

The 69th Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association

September 9 – 11, 2016, Hosted by the Chemung Valley Audubon Society, Elmira, NY

Register by submitting the registration form with payment to Chemung Valley Audubon Society,
PO Box 663, Elmira, NY 14902

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Richard (Rob) Bierregaard, Research Associate of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University will be presenting *Tracking Ospreys in the Age of Silicon: Migration, Ecology, and Conservation*.

Dr. Bierregaard has radio tagged 52 juvenile and 43 adult Ospreys. His studies—the first to collect a significant body of data on juvenile migration—have led to surprising discoveries about the dispersal and migration of naïve Ospreys as they leave their natal territories and explore the world around them. Ever-more sophisticated satellite transmitters have enabled us to document in unprecedented detail the hunting behavior of adult males feeding their families.

Lodging

The meeting will take place at the Riverview Holiday Inn, 760 East Water Street, Elmira, NY. The hotel is located on the shores of the Chemung River on the outskirts of the City of Elmira.

Room Reservations

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Riverview Holiday Inn. Rooms with double beds are \$109 per night and with single king size beds for \$119 per night. Room tax rate is 12%. The hotel restaurant will be open for breakfast and lunch.

Meals

Both the Friday night buffet and the Saturday night banquet will be held in the hotel's Ball Room. The price for each meal is \$25.50. Buffet will include: various salads, Baked Penne with Marinara and Asiago Cheese, Sautéed Zucchini and Summer Squash, Green Beans Almandine, Mushroom Ravioli, Chicken Marsala.

Anthony's Restaurant in the hotel will be open at 6 a.m. for breakfast on Saturday and Sunday and for lunch on Saturday. These meals are on your own.

Field Trips

The Chemung Valley has many fine locations for birding. Trip locations under consideration are the Chemung River as it passes through the City of Elmira, Newtown Battlefield State Park, Sperr Memorial Park and the Big Flats Trail, Sullivanville Dam, Tanglewood Nature Center & Museum's Gleason Meadows Site, Harris Hill Park, Mark Twain State Park, Catharine Valley Trail and Queen Catharine Marsh, Park Station Park, and Wildwood Nature Preserve.

Workshops

Two concurrently running workshops will be offered following the Friday night buffet and program. One workshop will present what is involved in being a regional editor for *The Kingbird*. There is a continuous need for regional editors to write summaries of each season's bird observations for each of the ten NYSOA regions.

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Macaulay Library staff will present a workshop on how to make quality audio recordings of birds.

**Richard (Rob) Bierregaard,
Keynote Speaker
for NYSOA's 69th Annual Meeting**

Richard (Rob) Bierregaard, research associate of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, will present "Tracking Ospreys in the Age of Silicon: Migration, Ecology, and Conservation" at the NYSOA Annual Meeting banquet in Elmira, Saturday, September 10, 2016.

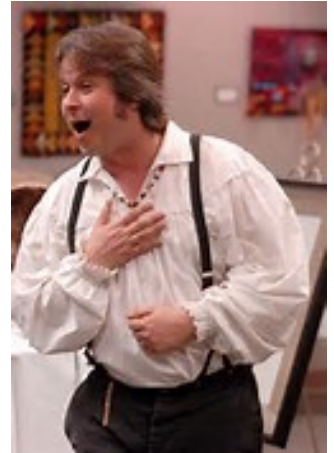


Rob Bierregaard has been tagging Ospreys in the eastern U.S. since 2000. He has deployed satellite transmitters on 52 juvenile and 43 adult Ospreys. His studies—the first to collect a significant body of data on juvenile migration—have led to surprising discoveries about the dispersal and migration of naïve Ospreys as they leave their natal territories and explore the world around them. Ever-more sophisticated satellite transmitters have enabled us to document in unprecedented detail the hunting behavior of adult males feeding their families.

Dr. Bierregaard focuses on the conservation and ecology of raptors and Neotropical birds. His papers have been published in a number of scientific journals, including *Conservation Biology*, *J. Raptor Res.*, *Ornithological Monographs*, and *BioScience*. Dr. Bierregaard co-authored the Osprey account for the Birds of North America Project, wrote the 81 species accounts for the Neotropical Falconiformes in the *Handbook of Birds of the World*, and edited *Tropical Forest Remnants: Ecology, Management and Conservation of Fragmented Communities*, as well as *Lessons From Amazonia: The Ecology and Management of a Fragmented Forest*.

Search for the Labrador Duck and Enjoy a Buffet with John J. Audubon

Historic reenactor, Brian "Fox" Ellis, will assume the identity of John James Audubon and lead the Friday afternoon field trip at the NYSOA Annual Meeting, 2 p.m., September 9, 2016 to search for the Labrador Duck. That evening, he will again take us back in time to give us a first-person look into the life of John James Audubon, early American ornithologist and bird painter.



John "Fox" Ellis is an internationally renowned storyteller, author, and naturalist. He has been a featured speaker at regional and international conferences on environmental concerns, including several International Migratory Bird Day events, The International Wetlands Conservation Conference, National Non-point Source Pollution Conference, and the North American Prairie Conservation Conference. John is also a museum consultant who has worked with the Field Museum, The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, and the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History to provide teacher training, develop curriculum, and present public programs.

He is the Artistic Director for Prairie Folklore Theatre, a unique theater company that celebrates ecology and history through original musical theatre. Fox is the author of fourteen books including the critically acclaimed *Learning from the Land: Teaching Ecology through Stories and Activities* (Libraries Unlimited, 1997). His children's picture book, *The Web at Dragonfly Pond* (Dawn Publications, 2006) has won the National Conservation Education Book of the year award from the IZaac Walton League. Many of his stories are also available on one of twelve award winning CDs. For more information please visit www.foxtalesint.com.

2016 NYSOA Conference Schedule

Getting there:

From the west take I-86 east to Elmira Exit 56. At the end of the ramp continue straight ahead. At the next traffic light turn right onto E Water St. The Holiday Inn will be on the left.

From the north take State Route 14 to I-86. Take I-86 east to Elmira Exit 56. At the end of the ramp continue straight ahead. At the next traffic light turn right onto E Water St. The Holiday Inn will be on the left.

From Ithaca, take State Route 13 south to I-86. Take I-86 east to Elmira Exit 56. At the end of the ramp continue straight ahead. At the next traffic light turn right onto E Water St. The Holiday Inn will be on the left.

From Albany, take I-90 west to I-88. Take I-88 south to I-81. Take I-81 south to State Route 17. Take State Route 17/I-86 west to Elmira Exit 56. At the end of the ramp, turn left onto E Water St. The Holiday Inn will be on the left.

From the east, take State Route 17/I-86 west to Elmira Exit 56. At the end of the ramp, turn left onto E Water St. The Holiday Inn will be on the left.

Friday, September 9

2:00 p.m.	Field Trip with John James Audubon	Hotel Lobby
2:00 p.m.	Vendor setup	Becky Thatcher Room
2:00 p.m.	Display and poster setup	Samuel Clemens Room
4:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Registration	Hotel Lobby
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Buffet	Mississippi and Huck Finn Rooms
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	John James Audubon Program	Mississippi and Huck Finn Rooms
8:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Regional Editor Workshop	Langdon Room
8:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Sound Recording Workshop	Tom Sawyer Room

Saturday, September 10

6:00 a.m.	Breakfast on your own	Anthony's Restaurant or other
6:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Delegates' Field Trip	Hotel Lobby
7:15 a.m. – noon	Non-delegates' Field Trips	Hotel Lobby
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration	Hotel Lobby
9:30 a.m. – noon	Delegates' Meeting	Huck Finn Room
Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch on your own	Anthony's Restaurant or other
1:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Papers Session	Huck Finn Room
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Cocktail Hour –cash bar	Ballroom
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Banquet	Ballroom
7:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Welcome, NYSOA Presentations	Ballroom
8:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Keynote Speaker, Dr. Rob Bierregaard	Ballroom

Sunday, September 11

6:00 a.m.	Breakfast on your own	Anthony's Restaurant or other
7:00 a.m.	Field Trips	Hotel Lobby

2016 NYSOA Conference Field Trips

September 9-11

The Chemung Valley and vicinity boasts many places for an enjoyable morning of birding. It will be the pleasure of members of the Chemung Valley Audubon Society to lead field trips to these locations. Following is the tentative list of field trip sites.

Chemung River through the City of Elmira

The Chemung River is one of the shortest rivers in the United States. It begins near the Village of Painted Post at the confluence of two other rivers -- the Tioga, which comes out of Pennsylvania, and the Cohocton, which flows from the northwest through the Village of Bath. In the short distance between the Pennsylvania border and the beginning of the Chemung, two other rivers, the Cowanesque and Canisteo Rivers flow into the Tioga. Some of the finest birding along the river occurs within the Elmira city limits. A low dam in the river in the downtown area interrupts the flow of the river and creates a shallow lake-like channel to the west from which the city draws about half its water supply. To the east of the dam, the river is wide and usually shallow.

September species: 69

Newtown Battlefield State Park

This small state park is a memorial to a Revolutionary War battle between the American army and a combined force of British, Tory, and Iroquois. The park is primarily a hilltop forested site with shrubby edges. The forest includes deciduous, a Pitch and White Pine stand, and Red Pine stands.

September species: 78.

Andrew J. Sperr Memorial Park

This has been favorite birding area for many years. In 2006, the tragic outcome of a shootout between Trooper Andrew J Sperr and two bank robbers led to the development of a lovely town park intersected by the recently developed Big Flats Trail. The park includes shrubby areas and a pond. A trail around the pond leads to an observation platform donated by the Chemung Valley Audubon Society. The observation deck overlooks a larger impoundment of water with cattail edges. This impoundment ends at an old pasture. The west half of the Big Flats Trail passes along the south edge of the impoundment. An extensive cattail marsh lies along the south side of the trail. The east portion of the Big Flats Trail passes by shrubby wetlands, cultivated fields, and deciduous woods.

September species: 87.

Sullivanville Dam

After a major flooding of the Chemung River in 1972, the Army Corps of Engineers constructed several flood control dams on tributaries of the Chemung. One was built on the north branch of Newtown Creek near the hamlet of Sullivanville. A parking area at the top of the dam provides public access. From the top of the dam, the entire water impoundment and surrounding hilltops can be viewed. Where the creek flows into impoundment, mudflats have formed. A short trail leads through the woods.

September species: 90.

Tanglewood Nature Center and Museum Gleason Meadows Site

This site features hilltop meadows and woods in various stages of succession, two ponds, and the visitor's center.

September species: 84.

Harris Hill Park

This county park is the location of the National Soaring Museum and figures prominently in the nation's history of sailplanes. Picnic areas are in a stand of Pitch and Eastern White Pine. Around this is deciduous woods and grassy fields.

September species: 68.

Mark Twain State Park

This state park lies between the Village of Horseheads and the hamlet of Pine Valley. The Chemung Valley Audubon Society has developed a primitive birding trail through deciduous forest, shrubland, and hemlock forest surrounded by cattail marsh along Catharine Creek.

September species: 68

Park Station Park

This site is a county park at the site of another post-1972 flood control dam. The impoundment here is a small lake surrounded by deciduous forest, a Red Pine stand, a White Pine stand, shrubland, grassland, streams, and cattail marsh.

September species: 71.

Catharine Valley Trail and Queen Catharine Marsh

The Catharine Valley Trail runs from Mark Twain State Park to Seneca Lake through forest and wetlands, paralleling Catharine Creek on an old railroad bed. An observation platform overlooking a large pool in the marsh is accessible from Rock Cabin Road.

Catharine Valley Trail Canal Loop September species: 52.

Queen Catharine Marsh September species: 117.

Welcome to the Chemung Valley

Birding Changes Since the 1999 Annual Meeting in Elmira

It was 1999 when the Chemung Valley Audubon Society last hosted the Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association. The Valley became a focal point for the fracking industry. One of the field trips at that conference was to a place known among the locals as the Holding Point, a complex of warehouses with a productive grassland on one side and a wetland on the other. The grassland was purchased by Schlumberger for use as a base for dispatching trucks, equipment, and materials for fracking natural gas wells in the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania and the Southern Tier of New York. With that purchase, Chemung County lost its only National Audubon Society Important Bird Area.

Nevertheless, the region has gained access to several new birding locations. The conversion of abandoned railroad right of ways to multiple use trails has added many miles of trails providing some outstanding birding opportunities. One of these trails is the Catharine Valley Trail. Friends of the Catharine Valley Trail, an organization that has supported the development of that trail, combined forces with the Chemung Valley Audubon Society to develop a birding trail in Mark Twain State Park at the southern terminus of the Catharine Valley Trail.

Another railroad bed in the Town of Big Flats was converted to a trail. The western portion had always been passable and had been used by many years by birders and local residents for walks through a large wetland. Development of the trail meant that the impassable eastern portion was opened up, giving birding access to the cultivated fields, shrubby wetlands, hedgerows, and woods and their diverse birdlife.

In 2006, New York State Trooper Andrew J. Sperr was killed in a shootout with bank robbers near this new trail. In his memory, the New York State Troopers and the Town of Big Flats developed a new town park, the Sperr Memorial Park. In the park, a trail was developed that circles Lowe Pond and intersects the Big Flats Trail. Along it is an observation deck, funded by the Chemung Valley Audubon Society and designed by the Chemung County Soil and Conservation District.

The field trips of this year's NYSOA Annual Meeting and Birding Conference will visit some of these new birding locations. The members of the Chemung Valley Audubon Society are anxious to share the birding and beauty of the Chemung River Valley with the members of the New York State Ornithological Association.

A Glossary of Local Names

In case you find the names of places in the Chemung Valley somewhat strange, you might find the following information helpful.

Chemung – a native American word meaning tusk; the native Americans found the tusk of a Woolly Mammoth on the shore of the river; in the same month as the last NYSOA meeting in Elmira a nearly complete skeleton of a Mastodon was found in a bog in the northern part of the county.

Elmira – the city fathers gathered at a local bar to discuss a name for the city; they decided to name it after the bar owner's daughter, Elmira; since then the name has spread to other communities in Ontario, Oregon, and California.

Newtown - native Americans would occupy a village until the firewood in the vicinity was getting used up; they would then gradually transition from the old town to a new town. A Revolutionary War battle was fought near a new town.

Horseheads – after the Revolutionary War battle at Newtown, the Continental Army entered the White Pine plain that covered the valley now occupied by the City of Elmira and the Village of Horseheads. Lacking forage for the horses, the army killed the horses. After waging a campaign against abandoned Iroquois villages and cornfields throughout Central New York, the army passed back through the area and found that a native had lined up the skulls of the horses at the location in the Village of Horseheads now known as Hanover Square.

Sullivanville – General John Sullivan was the commander of the army sent by George Washington to wage the campaign against the Iroquois tribes that had allied themselves with the British. Soldiers in Sullivan's army were paid with land after the war and became many of the first settlers in the Chemung Valley.

Mark Twain State Park – Elmira College acquired a golf course and neighboring land north of the Village of Horseheads where it built the Murray Athletic Center which consists of three geodesic domes. New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation agreed to take over ownership of the site while allowing the College to continue to use the athletic facility. For a few summers, the hockey arena was converted into a stage for *Mark Twain the Musical* written by a local play and screen writer. The play highlighted the life of Mark Twain and particularly his relationship with the Elmira area. Our field trip the park will involve walking along Huck Finn Road. You will also notice a Mark Twain theme at the Riverside Holiday Inn. Vendors at the annual meeting will be setting up in the Becky Thatcher Room and displays and posters will be in the Clemens Room. Samuel Clemens, whose pen name was Mark Twain, married Olivia Langdon of Elmira. Clemens never owned a home in Elmira, but spent many summers in Elmira where he did much of his most famous writing. Friends in Elmira built him an octagonal free-standing study to emulate the pilot house of a riverboat. The study now stands on the campus of Elmira College.

Big Flats – at one time, the Chemung River flowed from the west through the valley north of Harris Hill to the area now occupied by the Village of Horseheads and then turned south through the wide valley occupied by

Elmira and Elmira Heights. A glacier advancing down the Catharine Creek valley from what is now Seneca Lake dammed up the river causing a lake to form to the west. A broad valley formed at the bottom of the lake. Eventually, the water level in the lake rose to a point that allowed the lake to begin to drain to the south and carve out the scenic valley on the west side of Harris Hill.

Catharine Creek, Queen Catharine Marsh, Montour Falls – all are named after Catharine Montour whose French grandmother was captured by the Iroquois and became the wife of a chief. Catharine was a very influential leader in the Seneca tribe and, after the Revolutionary War, made trips to the nation's capital to represent the Iroquois nations. Montoursville, Pennsylvania, is named after Catharine's sister.

Park Station Park – it seems redundant, but Park was a family name from that area; at one time there was a railroad station there called Park Station. Even after the railroad and station disappeared, the name stuck to the area. After the flood of 1972 devastated the cities of Corning and Elmira, flood control dams were constructed on many tributaries of the Chemung River. One was built at Park Station and the site was developed into a county park. When visiting the Park, be sure to park in a designated Park Station Park parking area.

**New York State Ornithological Association
69th Annual Conference
Hosted by the Chemung Valley Audubon
Society
September 9-11, 2016
Holiday Inn, 760 E. Water St.
Elmira, NY 14901**



Mail completed form and payment to:

Chemung Valley Audubon Society Please make checks out to Chemung Valley Audubon Society
P.O. Box 663

Elmira, NY 14902

Email event questions to browncreeper9@gmail.com.

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 _____

	Number	Per Person	Total
Registration postmarked by August 15		\$50.00	
Registration postmarked after August 15		\$60.00	
Student registration fee		\$35.00	
Friday Evening Buffet		\$25.50	
Saturday Evening Banquet:			
Baked Stuffed Chicken Breast		\$25.50	
London Broil		\$25.50	
Vegetarian Lasagna		\$25.50	
Vegan meal: Penne sautéed with oil, vegetables, garlic, and herbs		\$25.50	
		Total	

An email will be sent to confirm your registration. Refunds will be available through August 31, 2016.

Room reservations: A block of rooms has been reserved at the Riverview Holiday Inn at \$109.00 plus -12% tax for double beds or \$119.00 plus 12% tax for king size bed. Contact the Holiday Inn at 607-734-4211 by 8/9/2016 to make your reservation. Be sure to mention the NYSOA Annual Meeting for the special rate.

Liability Waiver (mandatory for all participants): I/we agree and expressly acknowledge, as registrant(s) for the 2016 NYSOA Annual Meeting, that I/we are fully aware that such events involve certain risks and dangers that include, but are not limited to, the hazards of travelling, the risks of injury, and the possibility that an accident of illness could occur as a result of participation in these events. In consideration of, and as part of payment for the right to participate in the Meeting, I/we do hereby waive, release, and hold harmless the Chemung Valley Audubon Society, their agents, directors, volunteers, and any contractors hired in connection with the Meeting. By submitting registration and/or payment for this event, I am accepting the terms of this liability waiver.