

The Fledgling

Newsletter of the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, Inc. (SAAS)

Vol. 35 No. 1, September - November 2017

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

Fall programs: Peregrines, Costa Rica, Flight Paths

Matthew Perry of the **Utica Peregrine Falcon Project** will share a multimedia presentation of his work on **Wednesday, September 27**, at 7 p.m. at the Saratoga Springs Public Library on Henry Street in downtown Saratoga Springs. The free program is open to the public.

Perry is the Conservation Director and Resident Naturalist for [Spring Farm CARES](#) in Clinton, N.Y., where he oversees habitat restoration projects at a 260-acre nature preserve. Perry writes monthly nature themed articles for [Mohawk Valley Living Magazine](#) and is the Region 5 editor for the *Kingbird*, the quarterly journal of the New York State Ornithological Association.

He is also the president and co-

founder of the Utica Peregrine Falcon Project, which is dedicated to safeguarding and monitoring breeding Peregrine Falcons in Utica. This program fostered the first and second pairs of Peregrine Falcons to nest and fledge their young in downtown Utica.

He will also share the ongoing annual nest-watch efforts in the city, as well as videos of behavior and dramatic flights of the falcons flying through the "urban canyons" of Utica.

Photographer **Douglas Goodell** will present "**Costa Rica: Nature's Paradise**" on **Wednesday, October 25**, at 7 p.m. at the Saratoga Springs Public Library.

Goodell has been involved



with photography most of his life. A technical background and wildlife interest came together when he retired from research in 1998. Avian photography remains his main interest. His work has included fine-art prints,

books, lectures and workshops. Goodell is a contributor or co-author of these books: *In the Presence of Nature* (2004), *Duck Enough to Fly* (2005), *Jungle of the Maya* (2006), and *Nature's Paradise – Costa Rica* (2012).

He is currently most active with photography of rescue animals to help promote their adoptions. He is a member of the Ridgewood Camera Club, the New Jersey Photographers Forum and the North American Nature Photographers Association.

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An adult male Peregrine hands off prey to a juvenile Peregrine in Utica. Photo courtesy of Matt Perry.



Douglas Goodell photographed this Red-eyed Treefrog near Vara Blanca, Alajuela, Costa Rica.

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Southern Adirondack Audubon Society

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Board and Committees

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President: John Loz
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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
(education@southernadirondackaudubon.org)

Membership: Barbara Beatty
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Southern Adirondack Audubon Society (SAAS) is a certified local chapter of the National Audubon Society. SAAS's primary goal is to protect the environment by preserving natural habitats and promoting environmental education. The group has about 400 members in Warren, Washington, northern Saratoga and southern Hamilton counties in New York State. Contact a board member to learn about SAAS volunteer opportunities.

President's Message

Slowing down to enjoy nature

By John Loz, SAAS President



I write this message looking out at the Blue Ridge Mountains from my ninth floor hotel room window here in Roanoke, Virginia, taking a break from an annual family reunion. In fact, I just discovered a nest built of sticks sitting upon an insurance company sign on the next building over and I'm watching for what raptor flies in!

This summer has been filled with assisting my mother with her bum Achilles, dealing with a big office move of my day job, and answering requests from other Audubon chapters here in New York and Connecticut to help with strategic planning. It continues to be a hectic, and at times stressful, whirlwind of a summer.

I have found though, that birding has given me that opportunity — and excuse — to slow down and take in what's literally flying around me. Because I can ride my bike to work now, partially through a nature preserve, I can enjoy the sunbeams streaking through the trees and birds flying across the path. My meetings around the region are now planned around which conservation area I'll visit, so I cart my binoculars and spotting scope out to a serene pond to just relax for a short while and watch for diving and dabbling waterfowl. Recent research has pointed to the health benefits of spending time in nature and taking walks in the woods to reduce stress in busy lives. I encourage you to get outdoors and enjoy the healing effects of hearing rustling leaves in the trees and the songs of our avian friends.

Meet our board members

Sharon Charbonneau, SAAS Treasurer

Sharon Charbonneau joined SAAS in 2015 and is currently serving as the chapter's Treasurer.

She learned of the chapter while researching information about hummingbirds and was surprised to learn that Audubon had a local presence with information and interests focused on the local area.

"It was very refreshing to see that the chapter is involved in many local environmental issues as well as national concerns all, of course, evolving around the impact on birds," she said.

Sharon is a backyard birding enthusiast, enjoying the daily visits of Northern Cardinals, Dark-eyed Juncos, Black-capped Chickadees, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds as well as more elusive birds such as Pileated Woodpeckers and Pine Warblers. Sharon is particularly interested in corvids, especially crows. They are an elegant bird — sometimes too chatty, often naughty, but smart.

Sharon has worked for several years as the Compliance Officer for The Adirondack Trust Company and lives on a quiet street in Queensbury.



Fall programs

Continued from page 1

The small country of Costa Rica is a paradise for nature lovers, biologists and photographers. This program will highlight some of its natural wonders, diversity, beauty and contrasts.

Goodell will illustrate how the mountains and volcanoes separating the coastal areas lead to microclimates ranging from very wet to very dry, and from tropical to sub-alpine, and some of the flora and fauna characteristic of each. The program is not a recitation of species, but is a narrative of some of the findings and experiences encountered in the preparation of a photo-based book.

SAAS is organizing a birding trip to Costa Rica in March, 2018. See the article on this page and two-page newsletter insert for details.

Journalist **Darryl McGrath** will talk about her book ***Flight Paths*** on **Wednesday, November 29** at Crandall Library in downtown Glens Falls at 7 p.m. Her program is entitled "Flight Paths: Field Journal of Hope, Heartbreak and Miracles of New York's Bird People."

"In the late 1970s, the Bald Eagle and the Peregrine Falcon were heading toward extinction, victims of the combined threats of DDT, habitat loss, and lax regulation," according to her book publisher, SUNY Press. "*Flight Paths* tells the story of how a small group of New York biologists raced against nature's clock to bring



Douglas Goodell photographed these feisty Scarlet Macaws in Tarcoles, Costa Rica.

that the work done in New York at Cornell and by the NYS DEC [Department of Environmental Conservation] were the models for all other similar programs in the United States," McGrath stated. "The two projects started 10 years apart, involved a great deal of trial and error, several first-time-ever accomplishments, and were wildly successful."

The book also includes a section on the threats facing at-risk species today in New York. To do this part of the book, she accompanied biologists as they did their field research. She focused on the Common Loon, the Short-eared Owl, the Piping Plover and the Bicknell's Thrush, and examined the issues facing them, including man-made obstacles, predation by cats, mercury contamination and invasive species.

The book will be available for sale at the end of the talk.

McGrath, a resident of Albany, has written about upstate New York's environment for more than 20 years. She has earned awards from the New York Press Association, the New York Associated Press Association, and the Society of Professional Journalists.

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

Costa Rica trip planned for March

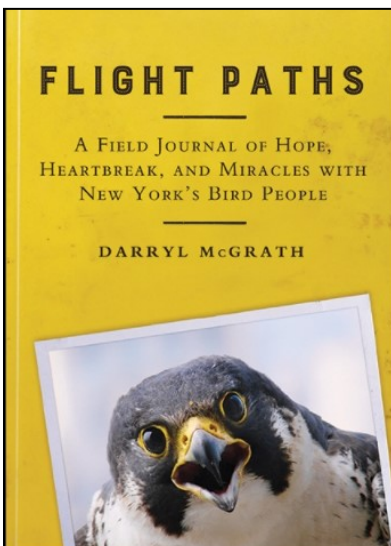
SAAS is organizing a week-long birding trip to Costa Rica from March 11 to 17, 2018. It is organized by Holbrook Travel.

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.

Registrations are being accepted now. The cost of the trip is \$1,650, excluding airfare. Deposits are refundable until December 6.

See the two-page insert in this newsletter for the itinerary and more information.

This is the second birding trip offered by SAAS. In January, 10 area birders enjoyed a scenic and bird-filled trip to Belize.



these two beloved birds back from the brink in record-setting numbers. In a narrative that reads like a suspense tale, Darryl McGrath documents both rescue projects in never-before-published detail."

"Most people don't realize that these were not federal initiatives, and

McGrath's book cover features a Peregrine Falcon. (Image courtesy of SUNY Press.)

Learn to be lazy! Fall landscaping for the birds

By Mona Bearor, Education Chair

Spring and summer are the busy times in my garden. Planting, weeding and maintaining the garden pools for both beauty and the well-being of my bird residents is a tiring and time-consuming job. Fall is my time to slow down, relax more, and be that lazy person that lurks inside of me the rest of the year.

You can ignore several chores at the end of the growing season that will be a help to the birds and other wildlife that choose to spend the fall and winter months in your yard.

1. Don't cut back!

Unless you have a problem with disease, leave the foliage of flowers and grasses to provide a home for insects that attract birds. At the end of the season a perennial garden that's not cut to the ground is inviting to birds because they will feel protected among the plants. The birds will also find seeds, insects, insect eggs and larvae that over-winter on the dried foliage.

2. Don't deadhead!

As fall approaches, allow the seeds to mature on the flowers that you have carefully deadheaded all season. This will provide much needed natural food for birds that remain in the area and may attract migrants as well. Goldfinches love the seeds of coneflowers. The deep red heads of sedum attract grosbeaks, siskins and sparrows.

3. Don't eliminate dead wood!

Most home owners run for the saw as soon as they spot a dead branch or tree on their property. Unless it is a hazard to residents or guests, don't be too quick to remove dead trees and limbs. These make homes for the birds that prefer natural hollows for nesting. The insect population on a dead, decaying tree will attract birds and woodpeckers will use the tree for drumming during mating season. Leave some dead branches to serve as natural perches - many birds like a spot where they can easily see ap-



The seeds of native coneflowers (Echinacea) provide winter food for American Goldfinches. Photo: Joyce Miller

proaching predators or danger. The decaying tree may also serve as a host for fungi or lichens, which provide food and nesting materials.

4. Don't clean up the leaves!

Mulch some of your yard leaves with the mower and leave piles - they attract insects and therefore birds. You will be amazed at how quickly you have birds scratching around in a newly found pile of leaf litter. You may have the added bonus of a colony of ladybugs taking winter refuge on your property, and when spring arrives, they will be ready to clear your garden of aphids.

5. Don't trim your shrubs!

Many homeowners do all their shrub trimming and shaping in the fall, thinking that they will be all set for the spring season when it comes. Spring flowering and most berry producing shrubs are properly trimmed right after flowering. If you need to trim or shape, research and know the proper time for each plant. Be careful not to do this chore when you are eliminating the berries and fruit that can be a much needed food source for birds.

Meticulous fall cleanup of garden

debris only lessens the attractiveness of your property to the wildlife you are trying to lure. If you just can't leave it all until spring, then compromise and clean some areas and leave others. The birds and other wildlife will appreciate your efforts and you will enjoy learning to be lazy!

This and other articles are available on the SAAS website's [Education](#) page.

Mapping migration

Cornell Lab of Ornithology scientists have created an animated map showing the January-to-December routes of 188 migrating American bird species, using tiny color-coded dots. Some species start returning southward as early as July.

The map is available at: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/mesmerizing-migration-watch-118-bird-species-migrate-across-a-map-of-the-western-hemisphere/>.

A second map shows which species are included in the migration map: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/mesmerizing-migration-map-which-species-is-which/>.

Species Spotlight

Snow Geese

By Joyce Miller, Newsletter Editor

Take a good look at migrating flocks of geese flying overhead this fall: some might be Snow Geese. Smaller and lighter than Canada Geese, these chunky waterfowl have white bodies and black wing tips. Blue Geese, with a white head and dark body, are a color variant of Snow Geese.

According to Cornell Lab of Ornithology's *All About Birds* site, Snow Geese are the most numerous waterfowl in North America. Flocks of up to several hundred migrating Snow Geese can be found in the Fort Edward Grasslands area and Hudson River in Washington and Saratoga Counties.

Snow Geese winter in the southern United States. They fly through our area on their way to their Arctic breeding grounds in northern Canada. Migrating flocks numbering in the thousands can be found in the Lake Champlain area, including Plattsburgh's Point Au Roche area and Dead Creek in Vermont, peaking in November. In the autumn, birders can check Snow Goose sightings in the online checklist eBird (<http://ebird.org>). Watching thousands of Snow Geese rise up in huge loudly-honking waves is memorable.

A Snow Goose has black "lipstick" markings on its bill, as shown in the photo above. Ross's Goose, a rare vagrant from the western U.S., lacks this "grin patch."

For more information, see Cornell Lab of Ornithology's All About Birds website: https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Snow_Goose/id.



Top: Don Polunci's photo shows the black "lipstick" bill markings that are characteristic of Snow Geese.

Above: Hundreds of migrating Snow Geese congregate each fall at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area in Addison County, Vermont. (Photo: Joyce Miller.)



About Wildflowers

Partridgeberry: Tiny beauties

By Diane Collins

Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*), is a trailing evergreen plant with very small shiny green leaves native to North America. It carpets the floor of Cole's Woods in Queensbury in many places, and is seen in early spring with occasional red berries that have lasted through the winter. The scientific name honors John Mitchell, a Virginia physician, who corresponded with Linnaeus in the 1700's. The Latin word *repens* means "creeping."

The pair of dainty white flowers that bloom in July have united ovaries and thus yield only one red berry. Partridgeberry was one of the most popular female health tonics in colonial days.

Wildflower photographer Diane Collins is the author of "Trailside Wildflowers in Cole's Woods," available for purchase on Diane's website, <http://www.wildflowersinyourownbackyard.com>. She will lead a wildflower walk for SAAS on Saturday, Sept. 16. See page 10 for more information.

Climate Watch thanks

By Rob Snell, SAAS board member and coordinator of SAAS chapter's Climate Watch project
Email: birdbrane1@gmail.com

Let me start by saying a BIG "Thank You" to everyone that contributed to the chapter launch of the Audubon Climate Watch study. I am very pleased with our participation and proud of the all the effort our volunteers contributed to this valuable "citizen science" project. Aside from some technical frustrations with handheld GPS units, I think everyone enjoyed it, and felt like they were contributing valuable information to the study.

One of the best aspects of the study was the ability to include both novice and experienced birders in the study without being overly demanding, or to the other extreme, boring. As a matter of fact, I received enthusiastic feedback from both ends of the spectrum. Some of the enthusiasm for participating may have come from the choice of the endearing Red-Breasted Nuthatch as our study subject. Audubon climate models predict a significant decline of this species' population over the next several decades as the region warms.

In total, our volunteers spent about 48 hours surveying more than 168 sites looking and listening for Red-Breasted Nuthatches. These surveys will continue each January and June through 2025, and are likely to include additional species when we have enough volunteers to complete the minimum number of surveys.

Many long term birders have witnessed the effect of climate change on bird populations. When I was a teenager, 50 years ago, I questioned the reasoning of having the Eastern Bluebird as the New York State bird. They were never seen in my area of upstate New York. Now, they can be seen any day you want to look for

SAAS sponsors Silent Wings program

By Mona Bearor, Education Chair

Trish Marki presented her live bird program, "Silent Wings," at the Pember Library in Granville, N.Y. It was sponsored by SAAS on Saturday, May 6.

A large crowd of both adults and children learned the unique habits of birds of prey as well as the conservation issues that affect them and the impact of humans on their survival rates.

Marki is a wildlife rehabber for North Country Wild Care. She presents more than 180 educational programs every year through her non-profit organization, The Wildlife Institute of Eastern New York. Read more about her work at <http://www.silentwingsraptors.org>.



Trish Marki discusses the traits of a Red-tailed Hawk.

them, even in the winter. I hope we don't have as dramatic a decline of Red Breasted Nuthatches over the next 50 years.

This is a great project for any birder that wants to be involved with real science. All you need are binoculars, ears and time. If you are interested in participating in future surveys please let me know. We need you.

Invasive insect found in Lake George

A minor infestation of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) was discovered in a stand of old-growth Eastern Hemlock on Prospect Mountain in the Town of Lake George on July 18, according to the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

Native to East Asia, HWA are related to aphids. The insect was first discovered in New York State in 1985, and had moved into the Capital District

by March, 2016. This is the first infestation found in the Adirondacks, according to the DEC.

People are encouraged to report any discoveries of the small white woolly masses on undersides of hemlock twigs. Contact Cornell University's [N.Y.S. Hemlock Initiative](#) or call DEC's Invasive Insects line at 1-866-640-0652.

eBird offers illustrated checklists

Birders can now see illustrated checklists on ebird (<http://ebird.org> > Explore Data). The checklists include birders' photos of birds. Birders are encouraged to add their photos to their eBird checklists.

If you're planning a birding outing, you can preview the photos of the birds you might see, and also hear sound clips. For details, see the page [eBird Illustrated Checklists are here!](#)

Production of this issue of *The Fledgling* newsletter is provided by Edward Jones, 34 Congress Street, Suite 102, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

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

Exploring Lake Bonita

By Jody Schleicher, Program Chair

Several members of the SAAS Board of Directors participated in the now-annual SAAS board bird walk on July 4. We headed to Lake Bonita, which recently became part of Moreau Lake State Park in Saratoga County.

The wooded trail around the small lake is accessed from a spacious parking lot along Corinth Mountain Road, off Northway Exit 16.

We had good views of Great Blue Herons, Belted Kingfishers, Blue-headed Vireo with young, and several other species. We heard Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Black-throated Green Warblers and Ovenbirds.

A highlight was discovering an active nest of an Ovenbird. The birds are named after the dome-shaped grass nests, shaped like an old-fashioned oven. We could see little open beaks inside. We heard the Ovenbird's *teacher-teacher-teacher* song elsewhere in the woods.



A trail marker at Lake Bonita features a bird image.



Above: A small dark opening (near the center of the photo) is the only sign of a very well-hidden Ovenbird's nest.

Left: A view of placid Lake Bonita.

Photos by Jody Schleicher

Hudson Crossing Bird Survey results

By Mona Bearor, Education Chair

Southern Adirondack Audubon Society thanks the following people for participating in the 2017 Spring Bird Surveys at Hudson Crossing Park in Schuylerville:

Lori Barber
Mona Bearor
Barbara Beatty
Sue Beaudoin
Pat Demko
Lindsey Duval
Wally Elton
Judy Fruiterman
Joyce Miller
Stephen Schmidt
Rob Snell & the ALL group Academy for Lifelong Learning hosted and sponsored by SUNY Empire State College.

The surveys were conducted weekly from March through the first week in July in an effort to compile a complete list of bird species that nest in, or migrate through, the park.

The efforts of this group brought the total species list for the park to 145. Species added are:

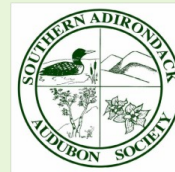
Green Heron
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
American Kestrel
Willow Flycatcher
Purple Martin
Veery
Northern Waterthrush
Nashville Warbler
Fox Sparrow
Orchard Oriole

The complete list of 145 species can be found on the SAAS website at [Hudson Crossing Bird List](http://www.hudsoncrossingpark.org/). The park is located north of Schuylerville near Champlain Canal Lock 5, near Route 4. For more information about the park, see <http://www.hudsoncrossingpark.org/>

Amazon Smiles benefits SAAS

Your online shopping can benefit our Audubon chapter. If you go to AmazonSmile (<https://smile.amazon.com/>) to sign in to Amazon.com and choose "Southern Adirondack Audubon Society" as the charity, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. Donations go to support the educational activities of our chapter. It adds up!

Field trips and events, Fall 2017



Friday, Sept. 15, 8 a.m.- 9 a.m. Betar Byway, South Glens Falls

Join CDPHP and SAAS as we walk along the Betar Byway in search of fall migrants. All birders and non-birders are welcome. Meet at the gazebo at the First Street entrance.

Saturday, Sept. 16, 2 p.m.- 4 p.m. Wildflower Walk in Cole's Woods

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.

Tuesday, Sept. 26, 8 a.m. Hudson Crossing Park, Schuylerville

Join Wally Elton in exploring Hudson Crossing Park (at Lock 5 on Route 4 just north of Schuylerville). We will walk through wooded areas along the river/canal looking for resident/migrant birds. Meet in the park parking lot. (For more about the park: <http://www.hudsoncrossingpark.org>.)

These events are listed on the SAAS website's Field Trips page: <http://www.southernadirondackaudubon.org/fieldtrips/fieldtrips.html>. Any additional trips that may be scheduled later in the fall will be posted on the website also.

Renewal time is approaching

Chapter memberships expire at the end of the year. Please renew by January by completing the form below or by visiting the SAAS website and renewing online using PayPal.

We currently have 141 Chapter Supporters, and a total of 398 National and Chapter Supporters.

Membership proceeds go towards SAAS's educational programs, including the monthly programs and activities at area nature festivals. *Consider a SAAS chapter membership as a holiday gift!*

Welcome to the newest members of our chapter!

Judy McGlone, Albany
Moira Goldfarb, Adirondack
Lucy Manning, Saratoga
Lisa Ballout, Clifton Park
Robin Lyle, Argyle
Sandra Smith, Argyle
Judy Depasquale, Newcomb
Christine Molinsek, Delmar
Bonnie Tompkins, Lake George
Jody Suprenant, Fort Edward
Gail Livingston, Gloversville

Send in your 2018 renewal soon!

Memberships are renewed at the start of each calendar year. Chapter supporters receive *The Fledgling* newsletter by email in March, June, September and December, and help support the educational efforts and programs of the chapter. ***Renew online through PayPal or complete the form below.***

Please print clearly:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Please indicate your choices:

- ☐ I've enclosed a **\$10** check made out to "Southern Adirondack Audubon Society" to be a local chapter supporter and member.
- ☐ 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.

Thank you for your membership! Mail this form and your check to:

**Barbara Beatty, Southern Adirondack Audubon Society
P.O. Box 4076, Queensbury, NY 12804**