



# The Bedford Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 53, Number 1, Spring 2003  
*Celebrating 90 Years of Conservation 1913-2002*

## **Classroom Feeder Watch Finds Many Nesting Sites in Katonah-Lewisboro Schools**

Bedford Audubon Society is excited to announce that the Classroom Feeder Watch program will be part of the science curriculum of **nine** elementary school classrooms. This program is being underwritten with a generous donation by "Design Lighting by Marks".

At Lewisboro Elementary, **Joan Roth** is the lead person and will use the program with fellow fifth grade teachers **Marcia Daley-Savo, Bob Lazzaro and Mark Grossman**. At Katonah Elementary School, **Katrina Costello**, a teacher of a multi-age fourth/fifth grade classroom will oversee the program. Four other fifth grade teachers join her at Katonah Elementary. These are **Craig Jettelson, Shari Dobinson, Geneve Patterson-Means and Lisa Wolken**.

The Classroom Feeder Watch program will enable each teacher to introduce his/her students to ornithology and bird identification. The Cornell Ornithology Labs will provide the teachers with lesson plans, slides, a newsletter and access to a website database. Classroom Feeder Watch is a powerful research and interdisciplinary education curriculum designed for students in grades 5-8. The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has developed it, with funding from the National Science Foundation and in conjunction with National and New York State Audubon. With Classroom Feeder Watch, students learn how science and scientists work, and in the process become scientists themselves.

Classroom Feeder Watch is not only a valuable teaching tool, it prepares students to fully participate in an annual feeder-bird survey conducted by ornithologists at the Lab. Thus students learn about science and truly contribute to our scientific understanding of the natural world. Students are strongly motivated to learn when they actively do science and answer questions about relevant issues.

The information collected for this project is used each year by ornithologists to track changes in the abundance and distribution of bird species that use feeders in winter. CFW is an extension of that project for classroom teachers and their students. By counting birds through Classroom Feeder Watch, we can now give scientists a chance to understand the movement patterns and population fluctuations of many common birds and help ensure their survival.

This project also gives teachers a chance to integrate science with language arts, visual arts, social studies, math, and technology. Students produce a newsletter, which describes their findings as well as their feelings about the project. They discuss questions with students in classrooms all over the country, and communicate electronically to do so.

Through CFW, students (and their teachers!) will learn to identify birds and become amateur ornithologists. Students will learn to ask scientific questions and design experiments to answer them. They also will learn to analyze and display data to answer their own questions and use their findings to describe how the natural world works. Students will collect data and contribute it to a research database used by ornithologists in their studies of bird populations.

The BAS Education Committee is overjoyed to have nine dedicated teachers to volunteer and take the time to bring this program to their students.

If you are a parent of an elementary or middle school child, or a teacher, and you are interested in being part of Classroom Feeder Watch, please contact David Albano, Education Committee Chair.

Phone: 203-739-0846 Email: [dalbano@bedfordaudubon.org](mailto:dalbano@bedfordaudubon.org).

The Bedford Audubon Society  
Newsletter

Spring 2003, Volume 53, No. 1

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35 Todd Road, Katonah, NY 10536

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**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.

**BAS  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

3/9	10am & 2 pm	BAS Goes to the Wolves
3/12	7:30 pm	<b>The Itsy Bitsy Spiders! / Katonah Village Library</b>
3/16	7:30 am	Jones Beach & Point Lookout
3/23	10am & 2 pm	BAS Goes to the Wolves
4/6	7 pm	Woodcock Walk
4/9	7:30 pm	<b>Snapping Turtles: Up Close and Personal! / Katonah Village Library</b>
4/12	7:30 am	Great Swamp in Putnam County
4/26	7:30 am	Hunt Sanctuary Spring Hike
5/2-4		Delmarva Weekend
5/7	7:30 am	Wednesday Morning Bird Walk
5/9 & 10		BAS's Annual Birdathon
5/10		Int'l Migratory Bird Day Celebration-Great Swamp
5/12	7:30 am	Bird Walk at Bylane Farm
5/14	7:30 am	Wednesday Morning Bird Walk
5/14	7:30 pm	<b>Warblers by Sight and Sound / Katonah Village Library</b>
5/15	7:30 am	Doodletown Road for Warblers
5/18	6:30 am	Bashakill Marsh & Shawangunk Grasslands
5/21	7:30 am	Wednesday Morning Bird Walk
5/28	7:30 am	Wednesday Morning Bird Walk
6/7	11:00 am	<b>Old Growth Trees in Westchester</b>
6/14	3 pm	Babes in the Woods! Westmoreland Sanctuary
6/14 & 15		Westchester Summer Bird Count
6/22	9:30 am	Butterflies! At Ward Pound Ridge Reservation

## President's Message

It's time to celebrate! **The year 2003, marks the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bedford Audubon Society.** Thanks to the tireless efforts of so many people over this period, Bedford Audubon has achieved a great many accomplishments in its time.

I can just imagine back to the day that Bedford Audubon was founded, on February 13, 1913, in Bedford Village. It was probably a cold and snowy day, like so many we've had this winter. Things were different back then, of course. The hills and valleys of Westchester and Putnam were not tree covered, but in fact were wide open farm fields as far as the eye could see. The trees had been cut down some 200 years earlier, to make way for agrarian life which continued until about the time of World War II.

The environmental concerns of the day were not about the complex issues we face today. As we view those concerns of the past, they seem fairly simple. But to the then budding conservationists, they were not. Some of the local citizenry were concerned about the lack of forest birds that had previously inhabited the area. The thought was that if people banded together and organized, they could heighten awareness of the obliteration of the local woodlands, and plant the seeds of change. The answer for that small group of budding conservationists was to form the Bedford Audubon Society, in order to get the word out. And so, Westchester's very first environmental conservation organization was born.

What's interesting about all this is the fact that what we do today, isn't that different than what Bedford Audubon was doing back in 1913: local grassroots conservation. In this issue of "The Newsletter", some of our past leaders have been asked to share some of their thoughts and memorable moments during their tenure on the Board. I hope you will take the time to read about your Audubon Chapter's long and rich history.

John Askildsen, President

### Here's a Thought!

**If each one of us** that takes care of our own lawn (49 million U.S. households), **replaced just ONE square yard** (just 9 square feet) of our lawn with a non-turf alternative, **we would eliminate 1.2 MILLION hours of mowing** and stop **60,000 tons of grass clippings** from ever finding their way to a landfill. In addition, millions of gallons of water would be saved and tons of fertilizers and pesticides never applied.

**Is there room in your yard for a pocket of native plants?** Might a flowerbed be expanded, or a tree or shrub added? Can an area that is difficult to mow and maintain be allowed to naturalize?

Shrubs, trees, perennial flowers, and groundcovers consume less water than lawn grass, add visual interest and color to your landscape, and can provide a welcoming habitat for birds and butterflies.

(Provided by Audubon at Home/National Audubon Society)

## The Black-capped Chickadee

Since the Bedford Audubon Society was founded in 1913 by a group of concerned citizens in Bedford Village, the Black-capped Chickadee, *Poecile atricapillus*, has remained **the mascot and logo of the Society**. Our founder's concerns for the then dwindling populations of local woodland birds, must have viewed the Black-capped Chickadee as the quintessential woodland bird and adopted it for that reason.

Over the years there have been several different versions of our chickadee logo. Early versions depicted a chickadee clinging upside down, onto a white pine branch and cone. Later versions depicted our little chickadee on a leafy birch branch. Well-known artist and club member, Georges Dremeaux of Mount Kisco, New York, drew our current version in 1995.

The Black-capped Chickadee is about 5 3/4 inches in length. It is gray above with black forehead and cap, a black throat, paler gray over and under ears, with white cheeks. Wings have a narrow white edge. Its familiar voice is a buzzy "chick-a-dee-dee-dee" or "fee-bee" with the second note lower. It ranges from Alaska and southern Canada throughout the northern half of the US.

This brave, little bird can be persuaded to take food from a person's hand. Flocks of these small birds are frequent visitors to winter feeders.

In the words of Edward Howe Forbush, "The little Black-capped Chickadee is the embodiment of cheerfulness, verve and courage.....Follow the call of the Chickadee and it will introduce you to its brethren and to a sociable gathering of kinglets, nuthatches, a Downy Woodpecker or two, and possibly a Brown Creeper..."

### Notice of Annual Meeting

**The 2003 Annual Meeting  
of the Bedford Audubon Society  
will take place on  
May 14, 2003, at 7:30 pm  
at the Katonah Village Library.**

**Nominations by members  
in good standing  
may be submitted  
to the Nominating Committee  
(914-232-1999)  
by April 19, 2003.**

## MANY THANKS!

By Jackie Jones

Bedford Audubon Society is celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. Ninety years of conservation efforts by individuals in our community brought together by their love of nature. Imagine!

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our current members who have been members of Audubon for more than twenty years. Our records begin in March 1972, and may not be completely accurate. If you are aware of discrepancies, we will be happy to note them in our next newsletter.

Meanwhile, we would like to invite all of our members to strive to join this very special list of "preservationists" as Bedford Audubon enters its next decade. We are educating, advocating for local issues, and preserving hundreds of acres of land in this community. Please be a part of it!

### 30-35 Years

Mrs. Richard A. Attridge, S. Salem, NY  
Mrs. John M. Barnhart, Somers, NY  
Patricia M. Bothwell, Carmel, NY  
Jacqueline Bruskin, Eastchester, NY  
John Mark Buitenkant, Olympia, Wa.  
Robert Cancro, MD, Bedford Corners, NY  
Mrs. Bradford Garnet, N. Salem, NY  
Lewis S. Goldmann, Bedford, NY  
Gerald B. Gould, Pound Ridge, NY  
Mrs. Lewis B. Harder, Katonah, NY  
Lucinda Anne Hess, Carmel, NY  
A. Maren Hexter, Armonk, NY  
Carolyn Jones, Katonah, NY  
Kathryn J. Latham, Westwood, NJ  
Mrs. Francis A. Loewald, S. Salem, NY  
Patricia MacDonald, New York, NY  
William H. Smith, MD, Katonah, NY  
Martin I. Surks, S. Salem, NY  
Lewis M. Terman, S. Salem, NY  
Elizabeth R. Williams, Yorktown Hgts. NY  
Warden M. Williams, Waccabuc, NY

### 25-29 Years

John P. Askildsen, Katonah, NY  
Mark Cohen, Armonk, NY  
Dr. R. L. Ellis, Carmel, NY  
John Erickson, Armonk, NY  
Carol Gracie, S. Salem, NY  
Samuel W. Ingram, Pound Ridge, NY  
Elizabeth L. Ley, Mt. Kisco, NY  
Mrs. S. K. Noble, Bedford Hills, NY  
Adrian VanSinderen, Fairfield, Ct.  
Aimee Whitman, Mt. Kisco, NY

### 20-24 Years

Robert Bardach, Yorktown Hgts., NY  
Del B. Bashkow, Katonah, NY  
Richard L. Becker, Stamford, Ct.  
Mrs. A. E. Bliss, Yorktown Hgts., NY  
Edward T. Buhl, Mt. Kisco, NY  
Martha G. Collins, Carmel, NY  
Edward A. Douglas, Carmel, NY  
Russell B. Ephraim, Mahopac, NY  
Richard E. Finamore, Armonk, NY  
Mrs. Harry W. Fowler, Katonah, NY  
George E. Griggs, Katonah, NY  
Hiram Halle Mem. Library, Pound Ridge, NY  
Arthur Jaffe, Shrub Oak, NY  
Jackie Jones, Mt. Kisco, NY  
Mrs. Robert London, Pound Ridge, NY  
Jacqueline Mann, Mt. Kisco, NY  
Mr. & Mrs. John O'Conner, Waccabuc, NY  
Patricia O'Donnell, Katonah, NY  
Donald C. Pachner, Bedford, NY  
Frederick D. Remsen, Mt. Kisco, NY  
Max E. Richter, Bedford, NY  
Miss L. Squitieri, Somers, NY  
Stewart & Deborah Tepper, Pound Ridge, NY  
Mrs. R. W. Vollmers, Somers, NY  
Margaret M. Wagner, Mt. Kisco, NY  
Mrs. Thomas M. Waller, Bedford Hills, NY  
Edward H. Ward Family, Yorktown Hgts. NY  
Tony C. Wilkinson, Brewster, NY

## Bylane Nature Notes

By Tait Johansson

In spite of this January's cold temperatures and blustery winds, there were still some half-hardy bird species lingering into at least the end of the month at Bylane Farm, Bedford Audubon's headquarters on Todd Road in Lewisboro.

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** has been present all winter here, joined by a **Northern Flicker**, both often heard calling in alarm when one of the pair of resident **Red-tailed Hawks** cruises down the valley. There was another sapsucker at the trailhead of the Hunt Sanctuary on Jan. 21. A **Swamp Sparrow** and a **Winter Wren** have also made it this far into winter here, eking out what must be a meager existence in the stream valley below the two ponds at Bylane, and on Jan 10, two **Field Sparrows** visited a sedgy area where the stream crosses Todd Road, not to be seen since. At night, the local pair of **Great Horned Owls** seems to be in full courting mode, as they get more and more vocal the closer we get to spring.

**Bald Eagles** periodically fly over Bylane in winter, perhaps traveling between Titicus Reservoir to our north and Cross River Reservoir just to our south. When seen, the eagles are usually going in one of those two directions. On one windy day this past December right around Christmas, there were three eagles visible in the air at once. The most recent eagle sighting was about two weeks ago, when I watched an almost-adult bird (with a white head and a mostly white tail edged with brown) glide off to our north, without flapping its wings once in the two minutes or so it was in view. That there are so many eagles around now is surely a testament to the enduring possibility of environmental repair, if only the political will is

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there. Sadly, though, we can expect the Endangered Species Act, so successful in the case of the Bald Eagle, to be in grave danger in the new Congress.

In the mammal department, **two red foxes** have been in the area, sometimes seen hunting for voles in the meadows at dawn and dusk, sometimes heard giving their harsh double bark at regular intervals at night. **Meadow Voles** seem especially abundant in the fields here this winter, and are often visible during the day, especially along stone walls and the stream. More obvious than the voles themselves are the many tunnels and trails they make through the snow. The highly cyclic populations of this always-common species of open areas provide many mammalian and avian predators with an exceptionally important food source.

During the first week of January there was a series of **otter** tracks along the edge of the larger of our two ponds. No other otter signs have been seen before or since, and since this species does wander very widely, the tracks were probably made by one that was just passing through, perhaps following the stream in search of more productive fishing waters.

Much more unusual were some large tracks found on January 30 near the entrance of the Hunt Sanctuary. They almost certainly belonged to a **fisher**, a large weasel normally found farther to our north, but a species that has been moving into new parts of the northeast. The tracks were photographed and measurements taken, and the photos have been sent for confirmation to a naturalist in Vermont who has done research on, and extensive tracking of, this species. If confirmed, this is an exciting addition to the Hunt Sanctuary's mammal list, and perhaps a harbinger of a future range expansion into our area.

## About Birds: Our Two Orioles By Tait Johansson

One of the most notable avian events of May, a month with no shortage of such events, is the return of our two species of oriole from their Mexican and Central American wintering grounds. The arrival of such tropical-looking birds has always seemed to me an assurance that, at long last, spring really has finally gotten its act together, and that warm weather is here to stay.

Even many casual observers of nature are familiar with the species whose flame-colored plumage led Emily Dickinson to call it "the meteor of birds": the **Baltimore Oriole**. This species is not only a spectacular sight, but, happily, a common one in our area in summer. Breeding Baltimore Orioles can be found in many different semi-open habitats containing deciduous trees, including suburban yards and parks. Their distinctive hanging nests are often easily found, usually suspended from some downward-angled tree branch.

The adult male's orange under parts, tail edges, and upper tail coverts, coupled with a black head, back, center of tail, and wings (with white wing bars) render him unmistakable. The female is a drabber version of the male (which still leaves her a strikingly plumaged bird), with a mottled brownish color replacing the male's black on the head, and a duller orangey yellowish color instead of the male's bright orange on the under parts.

Less well known is the **Orchard Oriole**. This smaller, slimmer species, not nearly as brightly colored as our more common oriole, has an extraordinary, though subtler, beauty of its own. The adult male is almost identical in pattern to an adult male Baltimore, but the under parts are a rich, dark chestnut, and the tail is entirely black. The female is mostly a greenish-yellow, with a light gray back and dark gray wings with white wing bars.

Orchard Orioles are found in habitats similar to those occupied by Baltimores, but besides being much more sparsely distributed, seem to be especially fond of locations near bodies of water such as streams and lakes. The Orchard Oriole's song, a rich, jumbled warble, is the one area in which it might be said to outdo the Baltimore in flair. The Baltimore's song, a mellow, labored whistle, though pleasant, lacks the melodic complexity of its relative's.

Like most of our Neotropical migrants, both species stay with us for only about four months (though the occasional Baltimore Oriole can linger into winter, usually with the help of a bird feeder). So our window of opportunity for enjoying orioles is short, one of many good reasons never to be caught outside without your binoculars in May.

## Breakfast with the Birds

Breakfast with the Birds was held on Sunday, January 26, at Westmoreland Sanctuary. This annual event is sponsored by Westmoreland and co-sponsored by the Bedford Audubon Society. 35 adults and children enjoyed donuts, juice and coffee while observing a variety of birds and squirrels from Westmoreland's large observation window, which over looks a variety of feeders.

Steve Ricker, Director and Naturalist, was on hand to answer the many intelligent and enthusiastic questions (migration, feeding habits, nesting, etc.) from the participants. Before leaving everyone toured the Westmoreland museum.

## MEET SOME OLD FRIENDS

In celebration of our **90th year of conservation**, Bedford Audubon has solicited memories and comments from some of our past Chapter leaders. Please read and enjoy the memories along with us.

### Memories of Bedford Audubon 1974-1984

I remember looking for a Kentucky Warbler in Chappaqua with John Askildsen, and we found it. We also looked for a Least Bittern at Croton Point, and didn't find it.

I remember going with Olwen Woodier to catch & disentangle a Canada Goose, which was entangled in fishing line. Mission accomplished! I remember Paula Misley's slide show about her trip to Africa, and Madeline Misley's delicious refreshments at meetings.

I remember the "three youths" whose interest in birds was nurtured by Bedford Audubon—John Askildsen, now a popular Audubon trip leader; Frank Nicoletti, now an accomplished hawk-watcher; and Rodney Olsen, now a special education teacher who interests his students in birds of prey.

I remember field trips to the Galesville Airport for Henslow's Sparrow, led by Tom Carrolan; to the Shawangunks, led by Helene and Deg

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Farrey; and Forest Park, where I remember seeing my life Yellow-Throated Warbler.

Happy Anniversary, Bedford Audubon!  
Judy Kellogg Markowsky  
Manager, Fields Pond Audubon Center, Maine.

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**Congratulations to Bedford Audubon on its 90th anniversary.** I have cherished memories from my youth of meetings and field trips with wonderful people and great birders. As youngsters, Will Russell, now one of the world's leading birders, and I were toted about by Mabel and Wally Little, Bob Hamerschlag, and Douglas Orbison.

Some of the leaders in the field of preservation were members of Bedford Audubon. Wilhelmina Waller, who served on the board at the time I was president, was a major mentor and a strong influence, instilling in me the idea and importance of stewardship. I served, off and on, as president for about seven seasons and was on the board for a very long time. Don Percy, Tom Keesee, Bob Hamerschlag, Bregy Van Cleve, Don Slobohm, Douglas Orbison, Jim Todd, Nick Shoumatoff, Sr., Mack Walling, and Ed Weidlein were some of the presidents I served with. I am pleased the Society, revived by revered friends back in the early 50's, is in good hands and still going strong. All very Best Wishes,

Ralph Odell

Director of Natural Resource Protection for the NYS Office of Parks,  
Recreation and Historic Preservation

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**John Askildsen called me today concerning the news that Bedford Audubon Society was 90 years old.** He then asked if I would write down a few paragraphs of reflections, having been a past president. I asked if I could give it to him next month and he returned "How about tomorrow?" When John asks for help, there is no way to answer but "yes". So here's one more deadline as I sit at my desk at the Houlihan Lawrence Somers office.

I joined the Bedford Audubon Society while I went back to college after working for 10 years and going to night school. It was around 1978. I was then a BIO-CHEM major who was drawn to natural science and local ecology. That first year I can remember Nick Shoumatoff in front of the stage area talking to the audience for a BAS program at the Bedford Hills Community House. A few minutes after he spoke, Jim Todd and Ralph Odell briefly talked about an upcoming birding field trip and the last month's sightings. A few years later while helping out on the Sanctuary Committee, I recall the rare and great high school birders who got very involved with BAS Frank Nicoletti and John Askildsen. How fortunate we were.

Soon after getting on the board, I remember two wonderful BAS programs: Alex Shoumatoff's book reading of "Westchester" and Steven Kress "The Puffin Project" slide show. The Puffin Project was sponsored by the National Audubon Society. Five years later I would evolve to the President of BAS and my wife Lisa would serve as secretary and then treasurer. Sound familiar? In that capacity we took a wonderful trip to a Maine Audubon workshop. There, Lisa and I went out in a special Audubon boat to see the Puffins. It was great!

At another Audubon workshop at Cap Cod, Bob Boyle was a speaker. What would the Hudson River be like without him? He was inspiring! I can also remember Tom Kessee, a National Audubon Board member asking us how the sanctuaries were getting along. As to the North Salem sanctuary situation, he said "Someday they'll appreciate us." In the last few years, hearing from John Askildsen about successes with the Parker Property and Jay Property were a joy. Soon after my ten

years of enjoyable service to Bedford Audubon, I obtained a certificate in Environmental Management from SUNY Purchase and then a Master in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School.

I can say I am still very influenced by my experience and friends from BAS. The membership so deeply cares about the environment. Still anytime I hear of the MIANUS RIVER I think of Jim Todd of BAS or if I am around Pound Ridge Reservation I think fondly of NICK SHOUMATOFF, "He Who Stands Firm", of Bedford Audubon.

What a great bunch of people and a super organization. So Congratulations at 90 and thanks.

Frank Billingsley  
Somers, NY

## **PROGRAMS**

### **The Itsy Bitsy Spiders!**

#### **Katonah Village Library**

**Wednesday, March 12, 7:30 pm**

Don't miss this one! Ted Gilman returns with an illustrated talk about the amazing world of spiders. We have them in our yards, we have them in our homes, and they come in many shapes and sizes. They are very special eight-legged hunters and engineers.

Ted Gilman has served as an environmental education specialist at the Audubon Center in Greenwich, Connecticut since 1977. A life long birder and naturalist, Ted enjoys sharing his knowledge and opening eyes to the wonderful world of nature. Be sure to bring the kids!

### **Snapping Turtles: Up Close and Personal!**

#### **Katonah Village Library**

**Wednesday, April 9, 7:30 pm**

Discover the incredible world of these often misunderstood creatures that inhabit our lakes and ponds here in the northeast. Learn the facts and dispel the myths. We need them, and they need us! Come and get a close up look. See, touch and, yes, even hold them! This is a fun, exciting, and educational experience for young and old alike. Please bring the kids!

Rick Lee, fondly known as Ranger Rick, is the founder of the Morning Star Nature School, a nature center and museum on wheels. Diana Lee's specialty is developing school programs that fulfill NY State standards in education. Their love and enthusiasm for the natural world comes through in all their programs. Rick and Diana live in Carmel with their children.

### **Warblers by Sight and Sound/Annual Meeting**

#### **Katonah Village Library**

**Wednesday, May 14, 7:30**

This is the season of frustrations and stiff necks as we search the tree-tops for the ever moving, elusive warblers. Hone your skills with **Peter Bascinski** as he guides us in identifying a variety of local and migratory warblers, and teaches us to recognize their vocalizations. Peter is the Director of Sandy Hook Bird Observatory in New Jersey.

### **The Last Ancient Forests of Southern New York**

#### **Trailside Nature Museum @ Ward Pound Ridge Reservation**

**Saturday, June 7, 11 am**

Bruce Kershner will take us on a visually mouthwatering slide tour of the inspiring primeval forests that he has recently discovered in our region. See 400-year-old trees, champion trees so big it takes 3 person's arm spreads to reach around their trunks. Even an ancient

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forest just confirmed in Manhattan! Learn how to recognize the age of a tree from its bark. You will never “see” forests the same after this!

Forest ecologist, Bruce Kershner, is a national authority on ancient forests. Following the program he will be signing his new book “**Guide to Ancient Forests in the Vicinity of New York City.**” Please note that this program is in lieu of our monthly Wednesday night program, and will be followed by a hike through the Reservation. Come to one or both.

## FIELD TRIPS

**Registration:** Please call Ginny Powers at (914) 764-4320 to register for all field trips unless otherwise noted.

### **BAS Goes to the Wolves**

**Sunday, March 9, & Sunday, March 23, 10am and again at 2pm**  
**Entrance Fee: \$10.00 adults / \$7.00 Children**

This will be our second annual visit to the Wolf Conservation Center in South Salem. This year, we’ll learn about the Center’s newest addition “Atka,” a wolf pup! Also we’ll hear more about the Center’s involvement with Mexican Wolf and Red Wolf Reintroduction. And of course, we’ll take some time to check out the wolves in their spacious enclosure. Sign-up early. Space is limited.

### **Jones Beach and Point Lookout**

**Sunday, March 16, 7:30 am**

Join Bill Wallace in a search for late winter gulls, loons and other water birds such as Harlequin chicks..

### **Woodcock Walk**

**Sunday, April 6, 7:00 pm**

We will be visiting a local spot where the woodcocks have been “peenting”. Be sure to wear warm clothing.

### **Great Swamp in Putnam County**

**Saturday, April 12, 7:30 am**

Take an early Spring Bird Walk with Bill Wallace as the Swamp comes alive with Birds! We’ll look for Blackbirds, Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck and Snipe

### **Hunt Sanctuary**

**Saturday, April 26, 7:30 am**

Walk with Tait Johansson at Hunt Sanctuary/Bylane Farm to look for signs of Spring.

### **Delmarva Weekend**

**Friday-Sunday, May 2-4**

Join us for a three-day weekend of birding in one of the East Coast’s best spring birding regions. This trip will begin early Friday morning.

### **BAS’s Annual Birdathon**

**Friday-Saturday, May 9 & 10**

**Registration and/or information: Steve Ricker at (914) 234-2934.**

Three teams will be covering diverse areas from Long Island, to Westmoreland Sanctuary, to the Great Swamp in Patterson. The object is to count as many different bird species as we can while

raising funds for Bedford Audubon’s educational program. Please try to enlist at least one sponsor and join us!

### **International Migratory Bird Day Celebration/Great Swamp** **Saturday, May 10**

Join Bedford Audubon and Friends of the Great Swamp (FROGS) for a daylong celebration of birds in the Great Swamp, which borders Putnam and Dutchess Counties. Check our website for a complete listing of events. [www.bedfordaudubon.org](http://www.bedfordaudubon.org) or call 232-1999.

### **Monday Morning Bird Walk at Bylane Farm**

**May 12, 7:30 am**

Start your week off right with a leisurely bird walk with Tait Johansson at Bedford Audubon’s Bylane Farm in Katonah.

### **Doodletown Road for Warblers**

**Thursday, May 15, 7:30 am**

Join Bill Wallace for a warbler walk up Doodletown Road in Bear Mountain State Park.

### **Bashakill Marsh and Shawangunk Grasslands**

**Sunday, May 18, 6:30 am**

This will be an all day trip, so bring your lunch. We’ll be visiting a wide array of pristine habitat while we search for locally breeding and migrant birds such as Bald Eagle, Wood Duck, Osprey, Rails and, if we’re lucky, Golden Winged Warblers.

### **Wednesday Morning Bird walks**

**May 7, 14, 21, 28, 7:30 am**

Meet Tait Johansson on Maple Avenue, Katonah, where it intersects with Reservoir Road. Rain will cancel walk. No registration needed.

### **Old Growth Trees in Westchester**

**Saturday, June 7, 11:00 am**

This field walk follows a slide show program at the Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation. Bruce Kershner will lead a walk in the Reservation as we try our newly learned skill of recognizing the age of a tree from its bark. There will be lots to enjoy on this hike, which is co-sponsored by Westchester County Parks Department.

### **Babes in the Woods @ Westmoreland Sanctuary**

**Saturday, June 14, 3 pm**

**Registration: 666-8448**

This program is co-sponsored by Westmoreland Sanctuary. Director Steve Ricker will lead a leisurely hike to show us the secret places where the young animals, birds, and even plants are hiding. This is the time of year when the woods are truly alive! All ages are welcome.

### **Westchester Summer Bird Count**

**Saturday and Sunday, June 14 and 15**

Join with other birders as they census our local breeding birds. This is an annual count much like the Christmas Bird Count.

### **Butterflies! At Ward Pound Ridge Reservation**

**Sunday, June 22, 9:30 am**

Hone your skills. This is prime time for the big ones: Monarchs, Swallowtails and Fritillaries. Bill Wallace knows his butterflies and is a patient teacher.

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click on “Nature Store”.