



The BIRD CALL

Est. 1947

Newsletter of the Bronx River-Sound Shore Audubon Society, Inc.

New Birding Club for Youth Launched

BRSS Audubon is excited to announce the formation of a Youth Birding Club. The purpose is to give children with an interest in birds a peer-friendly group to pursue this activity with and hopefully encourage other youngsters to join them. Suggested age group is fourth- through eighth-graders.

The group will meet once a month on the second Saturday from 9:00 to 10:00 AM at a good birding location. Adult Audubon members will provide some instruction and education about birding. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

The first meeting will be Saturday, March 12, at 9:00 AM, at Read Wildlife Sanctuary, located behind Playland Amusement Park in Rye.

This activity is free and open to all interested children in our suggested age group of fourth- through eighth-graders. For more information or to sign up, e-mail brssaudubon@gmail.com or contact Sandy Morrissey at 914-949-2531.

New Youth Initiative

Our youth birding club is part of a new initiative of BRSS Audubon to increase our effort to reach out to children and engage them in outdoor nature and conservation experiences.

We are proud of our current youth programs, which include sending youngsters to nature camp, involving them in our Eastern Bluebird Project, and mentoring high school students doing bird research. We just want to do more!

In this newsletter is an article by Benjamin Van Doren, a White Plains High School student who is an ardent and expert birder. He demonstrates what can happen when a young child is exposed to birds. In the third grade, Benjamin's teacher had students participate in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Feeder Watch program. He got hooked watching birds through his classroom window. Now he ventures to the top of the Empire State Building and other exotic locations in search of bird encounters of the "rarest" kind.



Julian Ferreras and Brandon Belles thought nature camp was "the best." Brandon was the first to sign up for our new youth birding club. Your bird seed orders make all these activities possible. Thanks for your support.

Will our new birding club and other youth initiatives be the spark that ignites in youngsters a lifelong passion for birds and the natural world? We don't know, but we do know that we protect what we know and love. Since today's children are the guardians of tomorrow's world, we can only hope these young birders will grow up to be passionate protectors of our environment.

Audubon Council Meeting Fall 2010

By Cece Fabbro

Ithaca, N.Y. was the site of the fall 2010 Audubon Council of New York State meeting. Representatives from 21 chapters located around the state attended this meeting, as did representatives from several Pennsylvania chapters.

Highlights of the educational portion of the weekend-long New York Audubon meeting included:

- an excellent panel discussion on the Marcellus Shale "fracking" controversy led by informative U.S. Geological Survey Hydrogeologist Bill Kappel;
- a viewing of the documentary *Gasland* about the same issue;
- and a speaker on the decline of the American Kestrel population in the eastern portion of the United States

Field trips included a special behind-the-scenes tour of the Cornell Ornithological Lab and Sapsucker Woods, winter waterfowl viewing at the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge, and loon watching and view of the spectacular falls at Taughannock Falls State Park.

On Saturday, Chapter representatives had a chance to tell others about their activities. Some of the memorable projects mentioned by chapters included the Kestrel Nestbox project, which the Northern N.Y. Audubon chapter is participating in. They reported success with five nesting pairs and eight kestrel chicks fledged. Another chapter, Bedford Audubon, is working on restoring grassland habitat on their property. This past year, 70 pairs of nesting Bobolinks were counted.

On Sunday, Sean Mahar reviewed Audubon N.Y.'s Federal and State legislative priorities with the group and encouraged members to get involved in contacting their legislators regarding these important issues. Mike Burger and Jillian Liner reviewed Audubon N.Y.'s priority conservation and science projects with the group. Some of these include: Kestrel Nestbox project, South Salem grasslands project, Plum Island, Forest Stewardship, and Audubon on the Farm. Pam Musk finished up with education initiatives.

The next Audubon Council of New York State meeting will take place in March 2011 in Saratoga Springs.

Cece Fabbro is a member of the BRSS Board.

BRSS Audubon

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Bronx River-Sound Shore Audubon Society, Inc. is a chapter of the National Audubon Society serving the communities of Bronxville, Eastchester, Edgemont, Hartsdale, Larchmont, Mamaroneck, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Pelham, Scarsdale, and Tuckahoe.

The Tree Whisperer

By Jeff Zuckerman

On Sunday, Nov. 14, 30 of us were fascinated and delighted to be in the presence of Dr. Jim Conroy, "The Tree Whisperer," and his colleague, Ms. Basia Alexander. The talk and "experience" were provided free of charge at our good friend Al Krautter's Sprainbrook Nursery.

The two hours represented a personal experience of tree and plant bioenergy and wisdom that is healthy for people in mind, body, and spirit. We were introduced to a world of hands-on bioenergy healing techniques for restoring functionality to trees, plants, crops, and forests for their own

sustainable balance. We learned that when we truly experience that plants and trees are "living," then we can also experience that we have bioenergy fields that overlap and intersect with plants and trees. In a symbiotic way, plants and trees can also heal us.

Tree whispering is not an action or activity, but rather the receiving of nonverbal information from our five senses plus our "intuition" or "inner hearing, seeing and knowing." Since our relationship with nature is out of balance, we need a paradigm shift with new beliefs and attitudes that are in balance and sustainable.

We must first be willing to recognize and accept that nature has its own intelligence and maybe we don't always know best.

Weakness in plants and trees *always* precedes the disease and insects that attack them—and not the other way around. If we keep trees and plants healthy they will naturally ward off disease and insects. Weak plants and trees come from any of the most common "stresses" that affect them. For a complete list of the 12 stresses and much more information on this fascinating topic visit www.strengthenforests.com or www.thetreewhisperer.com.

Big Sit! 2010 *By Scott Mellis*

Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon members and friends participated in this year's "Big Sit!," a global birding event organized by *Birdwatcher's Digest* and the New Haven Bird Club. Big Sit! participants try to identify as many species as possible from within a 17-foot diameter circle over a 24-hour period (the second Sunday of October annually). Ours was a "semi-Big Sit!"—sunrise to sunset on a deck overlooking Sheldrake Lake.

Dawn broke with mist rising from the water. Canada Geese and Mallards were apparent. Feeders were wild with American Goldfinches in drab plumage. A Belted Kingfisher rattled and a Red-tailed Hawk flew by. There was a sense of more birds, but *where?* The sun rose into our eyes. We were sightless, disoriented, desperate.

To the rescue came Doug Bloom along with Rosemary Parandelis. The sun climbed higher in the sky and,



suddenly, Doug expanded our list by more than 30 species. Highlights over land included five species of Warbler, and Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets. Green-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Ruddy Duck, and Northern Shoveler were seen on the water. Finches exploded to cover from the feeders as a Kestrel soared above. Orlando Hidalgo and David Kauffman arrived and helped further build the day's list. The Kingfisher returned, posing on a rock to show off a fish he caught in his bill. Our last bird had

Bob Breda and I flipping feverishly through Sibley: "Yes ... no ... yes ... that's it!" A Herring Gull!

All in all, a good time was had on a lovely day. Many thanks go to Richard Montemarano and Bob Breda for superb logistical support. Our tally was 46 species ... rather satisfying for a "semi" effort from a 17-foot circle. With almost 12 months to prepare, think of what we might accomplish next year.

Scott Mellis is a BRSS member and birds from his home overlooking Sheldrake Lake.

Birding the Empire State Building

By Benjamin Van Doren

I joined the New York State Young Birders to do a bit of city birding in late September of this year. On Sunday, Sept. 26, we visited Central Park—a classic place for all sorts of migrating passerines. But the night before (yes, the *night* before), we birded a spot far more unorthodox: the 86th floor of the Empire State Building.

As many birders know, vast numbers of songbirds choose nighttime to migrate. This is probably due to a combination of factors—a cooler and more stable atmosphere, a decreased risk of predation, and more time to partake in other activities during the day (i.e., feeding). On Saturday night, we got lucky, as there were favorable winds and a large amount of migration taking place. Our group counted over 800 individual birds (visible in the beam of the floodlights on top of the building) flying south from about 9:30–11 pm, and it was quite a sight.

So how does one bird the Empire State Building?

First, buy a ticket online, at www.esbnyc.com. They're \$20 apiece. Then, arrive at the building a little after sundown; it can take a long time to get through all the lines. I got there at 8 and didn't get to the 86th floor observatory until 9. In the fall, position yourself at the northwest corner of the building, and look up. Birds can be seen crossing the top of the building or flying around the side. Be careful of moths, because they can sometimes seem like birds. But moths are generally much smaller, fly more

erratically, and if there's a substantial wind they will get pushed by it very easily.

We saw some interesting stuff up there, both species-wise and behavior-wise. In addition to warblers, vireos, thrushes, catbirds, grosbeaks, cuckoos, and your other normal nocturnally migrating passerines, we saw two heron-like birds (probably Great Blue Herons), as well as a small flock of Canada Geese. We also saw a few Northern Flickers (distinctive) and a Downy Woodpecker or two. I'm sure I'm forgetting some birds, but the vast majority were a real challenge to identify—the floodlights make everything look pale yellow, and unless the bird is really low and has distinctive markings (e.g., Northern Flicker, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, etc.) it is very tough to ID to species.

As the night progressed, birds started appearing more grouped together—many birds came through in groups of 4 or 5, and we had one loose group of 12 at around 10:30. On a couple of occasions, birds also interacted with one another, chasing each other around (like what I've seen in morning flight). I'd be curious to know whether this normally takes place during typical light-less nocturnal migration, or if it is only facilitated by the floodlights' illumination.

Speaking of behaviors modified by the lighting, a particularly interesting occurrence was the presence of hunting Peregrine Falcons on the building. One or two individuals would perch toward the



Benjamin Van Doren's "Warblings" blog

top, and periodically sally out and nab a migrating songbird. We saw at least 15 chases and about 4 successful kills—they just plucked songbirds right out of the air! Very interesting how this otherwise strictly diurnal hunter has taken advantage of the present situation.

It was a really fun and interesting experience—I'd love to get up there again and try different camera settings to see if I can pull off any better shots. Plus, it really tests one's knowledge of structure and flight pattern while giving you almost no color information to work with. A good way to improve ID skills and a neat way to witness migration directly—try it in the spring!

Benjamin Van Doren is an avid teenage birder from White Plains, NY and has been birding since the third grade. He is currently president of the New York State Young Birders Club (nysyoungbirders.org). He chronicles his birding excursions on his blog "Warblings" (warblings.wordpress.com).

A Snowy Christmas Bird Count

By Doug Bloom



Westchester didn't have a "white Christmas" this year, but Mother Nature made up for it the next day. A storm that dumped a foot and a half of snow (or more, in some places) shortened the duration of the December 26 count for many, and prompted the cancellation of the annual post-count dinner.

However, the weather was fair early in the day. In that span, there were plenty of birds to be seen—and birders to see them. We had 16 people help with the count for part or most of the day. We had 70 species of birds seen or heard. All told, the count for our area netted a total of 7,032 individual birds.

Some of the highlights were:

- Hartsdale—two Ravens, 12 Eastern Bluebirds (at left: bluebird on box)
- Mamaroneck—a first-year Peregrine Falcon, a Great Egret, four Wrens, and one Laughing Gull

2010 Great Year for Eastern Bluebirds

By Sandy Morrissey

We had lots of bluebirds of happiness in 2010. Our dedicated nestbox monitors recorded 32 nesting pairs, our best success ever. While there is always some heartbreak on the bluebird trail, we did succeed in fledging an estimated 130 new bluebirds.

Our biggest success was Kensico Cemetery, where we had five nesting pairs that used eight of the 12 nestboxes on the property. In a location that celebrates the passing of life, 25 baby bluebirds were brought into the world and fledged successfully. Other top-performing locations were golf courses: Apawamis, Saxon Woods, and Sunningdale had three to four nesting pairs each, and Bonnie Briar got its first.

This was a year of applying the adage, "less is more." Tree swallows dominated



The bluebirds were "slow adopters" to the high-tech Gilbertson nestbox, but this year we did have three nesting pairs use them.

sites that had a high density of nestboxes per acre. We removed many nestboxes and were rewarded with the return of the bluebird at Burke Rehabilitation Hospital and Mount Hope Cemetery.

The other good news is that we had three bluebird nesting pairs use the Gilbertson-style nestboxes. Last year we replaced 25 traditional nestboxes with these round boxes made of PVC pipe. While we did greatly reduce the house sparrow problem, we got mostly tree swallows in the nestboxes and no bluebirds. It looks like the tree swallows were "early adopters" to this new design, and the bluebirds are just now catching up.

We use our Eastern Bluebird Project to spread our BRSS environmental and conservation mission. We did programs with five Girl Scout troops and a Mount Vernon elementary school, actively involving the children by helping them build nestboxes. We also gave bluebird presentations to the Dobbs Ferry

Women's Club, The Little Garden Club of Rye, and Burke Rehabilitation Hospital.

The Little Garden Club of Rye (LGR) has adopted our bluebird project as their conservation project. They solicited funds for us at their annual holiday luncheon by offering bluebird prints and stationery donated by one of their members, Nadia Valla, who is also one of our bluebird monitors and an expert photographer. Their Conservation Chair, Chris Murray, is helping us find additional good locations for placement of our nestboxes. Thanks for the great support, LGR!

If you or your organization are interested in our getting involved with our Eastern Bluebird Project or wishes to have us do a program with your group, please contact Sandy Morrissey, sandym@cloud9.net or 914-949-2531.

Sandy Morrissey is President of BRSS Audubon and the Chair of our Eastern Bluebird Project.



The Little Garden Club of Rye's conservation committee solicited donations to support our Eastern Bluebird Project.



Students from Mt. Vernon's Columbus Elementary School help install the nestbox they made. We hope they will be future conservationists!

A Warm Autumn Day Birdwalk at Jones Beach

By Bernie Conway

This was a good field trip on Oct. 24, a warm day, around 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The two main sites were the Coast Guard Station and the main boardwalk at Jones Beach. Together with members of the Central Westchester and Hudson Valley Audubon societies, we saw 60 species.

The most excitement came from a Merlin catching a White-throated Sparrow in mid-flight. Huge flocks of Double-crested Cormorants and Canada Geese were seen. Two flocks, very high up in the sky, were Snow Geese. Many shore birds were seen, such as Black Scoter; Black-bellied Plover; American Golden Plover;

American Oystercatcher; Marbled Godwit; Sanderlings; Dunlin; Ring-billed, Laughing, and Herring Gulls; and Foster Terns.

Everyone enjoyed the birds of prey to be seen on this day, such as Osprey, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawks, and Peregrine Falcon. There were numerous perching birds to be seen, common ones and seasonal birds as well. Sparrows were sought and Fox, Song, Swamp, White-throated, and White-crowned were spotted, with the addition of Dark-eyed Juncos and Northern Cardinals, House Finch, Pine Siskin, and the European

House Sparrow (in reality, a bird of the weaver family).

Other birds observed on this day were Meadowlarks, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Hermit Thrush, Brown Thrasher, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Morning Dove, Rock Pigeon, Northern Flicker, Wood Duck, Black Duck, Great and Snowy Egret, and Great Blue Heron.

For a warm day, the search for birds was a big success. Everyone enjoyed the two locations where birds were seen, and everyone enjoyed a day at the beach.

Osprey Research Project *By Bonnie Gould*

Two Nantucket, Mass.-based organizations, The Trustees of Reservations and the Maria Mitchell Association, have partnered to monitor the activities of Ospreys. The Research is being directed by Robert S. Kennedy, PhD, who serves as Director of the Maria Mitchell Center.

Dr. Kennedy has been banding Ospreys since as early as 2005, but it was only last Fall that a transmitter (GPS System) was attached to the back of a male Osprey who was perched at Coskata Pond near Great Point on Nantucket Island. This summer, a second transmitter was attached to a male Osprey also perched at Coskata Pond. Students at Nantucket Elementary School selected names for the two Ospreys—Mr. Hannah and Senior Bones, respectively.

The Osprey transmitters have allowed “Osprey Followers” to track and follow the feeding habits of the Osprey while they are on Nantucket and to correlate hunting activity to the success or failure of their nests. Equally important, Osprey followers have also been able to track the winter migration of the birds to and from South America.

Last year, through an interactive Google Map, we were able to view Mr. Hannah’s 4,000-mile trip to winter in an area South of the Equator along the Jurua River in

Amazonas, Brazil. He wintered there for about four months and then started his migration back to Nantucket, traveling an average of 114 miles a day, which is approximately five hours of flying time a day.

This September the Ospreys, both equipped with GPS systems, headed out for their migration South to “winter.” Mr. Hannah reached Cuba in just seven days, which is truly amazing considering the weather patterns he encountered across his travel routes. Senior Bones took 11 days to reach Cuba—a rate comparable to other satellite-tagged Ospreys.

As of mid-October, Senior Bones had traveled through Venezuela and could be located 35 miles North of Colombia. At the same data point, Mr. Hannah arrived on Curacao in the Netherland Antilles, approximately 50 miles North of Venezuela. Future downloads have shown no movement by Mr. Hannah and we—his followers—only hope that he has lost his GPS transmitter.

If you are interested in tracking the happenings of the Ospreys, you can log onto rkennedy@mno.org or osprey02554@yahoo.com and be directed to Google Earth for an interactive map.



Field Trip to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge *By Orlando Hidalgo*

Our field trip to the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on Sunday, Nov. 14 was awesome. We had a fairly nice day, partly sunny, and saw some pretty nice birds too! We had a nice turnout of 16 people from the Wild Bird Center, Central Westchester Audubon, and Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon. Some of the day’s highlights were White-winged Scoter, Dunlin, Snow Geese, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Laughing Gulls, and American Tree Swallow. Altogether we had 47 species of birds. We birded from 9 AM to 1 PM—not bad for just four hours!



Thanks to all who participated in our fall seed sale. Our profit on the sale was \$2,918.75. This is one of the best fall sales since we started the sales.

**Help Support Our
Environmental Mission
Order Your
Bird Seed
Today!**

Woodpecker Mystery Solved

By Sandy Morrissey

Why is the woodpecker pecking on my house? As the bird expert among my friends, this is a question I am frequently asked. Until this year, I would answer that it depends on how it is pecking.

An irregular pecking signifies it is looking for bugs, and it is time for a repair and paint job. A steady, rhythmic drumming means the woodpecker likes the sound that your siding, roof, or gutter makes, and there is really nothing you can do about it. The drumming is how it attracts a mate and defines its territory. Drumming usually doesn't do damage—but is annoying to most.

After 30 years of birding, I learned there can be a third reason. The woodpecker is drilling a roost hole for winter.

I discovered last year that the Downy Woodpecker used bluebird nestboxes in winter to roost at night. I was helping high school students doing bird research to replace regular style nestboxes with a new style made of PVC pipe. We were doing this in late fall, often late in the day. Several times, we startled a Downy Woodpecker who had settled down for the night in one of our nestboxes.

This fall, I noticed a Downy Woodpecker pecking on my garage trim. Hummmm? It was painted three years ago and the paint job still looked in perfect condition. It wasn't mating season. Was the woodpecker after bugs?

More time passed and then I noticed it had made two perfectly round holes—just

the size it would use for nesting, but it wasn't nesting season. Could it be that the Downy Woodpecker picked my garage for its winter roost site?

It certainly did! While hanging our Christmas wreath on the front door around sundown, I heard the distinctive "pik" of the downy. It flew to one of the roost holes, looked around, and disappeared. I heard a few more "piks" from its snug cavity before all was quiet for the night.

Fortunately for the Downy, it "pecked" a passionate bird lover's home. I suppose in the spring I'll have the damage repaired. But for now, on blustery frigid nights, I'll find joy in sharing my home with the woodpecker who came in from the cold.



Going, going, going, gone! Watch what happens when an enterprising Downy Woodpecker decides to come in from the cold.

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Get notified of upcoming
Field Trips and Programs

Get the newsletter in
full color online

Send your e-mail address to
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Welcome New Members

Bronxville: Anne Butler, Julia De Carlo, Mary Diulio, Laura Hyde, Patrick Marrinan, Irwin Nydick, Amelia Ross, Constance Silverman. **Eastchester:** Leah Ehrlich, Jeanette Schaeffer. **Hartsdale:** Margaret Black, Ann Carlo, Francis Figliola, Hannah Greenwood, P. Hand, Sheila Huck. **Larchmont:** Hilda Demsky, David Hershberg, Alice Huppert, Susan Horwitz, Carl Ketchum, Orlando Knauss, Richard Kulzer, Rosemary Parandelis, Carla Volpe Porter, Beth Radow, Nishan Shehadeh, Robert Siegel. **Mamaroneck:** John Baer, Pyr Day, Nada Glick, Vicki Hidalgo, Jim Munz. **Mount Vernon:** Henry Anderson, Christopher Calvano, Anne Hanney, Mina Lacroix, Maureen Newmeyer, Jennie Salem. **New Rochelle:** Richard Carroll, Patricia Fabbio, Warren Gross, Barbara McCollum, Marcie Mink, Sylvia Pang, Lillian Smith, Karol Wojnar. **Pelham:** Llewellyn Berk, Ranait Datta, Robert Veselis, Robert Winkler, A. Witter. **Scarsdale:** Susan Alexander, Bonnie & John Gould, Mel Halikman, Jacquie Janssen, Herb Lafair, Marian Logan, Domenica Mondo, Valerie Torcia, Stephen Warhaftig.

Upcoming Programs

Ghost Bird

Award-winning film about the search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker
 Wednesday, January 19, 7:15 p.m.; Refreshments served beginning at 6:30 p.m.
 Eastchester Public Library, 11 Oakridge Place, Eastchester

A story of the search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker after a sighting was reported in 2004. The last universally accepted sighting of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the United States occurred in 1944. Then on February 11, 2004, a lone kayaker caught a glimpse of a large and majestic woodpecker in the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge of Arkansas. This documentary records the early searches — 2004 through 2006 — when scientific evidence was slim but people were still reporting that they had seen the bird. The documentary unravels like a mystery, examining all sides of the story, while it explores the ultimate question: Does the Ivory-billed Woodpecker still exist, or is it extinct?



Costa Rican Ecology, Our Coffee, and Our Cars: A Naturalist's Travels and Musings in Central America

Speaker: Ted Gilman
 Thursday, February 17, 7:30 p.m.; Refreshments served at 7:00 p.m.
 Church Street School, Room 132, 295 Church Street, White Plains

With Scarlet Macaws, tree frogs, monkeys, bats, snakes, orchids, and much more, Costa Rica's amazing biological diversity attracts ecotourists from around the world. Ted Gilman, naturalist and education specialist for Audubon Greenwich, was fortunate to travel there in January and February of 2008.

Join us as Ted shares a program that will take us to a wide variety of Costa Rica's habitats from north to south and seacoast to continental divide. We'll meet some of the amazing varieties of birds, snakes, monkeys, spiders, insects, flowers, frogs, and wonderful people who call Costa Rica home, as well as neotropical migrant birds which we share with that country. Ted will also share some of the ecological challenges faced by Costa Rica's biota and ask all of us to consider the possible links between our everyday lifestyle choices and their potential impacts in faraway places such as Costa Rica.

Gardens Filled With Life: Designing With Northeastern Flora

Speaker: Carolyn Summers
 Wednesday, March 16, 7:30 p.m.; Refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m.
 Eastchester Public Library, 11 Oakridge Place, Eastchester



Author and landscape architect Carolyn Summers will present a review of current research that reveals the ways in which indigenous plants form the basis of the food web that supports a healthy, biodiverse landscape. Her lecture covers ways to minimize harm from exotic plants, including the use of indigenous substitutes for a variety of traditional styles. Examples of striking, unusual plants used in formal settings will be provided along with naturalistic styles to explore the design potential of Northeastern indigenous flora.

Carolyn Summers is the author of *Designing Gardens With Flora of the American East*, released by Rutgers University Press in April 2010. She is currently an adjunct professor at Westchester Community College and serves on the Steering Committee of The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College and chairs its annual native plant sale.

Gasland

Award-winning film about hydrofracking (gas drilling). Is it safe? Moderator: Al Gassman
 Thursday, April 14 7:30 p.m.; Refreshments served beginning at 7:00 p.m.
 Church Street School, Room 132, 295 Church St., White Plains

The largest domestic natural gas-drilling boom in history has swept across the United States. The Halliburton-developed drilling technology of "fracking" or hydraulic fracturing has unlocked a "Saudi Arabia of natural gas" just beneath us. But is fracking safe? When filmmaker Josh Fox is asked to lease his land for drilling, he embarks on a cross-country odyssey uncovering a trail of secrets, lies, and contamination. A recently drilled nearby Pennsylvania town reports that residents are able to light their drinking water on fire. This is just one of the many absurd and astonishing revelations of a new country called GASLAND. Part *vérité* travelogue, part exposé, part mystery, part bluegrass banjo meltdown, part showdown.



Field Trips for 2011

Please call Doug Bloom for information on trips and to arrange carpooling at 914-713-0630 days Tuesday through Saturday, or evenings from about 6:30 PM to 10 PM. All birders are welcome.

Saturday February 5—Seventh Annual Hudson River Eagle Fest
Runs from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Croton Point Park is site of Teatown Reservation's salute to the Bald Eagle. Live birds, entertaining shows, and informative programs.

Saturday February 12—Eagle Walk
Meet at 8:00 AM at Wild Bird Center, 400 Central Park Ave, Scarsdale, or at Croton Point Park lot at 8:45 AM. Annual search for Bald Eagles.

Sunday April 10—Larchmont Reservoir
Meet at Reservoir at 8:00 AM. Best local site for early spring migrants including warblers and vireos.

Sunday May 1—Central Park
Meet at 7:30 AM at Central Park West and 72nd Street (at statue across from American Museum of Natural History). Will be looking for spring migrants including warblers, vireos, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

Sunday May 15—Doodletown Road
Meet at 8:00 AM at Doodletown Road. Looking for spring migrants including Cerulean Warblers and other warblers.

Sunday May 22—Wallkill
Looking for migrants including Grasshopper Sparrows and Bobolinks.

Join!

Support our environmental mission and receive our newsletter with information about all our programs and field trips. Annual dues are \$20 and include membership in the National Audubon Society, plus its magazine. Please allow 4-6 weeks for processing.

Name _____

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Please make a \$20 check out to National Audubon Society and mail to:

BRSS Audubon Society, Inc.

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