



Volume 50

Number 1

Quarterly

Bulletin

of the

Bedford Audubon Society

Spring 2000

President's Message

THE VOLUNTEERS OF BEDFORD AUDUBON

My term as president of Bedford Audubon will expire as of June 30, 2000. I'd like to thank all the Board and Committee Members who have worked so hard during the last three years to help Bedford Audubon succeed as an active and vital organization. Because I moved to Dutchess County at the end of 1998, I have had to depend on others to cover many meetings and activities that I otherwise would have attended. Jackie Jones in particular has been a wonderful partner and an excellent Vice-president. Her support has given me strength and inspiration so many times. Without her, I would not have been able to survive this long-distance Presidency.

John Askildsen is always working hard for this chapter; he never stops! We hear talk these days of the 24 hours a day/7 days a week level of service; that's what John gives to this chapter. Both Jackie and John have a commitment to Bedford Audubon that seemingly never wavers. We are so fortunate that they have chosen to donate their time and talents to this group.

Jack Seirup is the epitome of the selfless volunteer. Jack is not only our Treasurer, but he is also in charge of the maintenance of the trails at the James Ramsay Hunt Sanctuary. I'm sure we could never count the copious hours that Jack has spent working on those trails, most often without assistance.

Steve Ricker, our Secretary and enthusiastic chairman of both the Seed Sale and Birdathon Committees, has been a tremendous asset. He always says yes and has contributed in so many ways to our success. I'm very grateful for all his hard work and cooperation.

Pete Ainsworth may have the toughest job of all as the Newsletter editor. He's been a good sport about his correspondents who promise to get their articles in on time, but seem to lose the struggle, more often than not! Please don't give up Pete!

Jonathan Powers has been a great help regarding our finances, planning and general organization. His calm rational approach to problem solving has been highly beneficial to our efforts.

Ken Mirman dedicates many hours to the hawk-watch. Last September, his committee hosted a wonderful live hawk presentation that was attended by close to a hundred raptor-lovers. We were all glad to see many children at that program. Ken has taken on the responsibility for hiring and overseeing our hawk counter for the last few years and has done a fantastic job. Don Pachner has come through for us in many ways, not the least of which is his contribution as Web-master. He also guides us through the labyrinth of insurance coverage and risk management and tries his best to make us understand those complex issues. That is another tough job!

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35 Todd Road

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It is this organization's mission to promote environmental education, grass-roots activism, public and private conservation efforts, preservation and protection of open space. A full statement of the Society's mission may be found below.

To date, Bedford Audubon owns and manages over 558 acres of land at three sanctuaries, all located in north eastern Westchester County. Sanctuaries are open to the general public dawn to dusk and admission is free.

Programs and lectures are conducted the evening of the second Wednesday of every other month, excluding July and August. Field trips are conducted several times monthly and are also open to the public.

The Society is supported by membership dues, donations made by individuals, corporations, and foundations. The Bedford Audubon Society, Inc., is recognized by New York State and the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c) (3), not-for-profit, charitable organization.

The Quarterly Bulletin, the newsletter of the Society, is published four times yearly and is distributed to all members in good standing, and to nonmembers for a nominal annual fee. For further information on membership or activities, contact the BAS information line at (914) 232-1999.

Our Mission

The Mission of the Bedford Audubon Society is to Promote Conservation and Protection of Wildlife Habitats in the Northern Westchester and Eastern Putnam Region through Education, Advocacy, Nature Study and Birdwatching.

Board of Directors 1999

Anne Vajsabel	President	229-1938
Jackie Jones	Vice President	666-2057
John Askildsen	Development	232-1701
Jack Seirup	Treasurer	232-4871
Steven Ricker	Secretary	234-2934
Pete Ainsworth	Newsletter	276-3837
Ken Mirman	Hawk Watch	277-5210
Donald Pachner	Conservation	234-6618
Ellen Epstein	Membership	666-7690
Michael Paletta	At-Large	666-3521
Jonathan Powers	Finance	764-4320
Jim Utter	Conservation	878-0081
David Albano	Education	225-9567

Committee Members

John Askildsen	Field Trips	232-1701
Nelly Balloffet	Historian	941-8166
Barbara Reynolds	Hospitality	232-5632
Jack Seirup	Hunt Sanctuary	232-4871
Brenda Freeman-Bates	Programs	763-9489
Pam Harper	Publicity	242-2050
Steven Ricker	Seed Sale	234-2934
Ginny Powers	Trip Registrar	764-4320

Please submit any articles, ideas, events, or illustrations to:

Pete Ainsworth
165 Arbor Crest
Somers, NY 10589

E-Mail: HAinswo292@AOL.COM

Birding Hotlines

New York City/Long Island Rate Bird Alert 212-979-3070

BAS Hotline, Chapter Activities 914-232-1999

BAS Fax Number 914-232-5038

BAS Website www.Audubon.org/Chapter/NY/Bedford

*Shop with us on the Web
at www.Birding.com/Bedfordaudubonshop*

Special Programs

**May 7th Annual Meeting At John Jay Homestead State
Historic Site in Katonah**

Donald and Lillian Stokes, the nation’s most prominent and widely respected authorities on birds, will address the annual meeting of the Bedford Audubon Society on May 7 at 3 PM. in the main meeting room of the John Jay Homestead State Historic Site. Mr. and Mrs. Stokes will present a slide show and lecture entitled “The Joys of Birding.” They will offer a comprehensive look at bird watching as a hobby, including bird identification and behavior.

Known as America’s “first couple” of birding, Mr. and Mrs. Stokes have written 23 books on birds and nature, including such best sellers as the *Stokes Field Guides to Birds*, *Stokes Beginner’s Guide to Birds*, *Stokes Birdfeeder Book*, *Stokes Hummingbird Book*, and *Stokes Bird Gardening Book*. More than 4 million copies of their works have been sold.

Recently, Mr. and Mrs. Stokes created a new 13-part television series for PBS called “Stokes Birds at Home,” which is appearing on stations across the country this winter and spring. They have also produced CDs and cassettes of bird songs for the eastern and western United States.

Guests can bring copies of the Stokes guides as there will be a book signing after the program. Wild Birds Unlimited of Bedford Hills will sponsor a sales table offering a full line of Stokes guides. Refreshments will be served. Guest are asked to make a suggested donation of \$5 to Bedford Audubon.

The presentation by Mr. and Mrs. Stokes will follow the brief 86th annual meeting of the Bedford Audubon Society. The John Jan Homestead State Historic Site is located on Route 22 in Katonah, south of Route 35.

For more information on Don and Lillian Stokes, you may visit their website at www.stokesbirdsathome.com.

The program is cosponsored by Bedford Audubon and The John Jay Homestead State Historic Site, with financial support from Wild Birds Unlimited of Bedford Hills and Mill River Supply, also of Bedford Hills.

Join Audubon Today!

Yes, I would like to join the Bedford Audubon Society (a chapter of National Audubon).

I am enclosing this form along with a check made out to “The National Audubon Society, Bedford Chapter.”

Individual \$35.00
 Student \$18.00
 Introductory \$20.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail to: Bedford Audubon Society
35 Todd Road
Katonah, New York 10536
Bedford Audubon Society, Chapter Code: R00 7XCH

Field Trips

**Wednesday Morning Bird Walks
at Maple Avenue in Katonah
Dates: May 3,10,17,24**

**Meet at 7:30am at the intersection of Reservoir Rd.,
Cross River Dam, and Maple Avenue**

Maple Avenue is a long, quiet dirt road with an northeasterly exposure. Situated along a power line cut, the Cross River Reservoir on one side, and deep deciduous woods on the other, Maple Avenue offers a variety of habitats and therefore can attract a variety of birds. Typically we see Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Vireos, Orioles and Warblers. If all walks are attended, the participant will be able to build quite a list of spring migrants as the month of May progresses. Please plan on participating on one or all. Please bring binoculars and a field guide if you have one. No registration is required for these walks.

**Delmarva Peninsula Weekend
May 5-7**

Michael Bocknik of the Audubon Society of the Hudson will lead this joint field trip to the land known only as "Delmarva", between the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays. This region is rich in birdlife with a southern flavor to it. Birds such as Prothonotary Warbler and Blue Grosbeak are a sure thing on this trip. Call Michael for details at 237-9331.

May 21 @ 6:30am

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens New York City

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge is considered to be the cradle of the New York bird watching community. With such a diversity of habitats, located as it is on the Atlantic flyway, "the bay", as it is affectionately referred to by New York birders, has a very extensive bird list. We'll start out early, so as to arrive in "the gardens" to catch the morning's land bird movement. We'll then move onto the marshes and the bay waters to view a plethora of herons, egrets, Ibis, shorebirds, ducks and other marsh birds. Please bring binoculars, lunch, field guide and insect repellent.

**May 20 @ 7 AM
Doodletown Road, Bear Mountain SP**

Join BAS veteran birder Mike Usai when he leads us on a hike into Bear Mountain State Park for spring migrant arblers. The "Doodletown Road" Trail is easily accessible and is quite well known for its resident population of Hooded and Cerulean Warblers. These little gems are two of nature's most striking Warblers species! Binoculars are a requirement.

**Butterflies of Ward Pound
Ridge Reservation
with Bill Wallace and Joan Mish
Saturday, June 10th, 11:00 am
Reservation: Call Joan Mish at 914 249-5669**

BAS members Bill Wallace and Joan Mish will lead a butterfly field trip at one of the top spots in the U.S. for butterflies and it's right in our own backyard! Yes it's true, "the Reservation" ranks among the best sites in the country for "butterflying". Butterflying by definition is the active pursuit of butterflies in the wild in order to study and identify them to species-but no collecting though! With as many as 40-45 species seen on day-long survey counts, the Reservation is a great place to start this summertime hobby. To prepare for this trip, bring water-resistant footwear, binoculars and a butterfly field guide if you have one. If you don't have a book and you want to acquire one, check out our on-line nature shop. This will be a great time to see some of the larger butterflies such as the Swallowtails and Monarchs, and some of the lesser known, but equally beautiful species. Come and find out more about our local Lepidoptera.

Programs

**Earth Day Celebration in Somers
April 22, 1pm at the Historic Mount Zion Church**

Bedford Audubon Society and Somers Historical Society will co-sponsor a viewing of "CBS reports: The Silent Spring of Rachael Carson". "Silent Spring" published in 1962, was chosen by a distinguished panel of important American leaders including Jimmy Carter and Sandra Day O'Connor, as the most influential book of the last 50 years. Ms. Carson's concerns about pesticides in our environment are issues that we remain concerned about. Mt. Zion Church is located on Primrose Street across from the Somers Library.

**Babes in the Woods
Saturday, June 3rd 2pm at
Westmoreland Sanctuary in Bedford Corners**

It's the time of year when the woods are teeming with newborns. Join Westmoreland Sanctuary Director and BAS Board Member Steve Ricker on a leisurely hike to seek out and observe young animals and even plants! The program is for all ages and is co-sponsored by BAS and Westmoreland Sanctuary. For more information, call 666-8448.

**Bedford Audubon Goes
to the
Clearwater Festival**

BAS will join in with our four neighboring Westchester chapters in staffing a booth with displays at the Clearwater Festival at Croton Point Park in mid-June. If you are there, look us up!

Watch your local paper for details.

**Lewisboro's Conservation Advisory Council's
Open Space Inventory Project Update**

There will be a display of the Lewisboro Conservation Advisory Council's Open Space Inventory Project from Saturday April 8th through Sunday June 3rd at Onatru Farm, Elmwood Road, Lewisboro.

Professional photographer J. Henry Fair and CAC members spent the last year photographing and categorizing the thirty last great places in Lewisboro. The project will play an important role in guiding the town's future conservation policies. Displays and exhibits of the town's open space and wildlife will be included along with Mr. Fair's photographs.

The exhibit will be open to the public beginning opening night April 8th, 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM, and then on Monday's through Saturdays, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There is no charge.

For additional information, call (914) 763-5740.

**May 28-June 12
BAS IS ALASKA BOUND IN 2000.....
JOIN US!!**

Don't forget that BAS is going to the wilds of Alaska May 28 through June 12. We are offering a two part trip-southern Alaska May 28-June 4, and northern Alaska June 5-12. We'll visit places we've all dreamed of visiting like Denali National Park, Kenai Peninsula, and incredible arctic destinations like Nome and Barrow.

Without a doubt, this is the ultimate wildlife adventure that North America has to offer! We'll have opportunities to see incredible seabird colonies, whales, Eagles, moose, walrus, thousands of shorebirds on their nesting grounds, musk ox, cranes, Grizzly, Caribou, and polar bear, rare and beautiful spectacled eider, timber wolf, some of the world's best scenery and a whole lot more! Call Ginny Powers for details.

Birdathon 2000

The Bedford Audubon Society is gearing up for our annual Birdathon. The Birdathon will be held 24 hours, from 5 PM Friday May 12, 2000 to 5 PM Saturday May 13, 2000. The purpose of this endeavor is to help raise money for The New York State Audubon Field Office and Bedford Audubon's Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship Fund goes to local school children who are doing work in bird study and conservation.

How does it work?

During the 24 hour period BAS teams will travel throughout the area visiting such hot spots as Jamaica Bay, Doodletown Rd., and Read Sanctuary. The teams will try to identify as many different birds as possible. We expect to identify 100-170 species!

How can I help?

There are several ways you can help:

1. Make a per species pledge.
2. Make a fixed amount contribution.
3. Help collect sponsors. (Contact Birdathon Coordinator Steve Ricker 234-2934)
4. Join us birding or bird on your own.

All levels of birders are welcome to join Steve Ricker for a guided bird walk at Westmoreland Sanctuary at 8 AM on Saturday May 13. We will have a check-in station for results and info from 6 AM and 5 PM at Westmoreland Sanctuary, 260 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Mt. Kisco.

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Bedford Audubon Birdathon 2000

I wish to pledge ___ .25 cents ___ .50 cents ___ \$1.00 ___ Other Per species identified.
(You will receive a synopsis of the day's events and the number of birds seen.)

Or

I wish to contribute a fixed amount of ___\$25, ___\$50, ___\$100, ___ Other.
Please make checks out to "Bedford Audubon Society".

I will give an additional \$ ___ if a _____ is identified.
(eg. Golden-winged Warbler, Bald Eagle, Summer Tanager, Peregrine Falcon)

_____ Matching gift form is enclosed. My employer matches gifts.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Daytime Telephone # (Optional): _____

Send form to: **John Erickson**
14 Wago Ave.
Armonk, NY. 10504

*Contact Birdathon Coordinator Steve Ricker at (914) 234-2934 to participate,
receive a sponsor sheet, or with any questions.*

President's Message
Continued from page 1

Ellen Epstein was able to help us as our Membership Chair by creating, with the help of others on the committee, our own custom-made membership brochure. This year, we have worked to revitalize this committee and we hope you'll notice a difference. Mike Paletta has made valuable contributions as the Chairman of our House Committee. This very active committee is charged with planning for the future of the buildings and grounds that Bedford Audubon will own on Todd Road in Katonah. Mike and his group have already logged

Jim Utter has been a great resource for us as we approach conservation issues and attempt to increase our presence in Putnam County. Jim is a natural educator and is always will to pitch in.

Our newest member, David Albano, is making great strides with our newly reformed Education committee. This Education program is dear to all of us, and David is working hard on establishing a scholarship in a local school.

There are many others making valuable contributions to our chapter who are not on the Board of Directors. Ginny Powers does a great job as our field trip registrar; Pam Harper is outstanding as our Publicity Chair. Brenda Freeman-Bates has been a creative and innovative Program Chair. John Erickson has done wonders for both the Seed Sale and Birdathon. Barbara and Drew Reynolds are always ready to pitch in whenever they can, with hospitality or other projects. We can always count on Nelly Balloffet to share the history of our chapter through her newsletter contributions. Of note, too, are the spouses of Board members who often find themselves involved in one project or another. I could go on and on, but our space is limited!

One hesitates to single out individuals when there are so many who are contributing to this chapter. I hope that the people I have mentioned, and anyone else who helped us throughout the past few years, will accept my thanks for their endeavors and forgive me if I have minimized or simplified any of them. I have been honored to serve with these good people. I feel that we are a strong team and I know that our members will continue to reap the benefits of the dedication of these fine volunteers for a long time to come.

Anne Vajsabel

Bedford Audubon Gets Wired

We are pleased to announce that you may now visit our updated website to check the most current "goings on" of the Society. First visit us at our website at <http://www.audubon.org/chapter/ny/bedford/>. Our website has listed our most current events, field trips, and other happenings. Also, all Board Members and Committee Chairs are listed as well with e-mail addresses where possible.

So you say you need a new birding field guide?, your binoculars have finally quit on you? You need a new birdfeeder? No problem! Shop on Bedford Audubon's new on-line nature shop for all your outdoor nature needs. Not only will you be able to shop from the comfort of your own home, avoid the Mall and receive competitive pricing, but you will also be supporting BAS at the same time! Visit our store at:
<http://www.birding.com/bedfordaudubonshop>.

Bedford Audubon Society, Inc.
35 Todd Road
Katonah, NY 10536

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**Name or address change?
Call National Audubon at
1-800-274-4201**

Place Mailing Label Here

Serving Communities in Northern Westchester and Eastern Putnam since 1913

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