



The Observer

Newsletter of the Rockland Audubon Society

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RAS Demo Rain Garden Showcases Native Plants, Conservation

Installed at Piermont Public Library

By Stephanie Garber

What an exciting morning it was on May 24th watching the large yellow backhoe as it headed down Flywheel Park West to the northeast corner of the Piermont Public Library! Having initiated the project, it was a dream-come-true. After more than a year and half of planning, I was finally seeing Rockland Audubon Society's rain garden project come to light.

Just what is a rain garden? It is a landscaped, shallow depression that collects and filters rainwater, which then seeps naturally into the ground, recharging the groundwater supply while conserving water. Native plants are ideal in a rain garden because they are acclimated to the local soil and water conditions. They attract wildlife, providing food for birds, butterflies, beneficial insects and pollinators with their nectar, pollen and seeds. When the site is sloped, a berm or mound is constructed on the downslope side of the garden to prevent the soil from washing away during a storm.

After setting up the Sarah Lee Gathwright Conservation Fund under Rockland Audubon Society, I started searching for

the perfect site. I proposed installation of a demonstration rain garden to the Town of Orangetown. The Town was enthusiastic and supportive of this collaborative effort, as interest in rain gardens was growing as a valuable conservation pro-



© Michael Garber

Bumble bee collecting pollen from *Monarda* at RAS Rain Garden

ject. Working with the Town's Environmental Committee, an appropriate site was identified at the Dennis P. McHugh Piermont Public Library. The next step was to secure community partners and contributions to help develop the rain garden. The pieces were finally falling into place!

The Village of Piermont Highway Department agreed to grade the site in preparation of the rain garden and arrived as scheduled with their impressive equipment. It was a challenge to grade the sloped site and create a depression on the lower portion of the plot, where the rain garden was to be located. By the end of the second day, however, with the highway crew's concerted efforts, the site was ready for compost.

On cue, the Town of Orangetown Highway Department's huge truck arrived, dumping 8 cubic yards of compost into the excavated and graded area. Next it delivered the mulch, needed to keep moisture in the ground from evaporating.

After the compost was worked into the soil, the site was ready and waiting for the native plants—funded mainly by the Rockland County Soil and Water Conservation District. Once the plants were installed and the garden mulched, the berm was constructed on the lower side of the garden. Raising the ground level on

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Don't Miss Any Future *Observers*!

We have been saying it for months, but now, it's really going to happen! Rockland Audubon Society is transitioning to the more sustainable newsletter form. Since publishing a paper newsletter uses so many resources and is RAS's biggest expense each year, this is the last copy of *The Observer* that will be distributed on paper. Starting with the next issue, *The Observer* will be delivered to you through e-mail. So, don't miss an issue! If you have not already done so, be sure to sign up for the electronic newsletter list by e-mailing Alan Wells at awells@bestweb.net. Please put [RAS News] in the subject line and your name in the body of the e-mail. If you have already signed up for the list, you will receive this edition electronically as well. NOTE: If you signed up for the electronic newsletter and did NOT receive it, please notify Della Wells at dmwells@optonline.net or (845) 942-5751.

If you do not have e-mail and have not already done so, please call (845) 639-9216 to continue receiving a paper copy.

Inside This Issue: Preserving the Suburban Forest, Notes and Sightings, Appeal Letter, Chapter Financial Report, Field Trips, Fall/Winter Programs!

Rockland Audubon Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 404
New City, NY 10956-0404
www.rocklandaudubon.org

Mission

Rockland Audubon Society's mission is to promote environmental conservation and foster an appreciation of birds and nature through education programs and activities.

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and Committee Members**

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Membership

To join, send a \$20 check payable to National Audubon Society to:

Della Wells
9 Dunderberg Road
Tomkins Cove, NY 10986

Allow 4 to 8 weeks for delivery of *Audubon Magazine* and *The Observer*.

The Observer

Editing	Caroline McDonald
Graphics	Elyse Fuller
Copyediting	Alan Wells
	Della Wells

Newsletter Submissions Welcome!

Please send your contributions for *The Observer* to Caroline McDonald at carolinem38a@yahoo.com.

The editor reserves the right to edit any copy for clarity, accuracy and space requirements.

When reprinting, please credit the author and *The Observer* of Rockland Audubon Society.

President's Message

What is it about birding that makes us love it so much?

Is it the connection to nature and the seasons—the spring chorus of robins, or juncos gathered under the winter feeder—that bring familiarity and comfort?

At the same time, the inherent unpredictability holds its own appeal. You may never expect to see a Mandarin Duck in Tappan or a Snowy Owl at Piermont Pier, for example.

Or maybe it's the active nature of birding? Exercise and fresh air are part of the attraction. How many times have you trudged up the hill at Doodletown seeking that elusive warbler or walked for several birdless miles, only to find a mixed flock mocking you back at your car?

Then there's the fascinating behavior of birds. The arced flight display of a hummingbird or the strut of a turkey instills wonder. Even a wheeling, twisting flock of

starlings can make us take pause.

Do you like the travel that comes with birding? Whether heading upstate for an irruption of winter finches, or venturing abroad, new species and habitats add a fresh sense of excitement to travel.

Has birding brought you new friendships? Just think of all of the people you have met through this pursuit, best enjoyed with family and friends.

Regardless of your reasons, perhaps RAS has encouraged your appreciation of birding somehow. If so, please consider responding to our appeal (see page 5). Your financial support can provide educational programs, field trips, and conservation projects. Furthermore, your donation could draw new friends to the enriching world of birding.

Yours truly,
Elyse Fuller



Teenaged Birding Buddies Wanted

Christopher Healy, RAS member and freshman at Albertus Magnus High School, would like to get in touch with other teenaged birders in Rockland County. Please contact Chris at (845) 300-2319 or chrishealy11@optonline.net.

Special Lectures: "Birding by Ear"

with Lorrie Pallant, RAS Education Chair

Thursday, March 15, 2011

Thursday, April 12, 2011

7 p.m., Suffern Library

7 p.m., Nyack Library

Welcome, New and Returning Members!

Marie Albright, Matthew Amdreados, Donna Andreassen, Susan E. Baumgarten, Jeremy Cairo, Frances Clancy, Rosemary Coslit, Colleen Costello, Joyce J. Davis, Stacey Day, Ann Distler, Dorothy Driscoll, Luke Driscoll, Elaine Sue Dworkin, Elaine Edson, Karley Facciola, Danielle Garretson, Carol Glazer, Harry R. Grant, Sharon Guadagno, Helen Hardeen, Roseanne Harper, Denise Helmke, Janet Hosking, Suzanne J. Hyatt, Miriam Jaffe, Debra Jakalow, Ruth Katnell, Alfred Kramer, Marion Laufenberg, O. R. Levine, John Lowry, Marcia Malkoff, Priscilla J. Mannes, Barbara McEnaney, Patricia M. Mulryan, Joseph Murphy, Richard Nardini, Kaete & David Nazarov, Ann Onderdonk, Diana Orenstein, Vincent Origlia, Susan Palkovic, Dominick Pegnataro, Toby Perlmutter, Gerlinde Pollak, Marinelle Riley, Mary Rinaldi, Doris Rion, Gladys Rothman, Harriet Rubin, Lee Sennish, Roberta Slavin, Kurt & Maura Spiegel, June Starke, Ursula Swierczynski, Justine Troia, E. L. Van Tassel, Gerald Walters, Irene Weiss, Muriel E. Woolley

Plant An Acorn, Save A Seedling: *Help Preserve the Suburban Forest*

By Joanna Galdone

One of my favorite look-out places has always been a rock summit, which was protected from pending condominiums some years ago by the local West Branch Conservation Association, as part of South Mountain Park in New City. My mother first walked me up the steep slope, after a woodland walk from the family house off Buena Vista Road, when I was very young. When she was a child in the 1920's she said they could see cows grazing up there. Today the rocky pasture is woodland, and at the top, Little Blue Stem grass, Eastern Red Cedar and occasional Prickly Pear cactus form a micro environment.

The view from the top is one of extreme contrast. On the horizon lies the skyline of New York City. It is preceded by a great expanse of nearly unbroken forest canopy that rises right up to the hilltop viewer. This is our Suburban Forest, comprised of local parkland, homeowner's yards and street plantings. The dense canopy gives the illusion of a bucolic landscape—only the traffic din gives the hint of bustling Rockland County below.

At first glance this collective forest seems lush and healthy. Indeed, most of the trees for the moment are. Because my concern, though, is for the Suburban Forest of the future, let's take a look down below the canopy and investigate this deceptively endless forest.

Remnants of our native woodland abound along roadways and residential yards. Many large trees that were spared during subdivision now spend their days in a manicured landscape. Their leaves are disposed of and any seedlings fall victim to the lawnmower. They form a community of elders, where no children or grandchildren reside, since local tree ordinances protect the larger trees, while allowing the smaller, younger trees, as well as understory species, to be eradicated.

Our local woodland parks offer a better idea of what our native woodlands were like—though now minus the stands of chestnut and only an occasional resilient elm. However, the future of these forest communities appears compromised as well, due largely to over-browsing by a historically high deer population and subsequent expansion of exotic plants.

Recently I stood in the shade of several large trees on the north lawn of the Rockland County Court House and enjoyed a respite from the nearby construction in town. There I imagined the same spot after the trees are gone. With no younger trees growing in that area, my mind conjured up a pretty bleak image!

Simply said, Rockland's native trees have been growing here for millennia, but now the future of our Suburban Forest is in our hands. Lately I have been hearing acorns

falling at all hours. One even landed hard on the roof of the car I was riding in recently. Tiny pin oak, rounded red and black oak, large yellow oval chestnut and smaller white oak acorns contain the potential for a future forest! Unfortunately most oaks are not sold in nurseries due to the long tap root they quickly develop. But what fun instead to collect this easy-to-find tree seed and plant a few on the lawn! If you have areas that are not regularly mowed you might look for tree seedlings such as those from the stately columnar and easy to recognize tulip tree. Protected by a little fencing, such as chicken wire, during their early years, they will take their place below their elders.

And what of our over-browsed woodlands? My own property of several acres has suffered. Once dense, it has recently become open and savanna-like. However, I am slowly working to install a deer fence around the perimeter of the six acres.

I hope local officials will initiate management strategies to help insure that future generations—of humans and wildlife—can enjoy diverse and thriving nearby woodland parks. In the meantime, I'm looking forward to sitting on that rocky overlook, when the vast view of the Suburban Forest below will be flaming with autumn colors. And I hope to glimpse a hawk dipping low overhead.

Notes and Sightings

Compiled by Carol Weiss

June 15—Yesterday a juvenile Sharp-shinned Hawk landed on my neighbor's roof for about three seconds and as the crows were harassing it, took off for parts unknown. Bob Burton

July 8—A young Laughing Gull perched on a piling of the old ferry slip at the Pier, flanked by several Ring-billed Gulls. Carol Weiss

July 12—A fledgling Chimney Swift perched on my front steps this morning. Swifts have been nesting in the chimney of a house across the street for the past few years. Frank Bonanno

As reported in the Journal-News: in mid-

July a Great-Horned Owl was netted at the Dellwood Country Club, actually entangled in a huge net that keeps balls "smacked from the driving range off the ninth hole." The bird was upside down in the 60-foot-high net, dangling from a claw and a leg, according to the report. It was docile as it was carefully disentangled by two club employees wearing masks, leather jackets and gloves. The owl was taken to the Raptor Trust in New Jersey for care and observation and was expected to be released at Dellwood a week later.

July 23—Rockland Lake State Park: Four Green Herons appeared as I walked around the lake—perhaps a high one-day

total for that spot. Carol Weiss

July 23—Shorebird species at the Pier this afternoon: Least Sandpiper - 8, Semipalmated Sandpiper - 2, Spotted Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Killdeer - 2, Semipalmated Plover - 3. Also, an Osprey, an immature Black-crowned Night-Heron, a Bank Swallow and a Belted Kingfisher—the first seen in several weeks. Carol Weiss

July 25—Forster's Terns - an adult feeding a youngster on a buoy near the line of pilings far out south of Piermont Pier -

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Continued RAS Demo Rain Garden Showcases Native Plants, Conservation

Installed at Piermont Public Library

By Stephanie Garber

the lower side of the garden prevents soil erosion from the storm water runoff and helps keep much needed rainwater from ending up in the parking lot below!

Together, the berm and the adjacent low-lying area help capture rainwater, which then recharges the aquifer, conserving water. The rain garden also acts as a buffer, filtering pollutants from the runoff as the water moves through the soil and fibrous plant roots.

The garden, filled with native plants,

grounds.

While at the site working on the garden, I was happy that so many passers-by were curious, wanting to know more about the rain garden as a conservation project. Who knows, they too, might be inspired to create a rain garden in their own yard.

Currently, plans are in the works for an interpretive sign, to be funded by the Friends of the Piermont Public Library. This sign, an integral part of the rain garden, will serve to illustrate how the garden works and its



Village of Piermont Highway Department at work removing excess turf and soil



Completed RAS Rain Garden located at the Dennis P. McHugh Piermont Library with *Liatrix* and *Monarda* in bloom

will be in constant bloom, beginning in the spring with *Aquilegia canadensis*, Wild Columbine and continue into the fall with *Aster novae-angliae*, New England Aster.

So far the Red Admiral and Silver-spotted Skipper butterflies have found their way into the garden, nectaring on the *Monarda didyma*, Bee Balm. Bumble bees, native insects and important pollinators, have been collecting pollen from the *Liatrix spicata*, Spike Gayfeather. Next spring it is likely that Ruby-throated Hummingbirds will be seen nectaring on the Wild Columbine. This is an important source of nectar, blooming just when the hummingbirds are returning from their wintering

role in water conservation—keeping storm water on the site and out of storm drains.

Phase B of the project is to create an exhibit to be curated by Rockland Audubon Society. This will address the function and importance of rain gardens and the use of native plants, including their impact on habitat and wildlife. It will look at biodiversity and water quality and quantity relating to the three surrounding bodies of water in that area—the Hudson River, Sparkill Creek and Piermont Marsh. The exhibit will be installed at the Piermont Library Gallery and will open in 2011. The Library will also use the garden in educational and creative activities with children.

**The Rockland Audubon Society
Rain Garden was made possible
thanks to our partners
and contributors:**

Dennis P. McHugh Piermont
Public Library

Friends of the Dennis P. McHugh
Piermont Public Library

Orangetown Environmental
Committee

Rockland County Soil and Water
Conservation District

Sarah Lee Gathwright
Conservation Fund

Town of Orangetown

Town of Orangetown Highway
Department

Village of Piermont Highway
Department



Rockland Audubon Society

Special Appeal to Rockland Audubon Society Members and Friends

Please Help Your Chapter Maintain Financial Viability

For over 60 years, the Rockland Audubon Society (RAS) has made significant contributions to enhancing the quality of life in our community. Every year we offer to the public a wide variety of free, fun, and educational presentations, produce a newsletter, lead over 40 field trips, and champion both local and national efforts to preserve natural habitats for birds and other wildlife. This year we used grant money to build and maintain bluebird and kestrel nesting boxes in locations throughout Rockland County. Volunteers monitored the boxes and collected data on nesting and fledging birds. RAS plans to install more boxes in time for the 2011 nesting season next spring, continuing our efforts to reestablish the Eastern Bluebird, New York's state bird. RAS also installed a Rain Garden in Piermont with the help of community partners, bequest money and contributions. In conjunction with the Rain Garden Project, an exhibit curated by RAS on rain gardens, water conservation, habitat and biodiversity will open in September 2011 at the Piermont Public Library. In order to realize RAS's significant conservation projects and educational programs and field trips, we need your continued support and contributions.

A small group of unpaid individuals volunteer their time to organize activities and run the business of RAS. They spend chapter money to provide these programs for you. Because of increasing costs, our expenses exceed our income. While the National Audubon Society has impressive initiatives in many areas of education and conservation, the dues share of less than \$4.00 per member is not sufficient to cover our operating costs. Your Board of Directors is constantly reviewing expenditures to find ways of reducing costs such as moving to an on-line newsletter with the next issue (*If you have not already done so, be sure to sign up for the electronic newsletter list by emailing Alan Wells at awells@bestweb.net or call (845) 639-9216 to receive a paper copy if you do not have email*). The Board seeks opportunities to raise additional revenue, applies for grants, and requests help from local businesses that offer funds for specific projects via their charitable donation programs.

We all know that these are challenging financial times, but we believe that Rockland Audubon is worthy of your support! We are asking each of you, our members and friends, to make a tax-deductible contribution directly to the Rockland Audubon Society. We have a fund-raising target of \$3,500 by December 31, 2010.

In addition to your financial help, the Board would also appreciate your suggestions for increasing revenue. Do you have any connections with prospective donors or companies that might offer matching gifts? Are you interested in leaving RAS a bequest in your will? Are you familiar with any successful strategies for non-profit fundraising and public relations to organizations such as RAS? Are you willing to help or advise us as we proceed? If so, please add your comments to the form below.

Thank you in advance for your generous support!

Yes, I support RAS in its initiative to maintain financial viability. Here is my contribution:

\$100 \$50 \$25 Other _____

Here are my ideas for fundraising opportunities:

I would rather discuss my fundraising ideas in person. The best time and day(s) to contact me by phone is

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please make your check payable to Rockland Audubon Society, Inc. and return this form to: Rockland Audubon Society, Inc., PO Box 404, New City, NY 10956-0404

2010 Chapter Financial Report

Prepared by Donna Nye, RAS Treasurer

National Audubon Society

2010 CHAPTER FINANCIAL REPORT

National Audubon Society

Chapter Name:	<u>Rockland Audubon Society Inc.</u>	Chapter Code: R06
Balance Sheet and Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for a 12-Month Period from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010		
REVENUES		
	Audubon Society Net Payment	\$ 2,311.75
	Additional Membership Revenue	\$ 160.00
	Bequests	
	Contributions	\$ 1,238.00
	Educational Events	\$ 451.25
	Field Trips	\$ 275.00
	Fundraising Events	\$ 2,126.60
	Grants	\$ 1,425.00
	Interest and Investments	\$ 192.11
	Sales, Store, Videos	
	Other, Miscellaneous	\$ 81.56
	Total Income	\$ 8,261.27
EXPENDITURES		
	Administration	\$ 2,304.26
	Newsletter/Postage/Mailing	\$ 2,704.39
	Educational Events	\$ 1,650.00
	Fundraising	\$ 2,162.20
	Regional/State Offices/State Council	\$ 1,999.00
	Grants Contributions to Others	
	Collaborative Funding Project	\$ 1,116.37
	Memberships	\$ 150.00
	Other	
	Total Expenditures	\$ 12,086.22
NET INCOME (OR DEFICIT) IN OPERATING FUNDS		\$ (3,824.95)
BEGINNING BALANCE		\$ 12,995.32
ENDING BALANCE		\$ 9,170.37
ASSETS		
	Cash and Equivalents (Checking Account, etc.)	\$ 8,934.55
	Miscellaneous, Petty Cash	\$ 39.63
	Accounts Receivable (Owed to Chapter)	
	Other (Video, Store Goods)	\$ 196.19
	Net Fixed Assets (furniture, equipment, not including value of land)	
	Total Assets	\$ 9,170.37
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES		
Liabilities		
	Accounts payable (owed by chapter)	
	Unearned Income (not credited in this fiscal year)	
	Other	
	Total Liabilities	0
Funds		
	Restricted (Endowments, Scholarships, etc)	
	Reserved (Committed to Special Programs)	
	Unreserved (Not Committed)	
	Total Fund Balances	\$ 9,170.37

RAS Fall Field Trips

Check www.rocklandaudubon.org for updates!

Nov. 7 (Sun.)—First Sunday Walk at Kakiat Park

Meet Carol Weiss at 8 a.m. at the parking lot off Rt. 202 opposite Viola School. Over by 10 a.m. 845-358-3659

Nov. 13-14 (Sat and Sun)—Fall Migration at Brigantine and Cape May

All-day trip (Sat.) to Brigantine Unit of Edwin B. Forsythe NWR, N.J. Meet Jim Previdi at 6:30 a.m. at the Commuter Parking Lot, Rt. 303 N., West Nyack. 845-942-8448 If desired, continue to Cape May for an overnight stay and bird on Sunday with Alan and Della Wells. 845-942-5751

Dec. 5 (Sun.)—First Sunday Walk at Kakiat Park

Meet Veronika Krause at 8 a.m. at the parking lot off Rt. 202 opposite Viola School. Over by 10 a.m. 845-359-9294

Dec. 19 (Sun.)—Annual Christmas Bird Count

Join a team for our 64th Christmas Bird Count. Check www.rocklandaudubon.org or call Carol Weiss 845-358-3659

Jan. 1, 2011 (Sat.)—Birding at Jones Beach, NY

Meet Della and Alan Wells at the Commuter Parking Lot, Rt. 303 N., West Nyack, at 5:45 a.m. See the first sunrise of 2011 and start your new year list. 845-942-5751

Jan. 2, 2011 (Sun.)— First Sunday Walks at Kakiat Park

Meet Carol Weiss at 8 a.m. at the parking lot off Route 202 opposite Viola School. Over by 10 a.m. 845-358-3659

Jan. 9, 2011 (Sun.)— Winter at Congers Memorial Park

Meet Matt Beckerle at 10 a.m. at the main parking lot of Congers Memorial Park (6 Gilchrist Rd.). Check out the variety of trees and birds along the eastern edge of Congers Lake and more. Path is wheelchair-accessible, flat and paved. 845-735-5411

Jan. 15, 2011 (Sat.) — Pelham Bay Park

Meet Jim Previdi at 8 a.m. at the Commuter Parking Lot, Rt. 303 N., West Nyack,

for carpooling. Search for owls & waterfowl. Dress warmly, bring snack & hot drink. Return by early afternoon. 845-942-8448

Jan. 18, 2011 (Tue.) — Winter Waterfowl Count

Meet Carol Weiss at 9 a.m. at the ball field parking lot at the Piermont Pier entrance. Walk the pier to count the ducks and from there, drive north through the county to count waterfowl. Stops will be made wherever there is open water and to warm up. Please call Carol if you can help with this **statewide count**. Results are reported to the NYSDEC. Date will be changed for bad weather. 845-358-3659

Jan. 29, 2011 (Sat.) — Winter Birding in Orange County

Meet Jim Previdi at 2p.m. at the Commuter Parking Lot, Rt. 303 N., West Nyack, for carpooling. See raptors and field birds. Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls are usually sighted just before sunset. Should return by 6:30 p.m. 845-942-8448

***Continued* Notes and Sightings**

Compiled by Carol Weiss

spotted while crabbing from my boat. Drew Ciganek

Aug. 1—RAS field trip at Pier highlights: 2 immature Bald Eagles, 6 Forster's Terns, including an adult feeding a youngster; 4 shorebird species - Least and Semipalmated Sandpiper, Killdeer (3) and Semipalmated Plover (4); an adult and immature Black-Crowned Night-Heron.

Aug. 1—Stony Point marsh: two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds staged a quick but fierce battle above the water; and against a dark cloud the silhouettes of three large black birds: raven, Black Vulture and Turkey Vulture. Carol Weiss

Aug. 14—John and Jane Lampkin reported that the best time to see the beavers at Kakiat Park is between 7 p.m. and dusk.

Aug. 18—Low tide at the Piermont Pier brought in Least and/or Semipalmated Sandpipers, 2 Spotted Sandpipers (one with spots still), a Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Plovers, Killdeer, and a winter plumage Black-bellied Plover (it looked

like a small immature gull with long legs), and an immature night-heron on the breakwater rocks. Linda Pistolessi

Aug. 19—Rockland Lake: An Eastern Kingbird chased a Sharp-shinned Hawk out of a tree. Chipping Sparrows were feeding young on the ground. Several Gray Catbirds were feeding fledglings in bushes and trees. But the real surprise was an American Robin, which flew into a nest on the top of the Nature Center fence (hidden in vines) and popped a worm into the mouth of a large nestling. Carol Weiss

Aug. 22—Atop Hook Mountain counted 6 Broad-winged Hawks, 2 Osprey, 2 kestrels, 1 Cooper's Hawk, a Bald Eagle, and a single Northern Harrier, an early start to the hawk migration season. Steve Bauer

Aug. 26—Three Ruddy Turnstones at Piermont Pier were reported independently by Alan Wells and Kirsten Head.

Aug. 27—There was very little bird activi-

ty midday in Doodletown, but I did see a male Cerulean Warbler feeding on insects in a tall oak tree. Carol Weiss

Aug. 29—Evening at Piermont Pier: two winter-plumaged Ruddy Turnstones, living up to their names: turning stones. Linda Pistolessi

Aug. 29—While hiking South Mountain Park trail with my dog, Cooper (he was on a leash and very quiet), I spotted a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches. Caroline McDonald

Aug. 30—After an 80-species trip to Maine, my grandparents and I went to Hook Mountain to see hawk migrants. Instead we saw two Red-Breasted Nuthatches, a Pileated Woodpecker. and many Chimney Swifts. When we returned home, across the street sitting 50 feet in a tree was an adult Bald Eagle, which sat there for about an hour. Chris Healy

Please send your bird sightings to Carol by phone 845-358-3659 or e-mail cweiss1124@optonline.net.

Upcoming Rockland Audubon Society Programs

New Program Location: The Historical Society of Rockland County

RAS programs are held at the **Historical Society of Rockland County**, 20 Zukor Road, New City, NY 10956. Doors open at 7 p.m. for refreshments. Program starts at 7:30. Please see www.rocklandaudubon.org for directions.

November 5, 2010 Peter Capainolo from the American Museum of Natural History will investigate mysteries of the avian world as answered in his new book *How Fast Can a Falcon Fly? Fascinating Answers to Questions about Birds of Prey* co-authored by Carol Butler. Copies of his book will be available for purchase and signing at the program.

Friday, Dec. 3, 2010 **Beyond the ID Shot—Transforming Ho-hum Images Into Art** Even if all you own is a point-and-shoot camera, you can create memorable images by incorporating time-honored elements of design into your photos. Our own John Lampkin will demonstrate the steps, using his own work and that of other members as examples. John has won on-line awards for his photography and has self-published five books of Nature photos with his unique brand of entertaining commentary.

Friday, Jan. 7, 2011 **The Northern Saw-whet Owl: The Elusive Predator in Our Backyards** The Northern Saw-whet Owl is one of the most common and widespread of North American Owl species. However, it is also the smallest owl in the Northeast and a master at camouflage, so few people have actually seen one. Naturalists Trudy Battaly and Drew Panko will share their knowledge of these owls based on four years of studies, primarily in the Bronx and Westchester during the fall and winter months. Also, they will relate some interesting encounters with these wonderful creatures.
