

Northern New York Audubon

Serving the Adirondack, Champlain, St. Lawrence Region of New York State

Mission: To conserve and restore natural ecosystems in the Adirondacks, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the Earth's biological diversity.

Volume 40 Number 2

June-August 2012



Joseph and Joan Cullman Conservation Foundation Annual Lecture Saturday, June 2nd, 7:00 p.m. Richard Crossley The Crossley ID Guide

This year's Joseph and Joan Cullman Conservation Foundations Annual Lecture presents Richard Crossley, whose birding field guide, published last year, stunned the birding world with its wildly ambitious collection of illustrations. Crossley took more than 10,000 photographs for the book, which he and a Photoshop wizard

transformed into an incredible series of phantasmagorical photo montages.

The plates depict each species of bird in various plumages and at different ages in the habitats where they occur and one will most likely observe them.

Mr. Crossley counts among his ornithological achievements hitchhiking more than 100,000 miles across his native Britain and Europe, mostly while still in college, to see birds, and he thinks of his guide and his approach to field identification as "reality birding."

"I'd like people to see the way I do. This includes a combination of features that I call 'the basics' (size, shape, behavior, probability and color patterns) that add up to create one image. This is the same way we see people! Using arrows takes

away from the clear 'big picture' and stops the viewer looking at the scene as a whole. In my book, I feel it is the smaller images in the background that are the most educational and don't want to take away from this. The text gives direction, but without losing the depth in the scenes.

"Size and shape are the least variable factors in ID. As with people, behavior and probability are large, often underestimated factors. Color is the most changeable characteristic. Birds have multiple plumages with large variation within each plumage. Factor in aberrant birds, light conditions and you are left with a big headache."
—JT



1	GABC Annual Cullman Lecture
2	Annual Outing/Meeting— Huntington Wildlife Forest
2	President's Message— Audubon New York's <i>Birds Mean Business</i> initiative
3	Sucker Brook Trail— Newcomb, Field Trip Sage Trail to Santanoni Preserve—Newcomb, Field Trip
3	Lake Everest Canoe/Kayak— Wilmington, Field Trip Roosevelt Truck Trail, Newcomb
3	Annual Loon Census Nominating Committee
4	Great Adirondack Birding Celebration
4	GABC Schedule of Events Registration Information
5	GABC Field Trip Descriptions
6	8th Annual Hamilton County Birding Festival
6	Hamilton County Field Trip Descriptions
7	Hamilton County Birding Festival Registration Information
7	W.W. Durante Cruise for Birding Celebration—Reservation Information
8	Editor's Note



NNYA

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Northern New York Audubon, Inc.

A chapter of National Audubon Society serving the Adirondack, Champlain and St. Lawrence regions of northern New York, including Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton and St. Lawrence counties.

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Vol. 40 No. 2

Annual Outing/Meeting Saturday, July 28th, 2012, 9:00 a.m. Huntington Wildlife Forest Newcomb, NY

Spend a day with NNYA friends and their families while paddling on Fishing Brook on the Huntington Wildlife Forest in Newcomb. We will meet at 9:00 am at the Adirondack Interpretive Center in Newcomb, New York. From there we will caravan to the brook access point on Huntington Wildlife Forest. The brook is flat water and an easy paddle going from HWF into the recently acquired conservation easement to the west. Depending on how busy the beavers have been there may be a spot where we need to exit the boats to navigate around a beaver dam. The brook meanders through forest and marsh with some interesting back bays to explore and we will reach the turn around point about 1.5 miles upstream. Herons, bitterns, blackbirds, warblers, sparrows and waterfowl will make up our avian encounters. Those with a NYS fishing license are welcome to paddle, bird and fish - an Adirondack Trifecta. We will paddle and bird until about noon and then head over to the picnic area at the AIC and hold a brief meeting that will include a synopsis of our accomplishments over the year. There will be canoes and kayaks available for those that do not have access to one. Just let Charlotte know ahead of time so she can have them available at the access point.

Bring: lunch, snacks, beverages, binoculars and (hopefully) sunscreen

Register: Call Charlotte Demers at (518) 582-2157

Directions:

From the north and east of Newcomb—Take I-87/The Northway to Exit 29, North Hudson; Turn left off the exit ramp and follow Blue Ridge Road (Essex County Route 84) approximately 18 miles to Junction with 28N; Follow 28N 6 miles through Newcomb and turn right into Adirondack Interpretive Center (across from stone-walled cemetery).

From north and west of Newcomb—Take Route 30 south through Tupper and Long Lake; at the junction of Routes 28 and 28N (Hoss' Store on left, Stewarts across on left) turn left on 28N to Newcomb (about 13 miles) and turn left into Adirondack Interpretive Center (across from stone-walled cemetery).

President's Message

Congratulations to the successful grant recipients of NNYA and Joseph and Joan Cullman Conservation grants. While all the applications had merit, I am sure you will agree when you see the selections that the board did an excellent job in choosing some worthwhile projects. Thanks to everyone who applied and we hope that NNYA is able to continue to fund these conservation and education projects in our region.

I would like to share with you some information taken from Audubon New York's (ANY) recent press release. ANY is launching a campaign to highlight the economic potential of bird watching to businesses and local governments. According to the Fish and Wildlife Service, an estimated 3.8 million bird watchers in the state generate \$1.6 billion in ecotourism revenue annually. The new "Birds Mean Business" initiative is designed to show businesses and municipalities that bird watchers are spending money locally, and to spur new strategies and promotional assistance for state and local governments to capitalize upon this growing revenue stream. The campaign features calling cards, the purpose of which is twofold; 1) Highlight the economic impact of ecotourism locally by showing how many people travel throughout the state to watch birds and 2) Inspire businesses, local governments, chambers of commerce and tourism promotion agencies to develop strategies to market themselves as destinations for bird watchers. The idea is that birders will leave behind these calling cards with local businesses, municipal officials, etc. in places they visit to watch birds in the coming year. The entire press release, with photos of the cards and info on how to get some, is available on the ANY web site at <http://ny.audubon.org/newsroom/news-stories/2012/birds-mean-business>.

—Charlotte Demers

Saturday, June 2nd, 2012, 7:00 a.m.
Sucker Brook Trail
Newcomb

This 1.0-mile mostly flat trail runs along the outlet to Rich Lake providing opportunities to glimpse mink and otter in the open water. The surrounding hardwood forest is a great place to spot pileated woodpeckers. There are some open areas including an abandoned beaver pond that is a great spot for kingbirds and flycatchers.

Time: 7:00 a.m.

Meet: At the Adirondack Interpretive Center, 5922 State Route 28N, Newcomb, NY

Leader: Jennifer Yantachka

Registration: Call the AIC at (518) 582-2000

Bring: Appropriate layers of apparel, sturdy footwear, water and insect repellent.

Saturday, July 7th, 2012, 9:00 a.m.
Sage Trail to Santanoni Preserve
Newcomb

Easy to moderate hike from the AIC to the 12,500 acre Santanoni Preserve. An additional hike up the Santanoni Road will bring us to some old buildings at the farm including a beautiful creamery and some great old fields and orchards that we can bird and explore. We will hike out to the Santanoni parking lot where vehicles will be available to bring us back to the AIC. Plan on 3-4 hours with 4 miles of hiking.

Time: 9 a.m.

Meet: At the Adirondack Interpretive Center, 5922 State Route 28N Newcomb, NY

Leader: Charlotte Demers

Registration: Email to cdemers@frontiernet.net or call the AIC at (518) 582-2000

Bring: Appropriate layers of apparel, sturdy footwear, water and insect repellent.

Hermit Thrush



Saturday, August 4th, 2012, 9:00 a.m.
Roosevelt Truck Trail
Newcomb

Description: This is a lovely grass and moss covered road that connects Blue Ridge Road and 28N. The trail has some brook crossings, passes through a spruce plantation, white pine forest and some young hardwoods as it goes up and down between ridges. Boreal species have been seen in the conifer sites along the trail. The trail is hilly but easy and maybe damp so appropriate footwear is recommended. Plan on 3 hours of easy to moderate hiking.

Time: 9:00 am

Meet: At the Adirondack Interpretive Center, 5922 State Rt. 28N Newcomb, NY

Registration: Email to cdemers@frontiernet.net or call the AIC at (518) 582-2000

Leader: Charlotte Demers

Bring: Appropriate layers of apparel, sturdy footwear, water and insect repellent

Lake Everest Canoe/Kayak
Wilmington, July 13th, 2012

Lake Everest is the dammed up part of the W. Branch of the Ausable River in Wilmington. If one puts in at the town beach and paddles upstream the water remains deep enough to paddle through some very birdy territory before becoming white water. The songs of veeries sometimes fill the air of an evening, we paddle beneath an osprey nest and usually see eastern kingbirds feeding young. The current is quite gentle, which makes for a relaxing paddle.

Leaders: Pat & JohnThaxton

Meet: Lake Everest Beach (left side)

When: Friday, July 13th, 5 p.m.

Bring: Canoe/Kayak and paddles, PFDs, clothing for the weather and binoculars.

Contact: Pat & John @576-4232 or jpthax5317@gmail.com.

Recruit a young person to participate in
the Annual Loon Census on Saturday,
July 21st from 8-9a.m.

Help the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) look for loons, and bring a young person with you to share in the experience! This year Northern New York Audubon is partnering with WCS to engage more young people in this field conservation opportunity. This year's Annual Loon Census is on Saturday, July 21st, from 8-9a.m. To sign up or learn more, please email adkloon@wcs.org or call [518-891-8872](tel:518-891-8872). For full details about the Annual Loon Census, visit www.wcsadirondacks.org.

Nominating Committee

For Board of Directors: Alan Belford

Members can vote for officers on June 2nd at the VIC.

The 10th Annual Great Adirondack Birding Celebration

June 1-3, 2012

at the Paul Smith's College VIC,
Paul Smiths, New York

Sponsored by:

Adirondack Park Institute
Northern New York Audubon
Paul Smiths College
Adirondack Birding Center at Paul
Smith's College VIC
Wild Birds Unlimited
White Pine Camp
Bookman Design
Mac's Canoe Livery

Schedule of Events

Friday, June 1

9am-5pm: Check In/Registration/Materials(VIC Front Desk)
(Benefit Raffle items on display all day(VIC Lobby).

9am-5pm: Bird Photography Essentials

John DiGiacomo & Ed Sambolin

Cost \$75 – preregistration required

Our goal during this intensive one-day workshop is to provide you with the necessary tools to improve your bird photography. Instruction will take place both in the classroom and field, and will cover a wide range of topics including:

- What makes a strong composition
- Camera settings
- The use of Fill Flash for natural looking images
- The importance of backgrounds
- Steps necessary for capturing birds in flight and bird behavior
- The basics of backyard bird photography set-ups
- Photographing from your canoe

A digital camera with some basic working knowledge of it, is required. Expect short walks over moderate terrain while carrying your gear.

9am-4pm: Birding Across the Adirondacks field trip Cost \$50(max 15 participants). Participants leave the VIC for an all-day field trip “down the mountain” to the beautiful shoreline of Lake Champlain in search of migratory birds. This new field trip will feature stops at many birding hotspots as we look at a cross-section of bird life from high elevation to low. Return to VIC at 4pm (preregistration required-bag lunch included)

Friday dinner on your own

7-8:30pm: Dessert/Coffee Reception/VIC Great Room.

Come meet other participants and talk birds!

9-10:00pm: Owl Walk at the VIC (preregistration required)

Saturday, June 2

6am-7am: Coffee, tea, bagels, juice, snacks - VIC Lobby

7am-11:30am: Field trips (preregistration required):

Bloomingdale Bog

Whiteface Mountain(additional \$ for Toll Rd)

Madawaska Pond

Intervale Lowlands

Little Clear Pond for Loons(canoes supplied)

Beginnner Birding@ the VIC

Spring Pond Bog

9am-4:30pm: Vendors at the VIC(Great Room)

11:30am-1:30pm- Catered lunch at the VIC(Sunspace Gallery)

1:30pm-4:30pm: Afternoon workshop-TBA

Saturday Dinner on your own

7pm-8pm Keynote Speaker at the VIC

Richard Crossley: Photographer/Author of Crossley ID

Guides-Eastern Birds <http://www.crossleybooks.com/>

8pm: Dessert/Coffee Reception and Benefit Drawing/VIC

Sunday, June 3

6am-7am: Coffee, tea, bagels, juice, snacks – VIC (Lobby)

7am-11:30am: Field trips....Repeat of Saturday trips (preregistration required)

Registration Information**

Registration opens May 1, 2012 Call 518-327-6241 for information

**Registration forms will be available to print and fill out for mailing on May 1, 2012

Costs:

Three(3) day registration - \$110 per person(includes: Friday owl walk, 2 field trips Sat & Sun, Sat lunch, Sat afternoon workshops, dessert receptions Fri & Sat, Saturday Keynote lecture)

Bird Photography Essentials (additional charge) - \$75

Birding Across The Adirondacks- Friday field trip (additional charge) - \$50

Saturday only registration(morning field trip, lunch, afternoon workshop, evening lecture) - \$85

Sunday only registration(morning field trip) - \$40

Saturday evening dessert/coffee reception and lecture - \$10

(Northern New York Audubon Society &

Adirondack Park Institute Members \$5)

Adirondack Park Institute membership (Optional) - \$35

(Adirondack Park Institute 2012 members receive a

10% discount on registration)

Northern New York Audubon Society members receive a

10% discount on registration

Make checks payable to: “Paul Smith's College VIC”



Great Adirondack Birding Celebration Field Trip Descriptions

Paul Smith's College Visitor Interpretive Center (VIC)

Designated an Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy, the Paul Smith's VIC property contains every habitat type found in the Adirondack Park with the exception of alpine vegetation. Included on the property is a 60-acre marsh, five ponds, several brooks and swamps, bogs, fens, and varied forest types; most notably northern boreal forest. The 14-mile trail system traverses a variety of habitats with extensive boardwalks through wetland ecosystems. Common sightings at the Paul Smith's VIC include: Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Great Blue Heron, American Bittern, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Black-backed Woodpecker. Warblers include (Yellow) Palm Warbler, Northern Parula, Blackburnian Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler and Nashville Warbler. Other sightings may include Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, and Wilson's snipe, Broad-winged Hawk, Hooded Merganser and Ring-necked Duck.

Birding Across the Adirondacks (Friday Only)

Trip Description: Participants leave the VIC for an all-day field trip "down the mountain" to the beautiful shoreline of Lake Champlain in search of migratory birds. This new field trip will feature stops at many birding hotspots as we look at a cross-section of bird life from high elevation to low. Return to VIC at 4pm. (Preregistration required, bag lunch included, \$50 fee)

Beginner Birder Workshop at the Paul Smith's College VIC

Workshop Description: You probably feed the birds in your backyard and enjoy the beauty they bring, but lately you've been asking yourself what the other birds are that visit the trees in your neighborhood during the spring and summer months. Well now's the chance to start learning those birds! Our Beginner Birder Workshop will take you step-by-step through the intricate lives of birds. Leaders will introduce field identification and song identification skills in a relaxed manner so you can fully absorb the intricacies of the lives of birds.

Bloomington Bog / Bigelow Road

Trip Description: This is great habitat for boreal species. The area encompasses a bog and cedar woods with sedge marsh and coniferous woods. Sightings may include: Boreal Chickadee, Gray Jay, Black-backed Woodpecker, Palm Warbler, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cape May Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler and Lincoln's Sparrow.

Intervale Lowlands

Trip Description: This 135 acre farm, soon to be a nature preserve, includes 8,600' of frontage on the West Branch of the Ausable River in Lake Placid. With a mixture of young boreal forest and open fields, the "farm" is home to 17 species of breeding warblers (Mourning Warbler is common and Cape May Warbler was confirmed nesting during the last atlas), 5 species of nesting woodpeckers (including Black-backed), Brown Thrasher, Indigo Bunting, Lincoln's Sparrow, Alder Flycatcher, Turkey Woodcock, Ruffed Grouse, & etc; American Bitterns nest across the street and Olive-sided Flycatcher and Rusty Blackbirds visited last June. Nest boxes/platforms were put up for Ospreys, Kestrels, Bluebirds, Flickers, Hooded and Common Mergansers, Chickadees, and

Barred and Saw-whet Owls. Bald Eagles fish the river on a weekly basis. Resident mammals include: Beaver, Coyote, Deer, and Bobcat; Moose, Bear, and Otter visit occasionally.

Little Clear Pond for Loons

Trip Description: Little Clear Pond is a haven for common loon with crystal clear water and healthy food sources for growing loon families. Dr. Nina Schoch is a wildlife veterinarian at BioDiversity Research Institute. She coordinates their Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation in New York's Adirondack Park. Dr. Schoch's research has focused on using Adirondack common loons as a sentinel species to better understand the impact of environmental contaminants on aquatic ecosystems. Schoch will lead us on a graceful, and educational paddle in search of these beautiful symbols of Adirondack wilderness. Canoes will be furnished, but you may bring your own canoe or kayak for this field trip.

Madawaska Flow

Trip Description: Madawaska has been a favored boreal birding area for a half-century or more. The area encompasses conifer forest, mixed hardwood forest, a variety of wetlands, as well as Madawaska Pond. Sightings may include: (Yellow) Palm Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Northern Parula, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Olive-sided Flycatcher. As the habitat changes to white pine forest, the Brown Creeper can be found nesting behind loose bark. Madawaska Pond may have Green-winged Teal, American Bittern and Bald Eagle.

Spring Pond Bog

Trip Description: Join researcher Angie Ross (NYSDEC) to explore one of the largest peat land complexes in New York State. Spring Pond Bog is the second largest open expanse of peat land in New York and contains a patterned peat land with ridges (strings) and wet depressions (flarks). On this field trip, participants should see/hear most of the more common lowland boreal birds (Gray Jay, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Boreal Chickadee and woodpeckers), and may see some of the less common species such as the Tennessee warbler or the spruce grouse. Trip includes bush-whacking in boggy areas and thick spruce/fir/tamarack stands. Wear sturdy boots, as it is often wet to very wet underfoot. No rain pants please (sound may startle certain species).

Whiteface Mountain

Trip Description: The trip will begin with a flat, easy walk around Lake Stevens Tree Trail at the Whiteface Mountain Memorial Highway toll house. Then participants will carpool up the toll road, stopping at pull-offs and searching for mountain birds. Sightings may include: Bicknell's Thrush, Blackpoll Warbler, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Boreal Chickadees.



Black Scoter

8th Annual Hamilton County Birding Festival Schedule of Field Trips and Events

Friday June 8, 2012

WALK: Inlet 7:00 a.m.

GUIDE: Joan Collins

LIMIT: 20 participants

EVENT LENGTH: 1.5 hours

MEET: Raquette Lake Common School Parking Lot, northeast corner of Route 28 & County Road 2 in Raquette Lake.

DIRECTIONS: From Inlet: drive 11 miles east towards Raquette Lake, school is on the left past County Road 2. From Blue Mountain Lake: Drive 13 miles west on Route 28 towards Raquette Lake. School is on the right (north) side of Route 28, before County Road 2.

WALK: Raquette Lake Rail Bed / Bog, Raquette Lake, 10:00 a.m.

GUIDE: Joan Collins

Limit: 20 participants

EVENT LENGTH: 2 Hours

MEET: Trailhead for Shallow Pond at the Browns Tract Upper Pond. The start of the walk is across the road from the trailhead, south side of Uncas Road.

DIRECTIONS: From the village of Raquette Lake, head north on County Road 2 through the village. Turn left onto Uncas Road and follow 2.9 miles to the Shallow Lake trailhead next to Upper Browns Tract Pond.

WALK: G-Lake, Morehouse (Piseco) 2:00 p.m.

GUIDES: Mary Ellen Blakey & Jamie Taft

LIMIT: 20 participants

EVENT LENGTH: 1.5 hours

MEET: Intersection of Route 8 & the road (G-Lake Road) that leads into G-Lake. See directions below.

DIRECTIONS: From the East: Follow Route 8 west approximately 5.3 miles from the intersection of Route 8/Route 10 on the western end of Piseco Lake. From there you will take an unmarked dirt road, turning to the right (North) just past the Arietta/ Morehouse Town line, marked with a sign. Follow the dirt road for 2 miles and watch for the boulders at the end of the road that mark the beginning of the trail.

WALK: Forked Lake Road, Long Lake 2:00 p.m.

GUIDES: William Labes & Jerry Roberts

LIMIT: 20

EVENT LENGTH: 3 hours

MEET: Forked Lake Campground Parking Lot. Enter the campground from North Point Road.

DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of Route 28N & 30 (Hoss's Country Corner/ Stewarts) in Long Lake, travel Route 30 south for 3 miles and make a right onto North Point Road. Drive another 3 miles to the entrance of Forked Lake Campground on the right (north) side of the road. Continue for another 2 miles in towards the campsite, and meet in the large parking lot.

Saturday June 9, 2012

HIKE: Blue Mountain, Indian Lake, 3:00 a.m.

THIS IS AN EXTREMELY STRENUOUS AND DIFFICULT

CLIMB TO THE SUMMIT OF BLUE MOUNTAIN

GUIDE: Joan Collins

LIMIT: 10 Participants

EVENT LENGTH: 5-6 Hours

BRING: FLASH LIGHT or HEAD LAMP, Breakfast/Snacks/ Coffee, Bug Repellant, (netting or bug shirt suggested), water, lunch, binoculars, raingear.

MEET: DEC Trail Head / Parking Lot for Blue Mountain on Rte 30.

DIRECTIONS: 1.5 mi. N on Rte 30, from the intersection of Rte 28 & 30 in Blue Mountain Lake. (½ mi past the Adirondack Museum)

***PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED: Call 800-648-5239 Mon-Fri, 9AM-4PM**

HIKE: Fiddler's Pond Hike, Piseco 7:00 a.m.

GUIDES: Mary Ellen Blakey & James Taft

LIMIT: 12 participants

EVENT LENGTH: 5-6 Hours

BRING: Bug Repellant, (netting or bug shirt suggested), water, snacks, binoculars, waterproof hiking attire.

MEET: Town of Arietta Highway Department Parking Area. (directly across from Casey's Corners Convenience Store)

DIRECTIONS: From the east: 8 mi. W on Route 8 from Speculator, on left hand (S) of Route 8, just before the Piseco Common School.

From the west: 3.4 miles E on Route 8

from the intersection of Route 8 & 10, on the right hand side (S) of Route 8, just past the

Piseco Common School

WALK: Lake Durant Marsh, Blue Mountain Lk 7:00 a.m.

GUIDES: Mike & Wanda Moccio

LIMIT: 15 participants

EVENT LENGTH: 5-6 hours

BRING: Binoculars, camera, insect repellent (netting or bug shirt suggested), waterproof gear, water, and snacks.

MEET: Lake Durant parking area, Route 28/30, between Indian Lake and Blue Mountain Lake, across Route 28/30 from Lake Durant

DIRECTIONS: From Indian Lake: Route 30 North for 9.5 miles.

Parking area is on the R (north) side of Route 30. From Blue Mtn Lake: Route 30 South for 1 ½ miles. The parking

area in on the L (North) side of Route 30.

CANOE/WALK: Round Lake/Sabattis Bog, Whitney Wilderness, Long Lake 7:00 a.m.

GUIDES: John and Patricia Thaxton, Jerry Roberts,

LIMIT: 10 people or 8 Canoes

EVENT LENGTH: 4 - 6 Hours

BRING: Canoe/Kayak, paddles, PFD (required), binoculars, camera, insect repellent (netting or bug shirt suggested), waterproof gear, water, and lunch.

MEET: Parking lot on Sabattis Road

DIRECTIONS: From Long Lake, take Route 30, 6-1/2 miles N from the Long Lake Bridge to Sabattis Road on Left. You'll see the DEC Whitney Wilderness sign at the turnoff. Take Sabattis Road (dirt) for 3 miles, cross over bridge. Stay left after you cross the bridge, parking area is on the R side of Sabattis Road before Round Lake.

***PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED: Call 800-648-5239 Mon-Fri, 9AM-4PM**

HIKE: Lows Ridge/Hitchins Pond, Long Lake, 9:00 a.m.

GUIDE: Joan Collins

EVENT LENGTH: 5-6 hours

LIMIT: 20

BRING: Bug protection, hat, sunscreen, water, lunch, binoculars and appropriate clothing/jacket and footwear.

MEET: Bog River Falls Parking Area on Route 421 (Off Route 30)
DIRECTIONS: Drive 12 miles north of Long Lake on Route 30. Take a left-hand turn onto County Route 421 (Bog River sign) and proceed just under 3/4 of a mile to the Bog River Falls Parking Area on the left after the bridge. The actual unmarked trail is down the road another 6.6 miles, and we will carpool to the trailhead.

DRIVING SAFARI: Powley Road, Piseco, 2:00 p.m.

GUIDES: Mary Ellen Blakey & James Taft

EVENT LENGTH: 3 hours

LIMIT: 20 participants

BRING: Binoculars, camera, bug repellent (for those who want to get out of their vehicles), and comfortable clothes.

MEET: Intersection of Route 10 and Powley Road, 1.2 miles south of the Route 8 & Route 10 intersection.

DIRECTIONS: From Speculator: Take Route 8 West for 12 miles, turn left (south) onto Route 10 and travel 1.2 miles. Powley Road is on the R (west) side of the road

WALK: Cedar River, Indian Lake, 4:00 p.m.

GUIDES: Mike & Wanda Moccio

EVENT LENGTH: 2-3+ hours

BRING: Bug Repellent, (netting or bug shirt suggested), water, lunch, binoculars, water proof hiking attire.

MEET: Indian Lake Library parking lot on Pelon Road (off Route 28/30) in Indian Lake.

DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of Route 30 & 28N in Indian Lake, drive 0.3 miles west towards Blue Mountain Lake, and make a right onto Pelon Road. Look for the library on the left, at approximately 500 feet from Route 30.

EVENING PRESENTATION: Adirondack Museum, Blue Mountain Lake, 7:30 p.m.

FEATURED SPEAKER: Dr. Bruce McPherson Beehler, VP Conservation International, birder and conservationist.

TOPIC: To be announced.

LENGTH: 1.5 hours.

MEET: Adirondack Museum, Blue Mountain Lake

DIRECTIONS: ½ mile north on Route 30 from the center of Blue Mountain Lake, the intersection of Routes 30 and 28.

Sunday June 10, 2012

DRIVING SAFARI: Moose River Plains IBA, Inlet, 7:00 a.m.

GUIDE: Joan Collins

EVENT LENGTH: 5 hours

LIMIT: 15 participants

BRING: Bug Repellent, (netting or bug shirt suggested), water, snacks, binoculars, waterproof hiking attire

MEET: Entrance to Limekiln Lake Campground, on Limekiln Road.

DIRECTIONS: From Raquette Lake: Drive 9.8 miles on Route 28 to Limekiln Road, the first left after the Inlet Golf Club, approximately 1.0 mile before downtown Inlet. From Inlet: Travel E on Route 28 for 1.0 mile, Limekiln Road is the first right after the Citgo gas station. On Limekiln Road travel 1- 3/4 miles to Limekiln Campground, which will be on your right. We will meet along Limekiln Road (outside of the campground) at this location and decide on carpooling.

WALK: Northville-Lake Placid Trail, Long Lk 7:00 a.m.

GUIDES: John & Patricia Thaxton

LIMIT: 20 Participants

EVENT LENGTH: 5-6 hours

BRING: Bug Repellent, (netting or bug shirt suggested), water, binoculars, waterproof hiking attire.

MEET: Parking Lot on S side (R side) of Route 28N at (across from) Tarbell Hill Rd.

DIRECTIONS: The trailhead for the hike is a large parking lot on the south side of Route. 28N, 1.6 miles N on Route 28N from Hoss's Country Corner in Long Lake. Directly opposite the intersection with the Tarbell Hill Road.

WALK: Perkins Clearing Walk, Lake Pleasant, 7:00 a.m.

GUIDES: Michael & Wanda Moccio

EVENT LENGTH: 3 hours

LIMIT: 20 Page 10 of 11

BRING: Bug Repellent, (netting or bug shirt suggested), water, snacks, binoculars, waterproof hiking attire.

MEET: Mason Lake parking area on the west (left) side of Route 30, north of Speculator.

DIRECTIONS: From South: Take Route 30, 8 miles north of Speculator. From North: 16 miles S. on Route 30 from Indian Lake. The parking area is on the west side of Route 30, and overlooks Mason Lake.

HIKE: Fiddler's Pond, Piseco, 7:00 a.m.

GUIDES: Mary Ellen Blakey & James Taft

LIMIT: 12 participants

EVENT LENGTH: 5-6 Hours

BRING: Bug Repellent, (netting or bug shirt suggested), water, snacks, binoculars, waterproof hiking attire.

MEET: Town of Arietta Highway Department Parking Area. (across from Casey's Corners Convenience Store)

DIRECTIONS: From the east: 8 mi. W on Route 8 from Speculator, on left hand (S) of Route 8, just before the Piseco Common School. From the west: 3.4 miles E on Route 8 from the intersection of Route 8 & 10, on the right hand side (S) of Route 8, just past the Piseco Common School.

W.W. DURANT CRUISE: Raquette Lake, 12:00 p.m.

Join us on a very special cruise for the birding festival, visiting with other festival participants and guides, recapping the birding weekend while sharing a meal. You may also just ride the top deck of the Durant without lunch. Many of the birding guides will be on board. Special rates are in effect for pre-registered birding participants. Boarding time is 12:00-12:30 PM, cruise will last from 12:30-2:30 PM. Cash snack and beverage bar as well as use of the restrooms (below) will be available to those riding the open upper deck.

COST: Upper Deck cruise only: \$10/per person, if pre-registered, \$15/per person normal rate. Luncheon Cruise: If you would like to register for the luncheon cruise, the cost will be \$30/per person inclusive (meal, cruise, tax, tip) if pre-registered, \$37/per person inclusive for a walk in. Reservations are required to receive the discounted Birding Festival Rate.

RESERVATIONS: Please call Raquette Lake Navigation directly at 315-354-5532 to make your reservations. Visit www.raquettelakenavigation.com for more information about the cruise and the luncheon menu.

HOSTS: Donna & Captain Dean Pohl

****Please Note:****

Registration Required for all Outdoor Events—To Register call (800) 648-5239 or (518) 548-3076 Mon-Fri 9:00-4:00 p.m.

Editor's Note

As I write, the gentlest of spring rains continues to fall on the absolute riot of green outside my office window, that light, yellowish, chartreuse green of incipient foliage, like the new growth on the ends of the balsam fir branches, which look like little fingers starting to sprout from the dark green rows of needles, or the tiny little cherry leaves, still folded like sleeping butterflies, looking gloriously luminous against the dark brown shine of their tree's wet bark. The robin that started singing well before first light has yet to take a break, the ravens up on Round Top Mountain started screaming bloody murder half an hour ago and a fervid ovenbird, very close to the house, seems maniacally obsessed with territorial integrity.

When I started putting the newsletter together I waxed increasingly pleased about the extent of NNYA's involvement in the upcoming birding events, The 10th Annual Paul Smiths Great Adirondack Birding Celebration and the 8th Annual Hamilton County Adirondack Birding Festival, which this year will take place on consecutive weekends, the better to accommodate out-of-towners who want to participate in both events. NNYA members helped plan and will help staff both the celebration and the festival, which has attracted visitors from as far away as California and Alaska, as well as from every Province of Canada, and for good reason—we live in a marvelously rich and diverse concatenation of habitats. I remember getting a big hug from a man who couldn't believe he saw a Bicknell's thrush in my scope and then, the following day, running into him on the boardwalk at the Paul Smiths VIC—the boardwalk through bog, thick with pitcher plants and singing palm warblers and Lincoln sparrows, had rendered him speechless. He just looked at me as though to say, "You kidding me?"

I devoted half the newsletter to the celebration and the festival, and included the complete schedule of each. These two events attract hundreds of birders to the Adirondacks, as well as a slew of media attention, a combination that can't help but disseminate and promote the NNYA agenda of conservation and education, served up with generous side orders of boreal birds and spectacular landscapes. The sheer beauty of the Adirondacks, and the rich diversity of bird species that breed or pass through here, should inspire both locals and visitors to preserve this place, and similarly endangered ecosystems. Environmental disasters like loosely regulated hydraulic fracturing and ill-placed wind turbines will put more and more pressure on environmental groups to ramp up their vigilance and their rhetoric, for these threats will confront Adirondackers, and people who love the Adirondacks.

By involving themselves so thoroughly in the birding celebration and festival, NNYA members become de facto environmental ambassadors, helping birders to see sought after species in spectacular habitats, and these birders, in turn, take an environmental message home with them. It seems obvious to me that someone who travels a few thousand miles to see species like Bicknell's thrush, yellow-bellied flycatcher, gray jay, boreal chickadee and the three-toed woodpeckers, and sees them, will go home with an enduring fondness and respect for the Adirondacks.

The celebration and the festival represent, at the end of the day, an enormous and sustained tribute to a unique bunch of habitats and the birds and people that need them.

—**John Thaxton**