



Summer 2015

WINGBEATS

Governor Signs over former McGregor Prison Lands over to Moreau State Park

In late December, [Saratoga P.L.A.N.](#) collaborated with Change.org to start a petition asking Governor Cuomo to transfer the management of the lands surrounding the now-closed McGregor Prison to the Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation to expand Moreau Lake State Park. Supporters of the petition saw this as an opportunity to preserve the land for future generations. Shortly after the petition was circulated on the internet and Facebook, more than 1000 signatures were gathered. Southern Adirondack Audubon President, Pat Fitzgerald, then placed the same petition on the National Audubon website & 150 more signatures were added.

With petitions in hand, a coalition of groups, including Saratoga P.L.A.N., Open Space Initiative, [Southern Adirondack Audubon Society \(SAAS\)](#), Audubon New York, and local members of the New York State Assembly met with representatives from the Governor's office. The purpose of the meeting was to present the petitions and to discuss the feasibility of adding the lands to the Moreau Lake State Park. The meeting was very positive with everyone agreeing that this would be a good step in protecting habitat and increasing open space in a growing and developing area.

UPDATE: We can happily report that on May 5th, 2015, the Governor's office signed over **750 acres** of pristine forest land, Lake Bonita, and the Grant Cottage State Historic Site to Moreau Lake State Park! Thank You to everyone who signed including many of you from the Audubon Society of the Capital Region! - Report by Pat Fitzgerald, SAAS President

Much Ado About Birding Part 1 - By Evan Mistur

During the first week of March, I spent a good deal of time searching up and down the Mohawk River for a [Barrow's Goldeneye](#), which decided to spend the winter with his more common cousins and wound up in New York. Picking a single black-and-white duck out of the many crowds of similarly monochromatic waterfowl proved to be a bit tricky, and I had the ill fortune of always seeming to arrive at his local haunts shortly after he left. Eventually the bird tired of his cat-and-mouse game and allowed me to catch up with him. The result was well worth the effort as the drake did not disappoint. I had found the bird I was looking for. My search was at an end, but over its course I found more than just a bird. Throughout the week I had come across flocks of other bird watchers as well as the creatures we were after. I bumped into a few familiar faces, as well as a few more requiring introduction, who were out in search of the



Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*) - Photo: Tringa

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same duck as I was. It is always a pleasure meeting fellow birders in the field and this proved no exception; but seeing so many out and about reminded me of how many of us there actually are. Sometimes it just takes an unusual sighting like a Barrow's Goldeneye to realize it. I don't know about most bird watchers, but I have a knack for flying under the radar. I generally maintain a low profile and consequently make a habit of being inconspicuous on my outings, but isolation isn't what we're after. A little bit of solitude can be nice, but this sort of unintended secrecy is part of the reason we are not widely recognized as a group. As birders we can only benefit ourselves by exposing... (Continued on Page 6)

**Remember! ALL of our
Bird Walks & Programs are
Free & Open to the Public!**

SUMMER PROGRAMS AND EVENTS!

Thacher State Park's 10th Anniversary Native Plant Sale

"Bring Your Landscape to Life"

**Saturday May 30th & Sunday May 31st
10am to 3pm**

**...at 'The Overlook' @ Thacher State Park
Voorheesville, NY 12186**

There will be native plants for pollinators and birds, and plants that shelter wildlife. Knowledgeable staff will be on hand to answer questions and to help choose the best native plants for your landscape. Stop by our ASCR table for Bird-friendly Garden Info!

"Audubon at Hudson-Jay Park"

As part of the Historic Albany Foundation
'Hidden City House and Garden Tour!'

(Pre-sale admission to tour the houses at:
<http://www.historic-albany.org/>

Location: Albany, NY
between Hudson and Jay Streets at
South Swan Street (next to The Plaza!)

**Thursday Evening June 25th
5pm to 8pm**

It is **FREE** to hang out on a warm Summer evening at this beautiful downtown park!

Stop by our ASCR tables and tents in Hudson-Jay Park to see how you can make your backyard gardens Bird-Friendly!

Learn about what native plants to buy and pick up a quality bird nesting box constructed by our volunteer woodworker at the event!

We'll also be showcasing our work with Capital District Community Gardens which is now **"Capital Roots"**!
Stop by and say Hi!

Volunteer Conservation Days!

at John Boyd Thacher State Park!

Meet at: Emma Treadwell Nature Center

**Choose from
Sunday July 12th**

or

Wednesday July 15th (or both!)

Time: 9:00am to 12:30pm

Get Outdoors!

Help Save Grassland Bird Habitat!

*Audubon and Thacher Park need your help to pull an invasive species plant called Wild Parsnip that is threatening Bobolink and ground nesting bird habitat!
(See Page 7 for more details!)*

Live Birds of Prey Program!

**Wednesday, August 19th, 2015
Starting at 7:00 pm!**

**Location: Voorheesville Public Library
51 School Rd, Voorheesville, NY.**

~ FREE! ~

Starting at 5pm, stop by our Audubon table to ask questions about birds, learn about our programs, and play our interactive "Bird Board" game!

**Live birds of prey show presented by
"Silent Wings" - The Wildlife Institute
of Eastern New York**

ASCR'S SPRING & SUMMER BIRD WALK SCHEDULE!

Bird Walk Events over Memorial Day Weekend in Schoharie County!

Howes Cave, NY

Saturday May 23rd - Iroquois Indian Museum

~ Bird Walk at 9am ~

~ Live Birds of Prey! at 10:30am ~

Enjoy a beautiful, short drive down I-88 for an expert led **Bird Walk** on the Museum Trails and then see **Live Birds of Prey!** You also get **HALF OFF** the Admission Price to the Museum! **We will be releasing a rehabbed Great Horned Owl as well!**

Middleburgh, NY

Sunday May 24th - Birds n' Brews!

Meet @ Green Wolf Brewing Co. - 9am

Join ASCR bird walk leader Eric Latini as we bird the flat portion of The Long Path. Afterwards, grab take-out for your lunch at one of the many new eateries in Middleburgh or brown bag your own and have a beer or soda at the Green Wolf Tasting Room, which will open early @ 11am, just for our group!

Avian Haunts at Albany Rural Cemetery!

Saturday May 30th - 7:30AM

Meet at: the Chapel on Cemetery Ave,
off Route 32 (Broadway), Albany, NY

This Special 'Birding & History Walk' of Albany Rural Cemetery will feature the stories regarding the final resting places of famous people buried here as well as the history & design of this historic landscape.
(We'll also be looking for birds, too!)

Space is limited & **registration is required!**

Please call the Albany Rural Cemetery Office at:
518- 463-7017 to reserve your spot!

Sponsored by: Albany Rural Cemetery & ASCR

Check our ASCR website calendar during the summer for last minute bird events being planned!
www.CapitalRegionAudubon.org

Saturday June 13th, 8:00 AM

Second Saturdays at Schodack Island S.P.

South of Albany on Route 9J just outside
of Castleton-On-Hudson, NY

Join Mike King as he leads you onto the trails of Schodack Island State Park, known for breeding Cerulean Warblers, which are annual breeders here at the Park as well as any other colorful migrants in their breeding plumage and signs of Bald Eagles!

It will be a little buggy, so please come prepared with appropriate bug repellent and clothing!

Sunday July 26th

This is our 2nd in a series of "Birds n' Brews in the 'Burgh" walks!

BIRDING UP VROMAN'S NOSE

Meet at: "Under The Nose" Gift Shop next to the Trailhead for Vroman's Nose @ 9am
in Middleburgh, NY!

Chance to see Peregrine Falcons & Summer Birds!

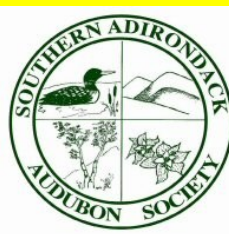
You must be in good physical shape to attend this hike! See spectacular views of the Schoharie Valley! After the hike, we'll be meeting at Green Wolf Brewing Co. **Bring a brown bag lunch or grab Take-Out from local eateries!**

Chapter Neighbors Joint Bird Walk! with **Southern Adirondack Audubon Society!**

**Date and time in July is still being worked out, so please check back in on our website calendar!

Location:

Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, NY



Searching for NYS Golden Eagles

Part II

by Angelika Beckmann

ASCR has continued its Golden Eagle camera monitoring traps at the Albany County and Columbia County sites throughout this spring. We are very pleased to announce an overwintering Golden Eagle did visit the Columbia County site on February 24th, 2015, which was unknown until after the writing of Part I!

Although there were no Golden Eagles observed at the Albany County site, a plethora of mammals including long-tailed weasel, fishers, red-tailed fox, raccoons, coyotes, red-tailed squirrel and live deer were recorded at the site. Additional bird species included turkey vultures, turkeys and an owl (possibly barred owl); ravens, red-tailed hawks and crows continued at the site.

ASCR is very excited to continue this project next winter! If anyone would like to volunteer for this project, please contact Angelika Beckmann at angelika.beckmann@yahoo.com, subject line ASCR Golden Eagle volunteer. As always, donations are greatly appreciated to continue this, & other research projects and surveys & hopefully expand into other areas of our chapter area!



Adult Bald Eagle with antenna tracker in a scuffle with a juvenile Bald Eagle



Golden Eagles are listed as “Endangered” in New York State by the New York State Department of Conservation and is the main reason ASCR is participating in this research with the [Appalachian Eagle Project](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7096.html) out of West Virginia University.

Golden Eagles are “upland” eagles, which prey on rodents, rabbits, reptiles, other birds, and carrion, such as deer carcasses. They are one of the largest, fastest, nimblest raptors in North America. Lustrous gold feathers gleam on the back of its head and neck, and younger Golden Eagles will exhibit neatly defined white patches at the base of the tail and in the wings. (Source: Cornell Lab of Ornithology) For more information go to: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7096.html>

Golden Eagle image 1.

Golden colored sheen on back of head and neck



White Patches on tail.

Golden Eagle image 2.
Flaring wings could indicate claiming prey as well as attempting to hide its find from other curious animals nearby.



F 28.81inHg

MOULTRIECAM

24 FEB 2015 12:00 PM

24 FEB 2015

Two juvenile Bald Eagles



Two adult and two juvenile Bald Eagles



N 2015 10:25 am



8°F 28.41inHg

43°F 28.79inHg

MOULTRIECAM

27 JAN 2015 11:54 am

5°F 28.81inHg

MOULTRIECAM

10 FEB 2015 03:30 pm

31 JAN 2015 08:01 pm

(Continued from Page 1) ...what we do to the public more extensively. If people understand what we are about, they will realize what a large demographic and economic force we actually represent: an economic force that many institutions would be eager to cater to if only they knew it existed. Try, for a moment, to think of all the birds mentioned in popular culture that you can remember. Birds in literature, film, music, and general awareness are almost always those that make themselves easy to find. Mockingbirds, ravens, and eagles decorate our cultural



Birders can give these 'business' cards to shops in towns where they travel to while birding and spending money.

awareness while hidden creatures like many warblers and rails are forgotten. The birds that are loud, that won't let anyone forget they are there, receive all the attention while those that remain quiet and hidden, the skulkers, are ignored. I'm typically about as boisterous as a Connecticut Warbler in the fall about my birding, but in the future I am going to make my presence as a bird watcher and an ecotourist more evident.

Thank You New Chapter Supporters!


Lenora Grillo - Mayfield
 Barry Pendergrass - Albany
 Michelle Reidy - East Berne
 Deborah Miller - Albany
 Linda Gallagher - Albany
 Marley, Fred, and Lisa Root - East Greenbush
 Ann Marie Rutkowski - Schenectady
 Sally Daly - Albany
 Debra Moyer - Rensselaer
 John Carver and Nancy Barlet - Albany

Thank You In-Memory-Of Donors:

**In acknowledgement of a donation by
 Florance Bigelow...**

In Memory of Robert S. McCullough

If you asked the average person on the street what the economic impact of bird watchers might be, you would undoubtedly hear a brief dismissal. We are not perceived as a demographic that spends, or has any economic footprint at all. Birdwatching is largely a free activity since the birds don't charge admission for us to look at them; so anyone can easily go out into the woods and engage in the pastime without it costing them a dime. This is one of the reasons birding is so inclusive and encourages such a wide audience, but the idea that bird watching has no economic impact couldn't be farther from the truth. According to a study done by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, birding in the United States accounted for \$14.9 billion in spending in 2011. In New York State alone 3.8 million bird watchers contribute to a \$1.6 billion industry. Through spending on things like optical equipment, seed, transportation, and travel, bird watchers feed an enormous market. We represent an influentially sized chunk of spending; yet in most places, we are largely ignored. This is in large part due to our understated presence. We tend to avoid the spotlight and so miss out on the attention that both public and private institutions would otherwise lend to such a large market. If local infrastructure and businesses understood how economically influential our demographic can be, they would be quick to cater to our interests. They would undoubtedly jump on the chance to make some money doing that, and in the process offer us a bevy of goods and services to take advantage of. A little notoriety is never a bad thing.

(Part 2 of this article will appear in the Fall 2015 Wingbeats Newsletter.) 

A Humble Thank You from ASCR

Our Board and Volunteers would like to **Thank Each and Every One of you** who generously donated to our **Cabin Getaway Spring Fundraiser!**
You helped us raise a total of \$850!

26 people bought 34 raffle tickets for a chance to win this one week getaway at a local Birding Paradise in the Heldebergs, so your chances were pretty good!

Our winner is Betty Bergan of Albany, New York who wrote in the Comment box when ordering her ticket:
"Just the right place for the right time for the right person!"
 Well Betty, with a little luck, your 'right' ticket was picked!

Thanks to **Lucas Confectionary Wine Bar** in Troy, NY for hosting our raffle ticket drawing on **John James Audubon's Birthday, Sunday April 26th, 2015...**and to our randomly selected ticket picker and waitress Leigh Goldstein for picking our Runner-Up and Winner!
 Have Fun, Betty!

Public Volunteer Days at John Boyd Thacher State Park!

Choose to volunteer on Sunday July 12th or Wednesday July 15th!

We Need YOU to Help Save Our Native Grassland Bird Habitats!

Join ASCR and other Capital Region volunteers at the [Emma Treadwell Nature Center](#) at Thacher Park as we cut an invasive plant species, *Wild Parsnip*, during the

“Second Annual New York State Invasive Species Awareness Week!”

Removal is VERY EASY! It only requires a pair of loppers to cut the thin stem right at the base of the plant. Because the plant is a biennial, flowering in its second year of growth – the roots die and do not need to be dug out. This is the time of year when the plants are in flower and are tall enough to be able to be easier to spot in the fields. We’ll even give out refreshing popsicles for you to enjoy on a July day!

Contact the Emma Treadwell Nature Center at Thacher State Park for more info at: 518-872-0800

Come out and bring friends at one or both days! Thanks for your help!

“Follow” us!

@CapRegAudubon

Watch for our “Tweets!”



Also:



Become an Inaugural Capital Region Audubon Chapter Supporter!

Do You want to see your donation stay local?

You’ll be supporting our Free Birding Events and
Help with our operating expenses!

Please make checks payable to:
Audubon Society of the Capital Region
P.O. Box 14135, Albany, NY 12212-4135

Basic Chapter Membership - Individual or Family - 1 Year \$20.00

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Email address: (To Receive Our Seasonal Newsletter “Wingbeats”): _____

Phone #: _____

*I would like to make an additional Donation of: \$ _____

Great Horned Owl and owlet
at [Ballston Creek Preserve](#)
A [Saratoga P.L.A.N.](#) preserve.



Photo: Don Polunci, May 9th, 2015



ASCR Volunteer Spotlight!

Lianna Davis, ASCR high school Intern

Meet our ASCR intern Lianna Davis! We were doing field work at the Saratoga Battlefield censusing Wood Frog eggs this past April. Lianna will be entering the Ranger School at ESF studying Environmental & Natural Resources Conservation after a year at Hudson Valley Community College starting this Fall. She loves forests and we're happy to be mentoring her in resident and migrating forest raptors as well as invasive plant and insect species threatening our native local forests. She's with us through the Career Internship Exploration Program (CIEP) from Guilderland High School. Thanks for all your hard work!

Outdoor birds Near Your House

A	W	B	C	N	C	A	R	O	B	I	N	P
P	O	P	A	Y	H	U	B	P	H	M	H	U
M	O	U	R	N	I	N	G	D	O	V	E	R
L	D	S	D	E	C	P	O	U	U	G	S	P
E	P	Q	I	R	K	K	L	Y	S	H	Q	L
S	E	A	N	S	A	I	D	S	E	E	U	E
Y	C	C	A	R	D	N	F	T	F	B	I	F
H	K	H	L	O	E	S	I	W	I	I	R	I
R	E	I	B	D	E	E	N	T	N	R	R	N
U	R	O	B	C	H	I	C	K	C	D	E	C
N	U	T	H	A	T	C	H	H	H	T	L	H
R	A	I	S	I	N	S	R	E	O	S	R	D
P	I	N	E	S	I	S	K	I	N	E	S	B
S	U	N	F	Q	S	P	A	R	R	O	W	D
A	G	R	O	S	B	E	A	K	E	W	E	R
R	W	T	B	L	U	E	J	A	Y	R	D	H
I	N	D	I	G	O	B	U	N	T	I	N	G

Look down and across for all the words below.

Goldfinch	Woodpecker	Pine Siskin
Robin	Squirrel	Purple Finch
Blue Jay	House Finch	Nuthatch
Cardinal	Indigo Bunting	Grosbeak
Chickadee	Mourning Dove	Sparrow



www.wilddelight.com

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