

Volume 49, Issue III

Northern New York Audubon

September - November 2021 Newsletter



Dear supporters,

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself as the new President of Northern New York Audubon. Since I was a young child growing up outside of Rochester, New York, my passion for birds has grown. By the age of two I was spending hours with my grandparents observing the birds that inhabited their backyard. Now (a few years later), it is a great honor to be part of an organization so dedicated to conservation. NNYA saw a lot of positive growth under the leadership of Shelly Cihan, outgoing President. As our board continues to grow, Shelly will remain on, serving as our Vice President. I think I speak for all of us when I say we look forward to Shelly's continued guidance and wisdom.

While our bylaws dictate that leadership must change every so often, there has always been a constant for NNYA. Our supporters remain strong, passionate, and dedicated. When the COVID pandemic sent us all into quarantine last year, many turned to birding as a way to connect with the wild nature right outside our homes. It's wonderful to see that interest has not waned. NNYA continues to offer outings and field trips. We welcome birders, experienced or brand new, to join us so we can all share our passion. If there is a location or type of field trip you'd like to see on our schedule, reach out and we'll do our best to set it up!

As you will read later in this newsletter, your contributions make it possible for us to host birding field trips, and fund conservation projects, outreach events, and initiatives that promote the enjoyment and protection of birds. Every dollar you donate to has a positive impact on birds and wildlife in Northern New York. On behalf of NNYA, thank you for being part of our organization.

Happy birding,
Janelle Hoh



Northern New York Audubon is dedicated to conserving and restoring natural ecosystems in the Adirondacks, focusing on habitat of particular importance to birds, other wildlife, humanity, and the Earth's biological diversity as a whole. As one of National Audubon's 27 local chapters in New York, NNYA's mission is "to promote the protection and proper management of birds, wildlife, and the fragile ecosystems throughout Northern New York."

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News

Online Donations, Membership, and Hats!

Don't forget to check out our online membership site! Here, you'll be able to become a member, make a donation, and order a cool hat. We now have two hat colors available: grey and khaki. Visit the site at: <https://nnya.square.site/>

Continued Education

Dr. Michale Glennon, a NNYA Cullman Conservation Grant recipient and Science Director at Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute, will be giving a talk at the Long Lake Public Library on Saturday, October 30, 2021 at 2 p.m. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more details as we get closer to the event!

Pulitzer Prize finalist and renowned ornithologist Scott Weidensaul will be giving a talk titled "A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds" at the [Whallonsburg Grange](#) on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 7 p.m. Attendees will learn about the fascinating and complex world of bird migrations. More details will follow and pre-registration will be required. This event is sponsored by Champlain Area Trails (CATS) and Whallonsburg Grange.

Unidentified Bird Disease Update

Earlier this year, an unidentified avian disease was spreading to birds in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern United States. Based on the absence of confirmed cases in New York and a declining numbers of cases in states to our south, other Audubon chapters and different agencies are advising that it is safe to resume feeding birds at feeders and filling bird baths. We advise that you continue to practice safe bird feeding and clean feeders regularly.



Calling All Volunteers!

Do you have a passion for birds and habitat conservation? Are you interested in newsletter design? We are looking for dedicated volunteers to help further our mission. If you are interested in helping elevate the NNYA message and contribute to our work, please email nnya@nnya.org and let us know.

Contact Information

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Northern New York Audubon Executive board

Janelle Hoh – President
Shelly Cihan - Vice President
Liz DeFonce – Treasurer
Kristel Guimara – Secretary

Board members

Jeff Biby
Mar Bodine
Joan Collins
Russ DeFonce
Hyla Howe
Tom Langen
Janet Mihuc
Betsy Miner
Derek Rogers
Catherine Smith
John Thaxton (Director Emeritus)
Pat Thaxton (Director Emeritus)

Whether you're near or far, stay connected with us virtually! Like us on Facebook

(www.Facebook.com/NNYAudubon) to keep up-to-date on future events, outings, local bird news, and information from the greater birding community.

New Bird Blind in Massena!

Recently, NNYA had the opportunity to assist local Eagle Scout Jayden Dostie from Massena Troop 41 with his Eagle Scout project. We were able to fund a portion of Jayden's project because of donations and contributions from NNYA supporters. Jayden sent the following description and photos.

“Thank you for the generous grant to assist with my Eagle Scout project! I am pleased to announce the completion of a bird and wildlife viewing blind located at Robert Moses State Park. The park is located in Massena, New York, a short distance past the Eisenhower shipping lock and in close proximity to the Nicandri Nature Center. The structure is three-sided, open top, wooden blind with the four-foot sides angled at 45 degrees to maximize the viewing area while keeping a sense of openness with the surroundings. The front section measures eight feet across, providing maximum concealment for even a small group of bird watchers. Viewing slits are cut into all three walls at different heights to accommodate adults and children alike, and the central opening was fashioned to mimic the outline of an eagle. Included was the blazing of a 165-foot level dirt trail from the existing road path to the viewing site, with signage at the trail entrance. The blind has been stained green with some brown to better blend into the environment and camouflage the structure. There is gravel at the base of the blind for weed control, drainage and level footing. There are two benches at the site as well for people to sit down, and there are eye hooks and some small shelving as added luxuries.”

- Jayden Dostie



Birding Outings and Field Trips with NNYA

Want to go birding with us? Join us for a field trip! More info can be found on our Facebook page, and more outings may be added in addition to those listed here. Check online to get the latest updates.

Saturday, September 11, 2021 Bird Walk at Crown Point State Historic Site Crown Point, New York

Meeting time: 8 a.m.

Meeting location: the main parking area in front of the museum (21 Grandview Drive, Crown Point, NY)

Bring: Binoculars, bug spray, water, comfortable shoes, pencil, spotting scope is optional

To register: please contact Stacy Robinson at maplemeadows@hotmail.com

Brief description: Enjoy the beautiful 360-acre state property on an approximately 2 mile walk during the fall migration. We'll look for songbirds, early waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors along the shores of Lake Champlain. Much of Crown Point SHS has been designated as a Bird Conservation Area by New York State and boasts over 200 species observed.

Friday, September 17, 2021 Fall Migration at Ausable Marsh WMA Peru, New York

Meeting time: 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Meeting location: Ausable Point Rd. Parking Area before the toll booths.

Bring: Binoculars, rain coat, water, hiking boots

To register: The trip will be capped at 15 persons in the order in which email registrations are received. Please email Derek Rogers at drogersoo31@gmail.com to register.

Brief description: The mouth of the Ausable River hosts a vast array of resident and migratory birds. Please join Derek Rogers, NNYA Board Member and Development Director at Champlain Area Trails on an exploration of this magnificent State Wildlife Management Area. We will meet at the marsh overlook along Ausable Point Road, the main entrance to Ausable Point, just before the toll booths. We'll scan the marsh and roadsides before caravanning south and walking the trail that bisects the vast marsh habitat.

Saturday, September 25, 2021 (Rain date: September 26) Hiking and Birding at Massawepie Mire Piercefield, New York

Meeting time: 7 a.m.

Meeting location: Massawepie Boy Scout sign along Route 3 (beginning of Massawepie Road)

Bring: Binoculars, food, water, sunscreen, and hat.

To register: Email or call Joan Collins at JoanCollins@ADKAvian.com or 518-624-5528 (home) or 315-244-7127 (cell). Limit of 15 participants.

Brief description: Massawepie Mire is the largest bog in New York State and an Audubon New York designated "Important Bird Area" (IBA). This remote trail is lovely! We will hike between 5 to 6 miles round trip on perfectly level terrain – the dirt road trail is an old railroad bed. The South Branch of the Grass River is crossed at about 1.5 miles in (where a pair of White-winged Crossbills was recently observed!) and we will continue to Silver Brook just under 3 miles in where we can take a food break before turning around. Habitats include deciduous, mixed, and boreal forests, marsh, and open bog. We will be watching for migrants, lingering seasonal nesting species such as Palm Warblers, resident boreal birds such as Black-backed Woodpecker, Canada Jay, and Boreal Chickadee (and if we are extremely fortunate, Spruce Grouse!), and Red and White-winged Crossbills which irrupted over the summer. On the 5-mile drive to the trailhead, we will be watching for Common Loons and other waterfowl on the lakes, among other species.

(Field trips continued)

Saturday, September 25, 2021
Fall Migrants at Hart's Falls Preserve
Hermon, New York

Meeting time: 8 a.m.

Meeting location: Hart's Falls Parking Lot (<https://www.stlawlandtrust.org/content/harts-falls>)

Bring: Water, binoculars, snacks. There are no facilities.

To register: please email stlawlandtrust@stlawlandtrust.org

Brief Description: An easy 1-mile each way walk to observe migratory and resident birds of the St. Lawrence Valley / Adirondack foothills. We will also look at the geology of the waterfall. The trip leader is Professor Tom Langen, who is a board member for Northern New York Audubon and St. Lawrence Land Trust.

Saturday, October 2, 2021
Field Trip to Red Barn Preserve
Morristown, New York

Meeting time: 8:30 a.m.

Meeting location: Parkway Express Valero Gas Station, 3681 N.Y. 37. (Tim Horton's, Subway, Convenience shop, and public restrooms are available at this location.) Red Barn Preserve is located at 515 River Road East, Morristown, NY

Bring: Binoculars, spotting scope, waterproof footwear, camera, drinks and other food. There is an outhouse on the property.

To register: Mary Beth Warburton at 315-268-0150 (home) or 315-212-0722 (cell) or Eileen Wheeler at 315-244-9957

Brief description: The Red Barn Preserve opened to the public in 2018. There is an active Great Blue Heron rookery, wetlands, and trails through a variety of habitats, allowing for the opportunity to see a variety of species. The walking is easy and flat but can be wet. There are benches and overlooks located throughout the preserve allowing for photo opportunities. Join us as we explore a quiet little preserve hidden in the St. Lawrence valley.

Saturday, November 6, 2021
Malone Annual Snow Goose Migration Watch
Malone, New York

Meeting time: 5 p.m.

Meeting location: Malone Rec Park, Duane St. entrance

Bring: Binoculars, rain coat, water, spotting scope

To register: please email Janelle at janellekhrg2@gmail.com

Brief description: If you have never watched the fall Snow Goose migration in Malone you won't want to miss this! Join us as we watch 1000's of snow geese fly into Rotary Lake for the evening. Each fall, Snow Geese (as well as other waterfowl) make this a resting stop for the night. We will gather by the water to watch and listen. In most years, enough geese fly in to fill the pond edge to edge. Birders and non-birders alike will enjoy this spectacle. We we start gathering around 5 p.m. for general birding and conversation. The area by the water is large, allowing for everyone to maintain social distance. As we head toward, dusk the geese will arrive. Be sure to bring binoculars! There's always a chance we find a rarity, like a Pink-footed Goose, a Ross's Goose, or a Greater White-fronted Goose.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Update

Northern New York Audubon established a Diversity and Inclusion Committee in the Spring of 2021. We believe that birding should be a pastime that all can enjoy and we are working to make our chapter more welcoming and accessible to members of the BIPOC, AAPI, and LGBTQ+ communities, as well as members with disabilities.

We added our board members' pronouns to our website, and we will be using them when we make introductions to ensure that transgender and nonbinary birders are not misgendered at our events.

We are also happy to report that our Book Club, which met for the first time on June 17 at 7 p.m., has been a big success. The book club has been discussing *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. *Braiding Sweetgrass* is beautifully written and seamlessly weaves Indigenous wisdom with scientific knowledge to give readers a deeper knowledge of the natural world as well as a new perspective on their place in it. Written by a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation who spent time in the Adirondacks throughout her life, it has been the perfect first book for our Book Club.

The Book Club will continue to meet monthly to discuss the intersectionality of birding, conservation, recreation, and racial and social justice. We intend to create a safe and welcoming space where we can learn, share, and together become better allies against systemic racism and homophobia in the North Country.

These steps are only the beginning, and Northern New York Audubon is committed to growing our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion initiatives. If you have questions or would like to join our Diversity and Inclusion Committee or Book Club, email us at nnya@nnya.org! We would love to hear from you!



Bluebirds Birdhouses in Lake Placid

Recently, The Uihlein Foundation, PSC Adirondack Watershed Institute, and NNYA hosted an event at Heaven Hill Farm in Lake Placid ADK. Volunteers built 45 birdhouses that will be installed around the property to provide nesting habitat for Eastern Bluebirds and swallows, and perches for Bobolinks and Savannah Sparrows. This will greatly enhance the grassland habitat! Thanks to all who helped make this event a success.





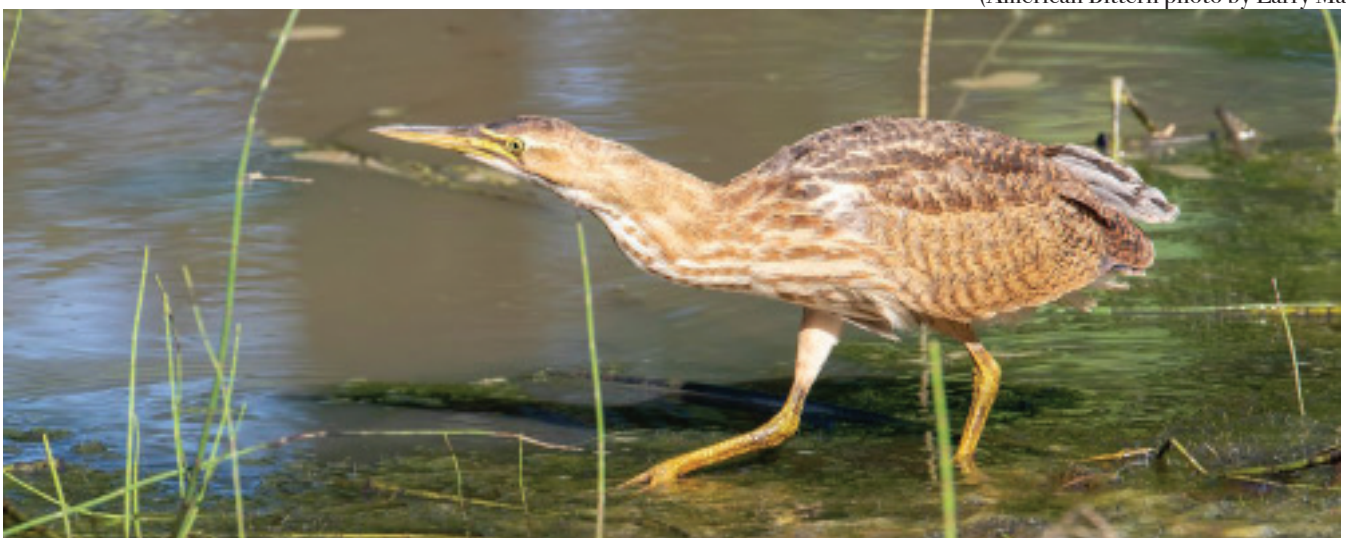
Birdability

Birding is for everybody, but it isn't always easy. At NNYA we're committed to learning how our organization can be more inclusive and to discovering how we can connect with all members of the community. [Birdability](#) is a great resource with an abundance of information on how, as a birding community, we can move toward a more inclusive future.

One of the best things about birding is that it can be done anywhere. You can find birds in cities, in the mountains, on the lakes, and at local parks. Some areas in our NNYA territory are special because they are productive birding locations that are easily accessible to everyone. One such location is Tupper Lake. Right off the main road, a wetland rich in species diversity can be viewed from a wooden platform. This spot along the causeway between Simon Pond and Tupper Lake is great for observing singing Red-winged Blackbirds, American Bitterns, migrating ducks, and, of course, iconic Adirondack species such as Common Loons and Bald Eagles. It's just a short distance from the parking spots to the platform along a brick path and there is a designated handicap parking space.

We'll be highlighting other accessible birding locations within our territory in the coming months. If you have a place in mind that you'd like to share, please don't hesitate to reach out! Remember, birding is for every body.

(American Bittern photo by Larry Master)



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