



**Taking Flight / New York State Ornithological Association Annual Conference
Hosted by the Catskill Center
Kingston, NY September 13-15, 2019**

Two ways to register:

- 1) Register and Pay with credit card online at: www.catskillcenter.org/takingflight/registration
- 2) Mail this completed form and payment: Catskill Center, c/o Katie Palm, PO Box 504, Arkville, NY

Registrant #1 Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone(_____) _____ Email _____
 Delegate? Yes _____ No _____ Name of Club _____

Registrant #2 Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone(_____) _____ Email _____
 Delegate? Yes _____ No _____ Name of Club _____

	Qty	Per Person	Total	
Registration postmarked by August 2, 2019		\$55		Mail completed form and payment to: Catskill Center C/O Katie Palm PO Box 504 Arkville, NY 12406 Kpalm@catskillcenter.org (845) 586-2611 * Checks payable to: Catskill Center
Registration postmarked after August 2, 2019		\$65		
Student registration fee		\$35		
Saturday evening Banquet- buffet**		\$55		
Friday evening Hudson River Birding Cruise		\$40		
Snack for Saturday morning hike (fruit, drink, granola bar, hiking snacks) **		\$10		
Snack for Sunday morning hike (fruit, drink, granola bar, hiking snacks) **		\$10		
TOTAL COST >				
**For those with special meal restrictions, please let us know:				

Room reservations: A block of rooms has been reserved at the Best Western Plus 503 Washington Avenue, Kingston, NY. The conference nightly discount rate is \$199 + tax. To book rooms, call the Best Western Plus at (845) 338-0400 and mention the Taking Flight/NYSOA conference - **discounted rooms are available until July 13th.**

Cancellations before Friday, August 5 will be fully refunded, minus a 7% processing fee.

Taking Flight is a Program of the Catskill Center

NY State Birders Conference and NYSOA Annual Meeting September 13-15 - Kingston

One of the highlights of the birding year in New York is the NY State Birders Conference and Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA). This event moves around the state from year to year, hosted by a NYSOA member organization each fall. This year's conference will be in Kingston in the Hudson Valley, hosted by the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development.

The annual conference features field trips, workshops, a papers session, keynote speaker and social events. Scheduled for September 13-15 at the Best Western Conference Center, this year's gathering will focus on the Hudson Valley and the Catskills with field trips organized by the local John Burroughs Natural History Society. Fall songbird migration will be in full swing with warblers, thrushes, flycatchers and others winging their way south.

The keynote speaker at the Saturday banquet will be Nathan Pieplow, speaking on "The Language of Birds." Nathan unlocks the secrets of this language—listening in on the pillow talk of Red-winged Blackbirds, the signals that Cliff Swallows use when they have found food, and more. Nathan Pieplow is author of the *Peterson Guide to Bird Sounds*.

A chance to bird at the Ashokan Reservoir (built a hundred years ago by New York City), and a quiet walk along the streets of Historic Kingston are two of the Friday afternoon activities. A weekend highlight will be a Hudson River cruise scheduled for Friday evening. Participants will have a chance not only to observe river birds, but also to enjoy views of historic Hudson River lighthouses, waterfront mansions and other notable sites aboard the two-hour Rip Van Winkle cruise. There is an extra cost for the cruise, so be sure to sign up when you register for the conference.

Mark DeDea and the John Burroughs Natural History Society have compiled an impressive list of outings for both Saturday and Sunday mornings. Adventuresome souls please come with kayak/canoe attire. No telling how warm or cool it will be, and be aware - those hiking up Slide Mountain at 3am Sunday can possibly see snowflakes! For those who would rather not paddle or climb mountains, there are plenty of less strenuous yet high quality bird walks to choose from along the Hudson River and surrounding areas, as well as the Hawk Watch at the Mohonk Preserve.

Workshops will include sessions on the 2020 Breeding Bird Atlas and creating a bird-friendly garden. Add to this a bird trivia game, a papers session, vendors, book signings, and a raffle and this promises to be an entertaining and educational weekend.

The annual NYSOA Council of Delegates meeting will be held Saturday morning. Member organizations are encouraged to send their representatives to be filled in on NYSOA's activities over the past year and future plans, and to participate in discussions and elections.

Act now! Early **discounted registration is available until August 2**, and the **discounted hotel rate is available until July 13**. More information, including registration materials and lodging, is available at www.catskillcenter.org/details and www.nybirds.org.

Please join us for this special event and experience NY's beautiful Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountains.

TAKING FLIGHT / NYSOA 2019

FIELD TRIPS

Friday, September 13th

2:00-5:00 Ashokan Reservoir

3:00-4:00 History of New York's first capital

6:00-8:00 Hudson River Cruise

Saturday, September 14th

6:30 -9:30 Delegates Field Trips

High Banks / Farm Hub

7:00 Non-delegates Field Trips

Paddle on the Great Vly / High Banks / Tivoli Bays / Lake Louisa

8:00 Non-delegates Field Trip

Burroughs Sanctuary

Sunday, September 15th

Field Trips

Paddle on the Great Vly / Shawangunk Grasslands NWR / Mohonk Preserve Hawkwatch /

Slide Mtn hike / Jockey Hill

SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Scenic Hudson High Banks Preserve

132 River Road

Ulster Park, NY 12487

This 287 acres preserve was opened in October 2016 and has three miles of trails. It contains bluffs offering superb vistas of the Hudson River as well as extensive wetlands, wildflower-filled meadows, hardwood forests and shoreline along Esopus Lake. A steep trail climbs 200 feet to the upper parkland with features that include additional Hudson River views, former carriage roads that lead to the lake, and a 110-foot boardwalk spanning a wetland. It is a good location for foraging neotropical migrants and raptors overhead.

John Burroughs Nature Sanctuary

261 Floyd Ackert Road

West Park, NY 12493

The 200 acre sanctuary is where literary naturalist John Burroughs built his rustic cabin retreat Slabsides in 1895. There is a four and a half mile network of trails, including five that are newly constructed. They are rated easy to moderate and take you among rocky ridges, deep forests, and onto a peninsula in a stunning two-acre pond enabling you to experience the same forest, geologic formations, waterfalls, fern valleys, wildflowers, birds, and wildlife that Burroughs reveled in over a hundred years ago. Our visit here will include a timely passage from Burroughs by his great granddaughter Joan as well.

Hudson Valley Farm Hub

1875 Hurley Mountain Rd

Hurley, NY 12401

This property was once a renowned, family-owned sweet corn farm and now the Farm Hub is developing a comprehensive applied research program that will be tailored to the Hudson Valley and focused on resilient agriculture and climate-smart farming practices. The Farm Hub provides a land-base for experimentation to support partnerships with research institutions, regional educators, and farmers. In this way, it is uniquely positioned to realize its intention to become a true center, or "hub," for sharing information, innovations and ideas. Projects on soil health, perennial grains, novel crops, riparian habitats and flood management are being developed in conjunction with Cornell University and other partners. Research can also play a critical role in

providing information to Hudson Valley farmers on production and marketing of new crops. All this good work has created a great habitat for field birds and pollinators alike.

Tivoli Bays WMA

1442 Annandale Rd
Annandale-On-Hudson, NY 12504

The “bays” are a choice destination for anyone wishing to explore the coves and tidal marshes of the Hudson River estuary in the Mid-Hudson region. This 1,722-acre area is teeming with avifauna and a walk down Cruger Island Road will visit forested upland to wooded swamp to open tidal marsh and all the possibilities of birds drawn to these habitats.

Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge

The refuge is the site of the old Galeville Airport in the Town of Shawangunk. The refuge is part of the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge and is managed for grassland species of concern and for protection of the watershed of the Wallkill River. Bobolinks, Eastern Meadowlark, Eastern Bluebird, Upland Sandpiper, and Vesper, Grasshopper and Savannah sparrows nest, as historically have Henslow’s sparrows. Winter brings Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Harriers, and Short-Eared Owls. In early spring, American Woodcocks perform their twilight courting flights.

The Great Vly

The Great Vly is a large freshwater marsh bordered by rock cliffs and wooded hills. Osprey, Golden Eagle, American Bittern, blackbirds, and thirty species of warblers pass through The Great Vly during spring migration. Common Nighthawks assemble in small flocks to rest and feed over the open marsh. Common and Black Terns have been observed in migration. Woodcocks, Swamp Sparrows, rails, and herons nest here, along with 3 species of vireos, warblers and other woodland birds. In late summer and early fall, unique floating mats of vegetation provide good shorebird habitat.

Slide Mountain

Slide Mountain, at 4,180 feet, is the Catskill’s highest peak and the site of the original discovery of Bicknell’s Thrush. The peak is reached via a moderately difficult 2.8-mile foot trail. At higher elevations there is an extensive balsam fir-red spruce boreal forest where Bicknell’s Thrush, Swainson’s Thrush, Blackpoll Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher nest. The lower elevation deciduous forest hosts numerous species of breeding thrushes, warblers, woodpeckers, and Scarlet Tanager, Winter Wren, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Crossbills, Pine Grosbeaks, and rarely Boreal Chickadee are potential winter invasion species.

Jockey Hill

Jockey Hill is a destination close to our conference site that has become a popular quick stop for local birders. A powerline cut with wet meadow and surrounded by mature woods offers a nice blend of both breeding and migratory species. Private parking lot is available on Sunday morning.

Shaupeneak Ridge

This 936.5 acres preserve located on the slopes and top of Shaupeneak Ridge, part of the Marlboro Mountains offers a cornucopia of treats for nature lovers — wildflower-filled grasslands, woods, a waterfall and pond, stunning rock formations and an abundance of wildlife. Nearly 9 miles of trails provide access to impressive vistas, stretching to the Hudson River and, once the leaves have fallen, the Catskill Mountains. Louisa Pond and an adjacent wetland provide food and shelter for birds, dragonflies and other creatures.

Mohonk Preserve Hawk Watch

Beginning in the 1950s, Dan Smiley archived daily counts of migrating raptors over the Ridge during the fall migration. Today, Hawk Watch volunteers continue to observe raptor migration from September through November at a migration count station on the Near Trapps off of the Millbrook Mountain Trail. Migrant raptors are identified and counted daily by volunteers. This data is then submitted to the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA). Between 2,000 and 5,000 raptors can be expected to migrate over the Shawangunks Ridge each autumn.