



The Fledgling

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

Vol. 43 No. 1, **September — December 2025** *Now in our 43rd year!*

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SouthernAdirondackAudubonSociety/

Website: www.southernadirondackaudubon.org

Fall programs: Winter birds, Peregrine Falcons, Albany Pine Bush, moose, and rattlesnakes

Adirondack bird guide Joan Collins will talk about “**Winter Bird Visitors of Northern New York**” at the Bolton Free Library in Bolton Landing on **Thursday, Oct. 16**, at 6:30 p.m.

Each year, avian visitors from the far north move south to spend the winter in our northern New York region. Collins will talk about why the birds migrate to our region, and where to find them.

The presentation will use photographs, audio, and video to feature



On Oct. 16 at the Bolton Free Library, Adirondack guide Joan Collins will talk about our region's winter bird visitors, such as this elegant Bohemian Waxwing.

many species that visit northern New York in winter, including owls and finches. Some species, like Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Shrike, and Snow Bunting, can be found every winter. Others, such as Pine Gros-

beak, irregularly irrupt, while some species visit on a fairly regular schedule, such as the Common Redpoll, which arrives every other winter.

Joan Collins, owner of Adirondack Avian Expeditions & Workshops, LLC, leads birding tours year-round. She is a New York State licensed guide, an Adirondack 46er, and has climbed all the Adirondack fire tower peaks. She writes the “Birdwatch” column for *Adirondack Explorer* magazine, and has published several journal, magazine, and newspaper articles on wildlife and conservation topics in various publications.

Collins served as a peer reviewer for the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State project. She is a past President of the New York State Ornithological Association and Editor of *New York Birders*. She served for many years as a Board of Directors member of the Audubon Council of New York State, and Northern New York Audubon Society, also as a past President. Her website can be found at: www.adirondackavianexpeditions.com/. Follow her on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/AdirondackAvian.

Neil Gifford will speak at the Easton Library in Greenwich on **Thursday, Oct. 23**, at 6:30 p.m. He will offer “**Avian Research in the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, an Important Bird Area and National Natural Landmark.**”

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Peregrine Falcon talk, Sept. 20, North Creek

Tim Demers will talk about **Peregrine Falcons** at 1:15 p.m. on **Saturday, Sept. 20** at Tannery Pond Center in North Creek. This presentation is sponsored by SAAS as part of Tannery Pond's 3rd annual Community Day Outdoor Show.

Demers will discuss the natural history, recovery efforts, and current status of Peregrine Falcons. He'll talk about the ways the NYSDEC monitors falcons at popular rock climbing areas and manages them for both the benefit of the falcons and climbers. Demers is an Environmental Analyst with the Division of Environmental Permits with the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) in Warrensburg.

Activities run from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The event offers a chowder fest, outdoors-related vendors, talks, children's activities, demonstrations, craft beer, music and a buy-sell-trade event for outdoor items. Vendor booths include taxidermy, fly fishing, rafting, outdoor guides, and gun safety. The Tannery Pond Community Center is located at 228 Main Street, North Creek. For details, see www.tannerypond.org/events/outdoorshow-25.

Southern Adirondack Audubon Society

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Publicity: OPEN

Chapter memberships are \$20. Renew at southernadirondackaudubon.org/membership/, or send a check using the form on the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society (SAAS) website. Contributions support SAAS's education and conservation activities in our region.

SAAS is a certified local chapter of the National Audubon Society. SAAS has approximately national or chapter 600 members in Warren, Washington, Fulton, 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.

President's Message

Flocking together

By Rob Snell, SAAS President

Flocking is a highly adaptive and complex behavior that showcases the benefits of cooperation and social living among birds.

We are mostly familiar with how flocking aids such skills as foraging and navigation, but there are other characteristics that are not as obvious. Flocking in crows has been shown to greatly support their complex social structures, and facilitate learning in younger, less experienced members. Birds that flocked likely had higher survival rates and better reproductive success, so they passed this behavior on to future generations.

For more than 40 years, the SAAS flock has provided benefits to its members and the community. Through our programs and bird walks, members, just like crows, enjoy socializing and learning from one another. SAAS is working to extend this love of birding to future generations with our birding backpacks, which are now available for loan in more than 20 local libraries.

Our chapter has also worked to enhance outdoor experiences by partnering with local parks and erecting nesting boxes for bluebirds, ducks, owls and kestrels. The bluebird boxes erected this year at Big Bend Preserve have already fledged 25 chicks. Our flock's native plant initiative has resulted in beautiful gardens at several local libraries. More than 50 personal properties have been certified as "bird friendly."

Our flock's accomplishments over the past few years should make you proud to be a part of it. All of these activities require the flock's financial support to keep flying.



SAAS President Rob Snell installed a Wood Duck box in wetlands at Big Bend Preserve in Moreau this spring.

Renew or join online now!

Visit the SAAS Membership page (www.forms.southernadirondackaudubon.org/join/) to join or renew at these membership levels: Black-capped Chickadee (\$20), Northern Cardinal (\$50), Eastern Bluebird (\$100), and Great Blue Heron (\$250).

Your membership and donations help to support the following projects: offering quality educational programs to the community, providing bird nesting boxes to local parks, installing two Motus towers to help track migrating birds in our region, supplying birding backpacks to local libraries, creating pollinator gardens in local public spaces, and distributing this quarterly newsletter.

Win a binocular harness!

Renew or join as a chapter supporter by Sept. 30 to receive chances to win a binocular harness. These devices make it more comfortable to wear binoculars by distributing the weight. The drawing will take place in early October.

Annual chapter memberships are only \$20. They run for a year, renewable on the month one signs up.

An additional ticket will be allotted for every \$5 donated through the SAAS membership or donation page.

Visit www.southernadirondackaudubon.org/membership/. Contributions support SAAS's local educational and conservation activities. Many National members also become chapter supporter members to financially support SAAS's local efforts.



Fall programs

Continued from page 1

Gifford is the Conservation Director of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission in Albany.

Inland pine barrens are a rare, yet important, habitat for shrubland birds in the northeastern United States. However, many of these ecosystems are limited to fragmented remnants in heavily urbanized landscapes. The 3,407-acre Albany Pine Bush Preserve protects the remnants of an inland pine barrens following decades of loss, fragmentation, and degradation due to human development, species invasions, and fire suppression. To understand the effects of their protection efforts, researchers have been monitoring the response of bird populations at the Pine Bush, conducting point counts, capturing birds to band and release, and documenting the territory fidelity of two target shrubland birds: the Prairie Warbler and the Eastern Whip-poor-will.

Gifford will provide a synopsis of the individual studies and conservation work being conducted there and share that their efforts have had a positive impact on the local shrubland bird community.

Gifford is a community representative on the North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange, with more than 28 years of fire ecology, prescribed fire and field ornithology experience. He earned an associate's degree from Paul Smith's College and bachelor's, and master's degrees in Ecology and Environmental Science from Plattsburgh State University. Gifford is also a certified wildland fire fighter, a USGS Master Bird Bander and the author of both popular and peer reviewed scientific articles. He lives on a small farm in White Creek, Washington County.

On **Thursday, Nov. 6, at 6:30 p.m.**, Dave Kramer will talk about **"The Life History of the Moose in New York State"** at the Green-



This female moose was spotted in Lake Placid. Photo courtesy of David Kramer.

wich Free Library in Greenwich, Washington County. The event is part of a Southern Adirondack Library System "Big Reads!" grant.

Moose were extirpated from the Adirondacks in the late 1800s and early 1900s, due to habitat destruction and overhunting. But in the 1980s, moose sightings in the Adirondacks began to trickle in. Over the past few decades, moose have established a permanent population in the New York mountains. In 2015, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) began actively monitoring it. In the program, attendees will learn about the life history and ecology of our largest state mammal and a new research initiative NYSDEC is conducting.

Kramer received wildlife degrees from Delaware Valley University (BS) in 2009 and from Texas Tech University (MS) in 2012. Since 2016, Kramer has been a Research Scientist with the SUNY-ESF Roosevelt Wildlife Station and provides consultation and research support for moose, deer, bear, turkey and furbearers for NYSDEC.

Dr. William S. Brown will talk about **Timber Rattlesnakes on Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 7:00 p.m.** at Crandall Library in Glens Falls. The event is co-sponsored by the Glens Falls-Saratoga chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club. The

event was postponed from April.

Brown will summarize the basic biology of Timber Rattlesnakes and focus on some of the research questions that are useful for evaluating its conservation status. He will frame this perspective toward outdoor enthusiasts and naturalists who may encounter a rattlesnake in the wild.

Brown is a vertebrate zoologist and herpetologist. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Arizona State University and a Ph.D. degree in Biology from the University of Utah. He is a Professor Emeritus at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, and for 21 years was a biology lecturer at the Department of Biological Sciences, State University of New York at Albany. He is currently a research associate at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's Darrin Fresh Water Institute in Bolton Landing. Brown is now in his 46th year of studying Timber Rattlesnakes.

See crandall.librarycalendar.com/event/timber-rattlesnakes-how-they-live-what-they-do-9578 for details.



Dr. Bill Brown holds an adult male Timber Rattlesnake in this 1981 photo. Photo courtesy of Bill Brown.

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

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



Seniors from the Saratoga Springs High School installed a Bird-friendly Pollinator Garden at the Saratoga Springs Public Library on June 11 to further reinforce the library's commitment to being a Certified Sustainable Library. SAAS provided financial and design support to create this urban habitat.



A view of the newly-planted native garden on the Henry Street side of the Saratoga Springs Public Library.

Native garden installed at Saratoga Springs Public Library

A team of library and high school volunteers installed a pollinator-friendly native plant garden on the Henry Street side of the Saratoga Spring Public Library in Saratoga Springs on Wednesday, June 11.

Thanks to library staff, the garden is beautifully weeded, and thanks to the Operations Staff, it is watered as needed.

The plants are holding up very well in the heat and are really growing. The flower photos below show what was already blooming — only *one month* after tiny plugs were installed.

The garden was featured in an article in the Saratogian newspaper: www.msn.com/en-us/lifestyle/lifestyle-buzz/saratoga-springs-public-library-installs-native-pollinator-garden/ar-AA1GRcyU.



Mary-Beth Wagner (right) hands the Audubon "Plants for Birds" sign to Jennifer Ferriss, Assistant Library Director of the Saratoga Springs Public Library.

Photos on this page are by Gina Michelin.



By mid-July, these blooms had already burst forth at the Saratoga Springs Public Library. Left to right: Phlox Jeana, Rudbeckia fulgida v fulgida and Solidago odora.



The Glens Falls City Park garden plot was prepared by library staffers Michael and Calli along with reference librarian Sharon Berg and SAAS volunteer Bonnie Tompkins.



Sharon Berg and SAAS volunteers Eileen Cunningham and Greg Wait installed the garden the next day.

Meanwhile, in Glens Falls City Park...

SAAS volunteer Mary-Beth Wagner coordinated two garden work days to install a new pollinator-friendly garden on the Glen Street (Route 9) side of City Park, in front of Crandall Library in downtown Glens Falls.

Next time you're in Glens Falls City Park, check out the new garden!

Is your garden eligible for a "Bird Friendly" sign?

If your property supports birds, other wildlife and healthy habitat for pollinators, you could get a "Certified Bird Friendly" sign to place in your yard.

Mown lawns and non-native invasive plants create a food desert. Native plants are the foundation of a bird friendly property, offering shelter, food and nesting sites for our native birds and insects.

Consider completing the assessment on this SAAS page: www.southernadirondackaudubon.org/property/.

If your garden qualifies, SAAS invites you to order a Certified Bird Friendly property sign to celebrate your efforts and help spread the word.

The two options for Certified Bird Friendly signs are pictured to the right.

SAAS's native plant initiative has certified more than 50 local personal properties as "bird friendly" so far.



A blue informational Audubon "Plants for Birds" sign in the finished garden was provided by SAAS President Rob Snell. Mary-Beth Wagner, Horticulturist, is teaching the library staff how to maintain the garden properly.



First Saturday Bird Walks continue

Join SAAS members for morning bird walks along the beautiful **Spring Run Trail** in Saratoga Springs on the first Saturday of each month.

Ray Perry will lead walks on these Saturdays: **September 6, October 4, and November 1**. Walks start at 8:00 a.m.

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.

So far, 136 bird species have been reported along the Spring Run Trail. See the species checklist on eBird: ebird.org/hotspot/L1548124/bird-list. The “Bar Charts” link show species seen for each month.

Bring binoculars if you have them. All skill levels are welcome.

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 adjacent to the Spring Run Trail. For directions and details, see www.southernadirondackaudubon.org/Spring-Run/.

More pop-up events

More walks may be scheduled this fall. Check SAAS’s website, Facebook and Instagram pages for more pop-up events:

- **Email:** sign up for announcements and updates at www.southernadirondackaudubon.org/subscribe/.
- **Facebook:** Join the 2,300 people who follow SAAS at www.facebook.com/SouthernAdirondackAudubonSociety/.
- **Instagram:** Follow @adkbirds (www.instagram.com/adkbirds/).
- **Website:** Check www.southernadirondackaudubon.org/ for updated and new event information.

Field trip guidelines

- Review our SAAS **Field Trip Guidelines** (southernadirondackaudubon.org/field-trip-guidelines/).
- SAAS trips follow the American Birding Association’s **Code of Birding Ethics** (www.aba.org/aba-code-of-birding-ethics/).
- Check the SAAS website, Instagram and Facebook pages for updates on trips.

Changes and details about scheduled events will be shared through these announcements.

Birding backpacks now at 25 area libraries

Borrow a SAAS Birding Backpack from your local library!

Each backpack contains two sets of Celestron binoculars, *Birding Adventures for Kids* book, *Birds of NY Guide*, Walking in Nature Bingo Game (great for younger nature explorers), Birding Journal to record observations, and other items.

They are available in these libraries around the SAAS membership area:

Warren County:

- Caldwell Public Library in Lake George
- Bolton Free Library
- Town of Chester Public Library in Chestertown
- Town of Johnsburg Library in North Creek
- Horicon Free Public Library in Brant Lake
- Richards Library in Warrensburg

Washington County:

- Easton Library, Greenwich
- Cambridge Public Library
- Bancroft Public Library in Salem
- Argyle Free Library
- Hudson Falls Free Library
- Greenwich Free Library

Saratoga County:

- Ballston Spa Public Library

- Galway Public Library
- Saratoga Springs Public Library
- Ballston Community Public Library in Burnt Hills
- Schuylerville Public Library
- Corinth Free Library
- Round Lake Library, Malta Branch in Malta
- Round Lake Library, Clark House Branch
- Waterford Public Library

Hamilton County:

- Indian Lake Public Library
- Lake Pleasant Public Library in Speculator

Fulton County:

- Gloversville Public Library
- Northville Public Library

For more about the program, see www.southernadirondackaudubon.org/education/.

Visit Colombia with SAAS in Feb. 2026!

October 14 is the deadline to sign up for “Birding the Central Andes,” a birding trip to Colombia hosted by SAAS from February 11 to 19, 2026. SAAS again partnered with Holbrook Travel to organize the trip.

Colombia has more than 1,900 bird species, more than any other country. This nine-day program focuses on the highlights of the Central Andes region. The group will explore Andean cloud forest, farmland, and páramo habitats, including flycatchers, hummingbirds, tanagers, toucans, and more.

For a full description, see www.holbrooktravel.com/where-we-travel/central-and-south-america/colombia/birding-culture-central-andes-saas-26.

A \$350 deposit is due upon enrollment. The deadline to reach minimum group size is October 14. Final payment is due November 8. If the trip has eight to nine paying participants, the cost will be \$3,750. The single supplement is \$550. SAAS has traveled with Holbrook to other birding hotspots such as Belize, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Cuba.

Hooded Majesty: Great Gray Owl

By Anthony Galligani, SAAS Member

The Great Gray Owl is the coolest bird in North America. That may be just my opinion, but I'm sure many share it.

The Great Gray Owl is actually the greatest among all owls in the world in terms of body length: they range from 24 to 33 inches in length. Surprisingly, they weigh less on average than either the Snowy Owl or the Great Horned Owl, but you wouldn't know it by looking.

While I have long been fascinated by this imposing owl and seeing one has been a deep longing, I was convinced that a quest for this Holy Grail bird would at least involve travel to Minnesota or the deep boreal forests of Canada in the dead of winter, with attendant cost and inconvenience.

Happily, I was wrong. Turns out every so often one of these menacing beauties appears in winter at the Northern border of the Empire State. eBird — Cornell Lab of Ornithology's online birding portal — will not provide details on the precise recorded locations of this

or so watching eagles, goldeneyes, and other interesting birds over by the nearby Moses-Saunders Power Dam that straddles the border between Canada and the United States. Then, anxious to find the owl, we drove around,

spotted a few dark masses in the tree tops, some of which, to our amusement, turned out to be porcupines feeding on the budding branches of late winter. We took photos of these and a Barred Owl we noticed that appeared to be basking in the sun.

We drove on, and shortly thereafter I noticed an imposing shape on a branch about nine feet above the ground. It was unmistakable. "There it is!" I cried. We pulled to

the side and gazed in awe through binoculars at the imposing hooded figure with piercing yellow eyes. Keeping our distance, we got out of the vehicle to get a better look. Within minutes a small crowd of like-minded birders spied us and assembled with scopes and cameras.

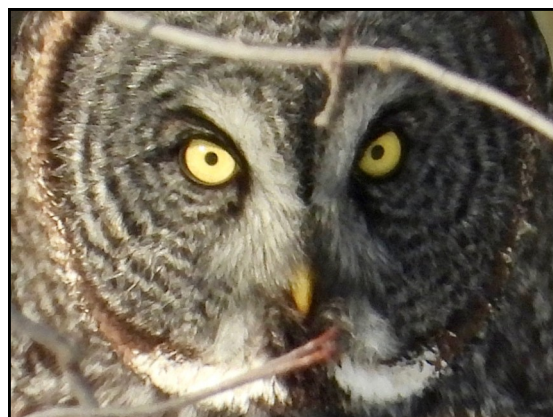
After remaining still for a bit, the owl cocked its head, left the tree to hover in place above the snow, flared its talons and made a pounce. According to the Owl Research Institute, "the Great Gray Owl, with its incredible hearing, can detect prey over 100 meters away through snow as deep as 45 centimeters." Impressive. But, in this case, the owl came up empty. Shortly thereafter, the owl took off into the woods. Perhaps the crowd of admirers was a turn-off.

Time passed. The sky darkened. The crowd dispersed. Not expecting the owl to return, we decided to leave as well, but just as we pulled away to begin the long ride home I barely caught the

flash of a large pair of wings through the gloom. Did I imagine it?

I stopped the car. We got out and we could still make out the dark form of the owl perched in a tree. We watched as the owl hunted, caught and devoured several voles. Then, as the full moon was rising, the owl perched in the crook of a leafless beech tree, with the face of the moon behind it. With his belly full, his yellow eyes smoldered in the moon's glow.

What a sight! It was an iconic Halloween scene come to life.



Photos on this page of the Great Gray Owl were taken by Emily Jipson.



"sensitive species," but my wife and I learned through word of mouth that a "*Strix Nebulosa*" had been reliably seen over several days, hunting along a roadside just south of the Canadian border. We were texted the precise secret GPS coordinates of where it would likely be found by a good naturalist friend who had been to see the bird himself earlier in the week.

So on Thursday, March 13, our quest took us three hours straight north to a spot in the town of Massena on the edge of the St. Lawrence River by the Eisenhower Lock. No guarantees, but we were informed that the bird had frequently been seen hunting at around 4:00 p.m. We arrived around 2:30 p.m. and whiled away an hour



About Wildflowers

Canada Lily

By Diane Collins, Wildflower Columnist

The Lily family welcomes many of its springtime wildflowers in wooded shade, such as the red, white, and painted Trilliums, Canada Mayflower, Clintonia or Blue Bead Lily, Solomon's Seal, and the Trout Lily.

My wildflower walks in Cole's Woods focused on these beauties. But in later summer I had to pay attention to "Now wait a minute, what about us?" - the big, sun-loving, boldly colored

Wood Lily and Canada Lily that called for my attention, especially the Canada Lily forming elaborate "candelabras" with pendulous flowers.

The Canada Lily a native of eastern North America, has been exported to Europe for its ornamental value. It is noted for its height, typically three to five feet tall. The leaves are whorled and with straight veins.

There are six petals, which are more correctly called "tepals," a fusion of its petals and sepals. Inside the bell-shaped flowers are maroon spots that attract butterflies and bees. The elaborate blooms have evolved in close relationships with pollinators. The six stamens with rust-colored anthers dangle downward from the flower, inviting pollination.

The scientific name of Canada Lily, *Lilium canadense*, was given by the Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus in his publication *Species Plantarum* in 1753.

We can thank the citizen naturalists, possibly students of Linnaeus, who



traveled the globe, sending back by boat across the Atlantic their carefully wrapped "finds" to Linnaeus for his attention and naming. Hats off to the "Apostles of Linnaeus."

Wildflower photographer Diane Collins is the author of several local wildflower booklets, including the new *Springtime Birds & Wildflowers along the Betar Byway, South Glens Falls*. Visit www.southernadironackaudubon.org/order-betar-booklet/ to order a booklet.

Diane Collins' spring wildflowers booklet is also available at the St. Andrews Ace Hardware store in Queensbury.

Species Spotlight

Belted Kingfisher

By Joyce Miller, SAAS Newsletter Editor

If you hear the rattle call of a Belted Kingfisher, stop and scan branches overhanging the nearby river or lake. You may find what looks like a chunky Blue Jay, with a shaggy crest on a large head.

When it spots a small fish or crayfish, the kingfisher will likely plunge bill-first into the water, sometimes hovering for a minute to get better aim.

The Belted Kingfisher female is more colorful than the male, which is unusual among bird species. Her rusty belly band is easy to see from a distance. The male's belly is simply white. They both have a blue-gray band across the chest.

Adult kingfishers regurgitate pellets of undigested food, like owls do.



This female Belted Kingfisher shows the reddish belly band that the male lacks. Photo courtesy of Dr. Gordie Ellmers.

Belted Kingfishers are found across North and Central America. They can overwinter in our area if they find open water.

Breeding Belted Kingfishers dig

upsloping burrows three to six feet deep into riverbanks, and lay six or seven eggs. Both parents feed the young.

While they're not a species of concern, research shows that the population of these birds is declining. This may be due to habitat loss and being disturbed during breeding season, according to the Audubon Field Guide (www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/belted-kingfisher).

Almost 100 species of kingfisher are found on six continents. Some species live in forests, hunting prey on the ground. Australia's distinctive Laughing Kookaburra is a member of the kingfisher family.

For more about Belted Kingfishers, see Cornell's All About Birds: www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Belted_Kingfisher/overview.



Above left: This happy group participated in bird banding in May this year at the Crown Point banding Station. (Bander and article author Ted Hicks is on the right.)

Above right: This commemorative t-shirt celebrates 50 years of bird-banding at Crown Point banding station. Photos by Ted Hicks.

Crown Point Banding Station celebrates 50 years

By Ted Hicks, CPBA Coordinator and Bander in Charge

The Crown Point Banding Station (CPBS) completed its 50th consecutive banding session this year.

The 2025 banding session operated from May 3 to May 17 with 15 days of operation.

The CPBS was established in 1976 by J.M.C. "Mike" Peterson at the Crown Point State Historic Site on Lake Champlain in Essex County. Volunteers at the banding station conduct banding operations to monitor migrating passerines for two weeks in May.

The Crown Point peninsula is located on the western shore of Lake Champlain, directly west of the Chimney Point peninsula in Vermont.

These two geographic features form a narrow point in the lake where migrating birds have only a short distance to cross the lake as they fly north to their breeding areas. As a result, migrating birds in the spring "funnel" through this area, making it an ideal location for a migration monitoring banding station.

Here are some highlights from the 2025 session:

- In recognition of 50 years of consecutive operation, the Crown Point Banding Association provided commemorative t-shirts to mark the accomplishment, available to anyone.
- A total of 687 birds of 57 species was banded, including 225 warblers of 16 species. For comparison, in 2024 there was a total of 616 birds of 50 species banded, and of those 94 were warblers.
- The highest daily total of birds banded was May 3, when 115 birds of 19 species were banded.
- The top 10 species banded in number for the session were: Blue Jay (188), Yellow-rumped Warbler (143), White-throated Sparrow (62), Gray Catbird (50), Common Yellowthroat (25), Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Western Palm Warbler (13), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (11), Chipping Sparrow (10), American Goldfinch, American Robin, Common Grackle and Song Sparrow (8), Baltimore Oriole, House Wren, and Nashville Warbler (7).
- The station recaptured 21 birds that had been banded there in previous years.

- Of the birds recaptured from previous years, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak was the oldest at six years old.
- Eight licensed banders assisted in the project this year.
- More than 300 people including 11 scheduled visitor groups visited the station.

The Crown Point Banding Station has successfully operated for 50 consecutive seasons with 100% volunteer support.

There are many opportunities to participate, and anyone who wishes to assist can contact Ted Hicks (TedHicks61@gmail.com).

The current tentative plan is to open from May 2 to May 16 in 2026.

NYSOA conference, Sept. 19-21

The NYS Ornithological Association's annual conference will be held from Sept. 19 to 21 in Ithaca.

The weekend offers social, educational and birding activities and field trips.

For more information, see www.nysoa2025.org/home.

Protect the Adirondacks!

By Claudia Braymer, Executive Director, Protect the Adirondacks

This is part of a series highlighting the work of the Southern Adirondack region's non-profit organizations that support wild birds.

Protect the Adirondacks! Inc. is a non-profit, grassroots membership organization dedicated to the protection and stewardship of the public and private lands of the Adirondack Park, and to building the health and diversity of its natural and human communities for the benefit of current and future generations.

Protect was formed in 2009 from the merger of two organizations, one founded in 1901 and the other in 1990. We work through advocacy, education, independent public oversight of local and state agencies, and litigation to protect the Park's wildlands, soil, air, and native plant, animal and bird species.

Protect the Adirondacks is known for its staunch defense of the "Forever Wild" clause found in Article 14 of the New York State Constitution to ensure that the State-owned Forest Preserve is managed in accordance with this constitutional provision.

You are invited to join us for a "Paddle for Wilderness" on Saturday, Sept. 13, at Forked Lake in the central Adirondacks.

The event honors the [legacy of Peter Hornbeck](#) (1943-2020), who founded Hornbeck Boats, the popular lightweight canoes and kayaks, and to celebrate wilderness and the Adirondack Forest Preserve. We will also be advocating for the lands of nearby Whitney Park, which are currently up for sale by a private landowner, to be protected and for greater opportunities for motorless waters in the Adirondacks.



These peaceful wetlands are found in the William C. Whitney Wilderness area in Long Lake, Hamilton County.



On Saturday, Sept. 13, Paddle for Wilderness on Forked Lake will celebrate Peter Hornbeck's Adirondack canoeing legacy and the wilds of the Adirondack Forest Preserve.

You can learn more about us, become a member, or register for the Paddle for Wilderness, by going to our website protectadks.org.

We are on social media at *Protect the Adirondacks* on Facebook, or *protectadkpark* on Instagram, Threads and Bluesky.



Left: The organization's logo.

Photos courtesy of Protect the Adirondacks.