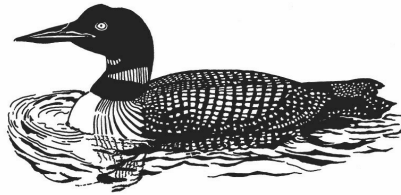


- DISCOVER -

# The Adirondack Wild

[AdirondackExperience.com](http://AdirondackExperience.com)



## ADIRONDACK BIRDING FESTIVAL



### **7th Annual Hamilton County Birding Festival**

June 10 - June 12, 2011

Schedule of Events

Speculator, Lake Pleasant, Piseco & Morehouse

Blue Mountain Lake, Indian Lake,

Long Lake, Raquette Lake & Inlet

## WELCOME!!

Hamilton County is the third largest and least populated county in New York State. The county is entirely within the Adirondack State Park. Over 60% of our land area is either Wilderness or Wild Forest. *There is not a single stop light in the entire county.* The county's million acres of forest, 1,500 miles of rivers and streams and over 56,000 acres of lakes and ponds provide birding and wildlife watching opportunities unequalled.

Our towns and hamlets are located at 1,200 – 1,500 feet above sea-level and our mountains approach 4,000 feet. Normally in June we enjoy warm days and cool evenings. It could be hot. It could snow. Check the forecast before you come and bring clothing for a wide range of weather conditions and temperatures.

Nesting birds, rising trout, rushing water, wildflowers and newborn of many species make the woods and waters of Hamilton County a place of springtime excitement and discovery. There is, however, one member of the animal world we are not thrilled to see each year.

Black flies are nasty little biting critters that can, if you're not properly forewarned and forearmed, ruin your day. They are a fact of life in the North Country and are treated with respect. Bring light-colored outer garments. A good insect repellent is essential. STRONGLY RECOMMENDED is one of the newer, specially designed bug shirts with mesh inserts and hood.

After a day's activities, you will find an array of comfortable lodges and excellent restaurants staffed with hospitable folks. If you're looking for exciting nightlife, shopping malls and bright lights, you may be disappointed. We're up and out too early to stay up very late. Here in the heart of the Adirondacks our pleasures are simple ones. You will find an ongoing celebration of the out-of-doors and extraordinary, unspoiled natural beauty.

*The Hamilton County Department of Tourism and Audubon NY hope to see you in June for the Adirondack Birding Festival.*

### **Please Note:**

Each of the outdoor trips will require different equipment necessary for a pleasant birding adventure. Suggested hiking equipment include binoculars, camera, sunscreen, bug repellent (netting or bug shirt suggested), water, snacks and/or lunch and comfortable waterproof footwear. In addition, the canoe trips will require a canoe/kayak, paddles, and PFD as required by law. The Adirondack Black Fly can be quite annoying at this time of year, so be prepared with insect repellent and/or bug shirts for each event! Registration is required for each outdoor event. *Registration is appreciated but not necessary for any of our evening presentations.*

*To register, call (800) 648-5239, or (518) 548-3076 Mon-Fri. 9 am - 4 pm.*

## Friday June 10, 2011

### WALK, Ferd's Bog Walk, Inlet 7AM

Ferd's Bog is a unique wildlife rich habitat surrounded by a 50-acre boreal forest. Short (0.3 mile) hike to see **Wood Warblers** and Boreal Birds, on a floating dock walkway. Good chance to possibly see **Black-Backed** and **Three Toed Woodpeckers, Gray Jays,** and **Boreal Chickadees** as well as **Olive-sided & Yellow Bellied Fly Catchers**. We will meet and carpool to Ferd's Bog, as there is limited parking space on Uncas Road.

**GUIDE:** Joan Collins

**LIMIT:** 20 participants

**EVENT LENGTH:** 1.5 hours

**MEET:** Raquette Lake Common School Parking Lot, northeast corner of Route 28 & County Road 2 in Raquette Lake.

**GPS WAYPOINT:** 43.8091744 °N, 74.6544870 °W

**DIRECTIONS:** From Inlet: drive 11 miles east towards Raquette Lake, school is on the left past County Road 2. From Blue Mountain Lake: Drive 13 miles west on Route 28 towards Raquette Lake. School is on the right (north) side of Route 28, before County Road 2.

### WALK, Forked Lake Road, Long Lake 2PM

This 2 mile walk on the Forked Lake Campsite road will bring us through a variety of woodland habitats. We could see a variety of **woodland thrushes. Gray Jay** have been seen in the area. This route follows an unimproved dirt road that parallels the Raquette River on the north side and should present some rewarding birding opportunities.

**GUIDE:** William Labes & Jerry Roberts

**LIMIT:** 20

**EVENT LENGTH:** 3 hours

**MEET:** Forked Lake Campground Parking Lot. Enter the campground from North Point Road.

**GPS WAYPOINT:** 43.9050798°N, 74.5261100° W

**DIRECTIONS:** From the intersection of Route 28N & 30 (Hoss's Country Corner/Stewarts) in Long Lake, travel Route 30 south for 3 miles and make a right onto North Point Road. Drive another 3 miles to the entrance of Forked Lake Campground on the right (north) side of the road. Continue for another 2 miles in towards the campsite, and meet in the large parking lot.

### Evening presentation "All About Birds", Long Lake 7PM

A wonderful introduction to birding. Topics include: songs and calls, appearance/identification, habitats, behavior, food, migration, nesting, birding ethics, and conservation. The presentation utilizes audio recordings, video, photographs, and PowerPoint slides. Many wonderful resources available to birders will also be on hand – books, videos, DVDs, and audio CDs.

**FEATURED SPEAKER:** Joan Collins

**LENGTH:** 1-1/2 hours

**MEET:** Long Lake Town Hall

**GPS WAYPOINT:** 43.9726000° N ,74.4200700° W

**DIRECTIONS:** Drive 1/3 mile North on Route 30 from the intersection of Route 28N & 30 (Hoss's Country Corner/ Stewarts) to find the Town Hall on the Right, across from the Long Lake Central School.

## **Saturday June 11, 2011**

### **WALK, Perkins Clearing Walk, Lake Pleasant 7AM**

NYS licensed guides will lead a walk (length to be decided on the day of the event) into the Perkins Clearing area to see **Mourning, Chestnut-sided, Blackburnian, and other wood Warblers**. Also possible to see **Olive-sided** and **Alder Flycatchers**, and many other mixed woodland species, including **Indigo Bunting** and **Rose Breasted Grosbeak**. We will identify as many wildflowers, frogs, butterflies & dragonflies as time allows.

**GUIDES:** Michael & Wanda Moccio

**EVENT LENGTH:** 3 hours

**LIMIT:** 20

**BRING:** Bug Repellant, (netting or bug shirt suggested), water, snacks, binoculars, waterproof hiking attire.

**MEET:** Mason Lake parking area on the west (left) side of Route 30, north of Speculator.

**GPS WAYPOINT:** 43.5991366° N, 74.4163017° W

**DIRECTIONS: From South:** Take Route 30, 8 miles north of Speculator. **From North:** 16 miles S. on Route 30 from Indian Lake. The parking area is on the west side of Route 30, and overlooks Mason Lake.

### **HIKE, Fiddler's Pond Hike, Piseco 7AM**

This is a 3-mile hike (round trip) into wetland areas on the Northville/Lake Placid Trail. Possible to see nesting waterfowl such as **Great Blue Heron, Common Loons** and several **duck** species, as well as woodland species and boreal birds. Habitats include forest woodlands, marshland, meadows and ponds.

**GUIDES:** Mary Ellen Blakey & James Taft

**LIMIT:** 12 participants

**EVENT LENGTH:** 5-6 Hours

**BRING:** Bug Repellant, (netting or bug shirt suggested), water, snacks, binoculars, waterproof hiking attire.

**MEET:** Town of Arietta Highway Department Parking Area. (directly across from Casey's Corners Convenience Store)

**GPS WAYPOINT:** 43.4290146° N, 074.4953882° W

**DIRECTIONS: From the east:** 8 mi. W on Route 8 from Speculator, on left hand (S) of Route 8, just before the Piseco Common School. **From the west:** 3.4 miles E on Route 8 from the intersection of Route 8 & 10, on the right hand side (S) of Route 8, just past the Piseco Common School.

### **HIKE, Lows Ridge/Hitchins Pond, Long Lake 7AM**

Join Joan Collins for a walk into beautiful Hitchins Pond and the Upper Dam on the Bog River. **Common Loons** nest on Hitchins Pond each year. **Bald eagles** and **Great Blue Herons** are also a common sight. The route is an old dirt road that passes through many lovely and varied habitat areas. The first mile of trail borders a vast marsh with a creek, where blue joint grass, alders and pickerel-weed provide contrast from the peat land. Coniferous and deciduous forests make up the last mile, with many interesting cliff areas. After the 2.5 mile walk on level terrain to Hitchins Pond, there will be a food break at a scenic picnic area. An optional 1.5 mile round trip hike up Low's Ridge may be offered where there are spectacular views of the Bog River Valley and High Peaks. With the wonderful variety of habitats along this route, many species will be observed. Some of the species likely to be observed include, **Common Loon, Great Blue Heron, Red shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Bald Eagle, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Common Raven, Gray Jay, Palm Warbler, Canada Warbler, Magnolia Warbler** (& many other warbler species) NOTE: This is a flat, but long trip. You must be in appropriate condition and you should bring energy food and lunch due to the length of the walk.

**GUIDE:** Joan Collins

**EVENT LENGTH:** 5-6 hours

**LIMIT:** 20

**BRING:** Bug protection, hat, sunscreen, water, **lunch**, binoculars and appropriate clothing/jacket and footwear.

**MEET:** Bog River Falls Parking Area on Route 421 (Off Route 30)

**DIRECTIONS:** Go 12 miles north of Long Lake on Route 30. Take a left-hand turn onto County Route 421 (Bog River sign) and proceed just under 3/4 of a mile to the Bog River Falls Parking Area on the left. The actual unmarked trail is down the road another 6.6 miles, and we will carpool to the trailhead.

### **CANOE, Bog River/Hitchins Pond, Long Lake 7AM**

This is an exciting birding canoe trip on the Bog River! Travel 3 miles from the Lower Dam on the Bog River upstream to Hitchins Pond. This scenic canoe route passes through a variety of habitats including mixed woodland, vast boreal marshes and a lovely lake with nesting **Common Loons**. Other species likely to be seen along the route include, **American Bittern, American Black Duck, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Merlin, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Common Raven, Pine Warbler** (& many other warbler species), **Lincoln's Sparrow** and possibly **Red Crossbill**. A food break will be taken at the picnic area on Hitchins Pond. An optional 1.5 mile (round trip) hike up Low's Ridge may be offered, where there are spectacular views of the Bog River Valley and High Peaks. The return paddle is the reverse course 3 miles back down-river to the Lower Dam.

**GUIDE:** John Thaxton, Patricia Thaxton, Jerry Roberts

**EVENT LENGTH:** 5-6 hours

**LIMIT:** 15 Participants

**BRING:** Canoe/Kayak, paddles, PFD (required), binoculars, camera, bug spray (netting or bug shirt suggested), waterproof gear, water, and lunch.

**MEET:** Bog River Falls Parking Area on Route 421 (Off Route 30)

**DIRECTIONS:** Go 12 miles north of Long Lake on Route 30. Take a left-hand turn onto County Route 421 (Bog River sign) and proceed just under 3/4 of a mile to the Bog River Falls Parking Area on the left. We'll meet here, and travel together to the lower dam put-in.

### **DRIVING SAFARI, Powley Road, Piseco 2PM**

Another one of our more popular Birding Festival trips 4 years in a row! Drive on a lightly traveled dirt road (approximately 8 miles) which affords a look at some unusual species in the area, such as the **American Three-Toed Woodpecker, various Birds of Prey, Olive Sided Flycatchers, Thrushes, Cedar Waxwing, Sparrows**, and other woodland habitat bird species. Other birds seen along the road in past years included **Indigo Bunting, Northern Parula, Carolina Wren, Chestnut Sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-Rumped Warbler, Nashville Warbler, and Chipping Sparrow**. Stops along the way will give this leisurely trip many birding opportunities.

**GUIDES:** Mary Ellen Blakey & James Taft

**EVENT LENGTH:** 3 hours

**LIMIT:** 20 participants

**BRING:** Binoculars, camera, bug repellent (for those who want to get out of their vehicles), and comfortable clothes.

**MEET:** Intersection of Route 10 and Powley Road, 1.2 miles south of the Route 8 & Route 10 intersection.

**GPS WAYPOINT:** 43.3790382° N, 074.5456680° W

**DIRECTIONS:** From Speculator: Take Route 8 West for 12 miles, turn left (south) onto Route 10 and travel 1.2 miles. Powley Road is on the R (west) side of the road.

### **+WALK, Cedar River, Indian Lake 4PM**

Join us for a riparian walk (possible 3-4 mile round trip) in Indian Lake along the scenic Cedar River. This level walk follows a snowmobile trail through the woodlands next to the river. We'll look for wood **warblers, flycatchers, woodpeckers** and **thrushes** and everything in between. **Note:** This trip could run late, due to the time of day and interest of the participants. Please plan accordingly for your dinner and evening plans.

**GUIDES:** Mike & Wanda Moccio

**EVENT LENGTH:** 2-3+ hours

**BRING:** Bug Repellent, (netting or bug shirt suggested), water, lunch, binoculars, water proof hiking attire.

**MEET:** Indian Lake Library parking lot on Pelon Road (off Route 28/30) in Indian Lake.

**GPS WAYPOINT:** 43.7840757°N, 074.2719689°N

**DIRECTIONS:** From the intersection of Route 30 & 28N in Indian Lake, drive 0.3 miles west towards Blue Mountain Lake, and make a right onto Pelon Road. Look for the

library on the left, at approximately 500 feet from Route 30.

**Evening presentation, "The Usual Suspects: A Sampler of ADK Specialty Birds", Indian Lake, 7:30PM**

Join author and birder John Thaxton in a night of educational entertainment highlighting the lives and habits of the boreal species in the Adirondacks. Learn more about **Bicknell's thrush, black-backed woodpecker, palm warbler** and other birds unique to the boreal landscape of northern Hamilton County. Photos (slides) taken by Larry Masters and others will be featured throughout the presentation.

**FEATURED SPEAKER:** John Thaxton

**LENGTH:** 1-1/2 hours

**MEET:** Indian Lake Theatre

**GPS WAYPOINT:** 43.782284543° N, 74.2674637° W

**DIRECTIONS:** Drive 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a mile west on Route 28N/30 from the intersection of Route 30(from the south) and Route 28N from the east in the middle of Indian Lake. The theatre is on the left (south) side of Route 28N/30.

## **Sunday June 12, 2011**

**HIKE, Fiddler's Pond, Piseco 7AM**

One of our most popular backcountry trips 4 years in a row! A 3-mile hike into wetlands area on the Northville/Lake Placid Trail. Possible to see nesting waterfowl such as **Great Blue Heron, Common Loons** and several **duck** species, as well as woodland species and **boreal** birds Habitats include forest woodlands, marshland, meadows and ponds.

**GUIDES:** Mary Ellen Blakey & James Taft

**LIMIT:** 12 participants

**EVENT LENGTH:** 5-6 Hours

**BRING:** Bug Repellant, (netting or bug shirt suggested), water, snacks, binoculars, waterproof hiking attire.

**MEET:** Town of Arietta Highway Department Parking Area. (across from Casey's Corners Convenience Store)

**GPS WAYPOINT:** 43.4290146° N, 074.4953882° W

**DIRECTIONS:** **From the east:** 8 mi. W on Route 8 from Speculator, on left hand (S) of Route 8, just before the Piseco Common School. **From the west:** 3.4 miles E on Route 8 from the intersection of Route 8 & 10, on the right hand side (S) of Route 8, just past the Piseco Common School.

**WALK, Lake Durant Marsh, Blue Mountain Lake, 7AM**

NYS licensed guides Mike and Wanda Moccio will lead a walk in the vicinity of Lake Durant. The walk will follow a forest edge, a marsh, a lake, and a walk between Lake Durant and the marsh. **American Bittern and Virginia Rail** breed in the marsh. **Wilson's Snipe, Ring-necked Duck and Olive-Sided Flycatcher** might well be seen too. **Common Loons** nest on Lake Durant. The forest edge and riparian walk will uncover various **warblers, woodpeckers, thrushes, sparrows, vireos, Scarlet Tanager and grosbeaks.**

**GUIDES:** Mike & Wanda Moccio

**LIMIT:** 15 participants

**EVENT LENGTH:** 5-6 hours

**BRING:** Binoculars, camera, insect repellent (netting or bug shirt suggested), waterproof gear, water, and snacks.

**MEET:** Lake Durant parking area, Route 28/30, between Indian Lake and Blue Mountain Lake, across Route 28/30 from Lake Durant

**GPS Waypoint:** 43.8453410 N, 74.4063590 W

**DIRECTIONS:** From Indian Lake: Route 30 North for 9.5 miles. Parking area is on the R side of Route 30. From Blue Mtn Lake: Route 30 South for 1 ½ miles. The parking area is on the L side of Route 30.

**WALK, Northville-Lake Placid Trail, Long Lake 7AM**

A bird walk in these areas will take participants through a wide variety of habitats including boreal forest, marsh/bog, swamp, mixed forest, deciduous woods, and to the shoreline of Long Lake. Each section, north and south, is 2 miles, round trip. We will do both, if time permits. The walk through boreal wetlands takes you over raised walkways and is home to **Black-backed Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** and **Boreal Chickadees**. The second half of the trail moves through mixed forest where you may see **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, nesting **Northern Goshawks** and up to 14 varieties of woodland warblers, including **Yellow-Rumped, Magnolia** and **Blackburnian**. As you approach the lake at Caitlin Bay, look for many species of waterfowl, **Common Loons** and **Bald Eagles**.

**GUIDES:** John & Patricia Thaxton

**LIMIT:** 20 Participants

**EVENT LENGTH:** 5-6 hours

**BRING:** Bug Repellent, (netting or bug shirt suggested), water, binoculars, waterproof hiking attire.

**MEET:** Parking Lot on S side (R side) of Route 28N at (across from) Tarbell Hill Rd.

**GPS WAYPOINT:** 43.9759875° N, 74.3925475° W

**DIRECTIONS:** The trailhead for the hike is a large parking lot on the south side of Route. 28N, 1.6 miles N on Route 28N from Hoss's Country Corner in Long Lake. Directly opposite the intersection with the Tarbell Hill Road.

**DRIVING SAFARI, Moose River Plains IBA, Inlet 7AM**

Join us on another new birding festival trip into the **Moose River Plains Important Birding Area (IBA)**. This unusually large tract of land (50,000 acres), purchased from the Gould Paper Company in 1963, presents diverse habitats, including bogs, boreal forests, open plains and mature upland hardwoods and mountaintops of spruce. . The roads, which were once used for logging, make exploring this area extremely easy. **Almost every species of breeding bird in Hamilton County can be found in one of the many rich habitats contained within the IBA.** There are also many streams and ponds in the area which make this a birders paradise! The road through the plains stretches almost 25 miles gate-to-gate and reaches from Inlet to Indian Lake. We'll explore the western (Inlet) side of the plains, with the exact itinerary to be decided on the morning of the trip. We will also carpool together, to reduce the amount of vehicles in the group.

**GUIDES:** Joan Collins

**EVENT LENGTH:** 5 hours

**LIMIT:** 15 participants

**BRING:** Bug Repellant, (netting or bug shirt suggested), water, snacks, binoculars, waterproof hiking attire

**MEET:** Entrance to Limekiln Lake Campground, on Limekiln Road.

**GPS WAYPOINT:** 43.7220437° N, 074.7921920° W

**DIRECTIONS: From Raquette Lake:** Drive 9.8 miles on Route 28 to Limekiln Road, the first left after the Inlet Golf Club, approximately 1.0 mile before downtown Inlet. **From Inlet:** Travel E on Route 28 for 1.0 mile, Limekiln Road is the first right after the Citgo gas station. On Limekiln Road travel 1- 3/4 miles to Limekiln Campground, which will be on your right. We will meet along Limekiln Road (outside of the campground) at this location and decide on carpooling.

**W.W. DURANT CRUISE - Tribute to Gary Lee, Raquette Lake 12PM**

Join us on a very special cruise (water level permitting) up the **historic Marion River** via Raquette Lake, while we recap the birding festival weekend and honor **Gary Lee** for his contribution to our Birding Festival and promotion of birding. The Marion River connects Raquette Lake with the carry to Lake Utowana and was the site for the shortest standard-gauge railroad lines in the United States. Many of the birding guides will be on board. Special rates are in effect for pre-registered birding participants.

**Boarding time is 12:00-12:30 PM** and cruise will last from 12:30-2:30 PM. Cash snack and beverage bar as well as use of the restrooms (below) will be available to those riding the open upper deck.

**COST:** Upper Deck cruise only: \$15/per person, if pre-registered, \$20/per person normal rate. Luncheon Cruise: If you would like to register for the luncheon cruise, the cost will be \$40/per person if pre-registered, \$50/per person for a walk in. Reservations are required to receive the discounted Birding Festival Rate.

**RESERVATIONS:** Please call Hamilton County Tourism at 518-548-3076 or 800-648-5239 to make your reservations. Payment will be accepted upon arrival at the W.W. Durant.

**HOSTS:** Donna & Captain Dean Pohl

**LIMIT:** 100