

The Tanager



Published quarterly by the

Burroughs Audubon Nature Club

c/o John Shaw

374 Cromwell Drive, Rochester, NY 14610

Volume 49, Number 2

June 2019

President's Column

By Marigrace Piazza

“This place is a true gem.” “What a breathtaking collection of spring ephemerals.” “Is this really in the suburbs?” “How come no one knows about this place?” “How can I help?” “Who mows the lawn?” “How do I join?” “I have driven by so many times but this is the first time I stopped in.” “This preserve is a precious resource.” “It is so nice to see children.” “What an interesting hike.” “Is the soup warm yet?”

These quotes are just some of the questions and comments that I have had the pleasure to hear so far this year at the Sanctuary. The BANC council and I are working hard on forming collaborations with new organizations in order to keep BANC vital and connected to the community. Many of the comments listed in the above paragraph were expressed by the leaders of these organizations.

The director of EarthWorks, Joseph Dean, walked the trails with me in April. The mission of his organization is to make the natural world more accessible to all children. He was very impressed with our nature preserve and its unique qualities that are suitable to his work. We are in the early planning stages to bring Rochester City School children to BANC in an after-school program led by EarthWorks.

Deb Denome will be leading the Forest Therapy program at the Sanctuary on July 18. Deb leads forest walks throughout the Finger Lakes area and especially at Shimmering Light Farm and Renewal Center in South Bristol. She stopped by in early May to check out our property in order to prepare for her program and was overwhelmed by her visit. Deb is very excit-

ed to have the opportunity to lead a walk on our trails later this summer.

The Council traveled to Montezuma Audubon Center (MAC) on May 6 and met with its director, Chris Lajewski. Chris grew up in Pittsford near BANC and has fond memories of our property and its special resources. BANC and MAC are actively collaborating in order to join forces to benefit both organizations. Read more about this in this issue of the Tanager.

Many of the quotes from the opening paragraph were from attendees of the May 5 Open House. In its second year, this event has proven to be very popular with visitors and new members as well as our faithful longstanding members. The Sanctuary seems to shine in the early spring, and this open house serves to bring people together when the trails are blooming with delicate wildflowers. If you would like to read more about the May 5 event, see the article included in this publication on the topic.

There are several events happening this summer that should interest you and interest potential new mem-

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bers. Our fourth annual Family Nature Night will take place on June 26 this year. This is our biggest event open to the public at the Sanctuary and it should be extra special this year. Please come with or without children, but the more children the merrier.

I am excited about our potluck on Friday, August 9. My brother-in-law and new BANC member, Ed Bouwmeester, and his plein air painter friends will be bringing their easels to our Sanctuary. They will use their artistic talents to capture the beauty of our special place and perhaps teach us a thing or two about their craft.

Back to the first paragraph, you may wonder about the last quote about the soup. Isn't it always about the food at the end of any of our get-togethers? We come together to learn and celebrate nature in many different ways but one thing is consistent, there is always food involved.

See you at the next potluck!

Spring Clean- Up Day 2019

By Marigrace Piazza

Thank you to all of you who came out on April 13 to participate in our Spring Clean-Up Day. Fortunately, we were able to work in lovely weather. The students from the Victor Key Club were present and focused on raking up the lawn and the flowerbeds. Dean Clayton did a great job preparing the clubhouse and trails in order to make the day run smoothly.

Since our gatherings always involve food, Linda Smith served as hostess that day. Thank you to Linda for doing a lovely job and thanks to all of you who contributed delicious soups.

Not only were we rewarded with food, some workers were treated to a sighting of a Wild Turkey on Railroad Mills Road and a Bluebird sitting on the Audubon Trail sign.

Jutta Dudley and Mary Gordon did most of the indoor clubhouse cleaning a week after the clean-up day. We appreciate their willingness to come out and clean without the enticement of soup and camaraderie.

There was much energy that day on the property because a boy scout troop was also on site taking apart one of our boardwalks. They had an efficient system worked out where some scouts broke apart the boardwalk and then another set of helpers would take the planks back up to the parking lot. These planks would be going home with one of the workers to be prepared offsite. After refinishing, they will be brought back to the sanctuary and then be reassembled into a new and improved boardwalk. (You can find out more about our boardwalk project in another article in this *Tanager*).

There is nothing like working with a group of like-minded people towards a common goal. The commitment to our club by our members is always on display on clean-up days. We appreciate your devotion and look forward to future workdays together.



Boy Scouts on Clean-Up Day

BANC and Montezuma Audubon Collaborate

By Shirley Shaw

One of the best things that our current president Marigrace Piazza has done is make connections and partnerships that will enable BANC to maintain our Sanctuary. BANC is a small club with a huge responsibility to use the best management practices we can for our property, which is necessary and ongoing work.

Recently Marigrace connected us to the Montezuma Audubon Center and its director Chris Lajewski. Some of you may remember Chris as the speaker at our 2016 banquet. Chris grew up near the Sanctuary, and he and his family were members at one time. He remembers exploring the creek and grounds as a child.

One initiative that we hope to undertake in the future will connect us with school children and their families, in particular the ones at nearby Park Road School. Chris will be offering a program that provides materials and training for volunteers to go into the schools to teach children about nature, especially birds.

In exchange for his help, BANC will help the MAC grow its presence in the Rochester area. BANC will be telling you about the wonderful birding trips, projects, and programs at the MAC. We hope that you will be able to attend some and have a great time. Already some of you have signed up for the birding van tours throughout the Montezuma Wetlands Complex and the nearby areas.

Most important, for now, Chris has experience and expertise in ongoing management of natural areas and habitat restoration through his current position at the MAC as well as past employment with The Nature Conservancy. He will be helping us learn about some equipment that we can employ for the removal of invasive species like privet and honeysuckle at BANC. He will also consult with us about ways to organize habitat restoration days and reach out to the community via multiple types of publicity to find volunteers for the large amount of work we have to do to control the invasives at the Sanctuary.

Look for e-mails this summer offering you the opportunity for BANC-specific training in recognizing invasive species that need removal, important native plants that must not be damaged or destroyed while pulling out the invasives, and the use of equipment plus your own muscle power to accomplish this goal. Many of you joined us a couple of years ago to help with our invasive species removal project and the planting of many native trees generously donated to BANC. We hope you found that experience worthwhile and fun and will join us this year and in years to come. If you were not available to help us in the past, please consider coming out later this year for training and our Habitat Restoration Days.

2019 Dues

If you haven't already renewed your membership, please send your dues check or renew by credit card on line at <http://bancny.org/membership.html>

\$20 - Individual membership

\$30 - Couples membership

\$35 - Family membership

Add \$5 for the Tanager hardcopy by mail.

Add \$2.50 for keys to the outside restroom.

If renewing by check, please send check to:

BANC

c/o John Shaw

374 Cromwell Drive

Rochester, NY 14610

Our Annual Banquet

By Julie Clayton

On Thursday, April 25th, we held our Annual Banquet at Glendoveers Party House on Old Browncroft Road. The banquet room looked very colorful and festive thanks to Mary Gordon and her merry band of flower folks – Sandy Dombrowski, Anne Mancuso, Janet Miles, and Betty Stewart!

Our evening began with a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres and a lot of hobnobbing among BANC members. Then we sat down to a delicious buffet dinner.

Remarks were made by President Marigrace Piazza, and she welcomed the attendees. The Banquet was well-attended by forty-seven members and guests.

Our presenter that evening was Hannah George of the Finger Lakes Land Trust. Hannah lives in Ithaca and serves as its Conservation Easement Steward. She makes sure that the 140 privately owned properties, whose development is limited by a conservation agreement, are indeed preserved forever. Her program was called “Landscapes of the Finger Lakes: Where they’ve been and where they’re going.” Hannah shared the geological history of the Finger Lakes – the exciting ways of how they were formed so long ago and the changes in the flora and fauna over time.

She followed up with many of the parcels that the Land Trust has acquired and how the organization is helping to assure the natural future of these parcels.

Hannah said that she has enjoyed having the opportunity to see so much of the Finger Lakes area and appreciates the diversity and beauty of all that she has been exposed to. She has a very exciting job! The Finger Lakes Land Trust is truly an important organization that plays a vital role in the present and future of New York State.

Chita McKinney and Carolyn Ragan were lovely greeters. Dean Clayton did a super job of providing the audio-visual for the evening. Richard Ashworth created the useful and beautiful programs. John Shaw made the nametags. Also, an anonymous donor provided the pansy favors. Many thanks to all who helped to make the Banquet a memorable and successful event!



2019 Banquet

Photo by Richard Ashworth



Hannah George Presentation at the Banquet

Photo by Richard Ashworth

Trashing Our Planet

By Carol Hinkelman

Picture a Native American family living before the time of Columbus. They live in a small space, perhaps in a tepee or a section of a shared longhouse or other communal dwelling. They take from nature only what they need for food and subsistence. Their possessions are limited, consisting of a few clothes, weapons, tools, and ceremonial items. They hunt animals for meat, grow some vegetables and grain, and harvest wild fruits, berries and nuts, preserving some food for the winter months. Because they make good use of everything such as the bones, hoofs and hide from the animals they hunt, feathers from birds, etc., a Native American village had very little waste to discard.

Now picture a typical American family today. They live in a relatively spacious house and have shelves and closets full of books, clothing, and toys. The basement, attic, and garage are filled and they may even have a rented storage area for more “stuff”. New things are purchased frequently to replace broken or discarded items or to obtain the latest fashions and electronics. Much of what is purchased comes in a lot of packaging. Large quantities of food are purchased and quite a bit of it gets thrown out because it was not eaten or sat around unused until it spoiled. A single family today produces more trash and garbage than a whole Native American village did years ago.

Today there are trains full of trash from New York City coming to our beautiful Finger Lakes area landfills and ships full of American trash heading to less developed parts of the world where poor adults and children pick through piles of our trash and hazardous electronic waste to find things they can salvage and sell. On TV home improvement shows, beautiful functional

kitchens are demolished and thrown in a dumpster just because they are “dated”. We need to deal with our massive waste problem for the future of our planet.



Sorting at Monroe County, NY recycling facility

Photo from <https://www2.monroecounty.gov/>

The first thing we can do for environmental sustainability is to reduce how much we buy. Do we really need all that “stuff” or can we simplify our lives by not buying so much? Do we overbuy food and then waste a lot of it? Are the latest, most fashionable clothes, home décor, toys and electronics a necessity? The second step is to reuse what we can and donate items we can no longer use to thrift shops, garage sales or other places where someone else can buy and reuse them. The third step is to recycle.

You may have heard that some of what we put into our recycling bins actually goes into the landfill. It is true that there has been no market at all for the mixed glass you put in your blue bins for several years, but some of that glass has been crushed and used to cover the trash in the landfills or used in paving material for access roads at the landfills. Glass bottles returned to the store are reused because they are already sorted and free of contamination.

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Open House was Awesome!

by Ellen Prill

Sunday, May 5th, from 2:00 - 4:00 BANC held an Open House. Thirty people were there. I led a Kids and Teens Hike at our 30-acre Sanctuary assisted by new adult member Donna W as “sweep” to be sure no one got left behind. There was a separate Adult Hike at the same time led by Frank Crombe that focused on tree and plant identification. Some people opted to hike on their own with their family. It was all good!

The kids and teens who came with me spotted a skeleton near the trail. One guess was “dinosaur”.

This was the perfect teachable moment that led to identifying it as a fish, and questions: “How did it get from the water to the woods?”, “Why is it only a skeleton?”, “What happened to the rest of it?”. That child's world just got wider...



Akon helping Jason over the muddy spots

Photo by Ellen Prill

Many, many people's world is handheld and about 12" from their face. When you are in the woods you are outside, in the moment, and moving. You are aware. You hear birds talk to each other; you see animal scat and tracks. Is it an otter or a deer? You smell the pine, the skunk cabbage; you lie in the grass, look up at the sky, are aware of noises around you. You notice pink fungus growing off trees; you breathe a deep breath of fresh air and let it out. You hear the rushing creek. You hear the quiet.

Another opportunity for you. Join us for Family Night on Wednesday evening, June 26th from 6:00 - 8:30 pm. Scavenger Hikes will begin at 6:00 pm and 7:00pm. There will be indoor displays from fossils to rocks and birds to insects hosted by experts. Light refreshments will be on hand too.

(Trashing Our Planet Continued from page 5)

All of the metal, plastic and paper that we recycle locally actually does get reused, but recyclers can no longer make a profit as they did only a short time ago. Last year, China stopped buying our recyclables because they had too many impurities such as plastic bags mixed in with baled paper. Meanwhile, the price paid for paper and plastic has dropped drastically and transportation costs have increased. Recyclers were forced to look for new markets, and found some in Asia, but high shipping costs mean that recyclers are now ending up paying more for shipping than the price they are getting for the materials. You have probably seen an increase in your trash bill because of that. We need more domestic buyers for paper and plastic.

Are we wasting our time and effort recycling? No, it is still better than putting it all in a landfill. Recycling conserves natural resources, reducing the logging and mining needed. It keeps our environment cleaner, creates useful products and reduces energy consumption. Don't give up on recycling. It is still well worth doing, but it is important to put only the acceptable items in the blue box and be sure that they are clean. Check the lists at www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark to see what is and is not acceptable in your blue box. Lids can only be put in the box if they are on the jars or bottles they came on. Plastic bags can't go in because they clog the sorting machinery. They must be returned to stores. Be sure to recycle all those cardboard boxes your online purchases came in. Other items like electronics and hazardous materials can be taken to the Ecopark.

Food and garden waste can be composted at home, and some cities have started collecting food waste for industrial composting from people who live in apartments where composting is not possible. Most towns will pick up branches and yard waste and many of them grind and compost it and make it available for mulch.

Society needs to put more effort into planning for the eventual reuse and recycling of materials right

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Monthly Work Parties at the Sanctuary (June to October)

By Becky Olson

Monthly work parties will again take place on Wednesday mornings, from 9:30 - 12:30. With guidance from the Council, and Dean Clayton as a resource, we will tackle projects such as keeping the trails clear of minor obstructions and the boards on the boardwalks fastened down, fixing small trouble spots at the clubhouse and on the grounds, and maintaining some basic equipment. Becky Olson and Joe Laskowski will coordinate these sessions.

The first three dates for these work parties are June 12, July 10, and August 21. If you would like to volunteer on any or all of these days, email Becky at rolson585@gmail.com. She will send out a reminder a week before each session, detailing what volunteers will be doing. Help keep this special place in good shape and have fun working with others while doing it!

Paul Dudley Steps Down from his role as Club Webmaster

By Marigrace Piazza

Paul Dudley has served BANC behind the scenes for many years as Club Webmaster. He also managed the electronic mail account and was responsible for sending the all-club email reminders every month. This work requires much time, expertise, and patience. He helped the Club bridge the gap between snail mail and the modern world of computer communication. Paul has stepped down from this role recently and Ellen Prill will take his place. Thank you, Paul, for your many years of service to BANC.

New York State Birders Conference & NYSOA 72nd Annual Meeting

Hosted by the Catskill Center

September 13-15, 2019

Best Western Plus Kingston Hotel and Conference Center

503 Washington Avenue

Kingston NY 12401

845-388-0400

The Catskill Center is thrilled to host the New York State Ornithological Association conference in combination with our annual Taking Flight weekend for new and seasoned birders. Birding starts Friday afternoon, followed by a social hour and Bird Trivia by renowned birder Tod Winston.

From Bicknell's Thrush to waterfowl, Saturday and Sunday mornings will feature top-notch field trips in the Catskills and Hudson Valley, led by area experts. Saturday afternoon is packed with paper sessions, workshops, book signings, raffle, and more! The Saturday night banquet keynote speaker is Nathan Pieplow, author of the Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds of Eastern North America.

For more information contact Katie at kpalm@catskillcenter.org, 845-586-2611. Registration will open soon at catskillcenter.org!

Due to the popularity of Hudson Valley hotels in summer and fall, rooms at the hotel must be booked by **July 13, 2019**. Be sure to state that you will be attending the NYSOA conference.

(Trashing Our Planet continued from page 6)

from the beginning when products are designed. If industries were made responsible for what happens to their products when we are finished with them, it would go a long way toward reducing our trash. We need to use our ingenuity and scientific expertise to solve this massive disposal problem, but we can all do our part if we reduce, reuse and recycle.

Meet a Member – Lura Kelley

By Richard Ashworth

A unique and attractive feature of BANC is its broad embrace of all aspects and specialties of nature, and my guest this month is a good match in her approach and interests.

I met Lura Kelley at her condo in Brighton and we chatted as we strolled along the nearby Erie Canal, a familiar route for her on foot or bicycle. She explained that when she is out in a local park or farther afield on vacation with family and friends, she tunes in to “the intricate balance of the natural world and the beauty of the laws of nature holding the web of life together”.

Lura’s love of nature was inspired from an early age at her family home overlooking Irondequoit Bay. She experienced the natural world from many perspectives – sailing on the bay, skiing locally or at Bristol, scuba diving, and flying as a student pilot.

After graduating from SUNY Geneseo, Lura enjoyed a 40-year career as a primary school teacher in Brighton, finding creative ways to share her love and knowledge of nature and her passion for lifelong learning with her young students. She extended this same principle to her two sons as they explored the country together with her husband (later divorced) on long driving and camping trips and summer vacations.

Retirement in 2015 presented more time to participate in her other lifelong passion – the performing

arts. She ushers at the Rochester Broadway Theater League, attends concerts at Hochstein and Kodak Hall and movies at the Dryden Theatre. She is also very active in small group discussions and activities at the First Unitarian Church of Rochester.



Lura became good friends with Jane Stock while teaching in Brighton, and after her retirement Jane and Harold introduced her to BANC, where the fascinating programs and beautiful sanctuary have become a highlight of her life. She appreciates ‘the delightful people who belong to BANC’ and especially Jane, Harold and her friend Carol Klinger, with whom she enjoys the Allegany Nature Pilgrimage.

This year Lura joined the BANC Executive Council as a Trustee, and her thoughtful and enthusiastic contributions are much appreciated.

To the Clubhouse Pointing the Way to the Creek

By Ellen Prill

New cedar signs are being lasered by member Rachel H. Once that process is complete members Mary Moore, Frank Cabron, and Ellen Prill will secure them to trees on the Sanctuary to point the way to the Clubhouse. This is useful if you don't have a map, or are “directionally- challenged” like I am. Turn me around once, map or no map...

Mary and Ellen initially determined the need for about 37 signs, but Executive Council encouraged us to whittle the number down **a lot**. We did -- Ten directional signs and two trail signs.

We think you will appreciate this user-friendly initiative.

POWDER MILLS PARK AND BANC SANCTUARY

By Richard Ashworth

As we gathered at the Fish Hatchery in Powder Mills Park, we were already in bonus territory: after several years of cold wet trips, the morning was dry, sunny, and warming up quickly.

While the cars were still coming, almost our first birds were a male Scarlet Tanager in the sun and a Pileated Woodpecker – a portent of a good morning of birding to come. And still the cars came. And came. And came. We ended up with 35 people, which presented something of a management challenge, but a welcome one.

We birded around the immediate area for about half an hour, interrupting a Great Blue Heron intent on acquiring his trout breakfast, and adding a respectable number of species to our list, although we were disappointed not to see or hear more warblers. Clearly the front that came through the previous evening had proved the familiar birding saying – “you should have been here yesterday!”

Our next segment covered much of the Daffodil Meadow trail and we inevitably and spontaneously split into two main groups during the walk. Most people got to see Magnolia and Black-throated Blue Warblers, Northern Parula and Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos. We enjoyed watching Red-bellied and Pileated Woodpeckers at their nest holes and, while we were looking at them, a very young fawn scampered through the woods just feet in front of us.

After returning to our cars, we gathered at the south end of the park, and about half of our original party drove on to the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club

New Members

Liz & Michael Baroody-Solomon, Pittsford
 Ann Michele & Egbert Bouwmeester, Rochester
 Leigh Anne Chandler, Rochester
 Diane Cook, Spencerport
 Joseph Dean, Rochester
 Nancy Holley, Rochester
 Christopher Lajewski, Seneca Falls
 Meredith Graham & Michael Murdoch, Pittsford
 Cary Smith, Pittsford
 Eileen Wierzbicki,
 Donna & David Willome, Rochester
 Gordon Robinson, Pittsford
 Brian Rohrs & Gayle Lazoration, Fairport

sanctuary of Railroad Mills Road. It had turned into a spectacular late spring morning, and we had a delightful hike around the sanctuary, mostly along the banks of Irondequoit Creek. We were rewarded with good views of Great Crested and Traill’s Flycatchers, Eastern Bluebird and Chestnut-sided Warbler among others.

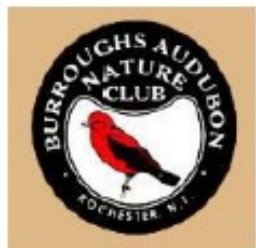
As we gathered at the BANC clubhouse to complete our checklist, we all agreed that we had enjoyed a lovely morning experience. We counted 58 species, thanks to those with sharper eyes and ears than mine, and I am particularly grateful to my co-leaders, Tom and Jeanne Verhulst, who helped tremendously with managing the large groups and assisting the many beginning birders in our party.



Bird Watching on Powder Mills Park and Sanctuary Hike

Photo by Richard Ashworth

Burroughs Audubon Nature Club



Presents 4th Annual

NATURE NIGHT

Wednesday June 26th 6:00 – 8:30 PM



Location: 301 Railroad Mills Road, Victor, NY
BANC's 32-acre preserve near Powder Mills Park

FAMILY EVENT: come learn about birds, rocks, butterflies, fossils, minerals, mushrooms, trees, plants and much more from local experts

- *peruse Victor-Farmington Library nature books*
- *participate in a 30 minute guided nature walk @ 7:00 PM*
- *try your hand at a nature scavenger hunt*
- *learn how you can enjoy nature this summer*
- *enjoy refreshments and live music*



visit <http://www.bancny.org/> for details

Boardwalk

By Jared Spanganberg

This project started in November 2018 when I first met Miss Prill at BANC to look at the boardwalk. It's now June and we're about halfway done. It has been a long and challenging project but also a fulfilling one. Some of the challenges have been the weather, the plants and working in the water and mud. Each section has been a learning experience. As we go along, we take the issues we faced and the lessons learned to improve the process. Luckily, we've been able to re-use quite a bit of the original boardwalk which has helped with the budget. I'm hoping to have it done soon but there is no exact end date yet.

Editor's note: Jared is undertaking this as a project for his Eagle Scout Award.

An article, *The Joys of Atlasing*, was submitted by New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA). There was not enough room to publish the article in the print edition of the *Tanager*; it is available in the edition emailed to members and available at the website, bancny.org/tanager.html

Boardwalk Reconstruction

Photos by Jared Spanganberg



Atlas Corner: The Joys of Atlasing

by Julie Hart, NY BBA III Project Coordinator

You may have heard people say how atlasing is a different way of birding and an extremely rewarding one at that. But what does this mean? How exactly is atlas birding different from normal birding? Why is it so rewarding? And you may be asking yourself, how can I become familiar with atlas birding before the project begins in 2020? In this article we'll answer these questions and more.

What is atlasing and how is it rewarding?

Atlasing is like regular birding but you slow down and observe the behaviors of individual birds. To help put this in perspective, I like to explain to people that I worked for several years doing various bird jobs around the country, but it wasn't until I atlased in my home state that I was able to observe many of the breeding behaviors you read about in books.

While blockbusting for the Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas, I was finally able to really enjoy the figure-eight courtship display of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird;

was chased off a road by an angry Ruffed Grouse mother with chicks scurrying in every direction at her barking and growling and feigned injury display; observed Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers wriggling in and out of birch trees; and encountered countless thrushes with overstuffed bills full of worms and insects.

By the end of the summer I learned not only the alternate songs of most songbirds but also many of the call notes. I learned to distinguish amicable chatter between a pair from territorial squabbles. I started out knowing the large-scale habitat preferences of most species and a couple months later I recognized the small habitat differences that attract a Willow instead of an Alder Flycatcher. My understanding of

bird behavior and identification skills of awkward, disheveled looking fledglings far exceeded what I thought possible. And it was all because I changed the way I birded. I slowed down and watched what

the birds did. Sometimes I would sit and wait and not see any signs of breeding, but other times I had the most intimate glimpses into their daily lives. It was a continuously rewarding experience.

My experience is not unique. Many people express similar sentiments after they start atlasing; just ask your fellow bird club members who participated in the last atlas. Best of all, the delight that comes with

this type of birding is open to all of us.

How do I practice atlasing and entering my observations in eBird?

The New York State atlas doesn't start until 2020, but you don't have to wait to start enjoying this type of birding. You can practice your atlasing skills right now. Some birds are already nesting, while others are courting and setting up territories. Start small by watching the birds in your backyard or favorite park. If you see a behavior and you don't know what it means, look it up. The Cornell Lab's "All About Birds" site is a good place to start. If it turns out to be a breeding behavior, note the behavior on your checklist.



Bicknell's Thrush with bill full of food

photo by Sue Barth

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NY BBA III will be using eBird for data entry, so start getting comfortable with eBird now. Check out the free “eBird Essentials” course offered by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, teach yourself by following the eBird tutorials for web and mobile, or ask a fellow birder to show you how to get started. Once you are familiar with eBird, start adding breeding observations to your checklists. Go to the detailed section for each species on your checklist and select the appropriate breeding code. Whether you use mobile or web, it’s just a few extra clicks.

We will cover more detail on the different breeding codes in future articles. We will also cover how to make sure you are entering observations within an atlas block and other tips to make your checklists more useful for data analysis. Until then, have fun exploring the joys of atlasing!

Join the Breeding Bird Atlas Community Online!

The Atlas Website is where we will provide birdwatching tips, field methods, how to use eBird, block maps, answers to frequently asked questions, news and events, you name it! The website is in the nestling stage but will be growing quickly over the next few months.

Follow us on FaceBook to share your stories, photos, and videos, ask questions, and discover events happening near you.

Share photos and videos and connect with other atlasers on Instagram.

This article first appeared in New York Birders, the newsletter of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA).

More Photos from the annual banquet

Photos by Richard Ashworth



Wildflowers at the Sanctuary

Photos by Laurie Dirckx



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, June 14, 6:00 PM

Potluck at BANC Sanctuary

VERN LINDBERG, FOLK MUSICIAN (GUITAR)

Wednesday, June 19, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Field Trip to Green Lakes State Park

JUNE FLOWERS AND TREES

Wednesday, June 26, 6:00 - 8:30 PM

Open House at BANC Sanctuary

FAMILY NATURE NIGHT

Thursday, July 11, 6:00 PM

Potluck at BANC Sanctuary

VOLUNTEER VACATIONS

Thursday, July 18, 10:00 AM

Walk and Program at BANC Sanctuary

FOREST THERAPY

Friday, August 9, 4:00 PM

Potluck at BANC Sanctuary

PLEIN AIR PAINTING

Wednesday, August 14, 10:00 AM

Field Trip to 150 Smith Road

**BUTTERFLY GARDENS AND MONARCH
WAYSTATIONS**

Monday, August 26, 10:00 AM

Field Trip to Riedman Fish Hatchery

TROUT LIFE CYCLE AND CONSERVATION

Sunday, September 15, 2:00 PM

Field Trip to East Bethany

FOSSIL HUNTING