php>.



Species Spotlight

Ospreys

By Joyce Miller, Newsletter Editor

Ospreys regularly nest in the Fort Miller area along the Hudson River in Washington County, making this striking raptor easy to find and watch. In flight, the crook in their “elbows” form an M-shape, making identification simple.

Ospreys in our area start arriving in late March. They breed along the coasts in the United States and in the northern part of North America. In late summer, they fly south to the Gulf Coast and Central and South America. Most are gone from this area in September, though some linger into November, according to [eBird records](#) for this area.

Ospreys build large vegetation-lined stick nests, often on human-provided platforms near water. Bald Eagles built a nest this spring on one Osprey pair’s usual nesting spot in Fort Miller.

As their former name “fish hawk” indicates, Ospreys specialize in eating fish. They are very efficient hunters: Cornell’s *All About Birds* website mentions that it takes an Osprey an average of 12 minutes to catch a fish, with a success rate varying from 25% to 70% for each attempt. They may hunt as far as 12 miles from the nest.

Osprey females are heftier and darker than the males. These raptors may live as long as 15 to 20 years. Their numbers have greatly increased since DDT was banned in 1972. Like Peregrine Falcons, they are found on every continent except Antarctica.

For more information, see Cornell’s *All About Birds* page about Ospreys: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Osprey/id>.



High drama — Don Polunci caught this sequence at the Route 4 nest in Fort Miller, Washington County, in April of 2015. **Above**, the female on the left locks claws to defend the nest from an intruder, believed to be a juvenile Osprey from its lighter coloration. The male was nearby. **Below** is the scene moments later. The female sits on the nest and the intruder flies away as the darker male swoops under the intruder.



New exhibits at Arkell Museum in Canajoharie

By John Loz, SAAS President

Canada Lake is located in the southwest portion of our Audubon chapter area. Paintings of its environment are now on display at [The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie](#) in the Mohawk Valley, Montgomery County.

The exhibition, "Canada Lake Portraits," features more than 20 pieces from the Arkell collection by Paul Bransom, featuring birds such as waterfowl and the natural habitats in the surrounding area of the lake. The exhibit also includes a view of Canada Lake by Charles Sarka, Bransom's good friend and a companion of the Bransom family during their summers at the lake.

Bransom's detailed illustrations are featured in hundreds of magazines and more than 40 books, including *Call of the Wild*, *Wind in the Willows*, and *Argosy of Fables*. In the early 1920s, he built a home at Canada Lake which only provided further inspiration for his art. Along with other artists and writers, Bransom worked to capture the beauty of the Adirondacks and its animal residents.

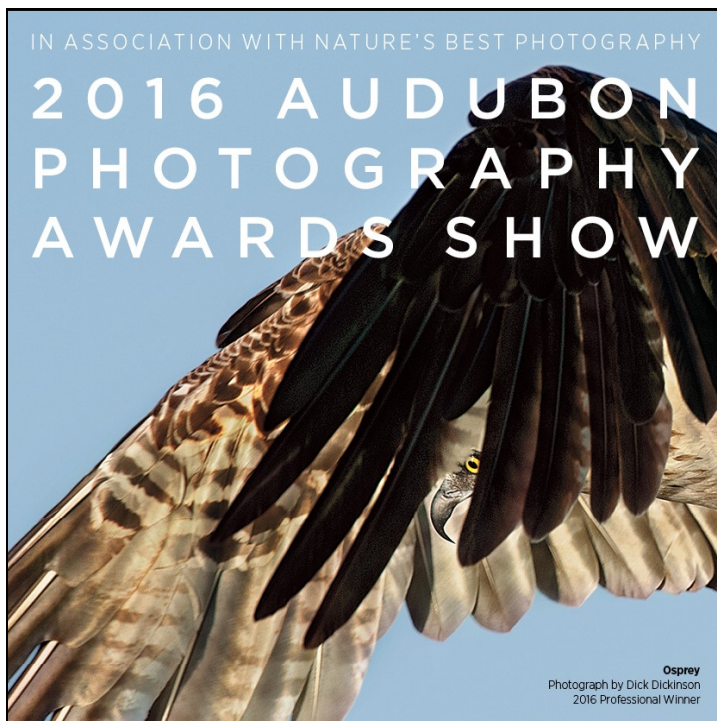
The Arkell will also showcase a limited three-week exhibition of the travelling photography exhibit from the National Audubon Society 2016 Photography Awards. Our chapter neighbor, the [Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society](#),



An Arkell Museum installer checks light levels to ensure that no damage will occur to the art in the exhibit. Photo by Jenna Peterson.

ty, is sponsoring this event, taking place from Thursday, May 18 through Thursday, June 8. Selected from over 7,000 entries—submitted from all 50 states, Washington D.C., and Canada—the winning photos were published in the May-June 2016 issue of *Audubon* magazine. A panel of five judges reviewed the stunning images and selected the 100 finalists, based on technical quality, originality and artistic merit. Twelve of these images will be displayed in the lower level gallery of the museum.

The Arkell Museum was founded by Bartlett Arkell, the founder of the Beech-Nut Packing Company. The collection includes paintings by Winslow Homer, Thomas Benton, Childe Hassam, John Singer Sargent, Albert Bierstadt, and other renowned artists. The museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday, noon to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$9.00 for adults and \$6.50 for students and seniors, and free for museum members. The museum, located at 2 Erie Boulevard, has off street parking and is wheelchair accessible. For details, call (518) 673 2314 or email info@arkellmuseum.org.



Production of this Summer's *The Fledgling* newsletter is provided by Edward Jones, 34 Congress Street, Suite 102, Saratoga Springs, NY.

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Clintonia offers twice the beauty

By Diane Collins, wildflower photographer and author of *Trailside Wildflowers* in Coles Woods.

Clintonia borealis is native to the boreal forest in eastern North America. This plant is in the Lily family, likes shade, and grows in colonies. It is named after DeWitt Clinton, an 18th century botanist and early governor of New York. Flowers bloom in late May or early June. The striking blue berries develop later in the summer. When I come across this lily variety in spring, I know I have the bright blueberries to look forward to in late July.

Clintonia or Blue-bead Lily displays yellow flowers in spring (below, left). The flowers transform in to blue “beads” in mid-July in our area (below, right).



Preventing bird window strikes

The American Bird Conservancy estimates that up to a billion birds die each year in the United States when they hit buildings. Birds perceive shiny windows as the reflected sky or leaves. Homeowners can do several things to reduce bird strikes on windows. Single hawk-shaped window decals are not effective, research shows. Closely-spaced lines, made of tape or other material on the outside of windows, seem to work best to make the window look non-reflective. For detailed information on preventing window strikes, here are some good sources:

- All About Birds: [Why Birds Hit Windows—And How You Can Help Prevent It](#)
- The American Bird Conservancy: [Effective Window Solutions](#)
- American Birding Association: [A Crashless Course in Avoiding Bird Collisions](#) (downloadable issue with both temporary and more long-term solutions).

Wait to avoid Oak Wilt

Pruning oak trees in warm weather increases chances of attracting beetles that carry oak wilt, which can kill trees in a few weeks. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation recommends pruning them between October and February when the beetles are not active. More information is available on the DEC's Oak Wilt website (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/46919.html>).

Where phoebes nest

Cornell Lab of Ornithology published the report *NestWatch Digest*, summarizing the 2016 nesting season data collected on the website NestWatch (<http://nestwatch.org>).

NestWatch is a citizen science project compiling thousands of observations of nesting birds by volunteers around the country. Many birders in this area who maintain bluebird boxes post their findings to this site.

In the Northeast, the 10 most reported nesting species were Tree Swallow, Eastern Bluebird, House Wren, House Sparrow, American Robin, Black-capped Chickadee, Carolina Chickadee, Purple Martin, Prothonotary Warbler and Eastern Phoebe.

In the article “Where did Eastern Phoebes nest before European settlement?,” Robyn Bailey writes: “Of 1,587 Eastern Phoebe nests reported to NestWatch to date, 99.4% were built on a human-made structure. ... What did Eastern Phoebes nest on before European settlement? The literature tells us that natural rock outcroppings or caves were used, ideally if a ledge or crevice could be found with close overhead cover. It's small wonder that the many protected little niches around our homes, decks, bridges, and outbuildings came to attract nesting phoebes.”



Don Polunci captured these scenes of the Great Gray Owl that thrilled birders in Keene, N.Y. this winter. Great Grays are a boreal species that occasionally visit northern New York. They are the world's largest owl, measuring up to 33 inches in length.



COSTA RICA



Masked Tityra (Tityra semifasciata)
Photo by Sanford M. Sorkin



COSTA RICA

INTRODUCTION TO NEOTROPICAL BIRDING

with Southern Adirondack Audubon Society

March 11-17, 2018



This 7-day program with Southern Adirondack Audubon Society is a great introduction to the Neotropical birds of Central America. Despite its small size, more than 900 types of birds have been recorded in the country. Combine that with its accessibility and its friendly people, and Costa Rica is a perfect destination for beginners and more advanced birders alike. Plus, you'll discover fascinating wildlife like frogs, monkeys, bats, and sloths. Local birding guides who are experts at identification by both sight and sound will help ensure you spot as many species as possible.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit Costa Rica's newest national park, Los Quetzales National Park, for the chance to see approximately 300 avian species including the park's namesake.
- Watch for species like the Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Crested Guan, and Spectacled Owl at La Selva Biological Station, world-renowned for scientific research on rainforest ecosystems.
- Get a different perspective of the rainforest from atop the 100-meter suspended walkway at Tirimbina Biological Reserve for the chance to see species that spend their time within the forest canopy.
- Take guided hikes in the 500-acre primary and secondary rainforest reserve at Selva Verde Lodge, which provides habitat to more than 350 bird species, including the endangered Great Green Macaw.

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ITINERARY

BLD – BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

MARCH 11 - SAN JOSÉ

Individual arrivals in San José. *Overnight at Hotel Buena Vista.*

MARCH 12 - SAN GERARDO DE DOTA

Early this morning check out of the lodge and depart for San Gerardo de Dota. Have lunch en route and then check in at Suria Lodge. After settling in, explore the property and enjoy dinner at the hotel restaurant. *Overnight at Suria Lodge. (BLD)*

MARCH 13 - SAN GERARDO DE DOTA

Spend the morning exploring the trails at Suria Lodge in search of Resplendent Quetzal and some of the other 169 species found here. A paradise for birdwatchers, this forest is amazing to walk through and is also rich with insects, mammals, and amphibians. The large centennial oaks are laden with lichens and mosses that contrast with the colorful bromeliads. Explore the trails in search of such specialties as Spotted Wood-Quail, Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl, Resplendent Quetzal, Collared Trogon, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Ruddy Treerunner, Ochraceous Pewee, Barred Becard, Zeledonia, and Golden-browed Chlorophonia, just to name a few. After lunch, journey to the cloud forest of Costa Rica's newest national park, Los Quetzales National Park (approximately 7,500 feet elevation). Dinner at the lodge this evening. *Overnight at Suria Lodge. (BLD)*

MARCH 14 - CHILAMATE

Early this morning check out of the lodge and depart for Selva Verde Lodge & Rainforest Reserve. En route visit El Tapir for birding. At a slightly higher elevation and with heavier rainfall, this area holds many specialty birds. Regular sightings include Lattice-tailed Trogon, Yellow-eared Toucanet, Streak-crowned Antvireo, Tawny-faced Gnatwren, White-throated Shrike-Tanager, Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager, and Tawny-crested, Emerald, and Blue-and-gold Tanagers. Rarities seen here on occasion include Rufous-fronted Wood-Quail, Red-fronted Parrotlet, Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo, Black-crowned Antpitta, Gray-headed Piprites, and Sharpbill. Arrive at Selva Verde and check in. This afternoon take a hike in the reserve with your guide. Protecting 500 acres of rainforest, Selva Verde offers many covered walks, birding trails, and lookout points. Selva Verde provides opportunities to see species such as the Keel-billed Toucan, Great Green Macaw, White-winged Becard, Sunbittern, Acadian Flycatcher, and Wood Thrush. Boots are available for use if the trails are muddy. Take an optional walk after dinner to discover nocturnal frogs and insects. *Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge & Rainforest Reserve. (BLD)*

MARCH 15 - CHILAMATE

Early morning birding before breakfast. Then set out to explore the reserve again on a different trail. The Selva Verde Reserve is home to one of the largest almond trees in all of Central America, which provides habitat for the endangered Great Green Macaw. Return in time for lunch and later this afternoon visit Tirimbina Biological Reserve for a guided hike. The trails are designed to approach areas of high interest for wildlife

watching or viewing highlights of rainforest biodiversity. The greater proportion of the life of a rainforest thrives in the forest canopy. Tirimbina visitors experience a view of the richness of treetop flora and fauna from a 100-meter suspended canopy walkway spanning one of the many stream valleys in the reserve. After dinner at Tirimbina enjoy an informative talk on the lives of bats. *Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge & Rainforest Reserve. (BLD)*

MARCH 16 - CHILAMATE

This morning depart early for the Organization for Tropical Studies La Selva Biological Station. La Selva is world-renowned for scientific research on rainforest ecosystems and has been studying this forest for more than 50 years. Be on the lookout for the Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Crested Guan, Great Tinamou, Pied Puffbird and Spectacled Owl as possible sightings. Return to the lodge for lunch. Your afternoon is free to participate in optional activities such as Sarapiquí River boat ride, rafting or horseback riding (arranged at the reception after your arrival and paid on-site), spending time by the pool, or looking for avian visitors in Selva Verde's botanical garden area. Later this afternoon enjoy a guided birdwatching hike or take in the river views from the patio overlooking the Sarapiquí River. *Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge & Rainforest Reserve. (BLD)*

MARCH 17 - FAREWELL!

Transfer to the airport in time to catch your afternoon flight home. Flights should be scheduled for after 1 pm. (B)

LAND PRICING

\$1,650

Cost includes meals, accommodations, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, full-time guide, and carbon offset.

Does not include international airfare, estimated at \$880 from Albany, gratuities for guide or driver, or items of a personal nature. Please call for an airfare quote from your city if you would like assistance booking flights.

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on double occupancy; for a single room throughout the trip add \$175 per person. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable until December 6, 2017 excluding a \$100 cancellation fee, at which time non-refundable final payment is due in full. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit www.travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:

Contact Debbie Sturdivant Jordan at 866-748-6146 or email debbie@holbrooktravel.com
Visit holbrook.travel/saas-cr18

Welcome, new members!

Currently, 476 members of National Audubon live in our chapter area. Many of our 129 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:
Michelle Leonard, Mechanicville

*Bernard Fabry, Saratoga
Michael White, Saratoga
Nancy Hill, So. Glens Falls*

Renewal notices were sent out in November for 2017. We are grateful for all who renewed their chapter supporter membership.

If you have not yet sent in your renewal, it is never too late. You can renew online or find a renewal form on our website: <http://www.southernadironackaudubon.org/membership/membership.html>.

Thanks also to James Grinter and Michael White who included additional generous donations for our

chapter's operating expenses and projects.

SAAS environmental sign-ons

The SAAS Environmental Committee signed on to support these initiatives in March:

- **American Bird Conservancy, American Birding Association and Cornell Lab of Ornithology** - Together for Birds Petition asking the new administration to promote conservation of birds and their habitats. They endorse the Endangered Species Act, The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Federal Funding For Birds, The Environmental Protection Agency and Land Management for Birds and People.
- **Help Birds Fly Free!** - The Bureau of Land Management is advocating for saying "no" to open pipes on public lands, because birds frequently get trapped and die.
- **National Wildlife Foundation** - A request sent out to the current administration not to cut our present funding levels of 32.2 billion for key federal resources that protect our wildlife, water and public lands, ensure support for continued access to future generations to our national cultural heritage and our national parks.



SAAS member Eric Krantz took this photo from the backyard of his home on Lake George, showing a female Common Merganser with 21 chicks (not all hers, Eric noted) in tow. The photo was taken in May, 2016.

Common Merganser nests are usually located in tree holes. Soon after they hatch, the merganser chicks jump out of the trees to the ground. They catch water insects for the first 12 days and then start to catch fish, according to Cornell's All About Birds.



Summer 2017

Field trips and events

To see this schedule on our website, please visit <http://www.southernadirondackaudubon.org/fieldtrips/fieldtrips.html>.

Wednesday, May 24—7 p.m.

“Ancient Forests and Champion Trees,” Saratoga Springs Public Library, Henry Street, Saratoga Springs.

By Fred Breglia, Executive Director of the Landis Arboretum in Esperance, N.Y., will highlight many of the old growth trees that exist throughout New York, including the Capital Region. Monthly program by SAAS; this program is co-sponsored by Sustainable Saratoga. *Note: No program is held in July or August.*

Friday to Sunday, June 2-4

Great Adirondack Birding Celebration

Held at Paul Smiths College Visitor Interpretive Center (VIC), Paul Smiths. 15th annual event. For schedule and registration visit <http://www.paulsmiths.edu/vic/gabc>.

Saturday, June 3 – 8:00 a.m.

“Talk and a Walk” to Beaver House, Johnsburg

See full details on page 1. Led by Dave Gibson, Managing Partner of [Adirondack Wild - Friends of the Forest Preserve](#) and co-owner of the house. Talk on the impacts of Howard Zahniser and Paul Schaefer on the Adirondack wilderness, followed by a bird walk on the mile-long loop trail from the house and to near the adjacent Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area. After the walk, join SAAS members in North Creek to talk more about the Wilderness Act and support the local restaurants in town. Please carpool; bring folding chair if wanted. Meet promptly at 8:00 a.m. at the end of Edwards Hill Road, Bakers Mills, NY, where we will proceed to the Beaver House. To register call: 518-708-7825. Morning steady rain will cancel event.

Friday to Sunday, June 9 to 11

Adirondack Birding Festival, Hamilton County

The 2017 Birding Festival Schedule is available at <http://www.adirondackexperience.com/events/adirondack-birding-festival>. For more information and to register, call (800) 648-5239 or (518) 548-3076, Monday - Friday.

Wildflower Walk in Cole's Woods

Queensbury, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Diane Collins, wildflower photographer and author of *Trailside Wildflowers in Coles Woods* will be leading a wildflower walk at Cole's Woods. The cost is \$5 and includes a copy of her wildflower booklet. Meet in the parking lot behind the YMCA on Glen Street. Please call Diane at 792-2811 to register. Walks will be held on these days:

Saturday, June 3

Saturday, June 17

Saturday, July 1

Saturday, July 15

Saturday, August 5

Saturday, August 19

Sunday, June 11 - noon to 3:00 p.m.

Members' Picnic, Wilton Wildlife Preserve

Hamburgers, hot dogs, more by the Lions Club; also, bird house building workshop, live bird of prey program, enjoy the preserve. RSVP by **Thursday, June 1**: email Rob Snell, birdbrane1@gmail.com.

Tuesday, August 8 - 6:30 signing; 7:00 talk Book Signing and Talk, Northville Public Library, 341 South 3rd Street, Northville, Fulton County

Book signing at 6:30 p.m. and talk at 7 p.m. with Darryl McGrath, local author of *Flight Paths: A Journal of Hope, Heartbreak and Miracles of New York's Bird People* (2016). She will share the story of Lois Goblet, the first DEC biologist to restore the extirpated Bald Eagle population to the Adirondacks. Copies of her book containing eight bird-related restoration stories in New York State will be for sale at the event. Cash or check only, please.



Birding weekend set for Catskills, June 9-11

Enjoy a number of speakers and birding field trips in the Catskills from Friday June 9 through Sunday June 11. Saturday's keynote speaker will be [Richard Crossley](#). He'll join participants on a birding outing on Sunday morning. Brian "Fox" Ellis will portray John James Audubon in a dynamic performance that engages listeners in scientific inquiry, natural history and ornithology as Friday evening's keynote speaker. For more information, see <http://catskillcenter.org/taking-flight-registration/>