



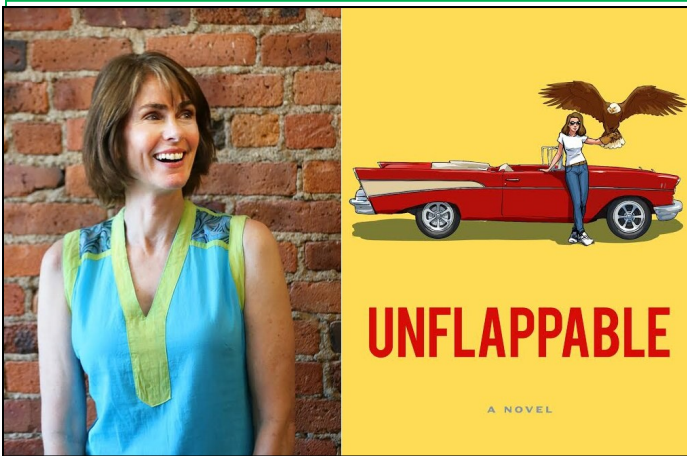
# The Fledgling

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

Vol. 38 No. 3, December 2021- February 2022

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthernAdirondackAudubonSociety/>

Website: <https://www.southernadirondackaudubon.org>



## Winter programs: *Unflappable* novel, winter waterfowl, woodcocks

Wild bird rehabilitator Suzie Gilbert will talk about her new novel *Unflappable* on **Wednesday, Dec. 1**, at 7 p.m., as the next SAAS monthly program via Zoom.

Gilbert will discuss her new novel, *Unflappable*. Gilbert has been a wild bird rehabilitator for 30 years in the Hudson Valley. She also wrote the children's book *Hawk Hill*, and has recently returned as a writer for the birding website 10,000 Birds.

This comic, suspenseful road trip novel brings the world of wildlife rehabilitation to a general audience. *Unflappable* is the story of two millennials who attempt to smuggle a stolen Bald Eagle from Key West to Ontario via an underground railroad of wildlife rescuers.

The book was named one of *Audubon Magazine's* Best Summer Reads of 2020. Sy Montgomery, best-selling author of *The Soul of an Octopus*, described it as "fast-paced, smart, and passionate. ...Full of laugh out loud mo-

ments, it's a comic, romantic suspense story about how animals help us find the greatness within ourselves."

Register in advance for the Zoom link; it is limited to 90 spots. To register and watch a short video trailer about the program, visit the SAAS website (<https://www.southernadiron->

[dackaudubon.org](https://www.southernadiron-dackaudubon.org)). The Zoom event is co-sponsored by Crandall Public Library in Glens Falls.

On **Wednesday, Jan. 26** at 7 p.m. via Zoom, SAAS offers "**The Wintering Waterfowl of Long Island Sound**" by Chris Loscalzo. The event is co-hosted by the Saratoga Springs Public Library. Pre-register at the library's Events page (<https://sspl.libcal.com/event/7712827>) or visit SAAS's website.

Loscalzo will offer a thorough review of the waterfowl species that can be seen in Long Island Sound from the coast in winter: loons, grebes, cormorants, eider, scoter, mergansers, alcids and other species. He will offer tips on differentiating various species within a group. The talk is suitable for beginning and experienced birders alike.

Loscalzo is the immediate past president of the Connecticut Ornithological Association and a past president of the New Haven Bird Club.

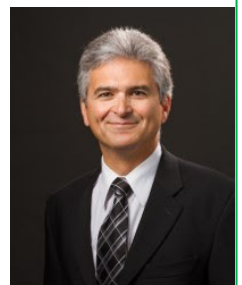
He is the long-time compiler of the New Haven Christmas Bird Count and the creator of the Mega Bowl of New Haven County that last year became the Mega Bowl of Connecticut. He is the author of several articles on birds and has and has planted and maintains a native shrub garden in his town to support the local birds and wildlife. He has been birding for nearly 50 years and has led hundreds of field trips in Connecticut and neighboring states over the past several decades. He is a clinical cardiologist for the Yale-New Haven Heart and Vascular Center in and around New Haven.

On **Wednesday, Feb. 23** at 7 p.m. via Zoom, Dr. Roger J. Masse and PhD candidate Colby Slezak will present "**American Woodcock Ecology and Management in the Northeast, USA: Recent Advances from Rhode Island, New York, and Beyond.**"

*Continued on back page*

Right: Dr. Chris Loscalzo

Below: Large flocks of Common Eiders are seen off the coast of Long Island in winter. Photo courtesy of Audubon: Bob Malbon/Audubon Photography Awards (APA\_2016\_Common Eider -Bob\_Malbon\_KK.).



**President's Message**  
Page 3

**Membership renewal time!**  
Page 8

**Winter SAAS Events List**  
Page 8

**Southern Adirondack Audubon Society**

P.O. Box 4076  
Queensbury, NY 12804

[https://  
www.southernadirondackaudubon.org](https://www.southernadirondackaudubon.org)

Email: [info@southernadirondackaudubon.org](mailto:info@southernadirondackaudubon.org)

**Board and Committees**

**Officers:**

President: John Loz  
([president@southernadirondackaudubon.org](mailto:president@southernadirondackaudubon.org))  
Vice-President: OPEN  
Treasurer: Sharon Charbonneau  
Secretary: Margie Amodeo  
Deb Ferguson (2022)

**Board of Directors**

2019-2021	Joyce Miller Rob Snell Margie Amodeo
2020-2022	Dusty Caldwell Mark Silo Deb Ferguson
2021-2023	Kim Atkins Peyton Atkins John Loz
2022-2024	Judy Staubo Laurie Murphy

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

**Committees:**

**Conservation:** OPEN

**Education:** OPEN

**Membership Secretary:** Rob Snell  
([membership@southernadirondackaudubon.org](mailto:membership@southernadirondackaudubon.org))

**Newsletter:** Joyce Miller ([editor@southernadirondackaudubon.org](mailto:editor@southernadirondackaudubon.org))

**Programs:** John Loz (Interim chair)  
([programs@southernadirondackaudubon.org](mailto:programs@southernadirondackaudubon.org))

**Publicity:** OPEN

Southern Adirondack Audubon Society (SAAS) is a certified local chapter of the National Audubon Society. SAAS has approximately 600 members in Warren, Washington, northern Saratoga and southern Hamilton counties in New York State.

SAAS's primary goal is to protect the environment by preserving natural habitats and promoting environmental education. Contact a board member to learn about SAAS volunteer opportunities.

**Meet our board members**

**Judy Staubo**

Judy Staubo joins the SAAS Board of Directors in January.

With a desire to live in a college town, she and her husband Per moved to Saratoga Springs 20 years ago. They found that auditing classes and attending cultural events at Skidmore were rewarding and enjoyable. Being close to the Saratoga Springs Public Library, the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, kayaking, birding trips and great restaurants all contributed to a good life. Two book groups and a film group add ideas and friendship, Staubo says. She has also been a volunteer for the Soup Kitchen, the Visitor Center and currently at Pitney Meadows Farm.

Staubo began her career as a journalist, then worked with investment managers and financial planners for the Private Bank at Bank of Boston.

The interest in birding began with backyard bird feeders and grew from there. After 40 years, she considers herself as an intermediate birder. Wildflowers are also an important interest.

Traveling has been a large part of the mix, with birds often being the impetus to the dozens of countries they have visited.

Thirty years ago, the Staubs spent 11 months backpacking around the world on \$35 a day. Per died nine years ago, but she is still traveling by herself. In 2019, she took another round-the-world trip for 10 weeks – on a slightly higher budget!



*Judy Staubo volunteered at SAAS's Loon Lessons talk at the Bolton Free Library in October. Pictured behind her is the native plant pollinator garden that the SAAS board planted in front of the library in May.*

**New upgraded SAAS website debuts!**

Visit the SAAS website to see its fresh new look: <https://www.southernadirondackaudubon.org>.

Anne Swaim, Executive Director of Saw Mill River Audubon, has upgraded the chapter website using WordPress. For the next year, Swaim will be SAAS's co-Webmaster to work with the chapter's technical team. Swaim has created and managed many other environmental organizations' websites.

The website is now more interactive, accessible and responsive for mobile devices. It is also easier for board members to update easily.

Chapter supporters can now quickly renew their 2022 memberships at the secure Membership page (<https://www.southernadirondackaudubon.org/membership/>). SAAS is also accepting donations to help our "Conservation Through Education" efforts on the Membership page.

Email feedback to [info@southernadirondackaudubon.org](mailto:info@southernadirondackaudubon.org).



## President's Message

# Stepping down, but not away

By John Loz, SAAS President

After six years as your Southern Adirondack Audubon President, I am finishing my third two-year term as the chapter's president.

As the headline says, I am stepping down, but not away. I'll still be part of the board and a committee chair in some way, but the time is here for a new leader to take our chapter forward. I look forward to supporting the next President and our three new board members coming on board in 2022.

I have been proud to serve as President and, for the first time for our chapter, serve as the Audubon New York Council Chair. In July, I stepped down after serving four years on the Council board.

Soon after stepping down as Council Chair, I happened to receive an email from one of our long-time Southern Adirondack Audubon chapter supporters who wrote a very kind message, saying "...the chapter is very lucky to have you." I was very humbled and a little flattered by this message, but I have to say, this Audubon chapter community is very lucky to have this very hard working and caring SAAS Board! Each per-

son listed on page 2 of our seasonal *The Fledgling* newsletter contributes so much to the ongoing projects and administrative tasks of this chapter. I certainly could not do anything without their gracious volunteerism to this chapter, our community, and of course – the birds! Join me in thanking our Board of Directors and Volunteers who make this happen!

It is this special community that has driven me to travel the Northway countless times over the last six years from Albany to join our Directors at board meetings and host our monthly public programs prior to the pandemic, and even during it. The Audubon members and residents of this Southern Adirondack community are what continues to drive me to work on our conservation efforts in the Adirondack foothills and southern mountain region. I love interacting with the caring people in the towns across our chapter area, who love the environment, and the conservation of it, and simply those that gain so much joy watching birds at their feeders out their living room or kitchen windows. We are ALL "Birders." You don't need to be an expert at identifying every bird out there. You just simply need to have a fascination with our avian friends. That's it! That's what makes YOU a "birder." I have met many of you and look forward to meeting more of you in the future.

In closing, there are many administrative projects behind the scenes and public-facing efforts you've probably read about in our newsletter. We have a great board of directors that leads these and is the reason I love volunteering with them any chance I get.

If *YOU* would like to volunteer with some great down-to earth people, I encourage you to reach out to me to share what you'd like to do or discuss what volunteer opportunities are available. Some are from-your-desk, at-home tasks and some are get-your-hands-dirty tasks. Email me at [info@southernadirondackaudubon.org](mailto:info@southernadirondackaudubon.org), so we can chat more!

For now, I want to thank you all for your support to this Audubon chapter and humbly, to me. I'll continue to see you in many other volunteer roles, and hopefully, more in person again - as we work hard to promote "Conservation Through Education" throughout our region.

And as always – Keep - Looking - Up!



## Christmas Bird Count: Saturday, Dec. 18

SAAS's annual Hudson Falls Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday, Dec. 18. Area birders will follow specific routes in an established 15-mile-wide diameter circle in the Glens Falls region. Most birding is done from a car. Some teams may walk along trails or in area parks.

For more information and to join a count team for a whole or partial day, contact SAAS count compiler Linda White at least a week before the count, at (518) 222-5675. If Dec. 18 has inclement weather, the alternate date is Sunday, Dec. 19.

The Christmas Bird Count is a fun way to increase birding skills. New birders do not need to be bird identi-



*Tufted Titmouse are seen regularly on the Christmas Bird Count. Photo courtesy of Dr. Gordon Ellmers.*

fication experts. They can help spot birds and keep team records.

Counts are held worldwide between December 14 and January 5. Tens of thousands of volunteers participate in more than 2,000 individual counts across North America.

SAAS has held a count every year

since 1983. Count results will be included in the March newsletter.

The Christmas Bird Census started in 1900 when ornithologist Frank Chapman suggested it as an alternative to Christmas "side hunts," competitions to see which teams could shoot the most birds and other animals.

Instead, birders count every bird they see in the designated count areas.

Participating birders should follow the Count's recommended COVID-19 safety guidelines. For details, see: <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>.



## Lost Beauty Projects events at SUNY Adirondack:

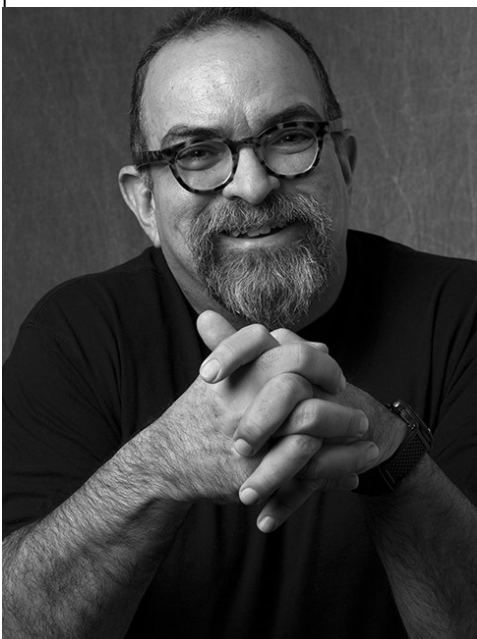
Please confirm details closer to the events. Visit the SUNY Adirondack website (<https://www.sunyacc.edu/>), or check the SAAS website and local media.

- **Feb 3, 2022** (4-6:00 p.m.): Artist Talk and Book Signing
- **March 9, 2022** (12:45 p.m.): Thomas Mowatt, Associate Professor of Science, lecture on extinction
- **April 13, 2022** (12:45 p.m.): Film and Panel Discussion – Joanna Macy, *The Great Turning*.

## Lost Beauty Projects exhibit in 2022 at SUNY Adirondack

SAAS is sponsoring an exhibition at the SUNY Adirondack Visual Arts Gallery in Queensbury from Feb. 3 to April 14. The opening reception, artist talk and book signing will be held on Thursday, Feb. 3 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the gallery on the Queensbury campus.

SUNY Fredonia Distinguished Professor Alberto Rey created paintings that resulted from his extensive research into environmental issues and the impact of pollution and climate change on land, air and sea.



The Lost Beauty exhibit showcases paintings of extinct bird species from museum collections as well as Iceland icebergs. The striking images document battles to save the earth.

Born in Havana, Cuba in 1960, Alberto Rey received his political asylum through Mexico in 1963 and moved to Miami, Florida in 1965. In 1967, his family relocated to Barnesboro, Pennsylvania and he went on to receive his B.F.A. from Indiana University of Pennsylvania after attending the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. He returned north to begin his graduate studies at the University at Buffalo, New York. In 1987, he received his M.F.A. in Drawing and Painting and began traveling throughout Spain, Italy, Morocco and Mexico. Rey is a Distinguished Professor of Research and Creative Activity at SUNY Fredonia. His work is in private collections and more than 20 museums worldwide.

Left: Alberto Rey, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Research and Creative Activity at SUNY Fredonia. Photo: David Moog, courtesy Burchfield Penney Art Center. Copyright David Moog 2015.



Top left: Breiðamerkurjökull glacier in Iceland, 2013.

Above: Dusky Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus nigrescens*); Specimen Number: E9 3.0.9, Male Institutional Collection: Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History, Jamestown, New York; Collection Site: Indian River, Florida; Collection Date: May 1, 1886; Specimen Collector: C. J. Maynard. Oils on Wooden Panel.

Here is his Artist Statement about The Lost Beauty Projects (2019-2021):

*The Lost Beauty Projects include the Extinct Birds Project and the Lost Beauty: Icebergs.*

*The Extinct Birds Project includes a series of paintings, a publication, and a website detailing the lives and history of seventeen extinct bird species, collection methods, politics of extinction classification and biographical information on the collectors who acquired the specimens that are now extinct.*

*Lost Beauty: Icebergs investigates the silent remnants of the Breiðamerkurjökull glacier in Iceland that were documented in 2003 and 2013. The icebergs portrayed in the painting are now gone, melted over time.*

*The paintings, publication, and website examine the dramatic environmental effects of climate change on one of the fastest retreating icebergs in the world. (<https://albertorey.com/site-specific-projects/>)*

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

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



## Species Spotlight

# Red-bellied Woodpeckers

By Joyce Miller, SAAS Newsletter Editor

Most birders agree that the name “Red-bellied Woodpecker” is a misleading name for this vivacious woodpecker.



Above Female Red-bellied Woodpeckers have gray foreheads.

Right: the male's red feathers extend from the bill down to its nape, as pictured here. Photos courtesy of Dr. Gordon Ellmers.



“Red-headed” seems more apt, but there is another species with that name with an all-red head. The bird was named after the faint pink wash on its belly, perhaps from a hand-held museum specimen. “Pink-bellied Woodpecker” would certainly be more accurate!

The zebra-striped back and loud “*qurrrrrr?*” calls also make it a noticeable bird species.

A bit smaller than a robin, this high-energy bird swoops into feeders, often scattering other feeding birds. They are especially enthusiastic about feeders with peanuts and suet. Red-bellies devour berries, fruit, seeds, acorns and nuts, as well as their usual fare of insects and spiders,

The male Red-bellied Woodpecker excavates a nesting cavity each spring. For the next nesting season, the male may chop another hole in the same tree, just below the previous hole.

Red-bellies were rarely seen 20 years ago in our area, but their range rapidly spread north in recent years, even into Canada. They are now year-round residents here, according to Cornell's online checklist eBird (<https://ebird.org/species/rebwoo>). Overall, the population of these woodpeckers has slightly increased in recent decades in the eastern half of North America.

Learn more about Red-bellies, see the pink bellies and hear their familiar vocalizations at Cornell's *All About Birds* site: [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-bellied\\_Woodpecker/overview](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-bellied_Woodpecker/overview).

## SAAS Bluebird Report

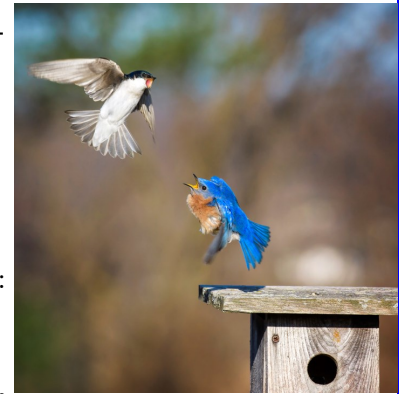
By Pat Fitzgerald,  
SAAS Bluebird Project Coordinator

We continue to have very successful Eastern Bluebird nestings at our nestbox sites at Union Cemetery in Hudson Falls, the Saratoga Spa State Park in Saratoga Springs, as well as Hudson River Park, Hudson Pointe, and Pineview Cemetery in Queensbury.

This year, in addition to bluebirds, we had an abundance of Tree Swallows.

Black-capped Chickadees also nested at some of the sites. For the first time, we discovered that field mice and chipmunks used the boxes.

Many thanks to our ever faithful monitors: Mary Lou Munger, Sandy Meents, Chris Germain, Mary Pat Burke, Lori McCarron and Leo Demers. Special thanks also to Russ Guard for helping with House Sparrow control and Don Polunci for maintaining and installing the nesting boxes.



A Tree Swallow and a male Eastern Bluebird fight over a nestbox.

Photo Credit: Aud\_APA-2019\_Bluebird-and-Tree-Swallow\_P1-10215-7\_TS\_Photo-Vicki-Jauron.jpg

## Birds breed in winter, too!

The N.Y.S. Breeding Bird Atlas (NYSBBAI) project continues for its third breeding season in 2022. Almost 2,400 birders have participated, reporting more than one million breeding behavior observations.

The project continues through 2024. It is held every 20 years. During the last N.Y.S. Breeding Bird Atlas in 2000-2004, birders observed 251 bird species breeding in New York State.

The NYSBBAI Breeding Calendar page said:

*Great Horned Owls are our earliest reliable nester, starting their courtship duets as early as November and beginning nesting in January. In the first few months of the year, other large raptors like Bald Eagles and Common Ravens initiate nesting, followed by the smaller corvids and owls.*

*Urban birds that can nest near warm heating vents and other artificially warm locales also start nesting while there is still snow on the ground, birds such as House Sparrows, European Starlings, and Rock Pigeons.*

- Check the Breeding Calendar to see when to expect activity: <https://ebird.org/atlasny/about/breeding-calendar>.
- The Breeding Guideline Bar Chart shows breeding time periods in green: <https://ebird.org/atlasny/about/handbook-materials/>.

Learn more at <https://ebird.org/atlasny/about>.

## About Wildflowers

# Partridge Berry

By Diane Collins

Until snow cover comes, these small evergreen slightly glossy leaves with occasional scarlet berries can be seen in local woods in the fall amongst fallen leaves.

Partridge Berry (*Mitchella repens*) is a native perennial, a small, woody vine with six-to-12-inch slender trailing stems lying flat on the forest floor. The stems can root at their nodes and spread into colonies.

The evergreen leaves and red berries will last through the winter, and in spring comes new growth.

In early summer a pair of brilliant white fuzzy flowers appear, as pictured on this page. The flowers join to form one fused ovary. Both flowers must be pollinated to produce the single red berry.

To prevent self-pollination, nature designed the flowers differently. One member of the pair has a long pistil and short stamens, and the other has long stamens and a short pistil. This prevents each flower from fertilizing itself. Insects get the job done. The single berry has two tiny scars where the flower parts were once attached.

Partridge Berry can be mistaken for Wintergreen as both are low-lying with small evergreen leaves and similar red berries. The leaves are different, which can tell them apart. Partridge Berry leaves are opposite, ovate, with a pale-yellow midrib. Wintergreen's leathery leaves are slightly larger, alternate, elliptical, and without the center vein. Their edible berries are tastier, tasting like oil of wintergreen.



The common name Partridge Berry refers to a belief that the berries were relished by partridges. The berries are edible, though bland and seedy, and eaten by small mammals and birds. They must find them fairly tasteless as many persist for months. Tea made from Partridge Berry leaves was used by several Native American groups as an aid to ease childbirth.

The genus name *Mitchella* was given to the plant by our friend Linnaeus (1707-1778), the brilliant Swedish naturalist, in honor of John Mitchell, a Virginia physician and botanist. Repens refers to the plant's creeping habit.

Partridge Berry is found throughout eastern North America. Other colorful common names include Checkerberry, Teaberry, Running Box, Two-eyed Berry, Twinberry, and Deer Berry.

Wildflower photographer Diane Collins is the author of *Trailside Wildflowers in Cole's Woods*; see <http://www.wildflowersinyourownbackyard.com>. Cole's Woods is located in both the City of Glens Falls and the Town of Queensbury, next to Granddall Park. Collins sells her booklet for \$10; proceeds go to The Friends of Cole's Woods and our Audubon chapter.

## Climate Watch resumes Jan. 15

SAAS will again participate in the National Audubon Society's citizen science pilot project Audubon Climate Watch. It observes how specific bird populations are affected by climate change.

The SAAS survey focuses on two species: Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches. The survey is conducted twice a year: from May 15 to June 15, and Jan. 15 to Feb. 15.

Volunteers use a specific protocol established by National Audubon. Using grid maps of a specific area, birders conduct 12 counts, observing for five minutes each. They record the numbers and species of other birds identified within 100 meters.

Climate Watch started after National Audubon issued a report in 2014, *Birds and Climate Change*, on risks faced by North American bird species from climate change. SAAS joined the program in 2017. Contact Rob Snell ([birdbrane1@gmail.com](mailto:birdbrane1@gmail.com)) for details.





Common Loon adult and chicks, with a fish snack. Photo credit: Joanie Christian/Audubon Photography Awards, 2020 Aud\_APA-2020\_Common-Loon\_P1-12467-3\_NAPE\_Photo-Joanie-Christian.jpg.

By working together, Adirondack residents and visitors can help address many of these challenges to better protect Adirondack loons and the lakes they share with us and other wildlife. Visit the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation at <https://www.adkloon.org/>.

## Loon conservation news

A recent newsletter from the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation mentioned several events:

- The organization has opened a new **Loon Center** at 75 Main St. in Saranac Lake. The center will offer exhibits on loon ecology, conservation concerns, loon research and conservation efforts in the Adirondacks.
- **“Loon Zooms”** will be held at 7 p.m. on December 9, January 13, February 10, March 10 and April 14. These sessions offer presenters who study different aspects of loon behavior and ecology across North America. Visit <https://www.adkloon.org/events> to register.
- The **Adirondack Loon-Friendly Lake Certification Program** provides participating lake associations and other groups with training, guidelines, and conservation projects to ensure that their lake continues to support breeding loons for years to come. See <https://www.adkloon.org/adk-loon-friendly-lake-certification-program> or contact Jen Denny at [education@adkloon.org](mailto:education@adkloon.org).
- **Trade in lead fishing tackle** to save loons and other wildlife.

Turn in one ounce or more of lead fishing tackle at one of our participating fishing tackle outfitters. Receive a \$10 voucher to use towards the purchase of new non-toxic fishing tackle at the outfitter. Bring your lead tackle to one of these outfitters:

- Blue Line Sports: 81 Main Street, Saranac Lake, NY 12983
- Crossroads: 40 Dixon Rd, Chestertown, NY 12817
- Fish307.com: 6 State Route 149, Lake George, NY 12845
- Hoss's Country Corner: 1142 Main Street, Long Lake, NY
- Norm's Bait and Tackle: 286 Bridge Rd, Crown Point, NY 12928
- Old Forge Hardware: 104 Fulton Street, Old Forge, NY 13420
- Tupper Lake Bait & Tackle: 1562 NY-30, Tupper Lake, NY 12986
- Woods and Waters: 255 Broadway, Saranac Lake, NY 12983

Adirondack loons face numerous threats, some natural, and some due to humans: loss of nesting habitat; nest disturbance; injuries from fishing line entanglement, boating accidents, predation, fighting with other loons; nest flooding, lead poisoning from accidentally consuming lead fishing tackle; environmental pollutants; and avian diseases and parasites.

## First Saturday Bird Walks return!

Join SAAS for morning bird walks along the beautiful Spring Run Trail in Saratoga Springs on the first Saturday of each month, on Dec. 4, Jan. 1 and Feb. 5.

So far, 125 bird species have been seen along the Spring Run Trail. It is considered a birding hotspot. See Cornell's eBird online checklist for the trail: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1548124>.

The one-mile trail is paved and flat. It is used for walking, running and biking, as well as birding. It offers a variety of habitats. Walking the same trail each month makes it easier to observe changes through the seasons.

Dress warmly. Bring binoculars if you have them. All skill levels are welcomed.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. sharp at the Spring Run Trail parking area near the corner of East Ave. and Excelsior Ave.

If the parking area is full, park just slightly down the road on Excelsior Ave. in the EBI Beverage Center parking lot, which is adjacent to the Spring Run Trail.



Perky Black-capped Chickadees are among the birds seen along the Spring Run Trail in the winter. Photo credit: Audubon DAM: Black-capped Chickadee\_Joanne\_Bovee\_2016\_KK.jpg.



*Above, left: An American Woodcock.*

*Above, right: PhD candidate Colby Stezak carefully applies a bird band to a woodcock's leg. Banding helps researchers study bird movements and behaviors.*

*Left: Dr. Roger J. Masse examines an American Woodcock as his students observe.*

*Photos courtesy of Dr. Masse.*

## Winter SAAS Events

Here's a list of upcoming SAAS events with newsletter pages to see for details:

**Dec. 1:** SAAS Monthly program, Suzie Gilbert, *Unflappable*, p. 1

**Dec. 4:** First Saturday Bird Walk, p. 7

**Dec. 18:** Christmas Bird Count, p. 3

### **2022:**

**Jan. 1:** First Saturday Bird Walk, p. 7

**Jan. 15-Feb. 15:** Climate Watch, p. 6

**Jan. 26:** SAAS Monthly program, Winter Waterfowl, p. 1

**Feb. 3:** Lost Beauty Artist Talk and Book Signing, p. 4

**Feb. 5:** First Saturday Bird Walk, p. 7

**Feb. 23:** SAAS Monthly program, American Woodcocks, p. 8

**March 9:** Lost Beauty Project, lecture on extinction, p. 4

**April 13:** Lost Beauty Film and Panel Discussion, p. 4

## Winter Zoom programs

*Continued from page 1*

The Feb. 23 woodcock presentation will outline their studies of behavior, management, and migration ecology of these peculiar birds.

Masse and Slezak will discuss recent and future woodcock projects conducted by SUNY Cobleskill students. During the last decade, much research and management has been conducted in the Northeast to better understand aspects of American Woodcock ecology and to help preserve declining populations of this species.

Masse currently works as an Assistant Professor of Wildlife Management at SUNY Cobleskill. He earned a B.S. in wildlife biology from the University of Vermont, an M.S. in natural resources from Delaware State University, and a Ph.D. in environmental science from the University of Rhode Island (URI).

During these years, a common theme to his education was applied field studies of birds. He conducted extensive studies of American Woodcock while at URI and has maintained an interest in this species ever since. Masse routinely incorporates woodcock capture and band

ing activities into the courses he teaches at SUNY Cobleskill. He works with interested undergraduates to conduct independent projects related to American Woodcock and other species.

Slezak is a PhD student at URI, studying American woodcock. The two primary objectives of his research are to learn more about female habitat selection and their nesting ecology. During the last several decades, males have been the primary focus of woodcock research, but this has led to male-biased forest management. He hopes to fill in critical knowledge gaps related to forest

use by females that will allow managers to enhance current forestry prescriptions. Slezak collaborates with the Eastern Woodcock Migration Research Collaborative ([woodcockmigration.org](http://woodcockmigration.org)) to deploy GPS transmitters throughout the East Coast and identify nest sites with the aid of several state, federal, and Canadian provincial wildlife biologists.

The event is co-sponsored by the Saratoga Springs Public Library; register in advance for the Zoom link at <https://sspl.libcal.com/event/8504538> or visit the SAAS website.

## Membership renewals are due for 2022!

It's renewal time! All SAAS local chapter memberships expire at the end of the calendar year. Chapter memberships are only \$15.

Please take a minute now to renew online quickly and easily with Paypal: <https://southernadirondackaudubon.org/membership/>. You can also send a check using the form on the SAAS website.

A SAAS chapter membership makes an ideal holiday or birthday gift—no supply chain issue here!

Contributions support SAAS's education and conservation activities in our region. Approximately 600 members of National Audubon live in our chapter area. Many National members also become chapter supporter members, to financially support our local efforts.