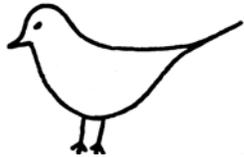


WHERE TO BIRD IN DUTCHESS COUNTY

Edited by
Stan DeOrsey
and
Adrienne Popko

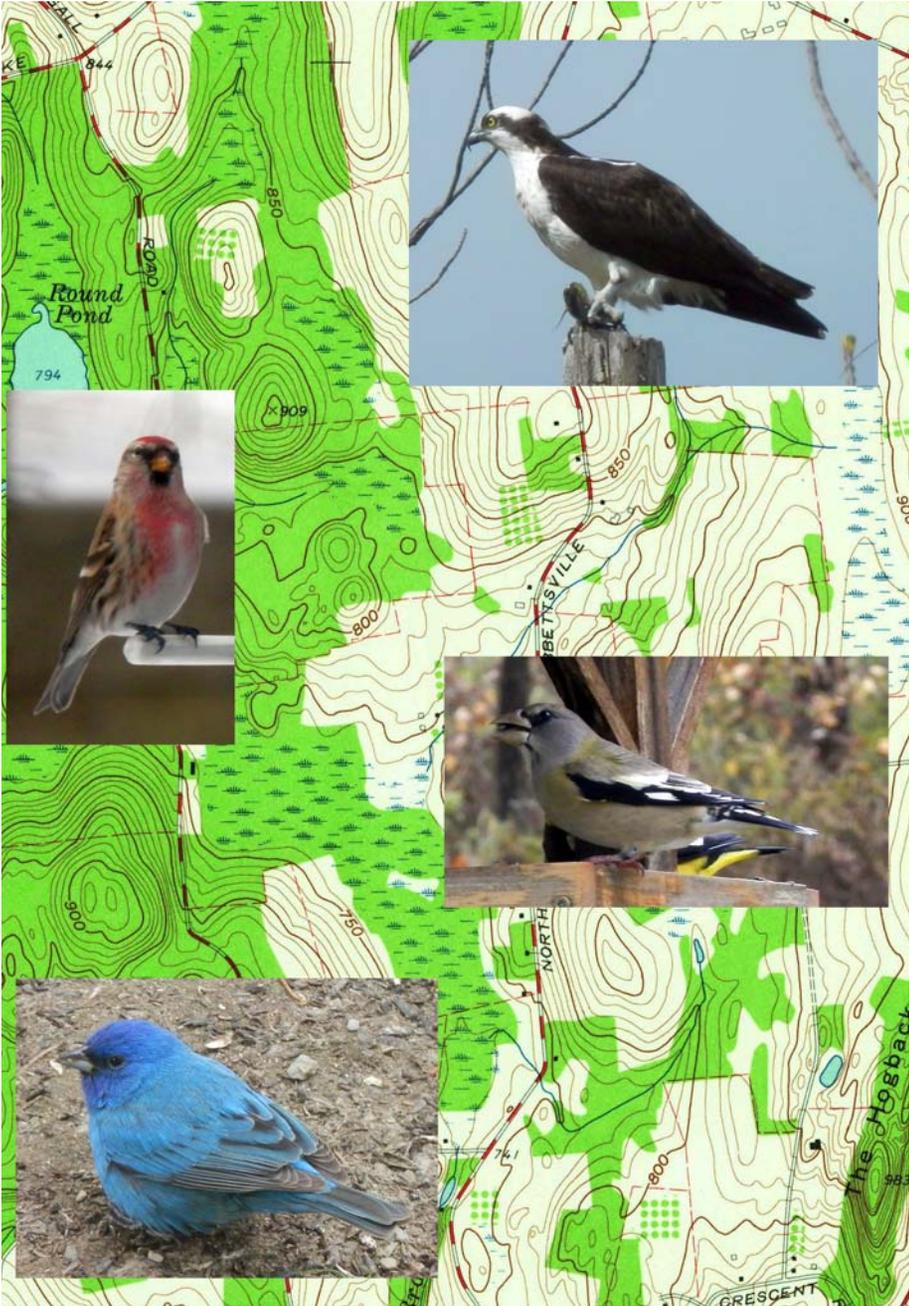


Third Edition

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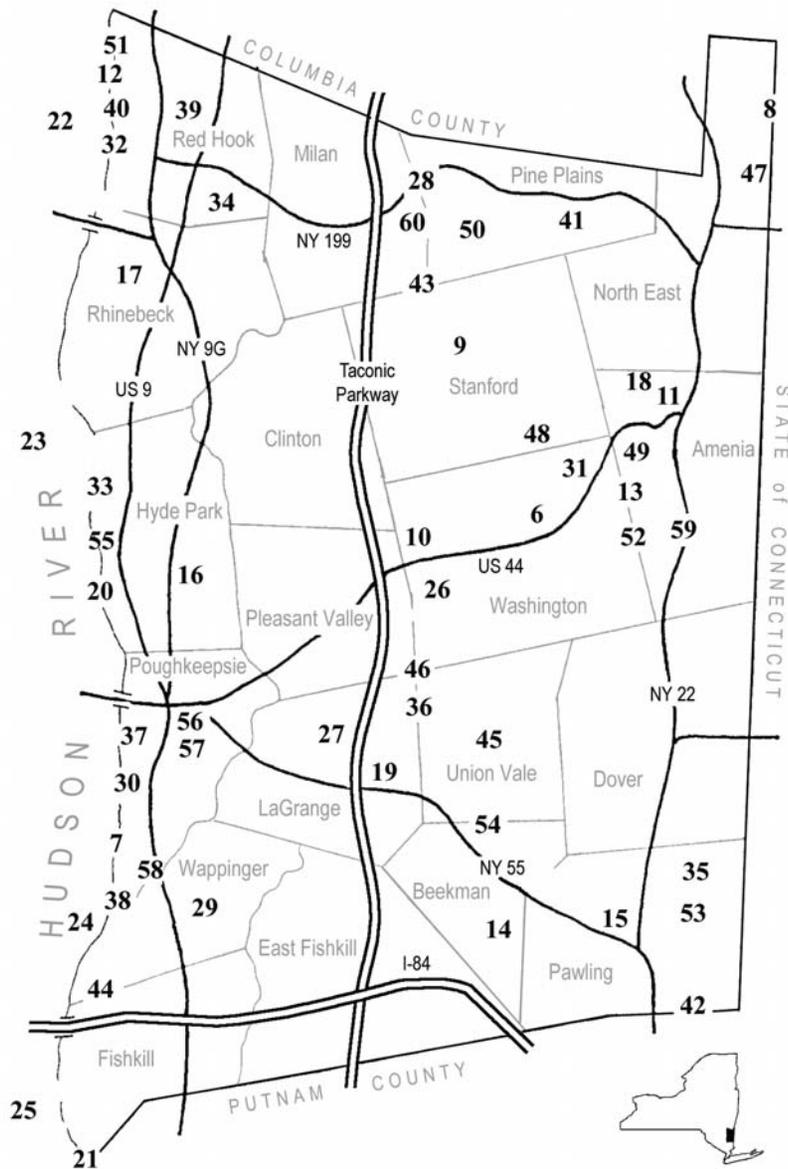
January 1, 2016

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Photos by Adrienne Popko

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CROSS REFERENCE OF LOCAL NAMES

Many areas in Dutchess County are commonly known by names other than those used in this book. This will help you to locate local names.

Abel's Pond see Sylvan Lake & Clove Road
Baird Park see James Baird State Park
Bannerman's Island see Hudson River- South
Bard College see Saw Kill and South Bay Trails
Barrytown see Hudson River - North
Beacon Ctty Park see Hudson River - South
Bellefield see Home Franklin D Roosevelt NHS
Breakneck Ridge see Hudson Highlands State Park
Chelsea see Hudson River - South
Clermont Historic Site see Hudson River- North
Clove Cemetery see Sylvan Lake & Clove Road
Clove Road see Sylvan Lake & Clove Road
FDR Home see Home of Franklin D Roosevelt NHS
Fisherman's Flats see Hudson River- North
Greig's Farm see Rockefeller lane
Haight Marsh see Andrew Haight Road
Hicks Hill State land see Stissing Mountain MUA
Hudson Highlands State Park see also Hudson River - South
Little Whaley Lake Road see Brownell Road
Mills Estate see Ogden Mill State Park
Murrow Park see Edward R. Murrow Park

New Hamburg see Hudson Riever- South
Norrie Point .. see Ogden Mills-Norrie State Park or Hudson Rriver - N.
North Bay see Cruger Island or Tivoli Bays WMA
Ogden Mills State Park see also Hudson River - North
Red Hook Flats see Rockefeller lane
Rhinecliff see Hudson River - North
Roosevelt Estate see Home of Franklin D Roosevelt NHS
Rudd Pond see Taconic State Park
Sheafe Park see Bowdoin Park
South Bay see Cruger Island or Saw Kill and South Bay Trails
Tivoli see Hudson River - North
Turkey Hollow..... see Tamarack Preserve
Tymore Forest..... see Tymore Park
Valkill see Eleanor Roosevelt NHS
Vandenburg Cove see Hudson River- North
Verplank-Stony Kill see Stony Kill
Wappingers Creek see Hudson River - South
Ward Manor see Tivoli Bays WMA
Wilbur Flats Road see Lafayetteville MUA
Young-Morse Historic Site see Locust Grove Historic Estate

PREFACE

This edition of *Where to Bird in Dutchess County* is a complete update of the 1990 second edition. The first edition was published in 1977. However this edition is being distributed online via the Waterman Bird Club's website in PDF format. As such, it is hoped that updates will be much more frequent. It is intended to add new sites as data on them are provided to the editors.

The format of this work was designed so that each site would fit on one standard 8½ x 11 inch sheet, should a page be printed. Certainly the entire work could be printed by individual users but it is not the intent of the club to distribute printed copies. Further, the page number for each site is used to identify the site on the map opposite the Table of Contents allowing display of a digital page rather simple.

For this edition, seven sites were removed as no longer available for birding, because they are private, have been put to other uses or have become less rewarding to visit. Dutchess County still has a great many wonderful locations to find birds.

While paper road maps are not as available as they once were, some are still sold in various convenience stores. Further, with computers, smartphones, and GPS devices, one can find their way through the county. The map accompanying each birding site is meant to describe that site. The text and county map adjacent to the Table of Contents identify the town where the site is located.

When you visit any site in Dutchess County, be aware of poison ivy and Lyme disease. Poison ivy is particularly abundant in some areas and can cause skin reactions at any time of year. Lyme disease is transmitted by the bite of an infected deer tick. Long pants and tall boots help, but stay out of tall grass and brushy areas to avoid both ticks and poison ivy.

Be courteous at all times and never trespass on private property without permission. There are many areas open to all including the shoulders of public roads.

Previous editions included a checklist, this edition does not. A *Reference Guide* listing all the birds of Dutchess County in bar graph format with much additional information is also available on the Waterman Bird Club's website.

When rare, unusual, or first-of-season birds are found in Dutchess County, the PEEPS system has been developed to share this information. PEEPS is the Waterman Bird Club member's electronic bird alert system started by Carena Pooth in 2014. Participants send and receive bird alerts almost instantly via a cell phone text message or email. For more information, email carena@prodigy.net.

The Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club was formed in 1958 with objectives to promote conservation through education, nature walks and related programs; to promote research in the field of conservation; and to provide the opportunity for study and conservation of wildlife. Meetings are held from September through May, plus bird walks every Wednesday and most Saturdays. We provide and maintain Bluebird boxes throughout the county and conduct a May Bird Census and Christmas Bird Count, as well as a Breeding Bird Survey and waterfowl count. We collect and maintain records of bird observations in Dutchess County from which the book *Birds of Dutchess County* was published in 2006. Our newsletter, *Wings Over Dutchess*, is published ten times a year. See the web site WatermanBirdClub.org for membership, schedules and recent sightings.

Birding Ethics

- Avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, or sound recording. Avoid use of flash photography.
- Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and **never** use such methods in heavily birded areas or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area. Do not use recordings during nesting season at all.
- Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites.
- Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission. Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas.

- Keep feeding dispensers of water and food clean and free of decay and disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather. Maintain and clean nest boxes or structures regularly.
- If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards especially windows.
- Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.
- Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as those of people participating in other activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.
- If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.
- Support the protection of important bird habitat.

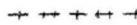
Adapted from the ABA

Acknowledgments

The design and computer work for this edition was done primarily by Stan DeOrsey, while Adrienne Popko has revisited many of the sites and provided up-to-date changes. Many others have been helpful in answering questions and reviewing changes, including Carena Pooth, Barbara Butler, and Barbara Michelin.

The previous editions were compiled by members of the Waterman Bird Club, many of whom have now passed on. They were all named in the previous edition and we remain thankful for their contributions.

MAP LEGEND

County Roads CR 103 - Annandale Road	Railroad tracks 
State Roads NY 82	Abandoned railroad bed 
US Highways US 9	Powerlines 
Interstates I-84	Lake or pond 
Hamlet or village names Millbrook	Stream or river shoreline 
Other labels playground	Stream 
Property boundary 	Marsh 
Public road 	Woods edge 
Internal road 	Church 
Old road for walking 	Building 
Trail 	Parking area 
	Gate 
	Railroad station 

BIRDING AREA DESCRIPTIONS

begin on the following page.

ANDREW HAIGHT ROAD

(Local name: Haight Marsh)

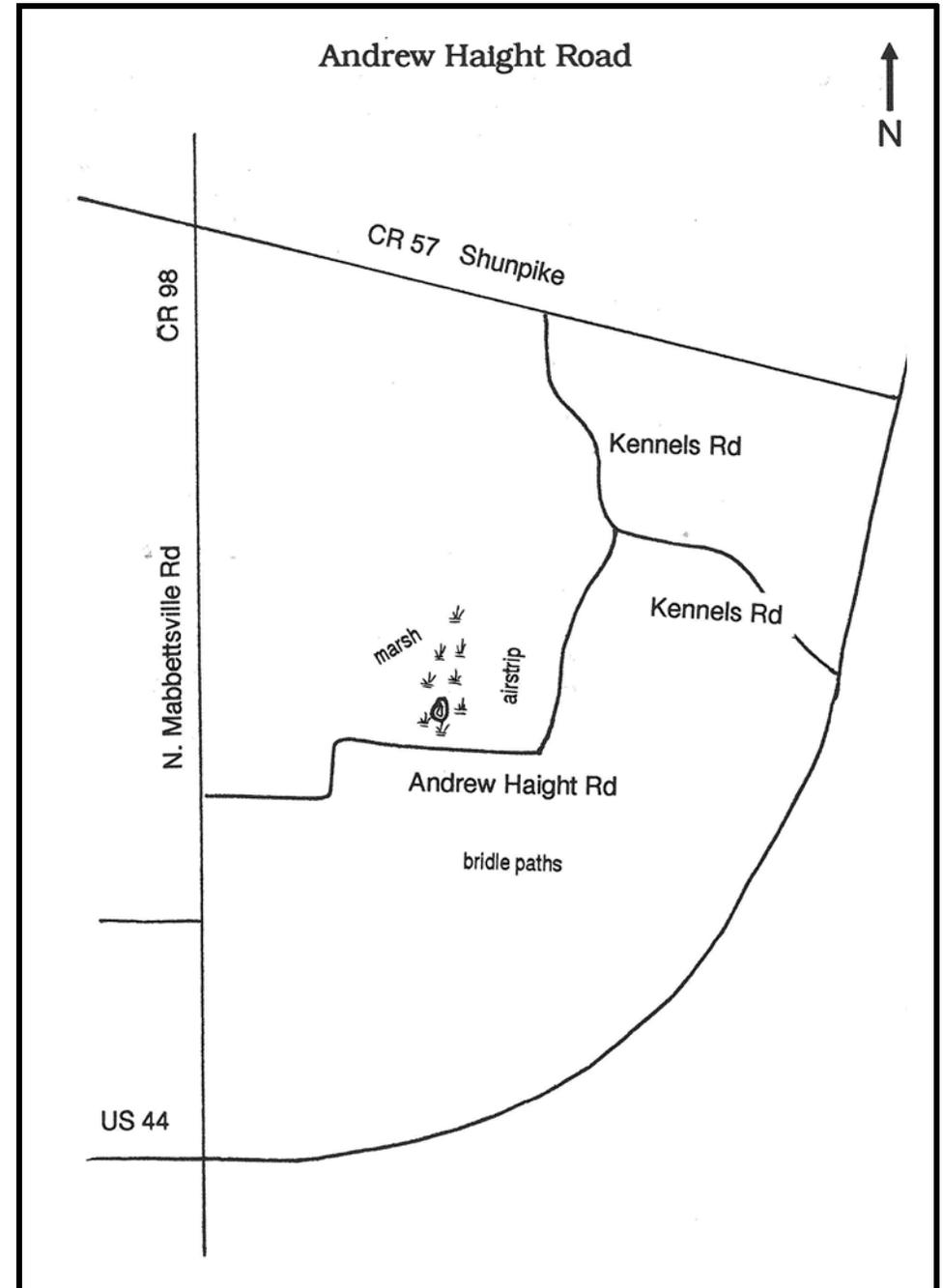
Haight Road is an interesting area for year-round birding. It is a rather narrow country road past cornfields, pasture land, marsh (mostly hidden), small stream, woodland and bridle paths. With the varied habitat there are many birds. Sparrows are easy to see along the edges of the road and fields, shorebirds are found in the marshy pastures. There is a large pond to the west where it is possible to see a good variety of waterfowl in early spring and late fall. Haight Marsh itself is a conservation area and the access is not always easy because of vegetation.

Permission has been granted to the Bird Club to use the bridle paths. There is parking at the top of the hill across from the airstrip for eight cars. The trip is an easy to moderate one if the paths and road are used. Three hours are adequate to cover this area. It is also a good road to drive along, looking into the fields and marshes as you drive. Spring and fall are the best seasons for this area, though summer is still interesting for resident birds.

Haight Road is located in the Town of Washington and the nearest village is Mabbettsville on US 44. Turn north on Mabbettsville Road and drive approximately one mile where Haight Road is on the right. Drive past the barns and the marsh to the top of the hill and park.

Birds most often seen here are Vesper and Savannah Sparrows, Bobolinks and Meadowlarks, Snipe and Killdeer, warblers in spring and fall, and ducks and shorebirds in spring, hawks also frequent the area.

Walking distance: 1½ miles



BOWDOIN PARK

Bowdoin Park is a county park, opened in 1976. Picnic areas are established in several locations. A large part of the park is open fields providing a good view of the river. However the railroad runs between it and the river, making it inadvisable to go to the river's edge. There are swamp lands, a small pond with board walk, stream and mature woods. The many shrubby edges make for excellent birding and there are a number of nature trails that were cleared by Youth Corps personnel.

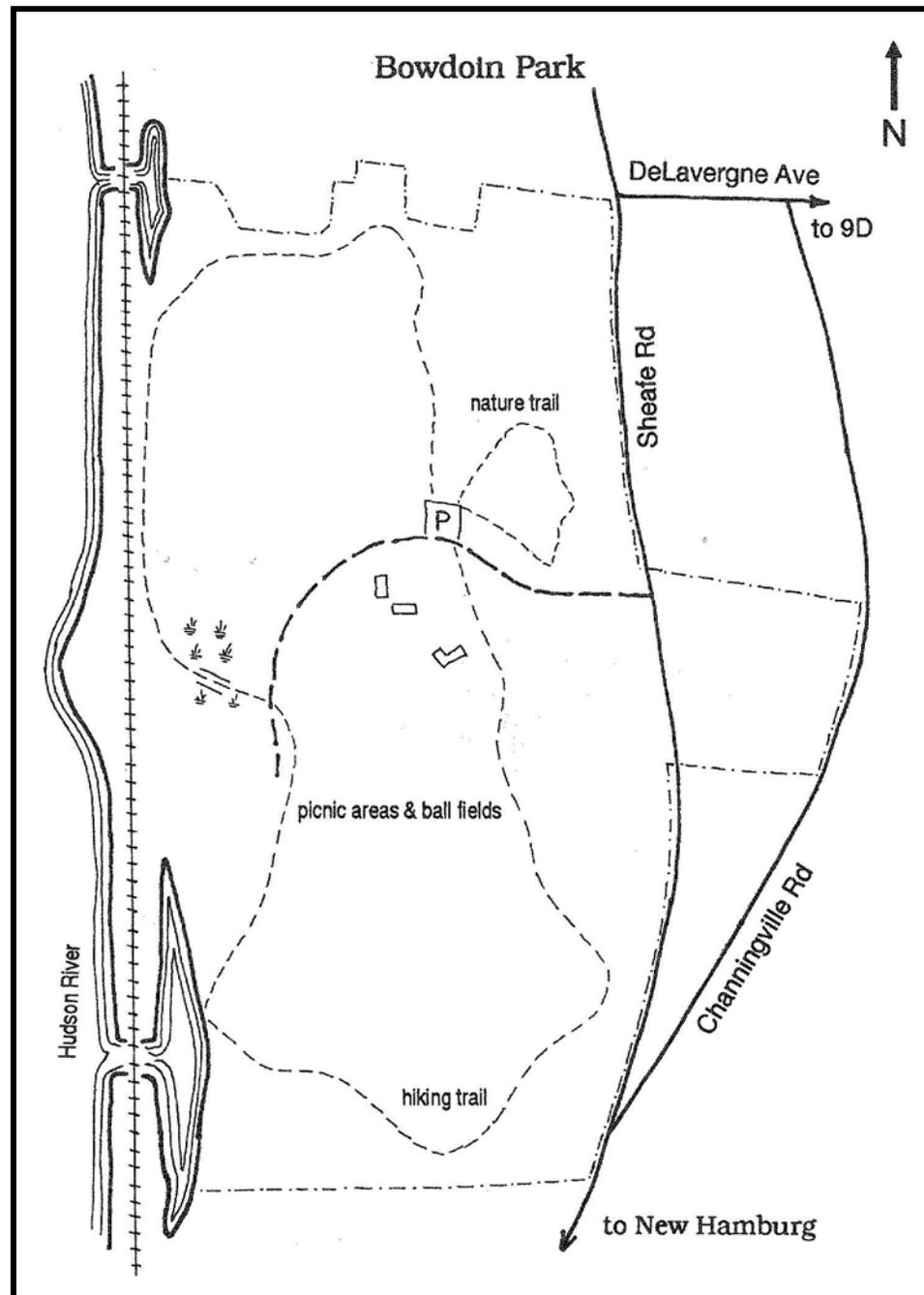
The Park is open for use all year and there is a \$1.00 admission fee per car from Memorial Day to Labor Day. There is ample parking in two major parking areas. Hours are 8:00 AM to dark. The trip is an easy to moderate one and birding is good in all seasons but best in spring. Spring and fall are excellent for warblers, vireos, and woodland birds. Late fall and early spring are the times to view ducks on the river. The best viewing of the river is in the morning hours. The park is used by many school groups and many people picnic on the grounds.

Bowdoin Park is located at 85 Sheafe Road in the Town of Poughkeepsie. The nearest village is Wappinger Falls. To reach the park from US 9 south of Poughkeepsie, turn west on Post Road to Sheafe Road and go south about two miles to the park entrance. From NY 9D take DeLaverne Road to Sheafe Road and turn left to the park. Allow 1-3 hours for a visit here.

Birds you might expect to see are ducks on the river, herons, hawks, warblers, sparrows, and Screech-Owl. Watch the river for eagles in the late winter.

For more information, call the park office, (845) 298-4600.

Area: 300 acres



BRACE MOUNTAIN

Brace Mountain is the highest point in Dutchess County, elevation 2311 feet. It is the western escarpment of the Southern Taconic Highland called the Mt. Riga Plateau. The mountain area is woodland with a mixture of deciduous and coniferous trees. The summit is mostly open with grass, mountain laurel, scrub oak and stunted birch. The summit of Brace Mountain can be reached by walking in from either the west from Rudd Pond Road or from the east from Mt. Washington Road in Connecticut.

Permission is not needed to visit Brace Mountain. The access route from Connecticut, however, is over a trail through land owned by Mt. Riga Inc., a Connecticut conservation-oriented group. Parking for six cars is located at the beginning of the trail from the Rudd Pond Road entrance and off the Mt. Riga - Mt. Washington Road for access from the east.

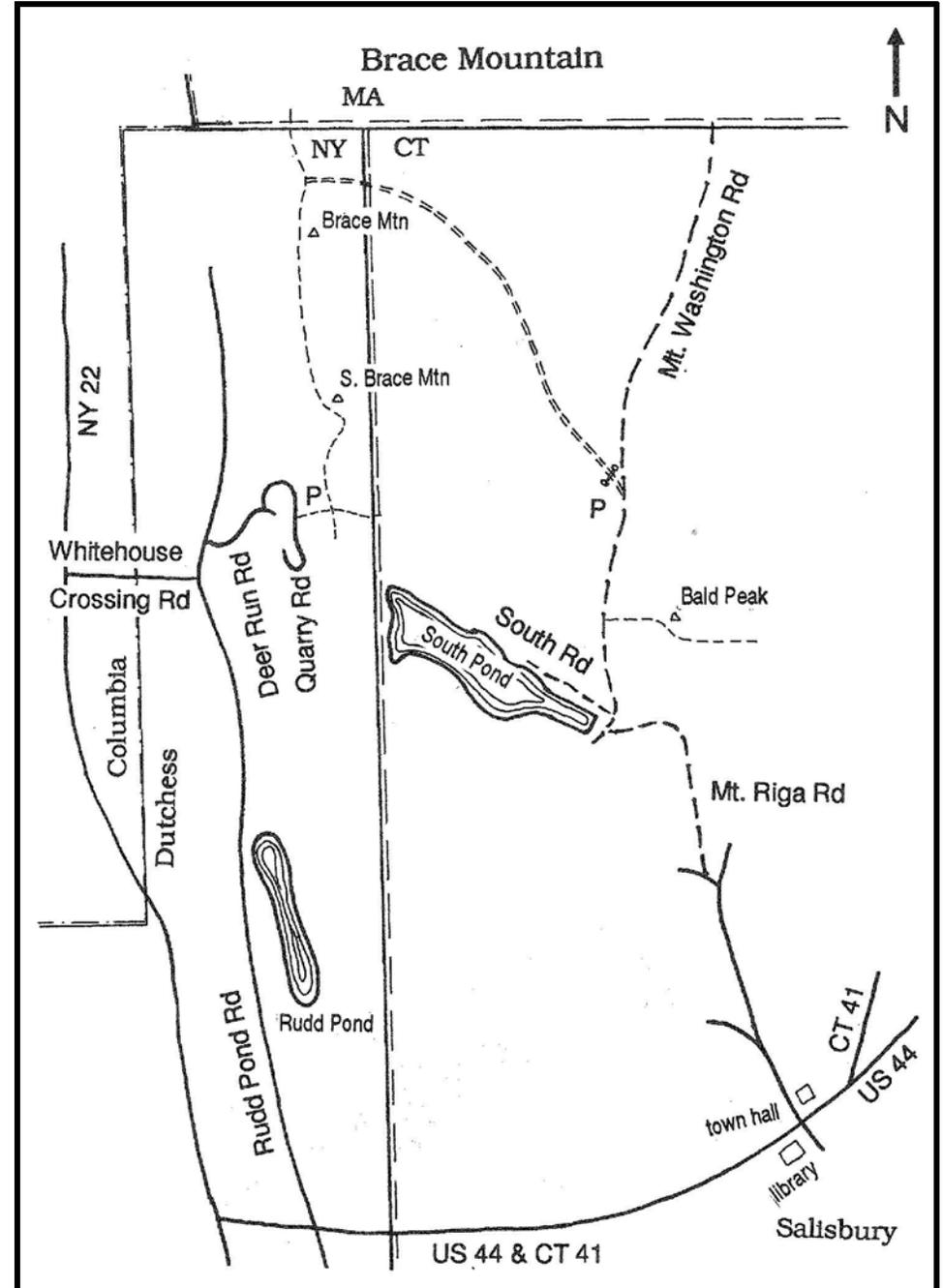
A moderate walk of less than two miles takes you to the summit from the Mt. Washington Road parking. The trail from the Rudd Pond Road side is also about two miles long with a steep, strenuous climb up the escarpment of the South Taconics. Spring, summer and fall are all good seasons to visit Brace Mountain. It is a good vantage point for fall hawk migration. The roads to the eastern access are closed during the winter.

Brace Mountain lies in the Town of Northeast and the nearest village is Millerton. For access from the west drive 5 1/2 miles north on NY 22 from the traffic light in Millerton. Turn right on White House Crossing and follow it to the end. Go left onto Rudd Pond Road (CR 62) for 1/4 mile, turn right (east) onto Deer Run Road, a residential development. Then turn left onto Quarry Hill Road and follow it around to the east side where fields meet woods. Here is the southern end of the South Taconic Trail. Follow the white blazes for two miles to the summit. To reach this area from the east, drive to Salisbury, Connecticut on Route 44. At the town hall turn left and follow the signs to Mt. Riga Road. At South (Forge) Road turn right on to unpaved Mt. Washington Road. Go north several miles and look for a grassy parking area on the left. Park here. There is a steel gate at the back of the parking area. Follow the woods road trail on the other side of the gate for about two miles. Here it intersects the South Taconic Trail. Take the trail to the left (south) a short distance to the summit.

Birds you might expect to see here are breeding Hermit Thrush and juncos, as well as the usual woodland birds.

Maps of the area can be obtained for a fee from the New York - New Jersey Trail Conference, www.nynjtc.org.

Area: Part of 1547 acre Taconic State Park. Walking distance: 4 miles



BUTTERCUP FARM AUDUBON SANCTUARY

Buttercup Farm Audubon Sanctuary is located in the Town of Stanford and is midway between Stanfordville and Pine Plains on NY 82. There are rolling woodlands and fields east of NY 82, and pastures and wooded swamp west of NY 82. Both areas have trails. There is no roadside birding and the walking is easy on the railroad beds and moderate on other trails.

Entrance to the east side is off NY 82. A small sign to the entrance leads you to a parking area for at least ten cars. From US 44, take NY 82 north for 11.1 miles. Parking lot is on the right. From NY 199, take NY 82 south for 4.8 miles. Parking lot on the left.

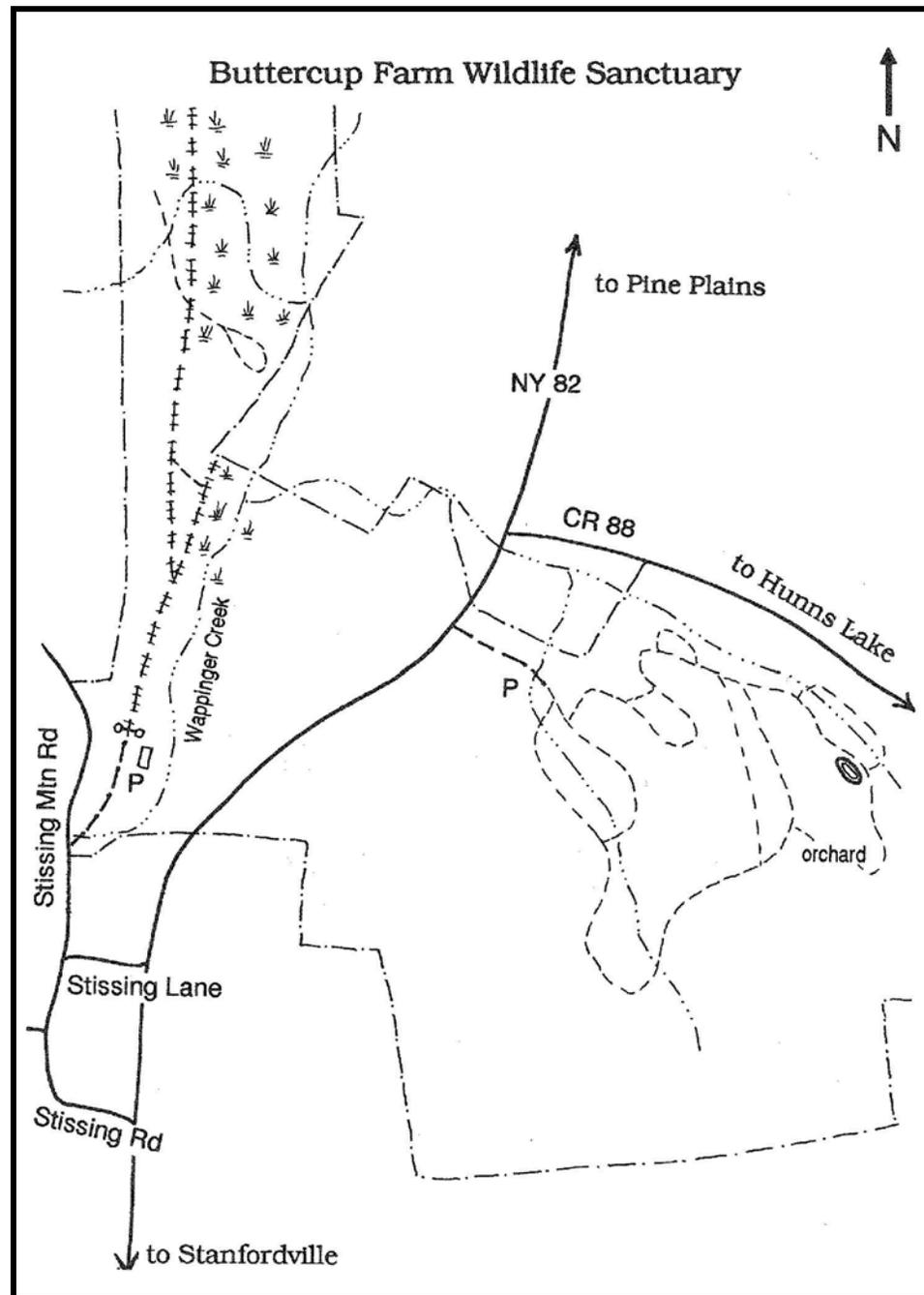
Access to the west side is off Stissing Mountain Road which is off NY 82. Again parking is for up to ten cars. From US 44, take NY 82 north 10 miles. Left onto Stissing Road for 0.4 miles. Parking lot is on the right. From NY 199, take NY 82 south for 5.9 miles, turn right onto Stissing Road. This area is not suitable for handicapped except for the old railroad bed on the west side which could be used for wheelchairs. However Sanctuary staff should be notified in order to open the gate.

The best time for birding is spring and fall. Hunting is not permitted, but caution is advised when visiting in the fall. Allow 2 to 3 hours to cover either part of the sanctuary.

There are productive Bluebird boxes on the east portion of the Sanctuary. Other birds found there are raptors, waterfowl, and many resident nesting species. A Lawrence's Warbler has been found here for a couple years. About 120 species have been recorded in the sanctuary. Other wildlife found there are typical of Dutchess County and eastern New York State.

For further information, check ny.audubon.org.

Area: 553 acres



CARY INSTITUTE OF ECOSYSTEM STUDIES

Cary Arboretum

The Cary Arboretum was formerly the estate of Melbert and Mary Flagler Cary. Its main feature is Canoe Hill, 730 feet high, woodlands, brushy hillsides, marshes and the Wappingers Creek East Branch which flows through a deep wooded ravine. There are several small ponds in the woodlands and two planted hemlock and pine groves. Here are found owls, thrushes and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Most of the area was farmland in the early 1900s so old farm roads are still evident throughout the arboretum. These are supplemented with seven miles of interior roads with blacktop surface. Trail guides are available at kiosks at the Gifford House, Fern Glen, and the Lowlands Loop.

The Cary Arboretum is a private area but permission is not required for birding there. There is no admission charge. There is ample parking at the Gifford House and the Plant Science Building.

The trip is an easy to moderate one and birding is good in all seasons. Canoe Hill Road, a 2.4 mile dirt road, is quite narrow and impassable in winter and during spring thaws. The internal roadways to the Fern Glen, the Lowlands Loop, and Lovelace Drive are open from 8:30AM to dusk, April 1 - October 31 only. They may be walked, driven, and are suitable for wheelchairs although some sections may be too steep. All other internal roads are closed to the public. Hunting is permitted during deer season. At that time no one is permitted to walk the trails.

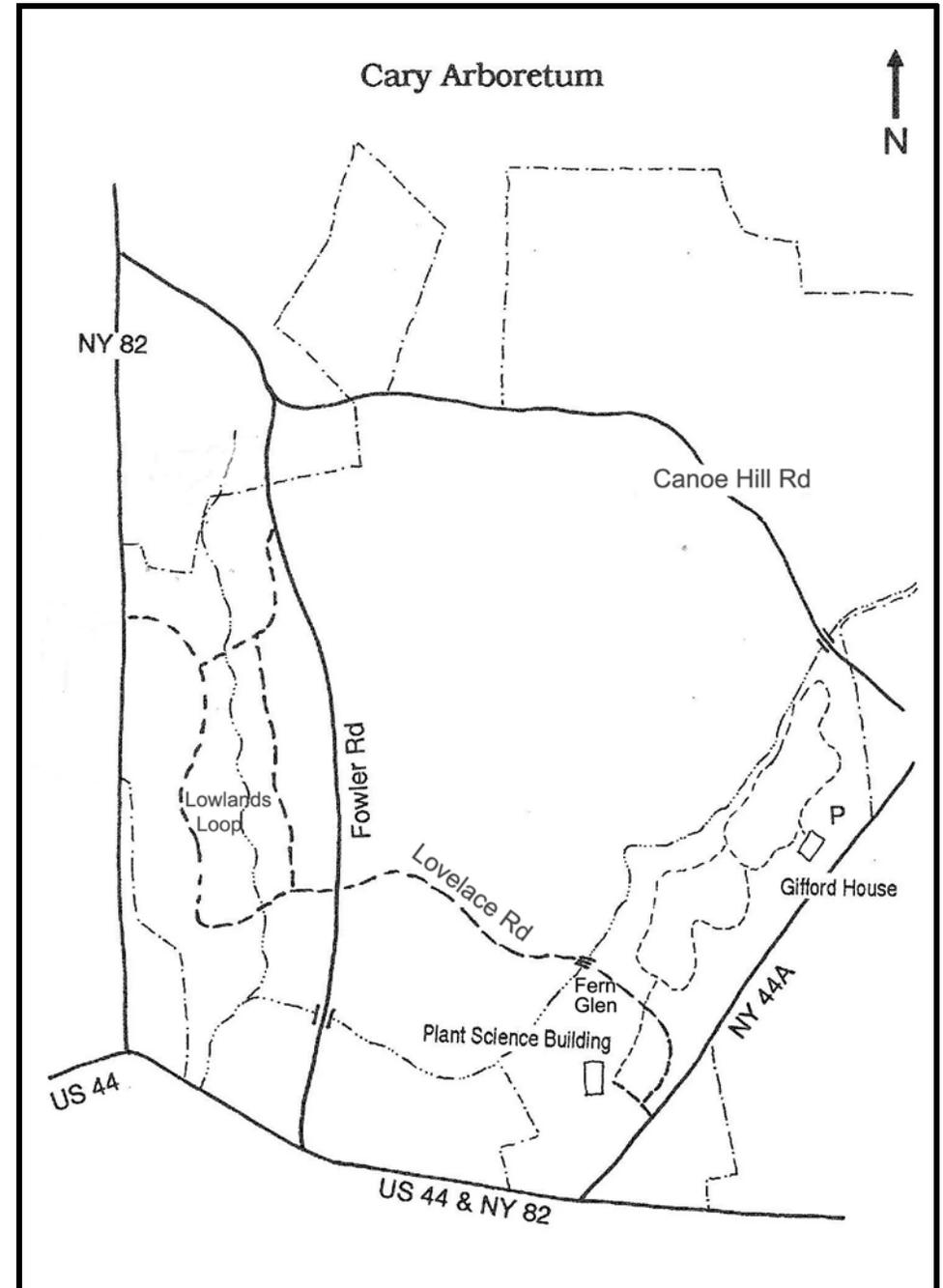
The Arboretum is in the towns of Washington and Pleasant Valley. The nearest village is Millbrook. Drive west on NY 44 from Millbrook to Sharon Turnpike (NY 44A) and turn east. The Plant Science Building is on the left and a little further and also on the left is the Gifford House. Allow 2-4 hours for a visit.

Birds that you might expect to see are Eastern Bluebird (there are many houses scattered about) Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk, Wild Turkey, Eastern Towhee, sparrows and warblers, indeed most summer and winter resident birds, butterflies too. American Woodcock display in the early spring behind the Gifford House.

Further information may be obtained by calling (845) 677-5343.

Area: 2000 acres

Walking distance: 2½ miles on the trails



CASCADE MOUNTAIN ROAD

Cascade Mountain Road is an unpaved road about one mile long running north on a gentle uphill route. At the foot of this grade near the parking area is a small stream, a branch of the Amenia Stream, that cascades over a smooth rock formation. On the ledges here Phoebe nests are found and the Louisiana Waterthrush is always here during the breeding season. The road is bordered by open woodlands. The west bank is rather high and steep and to the east it slopes sharply so that in some places you are on a level with the treetops. An open area and roadway into the woods part way up the hill on the west side makes a good side trip with interesting birds. At the bottom of the hill at the parking area there is a small shallow pond and an old wood road which goes north into a cleared area. These overgrown fields make interesting birding. There is a boggy area with sundew, orchids and other unusual plants.

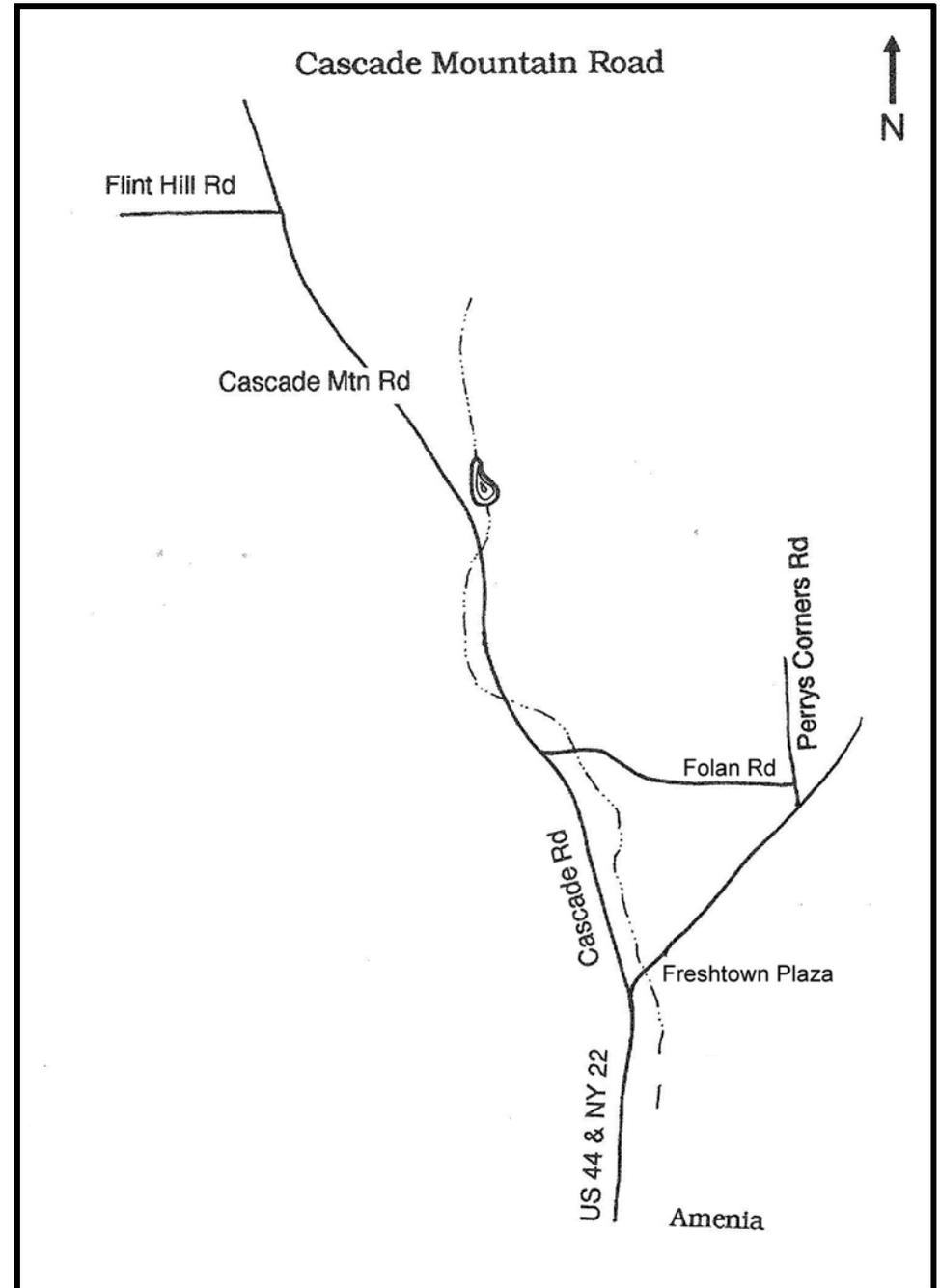
Permission is not necessary to bird here. The road is NOT passable during the winter. It is very narrow and rough and should be driven with caution at any time. For birding it is best to park at the bottom and walk. Parking for six cars is by the small pond on the right as you drive in. Walking is moderate. Two to three hours should be planned for this trip. Spring, early summer and fall are the best times of year.

The north end of Cascade Mountain Road becomes Huckleberry Road at the intersection with Flint Hill Road. See Flint Hill for a continuation of this trip.

The south portion of Cascade Mountain Road is located in the Town of Amenia. Drive north from the traffic light in the Village of Amenia on NY 22 for 7/8 of a mile. Turn left onto Cascade (Mountain) Road. The first half-mile is paved. The small parking area is half a mile further on the unpaved road.

Birds you may expect to find here are flycatchers, sparrows, warblers, vireos, and hawks.

Walking distance: 2 miles



CRUGER ISLAND

Cruger Island and Tivoli North and South Bays are located on the east bank of the Hudson River in northern Dutchess County. North Bay is a freshwater tidal marsh dominated by cattail. South Bay is shallow tidewater and mudflats. Between the two bays is a tidal swamp of red maple, ash, etc. Along Cruger Island Road are deciduous woods, non-tidal woodland pond, tidal and non-tidal purple loosestrife marsh, and an open estuary. The uplands surrounding the bays are mostly deciduous woods. The island is a good vantage point for viewing the Hudson River. **YOU MUST WATCH THE TIDES** when you go to the island as the road can become impassible and you will have to remain on the island until the tide recedes. Check newspapers or the internet for tide times. The difference between low tide and high tide can be about 5 feet.

Cruger Island is owned and managed by the state as part of the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve. Permission is not needed to visit the area. Parking for 4-5 cars is available at the top of Cruger Island Road at the Bard College Cruger Village dormitories. There are a number of other small parking areas along the road to Cruger Island. This road gets narrower and rougher and eventually is impassible for cars. Walking is moderate on the road and the borderland is excellent bird habitat. A dead end road goes north along North Bay with a foot trail to the marsh edge. There is a trail to the edge of South Bay. There are old roads and trails on the island. A canoe is needed to get into the marshes. To get to the Island (which is no longer really an island), you must cross the railroad tracks. Cross them carefully and quickly. The new faster, quieter trains can be upon you within seconds after you first hear them. Plan four to six hours for this area. Early spring and late summer are especially good and late fall is excellent for observing ducks on the river.

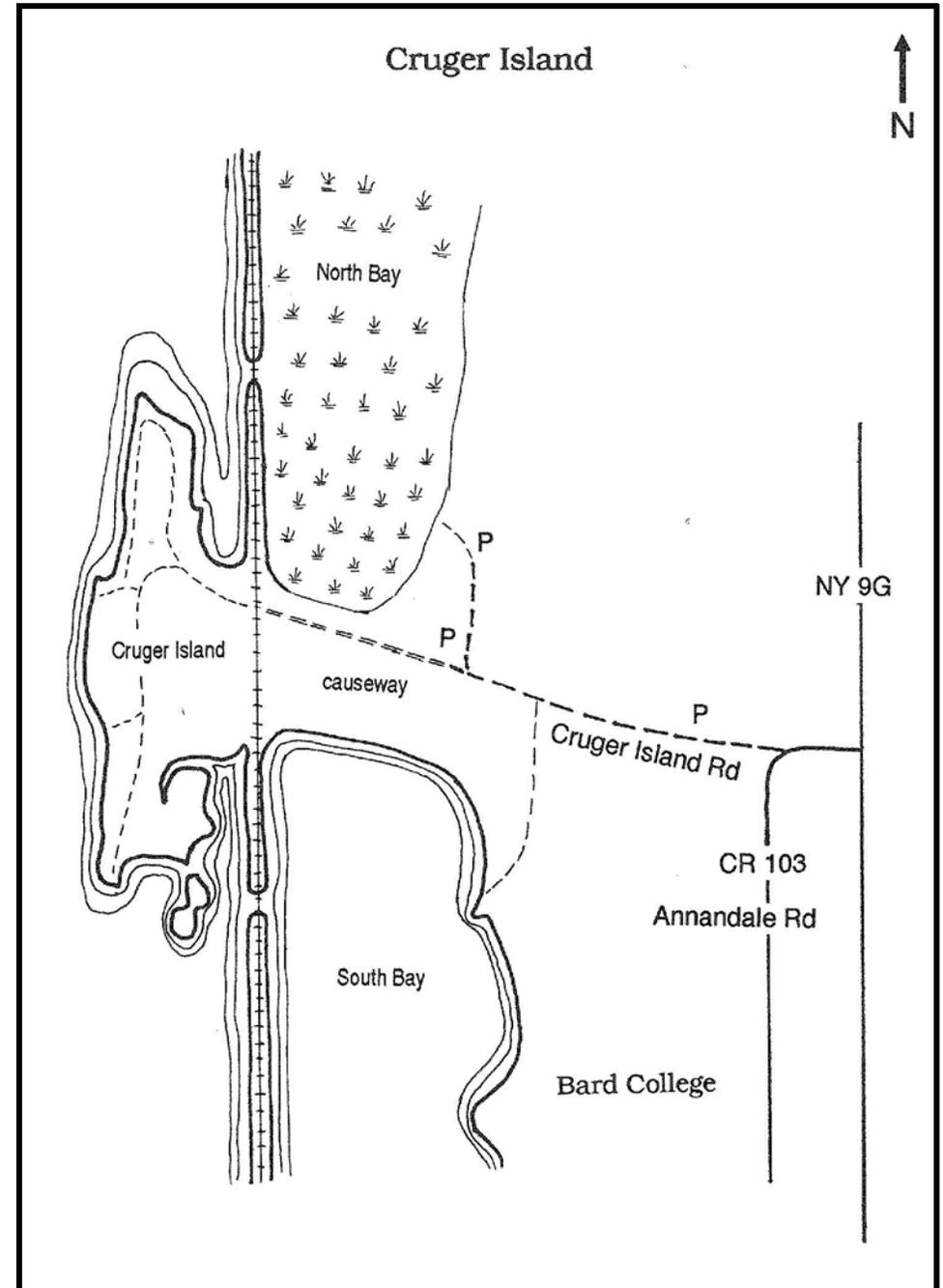
Cruger Island lies in the Town of Red Hook. The nearest village is Annandale or Tivoli. Take NY 9G north. Turn left onto CR 103 (Annandale Road) about 5 miles north of the Rhinebeck intersection of US 9 and NY 9G. Where CR 103 takes a sharp turn to the left, go straight down Cruger Island Road. Park cars at one of the lots and walk the road.

This is an excellent area for just about everything. Over 135 species of birds have been recorded here in tidal habitat alone. Waterfowl and shorebirds are the most plentiful. Osprey frequent the bays in the spring and fall. Marsh Wren, Least Bittern, and Virginia Rail nest in North Bay. Late summer brings migrating Northern Harrier.

For more information contact the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve office at (845) 889-4749.

Area: Cruger Island - 60 acres

Walking Distance: 2 miles



DEEP HOLLOW ROAD

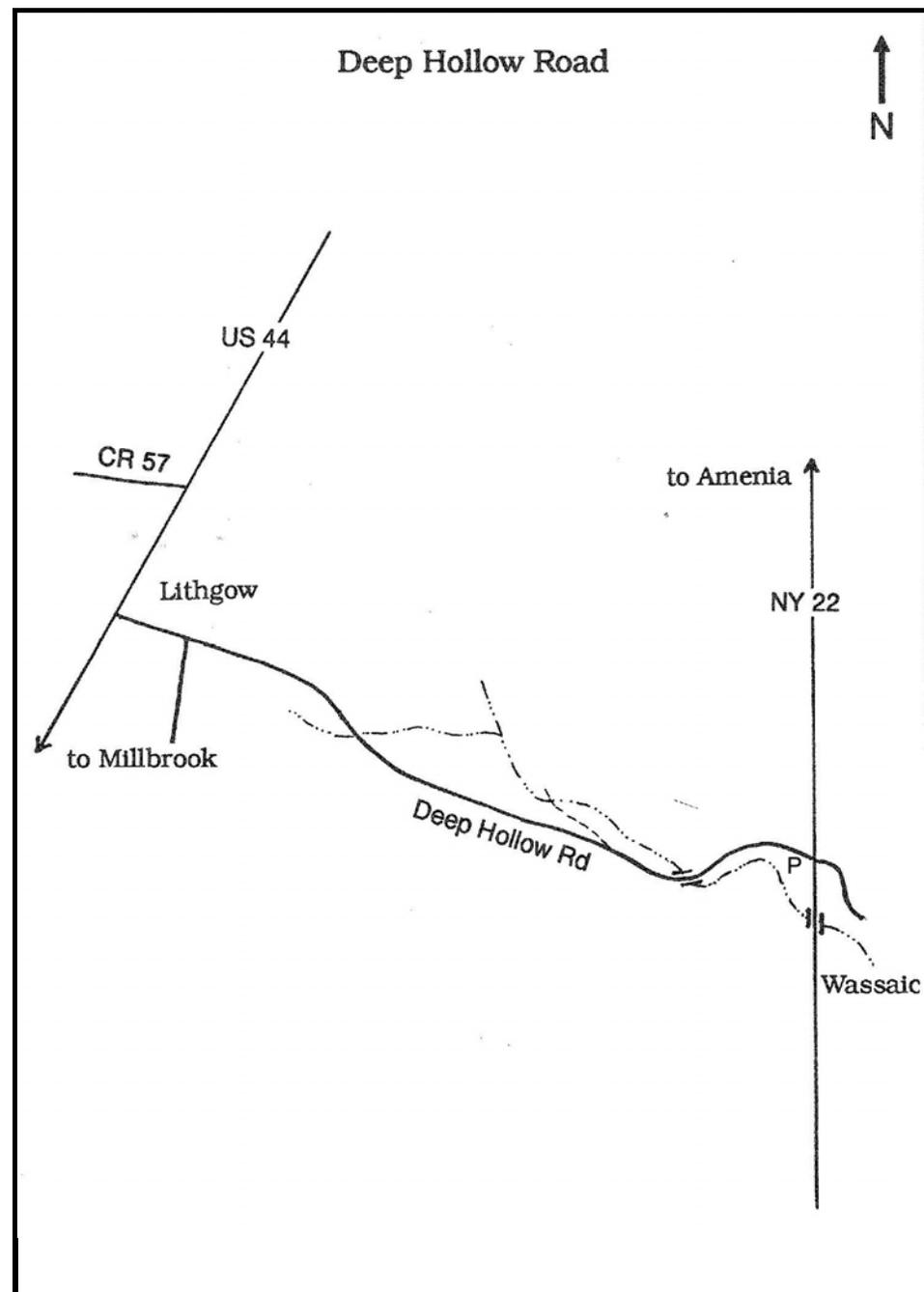
Deep Hollow Road is an unpaved country road running east and west between US 44 and NY 22. Most of its length is through wooded areas, some hemlock, but mostly beech, maple and oak. The road follows a section of the west branch of the Wassaic Creek which forms lovely ravines with fast flowing water. Where the creek crosses under the bridge at the east end of the road there is a beautiful shaded ravine with moisture dripping from moss-covered rocks. Vegetation that is found in cooler, more mountainous areas also is found here, such as ground cedar and moosewood. The uphill banks are high and steep, but after you cross the bridge it is possible to walk down to the creek.

This is a public road and permission is not necessary when you bird from the road. It is best to park cars well off the road and walk the roadsides to see the birds. There is space to park two cars just before reaching NY 22. There is very little traffic and walking is easy. Allow two to four hours for a trip over this road especially in the spring when warblers and flycatchers are here. It is not recommended for winter, but is good for all other seasons.

Deep Hollow Road lies in the Towns of Washington and Amenia between Lithgow and Wassaic. Drive from Millbrook east on US 44 for about 4½ miles to Lithgow and turn right.

Birds you may expect to find here are the Acadian Flycatcher, Winter Wren, Junco, Louisiana Waterthrush, Blue-headed Vireo, Black-throated Green Warbler, and many other warblers as nesting species.

Walking or driving distance: 3½ miles



DEPOT HILL MULTIPLE USE AREA

Depot Hill is a heavily wooded area in southeast Dutchess County at an elevation of 1200 feet. Granite rock cliffs and deep gullies are prominent features as you enter the property. The land is predominantly covered with mature deciduous woods. A number of years ago there was a fire over about 5 acres which is now grown back to thick brushy cover. There is a woods road that goes about ½ mile into the area and foot trails that proceed from the end of the road. The trails seemed to be maintained only informally through use - no markers. The trails end at the edge of a cliff overlooking a wooded swamp in the eastern part of the property.

Since this is State Land, no permission is required for use. There is no admission charge. Parking is available for four to six cars along the roadside and in the access road entrance. This area is heavily used by hunters and should be avoided during hunting season.

This is an easy to moderate trip, following the old road over the easy slope of the hills. In the spring some of the gullies may be difficult to cross because of water running down to the swamps. Depot Hill Road is good for roadside birding in the vicinity of the MUA. Just park at the MUA and walk a bit both north and south. The Appalachian Trail crosses Depot Hill Road just to the north of the MUA. Allow at least three hours for a trip to this area.

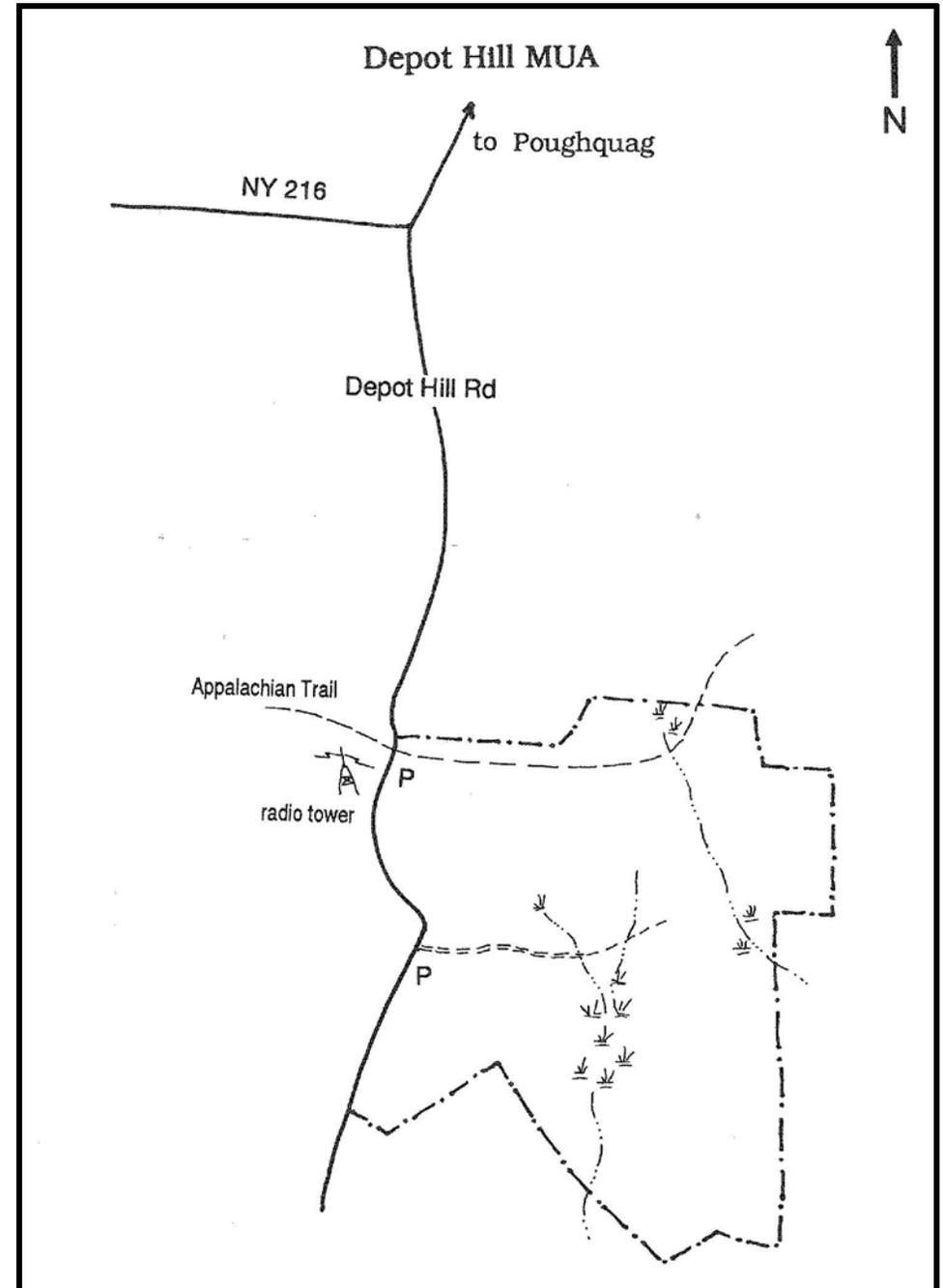
Depot Hill MUA is in the Town of Beekman and the nearest village is Poughquag. From NY 55 turn west on NY 216 and drive one mile to Depot Hill Road. This is a narrow road, uphill, through a housing area at first, then becoming narrower and unimproved. It is suggested that you return by the same route because Depot Hill Road south of the MUA is extremely rugged. The Depot Hill MUA sign is on the left side of the road, approximately 2½ miles on Depot Hill Road, past the large communications tower on the right. In the winter this road may be closed and during the spring thaw passage may be difficult.

Birds you might expect to see there are hawks, grouse, thrushes (Hermit), warblers (Louisiana Waterthrush), and woodland birds.

For more information, contact the DEC Forestry Department, (845) 256-3000.

Area: 260 acres

Walking distance: 1 to 2 miles



EDWARD R. MURROW PARK

(Local name: Murrow Park)

Murrow Park is situated on property that was once the Burr Farm. It is owned by the local Lions Club and administered by Pawling Recreation Commission. It is located in the Town of Pawling just north of the Village of Pawling, at the intersection of West Main Street and Lakeside Drive. There is a pond, which is in the recreation area, rolling hills, abandoned pastures, nice limestone outcrops, fields reverting to brush and cedars and patches of mature woods. There are nature trails with easy walking. There is a map of the trails near the main building.

There is a large parking lot that will hold many cars at the entrance. There is handicap access to the picnic shelter and ramps to restrooms.

To get to Murrow Park take West Main Street west out of the center of the village of Pawling. The park is on the right at the intersection of Lakeside Drive. Allow 1 to 2 hours to cover the trails.

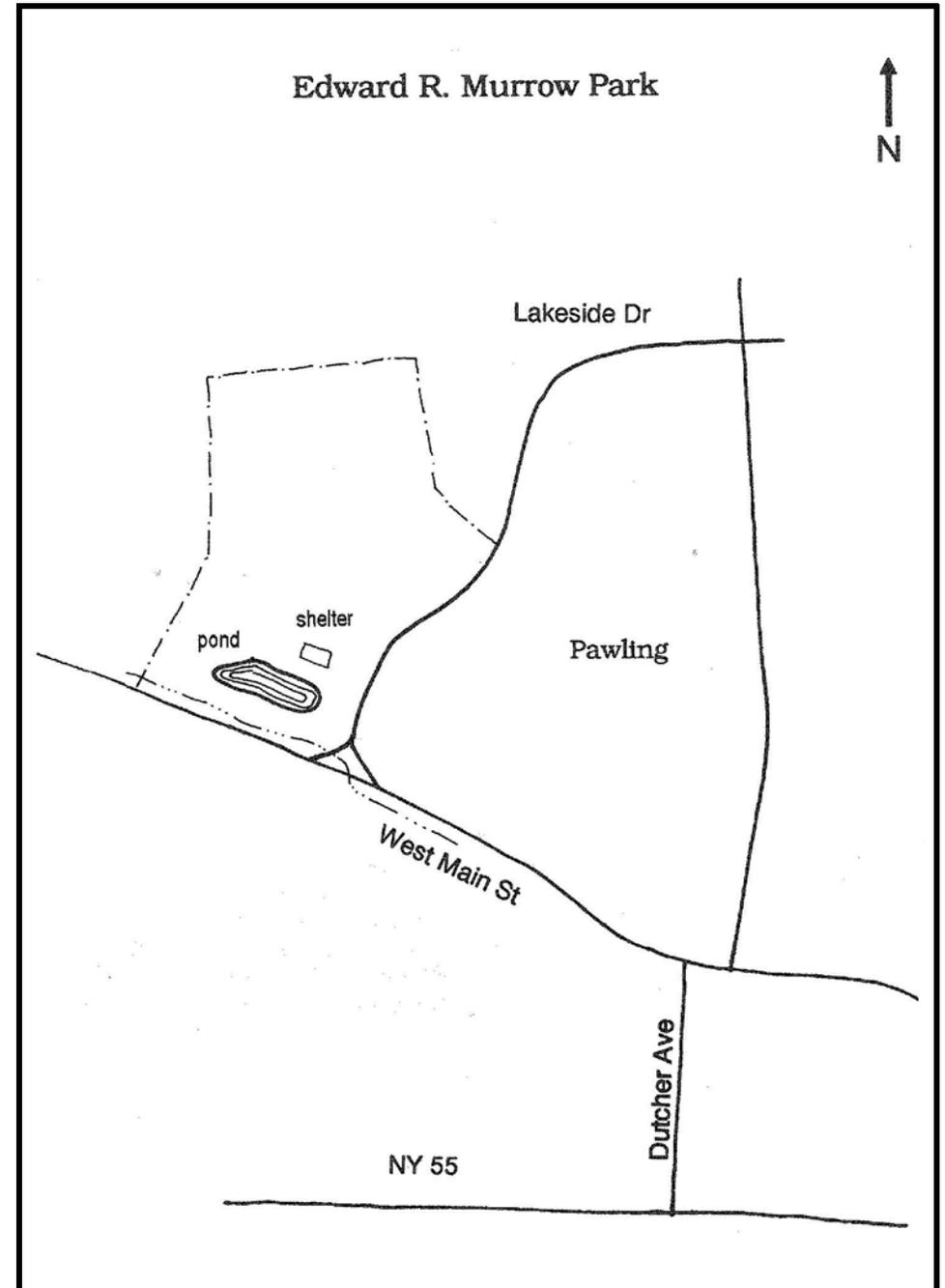
The best time for birding is off-season, September through May. There is a fee during the season for non-members. Adults \$2.00, senior citizens \$1.00. No hunting is permitted.

Birds you might expect to see there are bluebirds, kinglets, thrushes, warblers, flycatchers, pheasants, grouse, and hawks. Pond edges may attract some shorebirds.

For added information contact: Pawling Recreation Commission, 2 Lakeside Dr. Pawling, NY 12564, Tel, 845-855-1131.

Area: 82 acres

Walking distance: 1-2 miles



ELEANOR ROOSEVELT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

(Local name: Valkill)

Valkill, the property directly associated with Eleanor Roosevelt, lies on both sides of the Fall Kill in the Town of Hyde Park. At the upper end of the small U-shaped lake is an extensive marsh area. West of the lake are open fields. This western portion is low, relatively flat and open. The eastern part is hilly and densely forested with a wide variety of trees. Collectively this provides a variety of habitats for the birds, and also for the birder to explore.

The area is managed by the National Park Service in conjunction with the FDR Home Historic Site. Permission is not necessary to walk on the grounds or explore the trails. A \$10 fee (NPS passes are honored) is charged for a visit to either the buildings or the grounds. The grounds are generally open from morning until dusk. In addition to the drive running through Valkill, there are several wood roads and paths providing access to most parts of the property. Allow at least two hours for a visit during the spring and summer, the best birding time.

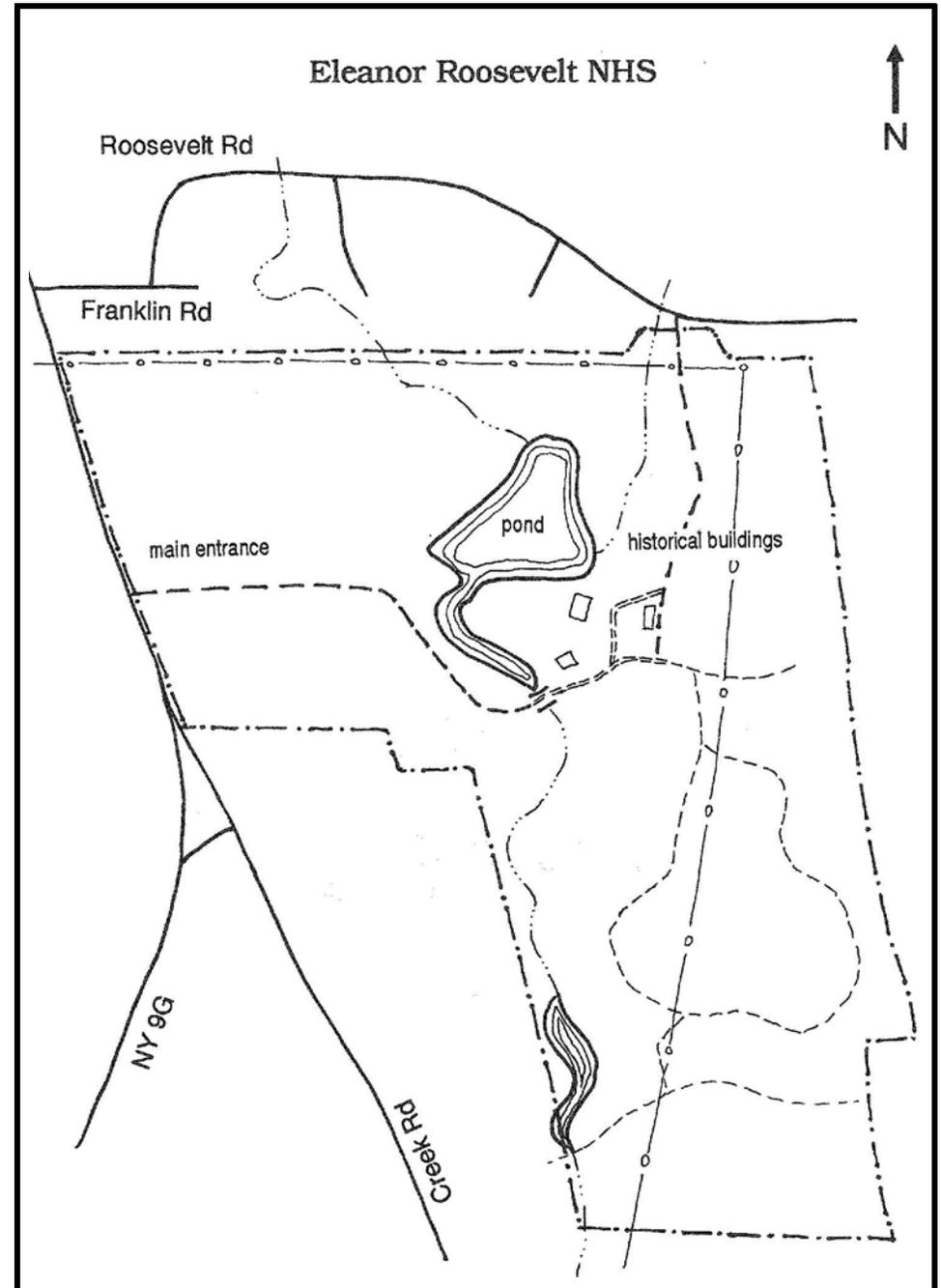
Valkill is on the east side of NY 9G in the Town of Hyde Park. Drive north from Poughkeepsie to Frederick's Restaurant, at the intersection of Creek Road with NY 9G. About 300 feet north of the intersection look for the sign at the entrance drive. Proceed down this drive and park in the designated parking area just before the bridge. There is another access road which can be reached by taking the next right off NY 9G after the main entrance, onto Franklin Road. Take the next left onto Roosevelt Road. The access road is the third right off Roosevelt Road.

The usual species of birds common in these habitats in Dutchess County have been reported here. Great Blue and Green Herons, Wood Ducks and Kingfishers are seen near the lake and stream. Swallows dart over the water. Eleven species of warblers have been identified here during migration. Some of the less common species you may find are Barred Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

Information about Valkill can be obtained at the ticket booth. Call (845) 229-9422 during business hours for questions or to make group reservations.

Area: 190 acres

Walking distance: 1 mile



FERNCLIFF FOREST

(Local name: Mount Rutsen)

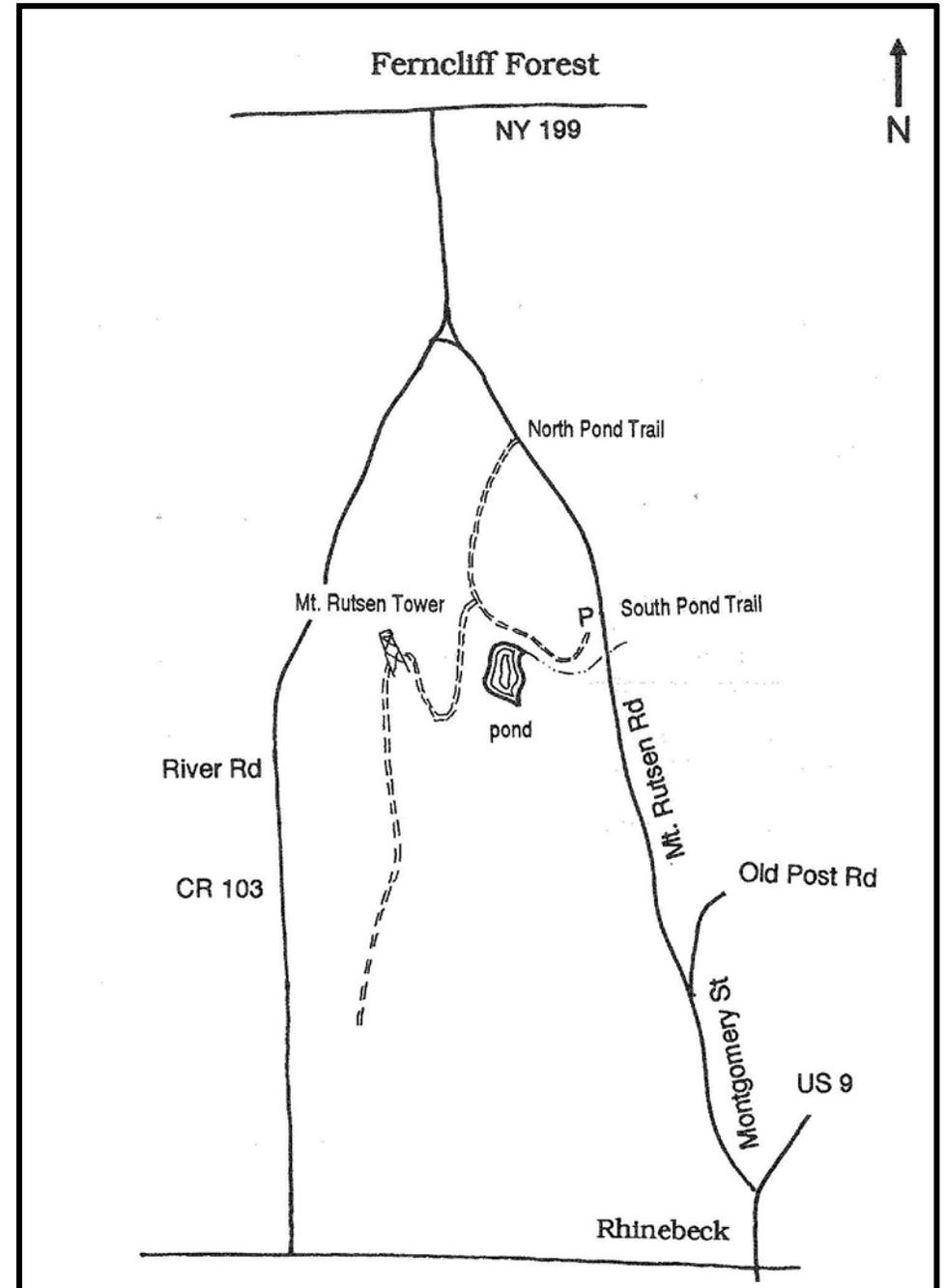
Ferncliff Forest is a Game and Forest Preserve and is owned and managed by the Rotary Club of Rhinebeck and Ferncliff Forest, Inc. It is a wooded area with good trails that wind past the large pond, through mixed forest, and to the top of Mt. Rutsen. Here is a tower that gives an excellent view of the Hudson River and the Catskill Mountains to the west. Along the trail there are three lean-tos, picnic benches, a well with a hand pump, and fire places. There are some Interesting old foundations on the property which are being restored and shown by the Rotary Club. This area is used by many groups including the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. It is open all year.

Permission is not needed for individuals or small groups to visit Ferncliff Forest. large groups or anyone wishing to camp overnight are asked to apply through their web site, www.ferncliffforest.org. A parking lot is on the west side of Mt. Rutsen Rd. A trip here is especially worthwhile in the spring and at least four hours should be planned. The trails are good and walking is easy. The climb to the tower is moderate.

Ferncliff Forest lies in the Town of Rhinebeck and the nearest village is Rhinebeck. The entrance is located 2.3 miles north of the traffic light on US 9 in the center of Rhinebeck. Turn left on Montgomery Street, which is the street to the left of the Northern Dutchess Hospital. As you cross a stone bridge you will be on Old Post Road. A short distance up the hill take the left road which is Mt. Rutsen Road. The sign for the Preserve is on the left.

Birds you might expect to see here are warblers and flycatchers in spring. The Cerulean Warbler nests here and Redstarts and Northern Parulas are numerous. In the fall. The tower on Mt. Rutsen is an excellent place to watch for migrating hawks and other birds using the river as a flyway.

Area: 192 acres
Walking Distance: 2 miles



FLINT HILL / HUCKLEBERRY ROADS

Flint Hill Road goes east from Smithfield, joins the north portion of Huckleberry Road and continues to the north. These roads are narrow and unpaved and can be nearly impassable in winter and during the spring thaw (mud season). About a mile in on Flint Hill Road is a "dip" in the road with open cornfields on both sides. This is a marshy area and a good place to stop and look for sparrows. High tension poles go through the field here and by following this right-of-way to the north one can get a good view of Parshall's Pond. During fall migration you will see a great many Canada Geese and occasionally a Snow Goose will be seen with them. Continue on Flint Hill Road to the Cascade Mountain Winery where you will turn north on Huckleberry Road. The road here is bordered by hedgerows and birding is good. Further on there are marshes on both sides of the road with open fields to the west. Just beyond the marsh Huckleberry Road ends. Turn right on Morse Hill Road and continue up over the hill to Perry's Corners and on to NY 22.

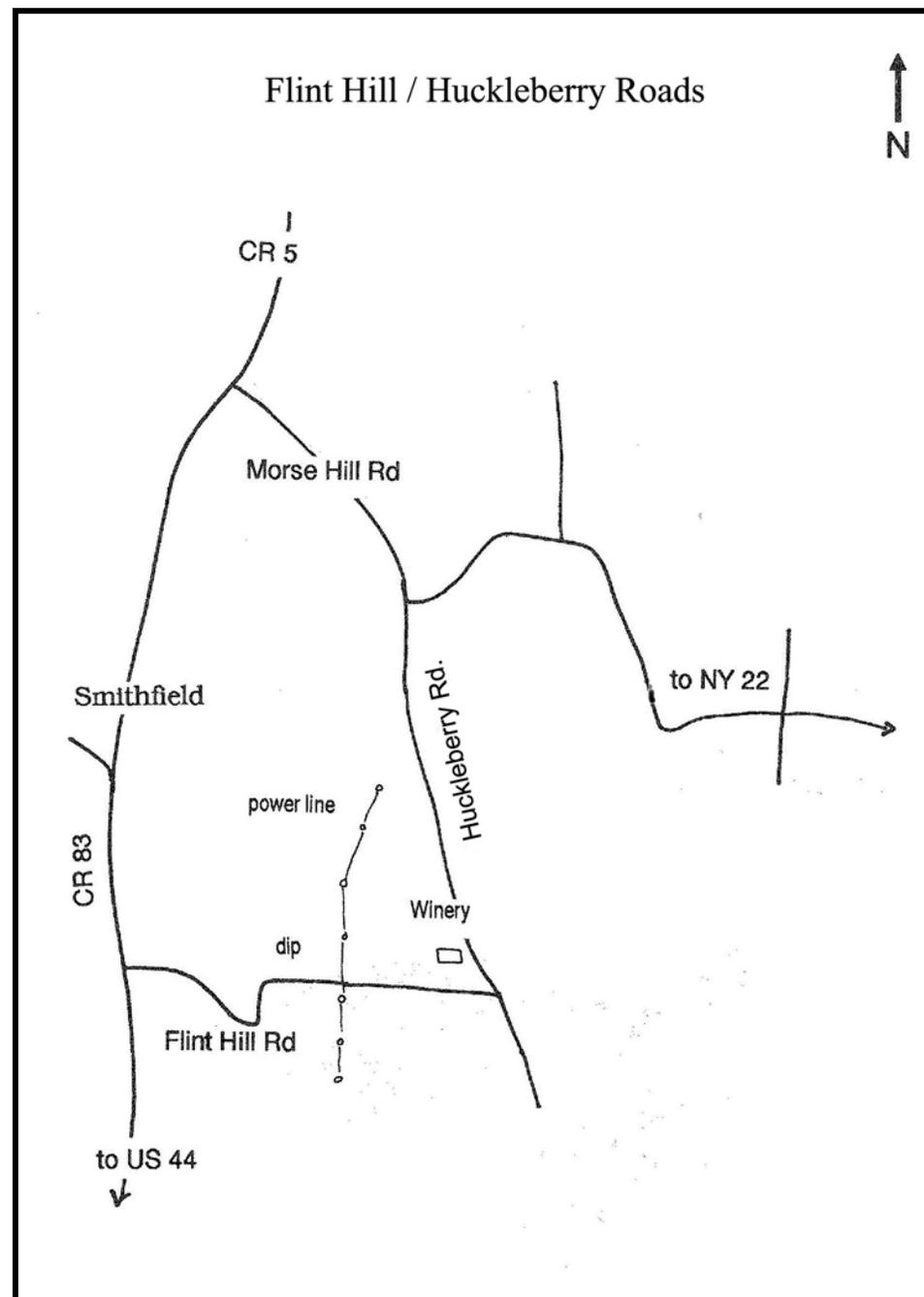
These roads are narrow and unpaved but are wide enough in most places for a car or two to park. Allow at least two hours for this trip by car. The walking is easy along these roads. Late spring, early summer and fall are the best times to visit this area.

At the end of Flint Hill Road where you turn left on Huckleberry Road, if you turn right you are on Cascade Mountain Road. See Cascade Mountain Road for a continuation of this trip.

Flint Hill Road is in the Town of Amenia and most of the north portion of Huckleberry Road lies in the town of Northeast. The nearest hamlet is Smithfield. Take US 44 east from Millbrook for six miles to CR 83, turn north and drive two miles to Flint Hill Road. The turn onto this road is very sharp and up a steep hill to the east (right).

Birds you are most likely to see on this trip are hawks, geese, ducks, and sparrows. The Whip-poor-will is found in this area.

Driving distance: 2 miles



FREEDOM PARK

Freedom Park is a Town of LaGrange Park. It lies on both sides of Sprout Creek with an open field, shelters, picnic area and wooded hillside with a few trails. Freedom Lake and beach is used by town residents for swimming. A picnic grove is situated to the north of the lake. Freedom Park is located on Skidmore Road 1¼ miles east of NY 55 and the Taconic Parkway in Freedom Plains.

The park is open all year and permission is not needed except for large groups using the facilities. Permission for this is secured from the contact listed below. There is ample parking.

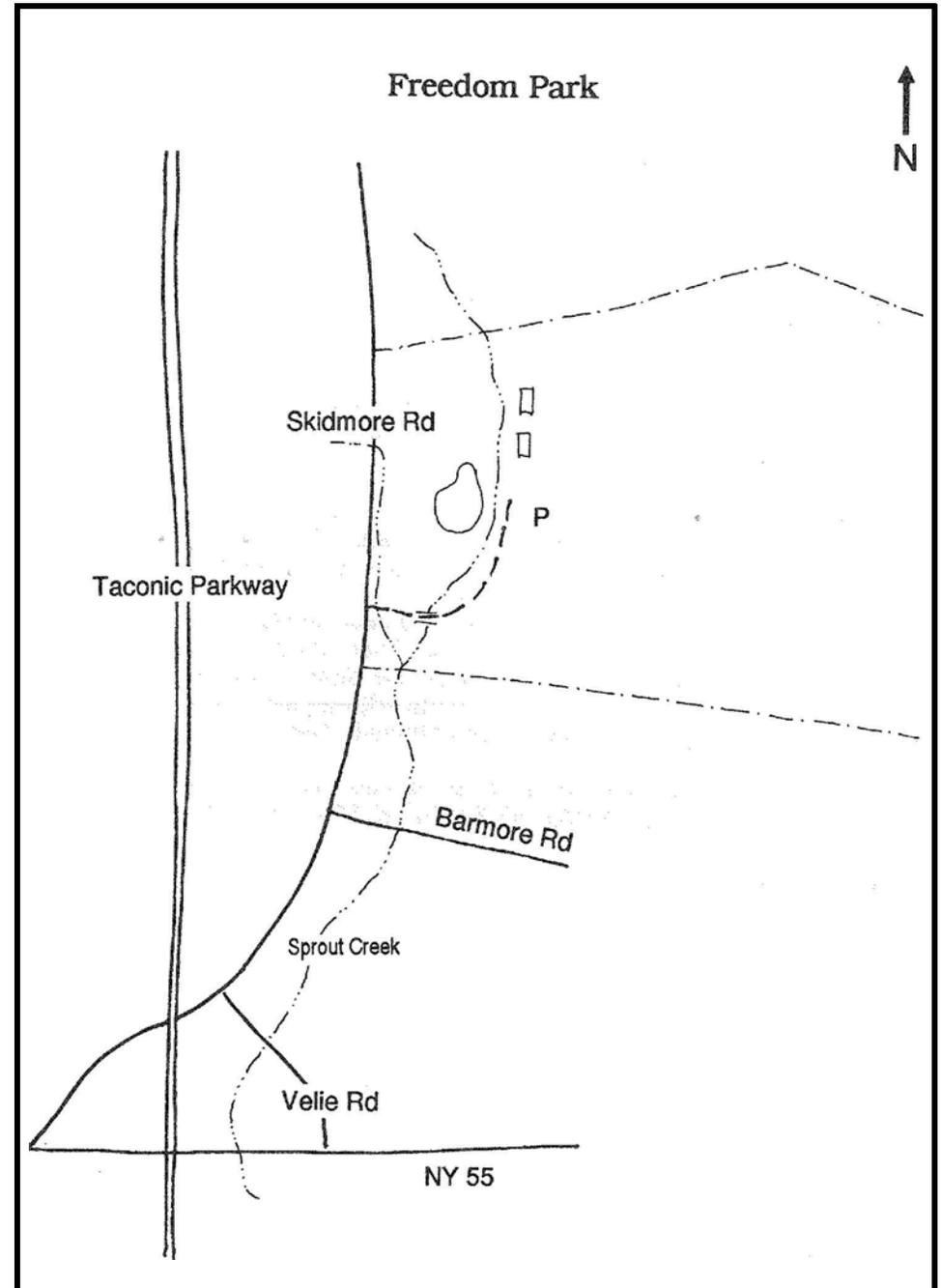
Freedom Park has varied habitat with good birding most all year. Birding along the creek and in the brushy edges is good as well as the picnic groves, the wooded area and the lake edges. Black Ducks and Mallards can be found in the creek in the winter as well as kinglets, chickadees, Cardinal, woodpeckers and maybe a late Yellow-rumped Warbler feeding on the poison ivy berries and the weed seeds or probing under bark for insects. Spring is good for warblers and fall is good for sparrows. Bluebirds are there most all year as well as Pileated Woodpecker and the usual resident birds.

Birding in the morning is best but it's a good place to check any time of day. Allow at least two hours to cover the area.

For more information contact the Town of LaGrange Parks and Recreation Dept., 120 Stringham Road, LaGrangeville, NY 12540, tel. (845) 452-1972.

Area: 91 acres

Walking distance: 1 mile



HOME OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The Roosevelt Home has a sweeping view of the Hudson River and is surrounded by spacious lawns, large trees and woodlands. There are several miles of trails, one of which takes you to the railroad tracks along the Hudson River. The nature trail passes an orchard, meadow, a hemlock grove, a pond, a small stream, and finally ends at a tidal area created when the railroad was constructed. Spacious lawns and gardens around the mansion may be reached by a short walk from the FDR parking lot.

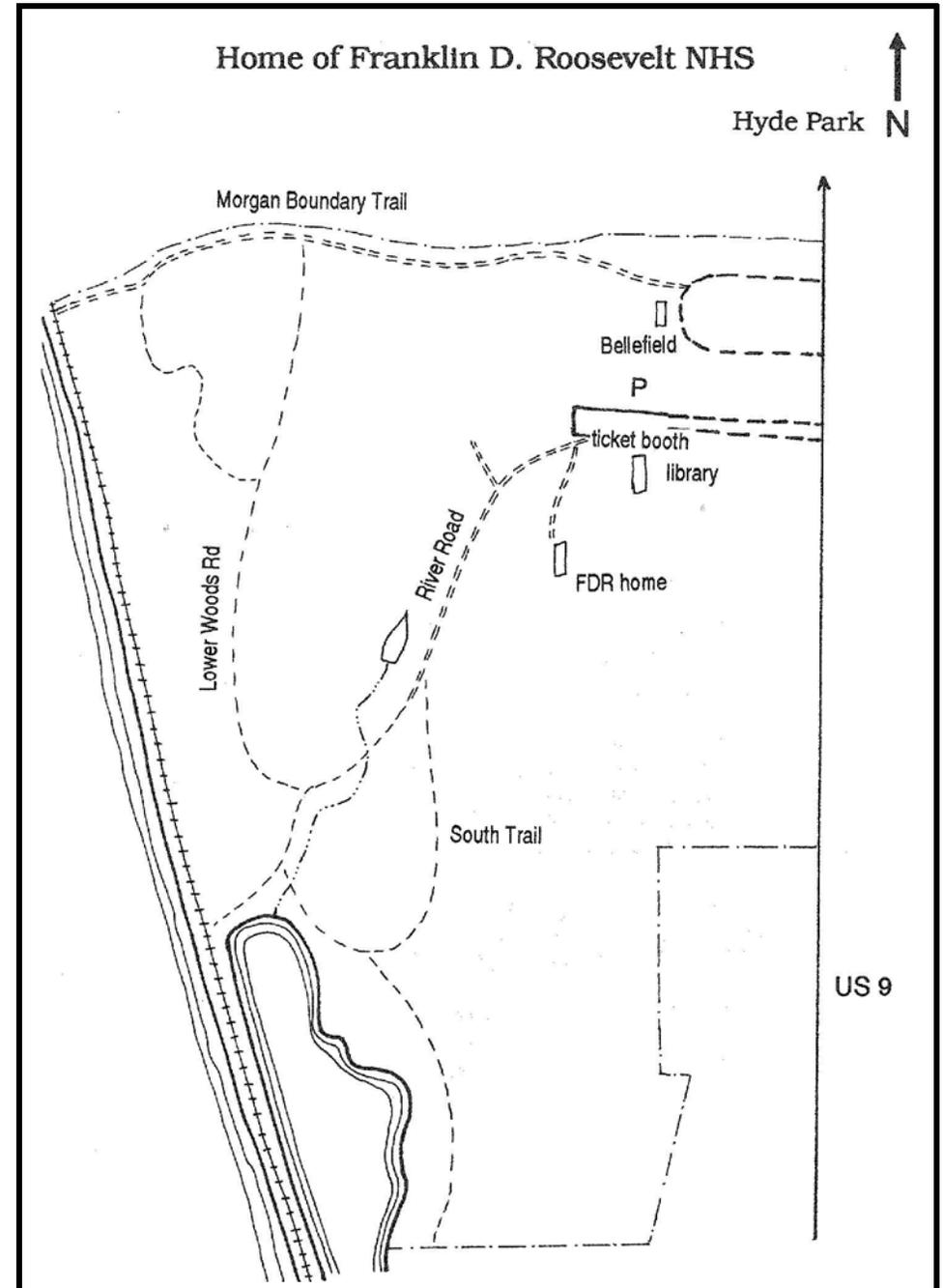
Permission is not necessary to visit the trails or grounds. There is no fee except for touring the house and the library. Parking for more than 250 cars is available at the library as you enter the Historic Site. The grounds are open from morning until dusk. The walk here is moderate, though the hill is rather steep returning from the river. Trails are wide and well maintained. It is important to stay on the trails as poison ivy is abundant and there are copperheads in the area. Spring and fall are the best times to visit. The area can be crowded from June through October.

The Roosevelt NHS is in the Town of Hyde Park on US 9 south of the Village of Hyde Park. The entrance, on the west side of US 9, is well marked. The nature trail can be found by walking behind the red information booth at the edge of the parking lot. Look west toward a small gray house and you will see a sign with a trail map at the start of the nature trail. The woods trails are a continuation of carriage roads on the Roosevelt Estate. Follow the Lower Woods Road to the second junction; left leads to a bridge across the railroad and the shores of the Hudson; a right turn (uphill) then the next right returns to the Lower Woods Road.

Birds you might expect to see here are waterfowl on the river in early spring and late fall. A winter trip should find kinglets, Red-breasted Nuthatches, redpolls, woodpeckers and owls. The Pileated Woodpecker is a permanent resident and the Winter Wren is heard during the winter months and early spring. Plan 3 hours to adequately cover the area.

For more information, contact the National Park Service offices at (845)-229-9115.

Area: 290 acres
Walking distance: 2 miles



HUDSON HIGHLANDS STATE PARK

(Local name: Breakneck Ridge)

The trail up Breakneck Ridge is a steep, strenuous climb to the top of the ridge with magnificent views of the Hudson River. Stunted oaks, birches and aspen predominate on the summit with grassy areas intermingled. There are many wildflowers here in the spring. The main trail from NY 9D is over exposed ledges with some steep drops and is rather difficult. There are other approaches to the ridge which are less direct but safer. One is an abandoned road that is a fairly easy climb of about a mile to an abandoned estate with nice views along the way. Along the lower sections of the Park there are swampy areas and woodlands.

Permission is not necessary to hike this area as it is a State Park. The tract was given to the State by the power company. Only a portion of it is in Dutchess County. Spring and fall are the best times of year to bird in this area.

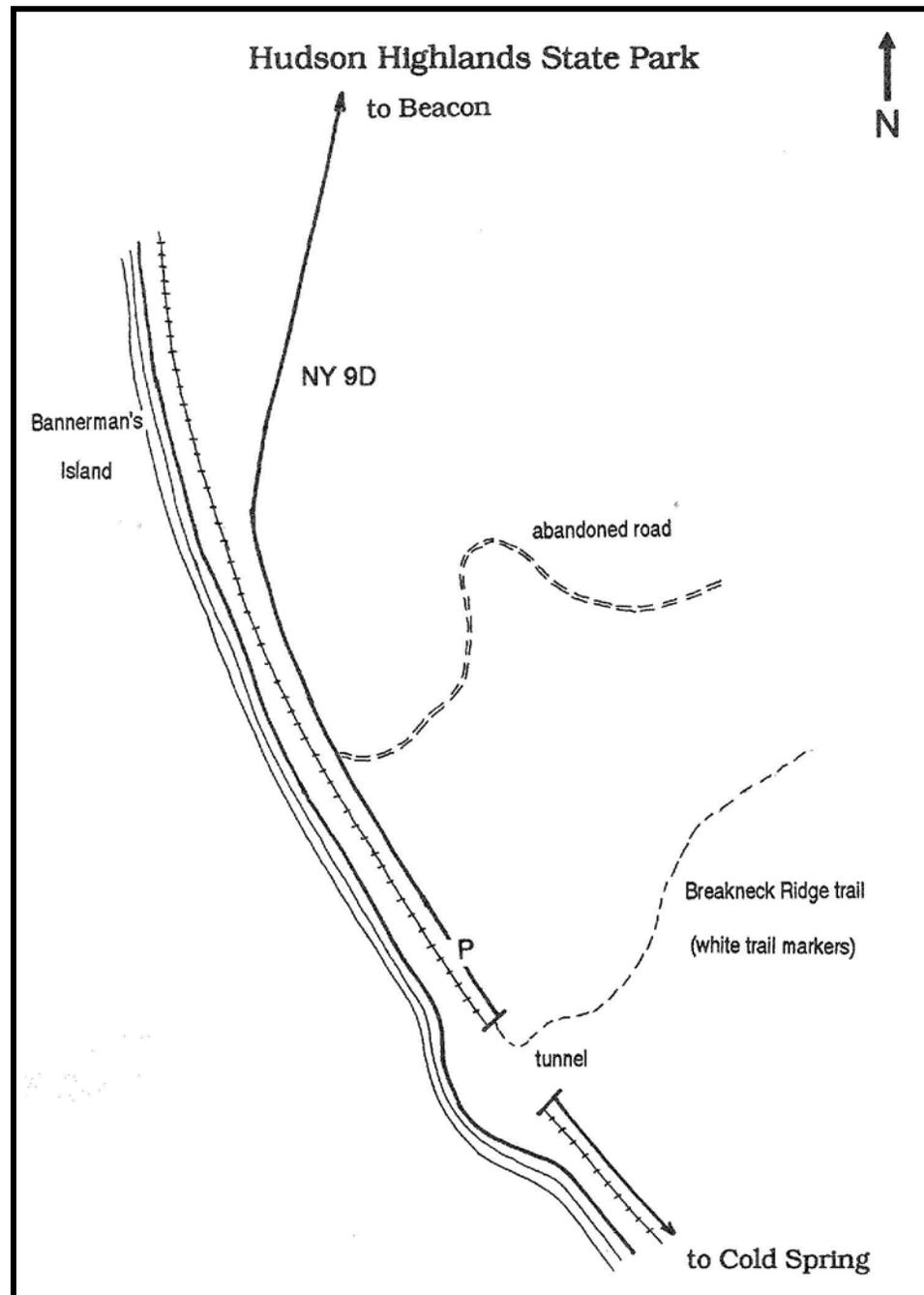
The Dutchess County portion of the Park is in the Town of Fishkill and the nearest village is Beacon. Drive south on NY 9D to the tunnel. The trail to Breakneck Ridge (white trail markers) begins at the north end of the tunnel on the west side of the road. The abandoned road (yellow trail markers) begins on the east side of the road, about 500 feet to the north of the start of the Breakneck Ridge trail. There are several small parking areas along NY 9D and one large one (15-20 cars) on the west side of the road next to a large billboard.

Birds you might expect to see here are all raptors including eagles and peregrine falcon in migration seasons. Migrating Flickers, Blue Jays, blackbirds, warblers, ducks, geese and Monarch Butterflies pass this point. Field Sparrows and Bluebirds nest on top of the ridge. Carolina Wren and Indigo Bunting are found along the abandoned road.

Maps of this area are available from the park office, see below for number. Maps are also available for a fee from the New York - New Jersey Trail Conference, www.nynjtc.org.

For more information, contact the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Taconic Region, P.O. Box 308, Staatsburg, NY 12580. (845) 889-4100.

Area: 500 acres



HUDSON RIVER

Spending time along the shore of the majestic Hudson River is pleasant any time of year. During the fall and spring waterfowl migration, the River is a good destination for a birding trip. Here we describe 2 car-birding trips that visit many of the river access points on the eastern side of the River. The northern trip starts at Clermont Historic Site, just across the county line in Columbia County and ends at Norrie State Park. The southern trip starts at Wappingers Creek and ends at Hudson Highlands State Park. Visiting all of the places listed in either trip will take a full morning. And it should be a morning. In the afternoon the light comes from across the river and you will see only silhouettes of ducks. There would not be time to cover both the northern trip and the southern trip in the same morning.

A spotting scope is a must for identifying waterfowl from most of the vantage points here.

Most of the areas are along the railroad tracks. For some the viewing is from the area between the tracks and the river. Use **EXTREME CAUTION** when crossing the tracks either on foot or by car. Nowadays the trains are much faster and quieter than in the past. Trains are upon you within seconds of your hearing them. Cross the tracks as quickly as possible and do not linger near them.

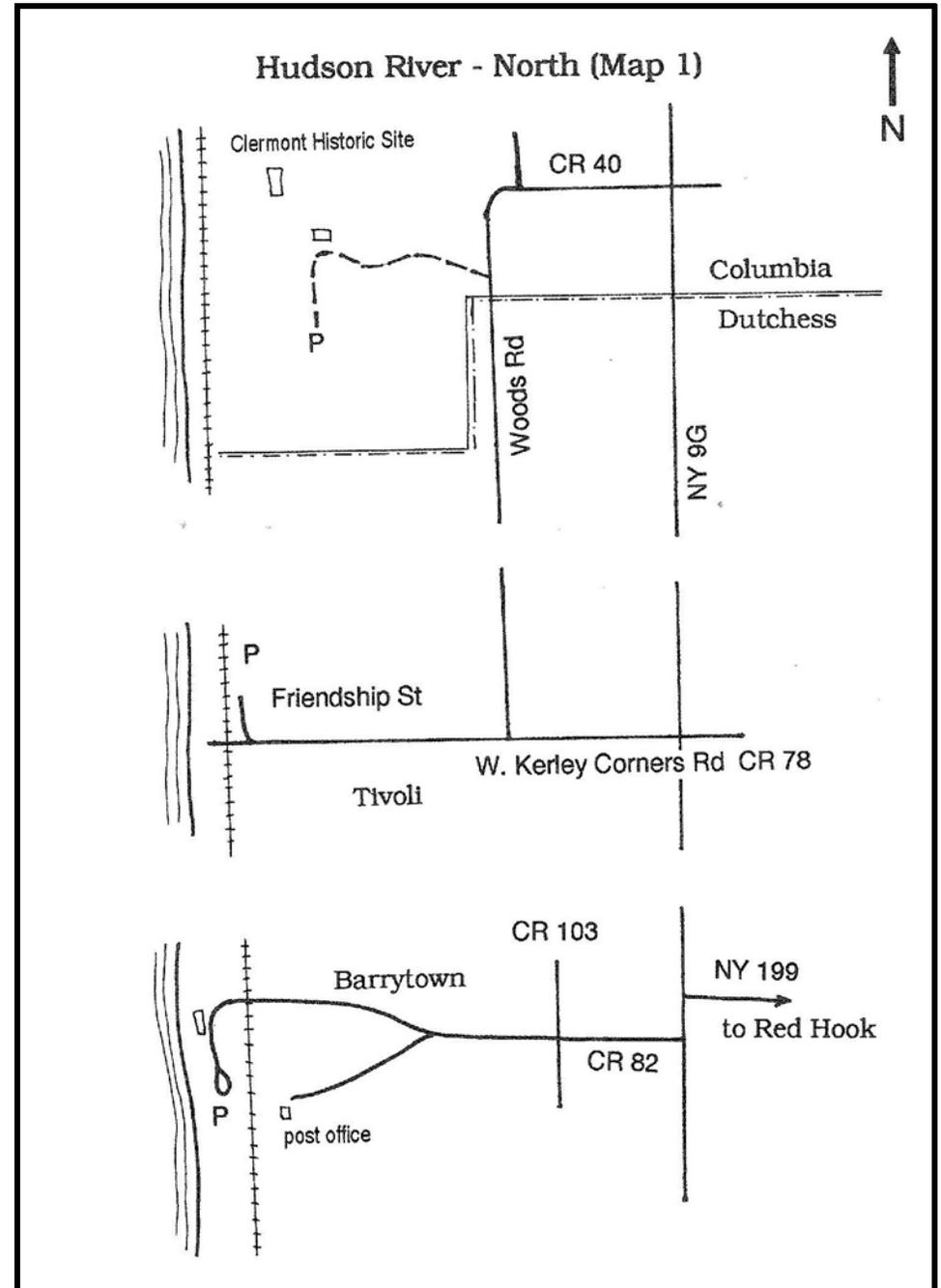
The best time of year for viewing ducks on the river is from late October through March. Even when the river appears quite full of ice, there are open areas where ducks can be found. These open areas move around due to the tides. Thanks to the success of New York's and neighboring state's Bald Eagle restoration programs, we regularly see Bald Eagles on the river through the winter. They ride the ice floes and perch in trees on the shore.

Vanderbilt and Roosevelt National Historic Sites, Bowdoin Park, and Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery also have accesses to the river. See their write-ups for directions to the river lookouts. At most of these areas the river is only accessible on foot. At Vanderbilt, the river is accessible by car, but the road to it is closed to cars in the winter and on weekends.

Car birding is perfect for seeing how many species you can find and for enjoying the Hudson River in Dutchess County, especially during the migration of waterfowl.

HUDSON RIVER- North

To begin the northern Hudson River tour, take NY 9G north. Just after crossing the Dutchess / Columbia County line, take the first left at the sign for Clermont Historic Site. Follow the signs to the mansion and visitors center and park in the large lot next to the visitors center. A broad, sloping lawn lies



between the parking area and the river. Go down the hill to the fence. Next to the shoreline the river is quite shallow and becomes marshy at low tide. The view of the river is excellent from Clermont. You are high enough above water level to see for a considerable distance north and south, but low enough to identify the waterfowl with a scope.

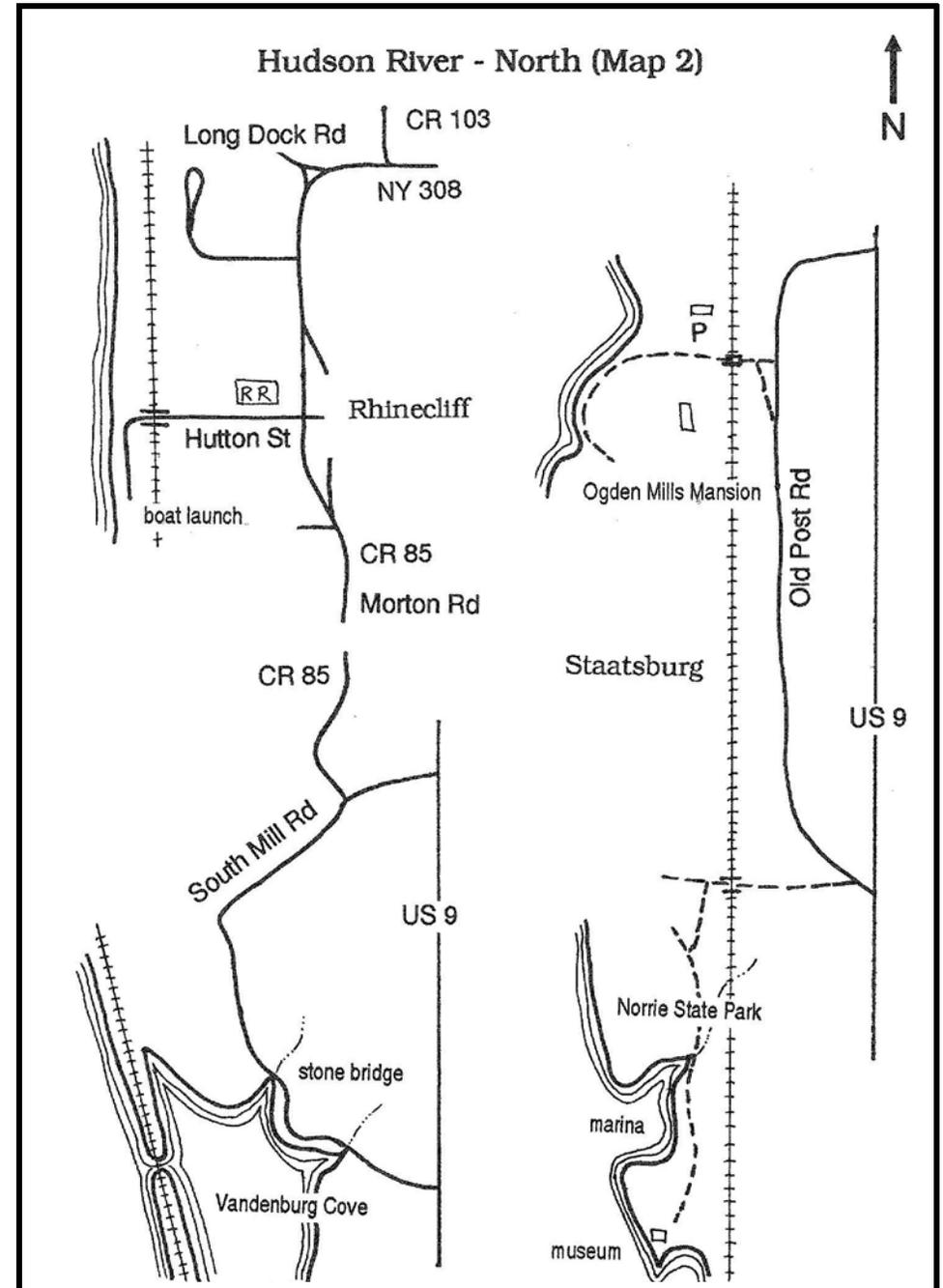
The next stop is Tivoli. Drive back out the Clermont access road and turn right at the stop sign onto Woods Road. This road soon crosses back into Dutchess and ends at CR 78 in Tivoli. Turn right here and proceed down to the railroad tracks. Turn right just before the railroad tracks and park at the end of the road. Here you are right at the edge of the river.

Bard College Field Station is an optional stop. See the Saw Kill and South Bay Trails section for directions. You will have to park on Blithewood Road and walk about a quarter mile down to the field station, where you will have a good view of South Bay. The Bay is likely to be frozen in winter so this stop is only good during the fall and spring migrations.

Barrytown is the next stop. The views here are somewhat obscured by a row of cedar trees and other vegetation and buildings, but if the ducks are close to the shore, they can be seen through the gaps between the cedars. From Tivoli, take CR 78 back out to NY 9G and turn right. Proceed south to the flashing light at the NY 199 intersection. Just after passing the light, turn right onto CR 82. After crossing Annandale Road (CR 103) the road forks. Take the right fork. This road crosses the tracks over a bridge, passes a private marina, and then ends. Park your car here and walk looking between the trees.

The village of Rhinecliff lies on the river shore and there are several viewing areas here that look across to the mouth of the Rondout Creek at Kingston. To get to Rhinecliff from Barrytown, go back out CR 82 to Annandale Road (CR 103) and take it south (turn right) for about 5 miles until it ends. Turn right onto Rhinecliff Road (NY 308). Look for the sign for the Rhinecliff Water Treatment Plant and turn right down that road. Park at the end of the road and check for river activity. You will be next to the tracks, so be cautious. Return to NY 308 and turn right proceeding into the village. Just past the railroad station turn right onto Hutton Street. This crosses over the tracks and ends at a boat launch where you can park and again check the river. Return up Hutton Street, turn right onto Charles Street and then follow the signs to CR 85. Follow CR 85 on Morton Road and then South Mill Road to Vandenburg Cove.

Vandenburg Cove is a sheltered area separated from the main river by the railroad tracks. It is likely to be frozen solid during the coldest part of the winter, but full of activity during fall and spring migrations. The cove can be seen through the trees from County Road 85. There is no good parking, just a few



places to pull 2 or 3 cars off the road. There is some traffic on this road, so use care. The first place to stop is near the Stone Bridge just past the Sisters of Ursula establishment. Within the next half mile stop again. The cove may be hard to see if leaves are on the trees. You can walk down the hill closer to the water for better visibility, but this is not advisable during duck hunting season. Continuing along South Mill Road (CR 85) brings you out to US 9.

Ogden Mills State Park provides the next good view of the river. Once out on US 9, proceed south and take the next right, Old Post Road. Look for the entrance to Ogden Mills on the right. Take the entrance road up the hill to a large parking area on the right. Park here and walk about ¼ mile on the internal road down to the river. Return out to Old Post Road and turn right. Drive south through the hamlet of Staatsburg.

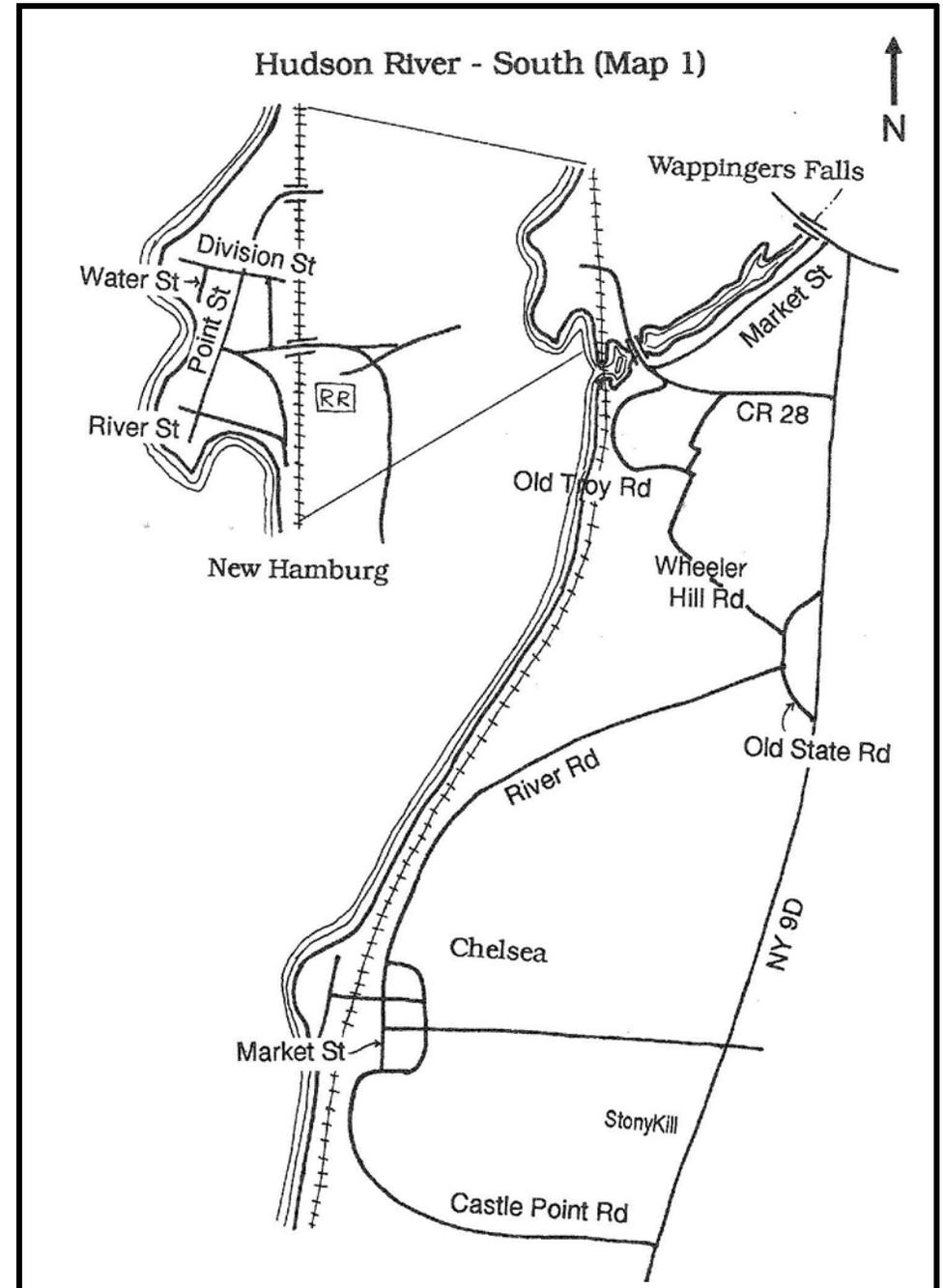
Look for the sign for Norrie State Park just before Old Post Road intersects with US 9. Turn into the park. Take the first left after going over the railroad tracks and then the next left, following the signs to the marina. The Dutchess Community College Environmental Museum is at the far end of the marina parking area. Near the museum is another good view of the river.

Driving distance: Approximately 25 miles

HUDSON RIVER - South

For the southern Hudson River trip start at the village of Wappingers Falls and turn onto Market Street by the falls. As you leave the village proper, the road becomes Creek Road (CR 91). You drive 1½ miles along the Wappinger Creek for a scenic view in search of waterfowl and any other birds in the trees. The road is narrow with limited shoulder area to pull off for viewing. You may also find herons, a Belted Kingfisher, or a Screech Owl sunning itself in a tree along the road. There is one area just outside of the village for 2 cars to view the upper creek near the Highway Department's Garage. At the end of Creek Road you intersect with New Hamburg Road (CR 28).

Continuing on into New Hamburg, turn right at the end of Creek Road and take CR 28 to Bridge Street. Cross over the bridge of the railroad tracks and continue to Point Street, turn right and go a short block to Conklin Street. Turn left onto Water Street, then left onto Division Street. This street is a dead end and you will find the New Hamburg Yacht Club along the river. There is limited parking for 2 or 3 cars to view the river here. Returning to Point Street, turn right and go to the end which is White's Marina. With permission you can view the river south towards Chelsea and Newburgh. During the winter the boats are in dry dock and you will have to park your car and walk around the boats to view the river. As you leave White's Marina turn right onto River Road to view a cove between the marina and the railroad tracks. There is limited parking and it



would be better to park your car and walk along the cove by the railroad tracks for the best views. Waterfowl you might find here are Canvasback, mergansers, goldeneye, scaup, Bufflehead, grebes, Mallards, Canada Geese or Brant, and swans. Again you might find a heron or a Belted Kingfisher.

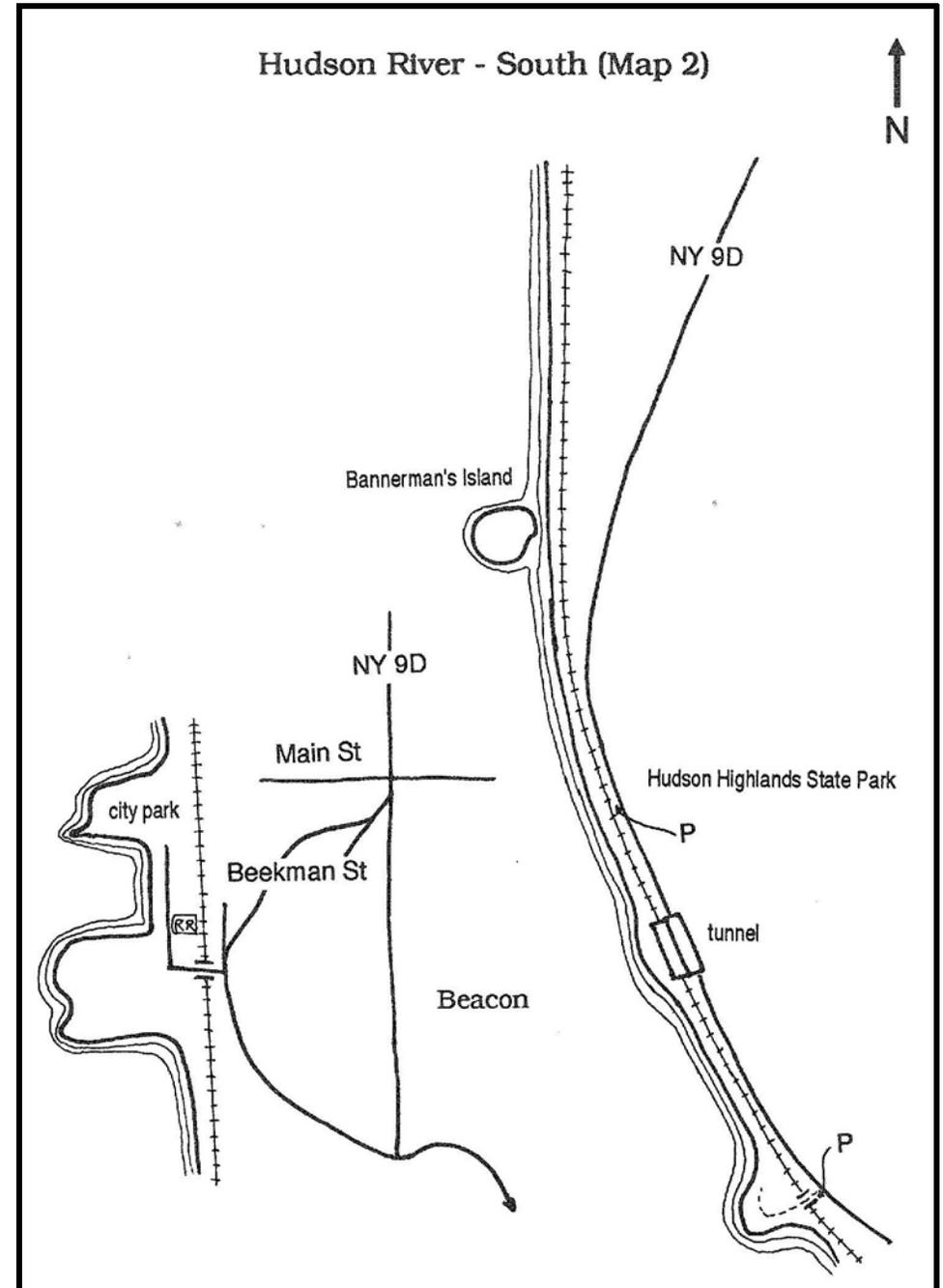
Another road that gives excellent views of the river and shores just below White's Marina is Old Troy Road, a narrow one-way road. To get to Old Troy Road take CR 28 to Wheeler Hill Road and turn right and continue to Old Troy Road. This road will return to New Hamburg Road (CR 28) by the bridge that crosses the Wappinger Creek and you can get a good view of the outlet cove. Returning to Wheeler Hill Road you can continue on to Chelsea.

Drive about 1½ miles to Old State Road, turn right and go a short distance to River Road and turn right. Continue about 1½ miles to Chelsea. Some of this area is farmland and housing developments. The river is not seen until you are close to Chelsea. Go across the railroad tracks to Front Street. Here you can view the river from Chelsea Yacht Club and along this dead end street. Again there is limited parking but it is a nice open area for viewing the river. You may find rafts of Canvasback in this area. Go back to Market Street, turn right and go a short block, turn right and this brings you back to River Road which will change to Castle Point Road. You drive just over 2 miles to NY 9D bringing you just below Stony Kill Farm Center. There is limited viewing of the river south of Chelsea to NY 9D.

If you wish to continue to Beacon, turn right on NY 9D and go about 3 miles to the City of Beacon. Turn right at Beekman Street, drive a short distance and bear right, cross over the railroad bridge, turn right and go past the train station to the City Park. There is ample parking and it is accessible for handicap people for viewing and enjoying the river. There are cement sidewalks in the park and benches to rest or view the river. You will find gulls, swans, Common Mergansers, Mallards or possibly a heron. Seven Forster's Terns were seen here, October 1987.

To complete the trip you may want to continue about 9 miles south of Beacon on NY 9D to Hudson Highland State Park. Along the way there is a parking area near Breakneck Tunnel on the right side of NY 9D. Carefully walk across the railroad tracks to the river to view Bannerman's Island to the north. You may find large numbers of Common Mergansers near the island. About 2+ miles south of the tunnel there is a small parking area on the right side of NY 9D for 2 to 4 cars (look for a dumpster near the parking area). Walk out on the park land between the tracks and the river where you can view the river south to Cold Spring.

Driving distance: Approximately 14 miles



INNISFREE

Innisfree was the estate of the late Walter Beck and is now open to the public under the management of the Innisfree Foundation. The estate is famous for its "garden art" landscaping to create works of art in natural form. The grounds are well maintained and are half garden and half woodlands. The house was taken down a number of years ago as it was badly in need of repair. Tyrell Lake is the center of the area with three species of waterlilies. There is a small pond filled with Lotus which blooms in August. The woods are mainly oak, maple, dogwood, and ash, and a section of pine and hemlock. In the gardens are found redwood, cypress, Cedars of Lebanon and Ginkgo Tree. Rock formations throughout the gardens provide studies of smaller plants.

Innisfree is open to the public May through October, Wednesday through Sunday, times varies from late morning into the afternoon. A fee is charged, higher on the weekend. There is adequate parking and picnic tables are provided in this area.

A trip to Innisfree is an easy to moderate walk. There are good trails around the lake and through the gardens. There is also a bridge and walkway over the narrow end of the lake. A beautiful place in all seasons but birding is best in the spring. Allow 3 to 4 hours to walk around the lake.

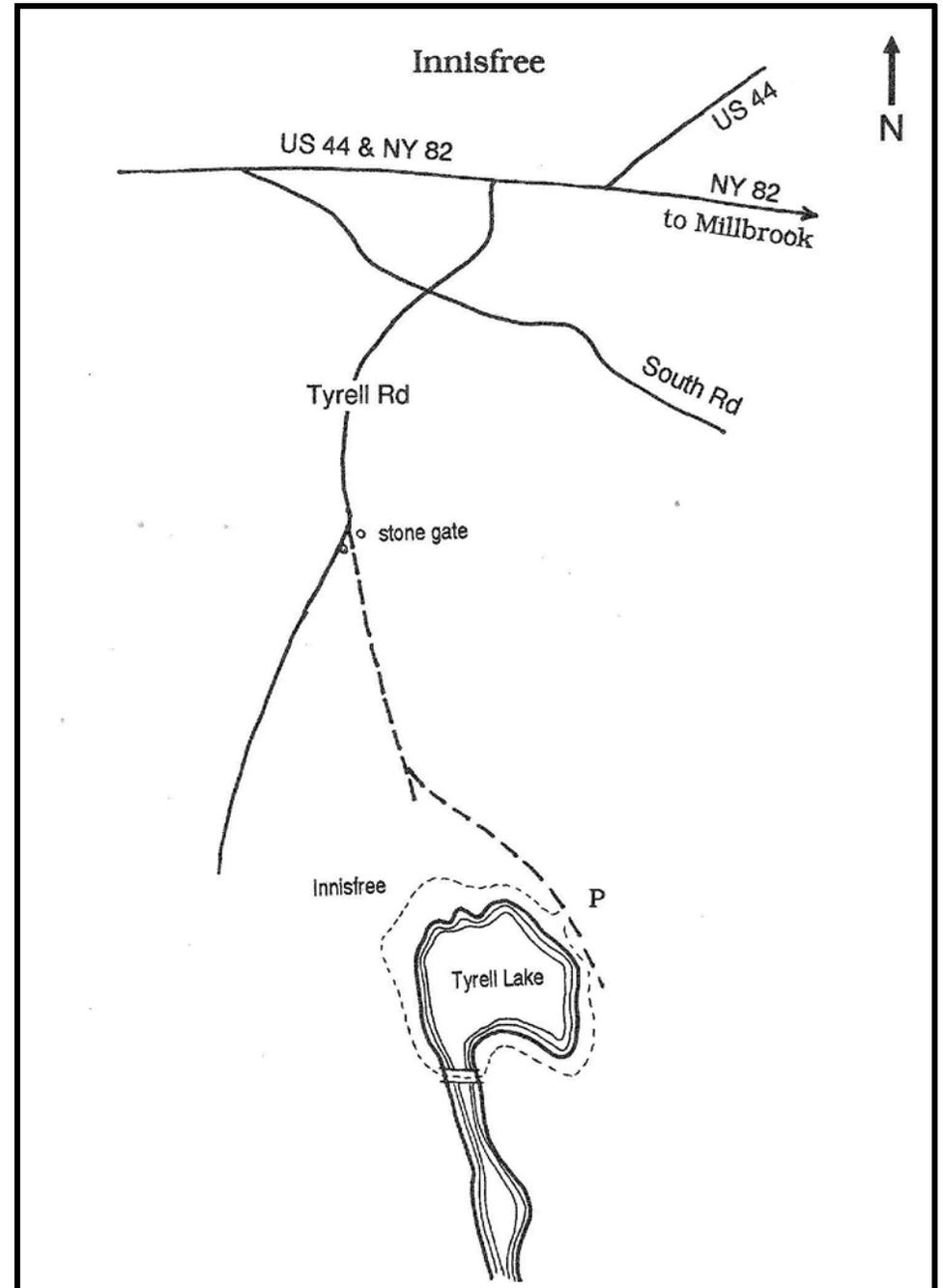
Innisfree is in the towns of Washington and Pleasant Valley and the nearest village is Millbrook. To reach Innisfree from US 44 turn south on Tyrell Road which is two miles west of the traffic light at NY 82 and US 44, or two miles east of the Taconic Parkway. Proceed south on Tyrell Road one mile to the stone gate. Follow the narrow road to the parking lot

Birds you might expect to find are Canada Geese, Mallards, wood birds, warblers, and phoebe.

For more information, call 845-677-8000 or www.innisfreegarden.org.

Area: 188 acres

Walking distance: 1 mile



JAMES BAIRD STATE PARK

(Local name: Baird Park)

The James Baird State Park serves many public needs, with an 18-hole golf course, tennis courts, picnic areas, and a club house / restaurant. It is the remaining area that is of interest for the birder and nature enthusiast. Geese and ducks may be found on two small ponds on the golf course in spring and fall. Do not bird on the golf course during the golfing season. Green Herons and shorebirds are there in the spring and fall. Homed larks and snow buntings are seen on the greens in winter. There are large areas of woodland including evergreen plantings. Red-tailed and Broad-winged Hawks nest here and owl pellets are often found beneath the evergreen trees. There are good trails through the woods and some of the picnic areas are located there. These open areas in the woods offer good viewing for smaller birds in all seasons.

The park is open to the public all year and no permission is required for its use. Parking is available and adequate for large groups. However in winter, only the parking lot shown furthest north on the map is plowed.

A walk here is an easy one, using the park roads and trails. The entire area can be covered in three to four hours. Winter and spring are the best times of the year to bird here. Heavy recreational use in the summer may conflict with birding. Early morning (6:00AM) is recommended in late spring, summer, and early fall for birding, with a breakfast in the restaurant afterwards.

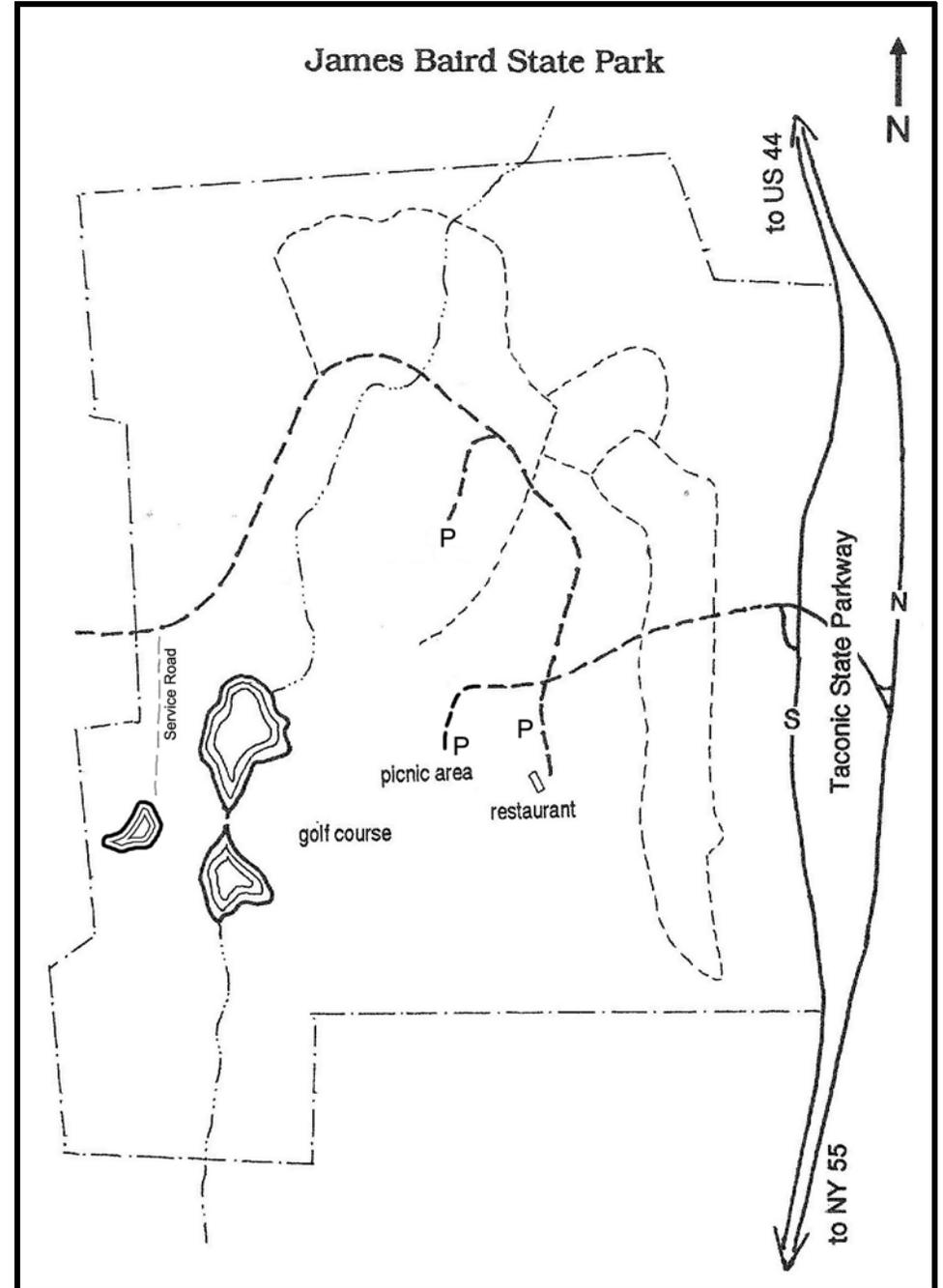
Baird Park is located in the Town of LaGrange, northeast of the village of Freedom Plains, between NY 55 and US 44. The main entrance is from the Taconic Parkway, one mile north of NY 55 and is well marked. There is an entrance used for trucks and buses on the west side of the park off Freedom Road, north of Freedom Plains and NY 55.

Birds you may expect to see there are waterfowl, shorebirds, hawks, woodpeckers, kinglets, thrushes, vireos, and warblers in spring, Homed Larks and Snow Buntings in winter, and sparrows and finches all year.

For more information contact the park at (845) 452-3724.

Area: 590 acres

Walking distance: 2 miles



LAFAYETTEVILLE MULTIPLE USE AREA

(Local name: Wilbur Flats Road)

Wilbur Flats Road of the Lafayetteville Multiple Use Area is a narrow unpaved road about one mile long. It extends from NY 199 to the Taconic Parkway through varied habitat. There are open fields, low swampy areas with many large dead trees, a pine plantation, woodlands, and rocky ledges on the side hill at the north end. For birding, park cars at the entrance from NY 199 and walk this road. Wilbur Pond to the south of NY 199 is also part of the Lafayetteville Multiple Use Area. There is a parking area near the lake but no trails around it. It can be observed from the road and during migration has ducks and geese. East of Wilbur Flats Road are open fields with an old barn. Within sight of the barn are two marshy areas where Swamp Sparrows and Willow Flycatchers can be heard. The rest of the Multiple Use Area is heavily wooded hills without trails or roads. Some woodcutting is done by the State Forester as part of the habitat management program and it is used for hunting during the open season.

No permission is needed to bird in this area. There is parking space for one or two cars just as you enter Wilbur Flats Road and for another 6-8 cars in two parking areas on NY 199 east of this road. These are all marked with the State Multiple Use Area signs.

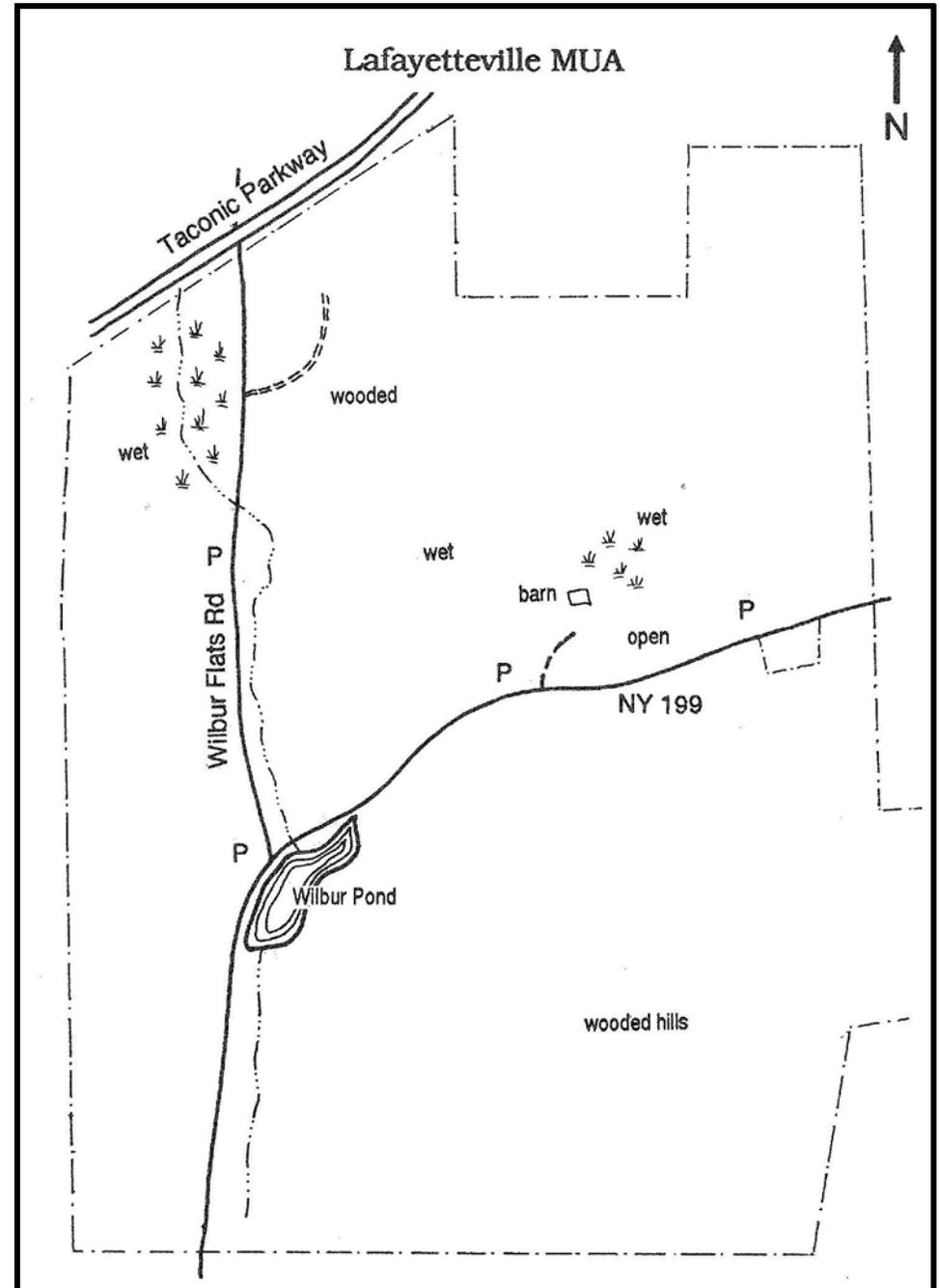
A walk down Wilbur Flats Road is an easy trip. Spring is an excellent time to bird here and summer and fall are good.

Lafayetteville Multiple Use Area is in the Town of Milan. Lafayetteville is the nearest village. The area is east of the Taconic Parkway and is on both sides of NY 199 as it passes the pond and Wilbur Flats Road. It is marked with a sign of the State Forest lands.

Birds you might expect to see there are pheasants and grouse, owls, thrushes, wrens, warblers, sparrows, flycatchers, and ducks.

For more information, contact the DEC Forestry Department, (845) 256-3078.

Area: 715 acres
Walking distance: 2 miles

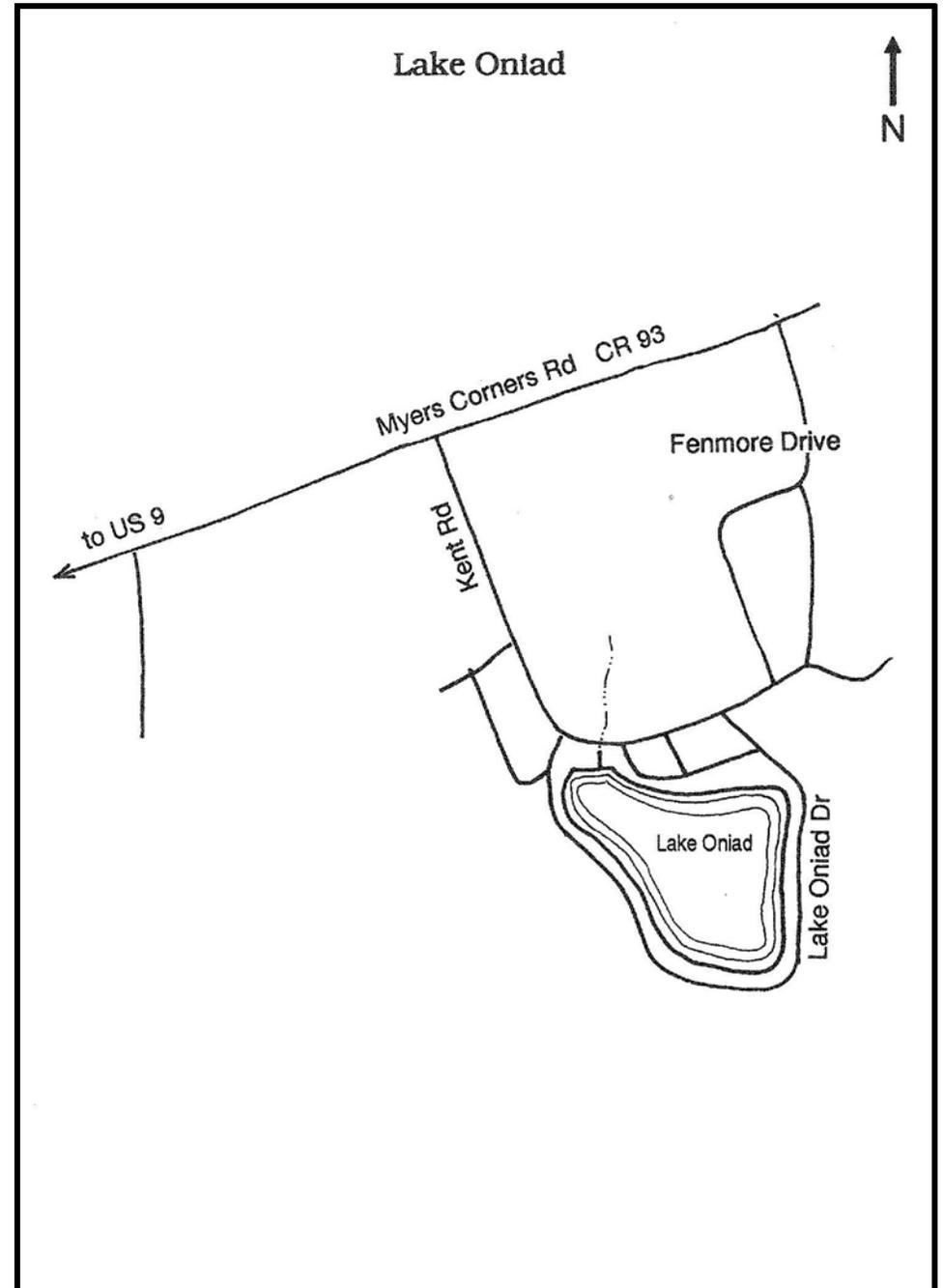


LAKE ONIAD

Lake Oniad is southeast of the Village of Wappingers Falls and is found off Myers Corner Road (CR 93). This small open lake is privately owned by the homeowners. There is no place for parking a car to walk around the lake. Viewing may be done from your car with quick stops along the shoreline. A rocky shoreline, bordered with grass surrounds the lake. At the north end is a private beach. The lake is not deep, making it attractive to migrating waterbirds. Spring and fall are the best times for seeing waterfowl. Some years the lake is drained in late fall.

Lake Oniad is located in the Town of Wappinger. From US 9, turn onto Myers Corner Road, and follow it east for one mile to Kent Road and turn right. Follow Kent Road to the sign for Lake Oniad and follow Lake Oniad Road around the lake. Birds to be seen here are scaup, Ringneck Duck, Bufflehead, Mallard, swans, geese, grebes, Spotted Sandpiper, and Belted Kingfisher. A Great Egret has been seen here.

Area: approximately 10 acres



LOCUST GROVE HISTORIC ESTATE

(Young-Morse Historic Site)

Locust Grove, former home of Samuel F. B. Morse, the inventor and artist, is a National Historic Landmark operated by Locust Grove Historic Estate, a not-for-profit trust. The last owner, Annette Young, left the property to be operated as a museum and wildlife sanctuary. About 25 acres of grounds are maintained around the museum and 125 acres, which extend to the Hudson River, are left as woodlands. Because of the varied topography and land use history, a wide variety of wildlife habitat exists. The woodlands offer a network of carriage paths now loosely maintained as hiking trails. The trails are generally of a moderate nature, but there are some that have steep slopes and others that are near cliffs where caution must be used. Allow 3 hours to cover this area.

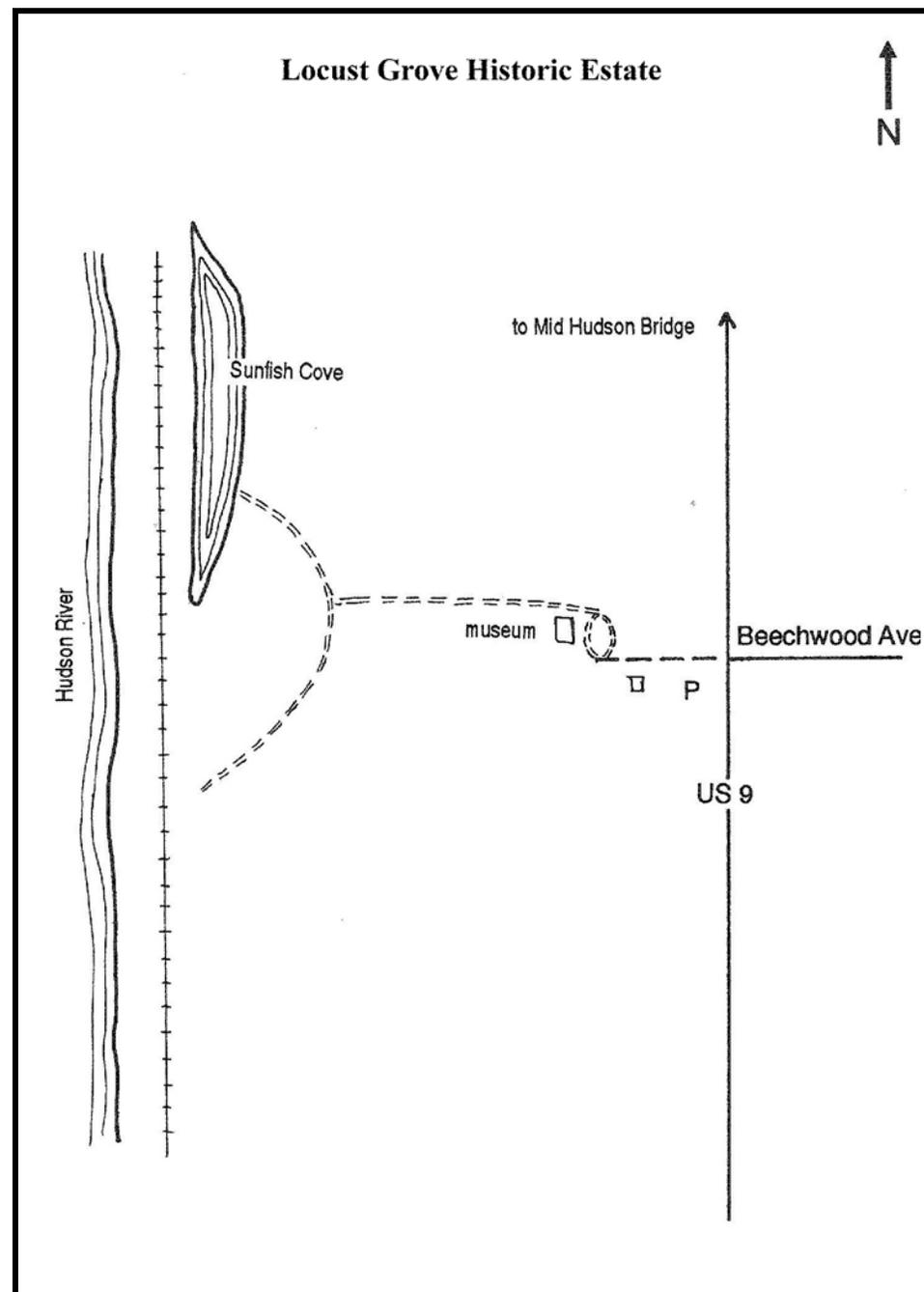
The Historic Site grounds and woodlands are open daily from 8:00AM to dusk. There is no charge to walk the grounds. The home is opened for guided tours only, for a fee. The Site is located in the Town of Poughkeepsie on the west side of US 9, two miles south of the Mid-Hudson Bridge, at the light for Beechwood Avenue. There is ample parking near the museum.

Birds you are most likely to see are woodland and urban birds, gulls on the river, and warblers during migration.

For more information, contact Locust Grove, 2683 South Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. Telephone (845) 454-4500.

Area: 150 acres

Walking distance: 2 miles



MILLBROOK SCHOOL

Millbrook School is a private boarding school northeast of Millbrook. The area of the school includes a large marsh, deciduous woodland, open fields, and the main campus and faculty housing. Most of the birding is done at the marsh which is found on both sides of the road one-half mile north of US 44. The area by the small bridge where a branch of the Wassaic Creek flows through the marsh is particularly good birding. A wet meadow on the left just beyond the first house is also very good. Just before you reach this house, at the sharp bend in the road, on the left is a dirt road. An immediate left on this dirt road leads to a small pond next to the Eco Hut building and access to the boardwalk into the marsh (closed in 2015-16 for repairs). The first right on the dirt road leads to an observatory. Continue straight and a trail used for cross country running continue for three miles, ending back at the campus. Take this trail and keep to the right where it forks, up a rather steep hill. This trail will lead you through woods, open fields, and back to the football field.

There is also the Trevor Zoo, three-tenths mile beyond the sharp bend. All parking should be at the Zoo with space for 25 cars. The Zoo may be visited, however the fee for adults is \$5, \$3 for children. There is no fee for bird club members. For more information see www.trevorzoo.org. Permission to bird at Millbrook School is not necessary.

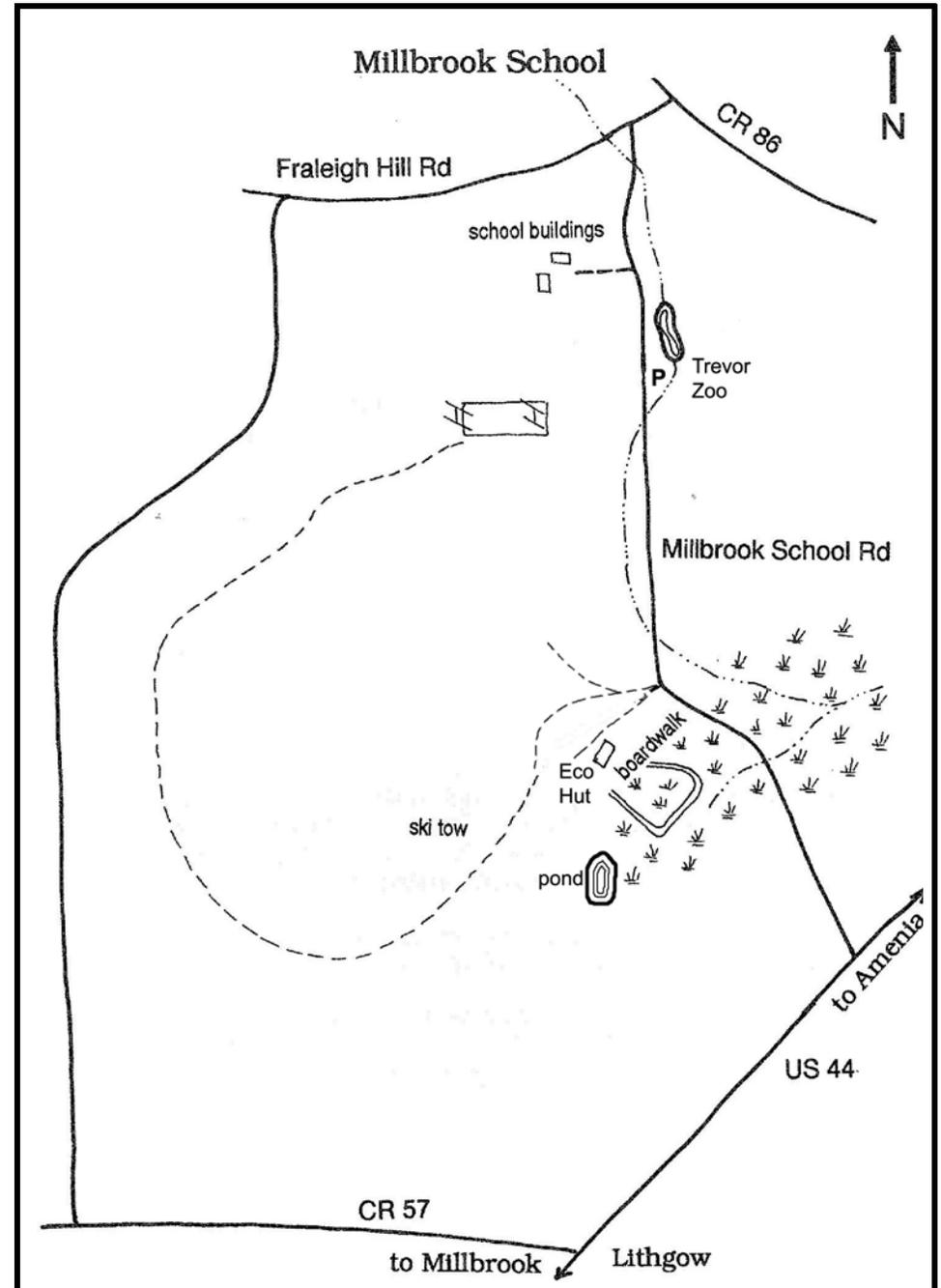
The walk here is an easy to moderate one with only a short section of steep trail. Three hours should be adequate for a trip here. Birding is good any time of the year with spring perhaps being the best.

Millbrook School is in the Town of Washington and the nearest village is Amenia. Drive west on US 44 from Amenia for four miles and turn right on Millbrook School Road. You may reach it from Millbrook by driving east on US 44 for five miles and make a left turn onto the road.

You may expect to find a great variety of birds here in all seasons. Over 160 species have been recorded including resident Screech-Owls, Woodcock, Snipe, and at one time King Rails, White-eyed Vireos, Willow Flycatcher, and several species of warblers (Wilson's and Northern Parula included) can be found here and Virginia Rail as well as Great Blue Heron nest here. Snapping, Painted, Spotted and Wood Turtles can also be found here.

Area: road - 1 mile

Walking distance: 3 miles



MONTGOMERY PLACE

Montgomery Place is a Hudson River estate renovated and operated by Historic Hudson Valley, although now owned by Bard College. The lovely grounds include a commercial orchard, formal and informal gardens, broad lawns with large specimen trees, a deciduous woods, a hemlock woods and a view of South Bay on the Hudson. The West Lawn Trail makes a loop between the mansion and the river. It goes through an interesting variety of open and wooded habitat including an overlook of South Bay. The Saw Kill Trail starts at the mansion and proceeds north and east to follow the Saw Kill Creek upstream. It goes through a very old woods of hemlock, beech, and other hardwoods. The Saw Kill Trail at Bard College is on the other side of the creek.

The Montgomery Place grounds are open to the public daily 9AM to 4PM. There is a fee to tour the mansion. A map of the grounds and a trail guide is available at the visitor center. Hunting is permitted in the fall, except on weekends. The roadways (used by a shuttle between the visitor center and the mansion) can be used by wheelchairs to visit the gardens and the lawns. The trails are covered with wood chips and are an easy walk. Both trails have steps in them and a few steep places. Allow 2-3 hours to walk the trails and tour the grounds. If you have more time, a tour of the mansion would be very interesting.

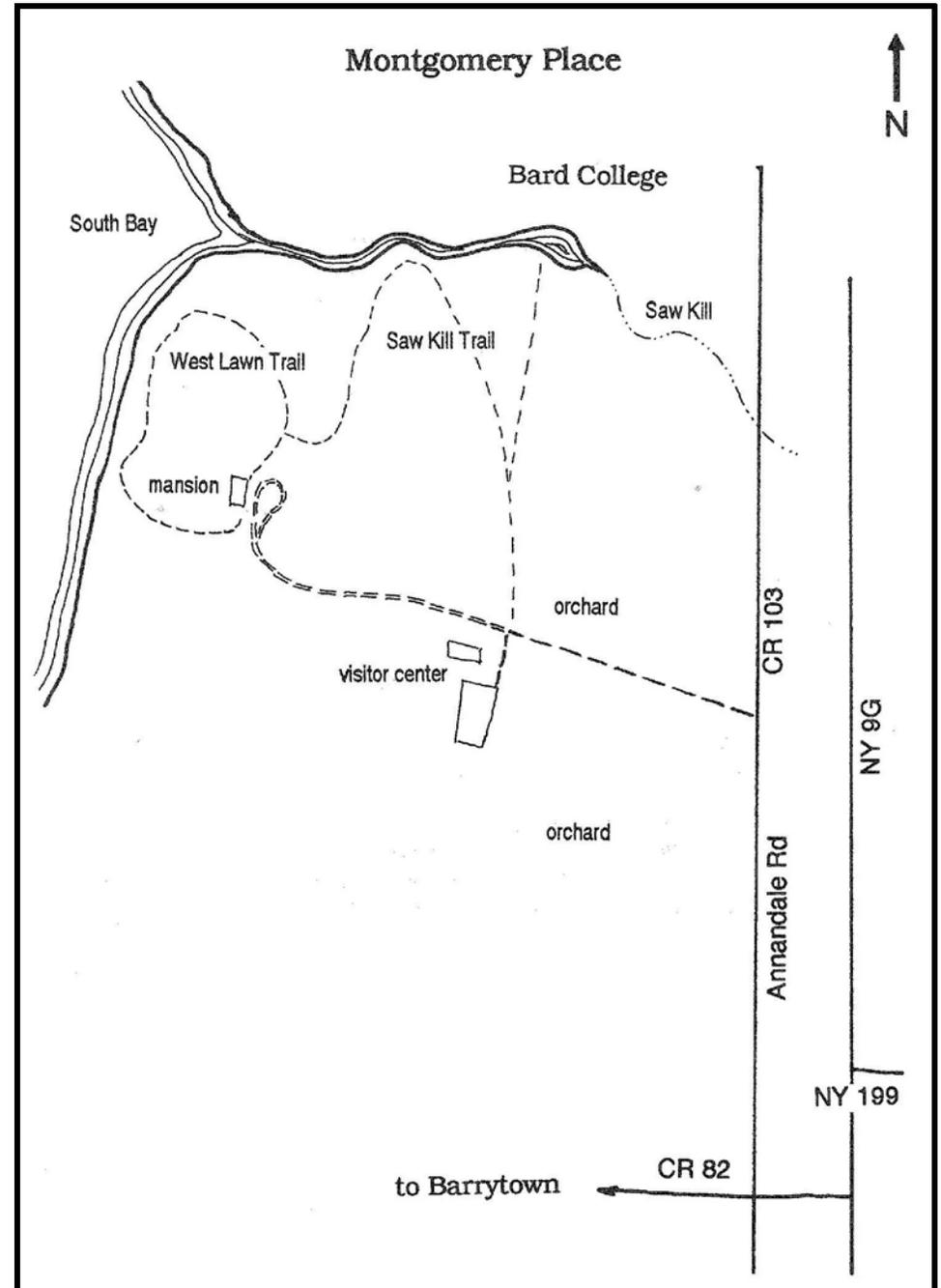
Montgomery Place is located on Annandale Road (CR 103), just south of Bard College in the Town of Red Hook. Take NY 9G north to the NY 199 intersection. Turn left (west) onto 199, going toward the Kingston Rhinecliff Bridge. CR 103 crosses 199 before the bridge. Turn right onto CR 103. Montgomery Place is about 2-3 miles north on the left. There are orchards along the road as you approach Montgomery Place. Drive through the yellow gate to the visitors center, where there is a large parking lot.

Birds found in this area include Winter Wren, warblers, flycatchers, orioles, Pileated Woodpecker, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. From the northwest edge of the West Lawn Trail as you view South Bay you might find Green and Blue winged Teal, American Black Ducks, Double-crested Cormorants, Great Egrets, and Bald Eagles.

For further information contact Montgomery Place at (845) 758-5461 or Historic Hudson Valley at (914) 366-6900. For GPS use 26 Gardener Way, Red Hook, NY.

Area: 434 acres

Walking distance: 2 miles



**OGDEN MILLS AND RUTH LIVINGSTON MILLS
MEMORIAL STATE PARK and
MARGARET LEWIS NORRIE STATE PARK**

(Local names: Mills Estate, Norrie Point, Mills-Norrie State Park)

These two state parks are adjacent to each other along the Hudson River north of Hyde Park. From the Mills State Park south to Norrie State Park a good trail skirts the river's edge, then ascends a high rocky wooded ridge with a good view of the river. The trail through mixed woodland is a good one. The return trip is over old carriage roads which pass old estate plantings, specimen trees, wetlands, brushy edges, and open lawns surrounding the mansion. Norrie Park has a number of good roads, a boat basin, Dutchess Community College Environmental Museum, access to the river, and camping.

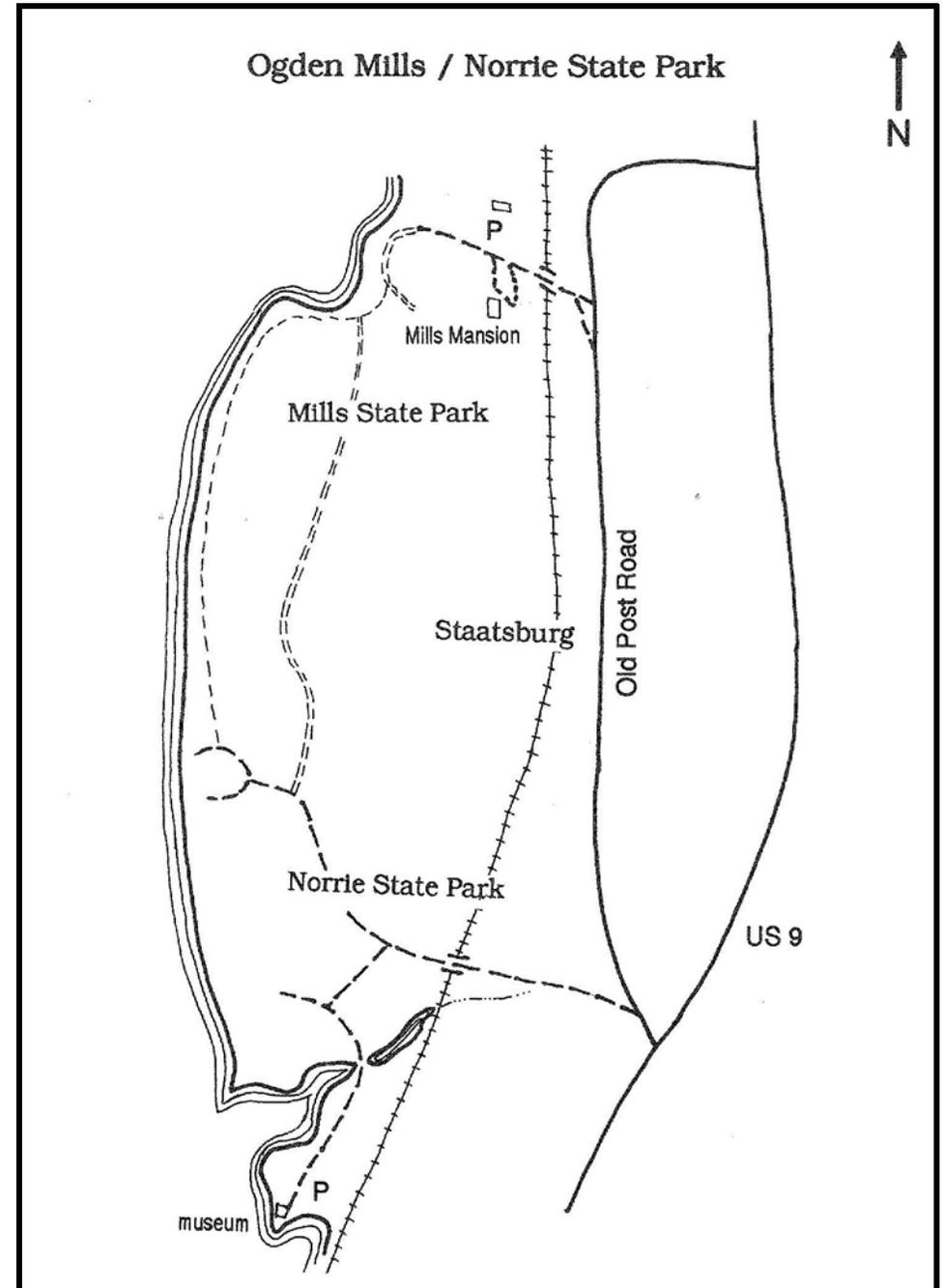
Permission to bird in these areas is not necessary. Parking is available at either area for many cars. Birding is good here all seasons but during the summer there will be more people using the area, especially on weekends. Plan on at least four hours for the three mile walk. The carriage roads are an easy walk, while the trail along the river is moderate walk.

The Mills and Norrie State Parks are in the Town of Hyde Park with Staatsburg the nearest village. Driving north from Hyde Park on US 9, you will go three miles to the entrance to Norrie State Park. The large green sign is on the left. To reach Mills State Park, continue north on Old Post Road from the Norrie Park entrance through Staatsburg. The entrance to Mills Park is just north of the village and across from the golf course. From the north, the parks are 9½ miles south of the US 9 - NY 9G intersection.

Birds you may expect to see here are ducks, gulls and swans on the river, woods birds along the trails, and sparrows in the shrubbery and on the lawns. Shorebirds are sometimes in the shallow coves along the river. Wrens and thrushes are particularly numerous here.

For more information, contact the park office, (845) 889-4646.

Area: 915 acres
Walking distance: 3 miles



ORIOLE MILLS / NORTON / YANTZ ROADS

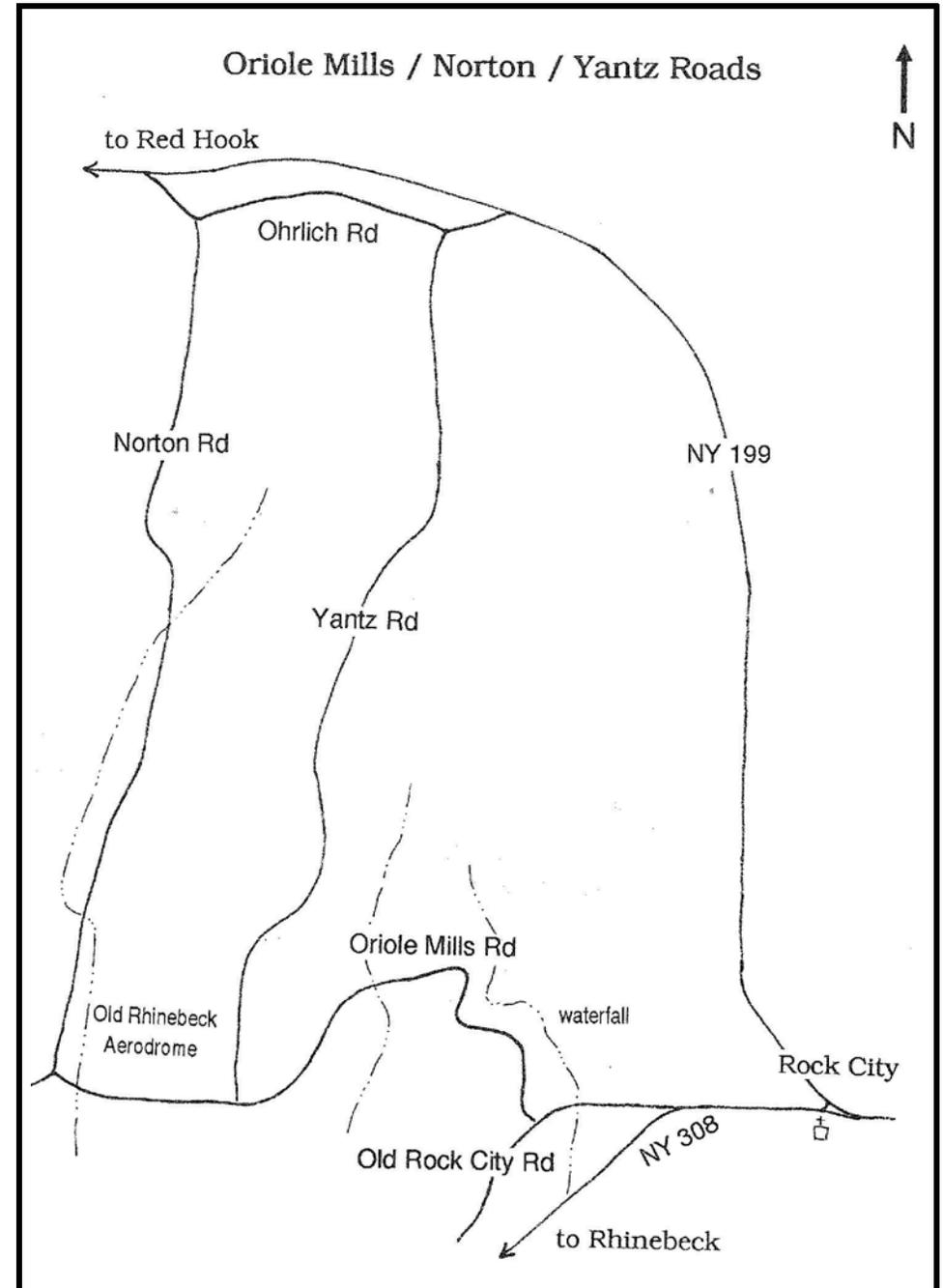
Oriole Mills, Norton, and Yantz Roads form a loop through a good variety of habitats that allows for a pleasant roadside birding trip. The roads pass by a mixture of woods (both wet and dry), open farmland, brushy areas, marshes and some scattered housing developments. This area is in the Town of Red Hook near the hamlet of Rock City.

Permission is not required as all birding is done from public roads. There are places for 1 or 2 cars for to pull off the road, but no places to park a large number of cars. The Rhinebeck Aerodrome is located at the south end of Norton Road. It has large parking areas, but permission should be obtained from the Aerodrome before parking there. The Aerodrome puts on an airshow each Sunday afternoon during the summer. It's a very nice show, but the noise and traffic it generates are not conducive to good birding. Avoid summer Sunday afternoons. Also, parts of Oriole Mills Road are unpaved and should be avoided during the spring thaw.

You will find the start of this loop by proceeding west on NY 199 from the Taconic State Parkway. At Rock City, take NY 308. Take the third right off NY 308 onto Old Rock City Road. Take the first right onto Oriole Mills Road. Follow Oriole Mills Road, birding along the way, until you come to Yantz Road on the right. Turn right onto Yantz Road and follow it until it ends. Then turn left onto Ohrlich Road and then left onto Norton Road. Norton Road brings you back to Oriole Mills Road. All along this route, stop where the habitat looks interesting and get out and walk awhile.

Birds observed along this route include Swamp Sparrow, Willow Flycatcher, orioles (of course), and Black-and-white Warbler. Spring and summer are the best times to visit.

Driving/walking distance: 5 miles



PAWLING NATURE RESERVE

of The Nature Conservancy

The Pawling Nature Reserve is approximately 80% upland forest. The remaining area is low and swampy with a hemlock-shaded gorge near the south parking area. The Appalachian Trail crosses at Hurd Corner and continues on the ridge to the west of the property and crosses Duell Hollow Road to the north. Elevation at the top of the ridge is 1055 feet. Roadside birding is the best bet unless you plan to hike the trails. The road is narrow and, in most cases, unpaved. It is bordered by hemlock woods, small streams, open areas, and lake and a few homes with spacious lawn areas. The walking is easy and there is very little traffic. It is not necessary to get permission, but you must stay off the private property. There is limited access for handicapped birders who could only use the road. A walk on the trails is moderate to strenuous.

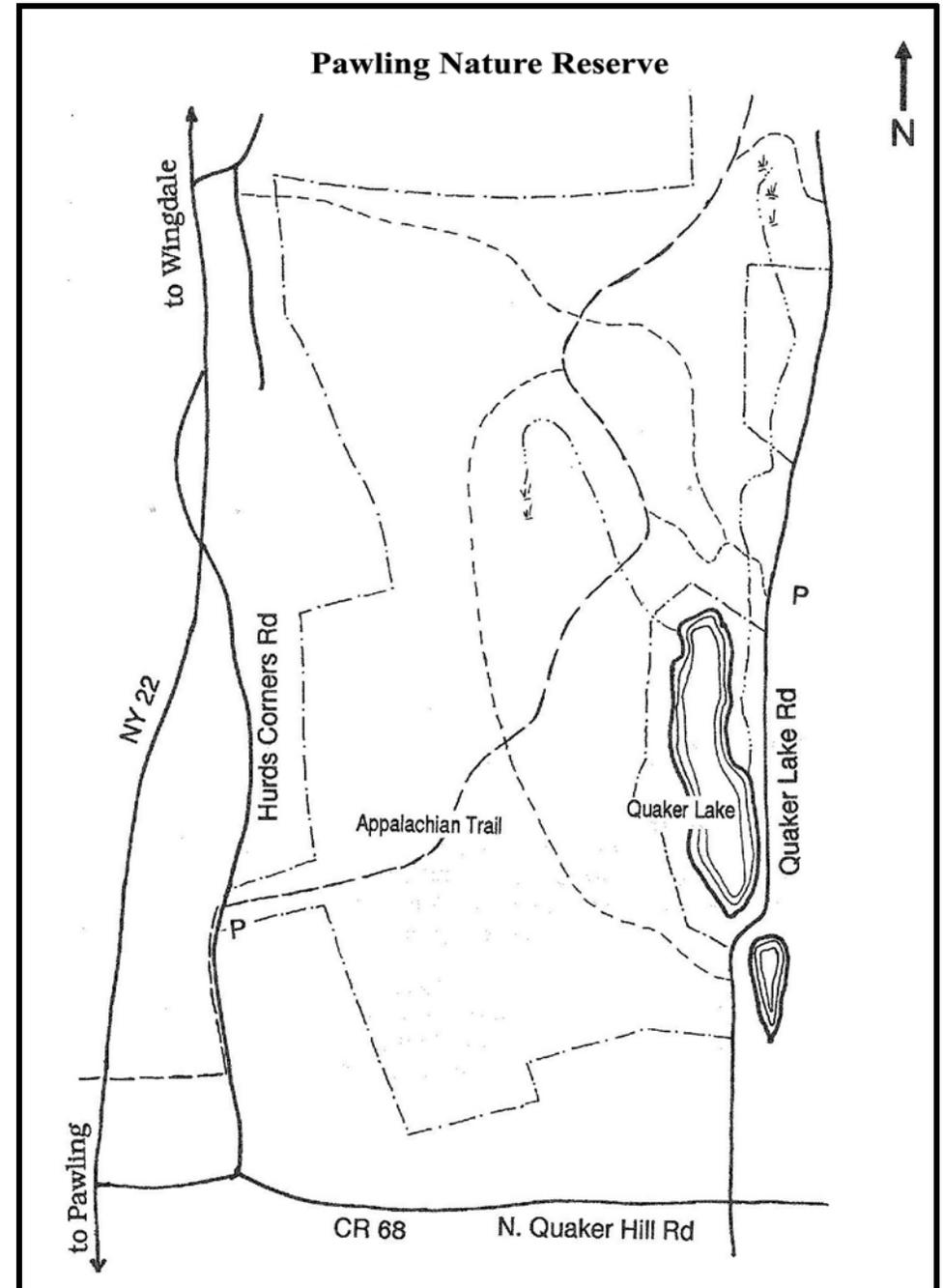
The Pawling Nature Reserve is located in the Town of Pawling on Quaker Lake / Duell Hollow Roads. Drive north on NY 22 from the village of Pawling for two miles to North Quaker Road (CR 68), turn east. In approximately 1½ miles you will come to North Quaker Road, turn north. Continue on past Quaker Lake until you come to a parking area on the west side. There are three areas where several cars may be parked (see map). Plan on 3 hours for a visit here.

For roadside birding this area can be used all year round. The road is open in the winter, however caution needs to be taken as it can be slippery. Spring and fall migration is great and summer birding, for resident breeding birds, is good. During deer hunting season there may be some hunting. Call for information if you plan to be there at that time.

This area is outstanding for warblers during migration. In winter, fox, hawks, wild turkeys and grouse may be found. Nesting birds are Hermit Thrush, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Winter Wren, Acadian Flycatcher, Brown Creeper, Canada Warbler, and Barred Owl, plus boxes for the nesting Bluebirds.

For more information about the area contact Mark Chipman, (845) 855-9155 or Sariena Masiero (845) 505-4820, also www.nature.org. For detailed maps of the area contact The Nature Conservancy, 195 New Karner Rd., Suite 201, Albany, NY 12205.

Area: 1000 acres
Walking distance: 3 miles



POND GUT

(Local name: Susie Quinn's)

Pond Gut is the south end of the Taconic-Hereford Multiple Use Area. Since it has its own access and is a unique area apart from the rest of the area, it is written up separately.

Pond Gut Road is only one-half mile long, dead ending at a turnaround parking area. There are a number of houses along this road but the birding is good all the way as it passes open areas, woods, and swamps. There is a pond at the parking area where you begin the trail. Here you may see warblers, flycatchers, and hummingbirds. Follow the trail from the parking area through the hardwood and hemlock woodlands along a small stream as far as the Tyrell property line which is well marked. Turn right along the posting sign on the old road to the site of an old beaver pond. This marshy area is now filled with dead trees and grassy hummocks. A stand of Cardinal flower can be seen here in late summer. Along the trails are patches of trailing arbutus and pink moccasin flower and the Leatherwood bush is another interesting plant found here.

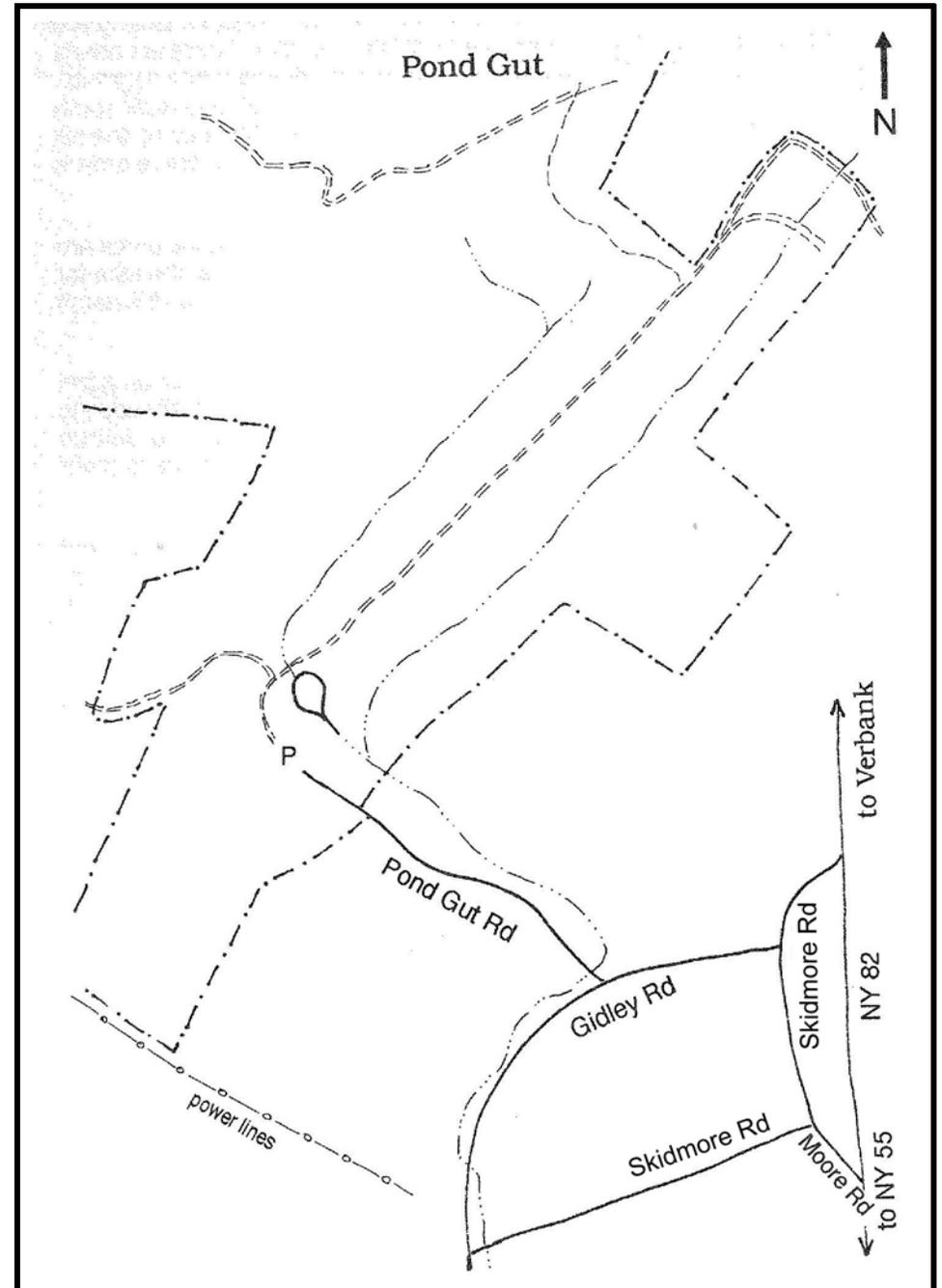
This is state-owned land and no permission is required to go there. It is available for year-round use. There is a parking area for six to eight cars at the dead end of Pond Gut Road.

A trip to Pond Gut is an easy to moderate walk as the trail is kept up by the snowmobile association. It is a little over a mile from the parking area to the marsh at the Gut. Allow two to four hours for a visit to this area. Spring is the best birding because of the warblers, flycatchers and thrushes found there. It is good birding anytime of the year but during hunting season caution must be used and in the winter snowmobiles use the trails.

Pond Gut is in the Town of LaGrange but the nearest village is Verbank in the Town of Union Vale. Drive south on NY 82 for about 5.3 miles from Millbrook. Turn right on Skidmore Rd. then right on Gidley Rd., down the hill to Pond Gut Road. It can be reached from NY 55 in Billings by going north on NY 82 for 3 miles then left on Moore Road and left on Gidley Road.

Birds you might expect to see at Pond Gut are Acadian and Willow Flycatcher, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Indigo Bunting, thrushes, owls, and warblers. The Goshawk has nested here. Broad-winged Hawks have nested to the south in previous years.

Walking distance: 2 miles



POUGHKEEPSIE RURAL CEMETERY

The Rural Cemetery is a large tract with many trees, a winding road, hill, a lake and a view of the Hudson River. The best areas for birding are at the back or west of the cemetery starting from the lake. There are nearly always ducks on this lake and during migration it attracts many migrants. About half way up the hill from the lake one can break off and walk south into the wooded area, coming out again near the lake. Continue up the hill and visit "Lover's Leap" at the top, overlooking the river. The entire area is good for birding.

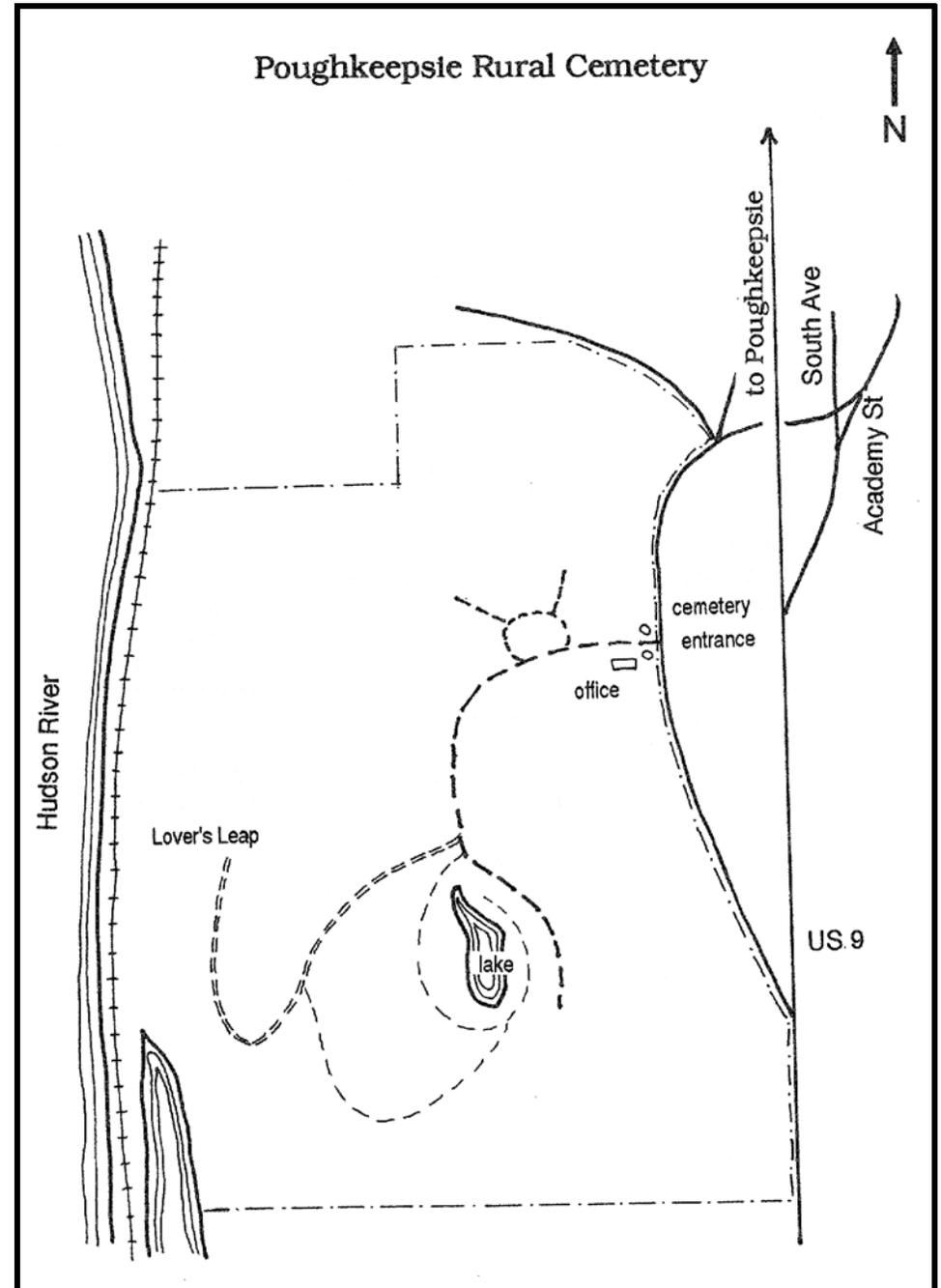
Permission is not required for birding in the cemetery and the gates are open from 8:30AM to 4:30PM every day. There is parking at the lake for several cars and areas where you may pull to the side of the road all through the cemetery.

A trip here is easy to moderate, walking on the roadways or on good trails. The hills are not particularly steep. Birding is good here in all seasons but particularly good in the spring for warblers and thrushes. It is difficult to identify ducks on the river because of the distance. Allow 2 hours to cover the area

The Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery is in the Town of Poughkeepsie and on the southern edge of the City of Poughkeepsie on Route 9. Exit from Route 9 at the Academy Street exit. Drive south to the entrance to the cemetery and keep left down the grade to the lake.

Birds you are most likely to see there are woodland and urban birds, gulls on the river, ducks on the pond, and warblers during spring and fall migrations. Worm-eating Warblers nest on the hill side.

Area: app 30 acres
Walking distance: 1 miles



REESE SANCTUARY

Reese Sanctuary is a long strip of deciduous woodland along the northern bank of the Wappingers Creek, near the mouth just upstream of the bridge at New Hamburg in the Town of Poughkeepsie. The woods are quite mature, with many stately tulips trees, red oaks, and sycamores and a number of small hemlock groves. It is managed by Putnam-Highlands Audubon Society and there is a local part-time warden. A marked trail runs east-west along the ridge above the Creek. There are several places that offer views of the Creek, especially when the leaves are down during waterfowl migration. The trail markers proceeding west are blue and those proceeding east are red. There is a side trail marked with orange near the western end of the trail. It leads to a lovely spot in a hemlock grove that overlooks a cove where Wood Ducks spend the summer.

Permission is not required for using the area. The trail is a moderate walk of over a mile. The trail moves up and down from the top of the ridge to nearly water level. Parts of the trail, especially at the eastern end, are quite steep. If there has been a recent rain, the trail may be slippery. Allow 2-3 hours for a visit. Hunting is not permitted in the area, but it is difficult to patrol.

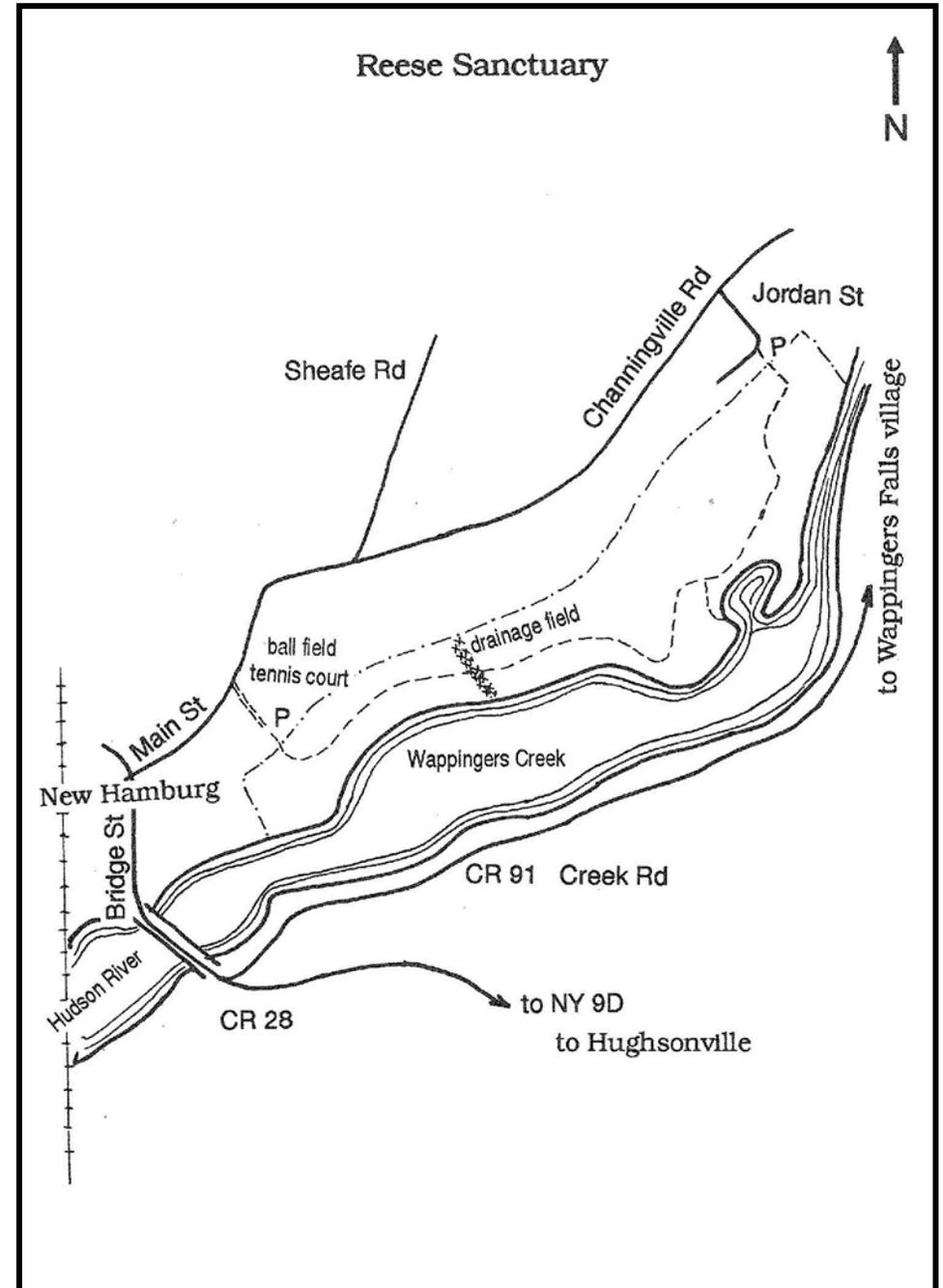
The western end of the trail can be found by crossing the Wappingers Creek on the bridge at New Hamburg. Proceed north on Bridge Street to the stop sign and turn right onto Main Street. A few hundred yards up the road is a small park on the right, with tennis courts and a ball field. The trail begins at the far end of the parking lot by the tennis court. It comes out at Jordan Street off Channingville Road. There is ample parking at the lot in the park. At the eastern end of the trail, there is parking for only 2 cars.

Birds you might expect to find are waterfowl in spring and fall migration; woodland birds during the breeding season; warblers during migration.

More information can be obtained through the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society in Cold Spring.

Area: 98 acres

Walking distance: 1+ mile



ROCKEFELLER LANE / PITCHER LANE

(Local name: Greig's Farm)

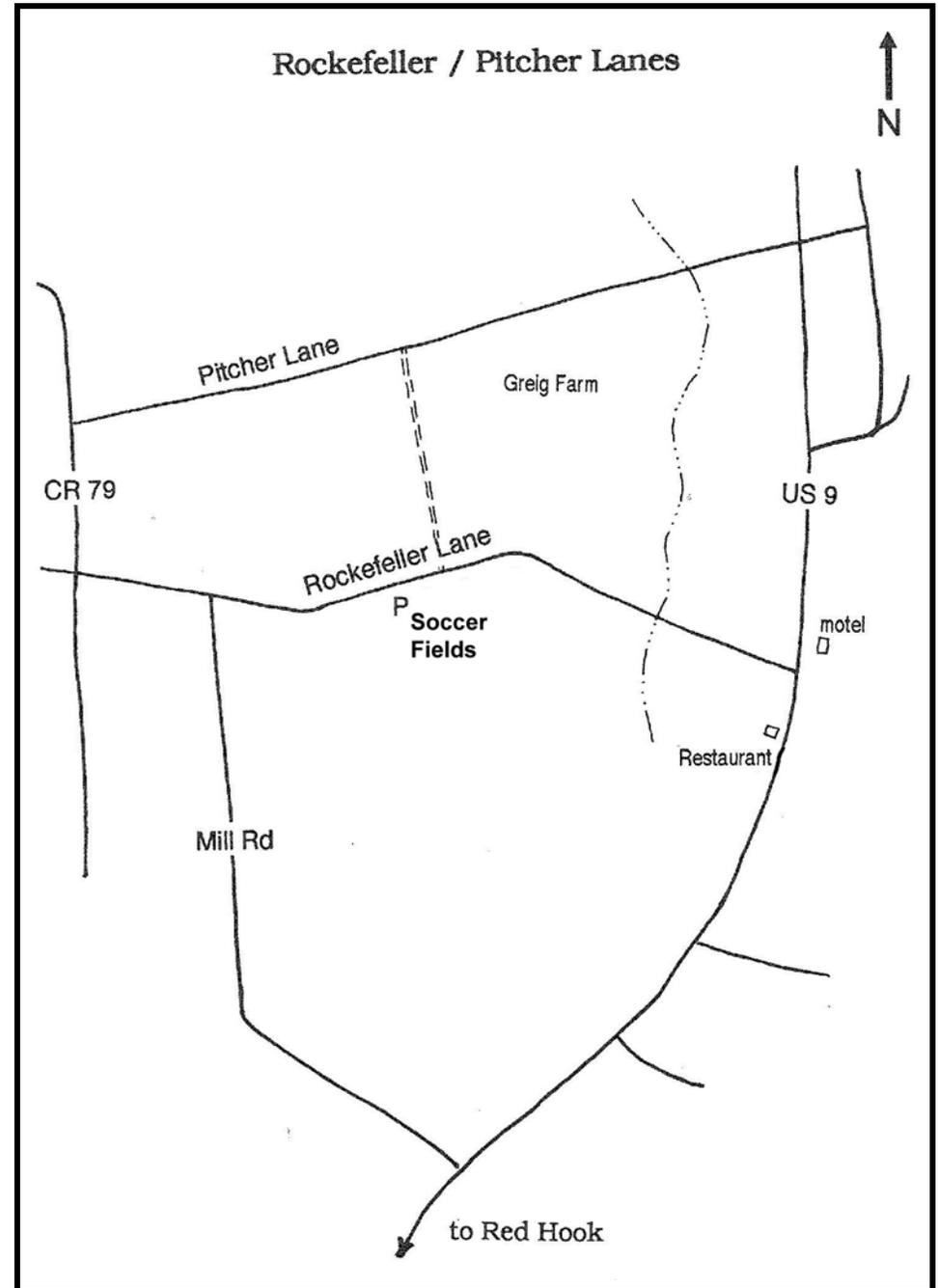
Rockefeller Lane is a road that runs through open farm land. There are vast open fields that are crop lands, strawberry fields, blueberry and raspberry fields and orchards. The land is basically flat with slightly rolling hills. In the winter these fields are windswept and often covered with snow. Here are found wintering birds. The Snow Buntings and Homed Larks and sparrows feed on weed seeds. Hawks are sometimes seen flying or hovering over the fields or perched on one of the few trees that dot the area. From Rockefeller Lane on the west turn right on CR 78 and right again on Pitcher Lane, then right on US 9 and back to Rockefeller Lane. This forms a rectangle that encompasses the Greig Farm., all in the Town of Red Hook

Permission is not needed to drive on town roads. Do NOT walking through the fields on one of the farm roads without permission. Drive slowly along the road and park well to the side as there is some traffic. Most of the birding is done from the car. There is limited parking at the soccer fields, however this should not be used when the soccer fields are in use.

To reach the Rockefeller Lane drive north of Red Hook on US 9 for about two miles. Turn left on Rockefeller Lane which is just north of a restaurant. The soccer fields are under a mile down the road on the left.

This area is best covered in the winter as farming is done in the spring and summer. Most any time of day is good. Allow plenty of time as the birds may be at the back of the fields. If you have patience they will often come to the roadside to feed. Watch for flocks of Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, Tree Sparrows and Redpolls. A few Lapland Longspurs can be found with them. In spring and early summer look for Bobolinks, Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was seen her for a few days in September 2015.

Driving / walking distance: 5 miles



SAW KILL and SOUTH BAY TRAILS

(Local name: South Bay, Bard College Field Station)

"Mills & Minnows" and "Mountains & Mansions" are the titles of the booklets describing connecting self-guided nature trails along the Saw Kill and Tivoli South Bay. The trails are on the Bard College campus. The area is deciduous woods of varying maturity with park-like habitat around the campus buildings. The south side of the Saw Kill is mature hemlock. There are good views of South Bay.

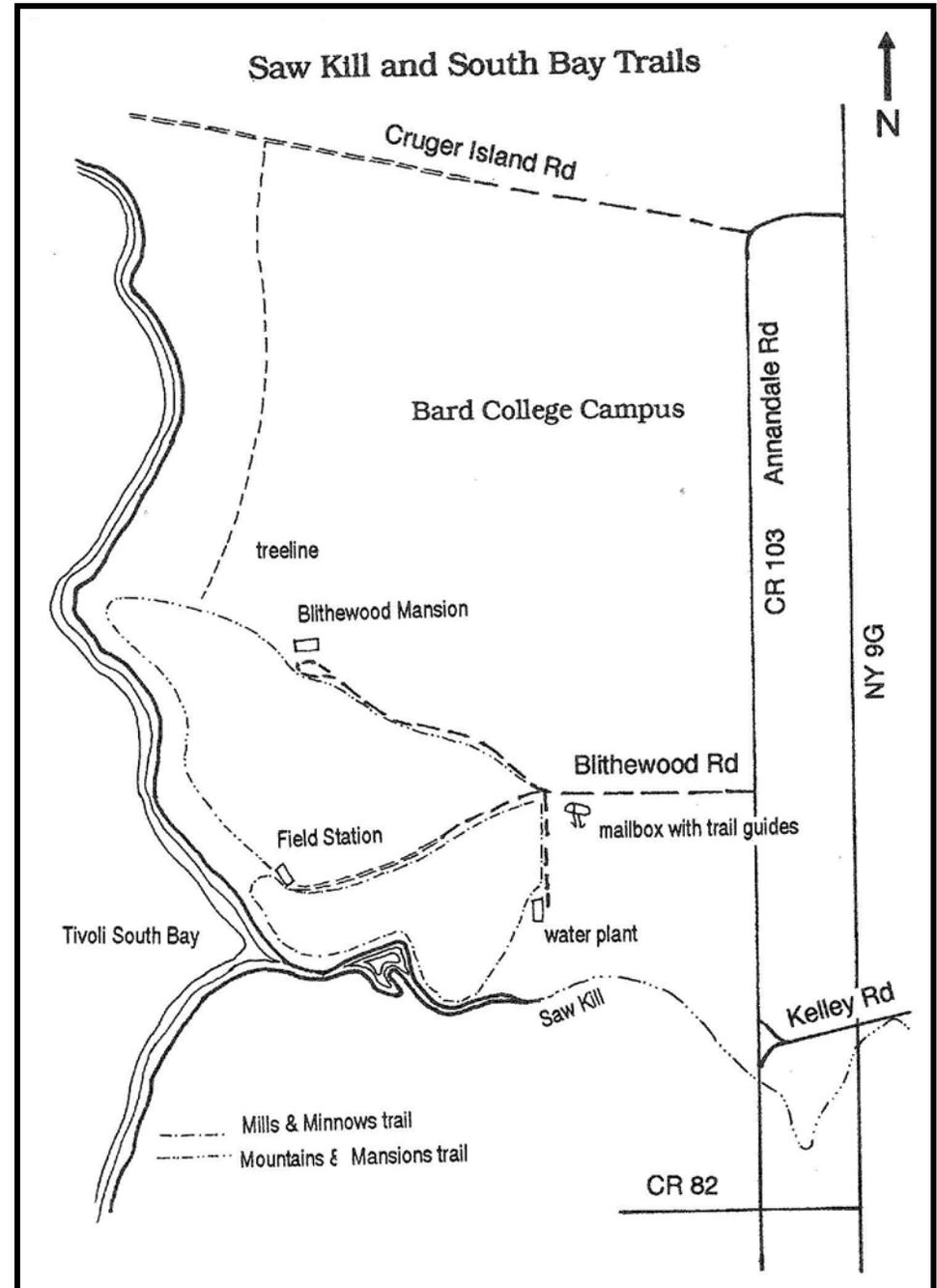
These trails are open to the public year round. Parking for about 10 cars is available along Blithewood Road near the intersection with Bay Road and on the road to the water plant. Walking is not difficult in general, although the trail becomes steep and narrow in places. Parts of the trail can be slippery after icy or wet weather, but can still be navigated with caution. Allow 2 hours to cover both trails. The combined trails cover approximately 1 mile. Bard College Field Station is at the junction of the two trails. If it is open, you are welcome to stop in and see the exhibits. Hunting is not permitted on the Bard Campus, but there is some waterfowl hunting on South Bay.

The trails lie in the Town of Red Hook. The nearest village is Annandale. Take NY 9G north past NY 199. Take the back way into Bard College by taking the first left after crossing the Saw Kill, which is Kelley Road, about 1 mile north of the flashing light at NY 199. From Kelley Road, turn right onto Annandale Road (CR 103) and then left onto Blithewood Road. At the water plant road, 300 yards down on the left, you will see a mailbox. Park near here and pick up both trail guides from the mailbox. Do refer to the trail guides during your trip. Their descriptions of the natural and human history of the area will enhance your appreciation of this unique place. If, when you come to Blithewood Mansion, you aren't ready to head back to the car yet, follow the edge of the woods northward until you find another trail. This trail takes you through the woods to Cruger Island Road.

This is a good birding area any time of the year. Look for ducks in the bay during the spring and fall waterfowl migrations, warblers in May, and summer residents like Louisiana Waterthrush. Bald Eagles can be seen along the river in winter and spring and Osprey in the spring. Allow 2-3 hours to cover the area.

For more information contact the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve office in New Paltz at (845) 256-3047. A map also covering North Bay is at www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/tivoli.pdf.

Area: South Bay - 250 acres
Walking distance: 1 mile



SKUNKS MISERY ROAD

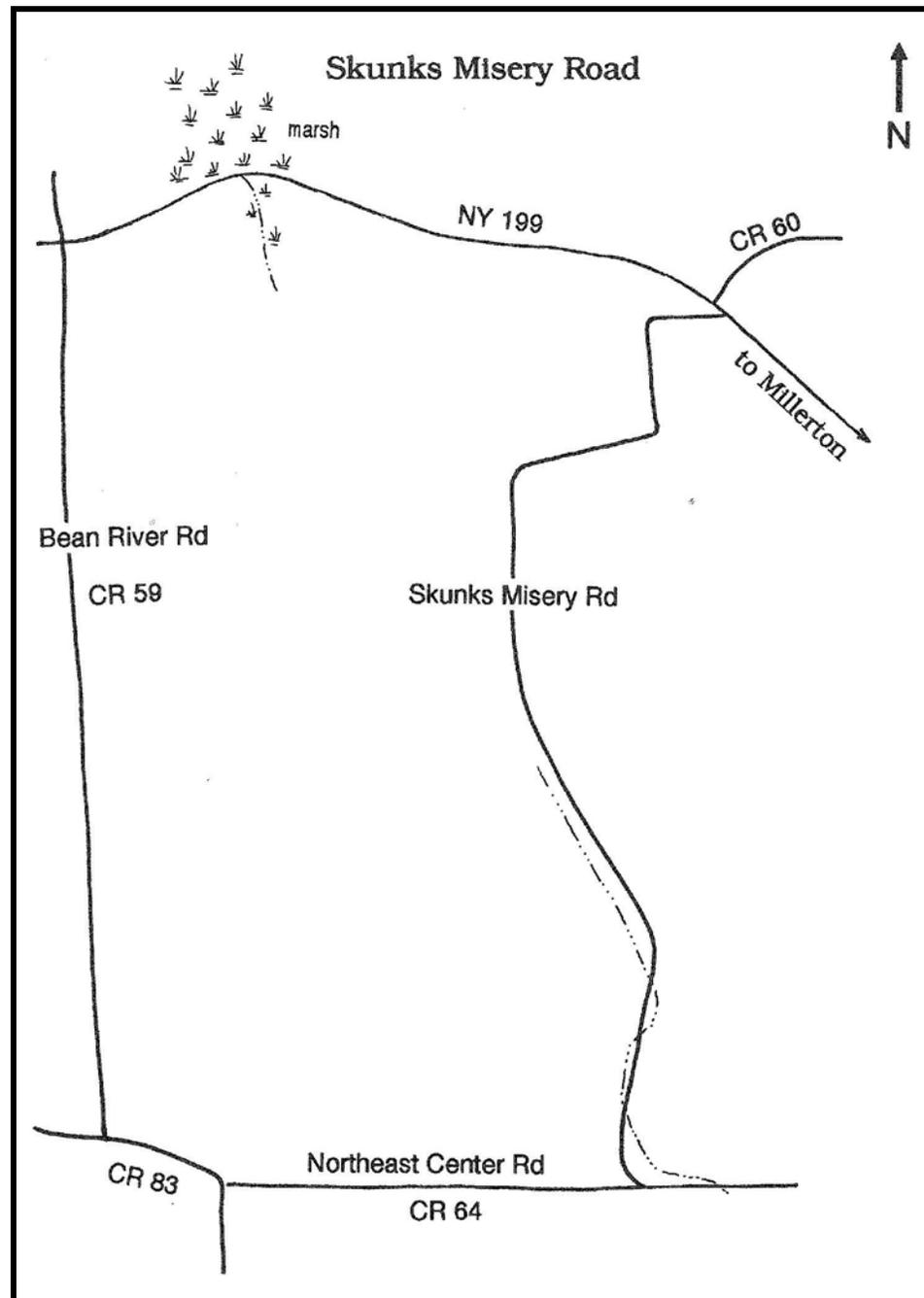
A birding trip to Skunks Misery Road should begin at a marsh along NY 199 about a mile west of the northern end of the road. The marsh is quite extensive, and can be well observed from the roadside. Skunks Misery Road is good for roadside birding as it passes through a nice variety of habitats. The northern part is open with a horse farm and a dairy farm. The southern end is deciduous woodland. There is a shrubby area with a pond along the middle part of the road.

Permission is not required as all birding is done from public roads. There is an old gravel bank across NY 199 from the marsh that can be used for parking. There are a number of places along Skunks Misery Road where 1 or 2 cars can be left so you can bird on foot. The area should not be used for birding during hunting season.

Drive east from Pine Plains on NY 199. About 1+ mile beyond the Intersection with CR 59 (Bean River Road) you will see the marsh on the left side of 199. (Or, if you approach from the east on NY 199, the marsh is about 1 mile from the Intersection with CR 60.) After spending time at the marsh, proceed east on NY 199 for about a mile. Just after CR 60 (Winchell Mountain Road) intersects on the left, turn right onto Skunks Misery Road. Leave the car here and there along the road and walk. The road is about 3 miles long. Allow 2-4 hours to spend at the marsh and along the road.

Great Blue Herons, Swamp Sparrows, and Willow Flycatchers have been observed at the marsh. Observations along Skunks Misery Road include Kestrels, Indigo Buntings, grouse, sparrows and warblers. Spring and summer are the best times to visit.

Driving / walking distance: 4 miles



SOUTH QUAKER HILL / TOWER HILL ROADS

This Tower Hill Road is in the Town of Pawling, not to be confused with the Tower Hill Road in the Town of Washington.

These good birding roads go from NY 22 to the Connecticut state line in the southeast corner of the town of Pawling. This area is at a high elevation with horse farms and mixed mature woods with fine Mountain Laurel. A state regulated swamp has scattered shrubs and woods. The roadside birding is good and the walking is easy.

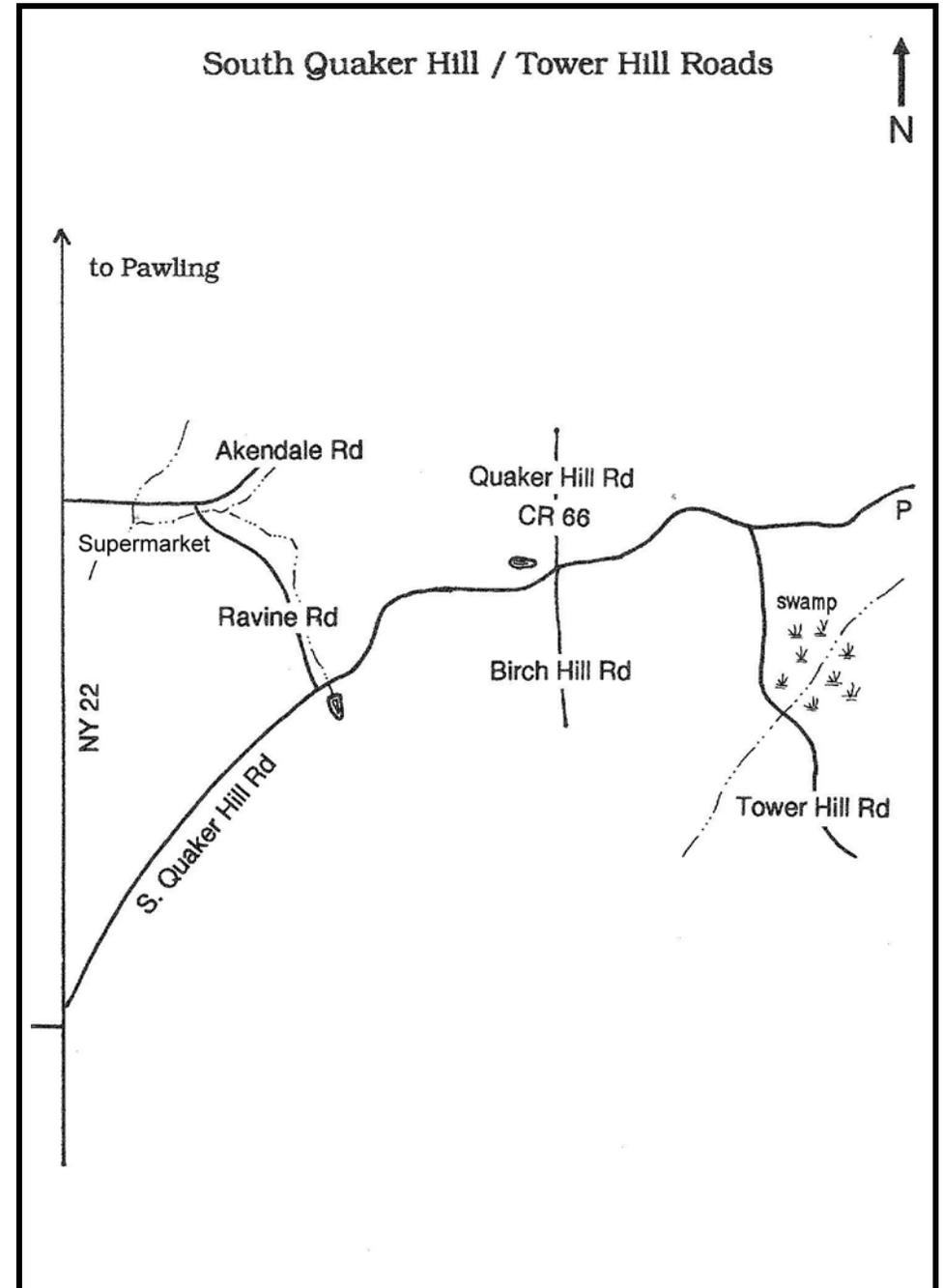
It is not necessary to obtain permission as birding is along the roadside. Parking is along the roadside and off-road at the CT / NY state line. There may be limited space.

The best time of year is spring and fall. Bird on week days to avoid weekend traffic. The best time of day is early morning.

Proceed south on NY 22 from Pawling. At the traffic light turn left between the M&T Bank and the Hannaford Supermarket onto Akendale Road. Take the first right onto Ravine Road, which passes through a hemlock covered ravine. At the end of Ravine Road, turn left onto South Quaker Hill Road. Follow this road, through an unpaved section, until you come to the Connecticut state line where there is a small area to park. Walk the unpaved section of S Quaker Hill Road back to Tower Hill Road. Go down Tower Hill Road until you come to a brushy swamp on both sides of the road. Allow 3 hours to cover this area.

Shorebirds can be found at farm ponds, also at the farms are Bluebirds, Orchard Oriole, Bobolink, Savannah Sparrows and hawks. Swamps and woods will turn up Canada Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, Barred Owl, Blue-headed Vireo, and Broad-winged Hawk. At Tower Hill Road you may find Northern Waterthrush. In the winter watch for Saw-whet and Long-eared Owls. Good warblers in migration.

Driving / walking distance: 3 miles



STISSING MOUNTAIN MULTIPLE USE AREA

(Local name: Hicks Hill State Land)

The Stissing Mountain state land is a wooded hilly area to the west of Stissing Mountain. The trees are mostly deciduous and many are very large. Some conifer plantations have been set out by the State Forestry Division. Much of the low lying areas are swampy and a small stream runs to the south. There has been some clearing here for habitat management. Hunting is allowed during open season. Walking is on cross-country ski trails, most of which are old woods roads.

Permission to bird in this area is not necessary. There are two parking areas depending on which trail you take. On Hicks Hill Road where you see the large wooden Multiple Use Area sign there is space for four cars. The entrance to the trail is through the parking area. The second area is north of this one-half mile where you will see a round State Forest sign on the telephone pole. Drive down this narrow dirt road to the parking area. There is room here for eight to ten cars.

This is a moderate trip and the trails are good. Some areas are rather wet especially in spring. Birding is best here in the spring and fall, although not during hunting season. Allow 3 hours to cover the area.

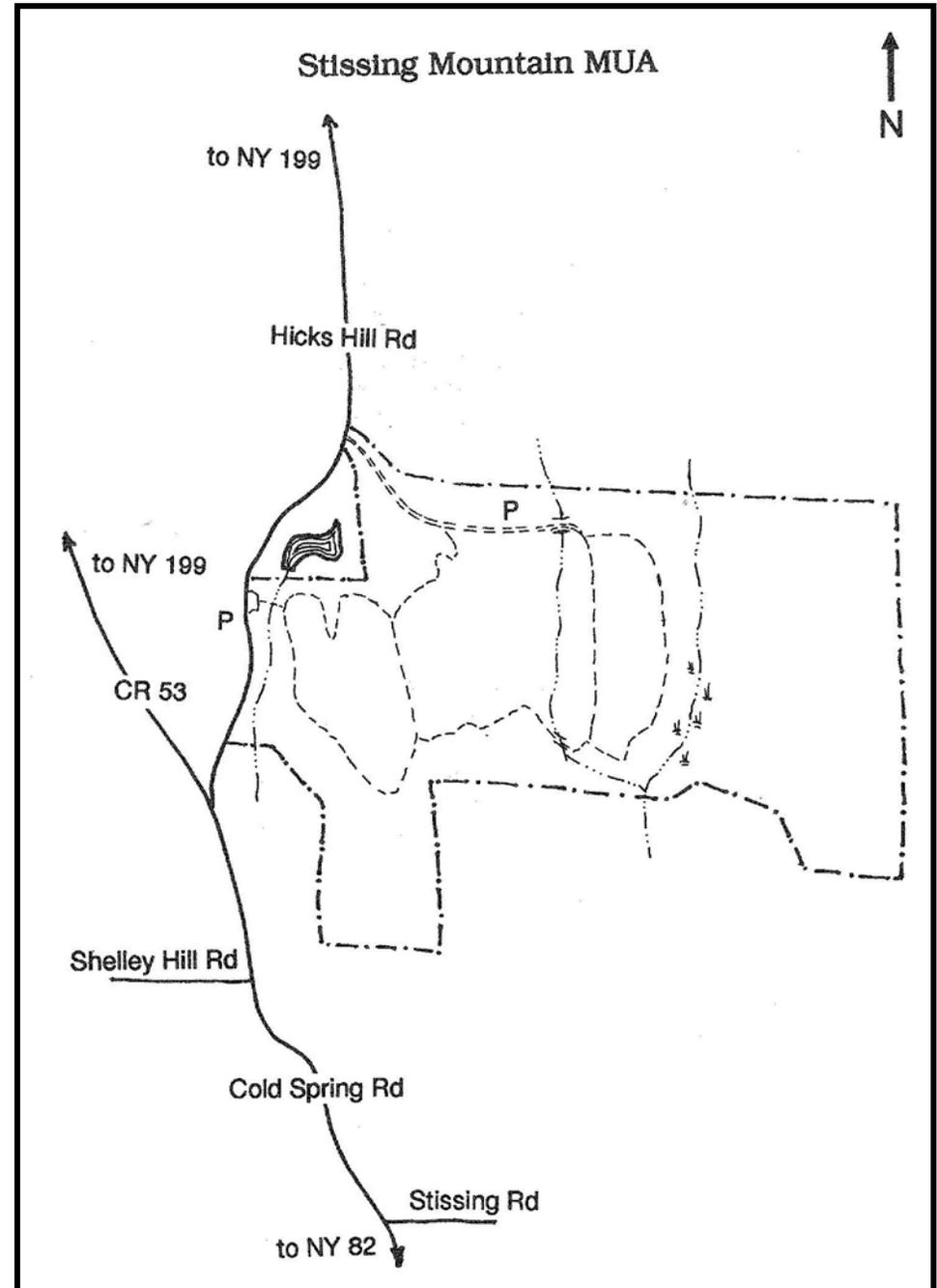
Stissing Mountain Multiple Use Area is in the Town of Pine Plains. Pine Plains is also the nearest village. Drive west on NY 199 to Hicks Hill Road on your left. The Multiple Use Area is 3½ miles south of NY 199.

Birds you might expect to see there are warblers, vireos, nuthatches, and kinglets. Thrushes and flycatchers are easily found. Hawks nest in this area and owls can be found. Pheasant, Grouse, and Turkeys are also numerous.

For information contact the DEC Forestry Department, (845) 256-3078.

Area: 450 acres

Walking distance: 3 miles



STONY KILL FARM ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

The Stony Kill Farm is characterized as having a gently rolling landscape. It was once a productive farm of the Verplank family and was deeded to the State by the heirs for agricultural education. The Department of Environmental Conservation is now managing the Center. Much of the area is cultivated fields framed by hedgerows and woodlots. There are small brooks, a large swamp area, and man-made ponds. The highest point on the education center is located in the west-central part of the property and is 320 feet elevation. Most of the woodlands have oaks, hickory, maple and ash and there is also a conifer plantation. An extensive trail system has been designed to include access to all aspects of this habitat. Maps of the walking trails are located at kiosks near the parking lots and trail heads.

Permission is required for groups wishing to visit there, but not for individuals. There is no admission charged. Parking is available for ten or more cars at the Manor House near the north entrance. Another parking area is located at the south entrance.

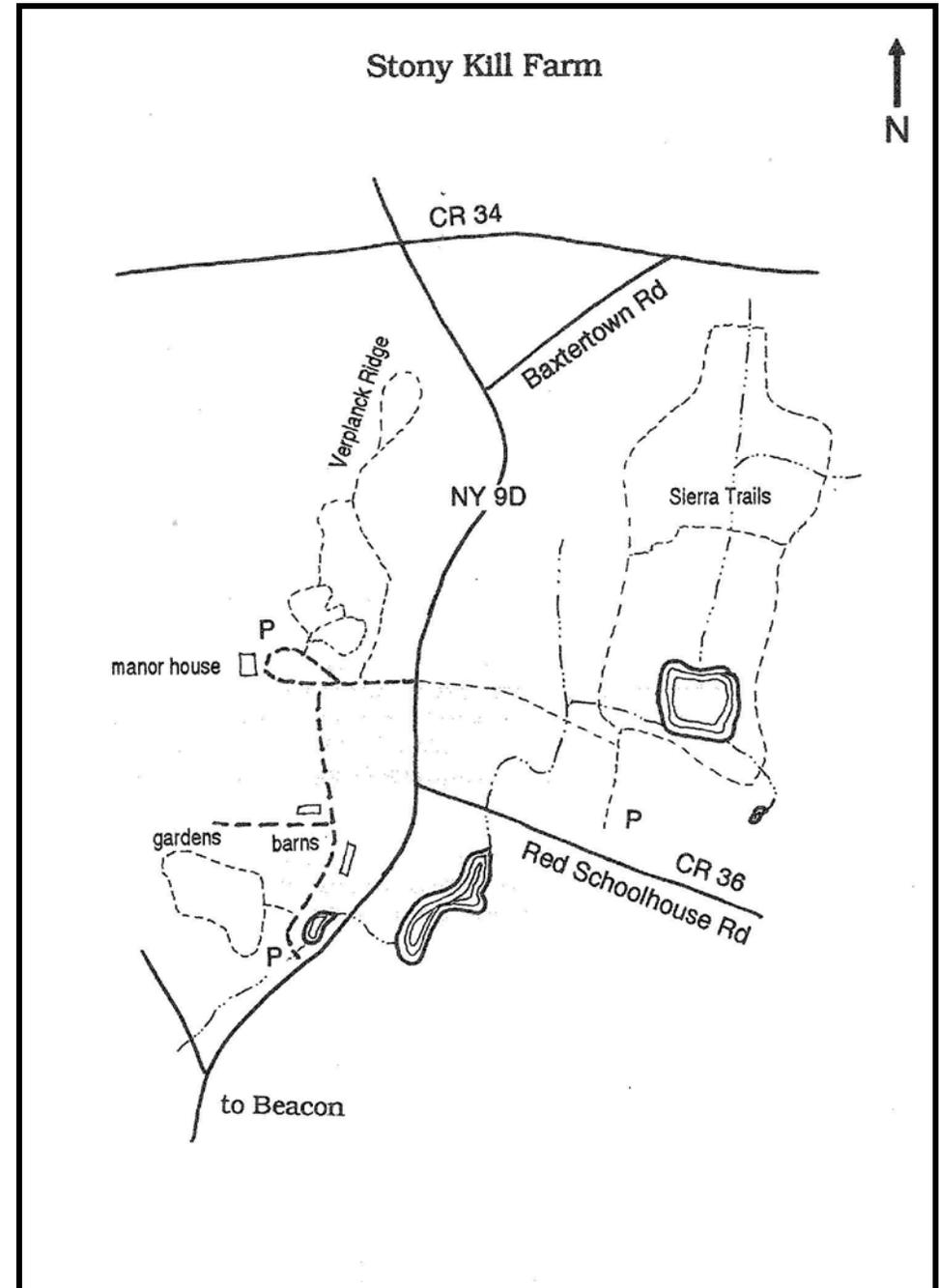
This is an easy trip with good trails and old farm roads. To cover the areas set aside for nature education would require two to three hours. Further exploration of the natural areas could take an hour or two longer. Spring and late fall are the best times to visit this area.

The Education Center is located in the Towns of Wappinger and Fishkill. It is near the hamlet of Chelsea. To reach Stony Kill use NY 9D between Wappingers Falls and Beacon. The entrance is two miles north of Beacon and three and one-half miles south of Wappingers Falls.

The birds you can expect to see here are ducks and geese in winter, grouse, pheasants, hawks, woodpeckers, meadowlarks, and sparrows. The community gardens, located near the barns, are a good place to look for sparrows in the fall. There are Bluebirds nesting in boxes throughout the farm.

For information call (845) 831-3800 to leave a message and receive a call back within a few days, or visit www.stonykill.org.

Area: 756 acres
Walking distance: 3 miles



SYLVAN LAKE / CLOVE ROAD

(including Abel's, Christie, and Red Wing Ponds)

This is a driving trip with many stops along the way. It runs through beautiful open country, past swamps, spruce plantings, and wooded areas. Starting on NY 82 turn southeast on to Sylvan Lake Road (CR 10) and drive to the lake, originally a quarry. The road can be busy and parking on the shoulder is discouraged, however there is a boat ramp where you may safely pull off but do not wander as fishermen launch their boats here. Sylvan Lake is excellent for seeing Ruddy Ducks in numbers, and occasionally Scoters are seen.

Continue east to Beekman Rd. (CR 9), turn left, then right on Green Haven Rd. (CR 8). After about ½ mile opposite the first road on the left, pull off the road on the right to view Red Wing Lake, and more ducks. Return to CR 9, turn right and cross NY 55 and continue north on this road through the Clove Valley, stopping wherever birds are seen.

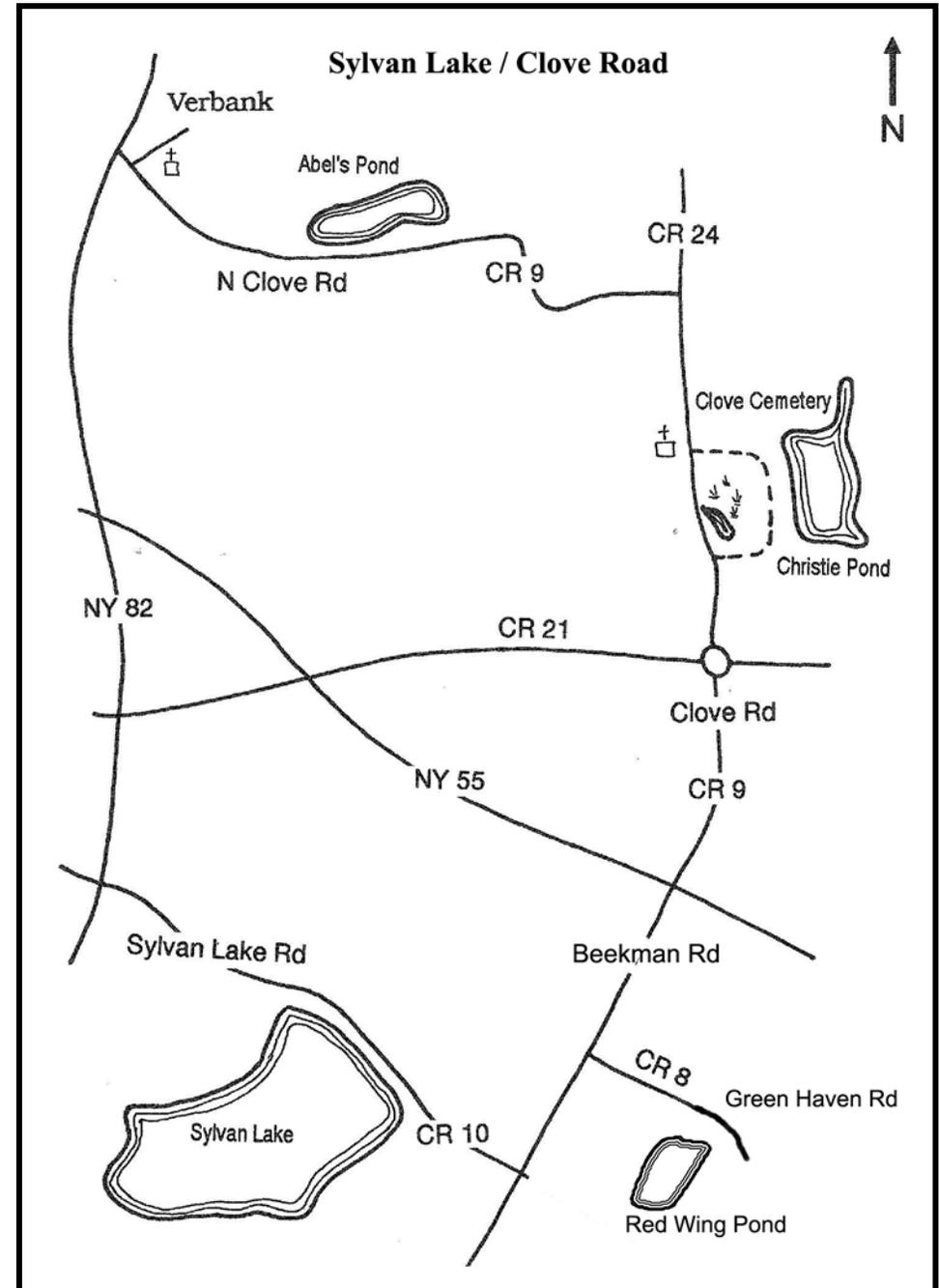
Look for Clove Cemetery on the right. Go through the white gate at the Cemetery and follow the drive until you see Christie Pond. Christie Pond is a duck breeding pond for the Clove Valley Rod & Gun Club. One section is fenced off and here Mallards are raised for the Club. The pond is shallow, surrounded by open fields, woods, and swamp. It is fed by small streams which flow through the cemetery into Clove Creek. In addition to the Mallards, you may see Black Ducks, Redheads, Wigeon, scaup, teal, mergansers, grebes, Coots, herons, and geese. The cedars and pines are good places to see smaller birds. This pond is on private property but can be observed from the cemetery where the gate is always open. It would be well not to block the road but park in the space by the bridge or pull to one side. Three or four cars can easily be parked here.

Continue north on Clove Road (CR 9) and turn left following CR 9. In about two miles you will come to a man-made lake on the right called Lake Vincent or Able's Pond. This was created from a large swamp a number of years ago. Carefully stop and look over the area. Loon, Brant and Canada Geese, Grebes, and many ducks have been seen there. Ring-necked Ducks are regulars during migration. Tree and Bank Swallows fly over the water and the Kingfisher is usually there.

These are paved well-traveled county roads and you must observe traffic rules, parking well off the road at each stop. The route is in the Towns of Union Vale and Beekman. Allow two to three hours to cover the entire area.

Spring and Fall are the best times for this trip, but it can be interesting all through the year. Waterbirds on the lakes are most plentiful in early spring or late fall into the winter if the lakes do not freeze early.

Driving distance: 20 miles



TACONIC-HEREFORD MULTIPLE USE AREA

(Local name: Taconic-Hereford State Land)

This area consists principally of second growth timber, abandoned orchards, meager wetlands, intermittent streams and some minor escarpments. Old foundations and rock walls mark that farms once operated here. Timber cutting is carried on by the State Forestry Department and hunting is allowed during the regular seasons.

The Taconic-Hereford State Land is open to the public and permission is not needed unless you wish to take a vehicle into the area. In that case, contact the DEC Forester at the number below. Adequate parking for ten to twelve cars is located at each entrance.

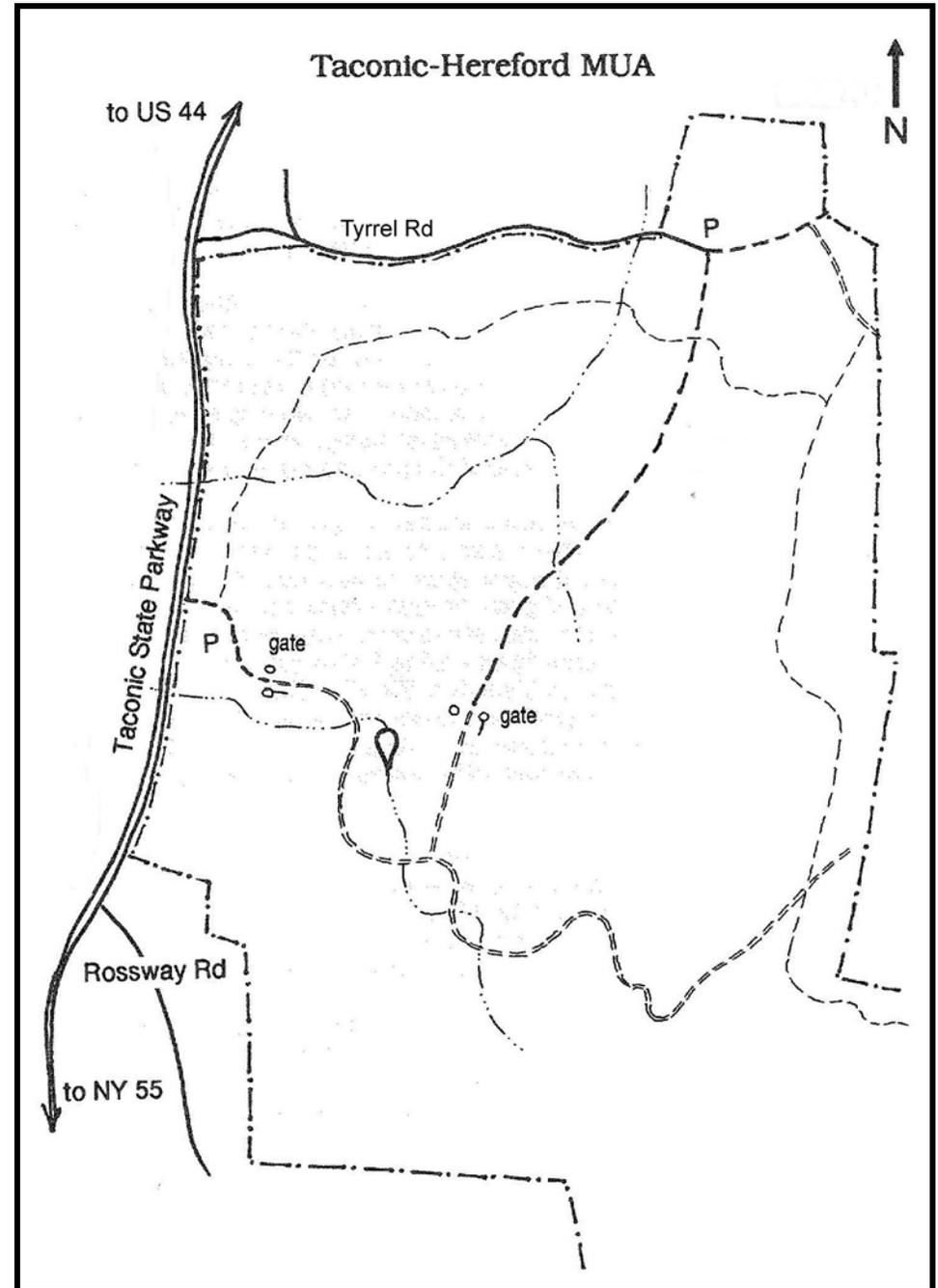
This is an easy area for birding as there are wide well maintained trails and old farm roads. These follow gentle grades with no steep climbs. Allow two to four hours for a trip here as the trails generally make a circle, bringing you back to the entrance. May through October is the best time for birding although the area is open all year. Hunting in the late fall and snowmobiling and ski-touring in the winter make this part of the year less attractive for birders.

The Taconic-Hereford Area is located in the towns of Pleasant Valley and Lagrange. The nearest village is Freedom Plains. To reach the western access, drive north on the Taconic Parkway from NY 55, Freedom Plains. Turn right on the first road north of Rossway Road. There is a large wooden sign identifying the area but it is hard to see from the Taconic Parkway. Another entrance is located off of Tyrrel Road which is the second exit road north of Rossway Road. Follow Tyrrel Road for 0.6 miles to a large DEC sign for the Taconic-Hereford Area where there is a parking area.

The birds you might expect to find here are warblers and thrushes in spring, flycatchers, nuthatches, and kinglets. Goshawks and Broad-winged Hawks nest in this area. Barred and Great-homed Owls are also seen there.

For more information, contact the Department of Environmental Conservation Forester at (845) 256-3078. Their web site also has a map at www.dec.ny.gov/lands/96658.html

Area: 909 acres
Walking distance: 2 miles



TACONIC STATE PARK

(Local name: Rudd Pond)

Rudd Pond is the principal area of the Taconic State Park in Dutchess County of interest to birders. The Park itself extends north into Columbia County and is bordered on the east by Connecticut. Rudd Pond is approximately a mile long and a half mile wide. The county road is on the west side of the pond and the park road is on the east side. The woodland area of the park is mainly conifer near the pond and deciduous on the hills to the east. North of Rudd Pond the Park extends toward Boston Comers and is open fields and marches with some woodlands.

An admission fee is charged for use of the Park facilities during the summer months. Camping, picnicking, boating, hiking and fishing are activities allowed there. Permission is not required for using the area the remainder of the year. There are adequate parking areas to the east of the pond. Avoid the peak of the camping season. The camping season is from May 10 to October 31, but on weekdays during school, there are few campers. Deer hunting is permitted in the area during deer season.

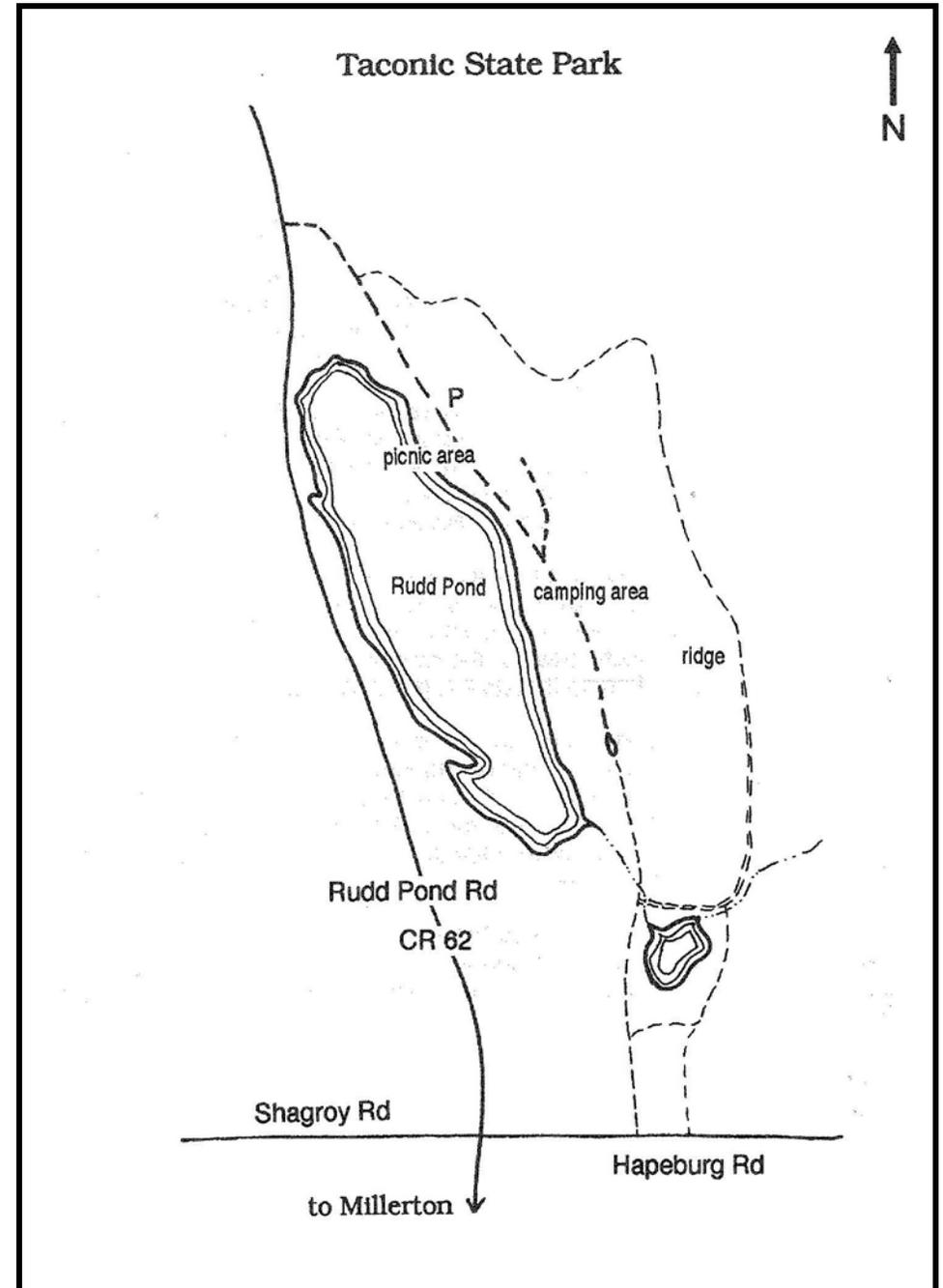
Birding can be good in the picnic and camping areas, when there aren't too many people around. There is an interesting trail that is not officially maintained but is well used. It begins at the turnaround at the southern end of the camping area. The trail goes through woods and then wet, brushy areas. Proceed east along the near shore of the small pond (It's an old ore pit.) You will come to a woods road - follow it through a hemlock ravine. You could also explore the area south of the ore pond. It's a more open habitat. Walking the park roads would be an easy walk, while the trails are more strenuous. Allow three hours for a trip through the park. During the late fall and early spring when waterfowl are migrating, it is easy to spend that long just at the pond.

The Dutchess County section of the Taconic State Park is in the Town of Northeast. The nearest village is Millerton. Take US 44 east into Millerton and turn left onto CR 62 (Maple Avenue and later Rudd Pond Road.) Approximately 2 miles north on CR 62 you will see the pond on your right. The Park entrance is north of the pond and is well marked.

Birds you may expect to find there are waterfowl in spring and fall; warblers in spring and fall; kinglets, creepers and finches in winter. The outlet to the pond stays open after the pond freezes in winter and mallards are frequently found there during the Christmas Census.

For more information contact Taconic State Park, Copake Falls, NY 12517, (518) 329-3993.

Area: 1250 acres in Dutchess County
Walking distance: 3 miles



TAMARACK LAKE and SWAMP

(Local name: Bontecou Lake)

This is a private area, permission is required to enter.

Tamarack Lake is a man-made impoundment covering a large Tamarack swamp, thus the name. The lake still has some standing dead trees and many stumps. Swallows, Kingfishers, Starlings and even Bluebirds nest in cavities in these trees. Pasturelands surround most of the lake. A heronry is located in the eastern part of the lake and can be seen from the road with a scope. Do not disturb or even approach the heron nests. Canada Geese use the lake all year, several hundred in summer and winter and thousands during migration. Across the road west of the lake is a swamp and woodland. A small stream drains the flows from the swamp. The Great-horned Owl, Red-tailed Hawk and Wood Ducks nest in these woods. A corn field at the western edge of the swamp yields Homed Larks, pipits and many sparrows.

Tamarack Lake and Swamp is part of Rally Farm, owned by Jesse Bontecou. Cars with the Waterman Bird Club sticker are welcome at all times. Others can make arrangements for access by phoning (845) 868-1975 or (845) 677-8211. Cars must park along the roadside.

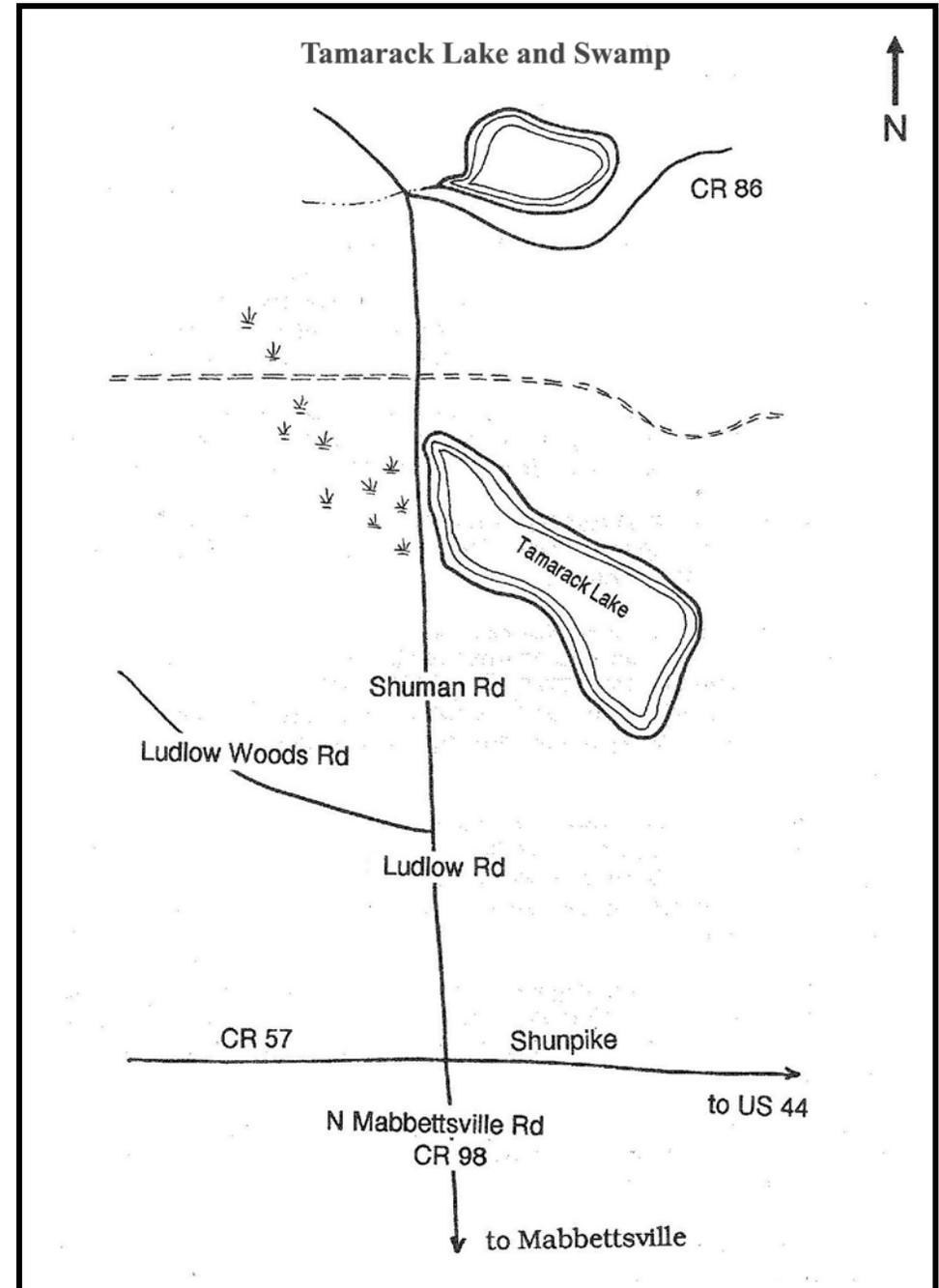
This is an easy trip as the old farm roads and trails are well kept. Where gates are encountered, they must be closed as cattle are kept in the pastures. Two hours would be a minimum time to spend here and four to six hours is needed if both sides of the road are covered. Spring and fall are the best times for birding though it is good all year.

Tamarack Lake and Swamp is located in the Town of Stanford. To reach the area from US 44 east of Millbrook, turn north on Mabbettsville Road in the hamlet of Mabbettsville. Cross the Shunpike and proceed north on Ludlow Road which then becomes Shuman Road to the lake, a distance of half a mile. Access is also available from NY 82. Take the Shunpike east until you reach Ludlow Road, approximately five miles, then proceed north to the lake.

Birds you might expect to see there are waterfowl in spring and fall; warblers and thrushes in spring; sparrows all year. Both the Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes are here in the spring and the Louisiana nests here.

Area: app. 300 acres (130 acre lake)

Walking distance: 2 miles



TAMARACK PRESERVE

(Local name: Turkey Hollow)

This is a private area, permission is required to enter.

Tamarack Preserve is the route of the old Turkey Hollow Road that connected US 44 with Deep Hollow Road and NY 22 to the southeast. It follows the Wassaic Creek through some of the most beautiful country in Dutchess County. There are wooded glens with rushing water, quiet pools, hemlock ravines, rocky ledges with water dripping from them, and mixed hardwood forest. A small lake is hidden in the woods and is an inviting place to stop for lunch.

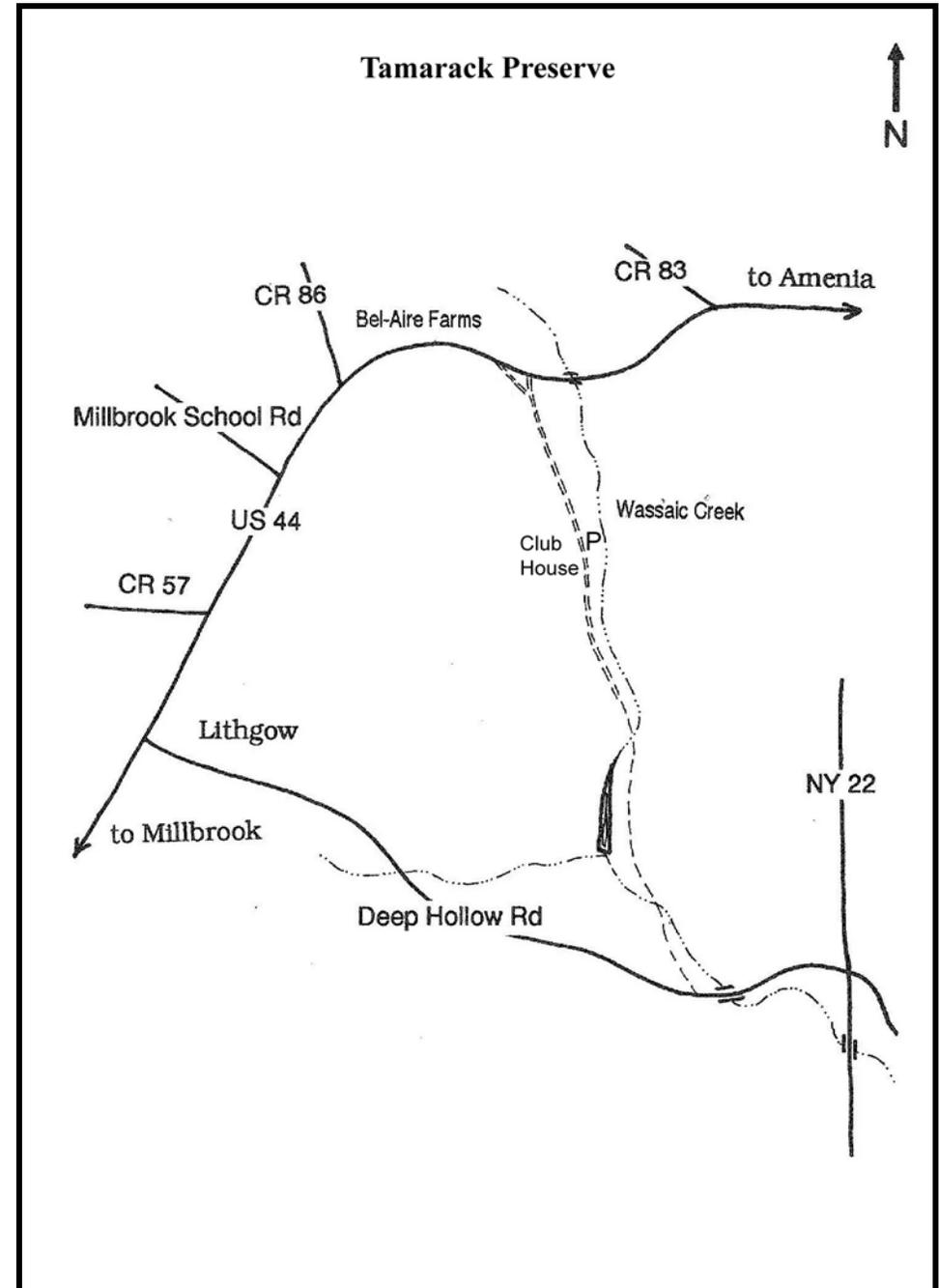
This area is a privately owned sports club and permission is required, which is generally given for birding groups. Always stay on the trail which is easy as the trail is an old road and the grade is very gentle. At least half a day is necessary for this trip. It is possible to walk all the way to Deep Hollow Road but the small lake is a good halfway point from which to return for a shorter walk.

Tamarack Preserve is in the Town of Amenia and the nearest village is Amenia. Drive three miles west on US 44 from Amenia to the road / driveway on the south side. To reach the area from Millbrook, drive east on US 44 for about seven miles to the entrance. Drive about one mile down the dirt entrance road to the parking area at the club house buildings. Park and walk down Turkey Hollow Road, do not drive beyond the club house area.

The Preserve is best birded in late Spring and Summer, Fall should be avoided due to hunting. Birds you might expect to see there are as varied as the habitat. Hawks, owls, grouse, flycatchers, thrushes, and vireos are usually seen. The Indigo Bunting and many warblers nest here. The Winter Wren is often heard along the stream in the hemlock ravines.

For more information and permission to enter, call (845) 373-7084.

Walking distance: 2 miles



THOMPSON POND PRESERVE

of The Nature Conservancy

The Thompson Pond Preserve offers woodlands, wetlands, and open water at an elevation of 452 feet. One hundred sixty-two species of birds have been recorded here. On either side of the causeway east of the entrance there are dense stands of cattails and other water plants. Rails are frequently found here. Four miles of trails provide easy walking. The main trail circles the 44-acre Pond, taking one through the wooded area to the open fields to the south end where there is a boardwalk over the headwaters of the Wappingers Creek. On the east side of the Pond the Preserve is bordered by farmland where Meadowlarks, Killdeer and blackbirds call. To the west of the Pond Stissing Mountain rises to an elevation of 1403 feet. There is a steep trail to the tower at the top of the mountain which provides a spectacular view of the area. The trail begins about two-tenths of a mile north of the entrance to the Preserve. The woodlands of the Preserve are made-up principally of birch, juniper, oaks, sugar maple, white ash, pine, hemlock, aspen, and hickory, with old apple trees remaining from the time it was farmland. Spring flowers are excellent here also.

Permission is not necessary to visit this area and there is no charge. Thompson Pond is open all year. Parking for approximately ten cars is along the road at the entrance.

This is an easy trip over well kept and well marked trails. During the early spring the low areas can be wet even though boardwalks have been provided in some places. The trip around the lake takes approximately three hours. A walk just through the wooded area west of the lake can take an hour or more. Spring and fall are the best seasons to visit Thompson Pond.

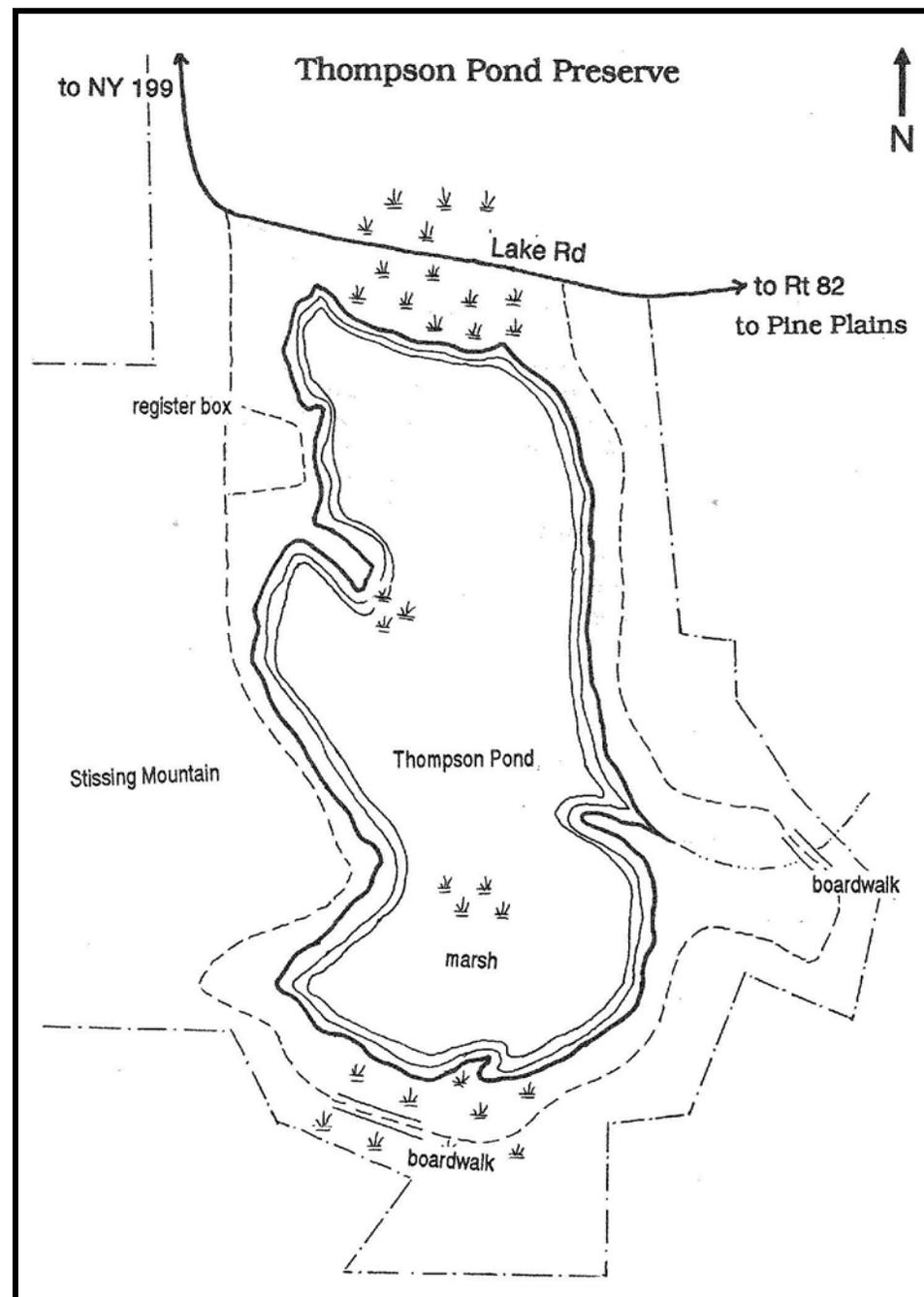
Thompson Pond Preserve lies in the Town of Pine Plains which is the nearest village. Access from NY 82 is recommended. Turn west at the firehouse on Lake Road in Pine Plains. Drive approximately one and one-half miles across the causeway to the main entrance at the foot of Stissing Mountain.

Some of the birds you might expect to see here are warblers in spring and fall, ducks during migration, Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, rails, Barred Owl, Winter Wren, Swamp Sparrow, and woodpeckers. A Golden Eagle is often seen over the mountain in winter. Stissing Lake and Mud Pond to the north are also good for waterfowl and eagles. Mud Pond has a Great Blue Heron rookery.

For more information, contact Thompson Pond Preserve, Lake Rd., Pine Plains, NY 12567, (518) 690-7850.

Area: 400+ acres

Walking distance: 3 - 4 miles



TIVOLI BAYS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

(Local name: Ward Manor)

Tivoli Bays Wildlife Management Area is owned and managed by the state as part of the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve. The WMA includes Cruger Island, North Bay and a large tract of adjacent upland. This section describes a trip through the upland area to the edge of North Bay. See the Cruger Island and the Saw Kill and South Bay Trails write-ups for trips to other parts of the WMA. The uplands were formerly a large estate and nursing home, called Ward Manor. The land has open and brushy areas, areas reverting to woods, and deciduous woods - a good variety of habitat. North Bay, on the east bank of the Hudson River, is a freshwater tidal marsh dominated by cattails.

Permission is not needed to visit this area. There is a good packed-gravel road that goes from Kidd Lane and forks to a canoe launch on North Bay and to Ward Manor - which is now part of Bard College. There are a number of gates along this road which are open most of the year to provide access to the canoe launch. These gates are closed during winter and spring thaws. The road through to Ward Manor is only open to foot travel. There are several parking areas along the road. The road between Kidd Lane and the fork is level and could be used by handicapped persons. After the fork, both roads are hillier and rougher, but still an easy, fruitful walk. There is a WMA parking area along NY 9G, but at present there are no trails or roads that start here. This area should be avoided during hunting season, as hunting is permitted here.

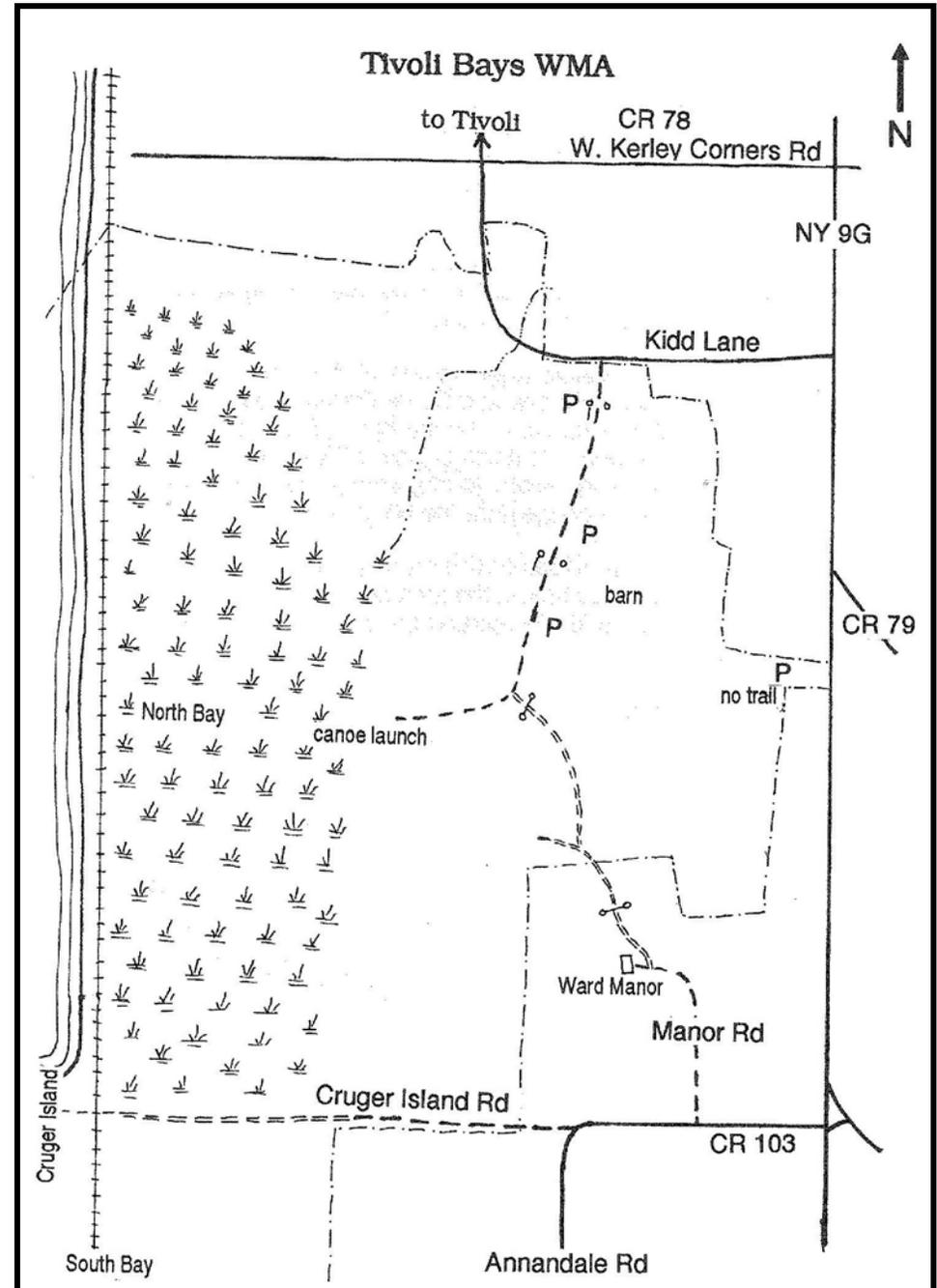
Tivoli Bays WMA lies in the Town of Red Hook. The nearest village is Tivoli. Take NY 9G north to Kidd Lane. Turn left onto Kidd Lane and look for the WMA sign on the left about ½ mile in. Turn in and drive or walk the roads. The distance from the Kidd Lane entrance to the canoe launch is about 1 mile. Allow 4 to 6 hours for a trip here.

Due to the varied habitat, a good variety of birds can be found here. From Veery, Winter Wren, and Gnatcatcher to Field Sparrow and Bluebird. This is a good place for migrating warblers. North Bay is good for marsh birds. From the canoe launch, there are excellent views of Big Bend tidal swamp, the Stony Creek and the large cattail marsh.

To obtain more information contact the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve office in New Paltz at (845) 256-3047. A map is at www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/tivoli.pdf.

Area: 1468 acres

Walking distance: 3 miles



TOWER HILL ROAD

This is the Tower Hill Road in Washington, not to be confused with the Tower Hill Road in Pawling.

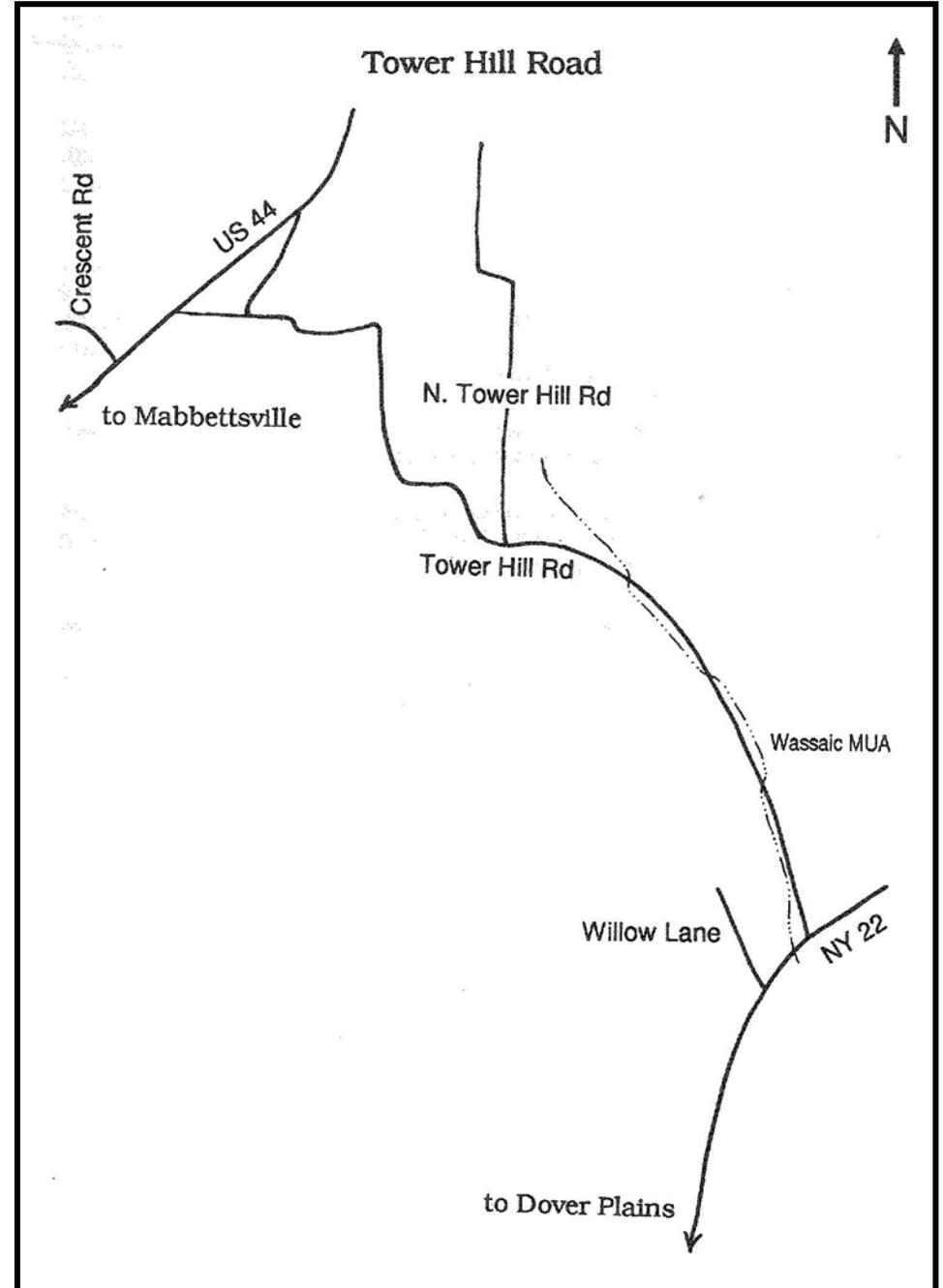
Tower Hill Road is an interesting “back road” that runs east and west between US 44 and NY 22 in mid-eastern Dutchess County. It is an unpaved road through sparsely settled country. There is a mixture of deciduous woodlands and open country. Part of the way the road follows a small rushing stream through lovely hemlock ravines. There are a number of places where the road is wide enough for one or two cars to turn out for birding. At the east end of the road as it joins NY 22, the Wassaic Multiple Use Area lies to the east on the steep hills. See the separate write-up of Wassaic MUA.

This road is especially good for birding in the spring and early summer. No permission is necessary if you bird from the road. Allow an hour or more depending on how many stops are made.

Tower Hill Road is located in the Towns of Washington and Amenia. The nearest villages are Millbrook and Dover Plains. The road is about 2½ miles east of Millbrook on US 44 on the right. The east entrance from NY 22 is approximately one mile north of Dover Plains and to the left. The road can be treacherous in winter, during spring thaw, or after a “gully washer.”

Birds you might expect to see on this route are warblers and flycatchers in the spring. Many of these nest in the area also. The Acadian Flycatcher has nested here since 1976. Woodland birds and Broad-winged Hawks can also be found.

Driving distance: 6 miles



TRACY ROAD

This is a town road in the Town of Pawling; it is seasonal and unpaved. It is located off North Quaker Hill Road and runs north and south. High elevations with mostly deciduous woods include nice Mountain laurel and wild flowers. There is a shrub swamp and a reservoir at the northern end.

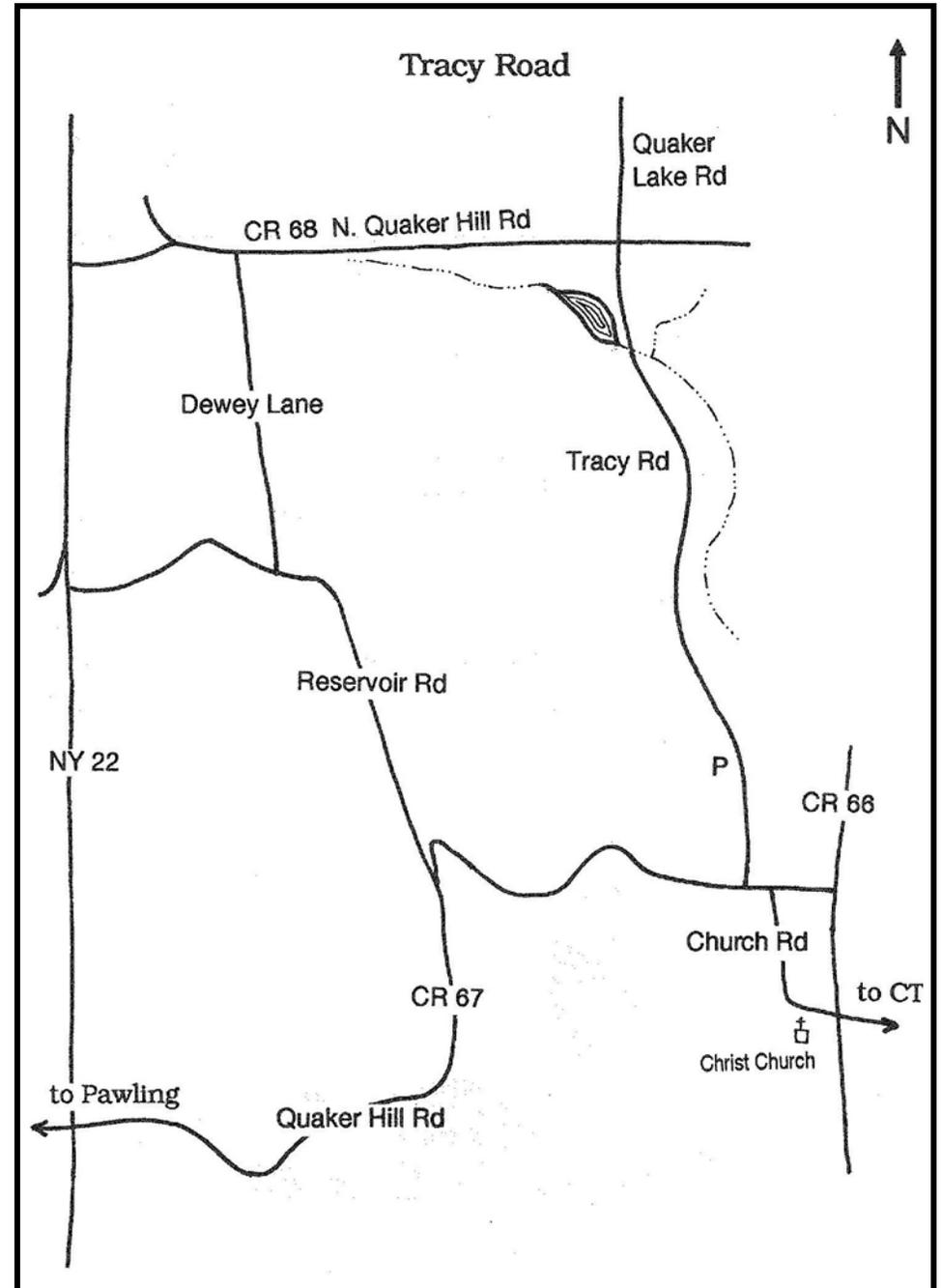
To get to Tracy Road, turn east off NY 22 near Pawling. Turning onto Quaker Hill Road (CR 67) brings you to the southern end of Tracy Road. To start at the northern end, turn off NY 22 onto North Quaker Hill Road (CR 68).

It is good roadside birding and very easy walking. It is not necessary to obtain permission as it is a town road. However it is necessary to stay off private property. Three cars can be parked at the south end at the start of the woods past the last house. There is also a small parking area at the north end near the reservoir. Allow 3 hours to cover this area.

Spring and summer are the best times as the road is closed in winter. Be very careful in the fall as there is limited hunting.

This is a good place to bird during warbler migration. Resident nesters include Worm-eating Warbler, Canada Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, plus Scarlet Tanagers.

Walking distance: 1½ miles



TYMOR PARK

(Local name: Tymor Forest)

This property was a gift from the Connor family to the Town of Union Vale in 1971, to be used as a park and recreation center. The fields and pastures of former Tymor Farm are now ball fields, tennis courts, soccer fields and picnic areas. Many trails and old roads pass through the oak woods, pine plantations and several hemlock groves. The Fishkill Creek flows through the area and there is a large pond called Furnace Pond.

This town park serves the residents of Union Vale. Large groups should get permission from the Recreation Commission before visiting the area. The best time to visit the area is before June 1st and after Labor Day when the park is not so heavily used for family recreation. There is plenty of parking across from the Senior Citizen Center barn beside Old Duncan Road.

Old Lime Mill Road is an easy walking route which goes along the east side of the Fishkill Creek and Furnace Pond. The West Bank Trail follows the west side of the creek making a circle route. Additional trails on the west side of Duncan Road and the north side on Bruzgul Road are maintained by a snowmobile club. These trails are more strenuous due to the hills included. Allow 3 hours to cover Old Line Mill Road and the West Bank Trail.

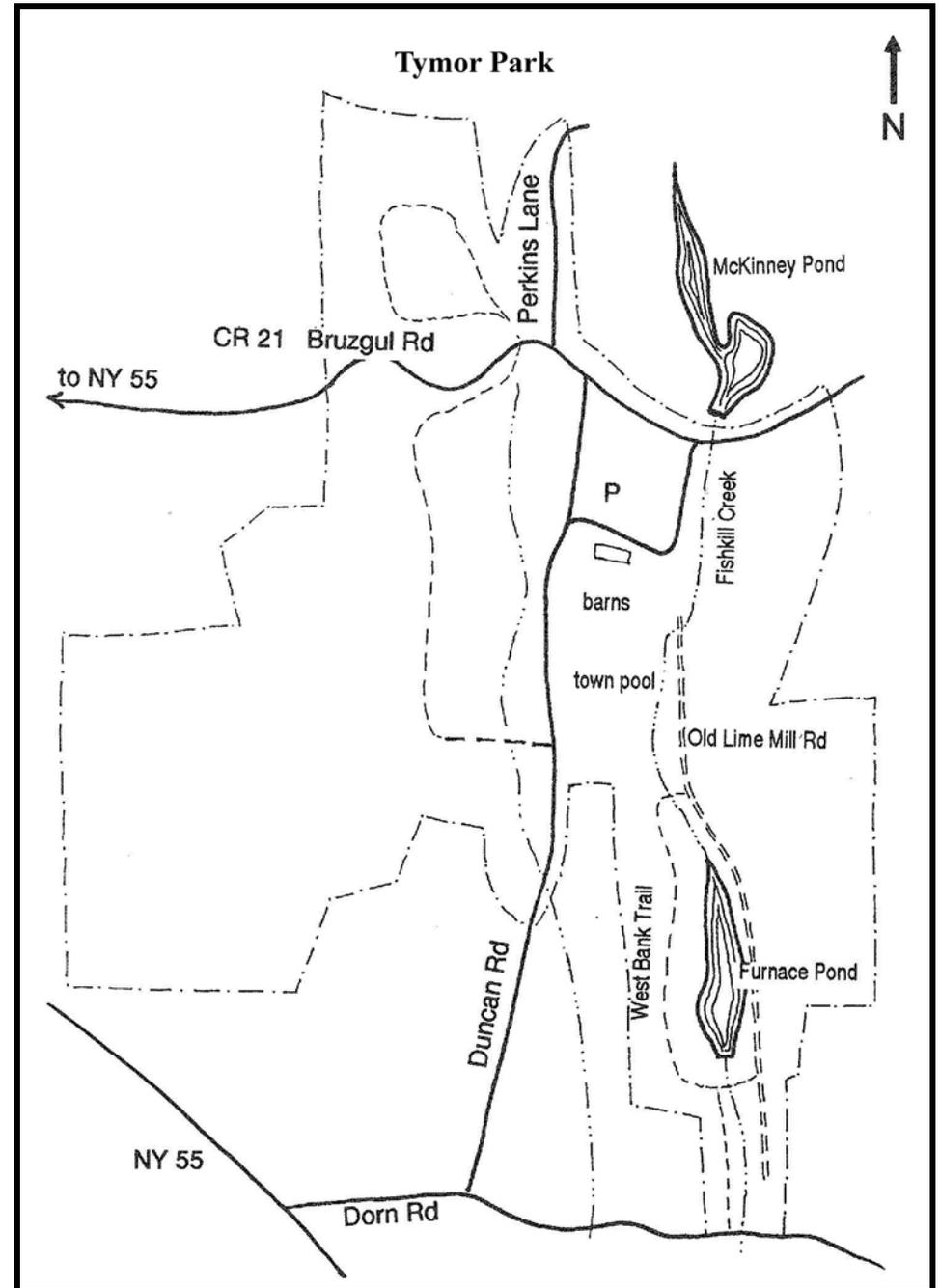
To reach Tymor Park from the Billings traffic light at the intersection of NY 82 and 55, go southeast two miles on NY 55, then east (left) on CR 21 (Bruzgul Road) one and one-half miles. Turn right on Duncan Road just before crossing a bridge over the Fishkill Creek. Look for several barns and silos and park across from them by Old Duncan Road.

Birds you might expect to see here would be warblers In spring, waterfowl, hawks, Turkey Vultures, birds of the open fields, and woodland species.

The Park can be contacted at (845) 724-5691.

Area: 500 acres

Walking distance: 2½ miles



VANDERBILT MANSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The Vanderbilt Mansion overlooks the Hudson River from a hilltop setting. The grounds are kept much as they were when the family lived there, providing a great variety of habitat. Between the mansion and the river are meadows, woodlands, ponds, streams, inlets and bays. This is the area recommended for a birding trip. Drive or walk down to Bard Rock to the north end of the site. A bay to the north of the parking lot is excellent for viewing the river. A trail follows the river south to a picnic area. From the parking lot walk east on the railroad overpass to an old carriage road which goes south through the woods. It is a little less than a mile long and comes out at the south boundary of the property. Crum Elbow Creek is on the end and a walk up the road bordering it is recommended. There is a gravel path from the south portico of the mansion to the garden gate (750 ft.) which follows the original path used by Louise and Frederick Vanderbilt when they took their guests to the garden. It is a wonderful birding addition. Stop and enjoy the restored rose and perennial gardens. The Powerhouse Trail follows the Crum Elbow Creek from the entrance road to the Coach House.

No permission is needed to walk the grounds and there is no charge, except for visiting the mansion. The main parking area is near the Visitor's Center. A smaller lot is near Bard Rock, but it is closed on weekends and during the winter. See the map for other, smaller parking areas.

A walk through the Historic Site would be moderate. The roads and trails are wide and well maintained. Allow 3 hours to walk the loop around the site. There is a steep hill from the main parking level to the river. The best time of year for birding is spring for the woodland and open areas. The river valley being a flyway, it is a good place in the fall for observing migrating hawks and waterfowl.

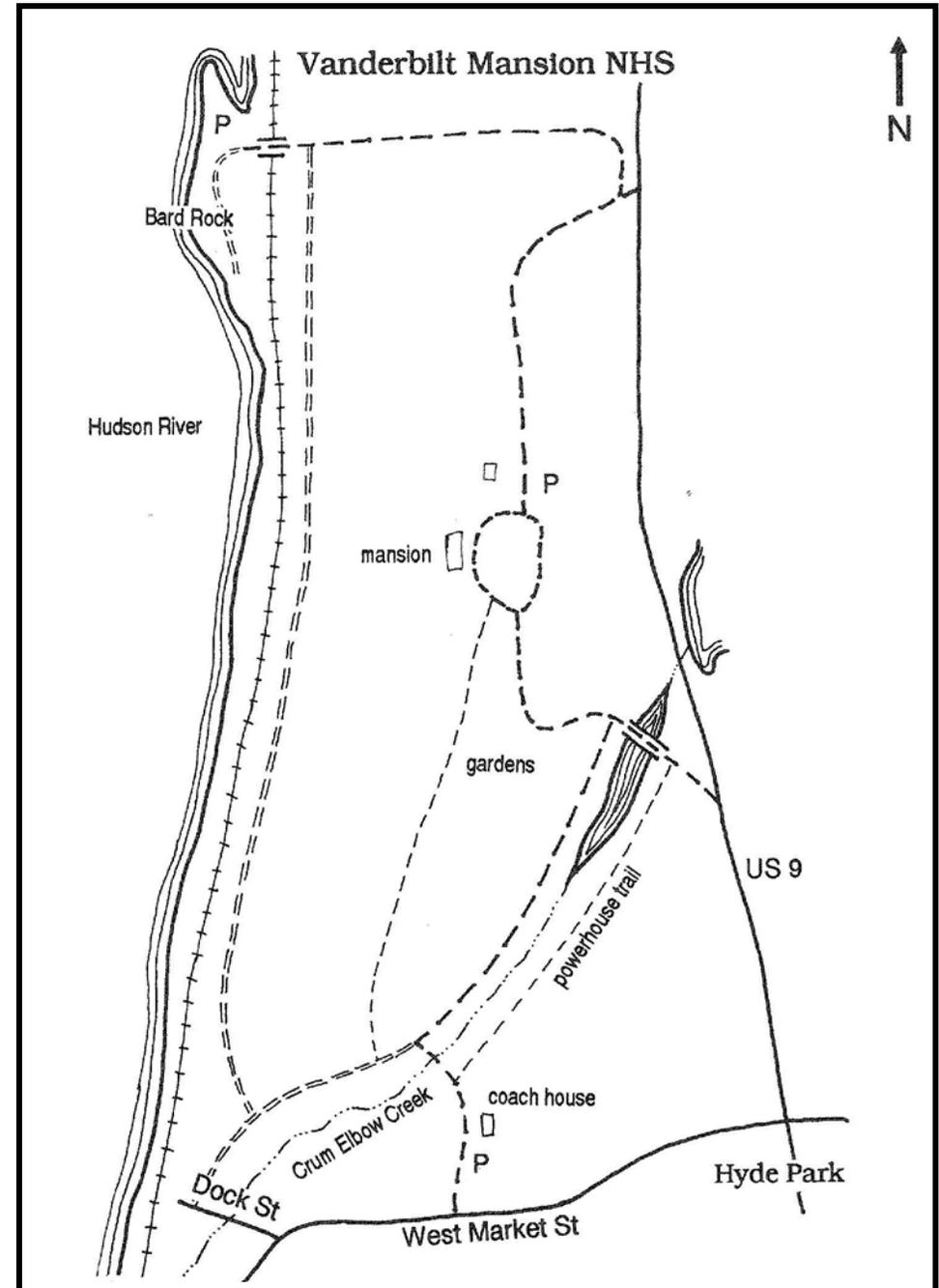
Vanderbilt Mansion NHS is in the Town of Hyde Park. It is located just north of the Village of Hyde Park on US 9. The large stone entranceway is clearly marked with the National Park sign. Traffic is heavy on US 9, so one must watch carefully for the gateway on the west side of the road safely.

Birds you might expect to see there are warblers in spring; kinglets, thrushes, woodpeckers, and swallows; and waterbirds and gulls on the river in late fall and early spring.

For more information, contact the National Park Service offices at (845) 229-7770.

Area: 212 acres

Walking distance: 2½ miles



VASSAR COLLEGE

Vassar campus is an area of varied habitat which provides excellent birding. It is always included in the Christmas Census and the May Census, yielding some exceptional records over the years. There is a lake to the southern end of the campus and a large marshy area with bamboo grass and rushes which is excellent for sparrow, Green Heron, rails, and even Carolina Wrens. The campus proper with buildings has large trees of many varieties planted for study purposes. There is a hemlock grove south of the buildings in a low lying area. This is a good place to look for kinglets, nuthatches, and even owls. The golf course extends to the east of the college. A walk around the woodland edges of the golf course gives excellent birding. The Pileated Woodpecker will usually call a greeting and the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is there in late fall and early spring. Casperkill Creek flows through the campus behind the building area, another fine place for birds.

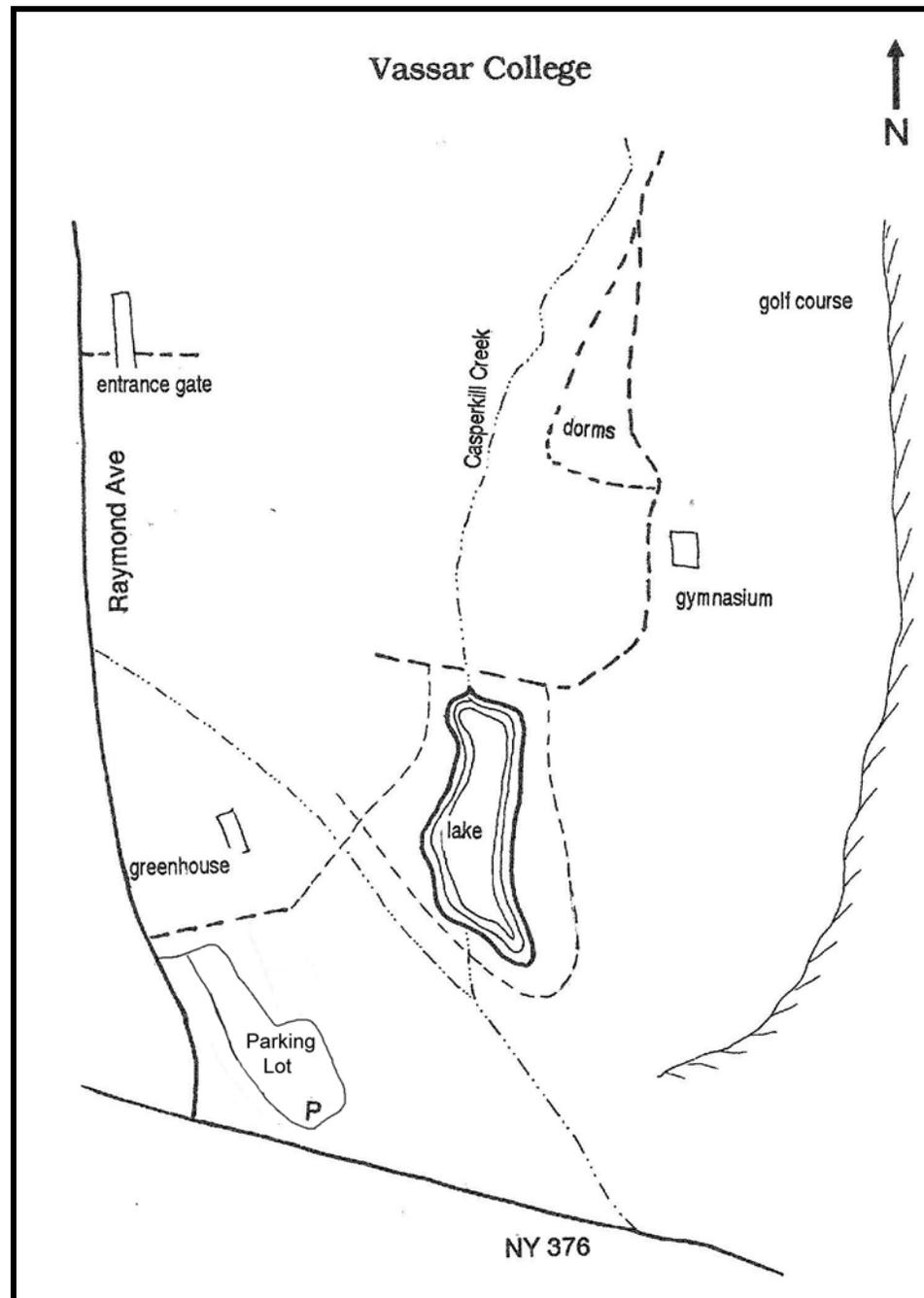
Permission to bird on Vassar College is not required. However, it is a great privilege to bird this area. Use your discretion, and if security guards are driving about, make your presence known and your reason for being there. The parking area to the south of the greenhouse buildings is the one you may use. Entrance is from Raymond Avenue (NY 376).

A trip through the Vassar Campus is an easy one as trails are good and some walking is on the roads. Allow two to three hours to tour this extensive arboretum-type area and its woodlands. The best time of the year for a trip there is spring, late fall and winter.

Vassar College is in the Town of Poughkeepsie and east of the City of Poughkeepsie. It is located on Raymond Avenue between US 44 & NY 55 and NY 376.

Birds you might expect to see there are all the common woodland and urban birds with a good chance of finding owls, woodpeckers, sparrows and wrens.

Area: 1000 acres
Walking distance: 2½ miles



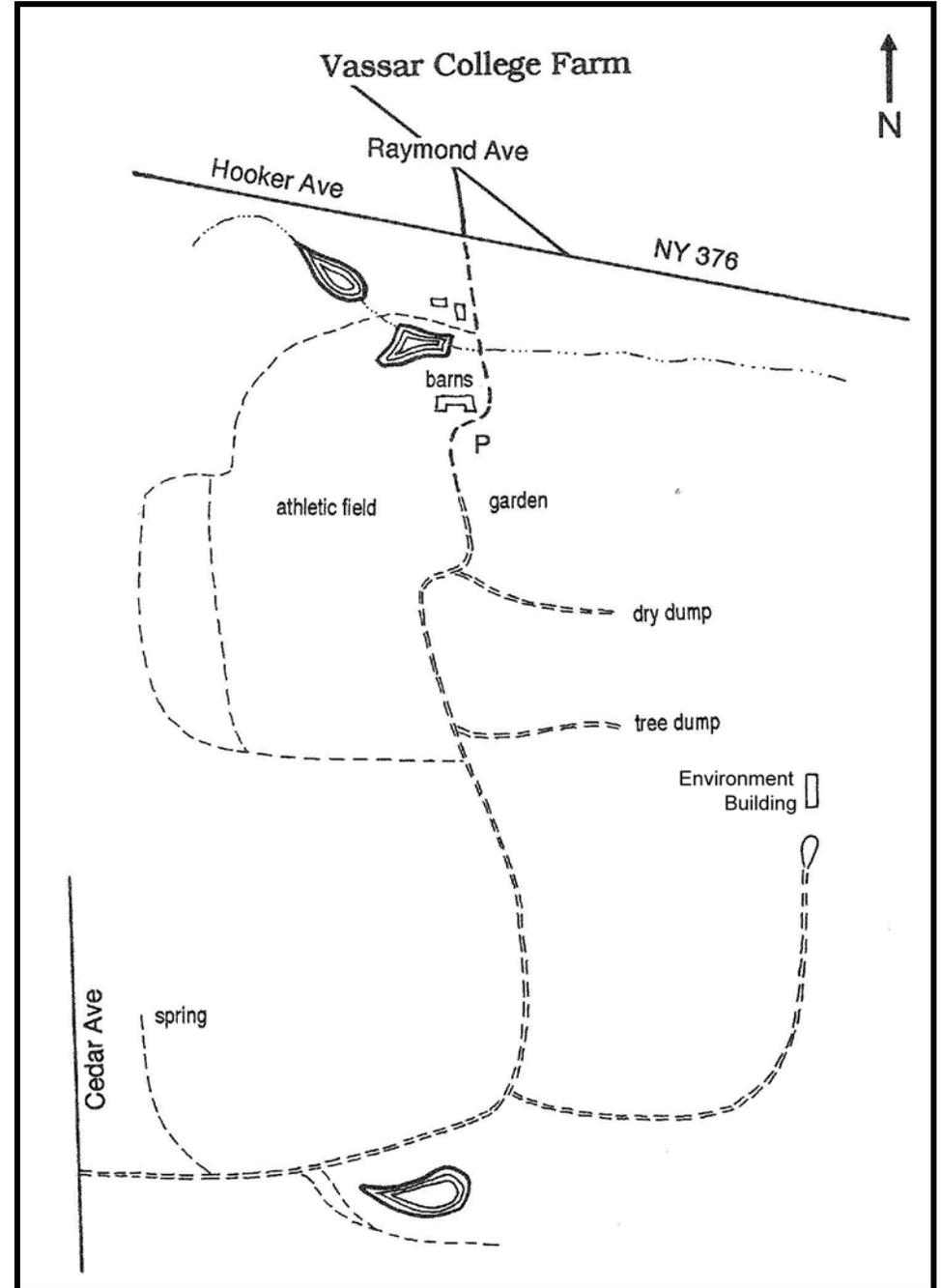
VASSAR COLLEGE FARM

Vassar Farm, part of Vassar College in the Town of Poughkeepsie, is composed of open rolling fields including large vegetable gardens for Vassar personnel, athletic field, meadows, low marsh area and two small ponds and a stream. There is a large wooded hillside and trail beginning behind the athletic field. The trail winds up the hill, along the ridge and down the hill through pines and deciduous trees to the farm road. The farm is covered in our Christmas Census and the May Census. Long-eared Owls have been found on the wooded hillside trail and such warblers as Prairie and Yellow at the beginning of the trail. About the second field down the farm road, Bobolink nest in the tall grass. The small pond and stream area sometimes have Wood Duck and Mallard. A side road just beyond the gardens takes one to a dry dump of sorts where various sparrows hide. The second side road opposite the hillside goes to a tree cutting dump; again sparrows. A college research building comes next, set back in from the road to the east. Please respect this area.

Permission to bird on Vassar Campus or Farm is not required. However it is a great privilege to bird this area. Use your discretion and if security guards are driving about, make your presence known and reason for being there. Parking area for the farm is back of the set of large barns near the gardens, on the south side of NY 376 and Hooker Avenue.

Birds you might expect to see are Green Heron, Wood Ducks, Mallards, hawks, Ring-necked Pheasant, Killdeer, cuckoo, owls (Long-eared), woodpeckers (Pileated), flycatchers, vireos, warblers, and sparrows.

Area: 1000 acres (farm & campus)
Walking distance: 3 miles



WAPPINGER LAKE

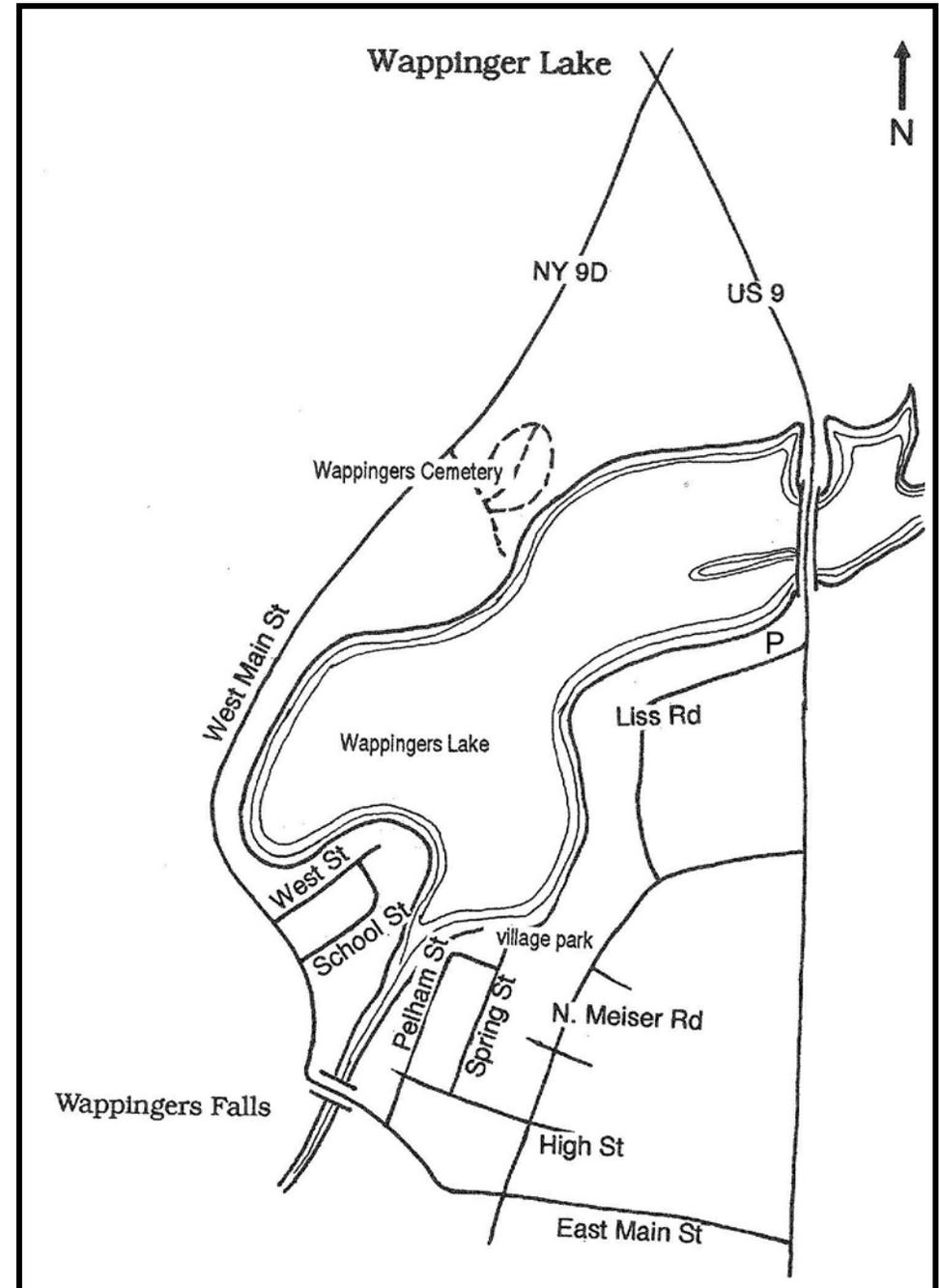
Wappinger Lake is just to the northeast of the Village of Wappinger Falls and is intersected by US 9. There is woodland and homes around most of the lake, especially on the north and south shores, and a small village park on the west end of the lake. The lake is shallow in some areas, with small islands and sandbars, making it attractive to migrating waterfowl. Bays and coves are somewhat hidden from view, so a trip around the lake using all the viewpoints listed here is recommended. No permission is needed if you stay away from private homes and driveways. Spring and fall are the best time for viewing migrating waterfowl until the lake freezes over. In summer you will find resident ducks (Mallards and Wood Duck), geese and Mute Swans that nest in and along the lake shores.

There is parking lot at the beginning of Liss Road for viewing the lake. There is parking for 5 or 6 cars at the village park on the west shore, limited parking for 2 cars at the boat launch off Brown Street, and limited parking at the cemetery off East Main Street. This is an easy trip as you will park within a short distance of the lake. The wooded banks can be treacherous with slippery wet leaves or mud. Allow at least one hour for a trip here, and even more when waterfowl are present. Bring your scope if you have one.

Wappinger Lake is located in the Town of Wappinger. From US 9 travel south, cross the bridge and turn right onto Liss Road. There is a parking lot on the right. You may park and walk down the bank to the lake. Continue on Liss Road to North Meiser Road and bear right, go past three stop signs to High Street. Turn right onto High Street and go one short block to Spring Street, turn right and drive past the dead end sign for a good view of the cove here. As you leave, turn right at the top of the hill onto Pelham Street and go to Mill Street a 90 degree bend, at this corner, you can view some of the north shore. Continue to East Main Street and turn right, crossing over the bridge and follow this to School Street, turn right and follow it to Brown Street (this is a horseshoe) and take West Street out to East Main Street. There is good viewing of the coves at either ends of Brown Street. A 2 car boat launch is just past West Street on Brown Street between a detached garage and a fenced-in home. You can also view the north coves from the back end of the Wappingers cemetery, staying on the outside drive through the cemetery.

Birds you might expect to see here are gulls, geese, Mute Swans, grebes, ducks, Belted Kingfisher, swallows, and occasionally a heron or shorebird.

Driving distance: 3 miles



WASSAIC MULTIPLE USE AREA

Wassaic Multiple Use Area, in the Town of Amenia, is a hilly, mixed hardwood and hemlock woodland. It is primarily managed for hunting, but it contains a rich population of woodland birds and several woods roads that make for easy, if occasionally steep, walking. There is a dirt road that starts on Tower Hill Road which leads into the center of the MUA. There has been some logging activity that creates openings in the woods. Several side roads exist that would be worth exploring. Surely one of them leads out to NY 22. The Wassaic MUA also includes some open land on the opposite side of NY 22 from the wooded part. The Ten Mile River borders the open area.

Permission is not required to bird here since this is state land. There is a parking area along Tower Hill Road for approximately 5 cars. The woods roads are easy to follow, but their steepness would preclude their use by disabled persons. There is also room for parking several cars at the open part of the MUA along NY 22. The MUA should be avoided completely during deer season. Wearing bright colors would be a wise precaution during the spring turkey season and from October through February. Allow 3 hours to see this area.

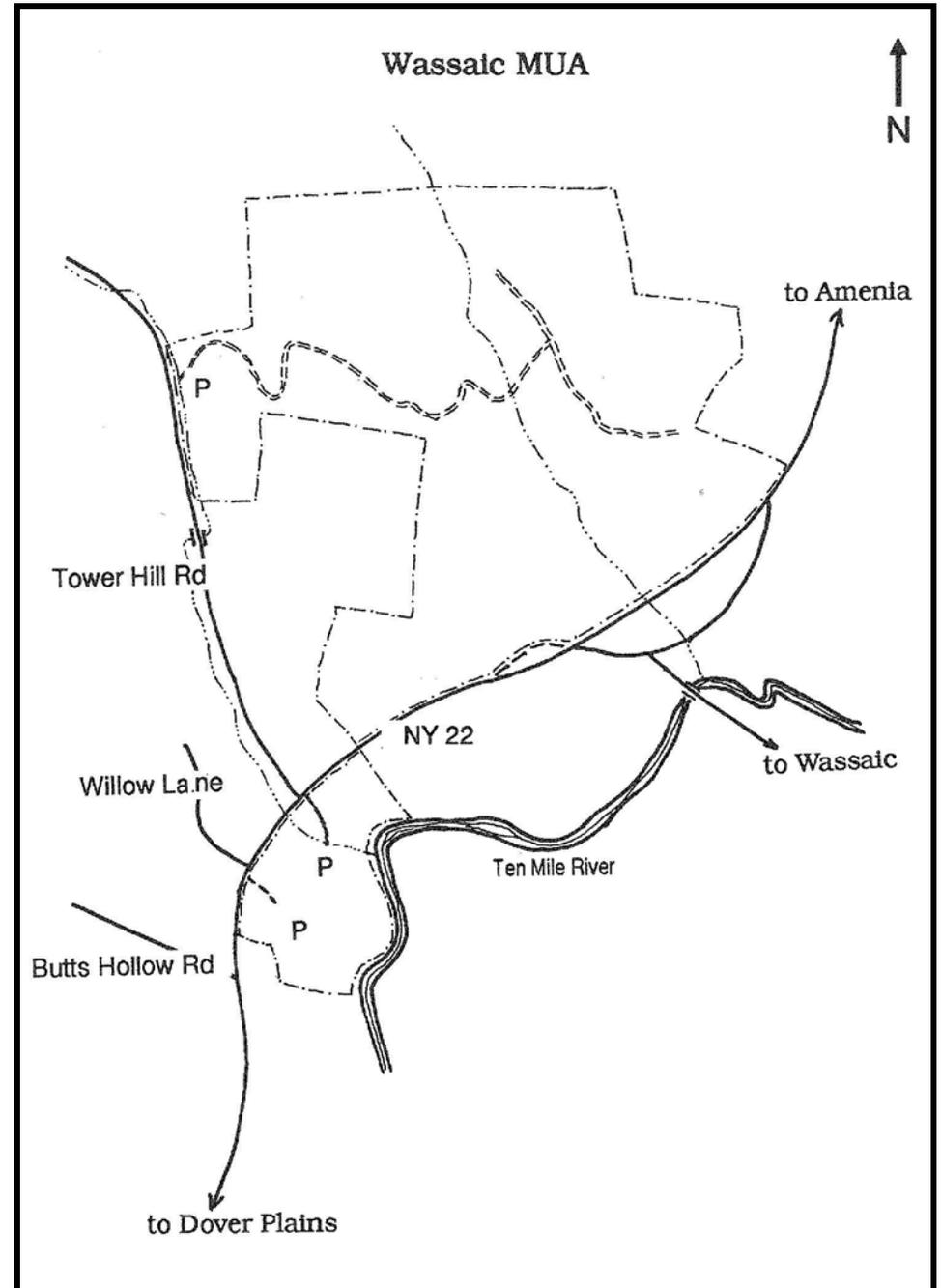
Wassaic MUA is bordered by NY 22 near the Wassaic Development Center, but the best access is from Tower Hill Road. Traveling north from Dover Plains on NY 22, Tower Hill Road is the third left after the NY 343 intersection. The MUA parking area is about 1 mile in on the right side of Tower Hill Rd. Or access from the US 44 end of Tower Hill Road. (See the Tower Hill Road write-up for directions.)

The best time to visit is in the spring and summer. Birds observed in the area include Ruffed Grouse, Hermit Thrush, Gnatcatcher, Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Solitary and Yellow-throated Vireos.

For more information, contact the DEC Land and Forest Division at (845) 256-3076.

Area: 487 acres

Walking distance: 2 - 3 miles



WILCOX PARK

Wilcox is Dutchess County's oldest county park, opened in 1968. It has two man-made lakes, one for swimming and one for boating and fishing. There are conifer forest plantations, open areas, grassland, and streams. The park contains seven miles of nature trails through these differing habitats. Picnicking and camping areas are also available during the summer season.

The park is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day for swimming and boating, and through October for camping and picnicking. There is adequate parking for cars in several locations in the park.

A birding trip through Wilcox Park is an easy one. The roads are well kept and on easy grades. A three to four hour trip should be planned here if the entire park is to be visited. The best time of year for birding there is early spring and late fall when the public use for recreation is low.

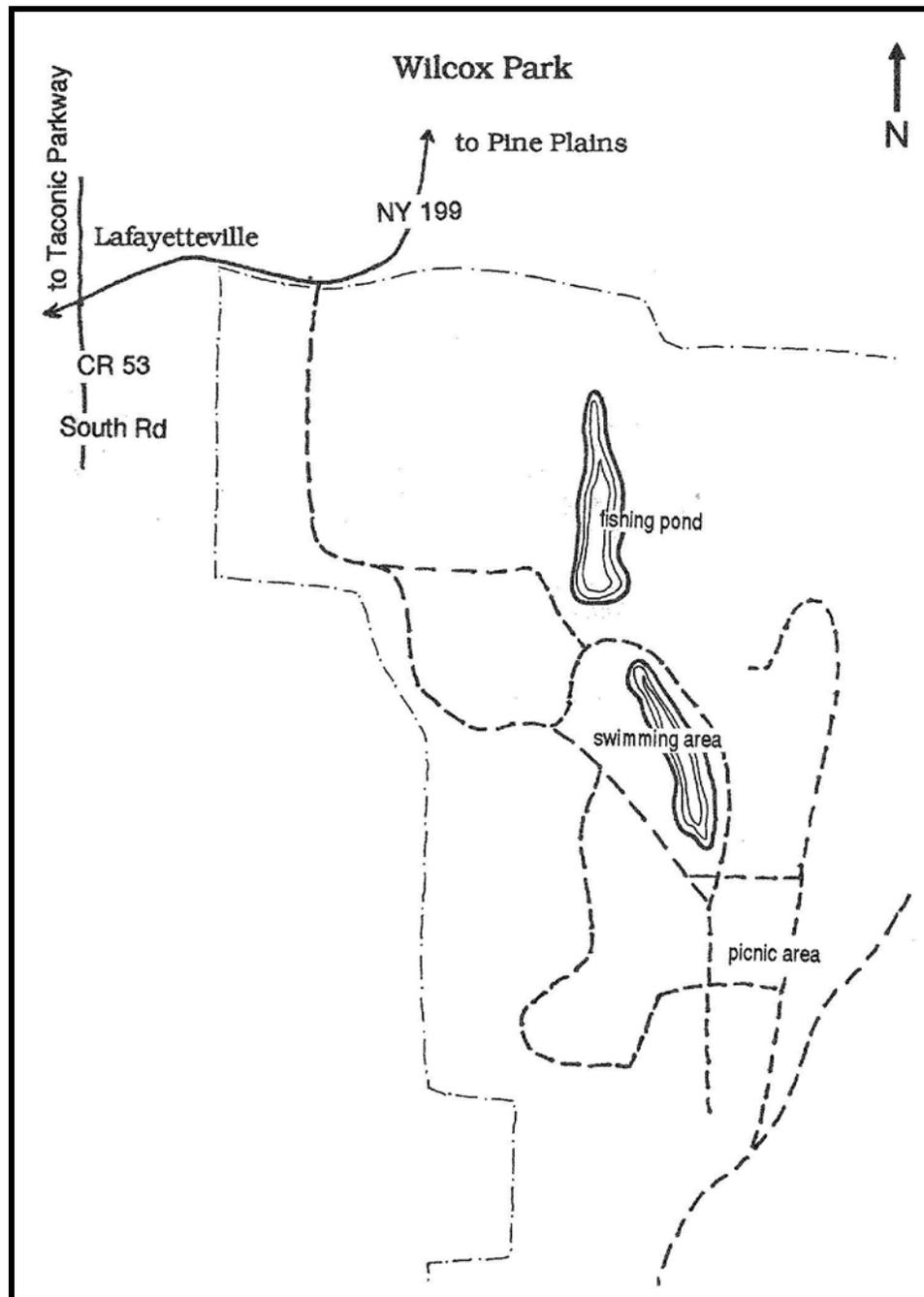
Wilcox Park is in the Town of Milan and the nearest village is Lafayetteville on NY 199, one mile east of the Taconic Parkway. The entrance to the park from NY 199 is well marked.

Birds one might expect to see there are hawks, owls, Woodcock and Snipe, warblers in spring and fall, kinglets, nuthatches, finches and the usual woods birds. Eastern Bluebirds successfully nest in the many nest boxes.

For further information, contact the Dutchess County Parks Office, (845) 298-4600.

Area: 615 acres

Walking distance: 2-3 miles



Your help is needed to add additional sites, please send a description and photo or scan of a rough map to Stan DeOrsey (jsmd@att.net).

Errors, updates, and suggested changes should also be reported.

The following sites need your help to add:

Bower Park
Clinton Nature Garden
Dennings Point
Dutchess Rail Trail
Harlem Valley Rail Trail
Hopeland Area
Mack Road
Madam Brett Park
Nellie Hill Preserve
Nuclear Lake
Peach Hill Park
Poets' Walk Park
Reese Park
Roger Perry Memorial Preserve
Slocum-Mostachetti Preserve
Stone Church Preserve
Unification Theol. Sem. Father's Trail
Wilderstein Historic Site