

MEARNS FIELD TRIPS: FALL 2024 AND SPRING 2025

October 5, Saturday, 8:30 am, Hudson Highlands Nature Center (formerly Kenridge Farm), Cornwall, New York: Meet Amy Greher (845-774-9399) at the Cornwall dog park (off Muser Drive) at 8:30 am for Lincoln's Sparrows, Palm Warblers, and more as birds head south for the winter.

October 9, Wednesday, 8:30 am, Goosepond Mountain State Park, Chester, New York: Meet Bob Slechta (845-541-8210) in the parking lot next to the McDonald's on Brookside Avenue in Chester at 8:30 am. Discover how Goosepond Mountain compares to the Hudson Highlands Nature Center.

October 12, Saturday, 9 am, 6 1/2 Station Road Audubon Sanctuary, Goshen, New York: Meet Liz McKnight (201-400-1428) at 9 am where the Heritage Trail crosses 6 1/2 Station Road and discover what a great birding spot this refuge is.

October 20, Sunday, 9 am, Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson, New York: Meet Zenon Bachir (845-202-0302) at 9 am at the toll booth entrance to Croton Point Park to see birds heading south along the Hudson River.

October 27, Saturday, 9 am, Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge, Oil City Road, southwest of Pine Island, New York: Meet Rich VanTieghem (201-370-2721) at the Oil City Road viewing platform at 9 am. Anything is possible at this time of year. LeConte's Sparrow? Maybe!

November 2, Saturday, 9 am, Black Dirt Region, Orange County, New York: Meet Dave Baker (845-527-7508) at 9 am in the parking lot of the Jolly Onion restaurant in Pine Island, New York. We'll search the Black Dirt for larks and buntings down from the Arctic.

November 24, Sunday, 9 am, Eastern Orange County Lakes, New York: Meet Bob Slechta (845-541-8210) at 9 am at the Station Road Square mini mall in Salisbury Mills, New York (located near the intersection of Route 94 and Orrs Mills Road) to search out ducks on the area's lakes.

November 30, Saturday, 3:30 pm, Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge, Wallkill, New York: Meet Tom and Jane Crepet (845-443-5440) at 3:30 pm in the refuge parking lot off Hoagerburgh Road to catch the Short-eared Owls as they come out to hunt.

December 6–8, Friday–Sunday, Cape Ann, Massachusetts: If you're interested in going on this outstanding trip, contact Jodi Brodsky at 845-282-1058 or jsbbirder@gmail.com. We'll look for loons, eiders, scoters, Harlequin Ducks, Razorbills, and more!

December 14, Saturday, [Audubon Christmas Bird Count](#): If you want to participate in this annual event, contact Karen Miller at 845-381-3283.

January 18, Saturday, [NYSOA Winter Waterfowl Count](#): If you would like to participate in this fun day of counting ducks and geese, contact Bob Slechta (845-541-8210).

January 25, Saturday, 9 am, Eagle Viewing Along the Hudson River in Putnam and Westchester Counties: Meet Gerhard Patsch (845-258-0620) at 9 am at the scenic overlook parking lot 3/4 of a mile south of the Bear Mountain Bridge on Route 202/6 ("the Goat Trail") for an enjoyable winter day of watching eagles and other birds.

February 22, Saturday, 9 am, Black Dirt Region, Orange County, New York: Meet Joyce Depew (845-978-9952) at 9 am in the parking lot of the Jolly Onion restaurant in Pine Island, New York. We'll search for wintering larks, buntings, Rough-legged Hawks, and maybe some Snow Geese.

March 2, Sunday, 9:30 am, Rye, New York and Nearby Areas: Meet Bob Slechta (845-541-8210) at 9:30 am in the Rye Playland parking lot to hunt for Long-tailed Ducks, Purple Sandpipers, loons, grebes, and more.

March 15, Saturday, 9 am, Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge, Oil City Road, southwest of Pine Island, New York: Meet Johanna Bloomfield (541-778-1754) at the Oil City Road platform at 9 am for lots and lots of ducks and, hopefully, some Sandhill Cranes.

March 23, Sunday, 9 am, Eastern Orange County Lakes, New York: Meet Bob Slechta (845-541-8210) at 9 am at the Station Road Square mini mall in Salisbury Mills, New York (located near the intersection of Route 94 and Orrs Mills Road) to chase down ducks and other waterfowl.

NOTES

The leader's phone number is included for each trip so that you can call if you have any questions. Any changes to the field trip schedule will be announced via the Mearns Groups.io group.

Field trip leaders are responsible for the following:

- Sending out a trip cancellation notice, if necessary, via the Mearns Groups.io group, or notifying Bob Slechta (845-541-8210) or Joyce Depew (845-978-9952) so that they can send out a cancellation notice.
- Sending a written trip report both to the Groups.io group and, more importantly, directly to Rich VanTieghem (rich.w2vt@gmail.com) for inclusion in the next Orange Feather.