

**SOAR: Birds of Northern New York
Field Trip to Massawepie Mire**

Date: Wednesday, May 16, 2018 (rain date of May 17)

Time: 7 a.m. to noon

Distance: Approximately 3 to 4 miles round trip on level terrain

Bring: Water, lunch, sunscreen, binoculars, hat, waterproof jacket, and wear sturdy shoes (preferably hiking shoes).

Leader: Joan Collins (315) 244-7127 cell; (518) 624-5528 home

Massawepie Mire is the largest bog (actually a fen!) in New York. The hike is on a level dirt road (formerly a railroad bed) that leads into the open mire. By May 16, almost all of the migrants will have returned, except for Yellow-bellied Flycatchers (they return during the last week of May).

Our meeting location will be the Massawepie Boy Scout sign on Route 3 a few minutes before 7 a.m. **Directions:** From the intersection of Route 56 and Route 3, take Route 3 east (toward Tupper Lake) for approximately 5.8 miles to Massawepie Road on the right. This is our meeting location. After we are all together, we'll drop some cars off at a parking area roughly 1 mile down Massawepie Rd. and car-pool to the mire. From the car-drop parking area, we will continue the drive for ~ 3.7 miles to a 4-way intersection. At the intersection, we will turn right and go 2 tenths of a mile to a "Y" intersection and park on the right. We may do a bit of birding along the drive to observe Common Loons on a pond. (Merlins also usually nest on a hill overlooking this pond.) We may also take a short walk to a new boardwalk that overlooks a huge area of open bog along our drive.