



# The Fledgling

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

Vol. 35 No. 3, March 2018 - May 2018

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

## IN ASSOCIATION WITH NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY 2017 AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS SHOW

Gentoo Penguins.  
Photograph by Deborah Albert  
2017 Grand Prize Winner



### Audubon photography show at Kelly Adirondack Center this spring

SAAS is bringing the 2017 **National Audubon Society Awards Exhibit** to the [Kelly Adirondack Center](#) (KAC) of Union College in Niskayuna, from April 12 to May 2. Twelve photographs will be displayed in the restored 1935 home of conservationist Paul Schaefer and attached modern research library. The free exhibit will feature two full-size prints of Audubon's *The Birds of America*. Union College owns an original copy.

On **Thursday, April 26**, New York State Museum Curator of Birds Dr. Jeremy Kirchner will offer a free talk at 7:00 p.m.: **"The Adirondack Archipelago: Bird Evolution at the Edge of the Boreal Forest,"** in the Old Chapel at the end of Liberty Lane, **Union College, Schenectady**. It is hosted by our chapter and the KAC. SAAS hopes to share this unique resource of Adirondack natural and cultural history as a place for research and reflection. See the SAAS Facebook page for more information.

## Spring programs: moths, waterways and green roofs

Naturalist Catherine Klatt will present **"The Night Shift: The Unexpected Links between Moths, Birds, and Landscaping"** on **Wednesday, March 28**, at the **Saratoga Springs Public Library** in downtown Saratoga Springs at 7:00 p.m.

Klatt's photographs will illustrate the diversity and beauty of moths. Her talk will explore the tight links between moths and birds, and unexpected ways that our home landscaping choices affect bird and insect populations. Far from being just little brown nuisances, moths play a key role in the functioning of our plant and animal communities.

Klatt is a lifelong amateur botanist and birder. She discovered the beauty of moths about five years ago, and since then has been fascinated by their diversity and by their interactions with plants and other animals. She lives in Knox, in the hill towns west of Albany and documents the moths on her property. She has counted about 600 species so far, out of more than 1,000 expected species.



Catherine Klatt photographed this caterpillar of the Spiny Oak-Slug Moth in Knox, Albany County.

On **Wednesday, April 25**, at **Crandall Library** in downtown Glens Falls, Dan Kelting of Paul Smith's Adirondack Watershed Institute will speak about **"Modern Threats to Age-Old Adirondack Waterways"** at 7:00 p.m.

Kelting will discuss the outside threats that affect waterways of the Adirondack Park, from acidic precipitation to invasive plants and animals arriving on boats and trailers. He will talk about the latest quickly-moving invasion that may change the region's waterways forever.

*Continued on page 3*

**Monthly Programs**  
Page 1-3

**New SAAS Office**  
Page 7

**Field Trips**  
Page 8

## Southern Adirondack Audubon Society

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## Board and Committees

### Officers:

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

### Board of Directors:

2016-2018	Joyce Miller Rob Snell Pat Demko
2018-2020	Jody Schleicher Kim Arnold

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  
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**Membership:** Lori Barber  
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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.

### Meet our volunteers

## Don and Nan Polunci

Nan and Don Polunci were awarded National Audubon Society Meritorious Service Award by SAAS President John Loz at the November SAAS program for their many years of volunteer service.

The award certificate states that it is presented "in grateful recognition of outstanding contributions to the Audubon cause, spearheading robust growth and continued development of the Southern Adirondack Society through new initiatives in education, conservation and advocacy."

Don Polunci served as president of the SAAS Board of Directors for four years, starting in 2005. Nan Polunci joined the board in 2007, and chaired both program and fundraising committees for several years. "We are pleased to be affiliated with an environmental organization dedicated to conservation," they said. As they learned more about SAAS, they were amazed at the depth and scope of the organization.



SAAS President John Loz presented the National Audubon Society's Meritorious Service Award to Nan and Don Polunci at the SAAS monthly program in November.

A favorite endeavor for

Nan and Don was initiating the fishing line container project. After discovering a Common Loon on an Adirondack lake with discarded fishing line wrapped around its beak, they implemented a program constructing bins for used fishing line. The bins were placed and monitored at popular fishing spots within our chapter. Other chapters in the state, as well as the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation, adopted the program.

Don has built and repaired boxes for the Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Monitoring Project. He has donated many of his photos for fundraising appeals, and was instrumental in building the Osprey platform that was recently erected at Moreau Lake State Park. Nan created raffle baskets as chapter fundraisers, and volunteers at SAAS events.

Ten years ago, Don retired as an art teacher and Nan retired as a dental hygienist. Both volunteer for various organizations and share a love of nature and a passion for travel. They have traveled nationally and internationally, and recently hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. Nan enjoys hiking and biking and is learning how to cross country ski.

Don continues to pursue his hobby of nature photography. His photographs have won several awards, and have been published in *Adirondack Life* and *National Wildlife* magazines, as well as LARAC's calendars. His photos are regularly featured in SAAS's newsletter and website and in area photography shows. He builds rustic birdhouses in his basement workshop and enjoys selling them at craft fairs. He occasionally teaches classes at the Adirondack Folk School.

**See President's Message about new SAAS office on page 7!**



## Spring programs

*Continued from page 1*

Dan Kelting joined the faculty at Paul Smith's College (PSC) in 2003 as Executive Director of the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI). From 1999 to 2003, he was a faculty member at North Carolina State University (NCSU). He served as Co-Director of the Forest Nutrition Cooperative and Assistant Professor in the Department of Forestry.

He received his Ph.D. in Forest Soils from Virginia Tech. He also holds an A.A.S. in Forest Technology, a B.S. in Resource Management, and an M.S. in Forestry. Through his graduate work and activities at NCSU, Kelting developed a range of expertise in natural resources science and management with particular emphasis on forest productivity, soils, and nutrient cycling. While at NCSU, he conducted forestry research and outreach activities throughout the southeastern U.S. and in Columbia and Chile.

Under his leadership, the AWI has developed the largest water quality monitoring and aquatic invasive species programs in the Adirondacks. Kelting uses data from these programs to support and leverage his research and that of the Institute. He also teaches upper level courses in Forest Soils and Laboratory Methods, and mentors students for their undergraduate capstone projects.

**On Wednesday, May 23 at Crandall Library** in downtown Glens Falls, Thomas A. Mowatt will present an illustrated talk, **"Green Roof Technology: Natural Function"** at 7 p.m. Mowatt is an Assistant Professor of Science at SUNY Adirondack in Queensbury.

"Green Roof ('living roof') technology in general provides a unique architectural landmark statement," said Mowatt. He will show how green roof technology is a practical model for supporting place-based awareness, human obligations to the environment, reflects a community's environmental values and offers many advantages to regional environmental quality.



*Tom Mowatt will talk about green roof technology in May. This photo, shared with permission from Michigan State University (MSU), shows drought-resistant plant life on MSU's Green Roof research building.*

Mowatt is an experienced environmental educator, Adirondack hiking and camping guide, naturalist-artist, and traditional craftsman, living in a historic 1910 log cabin overlooking southern Lake Champlain. Mowatt was adopted into the Great Lakes Ojibwa tribe and is respected in the First Nations culture as a traditional craftsman and researcher-practitioner of medicinal plant use.

Mowatt has worked for the U.S. Forest Service in wildland firefighting and arson investigation, and with search dogs to assist law enforcement in various capacities. At SUNY Adirondack, Professor Mowatt teaches courses on chemistry-based environmental science, forensic science, medicinal ethnobotany, cellular biology and environmental stewardship.

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

## Winter Raptor Fest set for May 19-20

The Friends of the Washington County Grasslands IBA will hold Winter Raptor Fest 2018 on May 19-20 at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Greenwich. Plans include raptors in flight, live bird of prey programs, horse-drawn wagon rides, food vendors, children's activities and other events. SAAS plans to offer an activity table and take photos of visitors with custom-made masks of local bird species.

Winter Raptor Fest supports Friends of the IBA's work to conserve habitat for endangered Short-eared Owls and other threatened and at-risk birds of the Washington County Grasslands Important Bird Area (IBA). For details, see <http://www.winterraptorfest.com/> or call (518) 499-0012. Friends of the IBA (FIBA) is the only nonprofit group acquiring and protecting critical habitat for New York's endangered and at-risk grassland birds.



*Three Pileated Woodpeckers were seen in the 2017 Christmas Bird Count. These dramatic crow-sized birds are always a treat to see. (Photo: Gary Mueller, Audubon digital photo archive)*

## SAAS Christmas Bird Count recap

*By Linda White, Christmas Bird Count Coordinator*

Audubon celebrated its 118th Christmas Bird Count this winter. The SAAS count was held on Saturday, Dec. 16. The count circle includes most of Queensbury, Hudson Falls, South Glens Falls and Fort Edward.

A group of our loyal and dedicated birders participated in the Hudson Falls count. They birded for a total of 36 hours and drove 353 miles. Without their effort this citizen science project would not be possible. We thank them for their time and expertise: Russ Hilliard, Joyce Miller, Eric Potter (new to the area), Jacquie Tinker, Helen Crawshaw, Beth and Brad Bidwell, Terry Hall, Ann Reames, and Linda White.

A total of 50 species and 5,949 individual birds were counted, comparable to many of the 30 previous times this count has been done. Two highlights and first time observations were a Black Vulture and an Eastern Towhee. Once the count data is certified, usually by the end of February, all count results will be on the Audubon Christmas Bird Count website (<http://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>). The following species were observed:

Canada Goose - 120, American Black Duck - 24, Mallard - 187, Common Goldeneye - 97, Hooded Merganser - 10, Common Merganser - 25, Ruffed Grouse - 1, Wild Turkey - 1, Black Vulture - 1, Northern Harrier - 3, Sharp-shinned Hawk - 3, Cooper's Hawk - 3, Bald Eagle - 2, Red-tailed Hawk - 36, Rough-legged Hawk - 3, Great black-backed Gull - 1, Rock Pigeon - 555, Mourning Dove - 282, Great Horned Owl - 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker - 10, Downy Woodpecker - 19, Hairy Woodpecker - 4, Northern Flicker - 1, Pileated Woodpecker - 3, American Kestrel - 3, Peregrine Falcon - 1, Blue Jay - 139, American Crow - 1,636, Common Raven - 6, Horned Lark - 187, Black-capped Chickadee - 106, Tufted Titmouse - 38, White-breasted Nuthatch - 14, Carolina Wren - 8, Golden-crowned Kinglet - 5, Eastern Bluebird - 8, American Robin - 44, Northern Mockingbird - 2, European Starling - 1,613, Snow Bunting - 2, American Tree Sparrow - 72, Dark-eyed Junco - 267, White-throated Sparrow - 24, Song Sparrow - 1, Eastern Towhee - 1, Northern Cardinal - 61, Brown-headed Cowbird - 50, House Finch - 36, American Goldfinch - 21, House Sparrow - 197.

## Migratory Bird Treaty Act under threat

*By Pat Fitzgerald, SAAS Conservation Committee*

Recently SAAS endorsed a letter to members of Congress, strongly urging them to defend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), one of our nation's oldest and most important wildlife conservation laws. The letter urged them to oppose any effort that would undermine the ability to address the accidental killing of birds under the MBTA.

The MBTA is now under serious threat. In December, the Trump administration issued a controversial legal opinion providing an interpretation that the law **does not apply to the incidental or accidental deaths of migratory birds**, reversing decades of precedent.

The opinion means that the administration will not hold industries accountable for preventable bird deaths. In Congress, H.R. 4239 – the “SECURE American Energy Act” – would change the law to cement this interpretation and permanently end the government's ability to address

major sources of bird mortality from industrial activities. This change would represent the most significant roll back of the MBTA in its 100-year history. It would dramatically reduce the incentive for industries to implement best practices that save birds, and would limit the accountability and recovery from events and activities that kill substantial numbers of birds.

For example, after the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, which killed more than one million birds, BP pled guilty to violations of the MBTA, paying \$100 million to recover damages to birds impacted by the spill. These funds are being distributed through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to restore habitat for waterfowl and other birds.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the law and the incredible gains that have been made to help protect our nation's birdlife, members of Congress are being urged to oppose any effort that would gut the MBTA and turn back the clock decades on bird conservation.

## Year of the Bird

To celebrate the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 2018 has been declared The Year of the Bird by more than 100 organizations, including the National Audubon Society, National Geographic and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The groups will offer a year of information and articles on the impact of climate change on birds.

- This National Geographic site suggests actions that one can do throughout the year: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/projects/year-of-the-bird/>
- National Audubon Society offers this information: <http://www.audubon.org/yearofthebird>

Conservation biologist and author Thomas Lovejoy coined the term “biological diversity.” His observation is being used as a motto by the Year of the Bird efforts: “If you take care of birds, you take care of most of the environmental problems in the world.”



## SAAS bluebirds boxes fledged 78 chicks

By Pat Fitzgerald, SAAS Conservation Committee

SAAS volunteers monitored and maintained six Eastern Bluebird nesting box sites this year, with a grand total of 78 bluebird fledglings:

- **Union Cemetery, Hudson Falls** – Eight boxes are monitored by Mary Lou Munger, Pat Fitzgerald and Russell Guard. The boxes continue to have House Sparrow problems, but fewer than in years past. Fledged 14 bluebirds.
- **Hudson River Park, Queensbury** – Three boxes monitored by Susan Jacobs; fledged eight bluebirds and several Tree Swallows.
- **Hudson Pointe, Queensbury** – Four boxes monitored by Chris Germain; fledged eight bluebirds, 14 Black-capped Chickadees, and eight Tree Swallows. Two boxes need maintenance and will be repaired over the winter months.
- **Pineview Cemetery, Queensbury** – Four boxes monitored by Barbara Beatty had bluebirds for the first time, with two broods with a total of five fledglings. The boxes also attracted Tree Swallows.
- **Saratoga Spa State Park (SSSP), Saratoga Springs** – Six boxes monitored by Lori McCarron, Margo Flewelling and Leo Demers, SSSP Intern. This was the most productive site - 35 bluebirds fledged and 18 Tree Swallows. Two boxes will be repaired over the winter and reinstalled for next spring.
- **SUNY Adirondack, Queensbury** – Three boxes monitored by Joyce Miller continue to be taken over by aggressive, invasive House Sparrows. Approximately seven bluebirds fledged. If House Sparrow problems persist, these boxes might be removed for a couple of years.
- **The Glen at Hiland Meadows, Queensbury** – Mary Lou Munger and Pat Fitzgerald observed that perhaps six boxes were taken over by House Sparrows. They will likely be moved to a new location that would be more likely to attract bluebirds.



### About Wildflowers Marsh Marigolds

By Diane Collins

Walking in Glens Falls/Queensbury's Cole's Woods in mid-April, you'll notice bright yellow flowers in the swampy areas. These are Marsh Marigolds, also called Cowslip or King's Cup. John Burroughs wrote that they give "a golden lining to many a dark marshy place." Their scientific name is *Caltha* (Greek for goblet) *palustris* (Latin for swamp). They are in the Buttercup family.

This plant has glossy heart-shaped leaves and a thick hollow stalk supporting five to nine bright yellow sepals. The flower actually has no petals. The origin of the common name is likely its use in medieval church festivals honoring the Virgin Mary; hence "Mary-gold." This wildflower is native to both America and Europe.

*Wildflower photographer Diane Collins is the author of "Trailside Wildflowers in Cole's Woods," available through <http://www.wildflowersinyourownbackyard.com>. Diane will be selling her booklet at SAAS monthly meetings for \$10: \$5 will go to The Friends of Cole's Woods, and \$5 will be donated to Audubon.*

### Spring arrivals

By Mona Bearor, Education Chair

Watch for these bird activities in upcoming months:

#### March

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

#### April

- Osprey return; keep an eye on the

nest on Route 4 south of Fort Edward - but don't get too close!

- American Woodcock will be displaying at dusk. The well-camouflaged Wilson's Snipe can be found in wet areas of open fields.
- The first warbler species return: Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Palm, Pine and Louisiana Waterthrush.

#### May

- The spring chorus is at its peak. Take time to listen to the incredible variety of birdsong at dawn.
- Many species of flycatchers and vireos are heard in all types of habitat. Learn their songs so you can identify them when they are hidden by leaves later in the spring.
- May is warbler heaven. Thirty-two warbler species have been recorded in our chapter area.

## **Species Spotlight**

# **Chimney Swifts**

By Joyce Miller, Newsletter Editor

The energetic high-pitched twitter of Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) is a welcomed sound of spring. With small sleek bodies and rapidly flittering sickle-shaped wings, these birds are typically described as “flying cigars.”

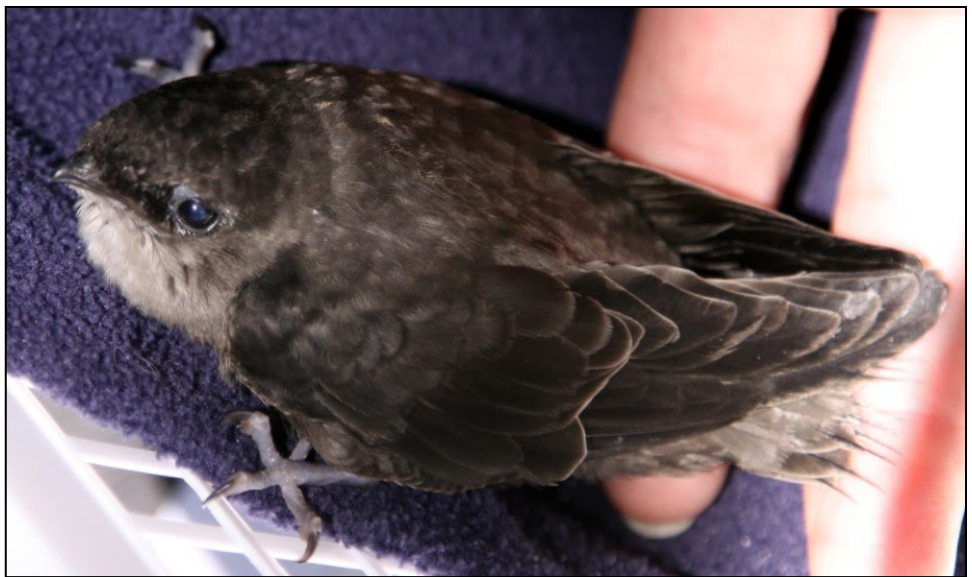
Chimney Swifts return to our upstate region in late April, according to records in Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s online checklist [eBird.org](http://eBird.org).

Swifts fly quickly and constantly all day, often over downtowns, snapping up flying insects. They land only to sleep and nest. Their tiny feet, well-seen in Don Polunci’s photo to the right, can only latch on to vertical surfaces. They cannot perch on flat surfaces.

They nest in open-topped chimneys, caves, cliff faces, sheds, hollow trees and other dark tower-like structures. They use saliva to glue small twigs to the walls of the vertical surfaces to create their nests.

Most Chimney Swifts are gone from the Southern Adirondack region by October. They migrate south by the thousands to spend the winter in the Amazon region of northwestern South America.

The North American Breeding Bird Survey estimates that their popula-



Above: We don’t usually get a close look like this at high-flying Chimney Swifts. Several years ago, Don Polunci was able to take this photo of a Chimney Swift after it was rescued from a silo which had been torn down. Below: a more familiar flying view of these swifts. (Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons, [Chimney\\_swift\\_overhead.jpg](http://Chimney_swift_overhead.jpg).)

tions have declined 72% since 1966, primarily due to loss of habitat. They are considered a “Common Bird in Steep Decline” by the *State of the Birds Report*.

The group Chimney Swift Conservation Association (<http://www.chimneyswifts.org/>) offers information on building chimney-like towers for nesting sites, to help compensate for the lack of natural nesting spots.

For more information about Chimney Swifts, see Cornell Lab of Orni-



thology’s All About Birds page: [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Chimney\\_Swift/id](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Chimney_Swift/id).

## **Bird cognition book: *The Genius of Birds***

Science writer Jennifer Ackerman focuses on bird cognition in her book, *The Genius of Birds*. The *Wall Street Journal* named it one of the 10 best nonfiction books of 2016.

“Some birds rival primates and even humans in their remarkable forms of intelligence,” states the publisher, Penguin Press. “Ackerman discusses birds’ many evolutionary adaptations allowing them to fly and make decisions at high speed, adapt to change, have exceptional memories, participate in social learning, remember a migration path of thousands of miles, problem-solve and even use tools.”

The author’s website offers an excerpt, interviews and book reviews: <http://www.jenniferackermanauthor.com/genius-ofbirds/>. The book may be borrowed from [area public libraries](#) as well as the [SUNY Adirondack Library](#) in Queensbury.

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



## President's Message

# SAAS has a new office!

By John Loz, SAAS President



With the generosity of the Town of Lake George, we now have an Audubon office within the Adirondack Park. Our new office is located within the beautiful Old Warren County Courthouse on Canada Street in Lake George, NY. We will eventually be receiving all of our mail through this new office and receive guests to talk about the conservation needs of our local birds and bird habitats.

As our organization name indicates, we cover the southern Adirondacks. Our chapter service area extends from Saratoga Springs to Blue Mountain Lake, North Creek, and Hague. With that, it only made sense to have representation and establish our first office within the Adirondack Park Blue Line.

After 33 years of veteran board members receiving mail and storing Audubon materials at their homes, we now have a central "Bird House" to work out of. Our chapter is growing and initiating new projects, so we needed space to store our outreach materials and have a central place for our volunteers and board.

SAAS is looking for a board secre-

tary, a volunteer position. A primary activity is taking board meeting minutes and distributing them for each monthly board meeting. We can now offer a space where our new secretary can conduct some minimal administrative duties, have a space to be creative, and work alongside fellow board members to organize chapter materials.

The office has a window with beautiful sunsets, and the back of the building is conveniently situated on a small rise overlooking the lake. I've already spied Common Loons, Common Mergansers, Great Blue Herons and other birds from the shore below.

Within the same building are the [Lake George Arts Project](#) office and gallery and the [Lake George Historical Association & Museum](#). We encourage you to check out their fine exhibits.

We look forward to growing our home office in years to come and expanding to better serve our chapter supporters, conservation partners, and most importantly: the birds!

## Ethical birding tips

This past winter, local, state and national media covered stories about overenthusiastic birders and wildlife photographers chasing Snowy Owls and other raptors in efforts to get photos.

Wild birds often live at the edge of survival in the winter, and these stressed birds can be chased to the point of exhaustion.

SAAS encourages birders and wildlife photographers to abide by the American Birding Association (ABA) Code of Ethics: <http://www.aba.org/about/ethics.html>.

Here are some ways the ABA recommends to protect birds and their environment:

- Avoid stressing birds by exercising restraint and caution during observation or photography,
- Stay back from nests, roosts and important feeding areas. Use a blind or natural cover if available.
- Stay on roads, trails, and paths to reduce habitat disturbance.
- Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.

Using your car as a bird blind is a great way to see birds with minimal disruption. A vehicle acts as a convenient shelter so you don't spook birds with your motions or sounds. Partly-opened windows can be used to steady binoculars, a scope or camera lens. In chilly or wet weather, staying in your car is a warm, comfortable choice, and better for birds.

The SAAS website offers many ideas for area birding hotspots: <http://www.southernadironackaudubon.org/birding/birding.html>.

## Osprey platform dedicated at Moreau Lake State Park

Members of SAAS, the Friends of Moreau Lake State Park and the park staff attended the dedication of a new Osprey nest pole on December 7. It was installed in late October in the cove across the lake from the nature center. The Osprey platform, donated by SAAS, was built by Mark Cronin and Don Polunci. Vincent Petteys of Petteys Sawmill in Gansevoort donated a 22-foot hemlock pole.



Ospreys return to breed in this area in late March and April.

(Photo courtesy of Moreau Lake State Park)



## Welcome to our new members!

Currently, 408 members of National Audubon live in our chapter area. Many of our 150 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:

Walter Joyce, Tribes Hill  
Frank Conte, Ballston Spa  
Robert Powell, Hague  
Noreen Marra, Putnam Station  
Abigail Free, Glens Falls  
Bernie Fabry, Saratoga Springs  
Dana Stimpson, Glens Falls  
Bill Swartz, Glens Falls  
Grace Haynes, Fort Ann

### Renewals

Renewal notices were sent out in December for 2018. We were amazed at the return rate of renewals this year and are grateful to all who renewed their chapter supporter membership.

If you have not yet sent in your renewal, it is never too late. We are always ready to accept your membership dues.

Several members included additional generous donations for our chapter's operating expenses and projects:

Elaine Angel  
Barbara Beatty  
Tom & Denise Bennett  
Carol Blackwell  
John Caffry  
Gerald Carruthers  
Helen & Bill Crawshaw  
Charlotte Demers  
Gordon Ellmers  
Paul Farhart  
Patricia Fitzgerald  
Alan & Elizabeth Gee  
Christine Germain  
James Grinter  
Gregory & Faith Hamlin  
Doris Harrington  
Grace Haynes  
Mariam Hayes  
Pamela Howard  
Edward & Margot Hyde  
Walter Joyce  
Jeff & Candi Kilburn  
Licia G. Mackey  
Noreen Marra  
Nancy Martinez  
Bernice Mennis

## Spring field trips

Check the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society's website for updates about field trips and events. Visit the SAAS Facebook page and click "Follow" to get notices of upcoming events.

### Saturday, April 21, 8 a.m. **Bog Meadow Trail, Saratoga Springs**

Join Rich Speidel in search of spring birds and waterfowl on the Bog Meadow trail, which includes an extensive boardwalk system through wetland communities: open marsh, wet meadow and forested wetland. (For details about the trail, see SAAS March 2016 newsletter article). Group size is limited, so call Rich to register: 518-623-2587. (Rain date is Sunday, April 22.)

### Tuesday, April 24, 6:30 p.m. **Betar Byway Walking Path, South Glens Falls**

Join CDPHP and Southern Adirondack Audubon for an evening Spring Migration Bird Walk through a beautiful natural setting along the Hudson River searching for early migrants. All levels of fitness and birding skills welcome. Please dress for the weather. Walking path starts at the S.G.F. Historical Park, 30 First St., South Glens Falls. Meet at the gazebo.

### Thursday, May 10, 9 a.m. **Saratoga National Historic Park and Battlefield**

Join leader Linda White walking the Wilkinson's Trail through wooded areas and grasslands in search of warblers, woodpeckers, and thrushes. Meet by flagpole in visitor center parking lot off State Route 32.

### Saturday, May 19, 8 a.m. **Five Combines Feeder Canal Park, Hudson Falls**

We will walk the bike trail for about 2 miles along Five Combines and Feeder

Canal. The habitat ranges from field edges to wetland areas to stands of tall hardwood trees and should provide for great birding.

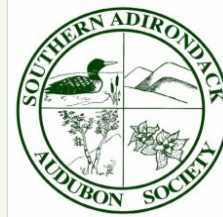
Meet at the Five Combines Feeder Canal parking lot off Burgoyne Avenue. **Directions:** From Northway Exit 17 turn north on Rt. 9, travel about one mile to Rt. 197 (Reynolds Rd.), turn right and travel five miles into Ft. Edward. Turn left onto Rt. 4, drive one-half mile, then take a right turn on Maple Avenue just past Ft. Edward Elementary School. Bear left onto Burgoyne Avenue and travel about one and one-half miles to the parking lot, just past Jones Avenue, on the right.

### Saturday, May 19, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. **Wildflower Walk in Skidmore Woods, Saratoga Springs**

Led by Jackie Donnelly. Rich woods and rare plants in Saratoga County. Green Violet (*Hybanthus concolor*) and other regional rare plants thrive in this limestone-underlined woodland with spring ephemerals like Yellow Lady's Slipper, Canada Violet, Trilliums, Trout Lily, and both species of Blue Cohosh. This is an easy hike on preserve trails. Meet at the end of North Broadway, after the paved street has become a rutted dirt road. Space is limited. To reserve a space, send an email with contact information (name, address, email, best phone) to [jackie0542@gmail.com](mailto:jackie0542@gmail.com) or phone 518-584-6346.

### Saturday, May 19 & Sunday, May 20 **Winter Raptor Fest**

Event sponsored by Friends of the Washington County Grasslands IBA. Fest will be held at Washington County Fairgrounds, Greenwich. See item on page 3. Details available at <http://www.winterraptorfest.com>.



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