

# The Tanager



Published quarterly by the

**Burroughs Audubon Nature Club**

c/o John Shaw

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

*By Shirley Shaw*

Who would have thought? In March, when shutting down happened so suddenly, I thought three to four weeks should do it. Several people have told me they had the same idea.

Oh, how we miss seeing our BANC friends and how awful we feel about those members who don't have computers, Internet, and e-mail because electronic communication and virtual events are our safest means of getting together and handling the business of the organization. Believe me, BANC's Executive Council has explored options. What a nice big lawn we have for social distancing, we said. Can we do something there? Well, images on a screen don't show up in the light. Presentations are out? OK. Try something else. But how do those of us who live in Irondequoit, Greece, or wherever we are know if it's raining at the Sanctuary? We could assume there's been a cancellation because of the downpour at our home, only to have the sun shining over the Sanctuary. And then there are those pesky mosquitoes. Add to that the fact that restroom facilities should be cleaned after each use, and we just couldn't figure out a way to gather even after opening was allowed.

We are so lucky to have our uncrowded beautiful Sanctuary for hiking and enjoying nature. I hope you're able to get out to 301 Railroad Mills Road often this fall to find pleasure in the cooler temperatures, migrating fall birds, and colorful foliage.

Please understand that the pandemic creates variables that require flexibility and experimentation. Adjustments to plans become necessary. Therefore, there will be no booklet for 2021; instead infor-

mation is posted on our web site. E-mails will be sent monthly to all our members whose e-mail addresses we have, and the Tanager will continue to be published quarterly. If you have questions or no Internet access for updates, please telephone 585-385-3907.

Listed below is important information about our current plans (subject to change, of course); there is more detailed information in other articles in this issue. Please read it all.

### OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES THIS FALL

Fortunately, we are seeing opportunities for this fall. Nothing is certain, so you'll need to check [www.bancny.org](http://www.bancny.org) for the latest information, but **we are hopeful that we will be able to have two outside events in October**. The first is a field trip on October 17 at 10:00 a.m. led by our wonderful tree expert Frank Crombe to enjoy the fall foliage at Highland Park. This trip is listed in your 2020 booklet as a trip to Mount Hope Cemetery. Because the space for distancing is inadequate there, we're moving this event to the park. Secondly, we hope to have our Clean Up Day and Habitat Restoration Day on Sunday, October 25, starting at 2:00 p.m. There will be no refreshments, so please bring your own water and snack if you need one.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(President's column - continued from page 1)

The pandemic regulations have made changes in our usual procedures necessary. Based on valuable input we received from the Rochester Birding Association, BANC's Executive Council has established guidelines for our events, and there is an article explaining them in this issue of the *Tanager* on page 6. You know about the need for masks and social distancing; now the ability to contact trace is required and the number of participants is limited. Therefore, **every-one will have to register in advance to attend our events.** Go to [BANCrsvp@gmail.com](mailto:BANCrsvp@gmail.com) to register. If you don't have e-mail, you can telephone 585-385-3907. Registrants will receive pertinent information for the event, including the meeting place. **REGISTRATION IS A MUST!**

### VIRTUAL MEETINGS

In addition to the two outside events, our bylaws require two meetings: one in October in which the slate of officers to be voted on at the annual business meeting is announced and one in November when the annual business meeting is held. We will be meeting via Zoom videoconference for both meetings. **Experience Night on October 9** will give us a chance to get together virtually and catch up on what our friends have been doing. Thanks to Richard Ashworth for coordinating the presentations. Registration will be necessary so that you can receive log-on information. To attend, register at [BANCrsvp@gmail.com](mailto:BANCrsvp@gmail.com) or call 585-385-3907. To reserve your place on the evening's program, please call Richard at 585-381-2189. Detailed information is found on page 6. Please read it because there are some changes to the program format this year.

**Our Annual Meeting via Zoom on November 13** is important for you to attend so that we'll have the required quorum, and you'll get your chance to elect officers and trustees. After business is concluded, we'll experiment with another interactive program. Detailed information about the program will be

emailed to members and posted on our web site in early November.

Both the October and November meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m. Log-in information will be sent to registrants prior to the meeting. Please log-in a few minutes early to make sure your connection is working properly.

### LET'S CONNECT SO EVERYONE CAN PARTICIPATE

Talking about these virtual meetings brings up something especially important. We are left with no safe option for an indoor gathering in person in October and November, but we certainly don't want members who lack the necessary technology to be left out. If you don't have a device, perhaps you have a family member who can safely share technology with you. If you do have Internet access, can you invite a friend inside your "bubble" who does not have a computer to join you? There is also a telephone option to join a Zoom meeting, where you can hear the meeting even if you can't see it. If you have a computer but are unfamiliar with Zoom, please let us know in advance by calling 585-385-3907. We'll offer some assistance and give you the opportunity to spend a few minutes at a practice meeting. There is an article with some tips for Zoom meetings on page 7.

### PROGRAMS FOR 2021

Our program committee, headed by Marigrace Piazza, is meeting regularly to discuss possibilities for programs and ways to have in-person activities safely. We had great programs and field trips that had to be cancelled, and we'd like to reschedule them when possible. Visit our web site often to find out the latest information because all planned events are subject to change as circumstances change. If you lack Internet access, please call 585-385-3907 for the latest news. We will continue to mail the *Tanager* to those who pay to receive paper copies, but with the uncertainty

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(President's Column Continued from page 2)

that the pandemic brings, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to hold events as published in the *Tanager*.

### BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Despite having to cancel our activities since March, upkeep of our Sanctuary could not be cancelled. For years, Dean Clayton has been our faithful go-to person for mowing the lawn and trails and doing maintenance tasks. We owe him a huge debt of gratitude for his enormous contribution of time and labor.

**THANK YOU, Dean.**

Maintaining our Sanctuary is not, nor should it ever be, a one-person job. A year or more ago, Dean let us know that he needed help so he would have time for his other responsibilities and activities. Fortunately for BANC, Dean was willing to continue with mowing and necessary tasks while we tried to find the help required. This year, to BANC's good fortune, we found out that some new members lived not far away and were experienced and eager to take on Building and Grounds work. They have stepped up to pull privet, mow, weed whack, create a beautiful new entrance to our parking lot, and assess the condition and repairs needed to some of our boardwalks,



**Frame under the new boardwalk.  
See article on page 14 (digital  
version)**

*Photo by Zach Hutkowski*

especially the one on Balsam Fir Trail. With the dedication of these new volunteers and the more seasoned ones, we've managed to keep our property in shape. We are so, so grateful to these people for all the work they've done.

### FINANCIAL CONCERNS

The last two issues of the *Tanager* have included a lot of information about BANC's financial needs. Necessary repairs and upgrades to our forty-year-old club house are many and costly, and we face having to put a new roof on our building in about five years. Without significant donations, we'll have to use a high percentage of our endowment to cover the cost. Thanks to all of you who have sent in contributions. We appreciate your generosity.

### SLATE OF OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES FOR 2021

We will hold the election for our Executive Council at our annual business meeting November 13, 7:30 p.m. Thank you to the Nominating Committee of Julie Clayton, Mary Gordon, and Linda Smith (chair) who worked hard to find volunteers to fill open positions.

For President: Shirley Shaw

For Vice President: Steve Melcher

For Recording Secretary: Marigrace Piazza

For Corresponding Secretary: Martha Zettel

For Treasurer: John Shaw

For Trustees, 2021-2022: Julie Clayton, Joe Hurley, Lura Kelley, Carol Klinger, Mary Moore, Jane Stock

For Finance Trustees, 2021-2022: Frank Crombe, Jon Dombrowski

Ellen Prill will continue as a Trustee. Her term expires at the end of 2021.

We appreciate these members assuming leadership positions. Many thanks to Richard Ashworth and Sabrina Comisso, who are leaving the Executive Council this year, for all the work they've done and will continue to do in other capacities.

## Meet a Member – Laura Ouimette

*By Richard Ashworth*

My featured member this time is relatively new to BANC, but has been a leader in a very similar organization for many years.

Laura Ouimette was born on Long Island, but her family moved to Fairport when she was a young child. Her father rebuilt their house by the canal, where her mother still lives and hosts family members.

With her parents and three sisters, Laura spent a lot of time in the Adirondacks, camping and canoeing, so her outdoor lifestyle and immersion in nature began at an early age. Happily, Laura's daughter is now a DEC lifeguard at Old Forge, so she still can enjoy the area on visits. During high school, Laura worked at Storybook Farm Veterinary Hospital at Bushnell's Basin.

Laura graduated from SUNY Oswego in communications and psychology and earned a graduate degree in counseling. In her mid-twenties, she spent ten months traveling around Australia and New Zealand as a backpacker, staying in youth hostels, where she became very interested in studying the similarities and differences in the local flora and fauna compared with central New York.

In 1999, after a ten-year career as a school counselor, Laura, her husband Ron and their children moved to their present lovely home in Canandaigua, just around the corner from Sonnenberg Gardens. Here Maya Hobday invited Laura to walks and presentations organized by the Canandaigua Botani-

cal Society, the second oldest US botanical society in existence, having been formed in 1874. Today the Society has around 120 members and is focused mainly on field trips in the Finger Lakes region.

Soon Laura was a leader in the Society and served as Secretary from 2000 through 2006. She has also been Treasurer, and is currently 'Coordinator'. She was instrumental in launching their website (<https://canandaiguabotanicalsociety.blogspot.com>) and Facebook page. She is also a prolific blog author for the Society.

Laura is an enthusiastic member of BANC, which she was introduced to at a fern walk in 2013. She enjoys the Railroad Mills Sanctuary very much and has organized Botanical Society visits there, as well as encouraging Society members to attend various BANC field trips. She looks forward to fostering closer links between the

two very similar organizations. (Most records of the first 40+ years of the Society's existence were lost in a house fire – sound familiar?)



**Laura with her vasculum (antique botanical specimen case)**

*Photo by Richard Ashworth*

## Something to Celebrate

*By Carol Hinkelman*

Recently Congress passed the Great American Outdoors Act, the biggest land conservation legislation in a decade. Despite widespread support for conservation in both parties, it is highly unusual in these polarized times to have a bill pass with huge majorities in both houses of Congress. The pandemic has caused the public to appreciate the outdoors more than ever before and is calling on its elected representatives to provide adequate financial support for parks and recreation areas.

The first part of the GAOA establishes a National Park and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund that will provide up to \$9 billion over the next five years to work on maintenance that has been deferred for years at national parks, wildlife refuges, forests and other federal lands with \$6.5 billion earmarked specifically for the 419 national park units. This money is badly needed because the national parks budget has been effectively flat since 1980, causing a backlog of \$12 billion in maintenance needed to repair roads, trails, campgrounds, monuments, utilities and visitor infrastructure. This funding will come not from taxpayers, but from oil and gas leases – energy development on federal lands and water.

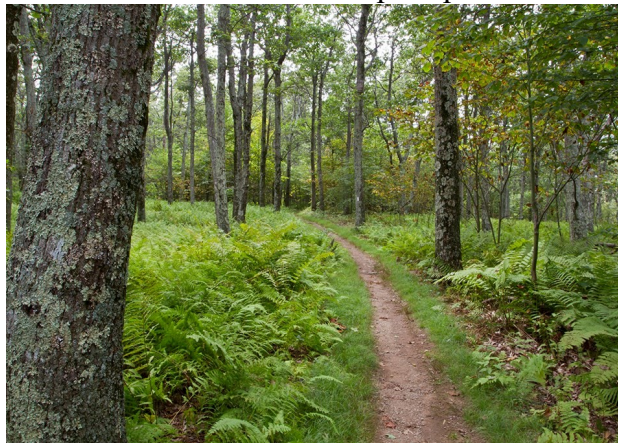
The second part of the GAOA guarantees \$900 million per year in perpetuity for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) using royalty payments from offshore oil drilling in federal waters. When the LWCF was established in 1964 the idea was to use revenues from the depletion of one natural resource to the conservation of another natural resource – our land and water. This money is intended to protect national parks, areas around rivers and lakes, national forests, and national wildlife refuges from development, and to provide matching grants for state and local parks and recreation projects. It helps fund the four main federal land pro-

grams -- National Parks, National Forests, Fish and Wildlife, and Bureau of Land Management and provides grants to state and local governments to acquire land for recreation and conservation.

Since 1964 the program has been used to preserve millions of acres of irreplaceable land from coast to coast. Eight million acres have been protected in all 50 states, and 98% of U.S. counties have a park or open space funded by the LWCF. Locally LWCF grants have funded land acquisition or development projects at Hamlin Beach State Park, some of the Monroe County Parks, many City of Rochester recreation areas, and parks in almost every town in Monroe County.

The LWCF was established with an authorization level of \$900 million and required that the money had to be appropriated by Congress each year.

Despite the popularity of the program, in most years Congress appropriated less than half that amount and siphoned the rest of the money off to be used for other purposes. Some \$22 billion has been diverted from the trust fund by Congress over the lifetime of the program, but now the LWCF will have full and permanent funding. The LWCF costs the taxpayers nothing and benefits everyone.



**Shenandoah Wilderness**

*Photo by National Park Service*

## Experience Night

### Friday, October 9, 7:30 PM

*By Shirley Shaw*

We're doing things differently this year for our annual Experience Night program. It will be our members' opportunity to send in up to FIVE of their favorite images that they have taken of nature and tell us the brief story behind each image.

Since we haven't been able to meet together for a long time, a main point of the evening is to reconnect by sharing memories—this is not a photo competition or a formal presentation. Please consider participating with whatever images you have. Just one image is fine! Cell phone photos are fine! Maybe you've photographed something you can't identify, and someone present can provide an ID. Don't miss this fun evening of learning and socializing via Zoom.

Pre-registration is a must to receive log-on information. Pre-register by emailing [BANCrsvp@gmail.com](mailto:BANCrsvp@gmail.com) or telephone 585-385-3907. To reserve your place on the evening's program, please call Richard Ashworth, 585-381-2189.

Note: We won't be allowing people to share their Zoom screen during the evening, so **sending the photos ahead of time is required**. E-mail your photos to [ashworth@rochester.rr.com](mailto:ashworth@rochester.rr.com). During the Zoom, we will announce the photographer's name and give you an opportunity to un-mute and talk about your photos. We CANNOT use flashdrives, mobile devices, shared Zoom screens, or web sites to view your photos, so they MUST be e-mailed ahead of time.

### New Members

The following new members have joined:

Linda Pelino	Pittsford
Laurie Gunther Fellows	Rochester
Michael and Nancy Sundberg	Pittsford
Bill and Jane Foster	Victor
Selma Karabegovic	Victor
Michelle Heyman	Pittsford

We hope they will join us as we resume activities.

## Guidelines for Events

### Burroughs Audubon Nature Club

New York State is reopening. We miss seeing each other in person! BANC plans to have events beginning in October on a trial basis, and we will hold our October members' meeting and November annual meeting via Zoom. We will then reevaluate to decide how to move forward.

In order to protect the health of our members and the wider community, and in order to ensure compliance with NYS mandates, we have developed a set of policies and guidelines that will govern in-person events.

The most important change is that pre-registration is required for all participants at in-person events. Send an e-mail to [BANCrsvp@gmail.com](mailto:BANCrsvp@gmail.com) to register and receive pertinent information. Registration is also necessary to receive log-in links and passwords for Zoom meetings. If you do not have e-mail, please call 585-385-3907.

For reference, here is the complete list of our COVID-19 guidelines:

#### Registration Policies:

Advance registration is required in order to attend the event. NYS guidelines limit the number of individuals allowed at an outdoor gathering. All events will be capped to meet that requirement, and exact capacity limits will be determined on a case by case basis.

- Individuals who did not pre-register may not be allowed to attend.
- Should you decide not to attend, we encourage you to cancel your reservation to make room for others. Canceling is easily done by emailing [BANCrsvp@gmail.com](mailto:BANCrsvp@gmail.com). If you do not have email, please telephone 585-385-3907.

#### Health Screening Considerations:

Full contact information is required at registration in case contact tracing is needed.

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**(Guidelines for Events - Continued from page 6)**

- No one who has a temperature of 100.4F or greater (without having taken any fever-reducing medications) should attend.
- No one who has any COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell) should attend.
- No one who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days or who has been instructed to self-isolate or quarantine should attend.
- No one who has been in close (within 6 feet) or proximate (same closed environment, but greater than 6 feet) contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or who has had symptoms of COVID-19 within the past 14 days, should attend.
- No one who has traveled or who lives with someone who has traveled to a country or state on the New York coronavirus travel advisory list in the last 14 days should attend.
- Participants who test positive for the coronavirus within 14 days after attending an event are encouraged to contact BANC.

**Social Distancing and Safety Best Practices:**

Participants will be required to stay 6 feet apart at all times and wear a mask whenever they are outside of their car.

- Participants that reside in the same household may share optics, cell phones, cameras, and other equipment, but we regret that otherwise items cannot be shared. We realize this may be frustrating for those who do not have their own.
- Participants are encouraged to keep hand sanitizer with them in case of accidental contact.

**Tips for Attending Meetings via Zoom**

*By Pat Aitken and Kathy Schneider, New York State Ornithological Association*

You don't have to have a zoom account to participate in a meeting. When you are sent an invitation to join a meeting, just click on the link, and it will take you to your meeting.

You can participate using your computer, tablet, or phone. If none of your devices have a webcam, you will still be able to participate using your phone. You will not be able to see anything, but you will hear the discussions.

Don't use two devices for the same meeting – e.g. using a computer to see the meeting, and a phone to talk. This causes distortions and feedback.

Find a quiet, private space for the meeting so you can focus on it without distractions. Put pets in another room. Maintain eye contact by looking at the camera and adjust the camera so you appear in the center of the frame. Keep lighting in front or overhead so you are not backlit.

Join the meeting at least 5 to 10 minutes before it is scheduled to start. Joining the meeting while it's in progress is just as disruptive as entering a physical meeting late.

To join a meeting:

- Click "join with video" if you want yourself to be visible to other people on the meeting. If you don't want to be seen, choose "join without video." You will be able to see and hear the presentations and other participants. They will see either your name, or you can upload an image of yourself instead.
- For our meeting we will mute all participants during the presentations. This prevents background noises from disrupting the meeting. As

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Summer Projects

*By Ellen Prill*

Upgrade Entrance to Parking Lot  
 Mowing  
 Weed whacking  
 Flower and Fern Gardens maintenance  
 Trail work including clearing trails of fallen trees  
 Stump grinding in the parking lot  
 Continue to remove invasive privet from the property  
 Continue to repair loose boards on boardwalks  
 Prepare to repair Balsam Fir boardwalk in the Fall  
 Reroute trails if necessary for safety  
 Second Handicapped Parking sign

### WHO IS DOING THIS SUMMER WORK?

In alphabetical order,

Frank Cabron, Dean Clayton, Joe Hurley, Bob Kremens, Joe Laskowski, Mary Moore, Evan O'Brien, Becky Olson, Daniel Rinn, Marigrace Piazza, Carol and David Southby.

Please, please, please give them a round of applause. Honestly, the Club cannot function without members' help. The Clubhouse and Sanctuary take year-round upkeep and it takes many hands to tackle it.

If you can commit to an hour a day or an hour a week, or an hour a month please email Ellen at ekprill@gmail.com and I will put you on the Caring for our Building and Grounds List.



**Entrance Sign**

*Photo and Project by Bob Kremens*

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*(Tips for Meetings on Zoom Continued from page 7)*

questions come to you please type them in the chat box (see below). The host will unmute you at times when it is appropriate to speak.

- CHAT BOX is located at the bottom of your zoom screen. This is where you can type in a question for the presenter or provide information. Bear in mind, these comments are recorded as part of the zoom meeting. You can send a private chat to another participant using the chat box.
- Zoom meetings have a defined beginning and end time. Please be aware of this, and if you are speaking, be clear and concise in your comments and questions.

Problems joining the meeting? Call 585-747-6567.



**BURROUGHS AUDUBON NATURE CLUB (BANC) 2021 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Membership runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you join after October 1, 2020, your membership continues through the year 2021.

Please send your check, payable to BANC, along with this form, to:

BANC  
 c/o John Shaw, Treasurer  
 374 Cromwell Drive  
 Rochester, NY 14610

Or, to pay online by credit card, use the form at <http://bancny.org/membership.html>.

Check one: New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Ages (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn of us? \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Month (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	DUES	AMOUNT PAID
Individual	\$25	\$
Couple	\$35	\$
Family, including children under 18	\$40	\$
Supporting Membership	\$75	\$
Life Membership	\$500	\$
Add \$10.00 for Tanager hardcopy mailed	\$10	\$
Add \$4.00 for outside restroom key	\$4	\$
Extra Donation Appreciated	\$	\$
		Total \$

In order to maintain sound finances, there is a small dues increase.



**Baltimore oriole and nest at BANC**

*Photo by Jane Stock*



**Birdbath**

*Photo by Marigrace Piazza*



**Monarch on Butterfly weed at BANC**

*Photo by Jane Stock*



**BANC Garden**

*Photo by Marigrace Piazza*



**BANC Front Porch**

*Photos by Richard Ashworth*

## NYSARC and eBird Working Together

The New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) and eBird are both committed to ensuring the integrity of rare bird records in New York State. eBird, launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, is the world's largest bird-related citizen science project, with more than one hundred million bird sightings contributed each year by birders around the world. NYSARC, established in 1977 as a committee of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA), maintains the official *Checklist of the Birds of New York State* (<https://nybirds.org/Publications/ChecklistNYS.htm>), evaluates the documentation of significantly rare birds recorded in the State, and renders decisions on the acceptability of rare bird reports submitted via mail, email, or the online NYSARC Reporting Form.

NYSARC focuses on birds that are very rare in much or all of New York State and maintains a **review list** enumerating them (<https://nybirds.org/NYSARC/NYSARClst.htm>). It is important to note that many birds flagged as "rare" in eBird are not on the NYSARC review list because NYSARC only looks at the rarest species. Nonetheless, many sightings of species that *are* on the NYSARC review list are showing up in eBird – but are not being submitted to NYSARC. In fact, many more records of truly rare birds have been submitted to eBird than have *ever* been reported to NYSARC. This is because so many birders have enthusiastically embraced eBird as their record-keeping tool of choice, while most of them are unaware of the importance (or even the possibility) of submitting rare bird reports to NYSARC, in addition to entering them into eBird.

In order to maintain a complete inventory of verifiable sightings of rare birds in the State, it has become apparent that NYSARC must take on the task of reviewing eBird records. For our all-volunteer group of seven voting members and a secretary, this is a daunting task. However, slowly but surely, NYSARC has developed a plan and started to wade into eBird review. We will be working with eBird reviewers to add eBird records to the NYSARC data-

base. It is still a work in progress and is likely to continue to evolve in the next few years, but it is underway.

What can eBirders expect and how will NYSARC impact their birding lists? First, birders should realize that eBird supports the work of bird records committees around the world. The eBird administrators understand the importance of maintaining an accurate database of records, whether it is their own worldwide database of all bird sightings or a more restricted database of very rare bird sightings in New York State. As long as NYSARC does its work with competence and respect, eBird is likely to support its decisions.

As NYSARC gradually works through and reviews the many rare bird sightings in New York State since eBird's inception in 2002, you may see a few records that were previously accepted by eBird that no longer appear in public output. We anticipate that this will occur only rarely, for a couple of reasons. One, eBird reviewers are highly competent – NYSARC is unlikely to disagree with the eBird reviewer in the great majority of cases. And two, NYSARC will make every effort to avoid unconfirming a record that was already accepted by an eBird reviewer. We will work with the eBird reviewers to obtain as much as or more information about an eBird record as was seen by the eBird reviewer. For example, perhaps you saw a widely reported Rufous Hummingbird near your home that you entered into eBird.

NYSARC will work with the eBird reviewer to obtain as much information as possible about this sighting and to find out why the eBird reviewer confirmed the record. If, after reviewing all of this information, NYSARC determines that the record was not supportable beyond the species pair of Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird, the eBird reviewer would request that eBirders edit their checklists and change the species to Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird.

What can you do to help ensure that your super rare sightings in New York will still appear in eBird out-

*(Continued on page 13)*



**Laurie Gunther Fellows with son Jeffrey Fellows on new boardwalk**

*Photo by Zach Hutkowski*



**Lura Kelley on new boardwalk**

*Photo by Jane Stock*



**Jane and Harold Stock by White Snakeroot**

*Photo by Lura Kelley*



**Lura's new friend — a very friendly praying mantis! He liked her hair!**

*Photo by Jane Stock*

*(NYSARC and eBird Continued from page 11)*

put? In many cases you will not have to do anything different at all – just provide as much documentation ***in your checklist***, in the form of photos, audios, videos, and notes, as you always have. However, if you have relied upon your reputation as an experienced birder to have your sightings accepted, understand that NYSARC stresses the importance of verifiable documentation. NYSARC does more than simply place its stamp of approval on a sighting. We archive the documentation for each sighting so that future researchers, who may have more information about a species than we do at present, can look at the documentation and make their own decision. Of course, NYSARC considers the experience of the observer when making its decisions, but that is of secondary importance to the documentation at hand.

The reason why including documentation in your eBird checklist is much better than simply sending it to the eBird reviewer is that your checklist and everything in it is permanently archived by eBird. Information you send to the eBird reviewer separately is not archived in the eBird database, because the reviewer cannot make changes to your checklist. Only you can do that. The best way to ensure that all your

documentation for a super rare bird will be available to anyone reviewing your sighting is to incorporate it directly ***in your checklist***.

The NYSARC is excited to work with eBird in order to have as complete a picture of the rarest birds in the State as possible. We hope that all birders and eBirders will embrace this relationship as well.

New York State Avian Records Committee, July 2020:

Willie D’Anna, Chair

Gary Chapin, Secretary

Tom Burke

Doug Gochfeld

Pat Lindsay

Derek Rogers

Jay McGowan

Shawn Billerman

Email: [nysarc44@nybirds.org](mailto:nysarc44@nybirds.org)

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## A Much Needed Boardwalk Replacement for the Aspen Trail

*By Ellen Prill*

Zach Hutkowski, Troop 146, has completed the project necessary to be awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. He will be putting the finishing touches on (ramp to access the boardwalk and recognition plaque) in the next couple of weeks. Please be sure to check out this new and improved boardwalk soon! It is for you! Thank you, Zach, for a job well done.





**Great Blue Heron on Irondequoit Creek**

*Photo by Katie Shaw*



**Mourning Cloak Butterfly**

*Photo by Leslie Schiff*

### **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

All events through September have been canceled due to COVID-19. Below are the remaining events. They are subject to cancellation, so check with the website, [bancny.org](http://bancny.org).

**Friday, October 9, 7:30 PM**

Online

**EXPERIENCE NIGHT**

**Saturday, October 17, 10:00 AM**

Field Trip to Highland Park

**FALL FOLIAGE**

**Sunday, October 25, 2:00**

BANC Sanctuary

**CLEAN-UP DAY AND HABITAT RESTORATION DAY**

**Friday, November 13, 7:30 PM**

Online

**ANNUAL MEETING WITH PROGRAM TBA**