

NYSOA Gull ID Workshop & Field Trip, January 7-8, 2012

The New York State Ornithological Association is offering a gull identification workshop and field trip on the weekend of January 7-8, 2012.

Gull Identification Workshop

On Saturday, Niagara River gull expert **Jean Iron** of Toronto will talk on Winter Gull Watching in Ontario and Niagara. Jean began serious birding about 21 years ago. Digiscoping birds is her passion. She was president of the Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO) from 1995 to 2004, and editor of *OFO News* for 14 years. Her special interests are gulls, shorebirds, bird identification, and the grassland birds of the Carden Alvar. She spends her summers as a volunteer surveying shorebirds on James Bay for the Royal Ontario Museum and, in late fall through January, watches gulls on the Niagara River. Jean leads tours to the Arctic, Galapagos, Belize and Guatemala for Quest Nature Tours based in Toronto. The gull identification workshop, which is free and open to the public, will take place in the Judy LaMarsh room of the Niagara Falls Public Library at 4848 Victoria Avenue, Niagara Falls, Ontario from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, January 7th. For directions and a map showing parking areas, visit

<http://www.nflibrary.ca/LocationsHours/VictoriaAvenueLibrary/tabid/84/Default.aspx#map>.

Field Trip

The Sunday field trip from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. will be led by **Willie D'Anna**, an authority on gull identification in the Niagara Region. Nineteen species of gulls have been recorded on the river. Willie has been a very active birder for 30 years. He has served as the Region 1 editor and Highlights writer for *The Kingbird* and currently writes a photo quiz for the Ontario Field Ornithologists. He serves on the records committee for the Buffalo Ornithological Society (BOS) and is a member of the New York State Avian Records Committee. He is a regular field trip leader for the BOS and leads birding tours of the Niagara River. Because Willie lives close to the Niagara River, gulls have become one of his favorite groups of birds. The field trip is open to individual, student, family and life members of NYSOA but is limited to 40 participants. **Field trip attendees must preregister** by calling Kathy Schneider at (518) 799-3457 or emailing her at falline@berk.com.

What to Bring

Field trip attendees should dress appropriately for the weather and bring a spotting scope if at all possible and a bag lunch. Directions for field trip participants will be available at the workshop.

Lodging

Because the field trip will depart from the Adam Beck overlook on the Canadian side about 5 miles north of the falls, field trip participants are encouraged to find overnight accommodations in Niagara Falls, Ontario. In winter lodging is abundant and remarkably affordable at this famous vacation spot. If you are planning to stay overnight and would like more information about places to stay in Niagara Falls, please email Kathy Schneider at falline@berk.com.

Border Crossing Logistics

Please note that crossing the Canadian border now requires a passport or other approved travel document. More information on international travel can be found on the Homeland Security website, <http://www.dhs.gov/files/crossingborders/travelers.shtm#0>