

The Observer



The Rockland Audubon Society Quarterly Newsletter. Since 1947. Volume 62, Number 2
May 2009 — August 2009

www.rocklandaudubon.org

Special Interest Articles

A Wolf Comes to Rockland:

Julia Warger previews
June's monthly
program and a very
special four-legged
guest. **Page 1**

Conservation Corner:

Tom Fuller on
Rockland's farmers'
markets and why they
matter to the
environment.
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Rain Gardens and Rain Barrels as Wildlife Habitat

Spring is the ideal season to create a rain garden in your own yard. A rain garden is a landscaped shallow depression that is designed to collect and filter stormwater runoff from otherwise impervious surfaces such as roofs, driveways, walkways, patios and compacted yards. The rainwater seeps naturally into the ground helping to recharge the aquifer and renew the groundwater supply. This is important for Rockland County as it is primarily dependent on wells.

Rain gardens also act as buffers, filtering pollutants from the runoff as it moves through soil and fibrous plant roots. As a result, the amount of pollutants that enter nearby streams, ponds, lakes and wetlands is reduced. Rain gardens also diminish the need for costly municipal treatment facilities and the energy required to operate them. Compared to a conventional lawn, rain gardens allow 30% more water to soak into the ground, thereby conserving water while improving water quality and helping to

prevent excessive flooding and soil erosion.

Native plants are a good choice for rain gardens because they are adapted to our climate. They can tolerate very wet conditions as well as very dry conditions and do not need chemicals to help them grow. They have developed defenses against harmful native insects and serve as habitat for native wildlife including butterflies, hummingbirds, songbirds and beneficial insects. Native plants are ideal because their deep roots create channels in the soil allowing water to soak in quickly and thus are drought-resistant.

Rain barrels are a great option for harvesting rainwater. The captured water can, in turn, be used to water a garden. For more information contact the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rockland County, (845) 429-7085, ext. 3 or the Rockland County Soil & Water Conservation District at (845) 364-2670. — *Stephanie, Garber, RAS Conservation Committee*

Rockland Audubon Society Cries "Wolf!" in June

The Rockland Audubon Society will welcome the Wolf Conservation Center of South Salem, NY, and their 7-year old Arctic gray wolf, Atka, on Friday, June 5th at 7:00 p.m. for our last program this season. The event will include an awe-inspiring, up-close encounter with this important but misunderstood predator. Come learn about the history of wolves in the United States, the importance of wolves in a healthy ecosystem, and the efforts to save these magnificent creatures for future generations.

With the mission to educate people about wolves, their relationship in the environment and the human role in protecting their future, the Wolf Conservation Center (WCC)

has put together an informative and entertaining look at the history of wolves in North America, their biology and the mythology that surrounds them. The program begins with a brief educational presentation which addresses four major points: wild wolves are not dangerous to people, they play a vital role in keeping our ecosystems healthy, wolves are not pets — although closely related to dogs wolves are wild animals and will not live by our rules, and everyone has the ability and responsibility to affect the world — in addition to educating audiences about wolves, this presentation has a pro-active, empowering message about safeguarding our collective future.

Con't on page 5...

Our Mission

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



The Observer is the newsletter of the Rockland Audubon Society, Inc. P.O. Box 404 New City, NY 10956

Editor: Tom Sullivan
Layout: Trisha Sullivan

Send articles, trip reports, poetry, drawings, photos and comments to sullivantp@gmail.com
Submission deadline: July 15, 2009.

Is there something you'd like to read about in *The Observer*? Please, just let me know!

Membership

To join send a \$20 check (\$15 for senior citizens) payable to National Audubon Society to: Veronika Krause 8 Spruce Street Orangeburg, NY 10962.

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

Message from the President

Hurray. Spring is here! I am really looking forward to all the upcoming RAS field trips, unencumbered by my winter jacket, snow boots, and mittens!

Mark your calendars! May 1 is our annual members-only potluck supper and business meeting. After sharing our favorite culinary creations and lively conversation, we will elect the 2009-2010 Board of Directors from the slate put forward at the April meeting by the Nominations Committee. Remember, the May meeting starts at 6:30pm, so we have plenty of time to eat and exercise our voting privileges. At 8pm, Lorrie Pallant will present an informative program on the birds of Rockland County. The enclosed flyer includes sign-up information for the potluck dinner.

May 15th - 16th is our "Big Bird Day" fundraiser, when teams of your fellow members will be scouring all their favorite haunts around Rockland County in a friendly competition to find the highest number of bird species in a 24-hour period. It is fun and for a very worthy cause – your Chapter's survival! The dues share we receive annually from National Audubon Society covers only a small fraction of our operating expenses. Printing and mailing this newsletter is our largest expense (35%), followed by administrative expenses (rent for the gym/auditorium at Rockland Country Day School, phone, and liability insurance). Your Board of Directors are all volunteers, and we do everything we can to control Chapter expenses. Your Chapter needs your financial support (and it is tax deductible, too)! The enclosed flyer includes a Big Bird Day pledge form, so please give generously!

Good birding!

Della Wells
April 2009

Welcome New and Returning Members!

Elizabeth Avery, Roy Balfour, Gerald Beutel, H. Blaisdell, Josef Boeni, Helga A. Brugger, Jim Burns, Vincent C. Ceparano, Vladimir Charlap, Ruth Coleman, Hilda Coords, Martha Cummings, Vivian Del Valle, Chelsea Delisser, Charlotte Dervish, Jo A. Feder, Lynn Feller, Robert Friedland, Sandra Gaetz, Marilyn Gambardella, Elizabeth J. Gessler, Howard B. Goldstein, Rose. M. Gonella, Michael Gorsky, Lucia Gratch, Robert and Linda Havlena, Karl Hiller, Joseph Hoffman, Josanna Jean-Louis, George Kaplan, Evan Karzhevsky, Frank Kemmer, Jeffrey J. Kraus, Marsha Krohngold, Stephen Ludwig, Louis A. Martorella, Stephen Masiello, Heinz Molitor, Felicia Napier, Michael V. Pantliano, Charlotte Revesz, Michele Riak, Peter J. Rickey, Ronnie Rolls, Gladys Rothman, Johanna Ruiz, Joan C. Sanders, Marlene K. Sanders, Joseph Schachner, Maureen Seniuk, Gene W. Setzer, Marie Shepitka, Richard Stone, Elizabeth Thomas, Nathalie Tregubov, Margie Turrin, Ruth Wagner, Anne Welles, Mary R. Whitford, Mirian Williams, Ursula Woolley, Fay Ziegler.

Board of Directors:

President: Della Wells*
Vice President: Elyse Fuller*
Secretary: Karen D'Alessandri*
Treasurer: Glenys Foster Roberts*
* Denotes a member of the Board of Directors

Committees:

Conservation: Stephanie Garber*, Tom Fuller*, Donna Nye*
Education: Lorrie Pallant*, Jim Previdi*
Field Trips: Jim Previdi*
Fundraising: Elyse Fuller*, Donna Nye*
Membership: Veronika Krause*
Newsletter Editor: Tom Sullivan
Publicity: Jessie Trabant*
Programs: Julia Warger*
Webmaster: Alan Wells

Recycling Those Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs



A Bright Idea:

Safe Disposal of Compact Fluorescent Bulbs

Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) are a great way to reduce home energy use. But did you know they contain small amounts of mercury? Unless disposed of properly, mercury can end up in our rivers and lakes where it threatens the entire ecosystem. Elevated levels of mercury have been shown to reduce reproductive rates of loons by as much as 40 percent, and alarming levels have been found in the blood and feathers of Bald Eagles in the Catskills. Help keep mercury out of our watersheds by keeping CFLs out of the trash. Here are some places CFLs can be safely recycled in Rockland County:

All Home Depot Stores

Turn in broken or expired bulbs at the returns counter.

Rockland County Household Hazardous Waste Facility

Firemen's Memorial Drive
Pomona, NY 10970
(845) 364-2444

www.rocklandrecycles.com/authority/hhw.html

Monday-Friday, 8am-1pm and various weekends

Learn more at www.epa.gov/bulbrecycling or www.earth911.org.

—Tom Fuller, RAS Conservation Committee

From Mothering Heights: Trusting in That Old Hog

I've learned to pay attention to my resident Ground Hog, Keeps-a-talking Phyllis.

On February 2nd, she saw her shadow, and I took it seriously. At the end of the month, I resisted the impulse to clean and store my Weapons of Snow Destruction. Good thing, too, because March brought us 8 inches of Insurgent Winter.

I also left my warm coat, mittens and boots by the door, in case there was an emergency snowman construction situation. The previous one had melted into a mere puddle, and some creature had carried off his shriveled up carrot-nose. But, I believed Keeps-a-talking and you see? She was right!

Here we are now, on the downhill side of the vernal equinox, but still, I am wary of too much optimism. After all, I have not yet seen the proverbial "first robin", nor have I heard the drumming of the harbinger woodpecker. And, most importantly, the juncos haven't left yet. On the other hand, the forsythia is budding, and we have had warmer days. And even Phyllis is venturing out more. I saw her the other day, when the temperature rose above 60 for the first time, and honestly, I could swear she winked at me.

So, I guess you could say I'm like a hardcore Harley Davidson owner...

I love and trust my Hog.

— Peggy Bruner, RAS member

If it is raining, call the field trip leader at least one hour before the meeting time to see if the trip is a go. Also, call the trip leader for directions to the field trip site, or if you will be on the trip but not at the meeting place.

12 APR (Sun) The Celery Farm, Allendale, NJ

Meet Alan & Della Wells at 9 am at the Celery Farm parking lot on Franklin Turnpike, Allendale, NJ. Look for waterfowl and very early spring migrants. Over by Noon. 845-942-5751

19 APR (Sun) A Spring Stroll at Mt. Ivy Swamp

Meet Veronika Krause at 10 am at Pomona Middle School parking lot on Pomona Rd. Look for Marsh Marigolds and chipping sparrows along the railroad embankment. Over by noon. 845-359-9294

25 APR (Sat) Doodletown for Early Migration

Meet Carol Weiss at 7am at the pull-off on Route 9W just north of the Iona Island causeway, south of Bear Mountain. First warblers of spring! Some uphill walking. Bring snack. Over by noon. 845-358-3659

28 APR (Tue) A Weekday Walk at the Celery Farm in Allendale, NJ

Meet Elyse Fuller at 8am at the Celery Farm parking lot, Franklin Turnpike, Allendale, NJ. Look for waterfowl and early spring migrants. Over by 10:30 am. 845-351-2893

2 MAY (Sat) Stony Point Battlefield State Historic Site

Meet Carol Weiss at 8am at the main parking lot at the end of Battalion Rd, accessed from Park Rd. off Route 9W in Stony Point. Stroll through this historic site on the Hudson River to search the woodlands for spring neotropical migrants. Over about 10:30am. 845-358-3659

3 MAY (Sun) First Sunday Walk at Kennedy Dells Park

Meet Carol Weiss at 8am at the parking lot on North Main Street in New City opposite Blue Jay Circle. Over by 10am. 845-358-3659

5 MAY (Tue) A Weekday Walk at Doodletown

Meet Elyse Fuller at 8am at the pull-off on Route 9W just north of the Iona Island causeway, south of Bear Mountain. Look for spring migrants. Some uphill walking. Over by 11am. 845-351-2893

15 MAY (Fri evening) to 16 MAY (Sat evening) BIG BIRD DAY fundraiser - See enclosed flyer for details.

3 JUN (Wed) Evening Walk at Piermont Pier

Meet Carol Weiss at 6pm at the parking lot by the baseball field near the entrance to Piermont Pier. 845-358-3659

6 JUN (Sat) Galeville Airport During Nesting Season

Meet Della and Alan Wells at 7am at the Park & Ride lot on 9W in Stony Point (just south of Hogan's Diner) for carpooling. This abandoned airport, now administered as the Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge, is a hotspot for grassland birds. 845-942-5751

7 JUN (Sun) First Sunday Walk at Kennedy Dells Park

Meet Veronika Krause at 8am at the parking lot on North Main Street in New City opposite Blue Jay Circle. Over by 10am. 845-359-9294

13 Jun (Sat) Ft. Montgomery State Historic Site

Meet Alan and Della Wells at 10am in front of the visitor center for a birding walk around the site, 690 Route 9W, 0.25 miles north of the Bear Mountain traffic circle. 845-942-5751

14 JUN (Sun) Doodletown for Beginners

Meet Della and Alan Wells at 8am at the pull-off on Route 9W just north of the Iona Island causeway, south of Bear Mountain. Practice bird ID and binocular use. Some uphill walking. 845-942-5751

20 Jun (Sat) Iona Island Walk

Meet Jim Previdi at 11:45am at the parking area by the railroad tracks at end of Iona Island Causeway, off Route 9W south of Bear Mountain. Join Park interpreter Doc Bayne for a special walking tour of Iona Island, a bald eagle sanctuary which is normally closed to the public. Besides being rich in flora and fauna, the island has a long and varied history of human occupation. 845-942-8448

28 JUN (Sun) Dragons and Damsels of Rockland County

Meet Alan and Della Wells at 9am at the Park and Ride Lot on Route 9W in Stony Point (just South of Hogan's Diner) for carpooling. Learn to identify common dragonflies and damselflies at Lily Pond in Harriman State Park (a short drive followed by a short hike). Bring water, snack, binoculars (preferably close focus), and camera (optional) to capture these photogenic subjects. If rain or overcast weather is forecasted, please call first to confirm. 845-942-5751

5 JUL (Sun) First Sunday Walk at Kennedy Dells Park

Meet Carol Weiss at 8am at the parking lot on North Main Street in New City opposite Blue Jay Circle. Over by 10am. 845-358-3659

2 AUG (Sun) First Sunday Walk at Kennedy Dells

Meet Veronika Krause at 8am at the parking lot on North Main Street in New City opposite Blue Jay Circle. Over by 10am. 845-359-9294

16 AUG (Sun) Birds and Cameras at Jamaica Bay

Meet Della and Alan Wells at 7:30am at the Commuter Parking Lot, Route 303 North, West Nyack, for carpooling to this birding hot spot. Alan's group will concentrate on photographing shorebirds and Della's group will not. Full day trip. 845-942-5751



Photo: Atka howling

The second part of the program begins when Atka enters the room on a leash with his handler to walk about among the audience who will get a close-up look at this beautiful animal while questions are answered (by program presenter and Managing Director of WCC, Maggie Howell.)

Atka is one of four wolves residing at the WCC, which center officials dubbed "ambassador wolves." As the youngest such ambassador, Atka travels to schools, museums, nature centers and libraries across the Northeast to help people learn about the importance of his wild brothers and sisters, according to the Wolf Conservation Center Web site.

Founded in 1999 the Wolf Conservation Center in South Salem, NY promotes wolf conservation by teaching about wolves, supporting wolf reintroduction to federally designated areas that can sustain them, captive breeding of endangered wolf species and providing a natural habitat for a few captive wolves where observation and study of their behavior are possible.

For more information about the WCC and to view some great wolf portraits, visit their website at www.nywolf.org or call them at (914) 763-2373.

Important note about the event

Join us in the auditorium at the Rockland Country Day School, 34 King's Highway in Congers. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m., one hour earlier than the RAS programs normally begin. Due to the excitement already generated by this special program we are asking members and the general public to call in a reservation to the RAS phone machine. Leave your last name, spell it for us, your phone number including area code, and the total number of both children and adults in your party. If you would like directions to the school or more information ask for a call back and we will call you back.

If you later decide not to come, please call to cancel your reservation so others may enjoy the evening.

To off-set the cost of bringing this very special program to the Rockland Audubon Society members and our greater community, we are requesting a donation of \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for seniors and children.

— Julia Warger, RAS Programs Committee



Photo: Atka

Rockland County Nature Strollers Field Trips

11 APR (Sat) 11:00am: Family Nature Walk at Kakiat Park, Suffern

Bring the kids out to explore what's budding, crawling, and peeping. This informal walk is geared towards young children and toddlers. Leader: Olivia, 845-406-5627.

9 MAY (Sat) 11am: Family Nature Walk at Kennedy Dells Park, New City

Spring will be well underway so bring the kids out to explore the child friendly trails. This informal walk is geared towards young children and toddlers. Leader: Olivia, 845-406-5627.

9 JUN (Tue) 10:30am: Children's Park, Chestnut Ridge

Bring the kids to explore this great park with paved walking trail, woodland trails, a stream, and a pond! This informal walk is geared towards young children and toddlers. Leader: Olivia, 845-406-5627.

Click on Nature Strollers link on RAS website or call the leader for more information.

When I started birding, almost 30 years ago, the older, more experienced birders talked about “irruptive” winters when northern birds would discover our parks, backyards, and feeders. Well, we’ve just experienced one of those seasons.

Starting with Veronika Krause’s field trip to Kennedy Dells in December where several Common Redpolls were spotted, there have been many, many sightings of winter finches. Another Common Redpoll was counted by Jessie Traband and Frank Kemmer on the Christmas Count.

Pine Siskins found feeders and forests in Rockland County in January and February. Leader Veronika Krause listed 20 on her Kennedy Dells field trip on Feb. 1, and Carol Weiss had 30 at her feeders on Feb. 14. But Vince Plogar’s sightings topped those. He had 200 in Mount Ivy on Jan. 18, 300 in the same area on Jan. 25, and another 100 on a trip on Hook Mountain on Feb. 7.

Crossbills were seen also. Here’s a Jan. 26 commentary by Paul Dubuc: “With reports from seemingly every county in the Empire and Garden States, I was a little bummed that I couldn’t find White-winged Crossbills in Rockland. However, walking between buildings at the Wyeth plant in Pearl River, I heard their distinctive call and looked up into the Norway Spruces in time to see 10-12 (mostly female) WW crossbills shredding cones! These birds were feeding within the security perimeter of the plant about 4:40 p.m. However, when last I saw them, they were heading east toward the larger spruces in the lawn fronting Middletown Road.”

And on Feb. 2, John Lampkin wrote, “For the past couple of days, we have had a single Red Crossbill at our sunflower feeder.” Jane Lampkin actually first saw and identified this crossbill, which hasn’t been seen in Rockland County in decades.

Other intriguing reports included these:

12/7/2008 I saw my first eagles of the season at Congers Lake this morning, the earliest I have seen them on the lake. An adult and an immature were seen chasing each other around. Frank Bonanno

12/12/08 Piermont: Over the ball field, two Greater Yellowlegs. Drew Ciganek

12/28/08 Clarkstown Landfill: Two Rough-legged hawks, two Merlin, and seven Horned Larks. Drew Ciganek

01/18/09 Saw a male Pileated Woodpecker this morning about 11 a.m. in my side yard, pecking at a tree. It was there about three minutes before leaving. Bob Burton

02/13/09 Two Snow Geese stood out from the flock of Canada Geese at Rockland Lake. Alan Wells

2/16/09 Rockland Lake State Park: Near the wooden bridge over the fledgling Hackensack Creek I met two Snow Geese, *Chen caerulescens*. One is a white adult. The other, apparently an immature, is neatly patterned in shades of gray. It appears 20 percent smaller than the white bird, so perhaps it is the “Lesser” Snow Goose. The Ornithologists’ Union currently lists two subspecies of Snow Goose: the nominate “Lesser” *Chen caerulescens caerulescens*, and the “Greater” *Chen caerulescens atlanticus*. “Bull’s Birds of New York State, 1998,” says “. . . evidently the difference is one of measurements.”

The name *Caerulescens* refers to the “bluish” nominate phase or morph of the Snow Goose. Our Hudson River Flyway snows are mainly the “Greater” subspecies in which the blue morph is very rare. The “Lesser” birds prefer the blue uniforms and commute mainly over the prairies and the Mississippi Flyway. Interestingly, Roger Peterson, whose earlier field guides went into numerous subspecies, changed his mind and later remarked, regarding subspecies, “the distinctions are seldom apparent and should not concern the field observer.”

Near the Snow Geese, my first Killdeer of the year. Gene Brown

02/26/09 My Upper Nyack Great Horned Owl is back, hooting late at night. Gene Brown

Please contact Carol with your bird sightings, at (845) 358-3659 or cweiss1124@optonline.net.



Pine Siskin, a rare green morph photographed at the feeder of Alan and Della Wells.

Conservation Corner: Think Locally, Eat Neighborly

Shopping at the farmers' market is one of the most important and pleasurable ways you can contribute to sustainability. Here are five reasons why eating locally benefits you, your community, and the environment:

Real food and real flavors: The farmers' market can't be beat for fresh and flavorful foods. Local fruits and vegetables are allowed to ripen naturally and are brought directly to you. Varieties are selected for their taste and ability to grow in our region rather than their capacity to withstand cross-country shipping and weeks in storage. At the farmers' market, freshness is key and tomatoes taste like tomatoes.

So much more than produce: Farmers' markets go way beyond fruits and vegetables. Grab a delicious quiche, a fresh loaf of bread, a bottle of local wine, and you've got dinner. You can find cheese from grass-fed cows, fish from Long Island Sound, and eggs from happy chickens. From soups to nuts, try baked goods, all-natural meats, preserves, jams, salsas, and pickles. They even have cut flowers, potted plants and herbs, locally roasted fair trade coffee, and unique crafts. Round things out with entertainment, nutrition education, and community information.

Reconnect with the seasons: From the greens of spring to the peaches of summer and the colorful gourds of fall, eat the way our grandparents ate — with the bounty of the seasons. Be reminded that our food comes from the leaves, roots, and fruits of plants that grow with the region's soil, weather, and seasons. Experience this progression and delight in seeing what is new each week. While nature determines what is available, wholesome and delicious options abound. The first luscious strawberries of June will taste much sweeter than the ones artificially available year-round.

Support your neighbors: Family farms have dwindled in the Lower Hudson Valley as food production becomes increasingly industrialized. Buying directly from farmers gives them a better return and keeps money in the local economy. While globalized agribusiness has resulted in meat, vegetable, and peanut butter scares, there is no better assurance of quality and accountability than face-to-face transactions with those who grow your food. Get to know the people who work hard to feed you.

Protect the environment: The impact of our global food system on climate change is staggering. It relies on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides created from petroleum. Even organic foods require tremendous amounts of fossil fuels for their transportation. The average food item travels over 1,500 miles. Even more fuel is used for refrigeration, storage, sorting, cutting, and packaging. The food at farmers' markets is not only local, but it is invariably grown using sustainable methods. Soils are allowed to build over time and do not require chemical fertilizers. Diverse family farms are not as susceptible to pests and provide habitat for birds and wildlife. Responsible farmers care about their land and the food they grow. Supporting them protects orchards, fields, and farmland from development. After all, the way we choose to eat determines how the Earth is used.

Haverstraw Farmers' Market

Wednesdays, 11am-6pm and Sundays, 9am-2pm
May 6 through November 18
Maple Avenue in front of Village Hall

Piermont Farmers' Market

Sundays, 11am-3pm
May 31 through mid-December
M & T Bank lot at Ash Street and Piermont Avenue

Suffern Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 9am-1pm
June 13 through November 21
Parking Lot "A" at Orange and Lafayette Avenues

Nyack Farmers' Market

Thursdays, 8am-1pm
May 14 through November 25
Next to Riverspace Theater off Main Street

Spring Valley Farmers' Market

Wednesdays, 8am-5pm
July 8 through early November
Route 45 and Church Street

New in 2008: Indoor Winter Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 9am-1pm
February 7 through April 15, 2008
Palisades Community Center in Palisades, NY
675 Oak Tree Road

Another way to receive fresh, local farm products is through community supported agriculture (CSA). Members purchase a share of a farmer's crop and receive weekly baskets of produce delivered to pre-determined locations. In some instances, members pick up the share right at the farm. Recipes and newsletters are often included. The direct relationship lowers costs for both farmers and consumers. Most CSA farmers prefer that members pay for the season up-front, but some accept weekly or monthly payments. CSA locations in and around Rockland include Pomona, Mahwah, and Warwick. For details, go to www.localharvest.org/csa.

I highly recommend two books that explore our food system and the virtues and pleasures of eating locally:

The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals by Michael Pollan

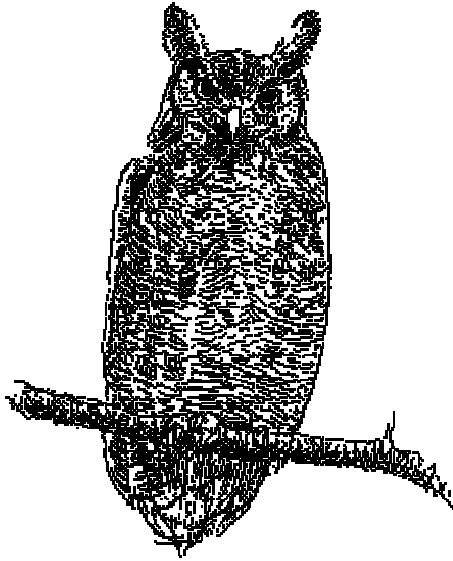
Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life by Barbara Kingsolver

—Tom Fuller, RAS Conservation Committee

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DATED MATERIAL: PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

Upcoming Rockland Audubon Society Programs

RAS meets at Rockland Country Day School, 34 Kings Highway, Congers, NY

April 3, 8pm: John Burroughs and the Art of Seeing Things. SUNY Professor Emerita, and author, Charlotte Zoe Walker, will review the life and works of the great naturalist, John Burroughs (1837-1921) with emphasis on his relevance for readers today. A program sponsored by the NYS Council for the Humanities *Speakers in the Humanities Program.*

Note: This meeting in the Music Room, not the gym.

May 4, 6:30pm: RAS Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner. Membership and advance reservations are requested. The dinner is followed at 8pm by **The Birds of Rockland County.** Rockland Audubon Society's own Lorrie Pallant, Education Chairperson, presents this often requested program on our fellow avian friends – come learn about the birds you will find in your own back yard. This program is open to the public.

June 5, 7pm: Wolves of North America*
Join Atka, a six year old Arctic gray wolf who is the youngest ambassador at the Wolf Conservation Center in Westchester as he and his handler present a program that promotes conservation of wolves by teaching about them, their relationship to the environment, and the human role in protecting their future.
***Admission of \$5, children 2-12, \$3 (under 2 free), seniors (62+) \$3, will be charged to help RAS cover the cost of bringing this very special guest!**