

# Feathers

BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.

## ALASKA JOURNAL 2008

by Scott Stoner  
and Denise Hackert-Stoner



*A bowhead whale jawbone forms a most unusual archway.*

### PART 1: FOGBOUND IN NOME by Scott Stoner

Famous for the gold rush and the finish line of the Iditarod, Nome is also a prime destination for birders. Located on the Seward peninsula on the edge of the Bering Sea, Nome is where birders journey to see BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEW, BLUETHROAT, EASTERNYELLOW WAGTAIL, and other highly sought-after species. Nome is truly an outpost. It is 1,049 miles from Anchorage by dogsled, and 537 miles by air. There are no roads to Nome.

Mid-June found us in Alaska on a birding tour with 12 other participants and 2 leaders that was to include two nights in each of Nome, the Kenai peninsula, and Barrow, the northernmost city in the US. Our Saturday morning flight from Anchorage to Nome yielded a nice view of Denali [Mt. McKinley] and of large areas of ice in the sea. A NORTHERN SHRIKE, GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL, and GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH “greeted” us at the small Nome airport, where it was sunny and cold.

Nome is a fascinating place, but isolated and filled with reminders of better times. There are relics of the gold rush of a hundred years ago (decaying gold dredges and a plaque describing Wyatt and Josie Earp’s turn of the century ventures); some gold extraction continues today. Several hotels, restaurants, bars, a port, and government and tourist facilities are in this city of several thousand. Homes seemed  
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**P R E S I D E N T ' S C O R N E R**



Chris and I were birding in Southeast Arizona in mid-May, and we saw a terrain totally different from what we are used to. The birding was spectacular- 9 species of owls, 10 hummingbird species, many kingbirds and vireos and the Elegant Trogon. We took a wild ride over bumpy dirt roads to California Gulch with the resulting super looks at the Five-striped Sparrow and Buff-collared Nightjar. The most exciting event, though, was running into Dave Martin, the Club's past president and his wife at Paton's hummingbird setup in Patagonia, AZ.

Locally, we can see that the season has moved toward the end of the breeding season. Bird song is much reduced, and we get broods of young coming to our feeders. Further, the listserves are reporting in early July that the southward migration of shorebirds has begun. Most likely, these are birds that were not successful in reproducing, but the late weeks of July and those of early August will see the arrival of the successful adults.

The Reist Sanctuary signage was the subject of some vandalism. Mike Gann, our new Sanctuary Chair, quickly repaired this, and the Niskayuna police are increasing their patrols to assure that this is a one-time event. Thanks to Mike for all his efforts in caring for the Sanctuary. Thanks also to the residents of Hummingbird Manor who contributed to the sign repairs.

— *Bernie Grossman* 

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**HMBC Board Meetings**

HMBC Board meetings are open to all Club members. Meetings are held at Five Rivers Center or other local venues at 7:00 PM, usually on the second Monday of odd-numbered months.

**Newsletter Contributions Desired**

- Have anything you think other birders would be interested in?
- Have a favorite birding spot you want to share?
- Are there any stories or photos that would inspire others?

Share them with the HMBC membership by submitting them to the addresses below:

Please send all *electronic* submissions *via e-mail* to: Chris Grossman at [bgrossman@nycap.rr.com](mailto:bgrossman@nycap.rr.com)

Send **all** paper submissions to:

*Chris Grossman*

*7 Nott Rd.*

*Rexford, NY 12148*



Arctic Tern

in various conditions, with fishing/hunting shacks, often brightly painted, out of town. There are three main dirt roads out of town, and we would explore them all.

That afternoon took us east along the shore on the Council Road, where we saw Reindeer, YELLOW-BILLED, ARCTIC, and PACIFIC LOONS, ALEUTIAN and ARCTIC TERNS, EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL, and LONG-TAILED JAEGER. Jaegers nest on the subarctic tundra, and we witnessed two of them in the middle of the road, fighting over a dead vole. Dinner was at a Japanese-Italian restaurant and night in a new and very comfortable hotel.

Sunday started with breakfast (reindeer sausage) at a place that advertised music, dancing, pool, and fun. We then headed inland more than 70 miles on the Kougarok Road. Highlights along the way included Muskox (great hairy beasts of the far north with massive curved horns), ARCTIC WARBLER, GYRFALCON, CACKLING GOOSE, WILLOW PTARMIGAN, and BLUETHROAT, a tiny but aptly named thrush. After a picnic lunch, we drove to Coffee Dome for our hike for BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEW. This large shorebird is one of the most difficult to see birds in North America. The hike was uphill, through Grizzly Bear country, and over tussocks of tundra vegetation described as “bowling balls covered with wet towels, mounted on springs, and embedded in water”! No bears (fortunately), but lots of tundra wildflowers, and we were finally rewarded with the sounds and sights of several Curlews! We headed back to Nome for a late dinner, stopping only for a Goshawk nest!

Monday, our “last” day took us north up the Teller Road. We saw Moose, Muskox, and a pair of AMERICAN DIPPERS. NORTHERN WHEATEAR was elusive, but finally spotted in its rocky habitat. Our next target bird was

much easier: ROCK PTARMIGAN was actually in the road! Our evening flight out was canceled by fog before we even got to the airport, but since no new visitors had been able to fly in, we still had rooms for the night. Rebooked for Tuesday evening’s flight, we spent Tuesday learning about Nome’s history and culture. Alas, Tuesday evening’s flight was also canceled! Rebooked for Wednesday evening, we spent Wednesday back on the Council Road, picking up SABINE’S GULL and EMPEROR GOOSE, and picnicking by the “forgotten train,” another relic of Nome’s past. A search inland for White Wagtail was unsuccessful, but we did add Grizzly Bear! We were encouraged by the improved visibility and the report that two flights had actually made it in. Nome depends heavily on air cargo, and places were beginning to run out of food!

After a 5th dinner at the Japanese-Italian restaurant (!) we waited at the airport, but the fog closed in, and they announced to the disheartened crowd that the flight had been unable to land. Heading back to the hotel for a third extra night, the words “There is no place like home” began to replace “There is no place like Nome”!

Thursday noon’s weather looked encouraging, and hopes built as we waited for the early afternoon flight. But again, hopes were dashed as the weather deteriorated and the plane diverted elsewhere. Discouragement spread among the crowd, which by now was made up of many familiar faces, some of whom had been trying since Sunday to leave Nome! Rebooked now on the evening flight, we returned to the airport around 11 PM in a thick fog. The words “will I ever get out of here” were running through my head. But the flight was standing by in Kotzebue, just 183 miles away, waiting for the expected break in the weather at Nome. Finally, at 12:30 AM, to the most tremendous cheer, it landed!! By 2 AM we were on our way to Anchorage, admiring the glow behind the great peak of Denali! On birding tours, we often list our “bird of the trip.” Without a doubt, my “bird of the trip” was that Alaska Air 737!

#### **PART 2: TOP OF THE WORLD** by Denise Hackert-Stoner

After finally “escaping” foggy Nome and missing the Kenai portion of our trip (see our 7/3/08 column), we were overjoyed at the prospect of seeing another part of our 49th state. After a long night of travel, we finally arrived at Barrow, the northern-most city in the US. Our motel room offered views of the Arctic Ocean, still much of it covered with thick pack-ice. Breeding SNOW BUNTINGS sang right on the property. Soon after our arrival, we met our group for a very unique dining experience at the local Mexican (!) restaurant, lovingly nick-named “Tacos on the Tundra.”

– continued on next page

Where one might have expected seal or caribou, we noshed on enchiladas and burritos!

Although we had not gotten any more than a brief nap for about 36 hours, most of our party agreed to head out to explore the tundra. The hike was challenging for its wetness, but was not otherwise difficult, and we were rewarded with WONDERFUL views of STELLER'S, SPECTACLED, and KING EIDERS. We marveled at the willow "trees," which were no more than a few inches tall and spread over the tundra, and the tiny flowers that survive in the very shallow soil that sits above the permafrost. As we were returning to the van a member of our group discovered the nest of a Savannah Sparrow tucked into the tundra grasses, lined with soft feathers, and containing four perfect, speckled eggs.

Later that day, and the next, as we were driven in a minibus by our local guide, we enjoyed views of PACIFIC LOON, LONG-TAILED DUCK, GLAUCOUS GULL, AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER, and POMERINE JAEGER, all in magnificent breeding plumage. LAPLAND LONGSPURS were ever-present, singing, performing little flight displays, and almost posing for pictures. The RED PHALAROPES were also very cooperative subjects for photography. Throughout the trip they consistently made themselves very available to our cameras, and seemed seconds away from climbing out of the water to perch on our feet! PECTORAL SANDPIPERS could be seen (and heard!)



*Spectacled Eider*

doing their courtship display, with their dark chests swelled out with air. We also witnessed an intense turf-war between two male LONG-TAILED DUCKS as they battled over a small pond in the tundra. They would square-off, approach one another head-on, then one would grab the other's tail or wing in his beak, and both would submerge for a number of seconds, fighting and splashing all the time, until finally they would emerge, separate, and start all over again. This



*Reindeer*

went on for well over five minutes, until one duck, madly pursued by the other, was finally able to fly away! We were treated to views of at least 10 SNOWY OWLS, many on nests. The owls are greatly prized by the native Alaskans. In fact the ancient name for Barrow is Ukpiagvik, meaning "The Place Where We Hunt Snowy Owls"!

One of the great highlights of our Barrow adventure was the very dramatic drive out to Point Barrow. We're not sure who enjoyed the actual drive more, our birding group or our native-Alaskan guide, who warned us with great enthusiasm to make sure our seat belts were buckled "or I guarantee you will hit your head on the ceiling"! Off we went, bumping and swerving over the rugged terrain leading out to the Point to look for Polar Bear, which, though not commonly seen in the summer can sometimes be spotted walking along the ridge of the pack ice. We did not see one of these great animals, but what a thrill it was to be at the Point, with the icy Arctic all around us!

Along the ride to and from Point Barrow we learned something about life in this unique land from our guide. The people here call themselves Inupiat, meaning "Original People." The community had just completed a successful spring whale hunt (for Bowhead Whale) with nine whales being taken, and the annual celebration of this success was underway. During the festivities each family would receive a portion of whale, which would be stored for the summer in a little dug-out area near the house. The permafrost would provide enough cooling to keep the meat fresh, and a small wooden box would protect it from animals. During the distribution of the whale, community children would be kept amused with a blanket toss, in which they would take turns being tossed high into the air by a ring of adults holding tightly to a seal skin which is removed from one of their boat frames for the occasion. Our guide also showed

us the local community college, whose name in English means "A Place to Learn." We also learned that the entire community rallies around the high school football team (The Whalers), which plays its games on the "northernmost artificial turf football field in the world."

We enjoyed our time at the "top of the world" as much for its human life as for its wildlife. On the sign welcoming visitors the community proclaims that they have been "sharing food,

sharing life" for "two-thousand years." We witnessed their great, welcoming ways, and appreciate them.

Like the summer sun that never sets on Barrow, our northern adventure has enlightened us; we look back on the land, its people and animals with great respect for their endurance and tenacity, and urge our readers to discover this wonderful place at the "top of the world." 

## CENTURY RUN 2008

### WHITE-EYED VIREO AND RUDDY TURNSTONE RECORDED FOR ONLY THIRD TIME ON CLUB'S 63<sup>RD</sup> CENTURY RUN

The best birds of the Club's 63rd Guy Bartlett Century Run on May 17, 2008 were WHITE-EYED VIREO (Group D) previously recorded in 1991 and 1976, and Ruddy Turnstone (Group B) previously recorded in 1994 and 1965. AMERICAN WIGEON (also Group B) was recorded for only the tenth time, last in 2002.

A Century Run "first," perhaps to be repeated more in the future given the current national energy situation with scary gasoline prices (over \$4/gallon, also a "first") and proliferation of gas-hog vehicles, was Larry Rowland's 70-mile Century Run as he stated, "All on my bicycle...none by car." Furthermore, in 12.5 hours of birding on his bike, he achieved the coveted 100 species. Congratulations!

Can a walk/run Century Run of 100 species be possible? Perhaps someone is already thinking about how to do it, given this achievement on a bike. It will require geographically concentrated diversity of habitat somewhere in our region, but who knows where?

On the downside, only four field parties reported their results, tying the low in 2002, if one excludes the 1946 "experimental" year when two groups of 12 people ventured out after WW II establishing this Club tradition. For the record, there were three other 'experimental' counts in 1932-34 not included in this present accounting.

As has been the case in some recent years, leafing of trees and shrubs was well advanced. About two weeks before the day of the Century Run, May 17, leafing was at the stage of most Century Runs of years ago. The day's weather was a mixed bag beginning sunny, clear and breezy in the 40's, rising to the 70's in early afternoon with growing cloudiness. Light showers fell in some areas by mid-afternoon with steady rain 1630 to 1900, tapering to scattered light rain as a low from New Jersey the day before passed over the area into Quebec.

The best group list was 124 species (Group B) which ties 24th best in the 63 years of this Club event, ranging from only 88 in 1956 to the record of 156 in 1986. This year's total of 144 species ties 48th in the 63 years, the record being 188 in 1986. No new species were added, leaving the total at 253 plus three sub-species. The list of species seen every year since inception of the Century Run has dwindled to 60.

Species missed on this year's list appear to include certain habitat-sensitive species from marshes and grasslands. American Bittern was missed for the second year after having been reported for 61 previous consecutive years; grassland sparrows: no Vesper, last in 2007, 53 of 63 years; Grasshopper, last in 2006, 50 of 63 years; and Henslow's, last in 2001, 45 of 63 years.

Other negatives included scarce owls, only Barred; no Common Night-hawk, last in 2007 (45 years); no Whip-poor-Will, last in 2001 after 54 years on the list.

Positive trends include the following. NYSDEC restoration programs for the Peregrine Falcon have resulted in reports in 12 of the 13 years since 1996. This species once nested on the Helderberg escarpment (Thacher Park) where it was reported on Century Runs in 1946-49. Other more recent reports include birds in 1980 and 1985.

Wild Turkey has been reported in each of the past 19 years and in 23 of the past 25, thanks to DEC restocking of this native species. But discontinuance of stocking of the alien Ring-necked Pheasant led to no further Century Run reports after 1993. Common Ravens, once deemed a symbol of wilderness, have re-established themselves widely over our area, sometimes in close proximity to urban areas. They were first reported on the Century Run in 1986 and have continued each year for 22 years, except 1990.

Thanks to all who participated.

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The field party participants and times afield are listed below with an asterisk indicating the group's compiler; and the species found only by that group. Following that is the composite check-list of species reported.

Group A – Tom Palmer\* and Roger Miller. Montgomery, Schenectady and Saratoga counties, 0500–1930, 104 species. PIED-BILLED GREBE, SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, COOPER'S HAWK, SORA, UPLAND SANDPIPER, BLACKPOLL WARBLER, EASTERN WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW and ORCHARD ORIOLE.

Group B – Larry Alden\*, Jackie Bogardus and Steve Chorvas. Exclusively Albany Co., 0300–2120, 124 species. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT, LEAST BITTERN, MUTE SWAN, AMERICAN BLACK DUCK, GADWALL, AMERICAN WIGEON, BALD EAGLE, PEREGRINE FALCON, VIRGINIA RAIL, COMMON MOORHEN, SEMI-PALMATED PLOVER, LESSER YELLOWLEGS, RUDDY TURNSTONE, BONAPARTE'S GULL, HERRING GULL, GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL, MARSH WREN and CANADA WARBLER.

Group C – Bob Reilly and George Steele\*. Fulton and Montgomery counties, 0330–2100, 86 species. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER.

Group D – Larry Rowland\*. Schenectady Co.; and Daketown State Forest, Saratoga Co. Airport, Saratoga Lake and Vischer Ferry in Saratoga Co. by bicycle 0515–1745. EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE, HORNED LARK, PURPLE MARTIN, WHITE-EYED VIREO and PINE WARBLER.

— Robert P. Yunick

### 2008 Guy Bartlett Century Run May 17, 2008

	a	b	c	d
COMMON LOON		b	c	
PIED-BILLED GREBE	a			
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT		b		
LEAST BITTERN		b		
GREAT BLUE HERON	a	b	c	d
GREEN HERON	a	b	c	d
MUTE SWAN		b		
CANADA GOOSE	a	b	c	d
WOOD DUCK	a	b	c	d
AMERICAN BLACK DUCK		b		
MALLARD	a	b	c	d
GADWALL		b		
AMERICAN WIGEON		b		

GREATER SCAUP		b		d
COMMON MERGANSER	a	b	c	
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER			c	
TURKEY VULTURE	a	b	c	
OSPREY	a	b		
BALD EAGLE		b		
NORTHERN HARRIER	a		c	
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	a			
COOPER'S HAWK	a			
BROAD-WINGED HAWK	a		c	d
RED-TAILED HAWK	a	b	c	d
AMERICAN KESTREL	a	b	c	
PEREGRINE FALCON		b		
RUFFED GROUSE	a	b		d
WILD TURKEY	a	b	c	d
VIRGINIA RAIL		b		
SORA	a			
COMMON MOORHEN		b		
SEMPALMATED PLOVER		b		
KILLDEER	a	b	c	d
LESSER YELLOWLEGS		b		
SOLITARY SANDPIPER			c	d
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	a	b	c	d
UPLAND SANDPIPER	a			
RUDDY TURNSTONE		b		
LEAST SANDPIPER		b		d
WILSON'S SNIPE	a		c	
AMERICAN WOODCOCK	a	b		
BONAPARTE'S GULL		b		
RING-BILLED GULL	a	b	c	d
HERRING GULL		b		
GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL		b		
ROCK PIGEON	a	b	c	d
MOURNING DOVE	a	b	c	d
BARRED OWL		b	c	
CHIMNEY SWIFT	a	b	c	d
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD	a	b	c	
BELTED KINGFISHER	a	b	c	d
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	a	b	c	d
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER	a	b	c	d
DOWNY WOODPECKER	a	b	c	d
HAIRY WOODPECKER	a	b	c	d
NORTHERN FLICKER	a	b	c	d
PILEATED WOODPECKER	a	b	c	d
EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE				d
WILLOW FLYCATCHER		b		d

LEAST FLYCATCHER	a	b	c	d
EASTERN PHOEBE	a	b	c	d
GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER	a	b	c	d
EASTERN KINGBIRD	a	b	c	d
HORNED LARK				d
PURPLE MARTIN				d
TREE SWALLOW	a	b	c	d
NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW	a	b	c	d
BANK SWALLOW		b	c	d
CLIFF SWALLOW	a	b		
BARN SWALLOW	a	b	c	d
BLUE JAY	a	b	c	d
AMERICAN CROW	a	b	c	d
COMMON RAVEN	a	b	c	d
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	a	b	c	d
TUFTED TITMOUSE	a	b		d
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	a	b	c	
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	a	b		d
BROWN CREEPER		b		d
CAROLINA WREN		b	c	d

HOUSE WREN	a	b	c	d
WINTER WREN		b		d
MARSH WREN		b		
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	a	b		
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET			c	d
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER		b		d
EASTERN BLUEBIRD	a	b		d
VEERY	a	b	c	d
SWAINSON'S THRUSH		b		d
HERMIT THRUSH		b	c	d
WOOD THRUSH	a	b	c	d
AMERICAN ROBIN	a	b	c	d
GRAY CATBIRD	a	b	c	d
NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD		b		d
BROWN THRASHER	a	b	c	d
CEDAR WAXWING	a			d
EUROPEAN STARLING	a	b	c	d
WHITE-EYED VIREO				d
BLUE-HEADED VIREO	a	b	c	d
YELLOW-THROATED VIREO	a	b		d
WARBLING VIREO	a	b	c	d
RED-EYED VIREO	a	b	c	d
BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	a	b	c	d
NASHVILLE WARBLER	a	b		d

YELLOW WARBLER	a	b	c	d
CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER	a	b	c	d
MAGNOLIA WARBLER	a	b		d
BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER		b	c	d
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	a	b	c	d
BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER	a	b	c	d
BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER	a	b	c	d
PINE WARBLER				d
PRAIRIE WARBLER	a	b		d
BLACKPOLL WARBLER	a			
BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER	a	b		d
AMERICAN REDSTART	a	b	c	d
OVENBIRD	a	b	c	d
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH	a	b		
LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH	a	b		d
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT	a	b	c	d
CANADA WARBLER		b		
SCARLET Tanager	a	b		d

NORTHERN CARDINAL	a	b	c	d
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK	a	b	c	d
INDIGO BUNTING	a	b		d
EASTERN TOWHEE	a	b	c	d
CHIPPING SPARROW	a	b	c	d
FIELD SPARROW	a	b	c	d
SAVANNAH SPARROW	a	b	c	d
SONG SPARROW	a	b	c	d
SWAMP SPARROW	a	b	c	d
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	a	b	c	
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	a			

DARK-EYED JUNCO	a	b		
BOBOLINK	a	b	c	d
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	a	b	c	d
EASTERN MEADOWLARK	a	b	c	
COMMON GRACKLE	a	b	c	d
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	a	b	c	d
ORCHARD ORIOLE	a			
BALTIMORE ORIOLE	a	b	c	d
PURPLE FINCH	a	b	c	d
HOUSE FINCH	a	b	c	d
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	a	b	c	d
HOUSE SPARROW	a	b	c	d

More than 12,000 birds of 70 species were recorded by the twenty-three observers in 8 field parties on the 2007 Schenectady Christmas Count. New high counts were recorded for eight species – Mallard, Common Goldeneye, Coopers Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, and White Throated Sparrow. Merlin was recorded for only the second time; two were counted in 2005. Winter finches were scarce with only one Purple Finch, but Pine Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls were found in small numbers by one and four field parties respectively. Seen in Count Week were Northern Pintail, Common Grackle, and Pine Siskin.

5:30 am to 5:00 pm

23 observers in 8 field parties plus 5 feeder observers

#### Party hours and distance

36 hours and 29 miles by foot

33 hours and 320 miles by car

16.25 hours at feeders

2.5 hours and 13 miles owling

#### Weather

Temperature 8 – 22 degrees

Wind Northwest 5 – 14 mph

Snow Depth 6.0 – 8.5 inches

Still water – frozen, Moving water – partly open

Skies – am Partly Cloudy; pm Cloudy

#### Group A Bob Yunick, Ted Hicks, Roger Miller

6:15 am – 4:20 pm

7.75 hours, 4.5 miles on foot

1.5 hours, 34 miles by car plus 1 hour and 6 miles owling

Mohawk River, Rexford Bridge to Wide Waters, Lock 7, River and Rosendale Roads

Wood Duck, 41 species

#### Group B Gregg Recer, Cathy Graichen

7:15 am – 2:40 pm

3 hours, 2.5 miles on foot

4.5 hours, 52 miles by car

Albany County Airport, Ann Lee Pond, Lake Rensselaer, portions of Pine Bush

28 species

#### Group C Larry Alden, Jeff Scherer

5:30 am – 5:00 pm

2 hours, 3 miles on foot

8 hours, 70 miles by car plus 1.5 hours and 7 miles owling Meadowdale, Black Creek Marsh, portions of Altamont and Guilderland

Barred Owl, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Field Sparrow, Purple Finch, Pine Grosbeak, Red-winged Blackbird,

Brown-headed Cowbirds

43 species

#### Group D Joan Cipriani, Peggy Rudis

7:00 am – 4:10 pm

2 hours, 1.75 miles on foot

7 hours, 10 minutes, 70 miles by car

Watervliet Reservoir, Glass Pond,

portion of western Pine Bush, Guilderland

31 species

#### Group E Mike Crevier

7:30 am – 2:30 pm

7 hours, 8.75 miles on foot

Settlers Hill, Bozenkill, portions of Black Creek and Watervliet Reservoir

Winter Wren, Swamp Sparrow

31 species

#### Group F Bill Lee, Janet Bettejeski, Woody Gillis, Jaime

Taft, Clifford Tepper

7:00 am – 4:00 pm

4 hours, 2.5 miles on foot

5 hours, 58 miles by car

Vale Park and Cemetary, Mohawk River from Lock 8 to

Gateway Landing, Great Flats Nature Area, West Hill and

portions of Princetown and Rotterdam

Fish Crow, Brown Creeper

37 species

#### Group G Carl George, Kathleen LoGuidice, Jim Marx,

Nancy Slack, Hank Stebbins

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

6 hours, 2.5 miles on foot

1 hour, 8 miles by car

Mohawk River, Scotia shore from Lock 8 to Rexford

Bridge, Collins Creek and Lake

Mute Swan, Rough-legged Hawk, Merlin, Ruby-crowned

Kinglet

39 species

#### Group H Bernard and Christine Grossman, John

Hershey

8:00 am – 4:30 pm

2.5 hours, 3 miles on foot

4.25 hours, 27.5 miles by car

Mohawk River, Alplaus, Rexford to Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, Portions of Glenville and Clifton

Park

32 species

#### Group I Feeder Watchers Steven Crevier, Don

Gresens, Jean and Samuel Katz, Ellen Pemrick

16 hours

20 species

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	Total
CANADA GOOSE	216	102	19	1		42	39	53		472
MUTE SWAN							1			1
WOOD DUCK	1									1
AMERICAN BLACK DUCK	9			4		20	13	12		58
MALLARD	308	37	39	3		123	99	2060		2669
NORTHERN PINTAIL										CW
LONG TAILED DUCK						1	1			1*
COMMON GOLDENEYE	3							6		9
HOODED MERGANSER						1	1			1*
COMMON MERGANSER	75				2	21	93	148		339
WILD TURKEY		3	2		1					10
GREAT BLUE HERON	1		1				3			5
BALD EAGLE			1-I				1-A			2
NORTHERN HARRIER	1		2		1					4
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	1		1					2		4
COOPER'S HAWK				3	1	2	1			7
RED-TAILED HAWK	9	12	13	5	4	12	6	5		66
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK								2		2
AMERICAN KESTREL		1						1		2
MERLIN								1		1
RING BILLED GULL	12	4		3		36	73	11		139
HERRING GULL	14	14				10				38
GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL	7									7
ROCK PIGEON	97	141	203	31	7	16	120	5	2	622
MOURNING DOVE	23	15	49	26	36	104	16	72	14	355
EASTERN SCREECH OWL	2		6							8
GREAT HORNED OWL			4				2			6
BARRED OWL			1							1
BELTED KINGFISHER			1	1	1		2	1		6
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	7	2	5		1	1	3	2		21
YELLOW BELLIED SAPSUCKER	2		4					1		7
DOWNY WOODPECKER	30	6	10	2	1	7	8	18	8	90
HAIRY WOODPECKER	8		4	2	1	4	2	6	2	29
NORTHERN FLICKER	4	1	2	2	1					10
PILEATED WOODPECKER	1			1	1		1			4
BLUE JAY	67	41	47	37	12	33	4	37	7	285
AMERICAN CROW	36	216	123	102	71	290	31	92	4	975
FISH CROW						1				1
COMMON RAVEN	1				1					2
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	136	32	63	30	56	36	11	64	14	442
TUFTED TITMOUSE	44	9	21	7	4	17	25	22	13	162
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH					2				3	5
WHITE BREASTED NUTHATCH	51	3	14	4		15	11	16	7	121
BROWN CREEPER						1				1
CAROLINA WREN				1		2			2	5
WINTER WREN					1					1
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET			1							1
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET							1			1
EASTERN BLUEBIRD			11		14	8		9		42
HERMIT THRUSH			2							2
AMERICAN ROBIN	48	33	13	10	2	9		135		250
GRAY CATBIRD		1				1				2
NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD	3		1		2	2				8
EUROPEAN STARLING	355	630	510	350	14	790	48	98	4	2,799
CEDAR WAXWING			13					51		64
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW	9	9	67	5	8	38	28	12	3	179
FIELD SPARROW			1							1
SONG SPARROW	3	5	8	2		8	4	6		36
SWAMP SPARROW					1					1
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	29	9	96	27	8	57	3	29	5	263
DARK-EYED (SLATE-COLORED) JUNCO	20	17	133	89	20	75	19	42	19	434
SNOW BUNTING				7						7
NORTHERN CARDINAL	47	10	24	3	8	30	14	10	8	154
RED WINGED BLACKBIRD			3							3
COMMON GRACKLE										CW
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	33									33
PINE GROSBEAK			16							16
PURPLE FINCH			1							1
HOUSE FINCH	51	6	47	4	5	7	25	5	7	157
COMMON REDPOLL	2			6			1		1	10
PINE SISKIN										CW
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	43	12	59	9	10	5	18	17	30	203
HOUSE SPARROW	46	90	53	14		40	81	64	29	417

70 SPECIES PLUS 3 COUNT WEEK

12,081

\* Long-tailed Duck and Hooded Merganser – same individual at Lock 8, Mohawk River observed by two field parties  
 A = adult; I = immature; CW = species observed during count week



"Gwen" protecting her eyasses. (Photo courtesy of DEC)

On May 21, the five members of the unofficial "fan club" of the Peregrine Falcons that nest on the Dunn Memorial Bridge in Albany gathered at Riverfront Park in Rensselaer. The occasion? Banding Day for the four eyasses (nesting falcons) hatched at the bridge this spring.

The four, hatched during the week of April 28 and not ready to fledge yet, had no idea of the adventure awaiting them. But their mother, known to us falcon fans as Gwendolyn, started protesting the moment the cherry picker carrying DEC staff approached the nest box. Her cries were clearly audible to us from across the river. Her mate, Henry, heard them too, and made several fly-bys to see if he could be of assistance. But the task of protecting her babies fell to Gwen, and she did not let them go without a fight. She paced back and forth in front of the box and had to be gently shooed away by the DEC staff.

The DEC folks worked quickly, carefully tucking the babies into a carrier. Their final task was to leave a sign on the nest



A crate full of birds, ready to return home. (Photo courtesy of DEC)

box to let viewers of the webcam know that banding was in progress. We falcon fans were amused to see Gwen knock over the sign as soon as the cherry picker left.

The eyasses were brought to the roadway of the bridge above the nest box, where a lane of traffic had been blocked off for DEC and DOT vehicles. There, they were weighed and measured and given their new identification bands. After about an hour, they were ready for their return trip in the cherry picker, back home to show off their new "jewelry" to Gwen and Henry.

The DEC staffers had left one of their vehicles in the park, so we had the chance to talk with them before they left. We were told that the four chicks are all healthy females. Since one of the eyasses was noticeably smaller than her siblings, this was a relief to hear. We were also shown the unhatched egg that DEC staff had retrieved from the nest box. The egg will be tested to see if a reason why it did not hatch can be determined.



An eyas shows off her new band. (Photo courtesy of DEC)

In the following days, the eyasses lost their white down and seemingly overnight turned into handsome falcons. Once they begin flying they don't necessarily hang around the old nest box anymore, so if you're in downtown Albany and see what you think is a Peregrine Falcon ... you might be right!

We're in the planning stages for a possible "fledge watch" in 2009 to help DEC keep track of the adventures of the eyasses as they take their first flights. If you're interested in helping, contact Elayne Ryba at 518-312-7384.

— Pam Martin 

**B**ETTE MOON was the HMBC Secretary for many years. She died in Rio Rancho, New Mexico, on May 8, 2008 at the age of 81. She grew up in Manhattan and attended Hunter College. She married John R. Moon and moved to Schenectady, where she worked as Deputy Supervisor of Niskayuna and later as Administrative Assistant to State Senator Farley. She was deeply involved in politics and ran for local office. She was also active on the board of Proctor's Theater, Friends of the Schenectady Museum, Schenectady Symphony, and the Reist Bird Sanctuary. Upon retiring, Bette and John moved to New Mexico, where she continued to be engaged in politics, bridge and walking.

## HMBC FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### **Hudson and Nancy Winn Preserve Sunday, May 4, 2008**

Don Gresens and daughter Wendy joined the leader on a gray, drizzly May morning for a trip to the Winn Preserve in the town of Knox.

The birds seemed to agree that it was a good day to stay under cover and made us work to find them. Highlights of the day included a YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER checking sap wells and a CHICKADEE tapping nesting material into a tree cavity. Other sightings of note were NASHVILLE and BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLERS. Birds heard but not seen included OVENBIRDS, FIELD SPARROW, EASTERN PHOEBE, BLUE HEADED VIREO, RED BELLIED WOODPECKER and CANADA GOOSE. Rounding out the list of birds seen were RED-EYED VIREO, YELLOW RUMPED WARBLER, WHITE THROATED SPARROW, DARK EYED JUNCO, AMERICAN ROBIN, AMERICAN CROW, BLUE JAY and BROWN HEADED COWBIRD.

— Jennifer Hamilton

### **Birds and Breakfast 2008 Saturday, May 10, 2008**

This year's Birds and Breakfast was met with mostly clear skies, very light breezes, and mid-spring temperatures in the pleasant 50's

Maybe it was the nice break in an otherwise gloomy stretch of weather, but something brought out the birders for the occasion. At least 42 people took part in our three outings on May 10, a very good turn-out, indeed.

The birds did not disappoint either. With a total of 68 species among the three groups it turned out to be quite a rich four and ½ hours. Highlights included KILLDEER and SOLITARY SANDPIPER, RED-BELLIED, DOWNY, HAIRY, AND PILEATED WOODPECKERS along with NORTHERN FLICKER, TREE AND BARN SWALLOWS, GRAY CATBIRD, NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD and BROWN THRASHER, GREAT BLUE and GREEN HERONS, and a wonderful observation of a male WILD TURKEY displaying to some appreciative hens. Although we did not get huge numbers of warblers, some of us got great looks at an OVENBIRD engaging in what appeared to be some courtship flights. We were also treated to both NORTHERN and LOUISIANA

WATERTHRUSH. Other warbler species included BLUE-WINGED, YELLOW, BLACK-THROATED GREEN, PINE, PRAIRIE, WILSON'S, and COMMON YELLOWTHROAT.

Thanks to all of the fine group leaders: John Kent, Alan Mapes, and Gregg Recer, and to all the participants of this year's Birds and Breakfast. What a great way to greet the spring!

— Denise Hackert-Stoner

### **Grafton Lakes State Park Saturday, May 24, 2008**

A RUFFED GROUSE was drumming in the distance as the group of eleven birders assembled on a cool, sunny morning that soon turned cloudy and windy. As usual, we began at the fabulous blueberry patch, now so overgrown with brush and saplings that the abundant birds are more easily heard than seen. At least 20 species were present including RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, WILLOW FLYCATCHER, BLUE-HEADED VIREO, VEERY, NASHVILLE WARBLER, CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER, SCARLET Tanager, EASTERN TOWHEE, numerous WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS, AND BALTIMORE ORIOLE. The Wildwood trail then yielded OVENBIRD and ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK. Walking back along Shaver Road we had great views of another BALTIMORE ORIOLE and were entertained by a YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER drumming on an old TV antenna. Among the birds seen or heard on Long Pond Road were EASTERN KINGBIRD, LEAST FLYCATCHER, RED-EYED VIREO, YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER, DARK-EYED JUNCO and yet another BALTIMORE ORIOLE. NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH, present at a small swamp about halfway along Long Pond Road each year for at least the past seven, was heard singing loudly but unseen. The last stop, at the swamp on Babcock Lake Road, added only SWAMP SPARROW to the list of 42 species, low for Grafton Lakes but not bad for a windy day.

— Phil Whitney

### **Cherry Plains Saturday, June 21, 2008**

Nine birders enjoyed ideal conditions - warm, sunny, mostly light winds and very few bugs. The first stop, at the swamp on CCC Dam Road, yielded GREAT BLUE HERON, GREEN HERON, BELTED

KINGFISHER, YELLOW and CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLERS, COMMON YELLOWTHROAT AND ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK among others, plus a very cooperative VEERY strolling along the roadside and well seen by all. A stop at the swimming area in the Park added RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD and EASTERN PHOEBE. Driving up the hill on Miller Road we stopped upon hearing the splendid song of a WINTER WREN, but managed to see neither it nor the BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER singing nearby in dense woods. A BROAD-WINGED HAWK flew over during a brief stop at the large swamp further up the hill. Walking to the pond on Jiggs Highway, we startled several fledgling RUFFED GROUSE, heard HERMIT THRUSH, BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER, SCARLET TANAGER, and WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, and had close-up views of a singing SWAMP SPARROW and a COMMON YELLOWTHROAT. At the junction of Jiggs and Miller a RED-EYED VIREO nest on a low branch, busily attended by two adults, was a treat for all. Dynamite Shack Road yielded

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER and several CEDAR WAXWINGS, with a WOOD THRUSH heard in the distance. At the end of the road the large stand of spruce with a few hardwoods mixed in, usually alive with birds, was strangely silent. As we were about to leave, puzzled and disappointed, the loud kik-kik-kik-kik of a nesting accipiter was heard, and some of the group saw a large, gray-backed bird, probably a Sharpie, flitting through the woods. Mystery solved. Retracing our route, several minutes were spent watching a BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER hopping from branch to branch singing with a large insect in his bill (how do birds do that?). Back on Miller Road, we stopped at the swamp again to compile the list of 48 species and were rewarded with good looks at another SWAMP SPARROW, a pair of YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS, and a distant DARK-EYED JUNCO. All told, a most enjoyable morning.

— Phil Whitney 

## UPCOMING HMBC PROGRAMS

*Monthly programs are open to the public and are held at 7:00 PM at William K. Sanford (Colonie) Town Library or Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar.*

### ***Birding at Tropical Lodges***

***Gregg Recer***

Monday, September 8, 2008

7:00 PM at the William K. Sanford (Colonie) Town Library

*Joint Program with Audubon Society of the Capital Region*

Tropical birding holds a fascination for many birders from temperate regions, if for no other reason than the remarkably high species diversity compared to higher latitudes. For North American birders, birding the nearby neotropics is also a way to begin gaining familiarity with entire new bird families. Self-contained lodges located in the heart of even the most remote tropical forests are making exploring these complex habitats easier. Many combine spectacular natural history observation with unexpected creature comforts. Gregg Recer will share slides and stories of recent birding adventures at lodges in Belize, Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago and consider ideas for touring tropical lodges as a way to see representatives of all (or, at least, most) of the world's bird families. Gregg is past president of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club and a frequent speaker at the Club's meetings.

### ***Bicknell's Thrush***

***Julie Hart***

Monday, October 6, 2008 (rescheduled from December 2007)

7:00 PM at the William K. Sanford (Colonie) Town Library

New York's Montane Specialist: Bicknell's Thrush - New York's montane forests are home to a unique, high-elevation bird community that includes the elusive Bicknell's Thrush, the only bird endemic to the northeast region. Bicknell's Thrush have adapted to this extreme environment in a number of ways, most notably with a unique breeding system and unusual food habits. There are a number of management and conservation issues facing Bicknell's Thrush and other high-elevation birds, including acid rain, climate change, wind power development, recreational development, and timber management. A high-elevation songbird monitoring program, Mountain Birdwatch, was initiated in 2000 to provide baseline information for making sound stewardship decisions about these montane issues. This annual point-count survey pays special attention to Bicknell's Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Blackpoll Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, and Winter Wren. Approximately 120 routes are surveyed annually throughout New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. The results have been used to monitor population levels, create a habitat map, provide site-specific information to guide development decisions, and identify priorities for land conservation. Specific information for New York will be presented, including the distribution of Bicknell's Thrush, Mountain Birdwatch route locations, survey results, and volunteer opportunities.

Julie Hart is the coordinator of Mountain Birdwatch with the Institute of Conservation Ecology. She has spent the last two summers surveying Bicknell's Thrush throughout their range, including Mountain Birdwatch surveys and demographic studies of this rare species. She also assists many other ecology programs at ICE involving both birds and butterflies. Prior to working with mountain songbirds, Julie spent five years traveling around the world studying birds. She spent time monitoring Common Loons in New Hampshire, surveying Golden-winged Warblers in the Catskills of New York, protecting Common and Roseate Terns in Maine, researching Kokako in New Zealand, searching for Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Arkansas, and recording breeding birds throughout New York and Vermont. She worked in the bird conservation departments at Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology where she was involved with national bird conservation initiatives such as the Important Bird Areas Program, the Audubon WatchList, and Partners in Flight.

***“The Canadian Atlantic”***

***Scott Stoner and Denise Hackert-Stoner***

Thursday October 9, 2008

7:00 PM at the William K. Sanford (Colonie) Town Library

*Joint program of the Audubon Society of the Capital Region and the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club*

From the Gannets of Bonaventure Island, to the tides of Fundy and the Highlands of Cape Breton; across the sea to the fjords, bogs and icebergs of Newfoundland and Labrador, Atlantic Canada is a land of spectacular scenery and wildlife. With slides and music we share the wonders that draw us to that special place.

Scott Stoner is past president of both the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club and the Audubon Society of the Capital Region. His photographic work has been published in *Birder's World Magazine*. Denise Hackert-Stoner is a past officer and director of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club. Together they have birded, explored, and photographed North America from Hawaii to Labrador. They write a monthly birding/nature column for the *Chatham Courier* and recently authored a feature article on Christmas Bird Counts for the *New York State Conservationist*.

***Northern Adventures: Birding Alaska***

***Bernie and Chris Grossman***

Monday, November 3, 2008

7:00 PM at the William K. Sanford (Colonie) Town Library

Alaska provides a varied and vast birding terrain. Its brief spring and summer provide an opportunity to view the terrain and wildlife, especially the birds, while they are busy breeding and in their breeding plumage. The state's proximity to Eurasia also increases the chance of seeing rare non-native species. This talk describes a guided trip to six Alaska locations—Anchorage, St. Paul Island in the Pribilofs, Denali, Nome, Seward and Barrow in June, 2007. Slides of the terrain, birds, flowers and other wildlife will be included. Bernie Grossman has been a member of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club for over 30 years and is currently president. Chris Grossman is also a long-term member and is currently editor of *Feathers*, the Club's newsletter

***Holiday Party and program.***

Monday, December 1, 2008

***Topic and location to be announced***

***The Whooping Cranes of Aransas Texas***

***Don Polunci***

Monday, February 2, 2009

One of the rarest creatures in North America, the whooping crane is making a comeback from a low of 15 birds in 1941. Whooping cranes nest in Canada during the summer and winter at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. Strong winds push the bay waters over low-lying shores, forming brackish tidal marshes among the short, salt-tolerant vegetation. It is this habitat that attracts thousands of migratory birds. On their journey between North and Central America, warblers concentrate on the refuge from mid-April to early May. Mild winters, bay waters, and abundant food supplies attract over 392 species of birds to Aransas, including pelicans, herons, egrets, spoonbills, shorebirds, ducks, and geese.

Don Polunci is president of the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society 

*Unless otherwise specified, all programs will be held at:*

**William K. Sanford Colonie Town Library**

**629 Albany-Shaker Road, Loudonville, NY 12211**

*2nd Thursday Of Every Month, Monthly: September - June*

*from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm*

***Birding at Tropical Lodges***

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***NYS Breeding Bird Atlas Project***

**Kim Corwin**

Thursday, October 11, 2007

7:00 PM at the William K. Sanford (Colonie) Town Library

Join us as DEC's Kim Corwin presents the results of the now-completed Breeding Bird Atlas project. There has been a significant amount of change in bird breeding status since NY's first Breeding Bird Atlas was published twenty years ago. Ms. Corwin will focus on some of the most surprising changes and the overall trends in the state's breeding birds.

Kim Corwin is the job captain for the Breeding Bird Atlas project. She has been a wildlife biologist in NYS DEC's Division of Fish and Wildlife since 1982. Publication of the Atlas is expected in summer 2008.

***IBAs BCAs, and the CCC***

**Craig Thompson**

Thursday, November 8

7:00 PM at the William K. Sanford (Colonie) Town Library

FDR's Civilian Conservation Corps initiative (1933-42) did much to advance the stewardship of our New York's state parks, forests and wildlife refuges, and did even more to improve the profound socio-economic plight of the "greatest generation". Join us for a celebration of the CCC program in New York State, which, with over 200 camps, was the largest CCC program in the country.

Craig Thompson is Audubon Society of the Capital Region (ASCR)'s President by night, and by day the Director of NYS DEC's Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, the site of CCC Camp S-72 (1933-36).

*My foot falls hard on ground still cold,  
 Still unyielding beneath my weight.  
 My rake collects the duff and clod,  
 Just hours released from winter's grip.  
 My eye falls on a stubborn bit,  
 Small, persistent, pointed, firm.  
 My heart salutes this sturdy scout,  
 This forbear of color,  
 This pioneer.*

— Denise Hackert-Stoner 

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Since HMBC is now planning Field Trips by the quarter instead of by the year, we are omitting the colored Field Trip insert and instead placing the Upcoming Field Trips at the end of Feathers so that this section may be torn off and referenced separately, if desired.

### FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED!

Want to help plan the club's 2009 field trip schedule? Committee members are needed to assist the Field Trip Committee chairperson schedule field trips and recruit trip leaders. All you need to commit is a small amount of your time. The committee meets once in the fall to brainstorm ideas for the coming year's trips & the year is divided up among the committee members. Then each person contacts club members to lead field trips for the months they are responsible for and forwards this info to the committee chairperson. Since our field trips are the club's most frequent activity, please help us by assisting with the preparation needed to continue to offer them. Please contact Donna Zimmerman at 869-6624 by Sept. 10 and volunteer to help.

### AUGUST

*There are no field trips scheduled in August.*

### Friday, August 1

Reservations for the September Cape May, NJ trip are needed by Friday Aug 1st.

### SEPTEMBER

#### Saturday, September 6

#### FALL CENTURY RUN

Coordinator & Compiler:

Hope Batcheller  
 hope.batcheller@gmail.com  
 686-3166 (email preferred)  
 Hope Batcheller  
 250 Rabbit College Rd.  
 Petersburg, NY 12138

Can we beat the first Fall Century Run's 102 species? Surely! You can go birding anywhere in the 11-county Hudson-Mohawk region, for any amount of the 24-hour timeframe. You can bird on your own or in a group, but groups must stay together & jointly identify birds. If you'd like help finding a group or have questions, contact Hope Batcheller. Please mail or email your list to Hope by Sept. 10 for it to be counted. Also, please report to Birdline with the highlights for your group. Good luck & good birding!

#### Friday, September 19 – Sunday, September 21

#### CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY

Local Coordinator: Gerry Colborn  
 Gerry 237-3898  
 gcolborn@nycap.rr.com

Reservations needed by August 1st

Join us Sept. 19 - 21st in Cape May, NJ to experience the fall migration. We'll be looking for migrating raptors, shorebirds and songbirds at some of the best birding spots in the country. For more information, contact Gerry Colborn. Limited to 10 participants.

**Sunday, September 28**

**VISCHER'S FERRY**

Coordinator: *John Hershey*  
371-3114  
hersheyj@nycap.rr.com

Fall migrants will be the main attraction for this field trip. Species that breed further north or in higher elevations stop here on their way south, sometimes providing better opportunities to observe them than when they are in their breeding territory. We will search for waterfowl, raptors, thrushes, Winter Wren, vireos, kinglets, Lincoln's Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager and a variety of warblers. Be prepared for trails that can become wet or muddy in spots. Meet at the main entrance at 8:30am.

**OCTOBER**

**Saturday, October 18**

**SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

Coordinators: Scott & Denise Stoner  
785-6760  
scottjstoner@aol.com

The battlefield is a nice place to bird in mid-fall. Foliage color should be good as we walk a portion of the Wilkinson Trail through woodlands & grasslands in search of bluebirds, woodpeckers & sparrows. In recent years the groups on this trip have found Fox Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Eastern Bluebird, Red-headed Woodpecker & Raven. Plan to hike about 2 miles along the trail (hilly in places). Wear bright-colored clothing as there is hunting on lands adjacent to the park. The National Park Service charges a fee for walking this trail. Meet at the park visitor center at 9am.

**Sunday, October 26**

**BIRD WALK & FALL SOCIAL AT FIVE RIVERS**

1:00 pm  
Coordinators: Scott & Denise Stoner  
785-6760  
scottjstoner@aol.com

*RESERVATIONS NEEDED by Wednesday, October 22*

***Feathers***

Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club  
c/o Five Rivers EEC  
Game Farm Road  
Delmar, NY 12054

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