



# The Bedford Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 54, Number 4, Winter 2004-2005  
*Celebrating 91 Years of Conservation 1913-2004*

## President's Message

By John Hannan

As I write this letter, the US Presidential Election is still a week away. So, not being a fortune-teller, I will be the one person who will not attempt to tell you what the outcome will be. By the time you read this, you will know it anyway. Instead, I want to focus on an issue that I hope you will all join us in celebrating, no matter your political party: the 100th anniversary of our National Audubon Society.

On January 5, 1905 New York businessman, hunter, and amateur ornithologist William Dutcher brought together concerned people from all across the United States to form the National Audubon Society. Meeting in New York City, the people who joined him all agreed that a national movement was needed to stop the outright extermination of birds and other wildlife that was occurring at that time. This was the time that has been called the "Age of Extermination" as market hunters roamed the country killing more animals than they could use to supply feathers for women's hats and other luxury items.

Dutcher's work was the culmination of more than 50 years of efforts by individuals who already realized that animals, especially birds, knew no state or national borders. That meant that the only way to truly protect them was with federal and international legislation, and the best way to achieve that was through a national organization.

It took time, but finally that legislation was passed and ever since, National Audubon has been a major force fighting for our environment at the national level. Their efforts ensure chapters are aware of the issues and can participate at the local level, while producing sound science to back up our strategies.

Over the last hundred years, we have grown in numbers and in appreciation of nature. Now we stand with more than 500 chapters comprised of more than 550,000 members. In 1913 we became one of the first New York State chapters of the National Audubon and we're very proud of our participation. Over the years Bedford Audubon members like Thomas Keese and Ralph O'Dell have gone on to positions of state and national leadership.

During this time, our chapter has also made incredible contributions to our local community. For 91 years we have provided on-going monthly educational programs to the public, worked in schools to teach children the beauty and benefit of a healthy environment, and led field trips introducing our neighbors to the wonders of nature from as near as their backyards to as far away as Alaska. We are also land stewards, protecting and preserving more than 550 acres. Our sanctuaries are open to the public so everyone can use the best practices in land management on their own properties and to show the incredible biodiversity our area will produce if our environment is treated with care.

It is not surprising that Audubon has grown. With bird watching listed as one of the fastest growing national pastimes, National Audubon chapters have sprouted all across the country. Some chapters consist of a few friends who like to watch birds, others are committed to a broader environmental agenda and realize that the health of birds is a key indicator of this.

For many years most chapter financial needs were small and so, in recognition of the greater need at the national level, chapters belonging to the national organization pledged to send all member dues into the national organization. In return, National returned a portion of those dues to the chapter to help with the routine costs of mailings, newsletters, and other expenses.

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## The Bedford Audubon Society Newsletter

Winter 2004-2005, Volume 54, No. 4

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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

12/1	7:30 P.M.	<b>Flowering Plants of the Neotropics. Why Are There so Many?/Katonah Village Library</b>
12/11	9:00 A.M.	Winter Bird-feeding Workshop at Bylane Farm
12/18		Peekskill Christmas Bird Count
12/19		Greenwich Christmas Bird Count
<b>2005</b>		
1/1		Pawling Christmas Bird Count
1/2		Putnam Christmas Bird Count
1/9	7:00 A.M.	Winter Birding in the Nutmeg State
<b>1/12</b>	<b>7:30 P.M.</b>	<b>Important Bird Areas/Katonah Village Library</b>
1/14-1/17		The Great Cape Escape-Continues!
1/23	9:00 A.M.	Eagles Over Westchester
1/23	11:00 A.M.	Breakfast With the Birds
<b>2/9</b>	<b>7:30 P.M.</b>	<b>Audubon at Home/Katonah Village Library</b>
2/13	8:30 A.M.	Eagles & Ducks on the Hudson: The Hunter and the Prey
2/26	2:00 P.M.	The Wolf Conservation Center Tour
<b>3/9</b>	<b>7:30 P.M.</b>	<b>Live Birds of Prey/Katonah Village Library</b>
3/12	10:00 A.M.	Birding Optics at Bylane Farm

### Holiday Giving and Audubon

Do you have a birder you need to buy a gift for. If so be sure to make your purchase through Bedford Audubon's on-line store. Go to [www.Bedfordaudubon.org](http://www.Bedfordaudubon.org) and click on the link to our store. You'll find lots of gift ideas, and 5% of your purchase will go to support Bedford Audubon. If shopping on the web is not your cup of tea, drive down to the Greenwich Audubon Center and visit the gift store. Not only will you be supporting the Audubon Society by spending your dollars there, if you present your National Audubon membership card you will receive a 10% discount. If you need directions call 203-869-5272.

Well, with progress comes change and as our whole organization has grown, so too have its financial needs. Chapters like Bedford have been fortunate enough to have supporters who have entrusted them with the stewardship of land. Our education and science programs have grown and need more funding, and in some cases, even need staff. These financial needs have far outstripped any token level of funding the national organization can provide.

Meanwhile, faced with the incredible array of serious battles National must fight to protect the environment, it has been forced to reevaluate whether it can continue paying a stipend to the local chapters. And since the need to assist chapters has grown, another entity has been added, our state office.

Especially in the last four years, as the Administration in Washington seemed to work nonstop to strip or destroy our most precious environmental laws, Audubon New York and other Audubon state offices have been essential. State capitals have fortunately produced legislation that stopped some of the destruction the White House seemed intent on laying on our environment.

Because the environment belongs to no political party, but only to those who desire to respect it, Audubon NY has been able to work on both sides of the aisle, saving wetlands, shorelines, and other critical habitat by identifying state politicians who understand that people of all political stripes want healthy communities and environmentally sound legislation. In addition, state offices work with local chapters to strengthen statewide campaigns, share resources, and enable chapters to do their work more effectively.

So as all of us who are Audubon members get ready to celebrate 100 years of achievements on behalf of the environment, we in New York can feel especially proud. It was New Yorkers like William Dutcher, Teddy Roosevelt, and so many more who forged the path for us to follow. The challenge is set before us.

On the local level, we can support and participate in our chapter's field trips and citizen science programs; vital community services that introduce the public to the importance of conservation and sound environmental stewardship. We encourage you to support the sanctuaries we maintain which allow the novice and experienced birder alike to view more than 250 species of birds and butterflies, not to mention moths, amphibians and mammals, without driving more than 20 minutes from their homes.

But your chapter and the 29 other NY state chapters would not be able to do our work without technical support structures.

Without a state office that maintains paid staff including lobbyists, scientists, and chapter liaisons, we would not be as effective. These people keep us informed about what is happening in Albany, involve us in significant research that is making it possible to preserve vital habitat and learn how to better protect our envi-

ronment, and then work to enable chapters to utilize all this information.

Finally, returning to our heritage, none of this would amount to long-term change for the better without a national structure that fights for us at the federal level. We will not have the joy of seeing migrating warblers or raptors if their nesting areas in the north are sold to oil, mining or lumber interests. Our research in New York will not suffice to save enough habitats if it is not mirrored through a nationally coordinated program. These principles were obvious to the wise people who came together more than 100 years ago to begin this organization and we should not lose sight of it now.

So as we enter the season of giving, and the dawn of another hundred years, I urge you to expand your involvement in this historic society of individuals who have given us laws that saved countless animal species, helped in the creation of the National Wildlife Refuge and Parks systems, and continue to guide us in our appreciation and awe at the beauty of our natural world. If you are a national member, think of donating to your chapter and state office as well. If you have been keeping your dollars in state, think of sending a few to the National. Rest assured your gift will be well spent. I thank you for all your support and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

### **Bedford Audubon at Home Program Provides Winter Gardening Tips**

This past October the Westchester Journal News reached out to your chapter for advice on preparing gardens for wintering birds. In a two page interview BAS Board members John Hannan and Tony Ianniello, along with National Audubon At Home Program Director, Paul Green, provided helpful hints for ensuring wintering birds have appropriate food and shelter in residential gardens and yards.

Hannan and Ianniello provided excellent suggestions, such as leaving dead trees standing if they are not endangering your yard or people. Dead trees provide food in the form of insect life that active birds will forage for and inevitably find. BAS President John Hannan went on to say that dead trees also provide shelter to industrious birds seeking shelter from the cold winds of winter.

Residents are also encouraged to leave annual and perennial flowers in place, as spent flowers and resulting seed pods will provide high protein diets when consumed by avian visitors such as cardinals and juncos. Paul Green stated that maintaining brush piles nearby for shelter provides excellent cover for almost any wintering bird. And in fact, leaves and snow packed around

foundation shrubbery can provide warm shelter for our feathered friends.

Keeping your bird feeders stocked with fresh, dry bird seed and if possible, a freshwater drinking source is an excellent way to ensure your yard provides birds with all they need. And a birdbath outfitted with a bird bath heater that keeps water open on those upcoming frigid days is the only way to guarantee all your work will be successful. Water attracts a wide variety of birds, and can be a more important source of nourishment than seed!

The entire *Westchester Journal News* article entitled "For the Birds" is available through the Journal News website archives. To learn more about tips on winter bird feeding and providing shelter from winter weather, logon to [www.bedfordaudubon.org](http://www.bedfordaudubon.org) and click on "Audubon At Home."

### **Bedford Audubon Receives Grant from Senator Leibell**

On October 23 Senator Vincent Leibell was pleased to announce a \$5,000 Member Item grant to your chapter in support of our Audubon At Home program. This very generous grant will go a long way to helping us purchase native plants and other items we need to help educate and demonstrate to the public the benefits of no pesticide and native gardening in the watershed area. Senator Leibell has long been a friend to Audubon and other environmental groups in his district and we commend his efforts to help preserve open space and educate the public on the benefits of environmentally sound land stewardship. In Albany, Audubon can always count on Senator Leibell to reach across the aisle and build the coalitions that forge sound bipartisan environmental legislation, while at home he helps provide us with the resources that make our programs possible. Vinnie, our hats are off to you, we'll use the money wisely and thanks for your support.

### **Bylane Nature Notes-Fall 2004**

By Tait Johansson

It was a fairly quiet fall at Bylane, Bedford Audubon's headquarters in Lewisboro, with seemingly few migrant birds, and, especially, few butterflies. The wet weather this summer and fall may explain the paucity of butterflies. There was one new bird species for the sanctuary, though, a Philadelphia Vireo seen in the garden here on Sept. 27, in a small foraging flock of migrants, including a Northern Parula. This is a regular but low-density migrant through our area, more commonly encountered along the coast than inland (as is true of most migrant birds). Birders easily overlook this species, since it closely resembles a Warbling Vireo, and its song is almost identical to a Red-eyed Vireo's.

Switching to the plant kingdom, another nice find this fall was Nodding Ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes cernua*), a small white orchid, about fifty plants of which were found in the wet meadow near the ponds here. This beautiful little flower was a first for the sanctuary's plant list. Its favored habitat of wet meadows has gotten scarcer as increased development depletes the water table in many areas of the Northeast.

A Great Egret stopped by the property on Sept. 15 to hunt frogs along the stream here, one of only a few sightings of this species in the sanctuary. One of the few benefits of the increasing shallowness of the two ponds here due to siltation is the very small piece of shorebird habitat provided by the small mudflats now present around the ponds' edge. Two Solitary Sandpipers were present at the same time at the eastern pond on several occasions in September and October, one of which, oddly, was seen briefly perched first on a nearby stone wall and then a wooden fence on September 17. Occasional Swainson's Thrushes were heard flying over at night on several dates in late September, headed for central and South America. This species has a distinctive night flight call that sounds very much like that of a Spring Peeper. The only noteworthy butterfly of the fall was a Compton Tortoiseshell seen nectaring on a blooming Showy Goldenrod plant on September 21.

Some of the few noteworthy migrant birds observed at Bylane in October included two Peregrine Falcons overhead on the 4<sup>th</sup>, a Red-breasted Nuthatch on the 17<sup>th</sup>, a Purple Finch on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, and a Bald Eagle on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Eastern Bluebird numbers here have been impressive this fall with many small flocks in the area, often feeding on flowering dogwood berries. The high count was 35, all in one flock, on October 25.

An Eastern Screech-Owl has been heard regularly here throughout the fall. Fall is the time when young screech-owls disperse from the area where they were born to set up territories of their own, and they are often quite vocal then. Perhaps this one will move into the screech-owl box here, vacant for the two years since it was put up. And to close out the month, a pack of coyotes eerily yipping and howling here one night in late October seemed to be tuning up for Halloween.

### **Continuing Saga of The Monster in Van Cortlandt Park** By Don Pachner, BAS Conservation Committee

Our friends at Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition (CWCWC, known by its friends as Quack Quack) have continued to fight New York City's ill-advised decision to proceed with construction of the planned industrial chemical water filtration plant in Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx. CWCWC has gone to court to obtain an injunction based on errors in the environmental review process for this environmentally inappropriate plant. The

Town of Eastchester is also fighting this project in court, for it causes substantial expense for Westchester communities relying on the upstream water in the aqueduct.

Bedford Audubon continues to oppose this plant because it is designed with outmoded dissolved air flotation (DAF) technology along with chemical treatment and sand and gravel filtration. Most cities are now using membrane ultrafiltration technology which appears to be far more effective at removing pathogens (including cryptosporidium and giardia), can be implemented at half the cost, and takes up one quarter the footprint of the currently proposed \$1.5 billion industrial chemical filtration plant. We agree with those who propose that a membrane ultrafiltration plant could be placed on-line near the aqueduct upstream of the Westchester communities who have also been ordered to filter the Croton System water by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Use of new drinking water membrane ultrafiltration technology could result in savings of up to \$750 million, and we feel these funds would be far better used to purchase watershed buffer lands, thereby protecting the source of the city's drinking water and protecting our precious wild open spaces within the watershed. For up-to-the-minute updates on the legal battle, browse CWCWC's web site at [www.newyorkwater.org](http://www.newyorkwater.org).

### **BAS Hosts Audubon Council of New York State in Armonk**

By John Askildsen

The Audubon Council of New York State held its annual fall meeting in Armonk in late October that was attended by the State's 30 chapters of National Audubon. The meeting was hosted by your chapter and neighboring Saw Mill River Audubon Society, based in Chappaqua. The weekend's festivities included a Friday evening dinner highlighted by guest speaker Paul Gallay, Executive Director of the Westchester Land Trust. Mr. Gallay was well received when he spoke on open space conservation techniques. Saturday's events included Chapter meetings and a presentation by BAS President John Hannan on Bedford Audubon's partnership with National Audubon in bringing the "Audubon At Home" program to BAS's new center, Bylane Farm in Katonah. Saturday afternoon included a field trip for Council members to see Bylane Farm first hand.

Council delegates were impressed with Bedford Audubon's facility, not to mention the very timely Bald Eagle that flew over the center at the time of their visit! The Saturday night dinner was highlighted with a talk by noted local author, Tom Anderson. Tom spoke about Long Island Sound, its past and future as it is treated in his recent book, *This Fine Piece of Water*.

Sunday's agenda included reports from Audubon New York's Albany-based executive staff, whose members recognized Bedford Audubon Society as an important and strategic partner of National Audubon Society's programs.

The spring Council meeting will be held this March in Saratoga.

### **Cape May 2004**

By Ryan MacLean

Seventeen of us made Bedford Audubon's annual pilgrimage to Cape May the first weekend of October. We were blessed with great weather and a spectacular 122 species of birds. Friday brought sunny skies and crisp temperatures for our first stop, the famous Edwin B. Forsythe NWR (Brigantine). We were treated with great looks at thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl and waders. Our best highlight was the previously reported American White Pelican. We then headed south to Stone Harbor Point, where hungry shorebirds, including Red Knots and Piping Plovers, drilled along the shore's edge. Caspian Terns, majestic Brown Pelicans and the star Cape May bird, the Peregrine Falcon, put on a dazzling show over our heads.

Saturday brought southerly winds and rain showers occurring throughout the day. Our first stop, Higbee Beach was silent, except for migrating Merlin and Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. At the hawk watch, several hawks were present, but from the pavilion we had great looks at Parasitic Jaegers offshore. Unfortunately, it began to pour.

After the rains ceased, we headed downtown to the 2nd Avenue Jetty. Hundreds of Black Skimmers and terns roosted along the beach. Offshore we saw Northern Gannets and flocks of Surf and Black Scoters. Another Parasitic Jaeger came right in to shore and harassed gulls along the beach, giving us all a breathtaking glimpse at this powerful pelagic bird. We moved out to Nummy Island, where we had great looks at Little Blue Herons, Cattle Egret, Marbled Godwits and the elusive Clapper Rail. Both night herons gave great looks sitting secretively in the surrounding trees.

That night, a cold front moved through, with the promise of north-west winds the next day. As hoped for, Higbee Beach was filled with migrants. Ten species of warblers, including Chestnut-sided, Nashville, Black-throated Blue and Blackpoll, flitted amongst the dense foliage. Other highlights included a very cooperative Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Brown Thrasher and an immature Red-headed Woodpecker. Hungry Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks hunted directly over our heads.

We headed over to the Cape May Migratory Bird Refuge (South Cape May Meadows) where we were greeted by a Black Vulture soaring overhead. The marshes were filled with waterfowl, and there was a truly amazing spectacle as thousands of migrating Tree Swallows spiraled over our heads.

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The hawk watch was also much more productive. In the little time we had there, several Bald Eagles and a few Peregrines were amongst the numerous accipiters and smaller falcons. The Wetlands Institute at Stone Harbor proved to be quite productive this year, providing our only Tricolored Heron for the trip and three more Red-headed Woodpeckers. After picking up Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on a front lawn, we headed to our last stop, the Avalon Sea Watch, which gave us our last species for the trip, Common Loon along with several flocks of scoters. Then it was time to battle the Garden State traffic and head home. Another successful Cape May trip was at an end.



Volunteers at the Annual Seed Sale

## Seed Sale 2004

By John Erickson

The Bedford Audubon Society's Annual Seed Sale was held on Saturday October 23. The day started with the supply truck getting lost in Pound Ridge. When it finally arrived, all the seed was off-loaded to our shock. Once empty, the truck took off to return to Ohio. Thanks to good weather, not having a truck turned out to be OK, but we had our fingers crossed all day, hoping that it would not rain!

The seed was from a new supplier this year, so all the bags had different colors and markings. This required all of our volunteers and buyers to learn what each bag contained, but we managed, proving that you *can* teach old dogs new tricks.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who gave up their Saturday. We'd like to extend a special thanks to the two students who came

out to give us a hand, Ryan MacLean and Sean Prockter. The Bedford Audubon Society and all our neighboring birds would like to thank all those who bought seed and gave donations. This is one of ways we raise funds for our many programs and projects. Your loyal support keeps us growing!

## FIELD TRIPS

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

### **Winter Bird-feeding Workshop at Bylane Farm, Katonah Saturday, December 11 - 9:00 A.M. –Noon**

Bring the kids and join Wild Birds Unlimited and John Askildsen of Bedford Audubon for a bird-feeding workshop. After a leisurely bird walk around the property at Bylane Farm, 35 Todd Rd., we will head indoors by the fireplace, sipping cider and hot chocolate, while we learn what each of our winter birds likes to feast on. Wild Birds Unlimited of Bedford Hills will bring along free samples of seed, and there will be different types of feeders on display to purchase.

### **Christmas Bird Counts: December 18, 19, January 1, 2**

Saturday, Dec. 18 Peekskill Christmas Bird Count  
Call John Askildsen at 914-232-1701 or email him at

[jaskildsen@bedfordaudubon.org](mailto:jaskildsen@bedfordaudubon.org)

Sunday, Dec. 19 Greenwich CBC, Call Ted Gilman @  
203-869-5272 x230

Saturday, January 1 Pawling CBC/ Great Swamp, Eastern  
Putnam

Call John Askildsen at 914-232-1701 or email him at

[jaskildsen@bedfordaudubon.org](mailto:jaskildsen@bedfordaudubon.org)

Sunday, January 2 Putnam Cty CBC, Call Marty  
MaGuire@ 845-528-2540

### **Winter Birding in the Nutmeg State**

**Sunday, January 9 - 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 have been seen 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.

### **The Great Cape Escape-Continues!**

**Friday through Monday, January 14 through 17**

Join John Askildsen for our return to Cape Cod over the Martin Luther King weekend. 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.

## **PROGRAMS**

Home base will be Eastham, Mass. Plan to arrive Friday night or Saturday morning. Cost for up to 2 in a room will be \$89 per room/per night; up to four in a room will be \$98 per room/per night (tax included, meals extra). Please register as early as you can. Call for other details.

### **Eagles Over Westchester**

**Sunday, January 23, 2005 - Departure from Bylane Farm at 9:00 A.M.**

The lower Hudson Valley and our local New York City reservoirs have become a major wintering area for a rapidly expanding wintering bald eagle population. Over 175 eagles have been counted in the Westchester area in one day! Join BAS with John Askildsen as leader, for a leisurely paced day trip in upper Westchester in search of America's symbol.

### **Breakfast With the Birds**

**Sunday January 23 - 11:00 A.M. Westmoreland Sanctuary**

Join Steve Ricker, Director of 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! This is a great family activity. Please register with Steve Ricker at 914-666-8448.

### **Eagles & Ducks on the Hudson: The Hunter and the Prey**

**Sunday, February 13 – Departure from Bylane Farm at 8:30 A.M.**

John Askildsen will lead us along several paths hugging the Hudson River to see our local raptors and shorebirds. This trip is a real eye-opener that shows these magnificent birds here in our own backyard. Please call or email Tony Ianniello to register for this trip at 914-248-5639 or [tianniello@bedfordaudubon.org](mailto:tianniello@bedfordaudubon.org).

### **The Wolf Conservation Center Tour**

**Saturday, February 26, 2:00 P.M.**

Join us on a tour of the center and see a slide show program on these fabulous animals here in South Salem, NY. The Wolf Center was built to teach the importance of wolves in the environment and a little about their complex history with humans. Minimum age for visitors is 6 years. Donation of \$7 child/\$10 adult, Visa/MC accepted.

### **Birding Optics at Bylane Farm**

**Saturday, March 12, 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. Bylane Farm, Katonah**

Whether you are a beginner looking for a decent pair of binoculars or a scope, or are looking for the ultimate in optics, you will find this session rewarding. Jerry Connolly, owner of The Audubon Shop in Madison, CT, will have an assortment of binoculars, scopes, accessories and books on display and for sale. Cash, checks or credit cards will be accepted.

### **Flowering Plants of the Neotropics. Why Are There so Many? Katonah Village Library**

**Wednesday, December 1 at 7:30 P.M.**

Why do flowering plants of the New World tropics come in so many different shapes, sizes, colors and scents? What is the secret behind nature's design? Scott Mori, PhD, of the New York Botanical Garden will provide us with the answers. Dr. Mori is the Nathaniel Lord Britton Curator of Botany at NYBG and specializes in neotropical flowering plants. His recent masterpiece publication *The Flowering Plants of the Neotropics* will be available for purchase (\$65.00) at the lecture. Dr. Mori will be on hand afterward for a book signing.

### **Important Bird Areas**

**Katonah Village Library**

**Wednesday, January 12 - 7:30 P.M.**

The Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program is an international bird conservation program found in six continents, 156 countries, and forty-six states. The aim of the program is to identify sites that are essential for sustaining naturally occurring populations of bird species, and to promote the protection or management of these sites for the long-term conservation of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. Our NY State program was the second established in the country, has 127 current sites, and our area is unique in that more than 44 of these sites are within close driving range of our chapter. Audubon NY's staff will present the latest findings on NY State's IBA program and how you can get involved locally through BAS with monitoring local sites and ensuring the long-term conservation of wildlife and habitat continue in our area.

### **Audubon At Home**

**Katonah Village Library**

**Wednesday, February 9 - 7:30 P.M.**

National Audubon has designated Bedford Audubon's Bylane Farm Sanctuary in Katonah as a premier demonstration site for its Audubon At Home program. A representative of the National Program will address the key issues homeowners face when wanting to maintain lush and beautiful gardens while protecting the environment and providing habitat for birds and wildlife. Learn how Bedford Audubon's sanctuary is becoming a key site for the development of science and gardening in this fascinating area of conservation.

### **Live Birds of Prey**

**Katonah Village Library**

**Wednesday, March 9 - 7:30 P.M.**

Tedor Whitman, Director of Education at nearby Teatown Lake Reservation, will bring several live birds of prey for an up close encounter with some of the raptors that exist in our own habitat. Owls, hawks and falcons are included among the represented species. These are birds that have been hurt or deemed un-releasable for a particular reason.

## Membership

Yes, I would like to join the Bedford Audubon Society. My "Chapter only" membership will help support local conservation efforts, programs, and sanctuaries. \*(Send this form with a check made out to the **Bedford Audubon Society**).

Please check your membership category.

New Member or Renewal    \$20     Supporter    \$50  
 Contributor                    \$100     Patron            \$500

I wish to make an additional donation of \_\_\_\_\_

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