



The Bedford Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 53, Number 4, Winter 2004
Celebrating 90 Years of Conservation 1913-2003

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jackie Jones

As I write these notes, the fall leaves are well past their peak, our annual birdseed sale has come and gone, and the flutter of wings grows daily as the birds, arriving from points north, rediscover my feeders. Once again summer is behind us, seasons have changed and we've adapted to a new schedule of events.

For some of us, the summer season was a period of respite from the rest of the year. For one of our committees, however, it was far from that. Bedford Audubon Society, as you all know, has a wonderful property on Todd Road. We refer to it variously as "the Parker Property" or "Bylane." When we first took ownership of this property, we quickly realized that in order to maintain it we were going to need a lot of help from our members.

Last spring, good fortune smiled when Denise Lee stepped forward to organize what has now become the **Grounds Committee** at Bylane. Denise is a Master Gardener and has been instrumental in having Bylane designated as a site where Master Gardener candidates can serve their internship.

The Grounds Committee began their efforts by examining the property, followed by some brainstorming about possible uses of the property that fit within the guidelines of the BAS mission statement. Individual members of the committee then agreed to research a number of areas including appropriate plantings of trees, shrubs, and flowering plants. Restoration and maintenance of some of the current plantings were put on the agenda for consideration.

The planning went on and will continue to do so, but the real story lies in the individuals on the committee. For the entire summer, and well into fall, the members of this committee have met at Bylane each Thursday to plant and weed and trim. A property that was always beautiful is being given loving attention by a devoted core of individuals.

Lilacs and wisteria have been thinned. You'll see the effects of that next year. An old apple tree, which is a star attraction to many migrating and resident bird species, has been cabled and preserved. Several members actually planted a number of varieties of tomato plants, and some of the tomatoes found their way to local food pantries. A challenge yet to be met is the preservation of a two hundred and fifty year old sugar maple which shades the entire west side of the Parker house. That's an expensive undertaking, but we're working on it. A vegetable garden, to be planted and tended by children, is planned for next year.

The Grounds Committee's last working party of the year took place on two consecutive Thursdays in October. Helen Parker graciously donated two hundred bulbs, which have been planted on a sunny slope near one of the driveways. I don't want to wish time away, but I can't wait to see them in the spring! Meanwhile, I'm told that the committee will snuggle down for informal planning meetings with potluck suppers over the winter months.

I want to take this opportunity to say a most sincere thank you to the members of the Grounds Committee: **Denise Lee, David Albano, John Askildsen, Jackie Bruskin, Cathy Claire, Phil Dundie, Thea Fry, Susan Henry, Beth Herr, Ed Imparo, Tait Johansson, Ann McDuffie, Ann Perkowski, Ann Perrier, Jane Peter, Denise Santomero, Claudia Venet, and Michelle Walter.**

I will end this message by once again inviting you to share **your** talents with us. They don't have to be big talents. We're just looking for individuals with a little time to spare and hearts that embrace a healthy, balanced environment. Hope to see you at one of our programs or field trips, or on one of our committees!

The Bedford Audubon Society Newsletter

Winter 2004, Volume 53, No. 4

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35 Todd Road, Katonah, NY 10536

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Pat Humphreys— Historian/Librarian, 914-232-8871

Staff

Tait Johanssen—Property Manager, 914-232-1999

Contact Information

Chapter Office 914-232-1999
BAS Fax Number 914-232-5038
BAS Website www.BedfordAudubon.org
Our E-Mail address is: Info@BedfordAudubon.org

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

12/3	7:30 P.M.	Beauty and the Beasts: Natural History according to Mark Catesby / St. Matthews Church Reception Hall
12/14		Greenwich, Ct. Christmas Bird Count
12/20		Peekskill Christmas Bird Count
	2004	
1/1		Pawling Christmas Bird Count
1/3		Putnam Christmas Bird Count
1/11	7:00 A.M.	Winter Birding in the Nutmeg State
1/14	7:30 P.M.	Winter Birds, Bird Feeding and Binoculars / Katonah Public Library
1/24	8:00 A.M.	Searching for Owls with John Askildsen
1/25	11:00 A.M.	Breakfast with the Birds
1/30-2/1		Eagle Watch Weekend
2/11	7:30 P.M.	Bluebird's Return / Katonah Public Library
2/14-2/16		The Great Cape Escape!
2/28	9:00 A.M.	Winter at the Bronx Zoo, The Indoor Experience
3/10	7:30 P.M.	Fern Workshop / Katonah Public Library
3/20	10:00 A.M.	Tour of the Ecosystem with Scott Williamson
3/21	8:00 A.M.	Jones Beach Winter Walk

VISIT WWW.BEDFORDAUDUBON.ORG

There's a lot going on in Bedford Audubon cyberspace! BAS' website is loaded with great photos and other information including trail maps and flora and fauna checklists for our sanctuaries. A new feature is a bi-weekly report on nature happenings in our region entitled "Field Notes". This feature is available exclusively on our website.

Don't forget that you can also shop our on-line store for all of your Bird watching and holiday gift-giving needs. You'll have the comfort of knowing that all proceeds go to BAS from the purchases you make with us! There are over 7,000 items in our on-line store! Check it out today at "www.bedfordaudubon.org".

Bylane Nature Notes

by Tait Johansson

Here at Bylane Farm, Bedford Audubon's headquarters in Lewisboro, the most unusual natural occurrence of the autumn (and year, for that matter) was the appearance of a butterfly. I was mowing a trail in the wet meadow just to the west of the house on September 22, when a butterfly flew right past me. The butterfly was close enough to me that I recognized it even without my glasses on. To my amazement, it was unmistakably a Queen, a darker, smaller relative of the familiar Monarch, and normally found far to our south. I immediately turned off the mower and, after carefully noting as many relevant field marks as possible on the butterfly as it lit on a weed stalk, sprinted up the hill to the cottage, where I knew that board member and accomplished butterflyer Bill Wallace fortuitously happened to be. Bill confirmed the find.

The Queen butterfly is normally found from Florida along the edge of the Gulf coast to Texas, rarely and irregularly immigrating up the Atlantic coast as far north as North Carolina. This is apparently only the third record for New York State, and only the seventh north of North Carolina. The 22nd was only a few days after the remnants of Hurricane Isabel came through western New York, bringing some tropical seabirds as far north as Lake Ontario. It's possible that this butterfly's visit here was related to the storm.

Several days previously, Bill Wallace had identified two Ocola Skippers on the Buddleia at the cottage here, also a first record for the property. A single Fiery Skipper had been seen in early September in same area, rounding out the list of immigrants from farther south. Overdue was the property's first record for Vice-roy- one feeding on the juice of smashed apples on the house driveway (along with scores of yellowjackets and White-faced Hornets).

There seemed to be very few migrant songbirds and hawks passing through in August and September here compared to last year. The avian highlight of the month was probably the two Common Ravens seen soaring over the house on September 28. Migration picked up in October. For most of the month, there have been many sparrows moving through shrubby areas and woods here, mostly White-throateds, Chippings, Songs and juncos, but with a few Swamp Sparrows around the ponds. Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Palm and Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Purple Finches have also been coming through in good numbers. Other typical October migrants in smaller numbers have included Red-shouldered Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Phoebe, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, and Eastern Towhee. A flock of Snow Geese flew over Bylane one night in mid October, identified by their characteristic honking flight calls, higher pitched and more musical than those of Canada Geese.

The most noteworthy migrant bird record of the fall was provided by three Eastern Meadowlarks who stopped by in one of the fields here on October 28 to provide a new species for the sanctuary bird list. But stranger was a lost-looking Ruffed Grouse in late October walking around aimlessly in the middle of the lower

field for a whole morning. The bird appeared uninjured, and what might have drawn it to the middle of an open field is hard to know. German ornithologists studying migratory behavior gave a name to the migratory restlessness they observed in birds during migration seasons: "Zugunruhe." Maybe even birds that don't migrate, like grouse, get zugunruhe. I know I do this time of year whenever I think about winter, and I'm not even a bird.

About Birds: Mallards and American Black Ducks

by Tait Johansson

The ubiquitous Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) is a familiar sight to most of us. Though it prefers shallow ponds and marshes for its habitat, it is capable of turning up on almost any unfrozen body of water in our area at any time of the year. The drake is easily identified as a Mallard most of the year by its bright iridescent green head, rich brown breast, white neck ring, yellow bill, and pale gray body. The hen Mallard, though, can be confused with the American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*), a declining but still fairly common bird. These two closely related species are nearly identical in size, structure, and voice, but, with practice, even female Mallards can be readily distinguished from Black Ducks by their plumage. The American Black Duck is found in habitats similar to the Mallard's, but tends to be somewhat warier of humans, and so favors more secluded areas. Though outnumbered by Mallards at all times of the year here, Black Ducks become more common relative to the Mallard in migration seasons and in winter, when more northern breeding populations of Black Ducks migrate south.

Both drake and hen Black Ducks and hen Mallards are mostly brown, with lighter brown on the head and neck than on the rest of the body. The main difference between them visible at a distance is the Black Duck's darker coloration. At rest, the Black Duck appears a uniform very dark brown from the bottom of the neck to the tail. The hen Mallard is a much lighter brown in this area, and in addition has a pale whitish patch on the belly and a whitish tail. There is also a difference in head pattern- though both species are a finely streaked light brown on the head and neck, the Black Duck's coloration here is somewhat darker and grayer than the Mallard's. The hen Mallard also has an unstreaked whitish throat where the Black Duck's throat is finely streaked with grayish-brown. Bill color is another clue- with a good view, one can observe that the hen Mallard's bill is orange and black, where the Black Duck's bill ranges from a dusky greenish yellow to a drab olive color. Both species have a colorful iridescent patch on the top of the secondary flight feathers called a speculum, best seen in flight, but also often partly visible at rest. The Mallard's speculum is blue, with a thin line of white along both its top and bottom edges, where the Black Duck's has no white, and ranges from a deep, dusky blue to purplish. Both species have white underwings, only visible in flight.

Many are surprised to learn that in the past the Mallard did not breed in the Northeastern U.S. at all. Our present Mallard population consists of the descendants of birds released by hunters and

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wildlife officials, and of escapes from parks and private waterfowl collections. The resounding success of the Mallard in our area is thought to have affected the native and formerly much more common Black Duck adversely, through competition for habitat and hybridization. Hybrid Mallard X Black Ducks are seen fairly frequently, and can show almost any combination of features of the two species, an unfortunate complication for the identification guidelines given above. Fortunately, these hybrids are vastly outnumbered by typical-looking birds that can be clearly assigned to one species or the other.

Hudson Valley Raptor Center Field Trip Notes

by Tony Ianniello



Eurasian Eagle Owl, photo by Toni Ianniello

On Saturday, September 20, a group from BAS set out northbound up the Taconic State Parkway for the Hudson Valley Raptor Center in rural Stanfordville, NY. It was a clear, sunny day for our visit.

The Hudson Valley Raptor Center is dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of sick and injured birds of prey. The facility is comprised of buildings and enclosures located on 90 rural acres in northern Dutchess County, about 90 miles north of New York City. The Center is open to the public on a regular schedule and also conducts educational programs throughout the region.

Each year approximately 100 distressed birds are brought to the Center under various circumstances. Usually, people discover injured birds along the highways that have been hit by passing vehicles. Rescue is not as easy as it sounds. We were cautioned by the staff to be careful if you decide to handle the bird yourself. Throwing a blanket over it, will calm it down. You need to be aware of its talons as they can cause serious injury. These statements are by no means instructions for handling injured birds of prey! That is better left to the professional.

With a very dedicated staff, volunteers and veterinarians, injured birds that are brought to the Center survive 80% of the time.

Rehabilitation efforts result in the subsequent return of 60% of them to the wild. The remaining survivors, currently numbering more than 100 birds representing 20 species, are permanently cared for in specially constructed enclosures.

We first toured the grounds and met many of the raptors in their expansive cages. There were various vultures, hawks, eagles, owls, and a very noisy crow. We learned that vultures are not true raptors because they do not eat live prey. Their small featherless heads are ideally suited to investigate the carcasses of dead animals.

We met Gosalyn, a female Northern Goshawk, belonging to the Accipiter family of hawks. These hawks, nicknamed "woodland hawks," are known for their great dexterity and maneuverability in the dense forests where they make their homes. Gosalyn arrived in the spring of 1993, after having flown into a power line in northern New York. She has permanent nerve damage to her chest and one wing, thus impairing her agility and inhibiting her ability to survive in the woods.

Some of the birds are used in the education programs. One in particular stood out in the crowd. A recent addition, Za-Za is an enormous Eurasian Eagle Owl, who arrived just this summer from a breeding program at the World Bird Sanctuary in Missouri. She is an extremely large female owl with piercing orange eyes. Soon she will be in training for flight demonstrations.

Here is some good news on one of the released birds. Back in May, Cuddles, an immature Bald Eagle, was released in the Finger Lakes region. She was fitted with a transmitter, and about a month later a report received from the DEC said that she was doing well, finding lots of fish to eat, and that there was another immature eagle in the area, who may be a potential mate.

After the tour of the grounds, staff falconer Brian Bradley spoke to us about falconry and then took us on a simulated falcon hunt. We were introduced to Ch'i, a Lanner Falcon, and Jesse, a Harris Hawk. Chase, Brian's small long-haired dachshund hunting dog, went looking for prey during our hunt, with Jesse following close behind in the trees. Brian pointed out that some of the birds he has worked with have attacked the hunting dogs while on their mutual hunt for prey. Some birds that are trained incorrectly and rewarded at the wrong time cannot get this out of their system. We were informed that the dog and the hawk are by no means friends. It is strictly a matter of survival. The need to hunt for food to survive-nothing personal!

After a visit to the gift shop on the premises, we headed home.

The Hudson Valley Raptor Center gives us a good opportunity to learn about birds of prey and to meet them as closely as you can get. Call for details (845)-758-6957.

Education Committee News

By David Albano

From the Physics Lab to a Bylane Bridge: The Academic Community Builds a Trail Bridge as Community Service Project

“I get to stand on and by something I designed.” Sam Ogden is speaking about the model he built in physics class and the bridge he and his fellow students built at Bylane Farm, Bedford Audubon’s newest sanctuary on Todd Road in Lewisboro.

The endeavor started in a physics class at the Academic Community (ACES), an alternative school and part of Fox Lane High School. Science teacher Christy Giuliano organized the project, which started with physics on the page and moved through models in lab, to construction and community service at Bylane Farm.

A core philosophy of the Academic Community is experiential learning, so the project is an extension of this method of education. The first step of the project was local architect Tom Smith’s visit to the class to speak about structural design and technical drawing. The students then studied the physics of bridges for two weeks. After this, it was into the lab to design and build a model bridge that was structurally sound and demonstrated an efficient use of materials. Mrs. Giuliano set up a method to test each model bridge for strength relative to overall weight. Mr. Smith returned to the class and judged the students’ bridges based on the physics concepts. Sam Ogden’s arch design was proclaimed the winner.

Mr. Smith then took Sam’s design and created a blueprint for a twenty-five foot bridge to span the stream west of the ponds at Bylane. Bedford Audubon, through the Education Committee, provided the funding for the materials and the students began building the bridge as a community service project.

The first construction crew worked through a rainy Saturday under the guidance of Mr. Smith and Mrs. Giuliano. The drenched, yet dedicated, students worked all day drilling and bolting the lumber that gradually became the trusses and the arch. Students Octavia Williams and Laura Molina kept the crew focused, happy and working hard.

The second crew did the grunt work of hauling the trusses into place by carrying large sections of the assembled bridge down to the location. The actual placing of the trusses over the stream was completed because of a monumental effort by student Mike Papa. On October 3, the final construction was completed. The students screwed the final planks into place, put on the final part of the handrail and made sure the bridge was level..

Bedford Audubon thanks the following students for taking the time to give to their local community: **Octavia Williams, Monique Felder, Jackie Capriola, Mia Lofaro, Laura Molina, Mike Papa, Mara Cates, Josh Gottlieb, Chris D’Onofrio, Laurel Jimenez, Raphael Jimenez, Caitlin Phelps, Randy Ramirez, Matisse Laurel, Dana Sheck, Balbina Valorio, Erica Ganns, Eileen Frangella,** and the bridge’s architect, **Sam Ogden.**

By linking the academic concepts to the actual construction for the betterment of their community, the students learned numerous skills and ideas. Mrs. Giuliano said she is thankful for the opportunity to get the concepts of physics into the real world and happy that this opportunity also allowed her class to do something important for the local community and Audubon. Tait Johansson, who creates the trails at Bylane, expressed gratitude for the students’ efforts. The Education Committee would like to thank Tait for the work he did during the construction of the bridge.

We can make good stuff happen! If you are looking for ways to connect your students or students you know to Audubon, please contact the Education Committee chair, David Albano at **203-739-0846** or dalbano@bedfordaudubon.org.

Seed Sale 2003

By John Erickson

The fall colors were ever present. The air was cool and crisp and the sun was shining. Two Great Blue Herons waded in the shallows of the nearby pond as a family of Mallards lazily swam. A flock of geese, in perfect precision, slowly glided in for a landing. Three Killdeer passed overhead while an Eastern Bluebird sat in a branch above us watching the procession of cars and people busily moving bags of seed. This was the Bedford Audubon Seed Sale Pick-up day at the Bedford Hills Town Park on Saturday, October 25.

The sale was a complete success. It was a great time to meet new members, renew old acquaintances, and spend time with the Board members who work hard all year on this and other projects.

A lot of seed (20,328 lbs) was loaded into people’s cars. We were pleased to hear that many people had increased their orders because they had run out of seed early last year. But whether you had ordered one bag or a truckload, the consensus was that the birds were anxiously waiting for their seed. The birders were anxiously waiting to see them enjoy the seed too.

When I got home, the birds in my yard were lined up waiting for me. They sat in the trees near my feeders until I had filled them and then started to feast. We, the Board of BAS, thank all of you who bought seed and participated in the sale. We hope to see all of you again next year.

Letter to the Editor

Eagle River Development is a parcel of 628 acres of land in Somers, New York. It is, in fact, the last big parcel of land in Westchester and there is a developer who wishes to put over 100 luxury homes on the site. The cumulative impact of this development on Somers will be extremely damaging.

Already the Town’s aquifers and surrounding reservoirs are being polluted and covered over with housing and playing fields

that require footprints that render the soil impervious to rain water drain off. With less chance for the Somers ground water aquifers to recharge their water systems, the residents will be forced increasingly to use bottled water.

The development of this site would mean a staggering loss of flora and fauna and would also likely result in pollution of the Angle Fly Brook that flows through the property. The Angle Fly has been written about since the 1800s and is part of the Town's history that goes back well before the mid 1700s.

In addition to the impact of this development on Conservation, there will economic effects on the community. The cumulative impact of this development would consequently result in a very large increase in taxes to all Somers residents.

Bedford Audubon has always stood for protection of our natural resources. The further fragmenting of natural habitats for wild life in Westchester further reduces those resources in which wild-life can sustain itself.

Please do play your part to learn more about this development its impact on Somers. For more information, go to www.forsomers.org.

Barlow Humphreys

Mr. Humphreys is a member of the "For Somers" organization and on the board of Bedford Audubon Society.

PROGRAMS

Beauty and the Beasts: Natural History According to Mark Catesby
St. Matthews Church Reception Hall
382 Canitoe Street (Route 22)
Bedford, NY
Wednesday, December 3, 7:30 P.M.

We have planned a very special evening to share with you as Bedford Audubon's 90th anniversary year draws to a close. Andrew Berner, a rare book scholar and first-rate photographer, will present a slide lecture featuring many of the splendid images found within the pages of *Mark Catesby's Natural History*.

Mark Catesby (1682-1749) was a British artist and naturalist who conducted the first comprehensive study of the flora and fauna of the eastern coast of North America. He was the first to note that birds migrate, rather than hibernate in caves. His work predates Audubon's by nearly a century.

Mr. Berner will weave a seamless story to accompany the images you will see on screen, and you will come away educated and entertained. Please join us for an evening that will celebrate our ninety years of conservation, the holidays, and a wonderful interpretation of nature.

St. Matthews Church is located on the right side of Route 22, 1.5 mi. north of the Bedford Village Green, or on the left side of Route 22, 3.7 mi. south of Route 35.

Winter Birds, Bird Feeding and Binoculars
Wednesday, January 14, 7:30 P.M.

Katonah Public Library

Winter backyard birding provides many hours of enjoyment and opportunities for fascinating bird study. Once in a while, it is nice to refocus on the birds: their identification, behaviors, natural foods and habitats and the foods that can attract them at bird feeders and via plantings in our yards.

Ted Gilman, always a popular speaker, will help us sort out our regular backyard residents as well as some of the less common species which visit our yards and neighborhoods in the winter months. We'll take a look at the niches/feeding habits of birds and how they specialize in different sources of food and techniques for obtaining their food. We'll also consider the importance of habitat for winter birds both in terms of food sources and for shelter from extreme weather and predators.

To help us get the most from our birding, we will also discuss different types of binoculars, their care, and use. Bring your binoculars to the meeting so we can all learn from each other.

Ted Gilman is an Environmental Education Specialist and Naturalist at the Audubon Center in Greenwich who has enjoyed birding since childhood. He served as an ornithology instructor at the Audubon Camp in Maine as well as traveling as a leader on Audubon trips to Kenya and Trinidad & Tobago. **This will be a fun program for both new and seasoned birders.** Follow up field trip on January 25 at Westmoreland.

Bluebird's Return

Wednesday, February 11, 7:30 P.M.

Katonah Public Library

How can you not want to hear about bluebirds! Tom Meyer, BAS member and bluebird expert will present a slide show and anecdotes to prepare you for the late winter return of the bluebirds. You may think of February as the time of year when the landscape's long winter's sleep begins to come to an end. The late winter thaw is in full swing, skunk cabbages peek their little crowns through the spent, crusty snow, swamp maples' buds begin to swell and turn crimson. But what many people know as a sure sign that springtime is nearing is the arrival of the bluebird. Bluebirds return in late February to local meadows and fields and sing their "cheery" song. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn about this thrush specie's habits and habitats with Tom Meyer, so you may prepare for *your* "Bluebird's Return"!

Fern Workshop

Wednesday, March 10, 7:30 P.M.

Katonah Public Library

We see them as we meander through the woods, and sometimes in our yards, but how many ferns do you know by name? We'll move outside of our usual program format and gather around the table as Michael Penziner teaches us the distinguishing marks of the most common ferns to be found in Westchester County. The ferns will be illustrated with pressed specimens that show the unique field markings of each fern, and demonstrate how to tell them from the "look-alikes." At the end

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of the workshop, which lasts about two hours, you will be able to identify at least 10-15 common ferns without any difficulty. Mr. Penziner is a member of the Fern Society, a volunteer at the Rye Nature Center, and a Wildflower Island Guide at Teatown. He has written booklets on ferns and wildflowers that are available at Teatown. His talk will include a brief description of the sexual reproduction of ferns and how it differs from other vascular plants, as well as some interesting historical notes. Get ready for your spring walks with this program.

FIELD TRIPS

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

Christmas Bird Counts

December 14, 20 and January 1, 3

Please call John Askildsen at 914-232-1701 if you are interested in participating in either the Peekskill or Pawling Counts for our local breeding birds. You will bird as part of a team, for all or part of the day, with the option of attending a "pot luck" dinner that evening.

Sunday, Dec. 14 Greenwich, Ct. Christmas Bird Count
Call Ted Gilman @ 203-869-5272 x230

Saturday, Dec. 20 Peekskill Christmas Bird Count

Thursday, Jan. 1 Pawling CBC/Great Swamp, Eastern Putnam
Saturday, Jan. 3 Putnam CBC/Put. County, Carmel Westward
Call Marty MaGuire @ 845-528-2540

Winter Birding in the Nutmeg State

Sunday January 11, 7:00 A.M.

The Connecticut shoreline can be quite productive in winter for a variety of birds. Waterfowl, hawks, eagles, owls and yes, even parrots, were found on last year's trip with local birding expert Gina Nichol. As part of the trip, we'll have lunch at a local restaurant and visit "The Audubon Shop," in Madison where you'll have an opportunity to stock up on all your bird watching and bird feeding needs.

Searching for Owls with John Askildsen

Saturday, January 24, 8:00 A.M.

Spend the day with John and associates looking for roosting nocturnal owls. Several stops will be made as a car-pool field trip. Plan to leave area by 8:00AM.

Breakfast with the Birds

Sunday, January 25, 11:00 A.M.

Westmoreland Sanctuary

Join Steve Ricker, Director at this popular sanctuary in Mount Kisco, as we learn how to identify our local feeder birds. Westmoreland, truly a place of beauty with seven miles of trails, is home to an abundance of wildlife. But we'll be snug and warm as we observe the feeders through a picture window!

Eagle Watch Weekend

Friday Evening, January 30 - Sunday, February 1

Take our annual winter weekend escape to the Delaware River area near Port Jervis, NY. Enjoy a wine and cheese

party greeting Friday evening, with all meals included through lunch on Sunday. The real treat is seeing these incredible raptors in their natural habitat. A true eye-opener for the first-timer. The 2-night stay for the trip with meals is \$155 per person for a single room, \$115 per person double (some triple) occupancy.

The Great Cape Escape!

Saturday, February 14 - Monday February 16

Join us for our first-ever Cape Cod winter birding trip. Thousands of seabirds, including gannets, loons, grebes, eider, scoter, alcids and a myriad of winter gulls fill the Cape's many protected sandy bays and harbors. Whales and seals are also a possibility while watching seabirds. Land birding can be quite rewarding owing to the Cape's relatively mild winter climate. Our trip leader will be John Askildsen, who has an extensive knowledge of Cape Cod's birds and birding locales. Cost is yet to be determined, but will be reasonable.

Winter at the Bronx Zoo, The Indoor Experience

Saturday, February 28, leaving our area at 9:00 A.M.

Oh yes, the Zoo is open all year, even when it's cold. Just a 45-minute trip south takes us to The World of Birds, Aquatic Birds, The World of Reptiles, The World of Darkness, and Jungleworld – a recreation of an Asian Rain forest. These indoor exhibits are perfect to warm the souls. Some of the animals love the snow; so feel free to venture outside. Bring lunch or buy it at the new Dancing Crane Café. Costs are Adults/\$8, Children 2-12 & Seniors 65+/\$6. Parking per car is \$7.

Tour of the Ecosystem with Scott Williamson

Saturday, March 20, 10:00 A.M.

Scott will lead us on a car-pool tour of three sanctuaries that should never be taken for granted. We'll grab lunch along the way as we visit Read, Marsh & Cranberry Lake Sanctuaries. Marshlands Conservancy, on Route 1 in Rye, is a 173-acre wildlife sanctuary composed of forest, meadow, salt marsh and shore. There are three miles of trails and one-half mile of shoreline along the Long Island Sound. Located along the Atlantic migratory flyway, more than 230 bird species have been sighted. Located on the shore of the Long Island Sound in Rye, The Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary exists along a migratory flyway. This 179-acre sanctuary, recognized by the National Audubon Society of New York as an Important Bird Area due to its significant habitats and flyway, is home to a great diversity of marine life. In winter months, the 85-acre lake, a mixture of salt and fresh water, hosts over 5,000 ducks. Cranberry Lake, on Old Orchard Street in No. White Plains, is a 165-acre nature preserve comprised of forest, wetlands and a ten acre lake that was carved by glaciers thousands of years ago. We'll seek out winter treasures in these great natural areas.

Jones Beach Winter Walk

Sunday, March 21, 8:00 A.M.

Bill Wallace will lead us on a winter walk on the Long Island Shores of Jones Beach. The north shore of Long Island is the wintering home to many birds because of the diversity of habitats that may be found there, despite the intense development of the last 75 years. Plan to leave the area by 8 A.M.

New Member Application

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

Send this form with a check made out to the
National Audubon Society, Bedford Chapter.

Please check the membership category.

___Introductory \$20, ___Two Year membership \$35, ___Senior Citizen (65+) \$15, ___Student \$15

I wish to make an additional
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I do not wish to have my name or contact
information shared with outside organizations.

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Katonah, NY 10536

Chapter Code ROO7XCH

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