

The Bedford Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 60, Number 1, Spring 2010
Celebrating 97 Years of Conservation 1913-2010

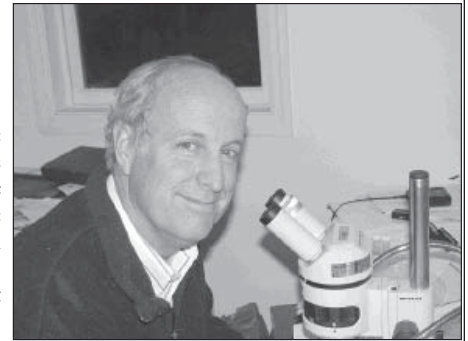
Bringing Nature Home

With Dr. Doug Tallamy


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

Katonah Memorial House, 71 Bedford Road, Katonah

WITH MANY OF OUR BIRD SPECIES IN SERIOUS DECLINE, it is clear that we must change our approach to bird conservation if we hope to keep them in our future. Native plants will play a key role in the restoration of our landscapes because only natives provide the coevolved relationships required by animals. By supporting a diversity of insect herbivores, native plants provide food for birds, particularly during reproduction. Many people don't want insects in their yards, but they do want birds. They need to realize that 96% of the terrestrial birds in the U.S. rear their young on insects. This lecture complements the goal of Bedford Audubon's Native Plant Garden as formulated in one of National Audubon's main programs "Audubon at Home."



Doug Tallamy is Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware, where he has authored 69 research articles and has taught Insect Taxonomy, Behavioral Ecology, and other courses for 28 years. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. He travels across the U.S. giving more than 100 lectures each year to promote wildlife in residential settings through native plants. His book, *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*, was published by Timber Press in 2007 and was awarded the 2008 silver medal by the Garden Writer's Association. Dr. Tallamy is also an expert photographer. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing after the program.

This program is free and open to the public. Katonah Memorial House is wheelchair accessible. Please do not block the Fire Department access. Park alongside the meeting house side of the driveway. 

CALLING ALL EYES

--- Watch for New Pests ---

By Nannette Orr

Bedford Audubon members can play a big role in stopping the spread of three invasive insect species, the Asian Longhorned Beetle, the Emerald Ash Borer, and the Sirex Woodwasp, which have the potential to devastate our forests.

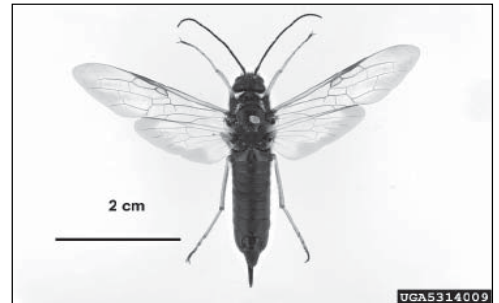


Asian Longhorned Beetle



Emerald Ash Borer


David Cappaert, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org



Sirex Woodwasp

Pest and Diseases Image Library, Bugwood.org

Please watch the video Forest Invasive Species - the threat to New York by Mike Cavanaugh at <http://vimeo.com/8981916>.

You will learn how to identify these three major insect threats and the signs of infestation. If you notice evidence of these insects, at home or in your travels, please contact Bedford Audubon Naturalist Tait Johansson at (914) 232-1999 or follow the recommendations in the video. Citizen involvement has never been more important! 

The Bedford Audubon Society
Newsletter

Spring 2010, Volume 60, 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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Volunteer Office Manager: Laura Jaffe, 914-232-5258

Contact Information

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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 Website www.BedfordAudubon.org
Our E-Mail address is: Info@BedfordAudubon.org

BAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please register with Joan E. Becker:
jebecker@bedfordaudubon.org or 914-232-4806

3/10	7:30 P.M.	Bringing Nature Home/Katonah Memorial House
3/18	10:00 A.M.-3:30 P.M.	Visit to the Bronx Zoo
3/27	1:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M.	Field Trip to the Vernal Pools at Mt. Lakes Park, North Salem
4/3	7:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M.	Field Trip to Jones Beach
4/6	8:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M.	Trip to the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale and Bird Watching at Milford Point, CT
4/11	8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M.	Excursion to Edwin B. Forsythe (Brigantine) NWR, Oceanville, NJ
4/14	7:30 P.M.	Birding Planet Earth: The Passion and Adventures of Phoebe Snetsinger/Katonah Memorial House
4/17	9:30 A.M.-11:30 A.M.	The Third Annual "Walk for Drew" Nature Hike at Franklin-Fels Sanctuary, North Salem
4/18	8:30 A.M.-NOON	Pre-Earth Day Nature Walk at Bylane and Optics Show
4/20	10:00 A.M.-3:30 P.M.	Early Spring Wildflower Walk at Saxon Woods Park, White Plains
4/27	7:30 A.M.-9:30 A.M.	Early Morning Spring Bird Walk at Maple Avenue
4/29	7:30 A.M.-9:30 A.M.	Early Morning Spring Bird Walk at Bylane
5/1	7:45 A.M.-2:00 P.M.	Field Trip to Marshlands Conservancy and Rye Nature Center
5/4	7:30 A.M.-9:30 A.M.	Early Morning Spring Bird Walk at Maple Avenue
5/4	8:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M.	Spring Wildflower Hike at American Legion State Forest
5/6	7:30 A.M.-9:30 A.M.	Early Morning Spring Bird Walk at North County Trailway
5/8	8:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.	Field Trip to Sandy Hook, NJ
5/11	8:00 A.M.-3:30 P.M.	Bird Walk in Central Park
5/12	10:00 A.M.-NOON	Field Trip to Montgomery Pinetum Park, Cos Cob, CT
5/13	7:30 A.M.-9:30 A.M.	Early Morning Spring Bird Walk at Bylane
5/18	7:30 A.M.-9:30 A.M.	Early Morning Spring Bird Walk at Maple Avenue
5/19	7:30 P.M.	BAS Annual Meeting & Election of Directors and Lecture: Exotic Earthworms in Our Forests/Katonah Memorial House
5/20	7:30 A.M.-9:30 A.M.	Early Morning Spring Bird Walk at Bylane
5/22-23		BAS Annual Birdathon
5/25	7:30 A.M.-11:30 A.M.	Field Trip to Doodletown
5/27	7:30 A.M.-9:30 A.M.	Nature Hike at the Henry Morgenthau Preserve
6/3	8:00 A.M.-12:30 P.M.	Putnam County Field Trip: A Walk Along the Ice Pond & Visit to the Historic Diehl House
6/5	3:00 P.M.	Babes in the Woods at Westmoreland Sanctuary
6/6	7:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M.	Field trip to the Bashkill Marsh and Shawangunk Grassland NWR
6/9	7:30 P.M.	Manakins and Their Amazing Audible Courtship Displays/Katonah Memorial House

New Spring and Summer Educational Programs

Explore Nature, Learn About Birds, About Natural Gardening and Much More!

Bedford Audubon will be offering a variety of nature-based educational programs and workshops for all ages at Bylane Farm. Set in an 18th century farmhouse, the educational facilities at Bylane provide a unique setting in which the integration of Ornithology, Gardening, and Biodiversity is presented by expert staff of the Bedford Audubon Society and renowned consultants. Classes are held in the antique farmhouse, in the carriage house/barn, in the Native Plant and Vegetable Gardens, and in the wetlands behind the farmhouse. For more information or to register, contact Jim Nordgren at 914-232-1999 or jnordgren@bedfordaudubon.org.

For Adults:

“Native Gardening” (Bonnie Barrett)
Discover how to use native plants in your backyard for beauty and wildlife.

April 5; 9 A.M.–noon Natural Landscaping for Biodiversity

May 3; 9 A.M.–noon Deer-Proofing Your Garden

June 7; 9 A.M.–noon Attracting Pollinators With Wildflowers

July 6; 9 A.M.–noon Grow Your Own Plants—Cutting, Dividing, Layering

Limit of 15 adults. Fee \$150

For Preschool (Ages 2-5)

Children:

“Little Adventures” (Andrea Sauro and Alyssa Bucci)

Explore forests, fields, and wetlands through games, crafts, and stories.

Spring: May 13, 20, 27, June 3, 10
10 A.M.–11 A.M. (2–3 years)
1 P.M.–2 P.M. (4–5 years)
Fee \$110

Summer: July 8, 15, 22, 29
10 A.M.–11 A.M. (2–3 years)
1 P.M.–2 P.M. (4–5 years)
Fee \$85

For Families:

“Organic Vegetable Gardening” (Cathy Clare)
Get your hands dirty growing fresh, delicious veggies while learning about garden design, starting seeds, companion planting and more. Harvesting produce for your home table is included.

Fridays or Saturdays, 9:30 A.M.–11:30 A.M.
March–October. Start date TBA
Fee \$250 for entire growing season

For Elementary School

Children & Senior Adults:

“Intergenerational Gardening” (Becky Simkhai)
Young and young at heart work together to grow vegetables and learn about insects, bees, and birds.

July 6, 13, 20, 27 or July 8, 15, 22, 29
9 A.M.–noon

Limit of 10 children, 10 seniors
Fee Children \$120, Adult mentors no charge

For Adults:

“Basic Birding” (Tait Johansson)
Learn the basics of bird identification, optics, habitat, song, and behavior.

April 2, 23, 30; classes 9 A.M.–11 A.M.
April 9, May 7, 28; field trips 7:30 A.M.–noon
Limit of 10 adults. Fee \$175

For Teens:

“Teen Birding” (Tait Johansson & Arthur Green)
Explore the fascinating world of birds: banding, identification, raptors, research, and more.
June 28, 29, 30, July 1, 2; 10 A.M.–noon
Limit of 8. Fee \$100



Our Instructors:

Cathy Clare is a Master Gardener who managed our vegetable garden in 2009. Since 1999 she has worked at Katonah Elementary School overseeing the Edible Garden Program.

Andrea Sauro is an Environmental Educator. She has been teaching families with young children at various preserves in northern Westchester for fifteen years.

Bonnie Barrett is a Certified Nursery and Landscape Professional (CNLP).

Becky Simkhai taught our Intergenerational Camp in 2009 with our partner InterGenerate, www.intergenerateny.org.

Tait Johansson is BAS's Resident Naturalist and leads many of our field trips.

Arthur Green is BAS's Hawk Counter and a member of the BAS Board of Directors.

Alyssa Bucci is a junior at the University of Vermont in the Environmental Studies program and interned at BAS in 2009.

Weather or Not, Here I Come!

By Arthur W. Green

When you first step outside each day, take a moment to consider for yourself how today's weather compares to yesterday's. Climate change ranks among the world's foremost environmental concerns, yet it is striking that most people do not consciously consider this aspect of their daily experience. While our society dismissively talks of having one's "head in the clouds," I believe it is more important than ever before to develop an appreciation of the air and skies that sustain the existence of nearly every creature on this planet. Remaining completely numb to the changing atmosphere around you eliminates any possibility of readily defining it in the first place. And even after decades of debate, the subject of climate change is more cloaked than ever in heated emotions, concerns of legal culpability, and inaccessible scientific jargon. No surprise, really, that we've lost the primal appreciation of the sky that most of us had as children.

But we will never succeed in protecting what we don't consciously acknowledge and appreciate. As a society, I suspect we've developed a tendency to lazily group our daily weather experience into "good" or "bad" days that often segue unexceptionally from one to the next. We allow the TV weather

forecaster the true privilege of deciding our expectations for what kind of day it will be. While talk of high and low pressure systems, jet streams, and temperature inversions probably won't capture dinner discussion in your household, there is no reason each of us can't let our thoughts wander (and wonder) from time to time high into the atmosphere of this planet, finding empathy and immortality among the clouds. Truly the atmosphere is sensual, evolving, and often completely captivating to watch, even though we may pretend to be too busy to take notice!

I'd like to see a growing legion of conservationists who are as captivated by the atmosphere as some people are by birds or mammals. No matter where they started out, most naturalists seem to eventually grow into generalists. As a birdwatcher, I find myself losing all sense of where the biology of a bird ends and where the dynamics of the surrounding atmosphere begins. Perhaps they are not so divisible at all: the atmosphere that surrounds us and gives us form is as inextricable to our bodies as any of its vital organs. And yet it is a simple matter of movement of small vortices of air that gives the wings air lift. Knowing this, shouldn't we move ever skyward?

The author was Hawk Counter at Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch in 2009 and serves on Bedford Audubon's Board of Directors.



Trip Highlights: Great Hudson River Excursion



Bundled for cold weather, thirty BAS members and friends, led by Peter Becker and Walter Fowler, were treated to soaring and perching Bald Eagles at various locales along the Hudson River on BAS's Great Excursion on February 6.

Their last stop was Croton Dam, where BAS Board Members, in cooperation with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, manned a hospitality tent as part of our Chapter's participation in the annual EagleFest. More than 200 people stopped in for hot chocolate, cookies, and an abundance of Bald Eagle sightings.



Hammonasset Beach State Park



On November 8, 2009, a group of BAS stalwarts braved the elements with temperatures starting out in the high 40s and going into the high 50s and even low 60s. Much better weather than the heavy rains on the originally scheduled date for the BAS trip to Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison, CT. Fourteen BAS members and friends were fortunate to have Jerry Connolly of the Audubon Shop in Madison join the group for a while and scout for us.

Highlights of the trip were a beautiful Western Kingbird in the sun giving great views through the scope, an American Bittern posing out in the open, and a parking lot full of Horned Larks, all in the first half hour! Other good finds included a Belted Kingfisher, male and female Common Eiders (unusual for this area), Snow Bunting, and another American Bittern (or two). A few who stayed a little longer were able to find a Lapland Longspur. Even without the birds, it was a great day to be outdoors enjoying good company and fantastic weather.



Marshlands Sanctuary



A dozen birders, novice and experienced, were thrilled with fine views of a pair of Great Horned Owls at Marshlands Sanctuary in Rye, NY on December 2. BAS naturalist and trip leader Tait Johansson snapped an image of our unruffled friend. Among the other highlights of 49 species spotted that day was the sight of several hundred Greater and Lesser Scaup, settled in to feed and rest in the waters at Playland's Edith Read Sanctuary.



Volunteer Spotlight—Patricia O'Donnell

The Bedford Audubon Society Newsletter is published four times a year. It is mailed to almost 1,800 people and distributed at events and lectures. Hence it is one of the most visible faces of the organization. A lot of work goes into producing the newsletter, from people writing the articles, taking photographs, to planning the programs and field trips. The crucial work of assembling all these pieces and laying out the newsletter in an attractive format ready to go to the printer is in the capable hands of the Newsletter Editor and of Patricia O'Donnell, who is the Volunteer in the Spotlight of this Spring 2010 issue.



Patricia (Tricia to most of us) grew up in Bronxville, but has lived in Katonah for the last 41 years. She retired from the Reader's Digest in 2004 after 35 years. Most of her work was spent in the information technology group, and through that division she started several years of international travel installing and supporting accounting and operating systems.

Tricia enjoys watching the birds at her bird feeder or soaring in the skies above her Katonah home, but she has never considered herself a "bird watcher." She has been a member of Bedford Audubon for many years, about 35, but was not really involved with the organization until after her retirement in 2004, when, during the bird seed pickup, she learned from then Vice President Tony Ianniello that BAS was looking for someone to take over the production of the newsletter; the rest, as they say, is history.

Tricia loves traveling, and over the years she has taken many unique pleasure trips to such places as Fiji, New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Africa, China, Great Barrier Reef, the Arctic Circle, and Antarctica. Reading is another passion of hers, and being the computer-savvy person she is, nowadays her Kindle is never far from her side.

During the summer months, she gardens and is developing a green thumb. Recently Tricia has returned to knitting and crocheting, knitting hats for the soldiers overseas and crocheting afghans for family and friends.

Her minor in college was archaeology (her major was math) and since she graduated she has been involved in a group called MALFA (Material Archives and Laboratory for Archaeology) working out of Croton Point Park. She is currently their treasurer. She also creates the Pound Ridge Theatre's program for their productions.

Tricia, we are truly grateful for all the work you do for Bedford Audubon.



The Marty McGuire Scholarship*

The Bedford Audubon Society is pleased to announce the availability of scholarship funds to students in the school districts served by the organization. The funds may be used to either promote student study or to underwrite part of a student project that will enhance student awareness and commitment to field-oriented environmental studies. The scholarship funds of up to \$1,000.00 may be used for course registration, materials or other project-related expenses.

Eligibility requirements and an application can be found on the web at www.tinyurl.com/bas-scholar. Students must submit the application no later than April 15, 2010. Applicants will be notified by May 1 of the success of their application.

*This scholarship is named after Marty McGuire of Putnam County, NY, who died in a car accident in August of 2007. He was an active and enthusiastic young birder and naturalist filled with a love of nature.



President's Letter

I am pleased to say that after spending much time and money on improving the infrastructure of the buildings and surroundings at our Bylane Farm headquarters over the past several years, we can now concentrate on new programs and events for the quickly approaching spring season.

Jim Nordgren, our Executive Director, has put together a new agenda that involves our Native Plants Garden, the Vegetable Garden, educational birding classes, and outreach events. Those as well as our regular programs and field trips are described elsewhere in this Newsletter. And, please do not forget to check our website for additional events and notices that come up after we go to print.

Several volunteer interns worked with us over the past six months. We thank them all for their gracious time and efforts on behalf of Bedford Audubon. Alyssa Bucci, a University of Vermont student majoring in Environmental Studies came to us between terms, and we put her to work in the office helping with data entry, science, and nature work, and she even assisted with our Eagle Monitoring Program along the Hudson. She has made an invaluable contribution. We look forward to welcoming you back in the summer, Alyssa.

The recent financial climate has affected everyone in some way or another. We are grateful to all who responded to our Year End Appeal. These donations enable us to keep our standard programs free and to fund the annual Marty McGuire Scholarship. If you would like to support this scholarship or some other program with a donation, please include a note indicating which program you would like your donation to support.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help us on our committees. Several positions on our Board of Directors are opening in July. Please contact me directly if you would like to serve. I am currently in my third year as President of the Board, after also serving three years as Vice President, and because of term limits as required by our Bylaws, I must leave the board for at least a year. These term limits serve the purpose of cultivating fresh minds, and giving others a rest.

In this my next-to-last President's Letter, I want to extend a special Thank You to our board of directors. As you know, all are volunteers who dedicate countless hours to the organization. We run a "corporation" and make the same decisions as executives do in their day-to-day work—without remuneration or bonuses. We are here because we believe in the mission of Bedford Audubon and the work being done. Each board member contributes in a different way to the overall goal, according to his or her expertise and interest, and together with our staff and faithful crew of volunteers we have accomplished so much. We have a very smooth operation going, and I know that Bedford Audubon will continue to thrive going forward! Thank you for being there!

Tony Ianniello



PROGRAMS

*All programs are free and open to the general public.
The monthly lectures are held at the wheelchair accessible
Katonah Memorial House, 71 Bedford Road, Katonah.
Please do not block the Fire Department access.
Park alongside the meeting house side of the driveway.*

Birding Planet Earth: The Passion and Adventures of Phoebe Snetsinger With Olivia Gentile **Wednesday, April 14, 7:30 P.M.**

The Bedford Audubon Society is pleased to present Olivia Gentile, author of *Life List: A Woman's Quest for the World's Most Amazing Birds*, a biography of one of the world's most storied birders, published in 2009. In her lecture, Ms. Gentile will discuss how Phoebe Snetsinger went from being a sheltered and frustrated suburban housewife to an intrepid, globe-trotting adventuress. After being told she was dying of



Harpy Eagle, illustration by Rebecca Layton from *Life List*

cancer at age 49 and had less than a year to live, Phoebe hit the road, determined to see as many bird species as possible. But against all odds, she didn't succumb; instead, she spent the next two decades taking hundreds of trips to the most rugged corners of the earth, amassing a breadth of ornithological knowledge to rival any professional's. When she died in 1999 at the age of 69, she had seen more bird species (8,674) than anyone in history.

The book is about birdwatching, it's about passion, but, says Olivia Gentile, it's also about "what happens when society pushes you into a role you aren't meant to play. If you're told you only have a short time to live, how should you spend it? Where is the line between dedication and obsession, and when does obsession cross the line into pathology? What does it mean, ultimately, to live, and die, well?"

Olivia Gentile grew up in Washington D.C. and graduated from Harvard University in 1996. She earned an M.F.A. in nonfiction writing from Columbia University in 2003. She was a reporter for the *Hartford Courant* and the *Rutland Herald* and has also written for *Scientific American*, *Sierra*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and other publications. She was a fellow at the prestigious MacDowell Colony in 2006. In connection with her research for the book she did a lot of birdwatching, in New York and in some of the places that were important to Phoebe Snetsinger, including Kenya and Peru, two countries in the tropics that are particularly rich in birds. Ms. Gentile resides in New York City. *Life List* will be available for sale at the lecture thanks to Wild Birds Unlimited of Bedford Hills; it can be autographed by the author.



Photo by Deborah Copaken-Kogan

BAS Annual Meeting & Election of Directors Followed by Lecture: Exotic Earthworms in Our Forests: The Hidden Invasion Underground With Peter Groffman, Ph.D.

Wednesday, May 19, 7:30 P.M.—*Note: This month the meeting will be held on the third Wednesday of the month, rather than the usual second Wednesday.*

The BAS annual meeting and election of BAS Directors will be held prior to this evening's lecture. A list of candidates will be posted on our website prior to the meeting.



While most people have heard about invasive animal species (Asian Longhorned Beetle, Zebra Mussel, Northern Snakehead, and others) and invasive plants (Purple Loosestrife, Japanese Barberry, and Mile-A-Minute Weed) few laymen are aware that a similar biological invasion is taking place in the soil beneath us. Dr. Groffman's lecture will reveal that for-

eign earthworm species are currently invading North American forests over a wide geographic area and are causing marked changes in the soil environment. These changes affect multiple forest “ecosystem services” ranging from the production of wood to the maintenance of water and air quality and the conservation of biodiversity. Addressing the challenge of earthworm invasions is complicated by the fact that many people “know” that “earthworms are good.”

Peter M. Groffman is a Senior Scientist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, NY, with research interests in ecosystem, soil, landscape and microbial ecology. He is a member of numerous scientific organizations such as the U.S. National Committee for Soil Science, the National Science Foundation Long-Term Ecological Research Network Executive Committee, and the OECD Programme on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. He was also a lead author for the Second (Wetlands) and Third (North America) Assessment Reports of the Intergovernmental Program on Climate Change (IPCC). He currently serves on the editorial boards of Ecology and Ecosystems.

Manakins and Their Amazing Audible Courtship Displays With Kimberly S. Bostwick, Ph.D.

Wednesday, June 9, 7:30 P.M.



Club-winged Manakin

Dr. Bostwick will introduce the audience to some incredible mating rituals performed by manakins, a family of small bird species of subtropical and tropical Central and South America. One species in particular, the Club-winged Manakin, which inhabits the west-

ern slopes of the Andes in Colombia and Ecuador, “violins” its wings in order to make sound, which requires both a special instrument (its feathers), and special “skills,” in this case extremely rapid wing motions (faster than the wings of hummingbirds or other manakins or the vibration of a rattlesnake’s tail), and unusual wing postures. Dr. Bostwick has captured sound-producing displays of numerous different species of manakin with high-speed video. These video recordings show that different evolutionary groups, or clades, of manakins produce sound differently and that even within a given species a male can use multiple mechanisms to produce wing-sounds.

Dr. Kim Bostwick is the Curator of Birds & Mammals at Cornell University. Her main interest is in understanding the evolutionary processes underlying macroevolutionary patterns, especially as they relate to sexually selected characteristics of organisms. Her dissertation research focused on both the morphological and behavioral aspects of a unique, sexually selected character found in the manakins. The high-speed videos can be accessed on the web



at <http://www.cumv.cornell.edu/staff/bostwick.html>.



FIELD TRIPS

Unless otherwise indicated, please register with Joan E. Becker: jebecker@bedfordaudubon.org or 914-232-4806.

Many trips meet at or leave by carpool from Bylane Farm, 35 Todd Road, Katonah. (From Route 35, take Route 22 north. Go ½ mile and turn right on to Todd Road. Follow to #35.)

Note: Each trip is given one of three levels of difficulty: Easy (E), Moderate (M), or Strenuous (S). Please discuss your level of mobility with the registrar to ensure that the field trip is appropriate for you.

Visit to the Bronx Zoo With BAS Bird Enthusiasts Joan and Peter Becker

Thursday, March 18, 10:00 A.M.–3:30 P.M. Carpool from Bylane Farm at 9:00 A.M.; return by 4:30 P.M.

Experience one of the Tri-state area’s premier attractions! Come eyeball-to-eyeball with Laughing Kookaburras, Pink-cheeked Cockatoos, Andean Condors, Tufted Puffins, and many more species. Admission fee applies. Bring lunch or buy at the Zoo. (E-M)

Field Trip to the Vernal Pools at Mt. Lakes Park, North Salem With Paul Lewis

Saturday, March 27, 1:00 P.M.–3:00 P.M. Meet at the Mt. Lakes parking area off Hawley Road or carpool from Bylane at 12:30 P.M. Under the competent leadership of long-term BAS member Paul Lewis, we will visit the hidden treasures deep in the forest and learn about the vital importance of these seasonal wetlands as spawning areas for salamanders and other amphibians. Wear sturdy (rain) boots. This program is suitable for children aged 10 and above. (M-S)

Field Trip to Jones Beach With Joan and Richard Becker

Saturday, April 3. Leave Bylane by 7:30 A.M. to meet at the Jones Beach Marina/Coast Guard Station at 8:30 A.M. Return at about 4:30 P.M. This is a favorite field trip with a popular and knowledgeable couple. The shoreline will likely reveal many northern species of ducks, sandpipers, and late wintering sparrows. We should also see some early migrants. Time permitting, we may stop and look for owls at Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx. Bring a morning snack plus lunch. (E-M)

Trip to the Peabody Museum of Natural History Followed by Birding at Milford Point, CT With BAS’s Nannette Orr and Tait Johansson

Tuesday, April 6. Carpool from Bylane at 8:30 A.M. Return at about 4:30 P.M. The Yale Peabody Museum’s Division of Vertebrate Zoology has one of the most comprehensive bird collections in North America. Join us as we explore this world-class museum. Admission fee applies. Later we will drive to Connecticut Audubon’s Milford Point, where the Salt Marsh and Wildlife Management Area at the mouth of the Housatonic River offers outstanding birding opportunities. Bring lunch. This trip is limited to 12 people. (E)

Excursion to Edwin B. Forsythe (Brigantine) NWR, Oceanville, NJ With Tait Johansson

Sunday, Apr. 11. 8:30 A.M.–5:00 P.M. Carpool from Bylane Farm at 6:00 A.M. Return to Bylane at 7:30 P.M.

One of the premier year-round birding locations on the Eastern Seaboard, Brigantine is a migratory stopover for thousands of ducks and shorebirds in spring. The 9-mile drive through the Refuge provides views of the open ocean and saltmarshes as well as access to woodland habitat. Bald Eagles and nesting Peregrine Falcons are frequent sights as well. (E-M)

The Third Annual “Walk for Drew” Nature Hike at Franklin-Fels Sanctuary, North Salem With BAS Naturalist Tait Johansson

Saturday, April 17, 9:30 A.M.–11:30 A.M. Carpool from Bylane Farm at 9:15 A.M. or meet at Franklin Fels entrance on Lakeview Road at 9:30 A.M. This walk is in memory of “Drew” Reynolds, who died suddenly on February 7, 2008. Drew, a long-time friend, member, and supporter of BAS, surveyed and marked the trail system in the Franklin-Fels Sanctuary. Bring binoculars. Note: Register by calling Bylane at 914-232-1999. (E-M)

Pre-Earth Day Nature Walk at Bylane With Tait Johansson Followed by an Optics Show**Sunday, April 18, 8:30 A.M. –12 NOON**

Come celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day with a leisurely one-hour walk through the meadows and woods of Bylane. Afterwards, join Jerry Connolly, owner of the Audubon Shop, Madison, CT, who will display an assortment of binoculars, scopes, accessories, and books at the house. Products will be available for sale, so please be prepared with cash, checks, or credit cards if you want to make a purchase. Refreshments will be served. No registration required. (E-M)

Early Spring Wildflower Walk at Saxon Woods Park, White Plains With Botanist Carol Gracie**Tuesday, April 20, 10:00 A.M.–3:30 P.M.** Carpool from Bylane.

Although it has a mini-golf course and swimming pool, this county park near White Plains still harbors many spring ephemeral wildflowers in its forested areas. We will walk a 2.5-mile loop in the southern half of the park looking for Dutchman's breeches, bloodroot, trout-lily, and other early bloomers. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable boots or walking shoes, and bring a picnic lunch and water. The trip is restricted to 10 people. Note: Please register for this trip by e-mail with Carol Gracie at cgracie@bedfordaudubon.org. (E-M)

Early-Morning Spring Bird Walks With Tait Johansson**Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 A.M.–9:30 A.M.****PLEASE NOTE THESE WALKS ORIGINATE FROM DIFFERENT LOCATIONS ON DIFFERENT DAYS.**Starting at Bylane: **April 29, May 13, and May 20**Starting at Maple Avenue, Katonah (intersection with Reservoir Road, off Route 22): **April 27, May 4, and May 18**Starting at the North County Trailway parking lot, Route 118/129, Yorktown: **May 6**

Rain will cancel the walks. (E)

Field Trip to Marshlands Conservancy and Rye Nature Center With BAS Naturalist Tait Johansson

Saturday, May 1, 7:45 A.M.–2:00 P.M. Carpool from Bylane Farm at 7:00 A.M. Join us on a trip to some of BAS's favorite "haunts." Both preserves are good birding spots in migration; we should expect to see a variety of songbirds, shorebirds, and more. Bring lunch. Note: Register by calling Bylane at 914-232-1999. (E-M)

Spring Wildflower Hike at American Legion State Forest, Pleasant Valley, CT With Botanist Carol Gracie**Tuesday, May 4, 8:00 A.M.–5:30 P.M.** Carpool from Bylane at 8:00 A.M.

The profusion of wildflowers at this Connecticut State Forest site never fails to delight, with a sequence of changing species in bloom throughout the season. In addition to squirrel corn, wild ginger, and blue cohosh, we'll hope to see more than one species of trillium. Wear comfortable boots and bring lunch and water. A walking stick may be useful as parts of the trails are rocky and steep. Sign up early as the trip is restricted to 10 people. Note: Please register for this trip by e-mail to Carol Gracie at cgracie@bedfordaudubon.org (M-S)

Field Trip to Sandy Hook, NJ With Tait Johansson

Saturday, May 8, 8:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M. Carpool from Bylane at 6:00 A.M.; return to Bylane at about 4:00 P.M. Sandy Hook is an excellent birding spot in May, primarily for migrating songbirds, but just about anything is possible at this time of year. Bring lunch and a snack. (E-M)

Bird Walk in Central Park, New York City With BAS's Peter Becker and Tait Johansson**Tuesday, May 11, 8:00 A.M.–3:30 P.M.**

Meet at the entrance (northeast corner) at 72nd St. and Central Park West at 8:00 A.M. or carpool from Bylane at 6:45 A.M. More than 200 species of birds pass through this amazing metropolitan oasis on their migratory routes each spring and fall, and we hope to find a substantial number of them. Bring lunch or buy it at the Boathouse Cafe. (E)

Field Trip to Montgomery Pinetum Park, Cos Cob, CT With Carol Levine

Wednesday, May 12 10:00 A.M.–12 NOON. Meet at the main parking lot inside the Montgomery Pinetum Park at 10:00 A.M. or carpool from Bylane Farm at 9:15 A.M.

Noted wildflower expert and author Carol Levine will lead the group through the park. Almost 100 varieties of conifers planted by Colonel Robert Montgomery are spread through this 62 acre park. The Pinetum also has hiking trails, a garden center, and a library. Unusual specimen plantings and wildflowers are the highlights of this attractive park. (E)

BAS Annual Birdathon**Saturday, May 22, 5:00 P.M.–Sunday, May 23, 5:00 P.M.**

Please support Bedford Audubon's annual Birdathon efforts. Count as many different bird species as possible while raising funds for Bedford Audubon's Scholarship Fund, science and education projects. Visit our website www.bedfordaudubon.org for more details, a printable sponsor form, and a list of participants you can sponsor.

Field Trip to Doodletown, Rockland County With Tait Johansson

Tuesday, May 25, 7:30 A.M.–11:30 A.M. Carpool from Bylane Farm at 6:45 A.M. Doodletown Road is part of the Bear Mountain State Park and is known as one of the best places in our area to find Hooded and Cerulean Warblers as well as many other songbirds. Enjoy the walk up the rugged trail past the ruins of a "lost civilization." (M-S)

Nature Hike at the Henry Morgenthau Preserve, Route 172, Pound Ridge With Tait Johansson

Thursday, May 27, 7:30 A.M.–9:30 A.M. Meet at the entrance to the preserve or carpool from Bylane at 7:00 A.M. Please join us for a stroll through the latest addition to Bedford Audubon's sanctuaries. This attractive 36-acre preserve on the shore of Blue Heron Lake is home to a variety of birds, shrubs, impressive century-old trees, and special wildflowers. (E)

Putnam County Field Trip: A Walk Along The Ice Pond With Tait Johansson and a Visit to Brewster's Historic Diehl House

Thursday, June 3, 8:00 A.M.–12:30 P.M. Carpool from Bylane, 7:15 A.M. Join naturalist Tait Johansson on a nature walk along trails through Patterson's Clough Preserve and then along abandoned railroad tracks that abut Ice Pond and an adjacent shrub swamp. Then we will enjoy light refreshments and a tour of the historic late 1770s Colonial Revival Diehl House, until her death in 1956, home of noted bookbinder, author, and educator Edith Diehl. We thank Ms. Diehl's grandniece, a BAS member, for this hospitality. (M)

Babes in the Woods at Westmoreland Sanctuary, Chestnut Ridge Road, Bedford Corners**Saturday, June 5, 3:00 P.M.**

It is the time of the year when the forest is alive with young animals, birds, and plants. Participants will enjoy a hike with Westmoreland Sanctuary Director Steve Ricker as he shows us places where the young ones are hiding. All ages welcome. FREE. Please register by calling 914-666-8448. (E)

Field Trip to the Bashakill Marsh and the Shawangunk Grassland National Wildlife Refuge, Sullivan and Ulster Counties With Tait Johansson

Sunday, June 6, 7:30 A.M. Carpool from Bylane at 6:00 A.M., returning around 4:30 P.M.

Come join us on our first trip to the Bashakill Marsh. The area supports breeding wetland-dependent species (such as Virginia Rail, Sora, and Common Moorhen), American Bittern, Least Bittern, both cuckoos, and a large array of songbird species including Acadian Flycatcher. The nearby Shawangunk Grassland NWR (formerly the Galeville airport) area supports breeding Bobolink, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Upland Sandpiper. (M)



Bedford Audubon Membership

Yes, I would like to join the Bedford Audubon Society. My local chapter membership will help support local conservation efforts, programs, and sanctuaries. (Send this form with a check made out to **Bedford Audubon Society** or **fill in the MasterCard/VISA credit card information** below.)

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Enter your e-mail address here and we add you to our e-mail list for alerts on programs, field trips, and other items of local interest.

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Membership Matters

Watch your mailbox for your 2010 BAS Membership Card and your Bedford Audubon Society Decal, symbols of the pride you can take in being part of our area's most effective environmental organization.

We are also asking you to show your support for our incredible array of local programs — conservation and education projects that exemplify the goals we all believe in — by making a tax-deductible Member's gift. Whether your gift is a renewed membership, a first-time enrollment, or pledge of additional support, we hope you will respond as soon as possible.

Thank you!
Jim Nordgren, Executive Director

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