

# Adirondacks Experience It!

[www.adirondackexperience.com](http://www.adirondackexperience.com)



## **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Hamilton County Birding Festival**

June 10 - June 12, 2016

### Schedule of Events

Speculator, Lake Pleasant, Piseco, Morehouse  
Blue Mountain Lake, Indian Lake,  
Long Lake, Raquette Lake and Inlet

Call (518) 548-3076 or (800) 648-5239 to register!

The Hamilton County Department of Tourism and Audubon NY welcome you this  
June for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Adirondack Birding Festival.

The Adirondack Park in upstate New York is a bird-watching haven. In June, the Adirondack Birding Festival in Hamilton County celebrates the height of breeding season with 3-days of birding hikes, walks, safaris, outings and presentations throughout the county.

**About Hamilton County:**

Located entirely within the Adirondack State Park, Hamilton County is the third largest, yet least populated, county in New York State. Over 60% of our land area is either Wilderness or Wild Forest. The county's million acres of forest, 1,500 miles of rivers and streams and over 56,000 acres of lakes and ponds provide unequalled birding and wildlife watching opportunities.

Nesting birds, rising trout, rushing water, wildflowers, and the newborn of many species make the woods and waters of Hamilton County a desirable location to explore. While birding in the park is enjoyable throughout the entire year, during springtime it is a place of excitement and discovery. By June, all of the birds that migrate to the Adirondack region for the summer have arrived and are in the height of breeding season.

Our towns and hamlets are located at 1,200-1,600 feet above sea-level and our mountains approach 4,000 feet. Normally in June we enjoy warm to hot days and cool evenings, on rare occasions even dropping below the freezing point. As you plan your birding adventure, make sure to check the forecast and come prepared. Dressing in layers is highly recommended, as the springtime temperatures fluctuate throughout the day.

After a day's activities, you will find an array of comfortable lodges and excellent restaurants staffed with hospitable folks. Here in the heart of the Adirondacks, it is our pleasure to share the experience of this State Park with you. You will find an ongoing celebration of our unique heritage and extraordinary, unspoiled natural beauty.

Don't think it can get much better? Did we mention that all of the outings and presentations during the birding festival are FREE?

**Please Note:**

Each of the outdoor trips will require different equipment necessary for a pleasant birding adventure. Suggested hiking equipment includes: binoculars, camera, sunscreen, bug repellent (netting or bug shirt suggested), water, snacks and/or lunch, flashlight (headlamp), and comfortable, waterproof footwear. In addition, the canoe trips will require a canoe/kayak, paddles, and PFD as required by law. This time of year is referred to as "Black Fly Season," 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  
Monday-Friday from 9am-4pm.**

## Friday June 10, 2016

### **TRIP FULL** HIKE: Sabattis Circle Road, & Round Lake Road - 7AM

Join **Joan Collins and Beth Warburton** on this exciting new trip into the William C. Whitney Wilderness Area north of the Town of Long Lake. Meet at Mt. Sabattis Pavilion to regroup and carpool to the birding area north. We'll enter at the southern end of Sabattis Circle Road and car-bird for ~5 miles, stopping at several locations, including the scenic inlet of Little Tupper Lake and Sabattis Bog. **Eighteen warbler species** breed along this road including **Northern Waterthrush, Mourning, Palm, and Canada Warblers**. Many boreal species can be found along Sabattis Circle Road including, **Black-backed Woodpecker, Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, and Lincoln's Sparrow**. Next, we will hike on Round Lake Road toward the lake on this dirt road trail. Round Lake, Little Tupper Lake, and Sabattis Bog are within the William C. Whitney Wilderness Area, a **Designated Important Birding Area** by Audubon New York. Temperate deciduous and boreal forests make up most of the surrounding area, with over 30% of the site being a wetland habitat.

**GUIDE:** Joan Collins & Beth Warburton

**EVENT LENGTH:** 5-6 hours

**LIMIT:** 15 Participants

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

**MEET:** Mt Sabattis Pavilion (Ice Skating Rink) Parking Lot, located directly across from the Post Office.

**GPS WAYPOINT:** 43.966571, -74.421913

**DIRECTIONS:** Located just south on Route 30, from the intersection of Route 30/28 & Hoss's Country Corner Store, on the left hand side, directly across from the Long Lake Post office.

### **WALK: Ferd's Bog Walk, Inlet - 7AM**

Ferd's Bog is a unique wildlife rich habitat surrounded by a 50-acre boreal forest. A short (0.3 mile) hike to see **warblers** and **boreal birds**, on a floating dock walkway. Good chance to possibly see **Black-Backed Woodpeckers, Gray Jays, and Boreal Chickadees** as well as **Olive-sided & Yellow-bellied Flycatchers**. We will meet and carpool to Ferd's Bog, as there is limited parking space on Uncas Road.

**GUIDE:** Gary Lee

**EVENT LENGTH:** 3 hours

**LIMIT:** 20 participants

**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.

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

Join **John and Patricia Thaxton** 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 bog. Next, there is a marsh with a brook, 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 2.2 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, Lincoln's Sparrow, Palm Warbler, Canada Warbler, Magnolia Warbler** (and many other notable warbler species)

**NOTE:** This is a flat, but long trip in a very isolated area. You must be in appropriate condition and you should bring energy food and lunch due to the length of the walk.

**GUIDE:** John and Patricia Thaxton

**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)

**GPS WAYPOINT:** N44.1285450°, W74.5458196°

**DIRECTIONS:** Drive 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 after the bridge. The actual unmarked trail is down the road another 6.6 miles, and we will carpool to the trailhead.

## **TRIP FULL WALK: Forked Lake Road, Long Lake – 2:30PM**

A favorite 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row! 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 **thrushes**, and **Gray Jays** have been seen in the area. The variety of birds seed is unprecedented and sure to surprise! This route follows an unimproved dirt road that parallels the Raquette River on the south side and should present some rewarding birding opportunities.

**GUIDE:** John & Pat Thaxton

**EVENT LENGTH:** 2-3 hours

**LIMIT:** 20

**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.

### **W.W. DURANT DINNER CRUISE, Raquette Lake - 6:00pm (departure)**

Join us on a very special cruise celebrating the Black Fly Challenge Mountain Bike Race and the Adirondack Birding Festival. **Boarding** time is **6:00-6:30 PM**, and the cruise will last from 6:30-8:30 PM. You may also just ride the top deck of the Durant without the dinner. Cash snack and beverage bar as well as use of the restrooms (below) will be available to those riding the open upper deck.

**COST:** **BIRDING FESTIVAL SPECIAL!**

Upper deck cruise only: \$13/per person, if pre-registered,\$15/per person normal rate.

**Dinner Cruise:** Registration and pre-payment are required for the dinner cruise, and the cost will be \$37.00 per person inclusive (meal, cruise, tax, tip). **RESERVATIONS:** Please call Raquette Lake Navigation directly at 315-354-5532 to make your reservations. Visit [www.raquettelakenavigation.com](http://www.raquettelakenavigation.com) for more information about the cruise and the luncheon menu.

**HOSTS:** Captain Dean & Donna Pohl

**LIMIT:** The Durant is licensed for a total of 100 passengers. The dining room accommodates 56 max for the dinner buffet.

## **Saturday June 11, 2016**

### **TRIP FULL WALK: Ferd's Bog Walk, Inlet - 7AM**

Ferd's Bog is a unique wildlife rich habitat surrounded by a 50-acre boreal forest. A short (0.3 mile) hike to see **warblers** and **boreal birds**, on a floating dock walkway. Good chance to possibly see **Black-Backed Woodpeckers, Gray Jays, and Boreal Chickadees** as well as **Olive-sided & Yellow-bellied Flycatchers**. We will meet and carpool to Ferd's Bog, as there is limited parking space on Uncas Road.

**GUIDE:** Joan Collins & Beth Warburton

**EVENT LENGTH:** 3 hours

**LIMIT:** 20 participants

**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.

### **DRIVING SAFARI/ WALK: Perkins Clearing, Speculator - 7AM**

NYS licensed guides Michael & Wanda Moccio will lead the driving safari into the Perkins

Clearing area to see **Mourning, Chestnut-sided, Blackburnian, and other warblers**. There will be many stops along the way to observe wildlife along the road. Also possible to see **Olive-sided and Alder Flycatchers**, and many other mixed woodland species, including **Indigo Bunting** and **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**.

**GUIDES:** Michael & Wanda Moccio

**EVENT LENGTH:** 4-5 hours

**LIMIT:** 15

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

**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. You'll see several picnic tables at the rest stop.

### **HIKE: Roosevelt Truck Trail, Newcomb 7 AM**

This was a new trip last year and is back by popular demand with guides **John and Patricia Thaxton!**

**DESCRIPTION:** This gently rolling trail is an old moss covered road passing 2 ½ miles through a pristine northern (boreal) coniferous forest where many of the Boreal species can be found. We will start the walk (and leave the cars) at the pull off/parking lot on Route 28N, which is 1.6 miles north of the Boreas River bridge on Route 28N. We'll walk 5 miles round trip and return to the parking lot on 28N. We'll look for **Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Pine Siskin, Black-Backed Woodpecker and the Cape May Warbler**. It is one of the few areas in the Adirondacks to observe the **Cape May Warbler**.

**GUIDE:** John and Patricia Thaxton

**EVENT LENGTH:** 5-6 hours

**LIMIT:** 15

**BRING:** Bug protection, hat, sunscreen, water, **lunch**, binoculars and appropriate clothing/jacket and footwear. Trail may be wet in spots.

**MEET:** The parking lot on the south/east side of Rte. 28N, 1.6 miles N on Rte 28N from Hoss's Country Corner in Long Lake. It is located directly opposite the intersection with the Tarbell Hill Road. **NOTE:** If you miss us at this meeting place, continue on to parking lot on 28N in Minerva where we'll start the walk. See directions and GPS coordinates.

below

**GPS WAYPOINT: NLP Trail Head in Long Lake:** 43.9759875° N, 74.3925475° W

**GPS WAYPOINT: Pkg Lot: Start of Hike on 28N:** 43.9143950° N, -74.0213517° W

**DIRECTIONS:** From Long Lake: drive north/east on 28N towards Newcomb. At 1.6 miles from the Stewarts/Hoss's in Long Lake, look for the parking lot on the right side of the road for the **NLP trail**. It is located directly opposite Tarbell Road. Wait here.

**NOTE:** If you are running late, and don't meet up at this trail head, drive directly to the parking lot on Route 28N where we'll start the hike. From the NLP trailhead in Long Lake, drive 17 miles east on Rte 28N to the intersection of the Blue Ridge Highway and Rte 28N, the road you drove on from Long Lake. Take a Right on 28N (do not go straight on the Blue Ridge Road) and drive approximately 3 miles south to the parking lot on the left side of the road, where we'll park cars and start the hike.

## **DRIVING SAFARI/WALK: G-Lake, Morehouse - 7AM**

This trail starts with a scenic drive through a hardwood forest offering rewarding bird-watching opportunities. After the short drive, a 0.4-mile hike into G Lake continues the birding experience, passing through a spectacular hardwood forest. As you approach the lake you'll see a peninsula and scenic views across the water to the north. Nesting loons have been spotted on the opposite side of the pond, so approach carefully if in nesting season. The habitats are diverse, so you may see **Golden-crowned Kinglets, Vireos, nesting Common Loons, White-throated Sparrows, Ovenbirds, Winter Wrens and a variety of Warblers.**

**GUIDE:** Jamie Taft

**LIMIT:** 15 participants

**EVENT LENGTH:** 3-4 hours

**MEET:** Intersection of Route 8 & G-Lake Road that leads into G-Lake. See directions below. We will meet on Route 8, and carpool into the G-Lake trailhead.

**GPS WAYPOINT:** 43.3823125°N, 74.6448486°W

**DIRECTIONS: From the East:** Follow Route 8 west approximately 5.3 miles from the intersection of Route 8/Route 10 on the western end of Piseco Lake. Look for the dirt road to the right (North) side of Rte 8, before the Arietta/Morehouse town line. Park off on the side of Route 8.

## **TRIP FULL WALK: Raquette Lake Rail Bed, Raquette Lake - 10AM**

This walk will follow the Ferd's Bog walk. The abandoned rail bed will bring you to a wonderful bog, where many of the **boreal species** can be found. Participants will also hike to the canoe put-in on a raised boardwalk along Brown's Tract Inlet. This wetland area is filled with Northern Waterthrushes and Canada Warblers, among many other species.

**GUIDE:** Joan Collins & Beth Warburton

**Limit:** 20 participants

**EVENT LENGTH:** 2 Hours

**MEET:** Trailhead for Shallow Pond at the Browns Tract Upper Pond. The start of the walk is across the road from the trailhead, south side of Uncas Road.

**GPS WAYPOINT:** 43.799783°N, 74.705508°W

**DIRECTIONS:** From the village of Raquette Lake, head north on County Road 2 through the village. Turn left onto Uncas Road and follow 2.9 miles to the Shallow Lake trailhead next to Upper Browns Tract Pond.

## **DRIVING SAFARI/Walk: Elm Lake Road – 1PM**

Join **Jamie** into this newly open-to-the-public (for free) land formerly owned and operated as a working Timberland & Forest tree farm by International Paper Company, now owned by Lyme Timber. This will be an exploratory trip to discover the birding population of the eastern side of Speculator's woodlands. The walk will be easy and flat.

We'll meet and carpool into the interior lands, where we'll walk along the former lumber road used by the timber company. There will be a mixture of woodlands including large pine forests and hardwood areas. We'll plan the walk on the morning of the event depending on the interests of the group. The trip could also take us to the infamous and mysterious "Kunjamuk Cave" across the Kunjamuk River.

We'll see a variety of **warblers**, **woodpeckers** and **raptors** along the way.

**GUIDES:** Jamie Taft

**LIMIT:** 15 participants

**EVENT LENGTH:** 2-3 Hours

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

**MEET:** End of Elm Lake Road, where the hard pavement turns to dirt road.

**GPS WAYPOINT:** 43.519541, -74.348376

**DIRECTIONS:** From the "4 corners" at the intersection of Route 8 & 30 (Charlie Johns Store), drive east on Elm Lake Road for 1.5 miles to where the road turns to dirt. You'll see a large horse field on the left at the turnaround. Park along side of the road.

#### **PRESENTATION: Loon Natural History 4:30PM**

Nina has a deep and enduring passion for conservation and natural history, evidenced by more than two decades of experience in veterinary medicine, wildlife rehabilitation, and wildlife conservation. She works actively to share this passion and encourage others to become involved.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Nina Schoch

**MEET:** Museum Auditorium

**EVENT LENGTH:** 1-1/2 Hours

**GPS WAYPOINT:** 43.8693404°N, 74.4319656°W

**DIRECTIONS:** From Blue Mt. Lake: ½ mile north on Route 30 from the center of Blue Mountain Lake, the intersection of Route 30 and Route 28. Museum is on the left side of the road. From Long Lake: Drive south on Route 30 approximately 10 miles. Just after you pass the Blue Mountain trail head on the left side of the road, look for the museum a bit further on the right side of the road.

## **Sunday June 12, 2016**

### **WALK: Indian River Parcel – former GOOLEY CLUB LANDS, Indian Lake - 7AM**

Join **Mike and Wanda** exploring this newly acquired land tract, formerly owned by Finch and Pruyn Lumber Co., and recently purchased from the Nature Conservancy (TNC) by the State of New York. This is the first time in 150 years that residents and visitors to the area have had access to these mixed woodland lands at the end of Chain of Lakes Road. We will walk the newly opened access roads through the Indian River Tract (part of the Essex Chain of Lake Tract) through various habitats and forests near the confluence of the Hudson & Indian Rivers to discover the rich birdlife and wildlife in the area.

**GUIDES:** Michael and Wanda Moccio

**LIMIT:** 15 Participants

**EVENT LENGTH:** 4-5 Hours

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

**MEET:** At the end of the drivable part of Chain-Of-Lakes road, by the gate/kiosk.

**GPS WAYPOINT:** Route 28/Chain of Lakes Road: 43.785153°, -74.240685°.

This is the meeting point, but the entrance to Chain of Lakes Road.

**DIRECTIONS:** FROM Indian Lake: Drive east on Route 28N for 1.3 miles, look for Chain of Lake Road on your left (north). Park along the side of the road and wait for the other participants. We'll carpool from there into the newly opened interior lands.

## **HIKE: 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 Catlin Bay, look for many species of waterfowl, **Common Loons** and **Bald Eagles**.

**GUIDES:** John & Patricia Thaxton

**LIMIT:** 15 Participants

**EVENT LENGTH:** 4-5 hours

**BRING:** Bug Repellant, (netting or bug shirt suggested), water, binoculars and 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.

## **TRIP FULL DRIVING SAFARI: Moose River Plains IBA, Inlet - 7AM**

Join us on an exciting trip into the remote wilderness known as 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 & Beth Warburton

**EVENT LENGTH:** 5-6 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, 74.7921920°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 options.

### **WALK: Great Camp Sagamore, Raquette Lake – 9AM**

Join guide Gary Lee for a private 3.5 mile woodland walk around Historical Sagamore Lake. Possible to see: **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Boreal Chickadees, Canada Warblers and Chimney Swifts.** For more information on Great Camp Sagamore and it's rich History see their website at: [www.GreatCampSagamore.org](http://www.GreatCampSagamore.org).

**GPS WAYPOINT:** 43.781998°N, 74.640513°W

**DIRECTIONS:** In the Village of Raquette Lake at the 4-way crossroads turn onto the dirt road beside the large green Sagamore sign. Drive very slowly on the road into Sagamore; one curve is posted 15 mph.

**GUIDES:** Gary Lee

**EVENT LENGTH:** 2-3 hours

**LIMIT:** 15 participants

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

**MEET:** Great Camp Sagamore Tour Parking Lot