



The Bedford Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 55, Number 1, Spring 2005
Celebrating 92 Years of Conservation 1913-2005

President's Message

By John Hannan

Writing a letter in February in the Hudson Valley can be a bit of a glass half full or half empty exercise depending on how much you enjoy cold weather. As someone who finds lots to enjoy during the winter season, I will lean towards the glass half full version. Not just because with snow it is possible to get out and cross country ski, ice skate or snowshoe in our many local county and state parks, but also because the birding has been spectacular.

Those of you who have gotten a chance to get out on your own, or on one of our field trips, can attest to the diversity and quantity of beautiful wildlife we are seeing locally. One local hot spot has been George's Island County Park in Montrose where the wintering Bald Eagles have been performing an incredible aerial show over the Hudson. We are seeing up to 40 eagles come in to roost at George's Island alone every night.

But the sightings are not just over the Hudson River; everyday at the office we get e-mails and calls from members seeing Bald Eagles in Yorktown, over at Cross River, on all the local reservoirs, all through our chapter's area. So keep your eyes open, you never know what you may see right in your own backyard.

The battles to protect the Bald Eagle by stopping the shooting of the birds, and then later the use of pesticides that were bringing them to the brink of extinction are obviously two of the most visible victories that Audubon has helped lead, and two of the greatest moments in our hundred year history. As we enter this centennial anniversary of Audubon we can look back at some of those battles and find joy in knowing we won them, but as we look forward we must be aware that there is still much to be done. And just like one hundred years ago, many of the most significant battles may be fought right here in our home state of New York.

The Audubon Society was founded in New York State partly because the founders wanted to make a clear statement that the majority of people who lived in the center of the millinery industry opposed the killing of birds just so women could wear their feathers, and bodies in some cases, on their hats. Whole species of birds were facing extinction just so someone could make a fashion statement.

As an organization we took that battle directly to the source of the problem. Until federal laws could be invoked, we fought for legislation to protect birds state by state. We educated the public about the benefits of preserving nature rather than ruining it; and we won.

Now, one hundred years later, New Yorkers are once again playing a pivotal role in ensuring threatened species are protected, the public is informed, and legislation is enacted to ensure our children will enjoy the same healthy and beautiful environment we so often take for granted. Only this time the battle focuses most directly on land and its use.

Land use means many things, how we treat public lands, do we exploit them for mineral, timber, or other short term profit while depleting the wildlife that depend on these last untouched areas? How do we treat wetlands that not only provide vital habitat for wildlife, but also ensure proper filtration for our drinking water supplies? How do we juggle the legitimate demand for housing in our own communities with rampant sprawl throughout the area? And finally, how do we treat our own homes and properties; what are the personal choices we make in the products we use to clean, cook, and care for our lawns?

It was a lot easier one hundred years ago for people to simply say they were against the killing of birds so that someone could sport a fancy hat. And that is why Audubon is growing and becoming more sophisticated in its ability to respond to the issues, inform the public, and build a bi-partisan consensus that will ensure that, from town planning boards to the federal government, the right choice is made to leave a better, healthy environment for the next generation.

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Spring 2005, Volume 55, No. 1

The newsletter, USPS #61 is published quarterly by the
Bedford Audubon Society, Inc.
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

3/6	8:45 A.M.	N.Y. Botanical Gardens, Bronx, N.Y.
3/9	7:30 P.M.	Live Birds of Prey Katonah Village Library
3/12	10:00 A.M.	Birding Optics at Bylane Farm, Katonah
4/7	8:00 P.M.	Dance of the Woodcock at Ward Pound Ridge Trailside Museum
4/13	7:30 P.M.	100 Years of Audubon & Where Will the Next Century Take Us/ Katonah Village Library
4/16	10:00 A.M.	Signs of Spring at Hunt-Parker Sanctuary
5/1	7:30 A.M.	Ft. Tryon & Wave Hill, NYC
5/4	7:30 A.M.	Wednesdays in May: Bylane Bird Walks
5/6	7:30 A.M.	Fridays in May: Maple Avenue Reservoir Walks
5/7	7:15 A.M.	Doodletown Road Walk with Rik Kaufman
5/11	7:30 A.M.	Wednesdays in May: Bylane Bird Walks
5/11	7:30 P.M.	Protecting Natural Habitats & The Basis for the NRDC Campaign/ Katonah Village Library
5/13	7:30 A.M.	Fridays in May: Maple Avenue Reservoir Walks
5/13- 5/14	5:00 P.M.	BAS Annual Birdathon
5/14		International Migratory Bird Day Celebration
5/18	7:30 A.M.	Wednesdays in May: Bylane Bird Walks
5/20	7:30 A.M.	Fridays in May: Maple Avenue Reservoir Walks
5/22	8:30 A.M.	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge with Joan & Rich Becker
5/25	7:30 A.M.	Wednesdays in May: Bylane Bird Walks
5/27	7:30 A.M.	Fridays in May: Maple Avenue Reservoir Walks
6/4	10:30 A.M.	Butterflies at Trailside with Bill Wallace
6/8	7:30 P.M.	Damsels & Dragons with Ed Lam/ Katonah Village Library
6/11	1:00 P.M.	Babes in the Woods at Westmoreland
6/11	7:00 A.M.	The Wildlife of Mount Greylock, Adams, Massachusetts
6/12	10:00 A.M.	Damsels and Dragons at Bylane with Ed Lam

FIELD TRIPS

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

N.Y. Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY

Sunday, March 6, 8:45 A.M. with Tony Ianniello

Come in from the cold and visit rain forests and deserts in the middle of a New York City winter! Marvel at rare orchids growing as they would in nature at the annual Orchid Show, where thousands of orchids, from miniatures named “Pinhead” to giant violet Vandas, fill a luxuriant tropical landscape. We will have lunch at the café. Plan to leave Bylane Farm by 8:45 A.M. All-inclusive Garden Passport ticket prices during The Orchid Show are \$15 Adults, \$13 Students/Seniors, and \$5 Children 2–12. Onsite Parking is \$7. Please register as early as possible as the Orchid Show is very popular and we expect to apply as a group in advance.

Birding Optics at Bylane Farm

Saturday, March 12, 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. Bylane Farm

Whether you are a beginner looking for a decent pair of binoculars or a serious birder looking for the ultimate scope, please join us in sorting through the finer points of optics. Jerry Connolly, owner of The Audubon Shop, Madison, CT, will display an assortment of binoculars, scopes, accessories and books. Jerry is an optics expert and the only retail member of the Swarovski Optik Advisory Board. He'll demonstrate the equipment and answer any questions. Products will be available for sale so please be prepared with cash, checks or credit cards.

Dance of the Woodcock at Ward Pound Ridge

Thursday, April 7, 8:00 P.M.

Meet at Trailside Museum to observe the American Woodcock's energetic love antics as he “peents”, struts and hurls himself into the sky and acrobatically down again, all to attract a mate. Enter at junction of Routes 35 and 121 in Cross River

Signs of Spring at Hunt-Parker Sanctuary

Saturday, April 16, 10:00 A.M.

Take a leisurely walk with our resident naturalist, Tait Johansson, through the Hunt-Parker Sanctuary for signs of spring. Emerging skunk cabbage, the liquid song of the Louisiana Waterthrush, the resounding call of the Eastern Phoebe, blooming shadbush, Morning Cloak, butterflies and spring peepers are tell tale signs of early spring in the southern New England uplands. Tait will share his wealth of knowledge of our local woodlands. Please bring binoculars and waterproof footwear.

Ft. Tryon & Wave Hill, NYC

Sunday, May 1, 7:30 A.M. with John Askildsen

Two destinations not often mentioned when one speaks of spring birds and flowers are Wave Hill in Riverdale and Ft Tryon in upper Manhattan at the Cloisters.

Wave Hill is a NYC park located in Riverdale, offering spectacular views of the Hudson River. This formerly private estate has

perennial gardens, specimen plantings, greenhouses, broad lawns with meticulously maintained gardens, and much more.

Ft. Tryon Park, named for the early 18th century colonial fortress that once sat upon a promontory high above the Hudson River, is a green oasis steeped in cultural and natural history. Well-maintained perennial gardens and specimen trees are the focus of this park. The garden's breath-taking backdrop, the Palisades Interstate Park and the Hudson River are nothing less than magnificent. The Park is also home to the Cloisters, one of the country's foremost art museums.

We'll stroll the grounds in search of migrant birds and a touch of botanical color as well. Lunch will be taken at Ft. Tryon's “New Leaf Café.” After the field trip concludes, trip participants will have the opportunity to visit the Cloisters, which was largely funded by the Rockefellers. Plan to leave Bylane Farm by 7:30 A.M.

Wednesdays in May: Bylane Bird Walks

Wednesday, May 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 7:30 A.M.

Join Tait Johansson at Bedford Audubon's Bylane Farm, 35 Todd Road in Katonah, for a leisurely bird walk. Rain will cancel walk. No registration necessary.

Fridays in May: Maple Avenue Reservoir Walks

Friday, May 6, 13, 20 & 27 at 7:30 A.M.

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

Doodletown Road Walk with Rik Kaufman

Saturday, May 7, Leave Bylane by 7:15 A.M.

Join birder Rik Kaufman as we wind up Doodletown Road in the Bear Mountain State Park area looking for warblers. This is best place in our area to find Hooded and Cerulean Warblers as well as many other migrant songbirds.

International Migratory Bird Day Celebration

Saturday, May 14

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 at www.bedfordaudubon.org or call 232-1999.

BAS Annual Birdathon

Friday, May 13, 5:00 P.M. through Saturday, May 14, 5:00 P.M.

Teams will be covering diverse areas from Long Island to Westmoreland Sanctuary, to the Great Swamp in Patterson, NY. The object is to count as many different bird species as we can while raising funds for Bedford Audubon's educational programs. Please try to enlist at least one sponsor and join us. See our website for more details and a printable sponsor form.

PROGRAMS

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge with Joan & Rich Becker

Sunday, May 22, 8:30 A.M. at Jamaica Bay

Located near JFK Airport, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge is one of the premier birding sites in our area. On the Atlantic Flyway, its gardens and ponds attract a wide variety of migrating passerines and shorebirds as they head north. Explore this birding hotspot with Joan and Richard Becker. Pack a lunch as we may stay all day. Plan to arrive at Jamaica Bay at 8:30 A.M.

Butterflies at Trailside with Bill Wallace

Ward Pound Ridge

Saturday, June 4, 10:30 A.M.

Our own butterfly expert Bill Wallace will lead us on an easy walk to observe and identify these colorful summer gems. Please meet at Trailside Museum.

Babes in the Woods at Westmoreland

Saturday, June 11, 1:00 P.M.

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. Please register by calling 666-8448.

The Wildlife of Mount Greylock, Adams, Massachusetts, Saturday, June 11, 7:00 A.M., Leaders: Bill Wallace and John Askildsen

Mount Greylock, Massachusetts's highest point (3491') hosts a large diversity of wildlife. Located in the Berkshire Mountains, it is a mere two-hour drive from Westchester. We'll explore the changing life zones that host different wildlife as we drive up the long access road to the summit. We'll look for Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, Blackpoll and Mourning Warblers, Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, to name just a few of the highlighted bird species. Among the butterflies, we'll look for various types of fritillaries, White Admiral, Milbert's Tortoiseshell, and the rarely seen Early Hairstreak. A variety of wildflowers will undoubtedly be found along the way. We'll leave from Bylane in Katonah at 7:00 A.M.

Damsels and Dragons at Bylane with Ed Lam

Sunday, June 12, 10:00 A.M.

Ed Lam, noted author and graphic illustrator, will lead us on a journey to find as many as 30 species of damselflies and dragonflies at Bylane Farm. Do you know the difference? Join us and find out as we also make our way through some 60 species of butterflies. This is a follow-up field trip to Ed's Wednesday, June 8 program.



All Programs at the Katonah Village Library

Live Birds of Prey

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 raptors that exist in our own habitat. Owls and hawks are among the represented species. These are birds that have been hurt or deemed un-releasable and are now used for educational purposes. Join us for a rare chance to see these magnificent birds at close range.

100 Years of Audubon & Where Will the Next Century Take Us?

Wednesday, April 13, 7:30 P.M.

As signs of spring begin to creep back into our area, take an evening to celebrate our last century of successes, and listen to Audubon leadership discuss the new challenges we all face and how we will address them in the coming years. Come and hear the National, State and local strategic plans designed to invigorate our movement and give people the tools to ensure a safe and healthy environment for birds and humans alike.

Protecting Natural Habitats & The Basis for the NRDC Campaign

Dr. Allen Hershkowitz, Senior Scientist, NRDC

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

The forests of the southeastern United States and the Canadian boreal region have been identified by conservation biologists as hosting some of the most globally outstanding concentrations of terrestrial and freshwater habitat that produce an astoundingly diverse array of flora and fauna. Current production and consumption patterns related to the virgin-timber based pulp-and-paper industry, one of the largest industries throughout the southeastern United States and the Canadian boreal region, may contribute to more global and local environmental problems than any other industry in the world. Indeed, perhaps no industry has forced more species into extinction, destroyed more habitats, polluted as many streams, rivers, and lakes, and caused as much taxpayer dollars to be spent on ecologically dangerous landfills and incinerators.

Dr. Allen Hershkowitz, a Senior Scientist at the Natural Resources Defense Council, is coordinating NRDC's international campaign to reform the paper industry and protect these endangered forests. Come and learn about the basis for NRDC's campaign, its objectives and strategic approach.

Damsels & Dragons with Ed Lam

Wednesday, June 8, 7:30 P.M.

Eastchester resident, Ed Lam, noted author and graphic illustrator will guide us through the world of dragonflies and damselflies. Signed copies of his latest book, *Damselflies of the Northeast*, written and illustrated by Ed, will be available. Please note Ed's follow-up field trip at Bylane Farm is set for Sunday, June 12.

Here in New York we see the fruit of Audubon's work every day. Last month in his State of the State Address, Governor George Pataki very publicly celebrated Audubon's centennial anniversary by recognizing its achievements in his address and then, more importantly, announcing the addition of 104,000 acres of newly protected forest land in the Adirondacks and that he intends to add 20 new NY State officially designated Bird Conservation Areas over the next two years to the 28 that currently exist.

At the local level your chapter is participating in many success stories, helping planning boards and land trusts gather data that ensures preservation acquisitions will not only secure open space but also pick vital habitat as well. Participating in coalitions of public and private entities that are building land management plans for public and private resources ensuring the county preserves a diversity of habitats so that all our native species of animal and fauna can thrive. And of course through education guaranteeing that a new generation of environmentalist are being prepared, and are ready to take on the challenges we will face in the next century.

Because even though we are lucky to live in one of the most beautiful and ecologically diverse states of the union, we still face challenges. In the Catskills, Audubon is working with a coalition of groups working to stop the Bellayere Resort development, a project that would not only destroy hundreds of acres of pristine forest, but also threaten one of the last nesting areas of the threatened Bicknell's Thrush. Audubon's efforts to document the nesting of this bird in that region along with the fact that the area was already listed as an Important Bird Area have helped keep this development from literally bulldozing the Catskill mountainside. Along the Hudson, our sister chapter, Northern Catskills Audubon is working with other groups to stop the Army Corps of Engineers from dumping dredged materials on an island that hosts one active eagle nest, and another that eagles have just begun to build. Using the same logic that the co-op Board in New York City tried use to dislodge Pale Male and his mate, the army corp. acknowledges it may not only disturb but in fact remove these nests, so Audubon is in action making sure the Endangered Species Act does not become endangered itself. And right here in our communities we are working with local land trusts and town committees like the North Castle Open Space Committee to make sure they have the data needed to stop ill advised developments like the Seven Springs project which would threaten vital habitat for New York species at risk like Short Eared Owls and Northern Harriers and the drinking water supply for residents of the Mount Kisco/North Castle area.

These issues are the reason you will read in this issue and future ones how Bedford Audubon is helping form coalitions, sponsor volunteer data collection projects for local IBAs while building internship programs into these projects so we can form leadership positions for young people who want to find the answers to the environmental problems facing their communities.

So, while we are still in the New Year frame of mind, make one more resolution; get more involved with Bedford Audubon. In this one hundredth year celebration make sure you get out to more of our monthly educational programs, come on more of our field trips, and volunteer on one of our exciting citizen science projects, you'll feel great for participating and our community will be the better for your efforts. Thanks, and see you out in the field.

Focus on Somers

By Tony Ianniello

Debbie and Ken Field live in the Amawalk area of Somers just west of the Amawalk Reservoir and are members of Bedford Audubon. They noticed an unusual bird visiting their feeder in a tree just off the back deck of their home. Debbie said that the bird seemingly had taken up residence there since it was always around the yard.

She attended David Bonter's Project Feederwatch Program at our November 10 meeting at the Katonah Village Library. David is Leader of the Project Feederwatch Program at Cornell's Lab of Ornithology. He asked that she try to get some pictures of the bird to document it. She was sure it was a Tufted Titmouse but the coloring was darker than the usual slate gray on its back, and the chest and underbelly were more like a robin's, a rusty orange.

Our own Bill Wallace visited the Fields and confirmed that it was indeed a titmouse. Debbie & Ken had some photos developed and sent them off to David. Our little friend seems to be a melanistic titmouse. A melanistic bird has excessive pigmentation, giving it a darker appearance.

It became apparent that the melanistic Tufted Titmouse was not the only unusual visitor in Somers during this time. As I watched the feeder from inside one evening while visiting the Fields, I noticed two little critters flitting about between the feeder and the tree branches. I thought they were bats, but Debbie said that they were two flying squirrels. The size of chipmunks, these little guys had very large eyes and were a real treat to watch as they darted around the feeder.

So we see that there are signs of nature's more elusive discoveries out there in our local areas. We just need to experience them and enjoy them. We thank Debbie and Ken for the entertainment! If anyone else has a story to share, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would be more than happy to share it with our members.

For a picture of the melanistic titmouse, please go to our website at www.bedfordaudubon.org/birds/tuti01.html

Watershed News

By Don Pachner, Conservation Committee

The political, regulatory, and real estate development issues affecting our wild open spaces in the Croton Watershed continue to present a threat to wildlife and our natural resources. On the administrative front, New York City has appointed a new commissioner with a solid waste background, Emily Lloyd. She has no background in watershed management and we hope she listens to environmental community concerns on this the critically important watershed issues affecting all New Yorkers and residents of Westchester and Putnam Counties. Governor Pataki has appointed a new acting commissioner of DEC, Diane Sheehan, to replace Erin Crotty.

In a victory for the watershed and the environmental/conservation community, Eagle River Development in Somers, the single largest residential development currently slated for Westchester County has agreed to sell their 654 acre environmentally sensitive parcel to New York State, New York City, Westchester County, and the Town of Somers for \$20.5 million, primarily for passive recreational use. Write to your County Legislator expressing your desire to see the county purchase this critically important property.

The Bronx Environmental Health & Justice Coalition has obtained a temporary restraining order from an appellate court ordering New York City to stop construction of the ill-conceived Van Cortlandt Park Dissolved Air Flootation Chemical Filtration Plant until the court can hear arguments regarding defects in the environmental review process. The Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition (of which BAS is a member) and the Town of Eastchester continue movement toward a hearing before a panel of the appellate division of the state supreme court. Our arguments will be based on the failure of the city to consider membrane filtration technology that would allow the plant to be constructed in 1/4 the footprint and at 1/2 the cost on-line and closer to the source, thereby alleviating the need for separate filtration plants in towns upstream of the city's currently planned facility. The lawsuit brought by the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, which was based on zoning issues, was thrown out by the courts.

The Catskill-Delaware Aqueduct continues to leak 40 million gallons a day, creating a river and large wetland across the Hudson River near Newburgh. The city is desperate to find a way of stopping the leak or a temporary supply while the leak is repaired. Their latest project involves drilling test holes in the Hudson River near Poughkeepsie to experiment with taking fresh water from under the riverbed. The city refuses to release any data when requested via a Freedom of Information Act request.

The State Legislature and Governor Pataki continue to make progress on passing important wetlands legislation this year that would close the "SWANCC" loophole in New York State's freshwater wetlands law Article 24. Contact your state Assemblyperson

to explain the importance of A2048 (the DiNapoli Bill) and also contact our state senator Vincent Leibell to explain why renewed support for the senate version of the bill is crucial for protection of our state's freshwater wetlands. Thank Senator Leibell for his support of the Wetlands/Flood Prevention Act last year, although like most other important legislation last year it did not come to a vote on the floor of the senate. Governor Pataki has included provision for funding this legislation in this year's proposed state budget. New York State Audubon has signed onto a memorandum in support of this legislation.

For further information on any of these issues, contact conservation committee member Don Pachner at conservation@bedfordaudubon.org.

BAS and the IBA Project

BAS Takes on Key Role in Promoting Volunteer Data Collection for IBA Sites in Our Area

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 and currently has 127 sites.

One need that has been identified for almost all IBAs is for more comprehensive data on bird use of the sites. Quality avian data is an important tool for addressing threats to individual IBAs, developing conservation and management plans, and assessing bird conservation and habitat acquisition priorities statewide. The establishment of long-term monitoring programs for IBAs is central to the eventual success of our efforts to preserve avian diversity.

Because we in Westchester and Putnam counties are fortunate enough to have more than 44 IBAs in our local driving area, we feel we have a special responsibility to help preserve and protect these vital areas. That is why we have helped initiate two efforts that are intended to increase data collection in IBAs and public awareness of their importance.

One of these efforts was begun last October by Westchester County's Parks Department. This County wide initiative is a collaboration of Parks Department, BAS and other Westchester Audubon chapters, along with Audubon NY staff. Our goal is to find ways in which the County and Audubon chapters can build a stronger IBA program and conservation ethic in Westchester. Because several County parks are, or could potentially be, IBA sites, the County is very interested in supporting Audubon's effort to collect data, assist in advising on best land management

practices, and building public awareness of the unique species our parks host. This comprehensive approach to habitat management will ensure that these species can be protected and the public can still enjoy viewing them and using the parks for all the other recreational activities Parks should provide.

Across County lines, BAS is forming volunteer teams to do ongoing data collection in the many IBAs we have in our local area. Our high school intern, Sean Prockter, has already begun to take weekly eagle counts along the Lower Hudson Valley IBA. We are now beginning to plan out a year's worth of counting with the Friends of the Great Swamp to ensure sufficient data is collected for this incredible watershed resource and migratory bird trap.

Volunteers are needed for both of these projects. We are developing materials that will assist you with recording your findings on an electronic database that will enable researchers worldwide to utilize your data to help build better understanding of bird life and wildlife conservation. If you'd like to volunteer with us, whether it is doing the field work, or making the hot chocolate to warm those eagle counters in winter, please contact us. The best way is by sending e-mail to info@bedfordaudubon.org, but for those who prefer telephones, our number is 914-232-1999. In either case leave a short message of what you'd like to do, what your availability is, and how we can reach you. You can be an important part of this project. Why not give it a try?

Bedford Audubon Welcomes New Members

We are pleased to welcome these new members who joined us in 2004 and look forward to having them participate in our upcoming programs and activities.

Amawalk: Deborah and Kenneth Field. **Armonk:** Doris Gordon, Edward Higham, Dorothy Kananaugh, Charles McCrea, Fred Runne, Jeff Tronbone, Jean Vitarius. **Bedford:** Buzz Buzzanco, Regis Gignoux, Theresa Guzman, Charlotte Spiers. **Bedford Corners:** Fran Cocoran, Robin and Richard Jones. **Brewster:** Steven Giglio. **Carmel:** Gerry Gottlieb, Cherre L. Marchak. **Cortlandt Manor:** Aaron J. Whelan. **Goldens Bridge:** George and Martha Levites, Robert Sadofsky. **Katonah:** Jim Alloy, Susan Bittker, Dwight and Judith Brooks, Cesar and Gail Bryan, Thomas Burns, Lois Canora, Michael and Diane Doesserich, Erwin Hadiono, Charles and Machiko Kimball, Linz Family, Ron and Diane Mineo, Virginia Satkowski, Matt Serles, Hardwich and Sloanne Simmons, Jean Waful, Ann Williams. **Mahopac:** Jean Arenella, Karina Fabbie. **Mount Kisco:** Jonathan Gibney, Gerry Urbanowski. **New York City:** Cathleen Bell, Marjorie Reed Gordon. **North Salem:** Janice Larit, Georgette Page. **Patterson:** Stanley E. Maykut, John Neubauer. **Pound Ridge:** Allen B. Herskowitz, Abe Levy, Mary Miranda, Parker W. Silzer. **Purdys:** Karen Caretta. **Ridgefield:** Penny Hein. **Somers:** Ed Hicks, Claire and Edward Prohl. **South Salem:** Ted Kirby, Sean Prockter, Colleen Proerter, Lois Rosati, Jordan Wasner. **Tarrytown:** Alice M. Nelson, Judith Acosta,

Waccabuc: Susan S. Henry, Fiona Kirkpatrick. **Yorktown Heights:** Robert Fletcher IV, William Keane, Jeanne Pollock.

Editors note: We regret space does not allow listing all 2004 new members in this issue. The remainder will be included in subsequent issues.

Bedford Audubon Participates in Community Events

By Ed Fehrs, Membership Chair

Bedford Audubon participated in three community events this past year—the Putnam County 4-H Fair at Carmel, the Katonah Street Fair, and the Somers Earth Day Fair. These events afforded the Society an opportunity to meet with hundreds of Westchester and Putnam County residents and to give them a “birds eye view” of our organization’s extensive activities and facilities. Although most people were familiar with “Audubon,” many were not familiar with “Bedford Audubon.” They were attracted to the BAS booth by two large photo montages of activities at Bylane Farm and our system of sanctuaries. Visitors learned about our educational programs, lectures, and field trips. Volunteers who worked at the booth fielded questions ranging from bird identification to recommendations for sanctuary trails for various levels of hiking ability. Answers to questions were supplemented with literature for visitors to take with them.

The success of the “community events” effort in 2004 has convinced us we must increase our presence and participation in all the communities Bedford Audubon serves. Plans are being made for our 2005 effort and we invite our members to recommend events in their communities that we should consider attending. Please submit your recommendation to membership@bedfordaudubon.org and include the name and date of the event and the telephone number of the organization or person to contact. Bedford Audubon has a first class booth, eye catching displays and informative literature, and knowledgeable booth attendants. We are ready and eager to participate in your community events!

Audubon NY Council

On October 22 through 24th Audubon NY Council meeting was held in Armonk. Bedford and Saw Mill River Audubon were the host chapters. Along with a number of our Board members attending, we participated in several ways. We opened the Friday evening events greeting representatives from the thirty Audubon chapters that exist across NY State. We presented at the plenary on our Audubon at Home Program, BAS was awarded a \$5,000 member line item grant from State Senator Vinnie Liebell for that program, and Bylane was the sight for a very successful field trip so that other chapters could see how we are using our sanctuary and facilities. The weekend was a very successful event and provided us with numerous occasions to build stronger relationships with other chapters and our state office.

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 _____

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

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to: Bedford Audubon Society, 35 Todd Road, Katonah, NY 10536

Enter your e-mail address here and we will add you to our e-mail list for alerts on programs, field trips, and other items of local interest. We will not give out your e-mail address to any other organization.

Referred by: _____

***Does not include membership in the National Audubon Society**

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

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