



Vol. 56
No. 1

February
1994

Published Bi-monthly by The Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club

THE TRAVELLING BIRDER: FRUSTRATION AND SATISFACTION IN SOUTHERN FRANCE *by David Martin*

Editor's Note: *Although we've had occasional articles on birding travel in the past, this is first official article in what we hope will be a regular feature on Club members' birding-travel adventures. Birding is a great way to see our country and the rest of the world and "eco-tourism" is the fastest-growing segment of the travel industry so we hope we'll see lots more pieces in the future on "how I spent my birding vacation". – GR*

Birders have to seize opportunities when they come, so when I got the chance to visit Southern France in late August, I immediately began planning to check out some birding spots. I was scheduled to spend a week in Montpellier, a city near the Mediterranean coast, and I was elated when I discovered three very different nature reserves located within driving distance. Even if birding was poor I knew I would see some interesting French countryside. I gave myself three days at the beginning of the trip to devote to birding; the remainder of my stay would have to be business.

The first morning after my arrival I bought a Michelin map, picked up my rental car, and headed for the Causse de Blandas. Driving was easy after I got oriented, and soon I was past the city of Ganges and on my way up the winding secondary roads that lead to the Causse. A causse is a limestone plateau, and there are many in south central France. This one was covered with brown hayfields and heath with occasional thickets and trees. I could see for miles, the sun was bright, it was hot, and it was dry. I saw very few birds along the way, but when I reached the Causse I began to see some birds, little brown jobs, flitting in the bushes. Given my poor knowledge of

European birds, what I needed were large easily identified birds, but there were none. So, I soon settled down to study a group of noisy brown birds that I eventually decided were young RED-BACKED SHRIKES being fed by a female. A short time later I found a male perched in the open on a twig. A perfect view, and he was still there later in the day. A little further on I got a KESTREL but missed a larger raptor that kept moving ahead just far enough to be impossible to identify. I constantly checked out large black birds in the fields, but all seemed to be CARRION CROWS; I saw no CHOUGH even though they could have been there. The road led to the Cirque de Navacelles, a dramatic, deep canyon surrounded by grey limestone cliffs. The Cirque is at least a mile across and perhaps a thousand feet deep, and at the very bottom stands a cone-shaped

Inside This Issue

*Birding the Hollyhock Hollow
Sanctuary*

Blue Bird License Plates

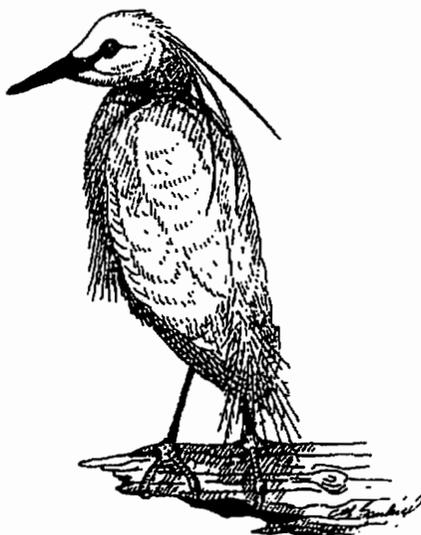
Field Trip & Program News



Birding France, cont'd....

hill and a small village. I spent some time enjoying the view and watching the CRAG MARTINS that were flying around the overlook where I stopped. On the return trip I spent more time on LBJs and got a SKYLARK. I suppose it would have been easy for a European birder, but I had to work at it a bit. By that time the day was almost over and I was feeling the effects of jet lag, so I headed back to town.

The next day I set off to visit the Gorge du Tarn, a somewhat longer drive from Montpellier (perhaps 90 miles). I was optimistic because most of the distance was four-lane divided highway, and I figured the trip wouldn't take more than a couple of hours. However, I hadn't realized that this was a main road from the Mediterranean region to Northern Europe and that immense numbers of vacationers would be heading home on a Saturday morning at the end of August. Traffic was heavy. At first we moved very fast, but suddenly we slowed, and soon we were crawling. The problem was an 19-mile detour around tunnel construction. The detour passed along a pretty little stream in a lovely valley, along a road lined with plane trees, through villages with narrow streets, up winding roads with sheer drops on one side, and through hills with dramatic views. We moved so slowly that there was plenty of time to appreciate rural France. The French drivers, they did not always seem so appreciative. When we returned to the main road the traffic picked up again, and we moved along fairly well until we approached the city of Millau where the highway enters the town. Imagine the Thruway passing through the streets of Albany and you will get the picture. We had been stopped at one point for some time when a driver ahead of me lost patience and made a U-turn into the path of an oncoming camper. Crash! Immediately everyone was out on the road yelling



and gesticulating, and I could see that no one was injured. The driver of the camper ran around it slapping his forehead. It was a classic scene and almost worth the trip by itself, except it did not add to my life list.

More than four hours after leaving, I arrived in the Gorge du Tarn at Le Rozier, a village on the edge of the Parc National de Cevennes. The causses of the Park and the gorges where the Tarn and Jonte rivers flow have a particularly rich flora, including some 25 percent of the plant species in France. The scenery is spectacular where the rivers run between sheer cliffs rising hundreds of feet. It was a popular place that day and filled with hikers, swimmers, sunbathers, and canoers. I hiked along the river bank through dense vegetation, hearing and glimpsing many tits, finches, and leaf warblers but having a frustrating time positively identifying them. When I came to an open area I scanned the sky and spotted GRIFFON VULTURES. When one landed on the cliff edge, I realized that many of the rocks arranged like crenellations on the cliff actually were vultures. They were active, constantly soaring out and returning, while the perched birds frequently extended their snake-like necks giving themselves a bizarre appearance. I counted twenty-one, but I looked in vain for the EGYPTIAN VULTURES that reportedly could be there. A little later a PURPLE HERON flew over just above the trees. The trip back to Montpellier was uneventful.

The next morning I worried about the traffic as I got up and started off because I planned to take another main highway, this time leading east along the coast to Arles. But traffic was light and in an hour or so, I arrived at the Camargue Reserve



Birding France, cont'd.....

Naturelle, a large area in the middle of the Rhone delta that is an excellent birding spot and is the only breeding area for Greater Flamingo in France. In spring the Camargue is an enormous wetland made up of marshes and lakes, but much of the water evaporates during the summer and by August large areas have become salty flats. During my visit the large central lakes seemed full and some of the marshy areas were still wet. Birds began to appear as I drove into the refuge area. After checking out some BLACK-HEADED GULLS and YELLOW-LEGGED HERRING GULLS in a field, I got a Roller sitting on a wire. Then I saw it, a GREATER FLAMINGO flying with ungainly grace into the reserve. This was among the most spectacular birds I have ever seen with its deep pink body and almost crimson wings outlined in black. I saw hundreds of them that day. At one point I watched four of them lined up close together feeding rhythmically in perfect unison. They were in water up to their bellies. As they fed, they raised their heads all together, then reached to the right and plunged them deep into the water, swung them to the left underwater, and then raised them again to their full heights, while moving forward with each repeat of the cycle. They continued doing this for several minutes until a man with a video camera ran up to the lake edge and startled them. After that they milled around in disarray. After the flying flamingo, I immediately got LITTLE EGRET, COOT and BLACK-WINGED STILT. In the same area CATTLE EGRETS were perched on the backs of horses. As I drove down a narrow road through a marshy area I flushed what I thought was a LITTLE BITTERN. It was so close that I could see its started, bulging eye as it flew low over the windshield. When I stopped and walked a few feet into the marsh it flushed again, and I saw that I was right. Later I got GRAY HERON, WHISKERED TERN, BLACK TERN AND RINGED PLOVER. At first the terns required some close observation because most were molting, but some were still in breeding plumage and, in the end, the identifications were easy. The Ringed Plovers surprised me, because they should be there only in migration while Little Ringed Plovers breed along the Mediterranean Coast. I suppose they were early

migrants. I never got the Bee-Eater which is said to be there and saw no ducks except MALLARDS.

No one has ever told me that Southern France is a birding hotspot. Certainly I did not get a large number of species (only twenty-one), but part of the problem was the time of year. As everyone knows



birds are not as obvious in August as in the spring, some are molting, and the young can be confusing. My lack of familiarity with the territory and European birds compounded these problems. However, almost all my sightings were life birds, and some were spectacular to see. The Camargue was the most productive area for me. Even though only part of it was wet, it was much richer than the bone-dry Causse de Blandas. The Gorge du Tam is remarkable and deserves much more time than I was able to give it, and I suspect that time spent in the rest of the Parc National de C,vennes also would be well worthwhile.



Upcoming Field Trips

Raptors of Saratoga and Washington Counties

Feb 6 (Sun), Coord: Bill Graham 798-8038 (9 am - 1 pm)

Starting at the Conklingville Dam and ending in the farm area east of Ft. Edward, this trip provides numerous opportunities to view Bald Eagles, Short-eared Owls, Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Harriers and open-field passerines. 11am to dusk.

Cape Ann & Plum Island, Ma.

Feb. 19-21 (Sat-Mon), Coord: Bill Lee 374-3426.

Join us on this popular winter trip as we search for Harlequin and other sea ducks, loons, King Eider, white-winged gulls, alcids, Purple sandpiper, Snow Bunting, longspurs and winter raptors including Bald Eagle. Reservations by Feb 7.

Waterfowl of the Hudson River (Greene Co.)

Mar. 13 (Sun), Coord: Bill Cook 851-2678

Join us on this morning trip, starting at 8 am, where we will search the Hudson from Coxsackie to Catskill for waterfowl including Common Goldeneye and Canvasback.

Waterfowl of the Hudson River Above Troy Mar. 27 (Sun), Coord: Walt Sabin, 439-7344

On this full day trip, we will start in North Troy at 8:30 am and bird the river north to Hudson Falls looking for spring-migrant waterfowl.

Instructional Spring Waterfowl Trip at Vischer Ferry

Late March or early April, Coord: Scott Stoner 464-0492

A morning walk at Vischer Ferry, primarily designed for beginners, MAY be offered in late March or early April to study spring waterfowl. Call Birdline the week of March 21 for more information.

Eastern Bluebird License Plates

The New York State Bluebird Society has asked the State DMV to make a license plate available with NYS's State Bird -- the Eastern Bluebird. DMV has expressed an interest in this, if there is enough sales potential. If you're interested, leave a message on Birdline (439-8080) or call Gregg Recer (899-2678) to let us know. We'll pass on the overall Club interest level to the Bluebird Society.

Audubon Watercolors on tour

John James Audubon: The Watercolors for The Birds of America is an exhibit of 87 Audubon originals currently traveling the country. The exhibit is sponsored by the New York Historical Society and has received rave reviews. The exhibit will be on view at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts from Feb. 9 through April 10, 1994, providing the best opportunity for Capital District residents to see the works.



Upcoming Programs

Special Member Meeting:

Monday, Feb 7; 7:30 PM

Vote on the proposed By-laws amendments which were presented at the January meeting. This Club business meeting will be followed, at 8 PM, by a regular program:

Bird Finding in Vermont

Walter Ellison, Club member and author of a Vermont birding guide, will give a slide-illustrated tour of birding in our neighboring state.

The Ecology of Fire Island

Monday, March 7; 7:30 PM

Environmental educator and Club member Bob Budliger will present an illustrated talk on the plants, birds and other animals of barrier islands that lie off the south shore of Long Island.

HMBC Annual Meeting

Monday, April 11; Banquet: 6:00 PM; Business meeting and program: 7:30PM.

The Club's annual business meeting will be proceeded, this year, by a Club banquet, tentatively scheduled for 6:00PM. The location has yet to be determined. Following the dinner, a business meeting will be held at which the HMBC Board elections will take place. Following the business meeting, owl expert Julio de la Torre will give a presentation with particular emphasis on the ecology of the Short-eared Owl. Complete details on the annual meeting and the banquet will be provided in a separate program notice and on Birdline.

Program Reports

On December 6, 1993, the Club held its annual Christmas party and discussion of upcoming Christmas Counts. The many who turned out were treated to great food and an interesting discussion of raptor biology and conservation, led by artist Wayne Trimm, his wife Melodee James, and assisted by their son and several raptors. Everyone was quite taken with numerous up-close looks at the rehabilitated raptors, including a Great-horned Owl, an Eastern Screech Owl, an adult Red-tailed Hawk and an American Kestrel.

On January 5, 1994, 40 people, from as far as Gloversville and Johnstown braved the snow to enjoy a discussion on the owls of eastern New York by popular educator Alan Mapes. Using a variety of media along with several specimens, Alan described the habits and habitats of the many species that breed and/or winter in the greater Capital Region, from Screech and Great Horned at Five Rivers to the Snowy and Short-eared that frequent Fort Edward. He described a scene witnessed last February during a Five Rivers trip to that area in which a Snowy Owl pursued and caught on the wing a Rock Dove, and the ensuing interaction between this strong flying and aggressive owl and both Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks!





Field Trip Reports

Saratoga Lake November 14, 1993

Fourteen club members met at 9:30am near Northway exit 14 to look for waterfowl. We were prepared for a cold, windy trip around Saratoga Lake and we were delightfully surprised by a nearly windless, 60-degree day. Was it November? Most of the trip had cloudy skies but it began to drizzle in the early afternoon. There were numerous CANADA GEESE, BLACK DUCKS, and MALLARDS. There were a fair number of COMMON LOONS, COMMON GOLDENEYE, AND COMMON MERGANSERS as well as several SCAUP, BUFFLEHEAD, and HOODED MERGANSER. The best birds of the day were HORNED GREBE and REDHEAD (both were lifers for some participants). We had some very nice looks at CEDAR WAXWINGS, but, despite a valiant search, no Bohemians. In total, 34 species were spotted.

Barb Putnam

Tomhannock Reservoir November 7, 1993

On November 7, 1993, a small group of Hudson-Mohawk birders met at Tomhannock Reservoir. It was a somewhat cold and overcast day with a few snow flurries, but a fine day for birding. At the causeway we found two BRANT, a COMMON LOON, a DUNLIN, a GREATER YELLOWLEGS and several SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS in addition to CANADA GEESE and several species of ducks and gulls. As we moved a round the reservoir, we found a late YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, several EASTERN BLUEBIRDS along with a reasonable number of the more common landbirds. At the Otter Creek outlet we found GREATER and

LESSER YELLOWLEGS and had some real fun watching some almost invisible COMMON SNIPE. At the power station we saw hundreds of SNOW GEESE, about a thousand CANADA GEESE, several COMMON LOONS, a RED-NECKED GREBE and many more ducks. We scanned the distant raft of SNOW GEESE on the outside chance of picking up a Ross' but found none [two Ross' Geese were found about one week later -- ed.]. We all seemed satisfied with a good day's birding as we ended the trip with a total of 48 species.

Bill Gorman

Rhode Island Coast November 20-21, 1993

Nine members made a reprise trip to the Rhode Island coast after the successful trip there in January, 1993. The group covered areas on both sides of Narragansett Bay, focusing on seaducks, loons, grebes and gulls, and hoping for some pelagics. Saturday morning was spent in Little Compton. We first went to Sakonnet Pt. hoping to see a dark-morph Gyrfalcon which had been reported earlier that week. The Gyr was not seen, but we got a good start on the seaduck list, with many scoters, COMMON EIDER, COMMON GOLDENEYE and BUFFLEHEAD. We also had a number of fairly close-in views of NORTHERN GANNETS and most of the group had a fleeting glimpse of a flying alcid -- probably a RAZORBILL, although the bird was not seen well enough to make a positive ID. Poking around some of the ponds and reservoirs on Little Compton produced HOODED MERGANSER, GREAT BLUE HERON and GREAT EGRET, SHARP-SHINNED and COOPER'S HAWK and CAROLINA WREN.

Saturday afternoon was spent working our



Field Trip Reports CONTINUED

way up toward Watchemocket Cove and the John Turner Reservoir in East Providence, with only a few figure-8 maneuvers getting on and off the highway in-between. On the way, we stopped at Colt State Park in Bristol which is mentioned in Adam Fry's RI birding guide as a good access spot for Narragansett Bay and a place where wintering SNOW BUNTINGS and HORNED LARKS are common. Sure enough, we found both species on the Park's lawns, as well as a BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER. A Pacific Loon had been reported near a small point in East Providence so we stopped to check out this spot too. The wind, which had been pretty fierce all day, was howling when we got there, almost to the point of making walking difficult. There were lots of Loons at the point, but they were all Commons.

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL is regular in winter at Watchemocket Cove, and after a bit of searching we found a nice "Bonaparte's" with a bright red bill and dark wing linings. The Cove was also full of AMERICAN WIGEON and we found at least four male EURASIANS among the local jobs. As we continued to watch the ducks, someone would occasionally look over the gulls again. At first there had been, apparently, only one Black-headed, but later there were two, then the next time we turned around, three, eventually we found five, all adults. Also notable at the Cove were 200 - 300 MUTE SWANS. The population of this introduced waterfowl is exploding throughout coastal southern New England.

Sunday morning we headed to Sachuest Pt., near Newport. Sachuest Point NWR has become the premier New England location for wintering HARLEQUIN DUCKS, and we were not disappointed on this trip, seeing over 30 of these ducks which Peterson describes as

"dark and bizarre". Other ducks included all three scoters, numerous COMMON EIDER, BUFFLEHEAD, COMMON GOLDENEYE and RED-



BREASTED MERGANSER. COMMON and RED-THROATED LOONS and HORNED and RED-NECKED GREBES were also fairly common. PURPLE SANDPIPERS and SANDERLINGS were the only shorebirds to be found. Scoping Gardiners Pond added GREATER SCAUP and RUDDY DUCK to the list, and produced some temporary confusion. A single, plain, dark goose was mixed in with a group of CANADAS. After puzzling over this for some time we were fairly sure the bird was an immature blue-morph SNOW GOOSE and this was confirmed after consulting the guides back at the cars.

The rest of Sunday was spent on the Pt, Judith side of the Bay. Bird-wise, things were very slow for this area. A few more NORTHERN GANNETS were the only bright spots on this leg of the trip. Nevertheless, the trip, overall, had been another good one to this tiny, but productive, part of New England, with a trip total of 76 species, including the possible Razorbill, and with very satisfying looks at most of the birds.

Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen

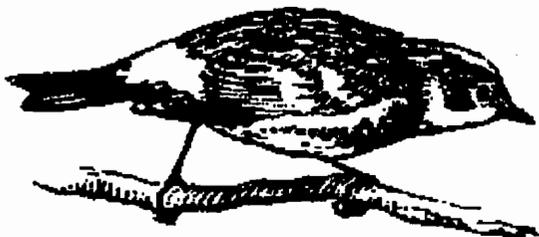


Field Trip Reports CONTINUED

Five Rivers EEC
December 4, 1993

Six Club members met for a brisk winter morning walk at Five Rivers on December 4. Although a few interesting reports had occurred earlier that week, our trip did not produce any extraordinary sightings. BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES, both NUTHATCHES and TUFTED TITMICE were found all around the grounds., but most of the activity was near the feeding stations. The feeders near the Center offices produced a lone PINE SISKEN, apparently left over from their brief incursion earlier in the Fall. A fine look through the scope of an immature NORTHERN HARRIER was another highlight. EASTERN BLUEBIRDS, a NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD, a RED-TAILED HAWK and DARK-EYED JUNCOS provided some action toward the end of the walk. The largest concentration of birds was found at the Center's main feeding station, where we added WHITE-THROATED SPARROW to the list. While not the most exciting trip, the walk produced 21 species, not a bad showing for a December morning.

Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen



BIRDING THE HMBC REGION:

***New York Audubon's Hollyhock
Hollow Sanctuary***
by Jean Mackay, Staff Ecologist

If you are looking for new birding grounds this year, visit New York Audubon's Hollyhock Hollow Sanctuary in Selkirk for an exciting change of pace. Hollyhock Hollow Sanctuary is one of the area's lesser known, but highly valuable birding areas. In just 1 1/2 hours last May, 43 species were recorded along the sanctuary's Onesquethaw Creek Trail.

Directions: From Albany take route 32 south to the village of Feura Bush. Turn left on route 102 (Old Quarry Road) and follow 3 miles. Turn right on Rarick Road. New York Audubon's headquarters and Hollyhock Hollow Sanctuary are 2/10 of a mile on the left. From Poughkeepsie or Points South take 87 North to exit 22 - Selkirk. Make a right on route 144 and then a right onto route 396. Follow Route 396 past the intersection with route 9W. make a right onto route 102 and then a left onto Rarick Road. Hollyhock Hollow is 2/10 of a mile on the left.

Site Description

Hollyhock Hollow Sanctuary, a 138-acre preserve, was donated to New York Audubon (NYA) by Robert and Leona Train Rienow in 1988. When the Rienow's bought the land in the 1940's it had been the site of a farm with open fields and a few old trees. They left it undeveloped and allowed natural succession to proceed. Now, the sanctuary is almost entirely wooded, with many white pines, Eastern hemlocks, hop hornbeams, shagbark hickories, red maples and oaks. In spring, the woodland trails are alive with both migrant birds and native wildflowers. The Onesquethaw Creek runs through the southern portion of the sanctuary and for the most part, forms the southern



Hollyhock Sanctuary, cont'd....

boundary to the property. The creek, with its underlying limestone geology, quiet pools, and rapid flows provides excellent riparian habitat and an exciting place to look for birds. In addition to these habitats, the sanctuary also features wildlife gardens to attract songbirds, hummingbirds, and butterflies. The gardens are a centerpiece of the "Backyard Habitat Trail", a self-guided trail which provides information about managing land with the needs of wildlife in mind. Visitors can learn about landscaping with native plants, restoring habitat, monitoring water quality, and managing backyards, parks, or business properties to attract birds and ensure environmental quality.

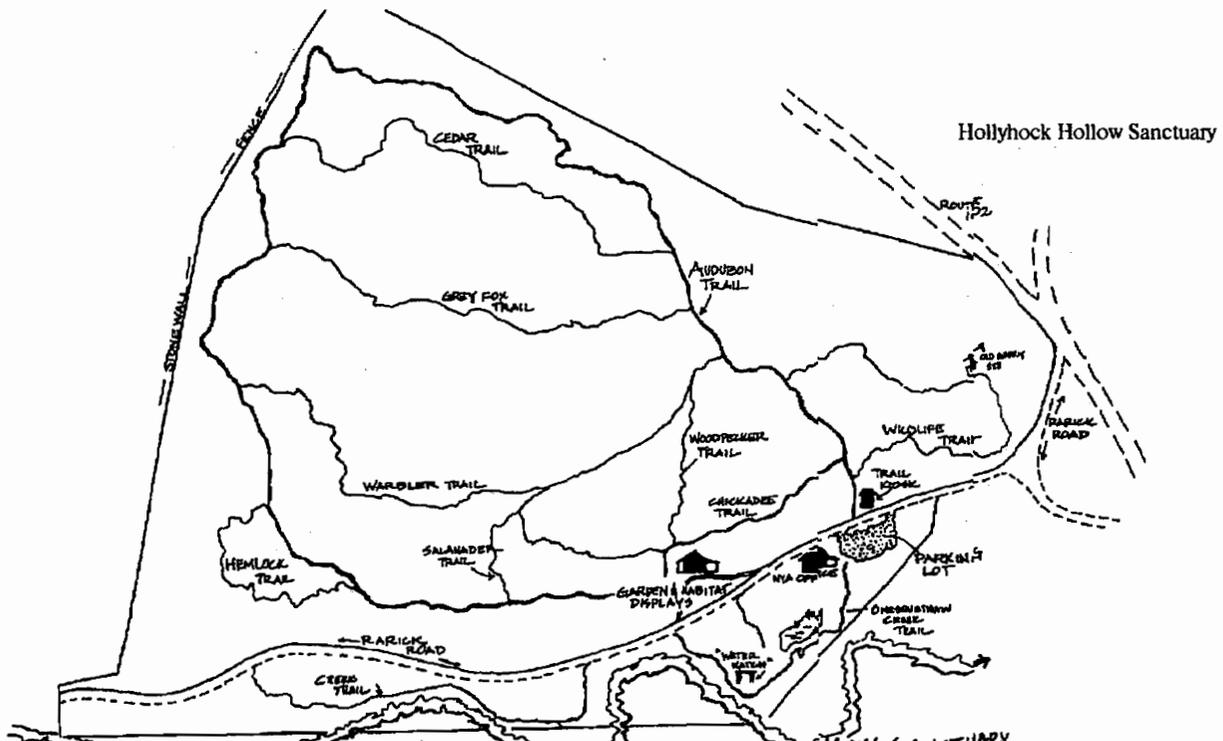
Birding Hollyhock Hollow Sanctuary

When you arrive at the sanctuary, proceed to the trail information kiosk to pick up a sanctuary trail map and check the wildlife inventory. A list of the 85+ birds that have been sighted at Hollyhock Hollow is posted in the kiosk and visitors are invited to record wildlife sightings that they see while touring the

grounds. From the kiosk, you can choose to go in three basic directions: along the Onesquethaw Creek, into the woods, or along the Backyard Habitat Trail to see the gardens and habitat enhancement displays (See Map). Each offers distinct birding opportunities and fortunately, you can choose to walk more than one area if your schedule permits. (The longest woodland trail, the Audubon Trail, takes about one hour at a moderate pace.) The trails are all clearly marked, but most are maintained in a "semi-wild" state. This allows Hollyhock Hollow to remain true to its mission of providing a sanctuary for wildlife without constant human interference or intrusion. The quiet solitude of Hollyhock Hollow is welcome for both birds and birders.

In Spring...

During April and May, at the height of migration, any trail you choose will be rewarding. Along the Onesquethaw Creek Trail, you will likely see Great-blue Heron, Wood Ducks, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. Green Herons





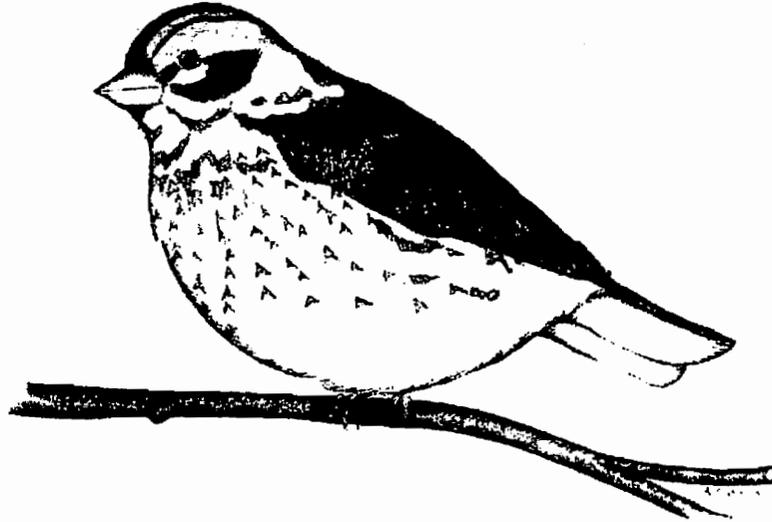
regularly feed at the small sanctuary pond, while Blue-grey Gnatcatchers swoop and hawk for insects over the pond and surrounding field. Warbler species heard and sighted along the creek trail include Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Blue-winged, Black & White, Tennessee, and Yellowthroat. The woodland trails offer a great chance to see ovenbirds, American Redstart, Wood Thrush, and Eastern Peewee. Pileated Woodpeckers have regularly nested in tree cavities located where the Salamander Trail meets the Audubon Trail. A Cooper's Hawk has also been seen in silent pursuit through the trees. Though the creek and woodland trails offer exciting birding opportunities, be sure to meander through the garden and display area surrounding the former Rienow guest house. Here,

you can get planting and landscaping ideas for attracting more birds to your own backyard. You can also look under the house eaves for the nesting Eastern Phoebe, or rest near the hummingbird garden where this small and fascinating bird is often seen sipping nectar. Wrens, Robins, and Great-crested Flycatchers are also common sightings along the Backyard Habitat Trail. Nesting boxes have been placed throughout the property and the nests of Tree Swallows, Bluebirds, House Wrens, and Chickadees are on display to give visitors a close up view of each distinct nest. NYA is seeking volunteer monitors and invites you to call the sanctuary if you can commit to checking the boxes on a regular basis

throughout the nesting season. A breeding bird survey will also begin in 1994 and NYA welcomes interested and knowledgeable birders to participate.

Year-round birding...

Though birding Hollyhock Hollow is best in Spring before the leaves mature and obscure woodland views, you will be surprised to find a variety of birds throughout all seasons of the year. In summer, be prepared for lots of birding by ear. The songs of the Carolina Wren, Scarlet Tanager, and Red-eyed Vireo are commonly heard through the woods. The wildlife gardens peak in mid-July, and late-August brings the return of Great-blue herons to the creek and flocks of Cedar Waxwings to feed each afternoon at the pond. In fall



and winter, the sanctuary changes dramatically with the brilliant colors of autumn and then stark solitude of snow and frozen ground. Bird feeders around the NYA office attract a variety of smaller birds and Chickadees are abundant in the winter woods. In all seasons, Hollyhock Hollow is a unique place to explore and enjoy. To get involved in sanctuary activities, please call or write:

New York Audubon
46 Rarick Road
Selkirk, NY 12158
(518) 767-9051.



HMBC BOARD FOR 1993 - 1994

Officers

President: Scott Stoner 32-10 Woodlake Rd. Albany, N.Y. 12203 464-0492	Vice-President: Tim Colborn 140 George Endries Dr. Schenectady, N.Y. 12303 356-5768
--	---

Secretary: Bette Moon 907 St. David's Ln. Schenectady, N.Y. 12309 372-8330	Treasurer: Cathy Graichen 23 Scotch Mist Way Ballston Spa, N.Y. 12020 899-2678
--	--

Directors:

William Lee	374-3426
Gregg Recer	899-2678
Ray Perry	877-8915
Barb Putnam	792-7542
Paul Connor	477-5824

Committee Chairpersons

Conservation:	Walt Sabin	439-7344
Birdline:	Ray Perry	877-8915
Programs:	Scott Stoner	464-0492
Field Trips:	Cliff Lamere	462-9827
Membership:	Daniel Ruge	449-1087
PR:	Tim Colborn	356-5768
Publications:	Gregg Recer	899-2678
Records:	Cliff Lamere	462-9827
Sanctuary:	Bette Moon	372-8330
Hospitality:	Laura Sommers	489-2712
Jr. Activities:	Vacant	



SEND THOSE ARTICLES, FIELD TRIP REPORTS AND OTHER MATERIAL (INCLUDING CLIP ART) TO:

FEATHERS
Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club
c/o Five Rivers EEC
Game Farm Rd.



As we head into the second full 6-issue volume of *Feathers*, we've upgraded our computer and we've acquired a new, more versatile type-face collection, hopefully giving the look of the newsletter a little more flair. Any comments or suggestions on style, format or content or *Feathers* will be appreciated. - GR



President's Corner: I'm pleased to announce that Julio de la Torre, noted lecturer and expert on owls, will be the guest speaker at our Annual Meeting, set for Monday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m. His talk is tentatively entitled 'Owls of North America - Ecology and Conservation', and will include a special emphasis on the Short-eared Owl, one of a number of species of grassland birds that are increasingly of concern. Some of you may have enjoyed his entertaining talk at the SUNY Natural History Lecture Series last fall; he is also scheduled as the banquet speaker at the 1994 Annual Meeting of the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs next October.



Sufficient interest has been expressed in a dinner preceding the HMBC Annual Meeting to proceed with its planning. Social Committee Chair Laura Sommers will be making arrangements; look for details in the notice of the Annual

Meeting in the near future. The dinner will be optional; people who wish only to attend the business meeting and/or hear the guest speaker can do so.

The nomination process for the 1994-1995 Club year has begun, with the Board appointing a nominating committee to be chaired by Alan Mapes. There are three two-year board positions up for election, as well as the four officer slots. Interested persons are urged to contact Alan at 439-4086.

The NYS DEC Bureau of Wildlife is interested in increasing the opportunities for wildlife viewing throughout the State. In response to a recent questionnaire, the HMBC is providing substantial input on areas that need increased protection or better access (such as local reservoirs and Black Creek Marsh) in our region.

Scott Stoner

FEATHERS
Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club
c/o Five Rivers EEC
Game Farm Rd.
Delmar, N.Y. 12054

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 186
SCHDY NY 12305

Forwarding and Return
Postage Guaranteed

Ann & Wayne B'Rells
3187 Woodhaven Drive
Schenectady, NY
12303-4733



Printed on
Recycled Paper



Vol. 56
No. 2

April
1994

Published Bi-monthly by The Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club

BIRDING THE HMBC REGION: Mill Creek Marsh

by Paul F. Connor

Mill Creek Marsh, which recently has come under the protection of the Nature Conservancy as the Lewis A. Swyer Preserve, is located close to the east bank of the Hudson River in northern Columbia County. Noted for its wealth of plant and animal life, the preserve contains an unusual habitat, a forested freshwater tidal wetland. This unspoiled area became accessible late in 1991 with the construction of a trail which winds through the heart of the swamp along lower Mill Creek and includes over 800 feet of elevated boardwalk. This locality is not a major birding site where you would expect to see a large concentration of water birds or always produce a long species list, yet it has a certain wild appeal in that you wonder what may be seen around the next bend in the trail or farther down the creek.

DIRECTIONS

The Lewis A. Swyer Preserve is located along N.Y.S. Route 9J which follows the east side of the Hudson River from U.S. routes 9 and 20 in Rensselaer south to U.S. 9 north of Hudson. To reach the preserve from the north on 9J, proceed through Castleton to Schodack Landing. Continue south from there (from Schodack Landing Road) for about 4 1/2 miles to the preserve parking area (marked by directional arrows and guard posts) on the west side of 9J. If heading up from the south on 9J, go north from Stuyvesant for approximately two miles to

arrive at the roadside parking area. From here, a short walk south along the edge of the road brings you to the preserve entrance and start of the trail and boardwalk, on the north side of Mill Creek (Figure 1).

SITE DESCRIPTION

Bounded on the west by the New York Central Railroad and on the east by Route 9J and an old railroad bed (tracks removed), this elongate 95-acre Nature Conservancy Preserve is almost entirely covered with low, wetland habitats. The boardwalk trail is the main access into the swamp forest along Mill Creek and across the center of the preserve; besides the section of elevated boardwalk,

....more on next page

Inside This Issue

Annual Meeting Reminder

Texas in October

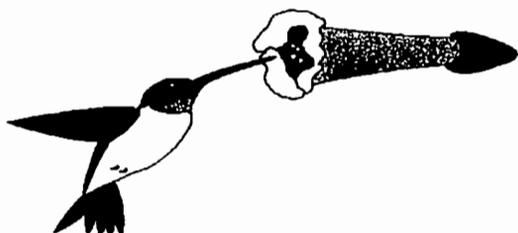
Everglades Visit

Spring Field Trips & Programs

Bird Guide Update



there are benches along the way and several small bridges span the tributary creeks. Swamp white oak, red maple, black ash and green ash are the most abundant among the various tree species found along the trail, while a remarkable array of wildflowers - Canada Lily, Great Lobelia, and others may be seen in season under the trees or on the edge of Mill Creek. The boardwalk ends at a 16-foot high observation platform overlooking more open marshy habitat near the mouth of Mill Creek, with a view of the Hudson River beyond.



Allow about two hours to walk slowly out to the observation platform and back; walk quietly near the creek as a heron, ducks, deer or other wildlife may appear suddenly around the bend. Extremely high tides during a record-breaking northeast storm on December 11, 1992, somewhat damaged the boardwalk. Repairs were made and plans also call from constructing an additional section of elevated boardwalk linking the present section with Route 9J. The railroad tracks (high speed trains) and deep water just beyond the observation platform prevent access to the river shoreline.

Trails are lacking elsewhere on the preserve, limiting access, but the southern extension of the area includes a sizable cattail marsh, vis-

ible through the trees from the abandoned railroad bed (south of Gibbon Road at 9J). Also, some drier, wooded habitat, chiefly cottonwood, is found on sloping ground in this area. Avoid the old railroad overpass above 9J, as it is in disrepair and unsafe to approach. Observe adjacent property boundaries which are posted as private. Additional wetland, mostly wooded, covers the northern end of the preserve.

SEASON-BY-SEASON GUIDE

Spring:

In March, **GREAT BLUE HERONS** and **WOOD DUCKS** are conspicuous along the creek or open marsh. **BLACK DUCKS**, **MALLARDS** and **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** may be seen. On favorable days in April, the observation platform is ideal for observing **OSPREYS** migrating upriver and occasionally one will come in close to investigate the creek. Also look for migrating **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS**, **SNOW GEESE**, **CANADA GEESE** and other waterfowl. Listen for **FISH CROWS** near the river. Breeding has not been confirmed, but **PIED-BILLED GREBES** and **VIRGINIA RAILS** have been heard during the spring in portions of the Lewis A. Swyer Preserve south of Mill Creek. Passerine migrants are most easily observed along the boardwalk trail or the unused railroad bed.

Breeding/Summer:

WOOD DUCK and **MALLARD** probably breed here, but are less frequently noted at this season. A pair of **BELTED KINGFISHERS** frequents the main creek in summer and **PILEATED WOODPECKERS** are often observed nearby. **EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE**, **GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER**, **BROWN CREEPER**, **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER**, **VEERY**, **WOOD THRUSH**, and **ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK**



are some of the breeding species of this forested wetland or swamp. Also, listen for **NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH**, which seems shy and uncommon here, but with at least one pair present in 1992 and 1993. Breeding birds of drier wooded and edge habitat on the preserve include **WARBLING VIREO**, **YELLOW-THROATED VIREO**, **NORTHERN ORIOLE** and **ORCHARD ORIOLE**. The latter was found feeding young in the southern portion of the area in July 1993. Common summer residents of the more open marsh areas include **WILLOW FLYCATCHER**, **YELLOW WARBLER**, **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT**, and **SWAMP SPARROW**. Quite a large **MARSH WREN** colony inhabits the narrow-leaf cattail habitat south of Mill Creek.

Bird life can be quiet along Mill Creek in August, but the area is now strikingly colorful since the wildflowers seem to reach a peak in variety and abundance this month. Although present all summer, **RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS** are perhaps most noticeable in

August when attracted to areas of spotted jewelweed or cardinal flower visible from trail. Also, migrant warblers may be noted in August, birds may be observed at ripening fruit on shrubs near water, and as many as five **GREAT EGRETS** have been seen wading with **GREAT BLUE HERONS** at the mouth of Mill Creek at low tide. For observers interested in butterflies, an excellent variety of these insects may be seen along the trail at this season.

Fall:

This seems to be a little known season for birds at the preserve. But a visit on September 24, 1992 revealed a large mixed flock of **GOLDEN-CROWNED** and **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS**, **SOLITARY** and **RED-EYED VIREOS**, **NASHVILLE**, **MAGNOLIA**, **YELLOW-RUMPED**, **BLACK-THROATED GREEN**, and **BLACKPOLL WARBLERS** in the swamp along the trail. On

more on next page....

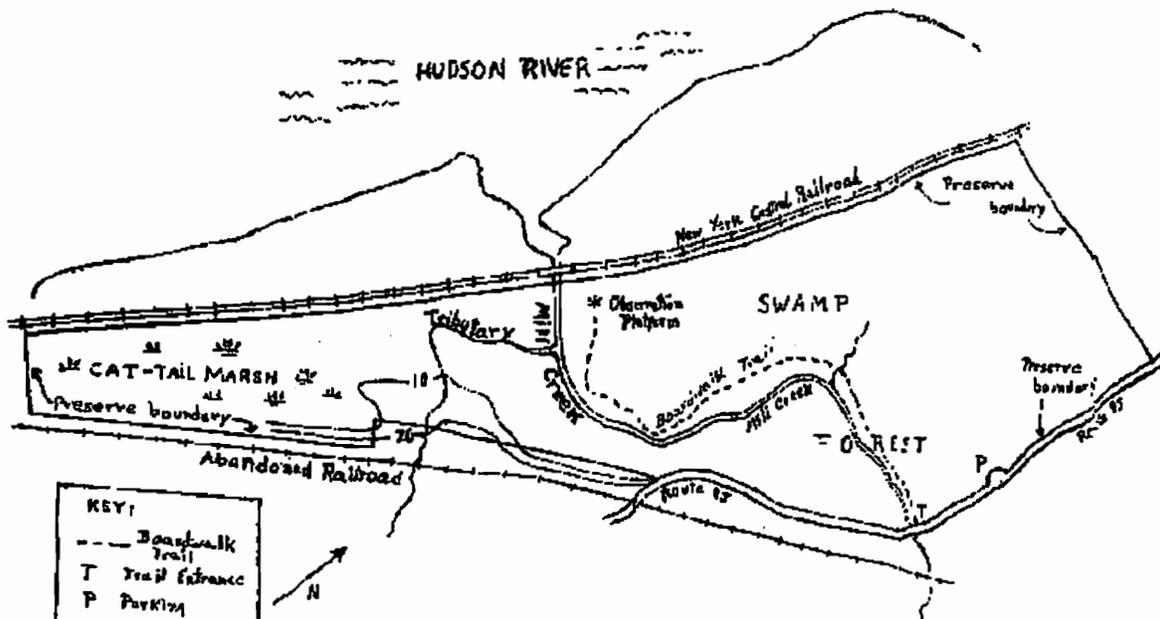


Figure 1. Lewis A. Swyer Preserve map (adapted from Nature Conservancy map)



continued from previous page....

the same day about 50 White-throated Sparrows and two Indigo Buntings were in shrubby habitat by the creek. A short walk on October 16 produced 15 WOOD DUCKS, two RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS, a CAROLINA WREN, numerous YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS and RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS, and at least two RUSTY BLACKBIRDS. In 1991, observers from the Alan Devoe Bird Club sighted PINE GROSBEAKS and other species along the newly opened trail in late November.

Winter:

In winter the swamp along the trail appears drab and lifeless from the loss of all the dense leafy vegetation and color. But the area is within the circle of the Chatham Christmas Bird Count and we have found that a stop here can be profitable. BELTED KINGFISHER, RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER, PILEATED WOODPECKER, NORTHERN FLICKER, BROWN CREEPER, WINTER WREN, CAROLINA WREN and YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER are some of the species tallied at Mill Creek on count day in 1991. Otherwise, there seems to be have been little winter coverage of the birds on the preserve.

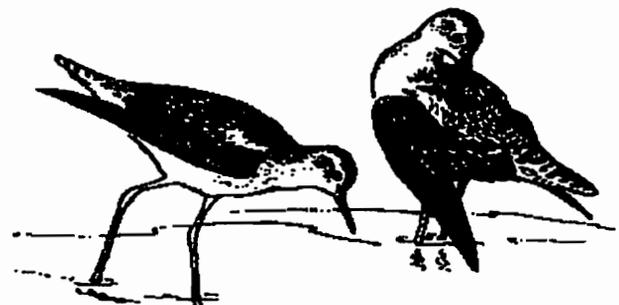
Author's note:

Most of this site guide is based on the author's observations in the area since 1989. Birders are urged to augment this information by reporting their sightings at Mill Creek Marsh to the author to be included in the forth-coming Club book on the birding sites of the region.

PROGRAM REPORTS

On February 7, more than 50 people turned out to discuss proposed changes in the Club's By-Laws and hear Walter Ellison's talk on Bird-Finding in Vermont. From the Northeast Kingdom to Lake Champlain to Dead Creek, Walter described a number of the hot-spots of our neighboring state. He spent considerable time on the marsh bird habitat of Dead Creek, which seems like a good possibility for a Club trip in the future. Walter, who wrote a bird-finding guide to Vermont about 10 years ago, will be leading an HMBC trip there this September. If it's anything like his program, participants are in for a real treat!

On March 7, Bob Budliger described the ecology of Fire Island. A brief explanation of barrier islands in general started the talk. Slides of plants, animals and of course birds were interspersed with views of the dunes and Bob's descriptions as well as anecdotes of his work there as a Park ranger. The sunny beach slides were a welcome relief after a winter of record cold and snow!!





LOVE'S LABOR NOT ENTIRELY LOST -- BUT CLOSE (A SOMEWHAT SAD STORY) by Chet Vanderbilt

In a birding project with dim prospects of success, I arranged a return trip to Texas at a most unseasonable time of the year. Having a pair of flight tickets to anywhere in the country needing to be used by early October (1993), I persuaded my backyard-only birding wife to accompany me on a return trip to the area in which I had my supreme birding experience -- the Rio Grande Valley.

In the spring of 1982, I had been on a four-day trip with Ben Feltmer producing 63 life birds out of a total of 173. On one day we saw an even 100.

On this past year's trip we flew to Houston on September 24, headed for the Valley on September 26, returned to Houston on October 3 and flew home on October 5. In between visits to major wildlife refuges -- where we were ill-rewarded -- more than half of the mere 77 species seen were observed enroute.

A stopover at the Aransas NWR occurring at mid-afternoon in 90+ degree heat netted but three species to add to the eleven collected along the way. As it turned out, the first night's unplanned stay at the resort town of Rockport resulted in the most productive part of our trip -- 16 additional species.

The second night, at Harlingen, was scheduled to allow for a visit to Laguna Atascosa NWR before going on to McAllen for a four-night stay. We arrived at the refuge the next morning in a dense fog. To kill time while the fog burned off, we took the short ride along the lake and, surprisingly, logged a life bird.

Focusing my glasses on some nearby bushes to figure out what kind of Grackle I was observing, I discovered what I took to be my second sighting of a SMOOTH-BILLED ANI. Further looking and later checking with the guide book established it to be a GROOVE-BILLED instead -- a lifer. (The October, 1993 issue of *Wild Bird* includes a most unusual photo of both of these species, perched side-by-side, taken in Florida.)

Almost simultaneously, barely visible beside the distant lake, I discovered what I thought to be a second life bird -- a BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK. Later checking of my records disclosed that I had seen the BLACK-BELLIED "TREE DUCK" on my 1982 trip but had failed to record it on my life list. With the fog lifting, the morning's visit resulted in 15 added species.



more on next page....



continued from previous page....

While at McAllen, three visits to the Santa Ana NWR produced only 17 new species, but one lifer -- **LEAST GREBE**. A late afternoon visit to Bentsen State Park resulted in negligible birds except for numerous unseen **CHACHALACAS** in one spot, noisily proclaiming their names.

A day's trip to Falcon State Park and Falcon Dam supplied beautiful weather for a picnic at the Park, but no new species whatever. Four **HARRIS' HAWKS** were observed perched on the crossarms of a single pole as we approached the Park and great close looks at a **BLACK VULTURE** were had below the dam. We did find two other lifers en route: **COMMON BLACK-HAWK** and **WHITE-TAILED HAWK**.

A highlight of our trip occurred on our way back to Houston. Buoyed by our good times at Rockport (fortified by an excellent seafood dinner at the "Crab N" restaurant outside of town) we decided to return by that out-of-the-way route and scheduled our overnight there.

We were rewarded by the addition of another life bird, our fourth for the trip, the **RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD**. We discovered a small environmental park north of town on Route 35 on our way to eat. A clump of bushes with red flowers was alive with hummingbirds. With long looking, their tail markings appeared to be those of the Blue-throated, but the larger size of the Blue-throated ruled that out. A final conclusion was that it was the female of the Rufous we were observing.

We left Rockport early for additional quick, but more timely, stop at Aransas. No new species were to be had, our sightings accented primarily by scores of tents and trailers dotting the sides of the road as we neared the

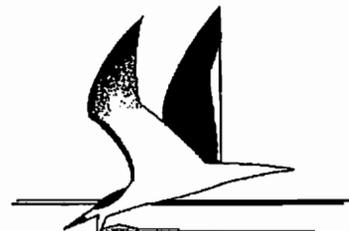
refuge. We found out that they were bow hunters enjoying the open season on Wild Hogs and White-tailed Deer. A few miles earlier, however, we had come upon the most spectacular birding sight of the trip -- a field harboring over a thousand **CATTLE EGRETS**.

The theme of this item was supposed to have been one of qualified disappointment, so in order to avoid ending on too positive a note, I'll conclude in a personal vein.

In planning the trip we had discovered, between Aransas and Houston in an off-the-beat location, a town named Vanderbilt. Feeling it would be nice to visit a town of our name, adding it to those in Florida and Michigan we had been to, we plotted the back country routes to reach it. Needing gas, we thought it might impress the natives to fill up there, settling our account with a VISA card carrying their town's name.

But, behold, we arrived at the town's main juncture, pulled into the gas station on one of its four corners, and found it shut down, out of business. Looking around, I discovered the same was true of the businesses on the other three corners -- an abandoned village!

So much for that triumphal entry! But completely in harmony with our hardly overwhelming odyssey.





Upcoming Field Trips

Avian Ecology of Collins Lake, Scotia

Apr 2 (Sat), Coord: Carl George, 399-0629
Review research results with the leader and observe the birds at the lake which attracts early migrants.

Spring Waterfowl at Vischer Ferry

Apr 17 (Sun), Coord: Scott Stoner, 464-0492
Enjoy leisurely walk during peak spring waterfowl migration and look for other early spring arrivals.

Utica Marsh

Apr 24 (Sun), Coord: Tim Colborn, 438-1874
Join the Naturalists Club of Broome County on this day trip (cancelled in 1993 due to flooding). Expect early migrants, waders and waterfowl.

Woodcock at Five Rivers

Apr 27 (Wed), Coord: Ray Perry, Work:475-0291, Home:399-3962
Experience (hopefully) the woodcock's courting "sky dance".



Christman Sanctuary

May 1 (Sun), Coord: Phil Johnson & Debbie Ellinger, 895-2969
As spring migration picks up, examine this compact TNC property along the waterfalls of the Bozenkill.

Birds & Breakfast

May 7 (Sat), Coord: Al Mapes, 439-4086
Spend the early morning searching Five Rivers and then join the rest of the participants for a morning brunch to compile the day's sightings.

Warbler Walk at Vischer Ferry

May 8 (Sun), Coord: Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen, 899-2678
Mother's Day is a wonderful time to walk around Vischer Ferry and check out the migrating warblers and other passerines.

Bashakill Warblers

May 8 (Sun), Coord: Tim Colborn, 356-5768
For those willing to venture further from home on Mother's Day, check out this marshy wildlife management area in Sullivan County.

Ann Lee Pond

May 11 (Wed), Coord: Frank Murphy, 482-1942
This evening trip will search for spring migrants and water birds at this Town of Colonie pond.

Century Run

May 14 (Sat), Compiler: Bob Yunick, 377-0146
Form your own group and find out how big a "big day" you can come up with. Migrants should be near peak on this weekend. Send in your field report to be shared with the rest of the club.



Upcoming Field Trips (CONT.)

Evening at Vischer Ferry

May 17 (Tue), Coord: Scott Stoner, 464-0492
Enjoy an evening bird walk as migration continues in our area and local breeders set up their territories.

Delmarva Peninsula

May 20-22 (Fri-Sun), Coord: Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen, 899-2678
Shorebirds should be in large abundance as horseshoe crabs come ashore to lay their eggs. Also, we will be looking for southern breeders which do not reach the Capital District.

Palmer's Ravine & Vicinity

May 21 (Sat), Coord: Tom Palmer, 843-1491
Spend the morning in the coordinator's own woodland preserve and the afternoon searching nearby fields for breeding upland species.

Saratoga National Historic Park (Battlefield)

May 28 (Sat), Coord: George & Kay Hanson, 885-5467 (9am-1pm)
Walk around the woodlands early, then drive the loop road search for breeding sparrows and other field specialties.

Birding by Canoe

May 29 (Sun), Coord: Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen, 899-2678
Paddle in a local marsh for a different view of our marsh specialties. This will be a good chance to improve ear birding skills.

Letchworth State Park

Jun 4-5 (Sat-Sun), Coord: Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen, 899-2678

This western New York state park has 140 breeding birds listed including 25 warbler species. We will try to track down some of these focussing on those not normally found near the Capital District.

Ferd's Bog, Moose River Plain & Camping

Jul 9-10, Coord: Bill Graham, 798-8038

Visit several Adirondack locations looking for specialties of the area including boreal species at Ferd's Bog. Listen to loons during your campout.

Upcoming Programs

April 11 (Monday) - ANNUAL MEETING

Julio de la Torre will be the guest speaker following the business portion and dinner. He will discuss Owls of North America. He has studied birds on 3 continents for close to fifty years, most recently concentrating on birds of prey, and owls in particular. In 1990, his book, **OWLS: Their Life and Behavior** was published. He is a founding member of the Connecticut Ornithological Association, and a member and active participant in several other conservation organizations.

6 PM - Dinner

7:30PM - Business Meeting

8:30PM - Guest Speaker

May 2 - Birds of Northern New York

Warren Greene, noted photographer from Fulton County, will discuss birds from the northern areas of the state with slides. Expect owls, Ruffed Grouse, hummingbirds and warblers.



Field Trip Reports

Ft. Edward Area

Our trip began with a very sunny and pleasant 30 degree day. We drove the back roads of the "Ft. Edward area" of Washington county looking for anything that might brave the two-to-three foot snow cover. We had great looks at perched and flying **RED-TAILED HAWKS** (adult and immatures). Several **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS** provided views of both light and dark morphs. An accipiter was spotted in town, but we were not sure whether it was a Sharpie or a Cooper's. Two or three **AMERICAN KESTRELS** rounded out the "to be expected" raptors.

Although we came up short on the "hoped-for" winter raptors (Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl and Northern Harrier) we did have one pleasant, unexpected surprise. A raptor sat still for about ten minutes while we backed up cars, walked all around and debated its identity. The perched bird gave all of the indications of an immature Cooper's Hawk, well-rounded tail with a wide terminal white band, squarish-looking head, lots of streaking on the front, but there was something not quite right -- a strong line over the eye. As soon as the bird flew it was clearly not an accipiter, but a falcon -- a **MERLIN!** It was a handsome surprise and a life bird for several in the group!

A long search over several fields turned up several dozen **HORNED LARKS**, but no Snow Buntings or Longspurs. Overall, we actually had more participants (22) than species (19). At about 3:30 the temperature dropped and the wind picked up. Even though the weather "turned", we had eleven hardy people left at dusk looking for possible owls and harriers.

-Barb Putnam

Campfire and Owls at Five Rivers EEC

Over 20 people came out on a cold, clear January evening in hopes of a chance to hear some of the local nightlife, namely **GREAT HORNED** and **EASTERN SCREECH OWLS**. The third snowiest Albany January on record made for snowy trails, so everyone donned snowshoes and headed out along the north loop to the woods near the Viomankill where one or two pairs of Great Horned Owls have nested in recent years.

Once we reached the spot where we hoped to hear the owls everyone settled in and grew very quiet--a remarkable feat in itself with such a large group! After perhaps 5-10 minutes of waiting the first low hoots were heard--a single series which was eventually repeated after a few more minutes. Suddenly there was a second voice calling from a different direction--higher pitched and with more notes in the series. It was a male and female calling back and forth to each other. They continued on for perhaps another 10 minutes, eventually moving closer together from what we could hear. After listening intently for another 15 minutes or so without hearing anything else, we made our way back toward the north loop road and the pavilion where the Five Rivers elves had a blazing fire with hot cocoa and hot dogs waiting for us.

Back at the main parking area we attempted to get a response from the Eastern Screech Owl which was being seen and heard regularly in the Woodlot area. We tried several whistles, without real obvious success, although Al Mapes and Gregg Recer thought they might have heard a brief response coming from far beyond the Visitor Center. Even so, everyone left happy with our success of the main owl prowl.

-Al Mapes & Scott Stoner



EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK *by Scott Stoner*

In mid-January, 1994 I had the chance to get away from the Albany winter for a few days, enjoy the warm waters of Florida Bay, see some of my favorite marsh birds, and get updated on the condition of Everglades National Park. Staying two nights at Flamingo and two in Florida City, we visited Eco Pond, Anhinga Trail, Shark Valley, and took several boat trips out of Flamingo. The boardwalk at Anhinga Trail, destroyed by Hurricane Andrew, is now rebuilt and reopened. The waters there held the expected variety of waders, many of which are easily observed at very close range. The vegetation around Eco Pond (near Flamingo), had been cut down since my last visit (Jan. '93), which offered much-improved viewing of this hotspot. A highlight of our visit here was a great look at a Short-tailed Hawk. High winds precluded taking a canoe out into open waters, but a

boat tour to Whitewater Bay yielded a look at an American Crocodile and two Bottlenosed Dolphins. Two boat trips out onto Florida Bay were most enjoyable; birds included the white morph of the Great Blue Heron and Roseate Spoonbills. A visit to the Shark Valley area of the Park yielded a brief look at a Snail Kite and a number of Yellow-crowned Night Herons and Purple Gallinules.

Much has been written recently on efforts to restore the Everglades; however I remain concerned about this great resource and come away from my recent visit only somewhat optimistic about its future. I am hopeful, but not totally convinced, that I will see a true restoration of this magnificent ecosystem in my lifetime. It remains a splendid place to visit, but one can only imagine what it was like when waterbird numbers were 10 times today's levels. I hope that experience will once again be possible.

HMBC Birding Guide

The following sites and contributors have been identified for the forthcoming guide to birding in the HMBC region: Any information on birds in these sites, or suggestions of additional sites to be covered will be appreciated. Please contact Scott Stoner (464-0492) or Gregg Recer (899-2678).

Site	Author
Five Rivers EEC	Al Mapes
Vischer Ferry NHP	Scott Stoner
Ann Lee Pond	Frank Murphy
Albany Pine Bush	Laura Sommers
Christman Preserve	Debbie Ellinger Philip Johnson
Mill Creek Marsh	Paul Connor
Ft. Edward area	Barb Putnam

Saratoga Battlefield

Peebles Island SP
Hollyhock Hollow
Rensselaer Plateau
N. Saratoga Co.
Thacher SP

Castleton Island SP
Green County
Hannacroix Ravine
Waterfowl Sites
Grafton Lake SP
Tomhannock Res.
Collins Lake
Saratoga Lake &
N. Hudson River
Limestone Rise and
Landis Arboretum

Gregg Recer
Cathy Graichen
Frank Murphy
Jean Mackay
Paul Connor
Jane Graves
Tim Colborn
Jerry Colborn
Cliff Lamere
Richard Guthrie
Al Mapes
Walt Sabin
Melodee James
Bill Gorman
Carl George
Barb Putnam
Debbie Ellinger
Phillip Johnson



HMBC BOARD FOR 1993 - 1994

Officers

Directors:

President:
 Scott Stoner
 32-10 Woodlake Rd.
 Albany, N.Y. 12203
 464-0492

Vice-President:
 Tim Colborn
 140 George Endries Dr.
 Schenectady, N.Y. 12303
 356-5768

William Lee 374-3426
 Gregg Recer 899-2678
 Ray Perry 399-3962
 Barb Putnam 792-7542
 Paul Connor 477-5824

Secretary:
 Bette Moon
 907 St. David's Ln.
 Schenectady, N.Y. 12309
 372-8330

Treasurer:
 Cathy Graichen
 23 Scotch Mist Way
 Ballston Spa, N.Y. 12020
 899-2678

Committee Chairpersons

Conservation: Walt Sabin 439-7344
 Birdline: Ray Perry 399-3962
 Programs: Scott Stoner 464-0492
 Field Trips: Cliff Lamere 462-9827
 Membership: Daniel Ruge 449-1087
 PR: Tim Colborn 356-5768
 Publications: Gregg Recer 899-2678
 Records: Cliff Lamere 462-9827
 Sanctuary: Bette Moon 372-8330
 Hospitality: Laura Sommers 489-2712
 Jr. Activities: Vacant



By-Laws Revision Proposal

Proposed revisions to the by-laws will be voted on at the annual meeting (tabled from the Feb. meeting). Detailed copies will be available at the meeting. A quick summary of the proposed changes are:

- 1) Eliminate term limitations for Secretary and Treasurer allowing individuals to be re-elected as often as desired by the membership and candidates.
- 2) Allow full-time students of any age to pay student memberships. Those over eighteen would be allowed to vote, run for office, and serve as committee chairs.
- 3) Eliminate separate accounting procedures for Program Committee.
- 4) Allow officers to be removed if they have missed 3 consecutive meetings (instead of 5).
- 5) Add Publicity and Birdline committees.
- 6) Use gender-neutral language.

Last Dues Reminder!!!

Please send in your dues renewal, the club needs memberships to continue its activities.

Thanks to everyone who has renewed so far and especially those who sent Reist Donations.

- Cathy Graichen, Treasurer

continued from back Cover...

The Federation '96 host committee continues its work under the enthusiastic leadership of Philip Johnson. They are close to confirming both the Saturday evening banquet speaker and the meeting hotel; stay tuned for further details.

· Scott Stoner



President's Corner: Sadly, I must once again say thank you and good luck to one of the Club's outstanding leaders. Tim Colborn, our Vice President and Publicity Chair, is being transferred to Cleveland as a result of the merger of his employer. Tim will be moving this summer and thus be unable to run for a second term of office. Tim is fairly new to the Club, as he is to birding, but he has advanced quickly in both areas. He became Publicity Chair and joined the Board of Directors in 1992, and has served as VP since 1993. Some of you know him from his enthusiastic participation and leadership in field trips, or from the enhanced publicity the Club has received (including major press releases on Christmas Counts and a feature story in the Sunday Gazette). What has not been apparent is probably his greatest contribution to the Club, which is his major behind-the-scenes role in policy-making and the day-to-day running of the HMBC. Tim has been my closest advisor, and much of the credit for the positive changes in the Club over the recent past belongs to him. Tim is now preparing to move his young family to Cleveland, and is already researching the birding hot spots of Ohio and western Pa. He intends to not only remain a member of HMBC and keep in touch via Feathers, but to co-lead, with a group of Ohio birders, a joint trip to Cetchworth State Park in a future year!

Tim, you have done more for this Club than you may realize, and we will certainly miss you.

On a more cheerful note, I am pleased to report that planning for the HMBC field trip to southern Florida was successful, and that eight people will be going to the Dry Tortugas this May. We look forward to hearing about it!

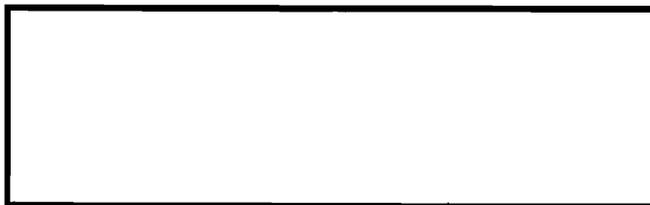
Planning continues for two major events of 1996, the publication of the HMBC's guide to birding our area, and our hosting of the Annual Meeting of the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs. We have developed a list of sites and authors for probable inclusion in the book; early versions of the book chapters have been appearing as articles in Feathers, and will continue to do so over the next couple of years as they become available. We have set a deadline of the summer of 1995 for drafts of book chapters to be submitted, with publication to be in 1996, but no later than the time of the fall Federation Meeting. A complete list of the sites for which we have authors is listed in this Feathers; Members who have bird records for these sites are urged to provide them to the authors. Also, if you think of any sites that are not but should be included, please contact Gregg Recer or myself as soon as possible.

continued on previous page

FEATHERS
Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club
c/o Five Rivers EEC
Game Farm Rd.
Delmar, N.Y. 12054

Forwarding and Return
Postage Guaranteed

**NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 186
SCHDY NY 12305**





1993 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Prepared by Clifford Lamere

As Records Chairman, I have a great interest in preserving any bird data collected by HMBC. For many years, the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) records published in *Feathers* have been incomplete. In some years, one or more counts was missing; last year only a summary appeared. To quote Bob Yunick, past editor of *Feathers*, "In my mind, the Club is the custodian of local ornithological phenomena and records. In the past the Club has kept these records party-by-party, not just the gross numbers." As it has done this year, it is my hope that the Club will continue to support the publishing of the complete data collected on its three Christmas Bird Counts.

Sector-by-sector data, as reported in this publication, takes up much more space than a simple total for the entire circle. However, there are many examples which can be given to demonstrate that it is worthwhile to report what is going on in each sector (territory) of a CBC.

- 1) Suppose a CBC circle consisting of ten sectors recorded 500 Cedar Waxwings. A breakdown by sector would show whether the Waxwings were widespread and evenly distributed or whether they were all in one area.
- 2) If one sector had a large number of Waxwings year after year while other sectors rarely had any, this could tell us something about the natural food abundance and distribution at that time of year.
- 3) If one territory stayed relatively unchanged and another underwent development, keeping separate data for each would allow someone to study what happened over the years as a result of the habitat destruction.
- 4) The effects on bird life of the opening and/or closing of a landfill in a particular sector can be studied if sector data is preserved separately rather than merged with data from the rest of the circle.
- 5) The Troy CBC has one territory which is primarily Hudson River and another which contains the Mohawk R. near its junction with the Hudson R. One local scientist believes that the waterfowl species on the two rivers are in many ways different. As an example, while large numbers of Canada Geese occur on the Hudson R. in winter, the Mohawk R. attracts few geese. What is the pattern for other species on these two rivers? Preserving data for the separate sectors would allow this question to be studied.
- 6) Reporting the data by sectors makes the report historical in nature as well as scientific because all of the participants' names are listed. For the following article, I was able to determine the year Sam Madison first participated in the Troy CBC and I was able to confirm the fact that it was the same Hudson River sector that Sam still does.

I strongly favor reporting the team results of both Century Runs and Christmas Bird Counts. If you enjoy comparing the findings of various groups and think the information may have value to future members or scientists, tell a board member. If you find this Supplement to *Feathers* to be enjoyable, and would like to have similar ones published in future years, tell a board member.



WANDERINGS OF THE CENTER OF THE TROY, NY CBC CIRCLE
by Clifford Lamere

I first became compiler of the Troy Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in December 1992. Bill Shuster and Bill Lee were both very generous with their time, helping me to learn the ropes as quickly as possible. Bill Shuster also turned over to me some extremely organized paperwork for the counts going back to 1975, plus a drawing of the 15-mile diameter circle and drawings of the seven sectors (territories) into which the circle had been divided.

At the conclusion of the 1992 count I learned that some of the groups were counting birds outside of the circle that had been passed on to me. The leader of one of the groups, Sam Madison, had been counting the same sector, the same way, for almost 40 years (beginning with the 1954 CBC). I decided to accurately redraw the circle to see where its edge should really be. Could Sam be right? If not, should the circle be moved northward to encompass the area in which so many waterfowl have been found over the years?

In order to redraw the circle one must first locate its center, not an easy task in this case. Referring to some bound copies of *Feathers*, I learned that the first official count was planned to begin in the 1948 CBC season. In preparation for it, an "experimental" run was made on Sunday, Dec 28, 1947. The following description of the circle was given in the Jan 1948 issue of *Feathers* (just the part in quotes):

1947 - "On the Cohoes quadrant of the Geological Survey map draw a circle of 15 miles (15 inches) diameter, with center on the Hudson River and extending from just below the lower tip of Green Island on the south to just north of the bridge at Stillwater. In that circle is included much open water during the winter -- there are several large stretches of the Hudson which remain open, there is the Mohawk at Cohoes Falls and below, the lower part of the Hoosic, as well as frozen Tomhannock Reservoir."

The description for the 1947 run gave the boundaries of the circle, but not the center. The center was actually at 73°40'W longitude and 42°50'N latitude which was the intersection of two lines on the 15' Cohoes, NY USGS topographic map. As mentioned, that intersection (the circle's center) was in the Hudson River.

The 1948 count met with disaster. It had to be cancelled due to 4" of rain and freezing rain on December 30 and 31 just prior to the day of the count. Trees and power lines were down due to ice build-up and were blocking roads; many roads were flooded. Minnie B. Scotland was to have been in charge of that count, scheduled for Jan 2. No Troy CBC has been cancelled since.

The first official Troy CBC occurred for the 1949 season. The Jan 1950 issue of *Feathers* described the circle this way (just the portion in quotes):

1949 CBC - "Troy, N.Y. (Hudson River from above bridge, Stillwater, to below Congress Street Bridge, Troy; Hoosic River from above Valley Falls to mouth; Tomhannock Creek from Tamarack Swamp source to mouth; Tomhannock Reservoir; Mohawk River from above Dunsbach Ferry to mouth; Anthony Kill from Coons to mouth"

Notice that the two earliest descriptions mention that the circle extends north of the Stillwater bridge. That proved that Sam Madison was doing the count as originally intended. The circle that had been given to me, however, stopped well south of that bridge. When and why had the circle been moved?

Through 1961, the CBC description in *Feathers* generally read as follows:

1950-1961 CBC's - "same area and habitat percentages as preceding years"

Then a change occurred.

1962 CBC - "All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 0.1 mile south of 73°40' and 0.3 mile east of 42°50' as in preceding years"

This moved the center out of the Hudson River, onto the east shore and to, or near, the intersection of two roads. I suspect that when a more accurate 7½' topographic map (North Troy, NY) had become available in 1954, someone noticed that the circle slightly overlapped the Schenectady circle (to the west) at what is now called the Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve. I was told that the original intention was to get as close to the Schenectady circle (and Vischer Ferry) as possible so that as much of the Mohawk River would be included in the new circle. However, by using the convenient crossing lines on the 15' Cohoes topographic map a small overlap occurred. The movement of the center described in this paragraph was an attempt to correct the problem, but the movement was not far enough to the east.

A later CBC (exact date of the change was not researched) - "Troy, NY 42°50'N 73°40'W, center River and Turner Rds. in Schaghticoke, as described 1981"

This description tried to name the intersection of the two roads which I mentioned above. However, River and Turner Rds do not meet (there is a dropoff of greater than 100' at the point where they approach each other) and they are not even close to the latitude and longitude mentioned. The intersection that members intended to describe was actually River and Calhoun Rds, but, unfortunately, on the USGS topographic map Calhoun Rd was mislabelled as Turner Rd!

At that point in time everyone mistakenly believed that the proper intersection was Turner and River Rds. Later, when a new topographic map was issued, the roads were correctly named. But since the real Turner Rd is 0.7 mile to the south of Calhoun Rd, members who redrew the Troy CBC circle at that time ended up with a circle that was 0.7 mile too far to south, of course. And that was the map I inherited when I began the job as Troy CBC compiler; the map had been in existence for at least 15 years.

The effects of the Troy circle slipping 0.7 mile to south were twofold. The circle then overlapped the Southern Rensselaer County circle considerably, and Sam Madison's productive waterfowl area at the north end of the circle (in Stillwater) was no longer included within the circle. Fortunately, no one told Sam about the change, so he continued to count the area that he had always covered. And because the "new" area to the south was mostly in the city of Troy where very little counting is done anyway, it can be said that the inadvertent movement of the circle to the south caused very little change in the birds that were observed and reported to National Audubon's *American Birds* and HMBC's *Feathers*.

What needs to be done to correct the problem? When the center of the Troy circle was moved eastward to avoid overlapping the Schenectady circle to the west, it was not moved far enough. More accurate recent measurements show that the center must be at least 0.5 mile (not 0.3 mile) to the east of the original location in order to avoid the overlap. The next paragraph is the description that was recently submitted to *American Birds* and, hopefully, it is what will appear in the Christmas Count issue describing the 1993 count.

1993 CBC - "Troy, NY. Center 0.5 mile east of 42°50'N, 73°40'W on Calhoun Rd. Previous descriptions of center were in error due to mislabelling of Calhoun Rd as Turner Rd on 1954 North Troy, NY 7½' USGS topographic map. Edge of circle has remained constant, encompassing the following: Hudson River from Congress St. bridge in Troy to about ½ mile north of Stillwater bridge; Hoosick River from its mouth almost to Requate Rd east of Valley Falls; Tomhannock Reservoir; Mohawk River from its mouth almost to Van Vranken Rd east of Vischer Ferry; Anthony Kill from its mouth to the bridge at Coons."

Let's hope that the center of the Troy circle has found a permanent home.

~~~~~

# SCHENECTADY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

18 December 1993

Compiler: William Lee

|                                   | A    | B   | C   | D    | E   | F   | G    | H   | Total |
|-----------------------------------|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|
| Great Blue Heron . . . . .        | 3    |     |     |      |     |     | 14   | 3   | 20    |
| Canada Goose . . . . .            | 275  | 16  | 54  | 12   | 1   | 210 | 89   |     | 657   |
| Wood Duck . . . . .               | 2    |     |     |      |     |     |      | 3   | 5     |
| American Black Duck . . . . .     | 12   | 3   | 10  |      |     | 10  | 16   | 14  | 65    |
| Mallard . . . . .                 | 152  | 250 | 189 | 15   |     | 11  | 71   | 31  | 719   |
| Common Merganser . . . . .        | 40   | 50  |     |      |     |     | 15   | 7   | 112   |
| Northern Harrier . . . . .        |      |     |     | 2    |     |     |      |     | 2     |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk . . . . .      |      |     |     |      |     | 1   |      |     | 1     |
| Cooper's Hawk . . . . .           | 1    |     | 1   |      |     |     |      |     | 2     |
| Accipiter sp. . . . .             |      |     |     | 1    |     |     |      |     | 1     |
| Northern Goshawk . . . . .        |      | 1   |     |      |     |     |      |     | 1     |
| Red-tailed Hawk . . . . .         | 15   | 11  | 17  | 28   | 7   | 6   | 2    | 12  | 98    |
| American Kestrel . . . . .        |      |     |     |      |     |     |      | 1   | 1     |
| Ruffed Grouse . . . . .           |      |     |     |      | 1   |     |      |     | 1     |
| Wild Turkey . . . . .             |      |     |     |      |     |     | 27   |     | 27    |
| American Coot . . . . .           | 1    |     |     |      |     |     |      |     | 1     |
| Ring-billed Gull . . . . .        | 81   | 2   | 19  | 9    |     | 1   | 33   | 47  | 192   |
| Herring Gull . . . . .            | 1307 | 20  | 4   |      | 2   |     | 38   | 41  | 1,412 |
| Great Black-backed Gull . . . . . | 189  | 45  |     |      |     |     |      | 2   | 236   |
| Larus sp. . . . .                 |      | 300 | 8   |      |     |     |      |     | 308   |
| Rock Dove . . . . .               | 53   | 17  | 303 | 3    | 160 | 90  | 54   | 155 | 835   |
| Mourning Dove . . . . .           | 16   | 42  | 11  | 111  | 120 | 28  | 66   | 23  | 417   |
| Eastern Screech-Owl . . . . .     |      |     |     | 2    | 6   | 1   |      |     | 9     |
| Great Horned Owl . . . . .        | 1    |     |     | 1    | 2   | 1   |      |     | 5     |
| Belted Kingfisher . . . . .       |      |     |     |      |     |     |      | 2   | 2     |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker . . . . .  |      |     |     |      |     | 1   |      |     | 1     |
| Downy Woodpecker . . . . .        | 8    | 17  | 3   | 13   | 18  | 4   | 8    | 6   | 77    |
| Hairy Woodpecker . . . . .        | 3    | 3   | 2   | 6    | 4   | 1   |      | 3   | 22    |
| Northern Flicker . . . . .        | 2    | 1   | 1   | 13   | 10  | 5   | 3    | 2   | 37    |
| Pileated Woodpecker . . . . .     |      | 2   | 2   | 1    | 2   | 3   |      |     | 10    |
| Horned Lark . . . . .             |      |     | 8   |      |     |     |      |     | 8     |
| Blue Jay . . . . .                | 33   | 52  | 29  | 31   | 114 | 9   | 7    | 25  | 300   |
| American Crow . . . . .           | 309  | 250 | 65  | 122  | 65  | 59  | 1000 | 563 | 2,433 |
| Fish Crow . . . . .               | 3    |     |     |      |     |     |      | 1   | 4     |
| Common Raven . . . . .            | 1    |     |     |      |     |     |      |     | 1     |
| Black-capped Chickadee . . . . .  | 61   | 90  | 52  | 112  | 280 | 66  | 11   | 63  | 735   |
| Tufted Titmouse . . . . .         | 17   | 21  | 14  | 2    | 80  | 14  | 2    | 5   | 155   |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch . . . . .   | 2    | 1   | 3   | 2    | 26  |     |      | 7   | 41    |
| White-breasted Nuthatch . . . . . | 13   | 11  | 6   | 9    | 38  | 11  | 2    | 6   | 96    |
| Brown Creeper . . . . .           | 2    |     | 1   | 1    | 3   |     |      |     | 7     |
| Carolina Wren . . . . .           | 1    |     |     |      | 1   | 1   | 1    | 4   | 8     |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet . . . . .  |      |     |     |      | 1   |     |      |     | 1     |
| Eastern Bluebird . . . . .        |      |     |     | 9    | 14  | 15  |      | 4   | 42    |
| American Robin . . . . .          | 1    | 1   | 15  | 157  | 3   |     |      | 59  | 236   |
| Gray Catbird . . . . .            |      |     |     |      | 1   | 1   |      |     | 2     |
| Northern Mockingbird . . . . .    | 4    | 6   | 2   | 1    | 8   |     |      | 1   | 22    |
| Cedar Waxwing . . . . .           |      | 10  |     | 5    | 114 |     |      | 9   | 138   |
| European Starling . . . . .       | 1113 | 437 | 454 | 2250 | 410 | 42  | 15   | 90  | 4,811 |
| Northern Cardinal . . . . .       | 27   | 23  | 5   | 25   | 37  | 39  | 13   | 21  | 190   |
| American Tree Sparrow . . . . .   | 23   | 21  | 30  | 73   | 61  | 16  | 5    | 13  | 242   |
| Field Sparrow . . . . .           |      |     |     |      | 1   |     |      |     | 1     |
| Song Sparrow . . . . .            | 4    | 3   |     | 16   | 13  |     | 4    | 2   | 42    |
| Swamp Sparrow . . . . .           |      |     |     | 3    |     |     |      |     | 3     |
| White-throated Sparrow . . . . .  | 2    |     |     | 8    | 4   | 31  | 1    | 2   | 48    |
| Dark-eyed Junco . . . . .         | 22   | 13  | 3   | 12   | 134 |     | 2    | 11  | 197   |
| Red-winged Blackbird . . . . .    |      | 4   |     |      | 3   |     | 4    |     | 11    |
| Purple Finch . . . . .            |      |     |     |      |     | 2   |      |     | 2     |

| SCHENECTADY                  | A     | B     | C     | D     | E     | F   | G     | H     | Total  |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|-------|--------|
| House Finch . . . . .        | 131   | 101   | 51    | 39    | 200   | 22  | 125   | 39    | 708    |
| Common Redpoll . . . . .     | 10    | 25    | 7     | 3     |       | 3   |       | 6     | 54     |
| American Goldfinch . . . . . | 4     | 18    | 4     | 50    | 5     | 39  | 14    | 19    | 153    |
| House Sparrow . . . . .      | 43    | 55    | 22    | 55    | 150   |     |       | 7     | 332    |
| . . . . .                    |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |       |        |
| . . . . .                    |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |       |        |
| . . . . .                    |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |       |        |
| TOTAL INDIVIDUALS . . . . .  | 3,987 | 1,922 | 1,395 | 3,202 | 2,099 | 743 | 1,642 | 1,309 | 16,299 |

| SPECIES PER PARTY | A  | B  | C  | D  | E  | F  | G  | H  | Total |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
|                   | 40 | 34 | 31 | 36 | 37 | 31 | 29 | 39 | 59    |

TOTAL SPECIES FOR THE SCHENECTADY CBC = 59

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS = 16,299

Common Raven was seen for the first time on the Schenectady CBC, records for which began in 1929. American Coot was recorded for only the second time, and Red-bellied Woodpecker for the third time. Record high numbers were recorded for Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Wild Turkey, Eastern Screech-Owl, and Tufted Titmouse. Second highest numbers were recorded for Mallard, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and House Finch. A Snowy Owl was seen during Count Week. 59 species were recorded (tied for third highest) and 16,299 individual birds were observed (third highest ever recorded).

Center: 42°45'N, 73°55'W at Lydius St. and Lone Pine Rd. in Guilderland. 4:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Temperature 15° to 34 °F, Wind S, 3-5 m.p.h. Snow 0-1.5 inches.

There were 21 participants in 8 parties on the Schenectady CBC. The following is a description of the groups, their activities, and the location of the sectors.

- Group A: Robert Yunick, Thomas Palmer. Area bounded by Balltown Rd on west, north of Rt NY 7, along southern shore of Mohawk River including Rexford Bridge, River Rd, Rosendale Rd, Lock 7, Niskayuna Landfill, Old Niskayuna railroad station, and Wide Waters. 5:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (7½ hours, 5 miles on foot; 2 hours, 30 miles by car; 1½ hours and 4 miles by car were spent owling).
- Group B: Bernard Grossman, Scott Stoner. North of the Mohawk River from Freeman's Bridge Rd (east of Scotia) eastward through Rexford to, and including the Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve (as far as the main N-S road), plus part of Town of Clifton Park. 8:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., but 6½ hours (3½ hours, 5½ miles on foot; 3 hours, 30 miles by car).
- Group C: Gregg Recer, Catherine Graichen. South of Rt NY 7 including Albany County Airport, Wade Rd, Ann Lee Pond, Memory's Garden cemetery, Lake Rensselaer (Six Mile Waterworks), Rapp Rd and the dunes segment of Pine Bush. 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (5 hours, 4½ miles on foot; 4½ hours, 65 miles by car).
- Group D: Robert Budliger, Tim Colborn, Clifford Lamere. South of Rt US 20, the Normans Kill, the Albany and Normanskill Country Clubs, Black Creek Marsh, Voorheesville to, but not including Altamont along Rt NY 156, a portion of the base of the Heldeberg Escarpment. 6:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (2 hours, 2 miles on foot; 8 hours, 66 miles by car).
- Group E: Walter Ellison, Nancy Martin. Northern boundary is the railroad tracks north of Kings Rd, Pine Bush Preserve near Siver Rd, Guilderland, west along Rt US 20 to Settles Hill Rd, Rt NY 158. 4:50 to 6:50 a.m. and 7:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (4½ hours, 3 miles on foot; 4½ hours, 47 miles on foot; 2 hours, 17 miles owling).

- Group F: Michael Crevier, Karen Crevier. Rt US 20 (northern boundary), Watervliet Reservoir, Rt NY 146, Frenchs Mill Rd, Altamont, Settles Hill Rd, part of Gray Rd, Rt NY 397. 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (4½ hours, 4½ miles on foot; 2 hours, 32 miles by car; 1½ hours, 10 miles owling).
- Group G: William Lee, Janet Betlejeski, Clifford Tepper. Vale Cemetery in Schenectady, southern shore of Mohawk River from Western Gateway Bridge to lock 8 and then south to Rt US 20, Great Flats & Poentic Kill, Old Maid Woods, West Hill, Gordon Rd, Putnam Rd. 6:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (6½ hours, 6 miles on foot; 3½ hours, 50 miles by car). One member separated from the group for 45 minutes before leaving for the rest of the day. During the separation, the following figures apply: 12:45 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. (½ hour and ½ mile on foot; ¼ hour, 5 miles by car).
- Group H: Carl George, David Hopkins, Nancy Slack, Henry Stebbins, Jody Stollmack. Schenectady County north of Mohawk R. between lock 8 and Freeman's Bridge, Scotia, Collins Lake, Glenville. 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., but 6½ hours (6 hours, 5 miles on foot; ½ hour, 10 miles by car)

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY FOR THE ENTIRE SCHENECTADY CBC CIRCLE

Total Daylight Party Hours = 68                      Total Daylight Party Miles = 365.75  
 40 hours, 35.75 miles on foot                      28 hours, 330 miles by car

Owling (non-daylight) = 5 hours, 31 miles owling

SOUTHERN RENSSELAER COUNTY  
 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT  
 26 December 1993  
 Compiler: Frank Murphy

|                         | A   | B   | C   | D   | E  | F  | G   | H   | TOTAL |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|-------|
| Canada Goose            | 66  | 300 |     | 17  |    |    |     |     | 383   |
| American Black Duck     | 8   | 2   |     | 6   |    | 1  |     | 1   | 18    |
| Mallard                 | 49  | 35  | 12  | 40  | 14 | 47 |     | 5   | 202   |
| Northern Pintail        | 1   |     |     |     |    |    |     |     | 1     |
| Common Goldeneye        |     |     | 4   |     |    |    |     |     | 4     |
| Common Merganser        | 12  |     |     |     |    |    |     |     | 12    |
| Bald Eagle              | 1   |     |     |     |    |    |     |     | 1     |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk      |     | 1   | 1   |     |    |    |     |     | 2     |
| Red-tailed Hawk         | 3   | 3   | 3   | 13  | 2  |    | 4   | 3   | 31    |
| Wild Turkey             | 20  |     | 20  | 35  |    |    |     |     | 75    |
| Ring-billed Gull        | 60  | 10  | 199 | 100 |    |    |     |     | 369   |
| Herring Gull            | 25  | 60  | 99  | 30  |    | 27 | 27  | 25  | 293   |
| Iceland Gull            |     |     | 1   |     |    |    |     |     | 1     |
| Great Black-backed Gull | 17  | 20  | 33  | 10  |    |    | 10  | 2   | 92    |
| Rock Dove               | 320 | 60  | 87  | 95  | 7  |    | 6   | 20  | 595   |
| Mourning Dove           | 11  |     | 34  | 35  | 6  | 12 | 11  | 15  | 124   |
| Eastern Screech Owl     |     |     |     | 1   |    |    |     |     | 1     |
| Great Horned Owl        |     |     |     | 1   |    |    |     |     | 1     |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker  | 1   |     | 1   |     |    |    |     |     | 2     |
| Downy Woodpecker        | 2   | 2   | 7   | 6   | 2  | 2  | 2   | 5   | 28    |
| Hairy Woodpecker        |     |     | 1   | 3   | 1  |    |     |     | 5     |
| Northern Flicker        | 1   | 1   | 2   | 3   |    |    |     |     | 7     |
| Pileated Woodpecker     |     |     |     | 2   |    |    |     |     | 2     |
| Horned Lark             |     |     | 2   | 12  |    |    |     |     | 14    |
| Blue Jay                | 8   | 3   | 33  | 24  | 2  | 9  | 21  | 23  | 123   |
| American Crow           | 7   | 120 | 77  | 80  | 11 | 13 | 163 | 60  | 531   |
| Common Raven            |     |     |     |     |    |    | 2   | 4   | 4     |
| Black-capped Chickadee  | 25  | 26  | 85  | 26  | 7  | 61 | 50  | 121 | 401   |

| SO. RENSSELAER           | A            | B            | C          | D            | E          | F          | G          | H          | TOTAL        |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Tufted Titmouse          | 8            | 2            | 18         | 9            | 1          | 8          | 4          | 10         | 60           |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch    | 1            |              | 1          |              | 1          | 5          | 1          | 2          | 11           |
| White-breasted Nuthatch  | 4            | 3            | 11         | 4            | 1          | 4          | 2          | 2          | 31           |
| Brown Creeper            |              |              |            |              | 1          |            |            | 2          | 3            |
| Carolina Wren            | 1            |              |            |              |            |            |            |            | 1            |
| Eastern Bluebird         |              |              | 6          |              |            | 12         |            |            | 18           |
| American Robin           |              |              |            | 6            |            |            | 1          | 2          | 9            |
| Northern Mockingbird     | 1            |              | 3          | 1            |            | 3          |            |            | 8            |
| Cedar Waxwing            |              |              | 21         |              |            | 17         |            |            | 38           |
| European Starling        | 331          | 330          | 31         | 1500         | 25         | 4          | 103        | 25         | 2,349        |
| Northern Cardinal        | 9            | 6            | 12         | 15           | 4          | 4          | 10         | 30         | 90           |
| American Tree Sparrow    | 10           | 4            | 10         | 5            | 8          | 3          | 6          | 23         | 69           |
| Song Sparrow             |              |              |            |              |            |            | 1          |            | 1            |
| White-throated Sparrow   | 7            |              |            | 3            |            |            |            |            | 10           |
| Dark-eyed Junco          | 14           | 2            | 10         | 29           | 2          | 7          | 13         | 20         | 97           |
| Red-winged Blackbird     |              |              |            | 1            |            |            |            |            | 1            |
| Brown-headed Cowbird     | 2            |              |            |              |            |            |            |            | 2            |
| Purple Finch             |              |              |            |              |            | 2          |            |            | 2            |
| House Finch              | 30           | 70           | 28         | 26           | 22         | 56         | 22         | 43         | 297          |
| Common Redpoll           |              | 2            |            |              | 100        |            |            | 122        | 224          |
| American Goldfinch       | 1            |              | 18         | 12           | 2          |            | 12         | 14         | 59           |
| Evening Grosbeak         |              |              |            |              |            |            |            | 1          | 1            |
| House Sparrow            | 24           | 20           | 80         | 30           |            | 32         | 73         | 37         | 296          |
| <b>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS</b> | <b>1,080</b> | <b>1,082</b> | <b>950</b> | <b>2,180</b> | <b>219</b> | <b>329</b> | <b>544</b> | <b>617</b> | <b>6,999</b> |
| <b>TOTAL SPECIES</b>     | <b>33</b>    | <b>23</b>    | <b>32</b>  | <b>33</b>    | <b>20</b>  | <b>21</b>  | <b>22</b>  | <b>26</b>  | <b>51</b>    |

Center: 42'37" N, 73'38" W in the Town of Best, NY at the junction of Highway NY 152 and Best-Luther Road. 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temperature was -3° to 20 °F. Wind NW, 25 m.p.h. 1 inch of snow cover. Still water was frozen; moving water was partly frozen. It was a partly cloudy day

There were 14 participants in 8 parties on the Southern Rensselaer County CBC. The following is a description of the groups, their activities, and the location of the sectors.

- GROUP A: Richard Guthrie. Glenmont sector - Hudson River west to beyond NY 144, north to I-90, south almost to Vloeman Kill. 7:30 to 4:30. (0 hours, 1 mile on foot; 9 hours, 30 miles by car)
- GROUP B: Robert Budliger. Wynantskill sector - I-90 north through Menands on west side of Hudson River, plus North Greenbush area on east side of Hudson (from US 4 east to NY 50 and CO 139, south to NY 43, north to intersection of Brunswick Rd with Pawling Av). 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (1 hour, 2 miles on foot; 6 hours, 92 miles by car)
- GROUP C: Monte Gruett, Paul Connor. Best-Brookview sector - from Western Rd north along Hudson River, southeast on US 9, north on US 4, east on NY 43, south on NY 150, south on US 9 to Schodack Dr; southwestern arc to Western Rd. 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (2 hours, 2 miles on foot; 7 hours, 75 miles by car)
- GROUP D: William Gorman, David Gorman, Timothy Gorman, Christopher Riano. Rensselaer sector - from the Hudson River eastward to US 4, south to US 9 & 20, and north to Mill St. 5:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (5 hours, 5 miles on foot; 5 hours, 60 miles by car; 1 hour, 2 miles owling).
- GROUP E: Gary P. Goodness. Poestenkill sector - from CO 42 just west of Taborton, along NY 43, north on NY 150 to Snyder's Corners, then along Town of Poestenkill border and NY 139 to beyond Rutledge La; northeast arc

extends to Ives Corner. 6 hours ( $\frac{1}{2}$  hour, 0 miles on foot,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours, 52 miles by car)

GROUP F: Rita Bradley, John Woodason. Glass Lake sector - from CO 42 just west of Taborton, along NY 43, south along NY 150, then southeast along CO 52, along NY 43 almost to Dunham Hollow; western arc returns to CO 42. 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. ( $\frac{1}{2}$  hour,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile on foot;  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hours,  $41\frac{1}{2}$  miles by car)

GROUP G: Kate Dunham, Elisabeth Grace. Millers Corners sector - from Hoag Corners westward along NY 16, north along NY 150, southeast along CO 52, along NY 43 almost to Dunham Hollow; western arc returns to Hoag Corners. 10:20 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ( $6\frac{1}{2}$  hours, 68 miles by car)

GROUP H: William J. Lee. Nassau sector - boundary extends from Hoag Corners west along NY 16 and 150, then south on US 9 to Schodack Dr; southeast arc encloses all of the village of Nassau. 7:55 a.m. to 4:35 p.m. ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles on foot;  $7\frac{1}{2}$  hours,  $99\frac{1}{2}$  miles by car)

The Southern Rensselaer Christmas Bird Count started in 1966 with a record low 44 species; the record high year was 1969 with 63 species. This year, 1993, had 51 species and a record high number for Wild Turkey (75) and Common Redpoll (224); it was tied for the record high for Red-bellied Woodpecker (2). Record lows were recorded for European Starling (2349), Downy Woodpecker (28), Hairy Woodpecker (5), Song Sparrow (1), and House Sparrow (296). Common Raven was added to the count list this year. (It was seen last year, 1992, for the first time on the Troy CBC.). Four Common Ravens were seen by one group and two by another in the same vicinity, so overlapping was assumed. The one Bald Eagle sighted was an adult. The count also had a new record low total of individual birds (6,999) compared to about 14,000 in 1992, a maximum 42,739 in 1974, and the former low of 7,580 for the first year, 1966. The total number of species observed this year was 51, compared to a maximum of 63 in 1969 and a minimum of 44 in 1966.

Description of the day: In general it was a brutally cold, windy, miserable day. Increased housing development is also a problem. Temperatures ranged from -3 to 20 °F, Wind was 25 mph NW, there was 1 inch of snow cover; ponds and lakes were frozen, creeks and Hudson River were open; sky was partly cloudy.

#### SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY FOR THE ENTIRE SO. RENSSELAER COUNTY CBC CIRCLE

Total Daylight Party Hours = 60.25      Total Daylight Party Miles = 531  
On Foot = 10 hours, 13 miles      By Car = 50.5 hours, 518 miles

Owling (non-daylight) = 1 hours, 2 miles      Feeders = 1 hour

Other species seen during count week (3 days before and 3 days after the day of the count) included 2 Fish Crows on 12/24 and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on 12/28.

-- Frank Murphy --

## TROY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

2 January 1994

Compiler: Clifford Lamere

|                        | A    | B   | C    | D   | E   | F    | G  | Ind    | Occ  | #  |
|------------------------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|------|----|--------|------|----|
| Great Blue Heron . . . |      |     | 2    |     | 1   |      | 1  | 4      | 10th | 1  |
| Snow Goose . . . . .   | 4    |     | 3    |     |     |      |    | 7      | 8th  |    |
| Canada Goose . . . . . | 3800 | 838 | 6165 | 48  | 209 | 1100 |    | 12,160 |      | 1  |
| Green-winged Teal . .  |      |     |      | 2   |     |      |    | 2      | 10th | 1t |
| American Black Duck    | 20   |     | 540  | 200 | 30  | 35   | 26 | 851    |      |    |

| TROY                    | A    | B    | C    | D    | E   | F   | G   | Ind  | Occ  | #  |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|----|
| Mallard                 | 100  | 96   | 728  | 430  | 65  | 228 | 25  | 1672 |      | 1  |
| Northern Pintail        | 2    |      |      |      |     |     |     | 2    |      |    |
| Gadwall                 |      |      |      | 3    |     |     |     | 3    | 8th  |    |
| Ring-necked Duck        |      |      | 1    |      |     |     |     | 1    | 7th  |    |
| Black Scoter            |      |      |      | 1    |     |     |     | 1    | 2nd  |    |
| White-winged Scoter     |      |      | 2    |      |     |     |     | 2    | 2nd  | 1  |
| Common Goldeneye        |      |      | 183  | 7    |     |     |     | 190  |      | 2  |
| Hooded Merganser        |      |      | 2    |      |     |     |     | 2    | 14th |    |
| Common Merganser        | 2    | 3    | 32   | 51   | 5   |     |     | 93   |      |    |
| Bald Eagle              | 1 im | 1 ad | 4 im |      |     |     |     | 6    | 10th | 1  |
| Northern Harrier        |      |      |      |      | 1   |     | 1   | 2    | 10th |    |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk      | 1    |      |      | 3    |     | 2   | 1   | 7    |      | 1  |
| Red-tailed Hawk         | 14   | 15   | 7    | 20   | 13  | 11  | 7   | 87   |      | 3  |
| American Kestrel        |      |      |      | 1    | 1   | 1   |     | 3    |      |    |
| Ring-necked Pheasant    |      | 2    |      |      |     |     |     | 2    |      |    |
| Ruffed Grouse           | 1    |      | 2    |      |     |     |     | 3    |      |    |
| Wild Turkey             |      | 23   |      | 12   |     | 1   |     | 36   | 4th  | 1  |
| Ring-billed Gull        | 3    | 5    | 4    | 2    | 4   | 58  |     | 76   |      |    |
| Herring Gull            | 15   | 2    | 158  | 1200 | 131 | 108 | 15  | 1629 |      |    |
| Iceland Gull            |      |      |      | 4    |     |     |     | 4    | 16th |    |
| Lesser Blk-backed Gull  |      |      |      | 1    |     |     |     | 1    | 4th  | 1t |
| Glaucous Gull           |      |      |      | 1    |     |     |     | 1    | 12th |    |
| Great Black-backed Gull | 5    | 3    | 38   | 400  | 17  | 7   | 2   | 472  |      |    |
| Rock Dove               | 55   | 96   | 111  | 430  | 171 | 114 | 290 | 1267 |      |    |
| Mourning Dove           | 40   | 140  | 134  | 71   | 37  | 94  | 65  | 581  |      | 2  |
| Eastern Screech-Owl     | 2    |      |      |      | 2   | 1   |     | 5    |      | 3  |
| Great Horned Owl        | 2    | 1    |      | 1    | 2   |     | 1   | 7    |      | 3t |
| Barred Owl              | 3    |      |      |      |     |     |     | 3    | 4th  | 1  |
| Belted Kingfisher       |      |      | 1    |      |     |     |     | 1    |      |    |
| Downy Woodpecker        | 14   | 22   | 15   | 31   | 4   | 6   | 6   | 98   |      |    |
| Hairy Woodpecker        | 7    | 2    | 11   | 8    | 2   | 2   |     | 32   |      |    |
| Northern Flicker        | 1    | 3    | 5    | 7    | 2   | 1   |     | 19   |      | 2  |
| Pileated Woodpecker     |      |      |      | 1    |     |     | 2   | 3    |      |    |
| Horned Lark             | 49   |      | 20   |      |     |     |     | 69   |      |    |
| Blue Jay                | 50   | 81   | 84   | 16   | 16  | 32  | 64  | 343  |      |    |
| American Crow           | 75   | 154  | 829  | 1500 | 163 | 262 | 93  | 3076 |      | 1Φ |
| Fish Crow               |      |      |      | 6    | 2   |     |     | 8    | 6th  | 1  |
| Common Raven            | 1    |      |      |      |     |     |     | 1    | 2nd  |    |
| Black-capped Chickadee  | 150  | 80   | 90   | 155  | 47  | 73  | 31  | 626  |      | 1  |
| Tufted Titmouse         | 10   | 16   | 13   | 38   | 10  | 5   | 11  | 103  |      | 1  |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch   | 8    |      | 4    |      | 2   |     | 4   | 18   |      | 3  |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 15   | 15   | 26   | 18   | 3   | 6   | 3   | 86   |      | 6  |
| Brown Creeper           |      |      |      | 4    |     |     |     | 4    |      |    |
| Carolina Wren           |      |      | 4    | 1    |     |     |     | 5    | 5th  | 1  |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet  |      | 1    |      |      |     |     |     | 1    |      |    |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet    |      |      |      | 1    |     |     |     | 1    | 4th  | 1t |
| Eastern Bluebird        | 34   |      | 4    |      |     | 31  |     | 69   | 11th | 1  |
| Hermit Thrush           |      |      | 1    | 1    |     |     |     | 2    | 10th | 1t |
| American Robin          |      | 1    | 2    | 1    |     |     |     | 4    |      |    |
| Gray Catbird            |      |      |      | 1    |     |     |     | 1    | 3rd  |    |

| TROY                   | A     | B     | C      | D     | E     | F     | G     | Ind    | Occ | # |
|------------------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-----|---|
| Northern Mockingbird   | 1     | 3     | 1      | 4     | 4     |       | 2     | 15     |     |   |
| Cedar Waxwing . . . .  | 3     | 4     |        |       |       |       |       | 7      |     |   |
| European Starling . .  | 1000  | 582   | 989    | 2240  | 655   | 182   | 424   | 6072   |     | 4 |
| Northern Cardinal . .  | 11    | 23    | 8      | 35    | 2     | 4     | 2     | 85     |     |   |
| American Tree Sparrow  | 55    | 10    | 50     | 14    | 20    | 27    | 5     | 181    |     |   |
| Song Sparrow . . . . . | 4     |       | 3      | 9     |       | 3     | 1     | 20     |     |   |
| White-throated Sparrow |       | 7     | 3      | 5     |       | 1     |       | 16     |     |   |
| Dark-eyed Junco . . .  | 42    | 26    | 36     | 32    | 5     | 14    | 19    | 174    |     |   |
| Snow Bunting . . . . . | 20    |       |        |       |       |       |       | 20     |     |   |
| Brown-headed Cowbird   |       |       | 2      |       |       |       | 14    | 16     |     |   |
| House Finch . . . . .  | 60    | 166   | 159    | 19    | 81    | 115   | 83    | 683    |     | 2 |
| Common Redpoll . . .   |       | 228   | 8      | 94    | 41    |       |       | 371    |     | 2 |
| American Goldfinch . . | 15    | 11    | 20     | 11    | 9     | 20    | 1     | 87     |     |   |
| Evening Grosbeak . .   | 2     |       |        |       |       |       |       | 2      |     |   |
| House Sparrow . . . .  | 60    | 47    | 55     | 109   | 190   | 141   | 54    | 656    |     |   |
| .....                  |       |       |        |       |       |       |       |        |     |   |
| TOTAL INDIVIDUALS      | 5,757 | 2,707 | 10,559 | 7,249 | 1,947 | 2,685 | 1,253 | 32,157 |     |   |
|                        | A     | B     | C      | D     | E     | F     | G     | Total  |     |   |
| SPECIES PER GROUP      | 42    | 34    | 45     | 47    | 34    | 31    | 29    | 70     |     |   |

TOTAL SPECIES FOR TROY COUNT = 70 (the highest number of species ever recorded!)

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS = 32,157 (the highest number of individual birds ever recorded!)

Incredible as it may seem, 14 bird species had the highest total individuals ever reported. 4 were tied for the highest ever. 20 of the 70 species were observed by only one party.

Ind = the number of individuals of that species for this count

Occ = occurrence ranking. "2nd" would mean the 2nd time that that species has been encountered on the Troy Christmas Count

# = number ranking. "2" would mean the 2nd highest number of individuals ever observed on the Troy Christmas Count.

t = "tied" for that number (ex., "1t" would mean tied for 1st place).

@ = highest total since 1966

⊕ = before these 3076 American Crows, the previous high (in 1991) was 1100.

Center: (see new description near the end of the article above which is entitled, "Wanderings of the Center of the Troy, NY CBC Circle". 6:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. 0.5 mile east of 42°50'N, 73°40'W. Temperature 30° to 40 °F, Wind 0-12 m.p.h., Snow 0-2 inches. Still water was frozen, moving water was partly frozen. The morning was partly cloudy with light rain, the afternoon was mainly clear.

There were 25 participants in 7(to 8) parties on the Troy CBC. The following is a description of the groups, their activities, and the location of the sectors.

Group A: William Gorman, Monte Gruett, Jerry Haller, Mike Kuhrt, Eric Molho. Tomhannock sector - includes Raymertown, Valley Falls, Co. Rt 117 (NW boundary), Co. Rts 123, 115 and 118. 6:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (4 hours, 5 miles on foot; 4½ hours, 50 miles by car; 1 hour, ½ mile owling).

Group B: Lawrence Alden, Pat Canavan. Melrose sector - bounded roughly by River Rd on the west, Plank Rd on the south, Rt NY 67 on the north, Co. Rt 117 on the northeast and Le Loop Rd on the southeast. 6:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. (2 hours, 2 miles on foot; 7½ hours, 78 miles by car; 1½ hours, 24 miles owling).

- Group C: Samuel Madison, William Cook, Richard Guthrie, Will Yandik. Hudson River sector - bounded by River Rd on the east, Rt US 4 on the west and south, extends north of Stillwater bridge, includes Co. Rt 125 at the north. 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (6½ hours 4 miles on foot; 3 hour, 56 miles by car; ½ hour, 4 miles owling).
- Group D: Kenneth Able, Walter Ellison, Gary Goodness, Nancy Martin. Cohoes sector - bounded by the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers plus Rt NY 2 on the southeast, includes the Colonie Landfill, Cohoes Falls, Peebles Island (for the first time). 6:20 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The group split in two for 5 hours and then rejoined ( 8 hours, 5 miles on foot; 7 hours, 48 miles by car; ¼ hour, ¼ mile owling)
- Group E: Clifford Lamere, Andi Simard. Mechanicville sector - eastern boundary is Rt US 4, northern edge is north of Stillwater bridge, Mohawk River on the south, Rt US 9 on the SW, Rts NY 236 and 146 to Mechanicville are western boundaries, Anthony Kill and Rt NY 67 almost to Coons make another boundary. 7:25 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. (2 hours, ½ mile on foot; 7½ hours, 66 miles by car)
- Group F: Gregg Recer, Catherine Graichen, Kay & George Hanson, Lynn Huntington, Dan Welch. Center Brunswick sector - boundaries are approximately Plank Rd on the north, US 4 on the west, NY 2 and CO 129 (Tamarack Rd) on the south and east. 7:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (5½ hours, 4½ miles on foot; 3¾ hours, 45 miles by car)
- Group G: Walton Sabin, Gil Banner. Clifton Park sector - bounded by the Mohawk River on the south, Rts US 9 and NY 236 on the east, Staniak Rd on the north, Northern Sites Drive and the north-south portion of Bonneau Rd. on the east. 6:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (1 hour, 1½ miles on foot; 8½ hours, 81½ miles by car; ¼ hour, 0 miles owling)

## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY FOR THE ENTIRE TROY CBC CIRCLE

Total Daylight Party Hours = 71.75      Total Daylight Party Miles = 447.25  
 On Foot = 29.5 hours, 22.5 miles      By Car = 42.25 hours, 424.75 miles  
 Owling (non-daylight) = 3.75 hours, 28.75 miles

**COMPARISON OF THE THREE HMBC CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS**  
 by Clifford Lamere

|                               | Schen | So. Ren | Troy   | TOTALS |
|-------------------------------|-------|---------|--------|--------|
| Great Blue Heron . . . . .    | 20    |         | 4      | 24     |
| Snow Goose . . . . .          |       |         | 7      | 7      |
| Canada Goose . . . . .        | 657   | 383     | 12,160 | 13,200 |
| Wood Duck . . . . .           | 5     |         |        | 5      |
| Green-winged Teal . . . . .   |       |         | 2      | 2      |
| American Black Duck . . . . . | 65    | 18      | 851    | 934    |
| Mallard . . . . .             | 719   | 202     | 1,672  | 2,593  |
| Northern Pintail . . . . .    |       | 1       | 2      | 3      |
| Gadwall . . . . .             |       |         | 3      | 3      |
| Ring-necked Duck . . . . .    |       |         | 1      | 1      |
| Black Scoter . . . . .        |       |         | 1      | 1      |
| White-winged Scoter . . . . . |       |         | 2      | 2      |
| Common Goldeneye . . . . .    |       | 4       | 190    | 194    |
| Hooded Merganser . . . . .    |       |         | 2      | 2      |
| Common Merganser . . . . .    | 112   | 12      | 93     | 217    |
| Bald Eagle . . . . .          |       | 1       | 6      | 7      |
| Northern Harrier . . . . .    | 2     |         | 2      | 4      |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk . . . . .  | 1     | 2       | 7      | 10     |
| Cooper's Hawk . . . . .       | 2     |         |        | 2      |
| Accipiter sp. . . . .         | 1     |         |        | 1      |
| Northern Goshawk . . . . .    | 1     |         |        | 1      |
| Red-tailed Hawk . . . . .     | 98    | 31      | 87     | 216    |
| American Kestrel . . . . .    | 1     |         | 3      | 4      |

|                                | Schen         | So. Ren      | Troy          | TOTALS        |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Ring-necked Pheasant . . . . . |               |              | 2             | 2             |
| Ruffed Grouse . . . . .        | 1             |              | 3             | 4             |
| Wild Turkey . . . . .          | 27            | 75           | 36            | 138           |
| American Coot . . . . .        | 1             |              |               | 1             |
| Ring-billed Gull . . . . .     | 192           | 369          | 76            | 637           |
| Herring Gull . . . . .         | 1,412         | 293          | 1,629         | 3,334         |
| Iceland Gull . . . . .         |               | 1            | 4             | 5             |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull       |               |              | 1             | 1             |
| Glaucous Gull . . . . .        |               |              | 1             | 1             |
| Great Black-backed Gull        | 236           | 92           | 472           | 800           |
| Larus sp. . . . .              | 308           |              |               | 308           |
| Rock Dove . . . . .            | 835           | 595          | 1,267         | 2,697         |
| Mourning Dove . . . . .        | 417           | 124          | 581           | 1,122         |
| Eastern Screech-Owl . . . . .  | 9             | 1            | 5             | 15            |
| Great Horned Owl . . . . .     | 5             | 1            | 7             | 13            |
| Barred Owl . . . . .           |               |              | 3             | 3             |
| Belted Kingfisher . . . . .    | 2             |              | 1             | 3             |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker         | 1             | 2            |               | 3             |
| Downy Woodpecker . . . . .     | 77            | 28           | 98            | 203           |
| Hairy Woodpecker . . . . .     | 22            | 5            | 32            | 59            |
| Northern Flicker . . . . .     | 37            | 7            | 19            | 63            |
| Pileated Woodpecker . . . . .  | 10            | 2            | 3             | 15            |
| Horned Lark . . . . .          | 8             | 14           | 69            | 91            |
| Blue Jay . . . . .             | 300           | 123          | 343           | 766           |
| American Crow . . . . .        | 2,433         | 531          | 3,076         | 6,040         |
| Fish Crow . . . . .            | 4             |              | 8             | 12            |
| Common Raven . . . . .         | 1             | 4            | 1             | 6             |
| Black-capped Chickadee         | 735           | 401          | 626           | 1,762         |
| Tufted Titmouse . . . . .      | 155           | 60           | 103           | 318           |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch          | 41            | 11           | 18            | 70            |
| White-breasted Nuthatch        | 96            | 31           | 86            | 213           |
| Brown Creeper . . . . .        | 7             | 3            | 4             | 14            |
| Carolina Wren . . . . .        | 8             | 1            | 5             | 14            |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet         | 1             |              | 1             | 2             |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet . . . . . |               |              | 1             | 1             |
| Eastern Bluebird . . . . .     | 42            | 18           | 69            | 129           |
| Hermit Thrush . . . . .        |               |              | 2             | 2             |
| American Robin . . . . .       | 236           | 9            | 4             | 249           |
| Gray Catbird . . . . .         | 2             |              | 1             | 3             |
| Northern Mockingbird           | 22            | 8            | 15            | 45            |
| Cedar Waxwing . . . . .        | 138           | 38           | 7             | 183           |
| European Starling . . . . .    | 4,811         | 2,349        | 6,072         | 13,232        |
| Northern Cardinal . . . . .    | 190           | 90           | 85            | 365           |
| American Tree Sparrow          | 242           | 69           | 181           | 492           |
| Field Sparrow . . . . .        | 1             |              |               | 1             |
| Song Sparrow . . . . .         | 42            | 1            | 20            | 63            |
| Swamp Sparrow . . . . .        | 3             |              |               | 3             |
| White-throated Sparrow         | 48            | 10           | 16            | 74            |
| Dark-eyed Junco . . . . .      | 197           | 97           | 174           | 468           |
| Snow Bunting . . . . .         |               |              | 20            | 20            |
| Red-winged Blackbird           | 11            | 1            |               | 12            |
| Brown-headed Cowbird . . . . . |               | 2            | 16            | 18            |
| Purple Finch . . . . .         | 2             | 2            |               | 4             |
| House Finch . . . . .          | 708           | 297          | 683           | 1,688         |
| Common Redpoll . . . . .       | 54            | 224          | 371           | 649           |
| American Goldfinch . . . . .   | 153           | 59           | 87            | 299           |
| Evening Grosbeak . . . . .     |               | 1            | 2             | 3             |
| House Sparrow . . . . .        | 332           | 296          | 656           | 1,284         |
| <b>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS</b>       | <b>16,299</b> | <b>6,999</b> | <b>32,157</b> | <b>55,455</b> |
| <b>NUMBER OF SPECIES</b>       | <b>59</b>     | <b>51</b>    | <b>70</b>     | <b>79</b>     |

SUMMARY: Wood Duck, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk, American Coot, Field Sparrow, and Swamp Sparrow (6 birds) were seen only on the Schenectady CBC. Snow Goose, Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck, Black Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Hooded Merganser, Ring-necked Pheasant, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Barred Owl, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, and Snow Bunting (14 birds) were seen only on the Troy CBC.



Vol. 56  
No. 3

June  
1994

Published Bi-monthly by The Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club

## **BIRDING THE HMBC REGION: PEEBLES ISLAND STATE PARK**

*by  
Frank Murphy*

Peebles Island State Park is situated at the confluence of the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers in Waterford. In 1972 The State of New York purchased the island from the well-known shirt maker Cluett, Peabody. It is now open for the enjoyment of hikers, joggers, and the occasional birder. Although it is in the southern tip of Saratoga County, it is accessible only from Troy and Cohoes, not Waterford. However, there is talk of opening up the bridge connecting the island to Waterford for pedestrians only. Relatively few people visit this park, although its popularity is increasing.

The unique charm of Peebles Island lies in the quiet to be found in the midst of the asphalt jungle that surrounds it. You can enjoy the birds and plants in surprisingly peaceful surroundings. This is the kind of place that, even when there are few birds, you'll always enjoy the walk, the plant life and the scenic beauty.

There is a map at the entrance to the island trails. No bicycles; no motorized vehicles, no metal detectors (not sure why?); and no alcohol is permitted, which is a good idea when you see how close the path is to the cliffs on either side! Don't even think of swimming. As of spring 1994, fishing is not allowed because of contamination. Dogs are welcome but must be on a leash. The park closes at dusk.

### **DIRECTIONS**

From Albany take I-787 North to Route 470 (Ontario Street) in Cohoes. Turn right (east)

onto Route 470. Cross over two small bridges and continue for about a half mile, then turn left onto Delaware Avenue just before the third bridge. There is a sign here for Peebles Island. Follow Delaware Avenue north about a mile to the parking lot at the very end. From Troy cross the 112th Street bridge, and take an immediate right at the end of this bridge onto Delaware Avenue. **NOTE:** During most of 1994 the first bridge on Route 470 in Cohoes will be under construction and there will be a short detour around to Delaware Avenue.

### **SITE DESCRIPTION**

The 138-acre island is relatively flat and has well travelled paths around the entire outer

### **Inside This Issue ....**

*Lyme Disease*

*HMBC Annual Report*

*Club Honors Sam Madison*



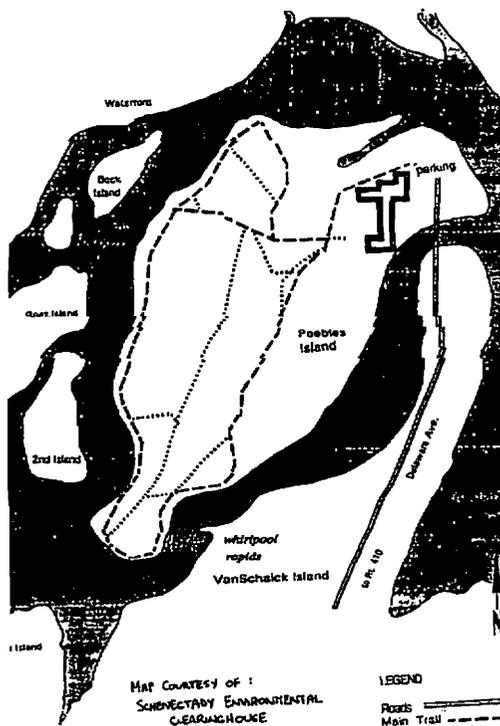
edge of the island for a distance of two miles. There are also many paths criss-crossing the island forming a nice trail system. The walk is very easy but there are steep cliffs on the east and west side so exercise caution. Foliage is very dense during the summer months, with a good variety of trees and shrubs. Near the entrance to the trails there is a huge sycamore tree. Blueberries are abundant on the western side. There are small stands of white pines and hemlocks toward the northern section, and stands of sumac, hawthorn, cherries and cottonwoods are common, as are oaks and maples. Shadbush dot the landscape, making a particularly striking picture when in full bloom in late April or early May. Larger trees can be found at the northern side of the island, smaller trees and shrubs at the southern side. Wildflowers abound.

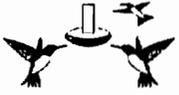
The best way to bird this area at any time of the year is to walk the entire perimeter of the island. Also scan the Hudson River near the parking lot and make a few stops on the way out at nearby Simmons Island (behind the U-Haul building on Route 470), and try Cohoes Falls just a few blocks away especially in winter for the **BALD EAGLES** that tend to stay around.

## SEASON-BY-SEASON GUIDE

### Spring:

Peebles Island is a great place to view the spring migration if only for the serenity and beauty of the landscape. Late April and early May the shadbush are in full bloom. Columbine blooms profusely along the cliffs but don't get too close or it might be your last look. **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS** and **YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS** are common migrants. **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS** stake out territories and **NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOWS** rest on the dead branches along the cliffs and allow close viewing. **OSPREYS** often soar overhead and fish the rivers but are usually gone before mid-May. **BLUE-WINGED WARBLERS** are common in the fields to the north, and in 1994 there was a **BREWSTER'S WARBLER** here. In addition, all the breeding birds mentioned in the Summer section can be observed starting in early May.





## *Summer:*

This is a wonderful place to visit in the summer because the surrounding water keeps the island relatively cool. Many of the more familiar neotropical migrants nest here including **WOOD THRUSH, ROSE-BREADED GROSBK, SCARLET Tanager, Northern Oriole, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Warbling, Red-eyed, and Yellow-throated Vireos, Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Ovenbird, American Redstart** and **Indigo Bunting**. Other breeding species include **Field Sparrow, Belted Kingfisher, Mallard, House Wren**. The mature hardwoods at the northern end are usually the best place to see and here most of the nesting species. **Chimney Swifts** are commonly flying about and are numerous in late summer. **Cedar Waxwings** can be viewed up close as they feed along the island edge in late summer. **Spotted Sandpipers** are found in the summer and conceivably nest there. **Fish Crows** are getting more common and may also be nesting there. The uncommon **Common Nighthawks** still nest in the Cohoes area and can often be seen flying about the island at dusk. Common birds include **Northern Flicker, Greater Black-backed Gulls, American Robins, Black-capped Chickadee** and **Tufted Titmouse**. Late August through September is an excellent time to scan the wet areas for shorebirds and herons and egrets.

## *Autumn:*

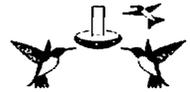
The waterways surrounding the island attract many waterfowl and shorebirds. The south end of the island is best for viewing water species and a scope is essential. **SPOTTED**

**SANDPIPERS** and **KILLDEER** are common, as are **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS**. Scan the shallows and rocks below the falls for shorebirds such as **PECTORAL, LEAST** and **SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS, GREATER** and **LESSER YELLOWLEGS**, and **SEMIPALMATED PLOVER**. Herons and Egrets are also common here such as **GREAT BLUE HERON, GREAT EGRET, SNOWY EGRET**, and occasionally **BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON**. **BELTED KINGFISHERS** are a common sight, as well.

## *Winter:*

Winter birding is usually quiet on the island but the surrounding area is good for the winter rarities like **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE, SCOTERS**, and **GLAUCOUS** and **ICELAND GULLS**. The island is still a good area to quietly observe some of the more common winter birds such as **DARK-EYED JUNCO, BLACK CAPPED CHICKADEE, TUFTED TITMOUSE** and **DOWNY WOODPECKER**. Your best bet for finding a rare gull is in the area below the dams. **BALD EAGLES** can often be found in the area and should be sought in this area or perching in the trees along the waters edge. And remember to scan the Hudson River east of the parking lot for **RED-THROATED LOON, RED-NECKED GREBE**, and other waterfowl.

**Further information:** Good maps are available through the park headquarters at cost of \$1.00. Another good map and site description is *Natural Areas of Albany County* by the Schenectady Environmental Clearinghouse, and available at local bookstores. Please send any updates or bird reports to the Hudson Mohawk Bird Club, or phone in your bird observations to Birdline of Eastern New York: (518) 439-8080.



## LYME DISEASE

by  
*Clifford Lamere*

As a result of a mysterious outbreak of arthritis near Lyme, Connecticut, the first cases of Lyme disease in the US were recognized in 1975. The disease exists in many other parts of the world as well. In the eastern US, Lyme disease seems to be spread to humans entirely by the Deer Tick (*Ixodes scapularis*, formerly *I. dammini*). Since birding is an active outdoor pursuit, it is wise to become well-informed about this relatively common vector-borne disease.

**LIFE HISTORY AND HABITS** The Deer Tick has three stages; a larva (very tiny), a nymph (poppy seed size, but as large as a pin head when fully engorged with blood) and an adult (sesame seed size, but as large as an apple seed when fully engorged). The larva and nymph prefer to feed on White-footed Mice and other small rodents; the preferred host of the adult is the White-tailed Deer. Both the nymph and adult feed on humans as well, but it is the nymph that is more likely to infect us since it is harder to detect.

The adults mate in autumn while the female is feeding on a deer (or other large host). In the spring, the female drops off, lays her eggs and dies. The larvae hatch in the spring and are free of Lyme disease. They find a blood meal and, if the host is infected, pick up the disease organism (a spirochete, which is a spiral bacterium). The larvae develop into nymphs in autumn; the nymphs then usually have their meal of blood the following May through June. They feed for 3-5 days. After dropping off the host, the nymphs molt into adults which most actively seek a host in September and October (can be later if it is a warm autumn). The adults feed for 5-7 days

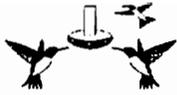
and then the cycle begins again.

The adults and nymphs attach to blades of grass or leaves of bushes. They transfer to an animal or human that brushes by.

After finding a host, they crawl around several hours before attachment, bury their head in the skin and feed on blood for a few days. Reports say that in laboratory animals the infective spirochete is transferred into the blood stream about 36-48 hours after feeding begins. In reference to humans, CDC says, "ticks are most likely to transmit infection after approximately 2 or more days of feeding".

Places where Deer Ticks are most likely to imbed themselves are hairy areas (groin, armpits and scalp), bunched skin near a restriction such as a waistband, under a breast, in and around navels, behind knees, between toes, or on the back of the neck. Other areas are also known.

**TICK REMOVAL** Once a tick is imbedded, it must be handled carefully. Don't touch the tick with a hot match stick. Do not cover it with vaseline or fingernail polish, trying to suffocate it. That will just give the tick more time to transfer the bacterium into the bloodstream as it continues feeding. A better strategy would be to remove the tick as soon as it is detected. Don't squeeze the tick's abdomen during removal because that may cause it to regurgitate into a person's blood stream (the bacteria are located in the tick's midgut and saliva). Using fine-tipped tweezers, get as close to the skin as possible (difficult with something so small) and then pull slowly and steadily. It may be awhile



before the tick releases because it is actually cemented in place. Wash the area and apply an antiseptic. If some of the mouthparts (which would resemble a splinter) are left behind, it is recommended that you consult a doctor. The mouthparts apparently are not dangerous, but may cause a local irritation somewhat as a splinter would do.

**DIAGNOSIS** Diagnosing Lyme disease is not always easy because many of its symptoms are similar to other diseases such as flu, infectious mononucleosis or arthritis. The most distinctive sign is a reddish ring-shaped rash around the area of the bite. This is not present in all cases, however. General flu-like symptoms such as fever, muscle and joint aches and lethargy are also associated with infection. If any of these symptoms are noted after being bitten by a tick or being in an area where Lyme Disease is common, it is advisable to consult a physician.

**TREATMENT** Lyme disease can be quite serious, but it is rarely (perhaps never) fatal to humans. According to CDC, "patients treated in the early stages with antibiotics usually recover rapidly and completely. Most patients who are treated in later stages of the disease also respond well to antibiotics, and full recovery is the rule." However, "in a few patients .... symptoms of persisting infection may continue or recur". Several antibiotics are effective.

**REDUCING RISK OF CONTRACTING LYME DISEASE** Ticks show up best against a light background, so light-colored clothing is best when out-of-doors. Long trousers made of tightly knit fabrics are recommended since ticks aren't able to grab on to them as well. Tuck your pants into the tops of your boots or into your socks. Putting rubber bands around

the area where pants and socks meet or taping it will help. Wear long-sleeved shirts. Tucking long hair under a hat may keep ticks away from your scalp. Walk in the center of paths and trails if that will allow you to avoid contact with grass and bushes.

Tick repellents containing permethrin are now available, although they are difficult to find in New York counties which don't have a high incidence of Lyme disease. The repellent can be applied to clothing and then allowed to dry. It is not to be sprayed on skin, nor should the clothes be worn before the repellent has dried. A 6 oz. can will treat an outfit which consists of a shirt, trousers, hat, and a pair of socks. At least one brand claims that their repellent is quite effective for up to two weeks with just one spraying (and will survive at least one washing).

Repellents containing DEET are also available and can be used on skin as well as clothes. The New York State Department of Health recommends concentrations not exceeding 30% in order to avoid allergic or toxic reactions. Although DEET is effective as a repellent to biting flies, there is little hard data relating to its efficacy against ticks. Wash off the DEET as soon as possible after a trip has concluded.

Clothes should be removed immediately upon returning home or to your motel, and they should be laundered promptly (washed and dried at a high temperature) or sealed in a plastic bag. If the clothes are to be used a second time before washing, they should be hung outside to give the ticks a chance to fall off. Check your body for ticks as soon as possible. Before going to bed, you should shower or bathe and thoroughly wash areas of dense hair.



**LYME DISEASE LOCALLY** About 40% of all US Lyme disease cases occur in New York state. The highest densities of Infected ticks are confined to the downstate area, particularly Long Island, although ticks with Lyme Disease have been spreading slowly up the Hudson Valley. 1992 was the first year in which infected ticks (2) were discovered in Albany County; there were 13 confirmed cases of Lyme disease. Confirmed cases for 1992 in surrounding counties are as follows: Schenectady = 5, Rensselaer = 9, Columbia = 16, Greene = 8, Schoharie = 1, Montgomery = 2, Saratoga = 13 and Washington = 0. By comparison, Suffolk County had 654, Dutchess County (immediately to the south of Columbia County) had 590, and Westchester County had 357 cases. New York state cases totalled 2540 in 1992.

**DO WE GO BIRDING?** Of course we do, but we should exercise more care than we did in the past. If we take the preventive measures mentioned above and use tick repellents, the Deer Tick should not reach our skin. If it does, the fact that we have such a long time before the bacterium is passed into the human bloodstream means that a thorough check should find the tick before any damage is done. Should Lyme disease be contracted despite all of these precautions, it is reassuring to know that it is usually curable. It is realistic to be concerned about Lyme disease. However, we should not let a fear of it keep us from enjoying a favorite pastime.

**QUESTIONS?** If you have any questions about New York state ticks or the diseases that they spread (Lyme disease, Babesiosis - believed to be confined entirely to eastern Suffolk County - and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever - confined almost entirely to Long

Island) you may call the Arthropod-Borne Disease Program of the NYS Department of Health at (518) 474-4568.

**References:**

American Lyme Disease Foundation, Inc. 1992. A quick guide to Lyme disease.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 1992. Lyme Disease. (document # 351701) .

New York State Department of Health. 1993. *Ixodes dammini*...The tick that carries Lyme Disease. Would a tick by any other name be as dangerous?

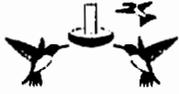
New York State Department of Health. 1993. Lyme-infected deer ticks identified in Albany County.

New York State Department of Health. 1992. Tick and Insect Repellents.

Pfizer Central Research. 1988. Lyme disease.

White, Dennis J. 1993. Lyme disease surveillance and personal protection against ticks. In: Ginsberg, Howard S., ed. Ecology and environmental management of Lyme disease. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.





## **GRAICHEN, MURPHY RECIPIENTS OF 1993-1994 PRESIDENT'S AWARDS**

### **A CALL FOR PROGRAMS**

Have you been to an interesting destination? Have slides or movies? Want to share them with the Club? Your Program Committee is looking for suggestions for next year. Any good birding/scenic destination, within or outside the U.S. would be welcomed. Programs on particular groups of birds, bird biology or identification would be welcome as well. Please contact Scott Stoner with any offerings!

At the Annual Meeting, Cathy Graichen and Frank Murphy were awarded the President's Award for their outstanding contributions to the Club during the preceding year. Graichen was honored for her work as treasurer, on *Feathers*, field trips and on the revision to the By-Laws. Murphy was recognized for his outstanding job as the voice of Birdline over the past 10 months. Note: In further recognition of his fine job in this area, he has been appointed as Chair of the Birdline Committee.

Cliff Lamere and Gregg Recer formally received President's Awards retroactively for the year 1992-1993. Lamere was honored for his work on field trips and records, and Recer for his work on *Feathers*.

---

### **ANNUAL MEETING REPORT**

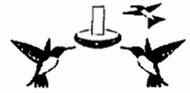
For the first time since its 50th anniversary dinner, HMBC members gathered for a social dinner. Held at Oceans Eleven in Guilderland and planned by Social Chair Laura Sommers, this event attracted over 60 people, including many long-time members. The business meeting followed, highlighted by awards, adoption of By-Laws changes and the election of officers and directors (see President's Corner).

After the business meeting, attention turned to the joy of birding (what brings us together in the first place!), as exemplified by the tremendous interest in owls. The evening's speaker was none other than noted owl expert and author Julio de la Torre, who some of us heard at SUNY last fall and who will also be the banquet speaker at next fall's Federation of NYS Bird Clubs meeting in Sullivan County. Julio is known to be both an informative and

entertaining speaker, and he certainly didn't disappoint us this night! With slides and anecdotes on the North American owls, we learned about predator-prey relationships, identification, and the changes to owl populations caused by man's alteration of the landscape. It is easy to believe that Barn Owls are the source of haunted building stories!

Particular attention was given to the Short-eared Owl, which used to breed on both Long Island and Cape Cod. Now, unfortunately, there are only four (4!) acres of native prairie left on Long Island, and this owl now merely winters there. Julio played tape and vocally demonstrated the calls of a number of owl species. He pointed out facts such as how the strikingly different plumage of the young Saw-whet owl once led to its identification as a separate species!

*-Scott Stoner*

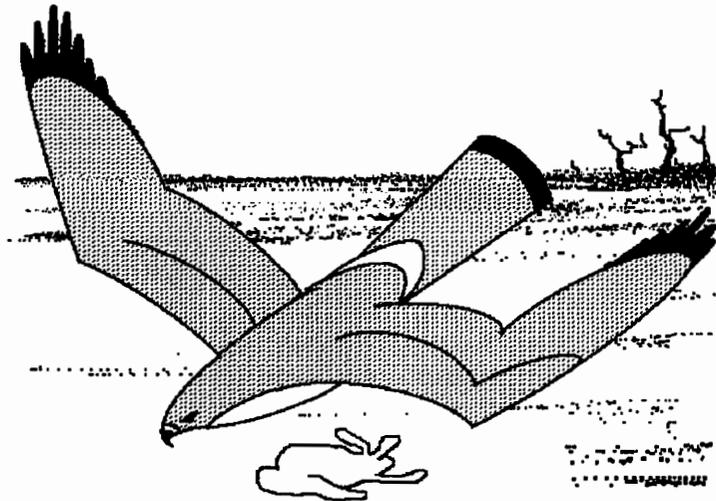


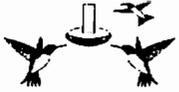
## PROGRAM REPORTS

May 2's "Birds of the Adirondacks" program by Warren Greene attracted 45 people. Warren's fame as a photographer includes a cover of *American Birds*, an article in *Wildbird*, two books and numerous other publications. His voice had just recovered from a bout of laryngitis, but Warren's photos were worth more than a thousand words! He gave a pictorial tour of the avian highlights of northern New York. Some of the most memorable were the numerous warblers photographed on the nest, including the rarely seen Dutch oven nest of the Ovenbird. His drake Wood Duck and view of two young at the edge of their nest, about to take the no-return plunge into the real world were outstanding. The show included drumming and dust-bathing Ruffed Grouse, and finished up with a variety of owls, including of course, the famous Northern Hawk Owl from Fort Edward two winters ago. Along the way he passed on a number of tips for would-be photographers, including focus on the eye, use as fast a shutter speed as possible and don't worry too much about the depth of field, approach the subject from its level and from the side, without looking it in the eye, and get the camera closer to the subject rather than trying to use an extremely long lens. Above all, we got the message of 'respect the subject.' Thank you, Warren, for a most enjoyable evening!

**Note:** If anyone knows of an active Golden-winged Warbler nest or an accessible Pileated Woodpecker nest, Warren would appreciate a call at 725-1582.

- *Scott Stoner*





## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### *Weather affects birding at Vischer Ferry this Spring*

Late ice-out and spring flooding put a damper on spring birding at Vischer Ferry. Three trips were held on consecutive Sundays beginning April 3. The first trip featured small numbers but a decent variety of waterfowl for the 10 folks who ventured out this Easter morning. Species included **GREEN-WINGED TEAL**, **RING-NECKED DUCK**, **BUFFLEHEAD**, **AMERICAN WIGEON** and **COMMON MERGANSER**. Also of interest was the group of 80 **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS** on the still frozen back pond on the left side of the dirt road that were apparently feeding on fish that had been frozen into the ice last fall.

On April 10, 10 hardy birders braved the rain for an afternoon walk. Highlights of this day included **BUFFLEHEAD**, two **PIED-BILLED GREBE**, **AMERICAN WIGEON**, **NORTHERN SHOVELER**, **WOOD DUCK**, **BLUE-WINGED TEAL**, and **BELTED KINGFISHER**.

Finally, at least 40 people turned out for a morning trip on April 17, only to be thwarted from much of a walk by flood waters! We were able to go part way along the canal in both directions, and identified, collectively, 33 species including **BROAD-WINGED** and **RED-TAILED HAWKS**, **OSPREY**, **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT**, **BLUE-WINGED TEAL**, **SNOW GOOSE**, and **RUSTY BLACKBIRD**. The walk ended after two hours, just before the snow and then heavy rain began!

It seems to me that waterfowl numbers were down at Vischer Ferry this spring. I'm not sure if the late thaw there or generally long winter was a factor, or if there is some other reason.

- *Scott Stoner*

### *Birds & Breakfast*

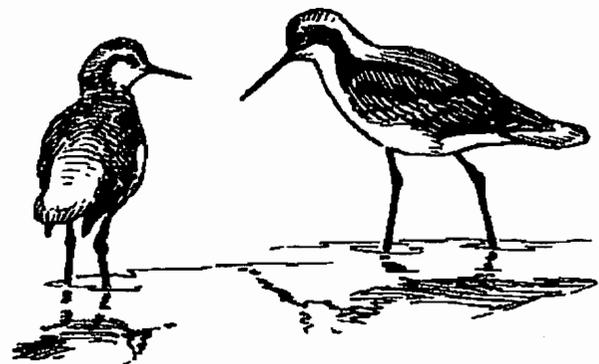
With approximately the same number of people as last year, Five Rivers hosted HMBC's annual Birds & Breakfast field trip on a over-cast, cool Saturday (May 7). Twenty warbler species, including both residents and migrants, highlighted this popular spring trip. The tally for the morning was 86 species.

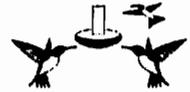
- *Al Mapes*

### *Warbler Walk*

Unfortunately, this Mother's Day trip did not live up to its name. The cool, rainy weather undoubtedly contributed to the lack of migrants. Five club members ventured out and found relatively few passerines. **SOLITARY SANDPIPERS** were abundant, **CANADA GEESE** had established nesting sites, and an **AMERICAN BITTERN** pumped regularly. The trip ended after a pair of **VIRGINIA RAILS** answered a tape recording and walked by providing ample viewing opportunities.

- *Cathy Graichen & Gregg Reeser*





## Upcoming Field Trips

### ***Five Rivers Till Dusk #1***

Jun 9 (Thu), Coord: Bob Budliger, 439-0006

Meet at the parking area to look for breeding birds, such as Wood Duck, Canada Goose, Bobolink and Eastern Bluebird at Five Rivers after dinner.

### ***Indian Kill Preserve***

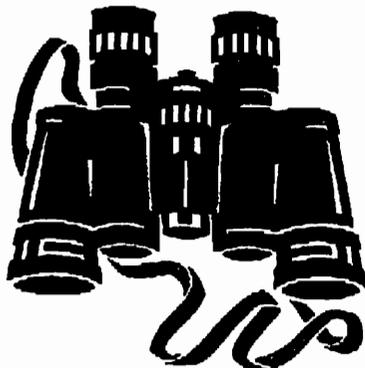
Jun 11 (Sat), Coord: Ray Perry, 475-0291 (work), 399-3962 (home)

Help explore this 100 acre preserve in Schenectady County which many potential good birding habitats, including dry, sandy upland forests, slopes with old-growth (possibly) forest, north-facing bluff, wetland and stream banks.

### ***Pine Bush***

Jun 12 (Sun), Coord: Laura Sommers, 489-2712

The unique sand dune habitat found in Albany county provides the opportunity to see Prairie and Chestnut-sided Warblers, Common Yellowthroat, Indigo Bunting, and Rufous-sided Towhee. Outside possibilities include the Golden-winged Warbler and the rare Karner Blue butterfly.



### ***West Point, Bear Mountain and Harriman State Park***

Jun 18 (Sat), Coord: Bill Lee, 374-3426  
Spend Friday night in the area or leave VERY early Saturday morning to search for Cerulean, Kentucky and Hooded Warblers, as well as Common Raven and Black Vulture or even a glimpse of Least Bittern.

## **No Pets on HMBC Field Trips**

**Because of their potential to be disruptive to a group birding experience, effective 5/12/94, HMBC does not allow pets on Club field trips.**

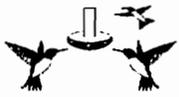
### ***Upland Sandpipers near Fort Edward***

Jun 19 (Sun), Coord: Barb Putnam  
Bring Dad out for a morning trip in search of Upland Sandpipers and other grassland species, such as Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrow.

### ***Bear Swamp and Hannacroix Ravine***

Jul 2 (Sat), Coord: Sam Madison, 439-4753

Rhodendrons should be at the peak of bloom and Canada, Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, and Black-throated Green should be nesting in these areas. Bring a lunch and plan to spend a summer day birding.



## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS (CONT).

### ***Five Rivers Till Dusk #2***

Jul 7 (Thu), Coord: Bob Budliger, 439-0006

Meet at the parking area to look for breeding birds, such as Wood Duck, Canada Goose, Bobolink and Eastern Bluebird at Five Rivers after dinner.

### ***Ferd's Bog, Moose River Plain***

Jul 9-10 (Sat-Sun), Coord: Bill Graham, 798-8038

On this two day trip explore the wonderful resources we have in the Adirondack Park. Plan to camp or come up for one day. Saturday's trip to Moose River Plain and Moss Lake should find many warblers, nesting Osprey and Common Loon. Sunday's visit to Ferd's Bog offers opportunities for boreal specialties, including Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Gray

Jay, Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Lincoln's Sparrow and Nashville Warbler.

### ***Pelagic Trip***

Aug/Sep (Sat-Sun), Coord: Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen, 899-2678

A pelagic trip from Long Island or the Mass. coast will be coordinated with other nearby birding opportunities.

### ***Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge***

Aug 13 (Sat), Coord: George & Kay Hanson, 885-5467 (9am-1pm)

Migrating shorebirds are the main attraction of this day-long trip to Queens. With high tide at 1:30pm on this date, we should have good views on the East Pond of feeding and roosting birds.

---

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Monday, June 6

### ***Outposts of New Zealand***

Dr. Ken Able of SUNY-Albany will show slides of birds and other wildlife of New Zealand, including the areas of the Little Barrier Island, Stewart Island and Fjordland.

**Note:** The program series will be on hiatus during the months of July and August. Enjoy your free evenings and plan to return to programs in September. Here's a sneak preview of our (tentative) fall schedule.

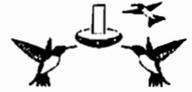
Wednesday, September 7--**New Guinea**, with ship's naturalist Arthur Cooley from Long Island.

Monday, October 3--**Hawaii**, with MOVIES by Bill Gorman and slides by Scott Stoner.

Monday, November 7--**Alaska Marathon**.

Multiple speakers to cover a portion of this great land. Diane Reiner, Scott Stoner, possibly Alan Mapes, and an encore of Birding ATTU by Sam Madison.

Monday, December 5--**Christmas Party** and slide program, "Birding the Bayous" by Gregg Recer and Cathy Graichen.



## **HMBC HONORS SAM MADISON WITH LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD**

At the 1994 Annual Meeting, the HMBC honored Life Member Sam Madison with its first ever Lifetime Service Award. Presented jointly by President Scott Stoner and Vice President Tim Colborn, the Award recognizes Sam's half-century of service to this organization.

The month before, for the occasion of Sam's 80th birthday, the Board adopted a special resolution honoring Sam. Below is the complete text of the letter from the Club that was read to Sam at his surprise birthday party.

3/25/94

Dear Mr. Madison:

The Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club would like to congratulate you on your 80th birthday and express our deep appreciation for the tremendous contribution you have made to this organization. To this end, at the meeting of March 14, 1994 of the HMBC Board of Directors, the Club adopted a special resolution honoring you, and bestowing upon you the "HMBC Lifetime Service Award." This will be formally presented at the Annual Meeting on April 11.

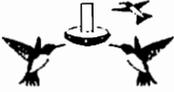
Sam, you truly have given a lifetime of service to this Club. You had already been an active member of nearly 20 years by the time most of the current leadership was born. Your many contributions have included president, field trip leader, and long-time legal advisor. Even today we seek your advice, not just on how something was done in the past, but on how we should proceed in the present. And Sam, don't think because we call this a "Lifetime" award that we'll never call upon you in the future as well!

You are also one of the most prolific field birders in our Club, and congratulations are certainly in order for both reaching 720 on your life list, and for finally getting the Ferruginous Pygmy Owl after several attempts for this most-elusive species!

Again, we wish you a happy birthday and hope that you achieve many more! You have honored and sustained this Club with your half-century of service, and it is our sincere pleasure to have this opportunity to thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Scott J. Stoner  
President



## REPORT ON THE 1993-1994 CLUB YEAR

by  
*Scott Storer*

Our Club has had a great year! Field trips, long a mainstay of HMBC, continue to be a success due not only to Cliff Lamere's work as chair but because of the many Club members who volunteer their time to take us birding. The continuation of monthly programs appears to be a success, because people continue to attend, and programs are a good complement to the field trips. *Feathers* is on schedule, 6 times a year. It contains timely and interesting material, including the series of articles on local birding sites. Credit goes to Gregg Recer, Cathy Graichen AND everyone who writes articles for it! Birdline is a new name for a longtime service of the Club, and thanks to Frank Murphy it's been updated once a week or more frequently for nearly 10 months in a row! Your Board addressed a local issue of concern to birders as well, with input to the State DEC about the need to access to and preservation of local birding areas. Publicity has been enhanced, thanks to Tim Colborn, and our three Club-sponsored Christmas Counts are going strong, with the Club paying participation fees to boost involvement. Less showy but still important has been the development of policies regarding ethics, Birdline, and publicity.

Two big projects are underway. First, we will host the 1996 Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, probably in September of that year. Philip Johnson is chairing that effort and just doing a super job. Finally, the much-discussed book, the birding guide to the capital region, is well underway. Authors for individual sites have been identified and early versions for several sites have already been published in *Feathers*. Look for more site guides in *Feathers* over the next year or so, and for the book to be available in 1996, absolutely no later than the Federation Meeting.

---

### ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

The past fiscal year found the club operating at approximately \$1000.00 deficit. A large portion of this is attributable to a change in how our insurance was calculated and paying an insurance adjustment for the previous fiscal year. The Board is examining alternative insurance policies to try to reduce our rates. While the drop in interest rates may be beneficial for those taking loans, it did cost the club. Again the Board will be examining new investment opportunities to realize the advantage of our assets.

We also experienced some unexpected increases in mailing costs when the commercial mailer we utilized merged with another company and more than tripled their prices. As a result, we have reevaluated our mailing practices and will no longer use a commercial mailer, relying instead on volunteers for labeling and envelope packing. The club also invested in a hand-held scanner for publications which allows us to scan maps, figures, and photos. In most other budget categories, we operated within our planned guidelines.

**more on next page...**



... continued from previous page

**INCOME**

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Donations to Reist | 612.00  |
| Dues Income        | 4980.00 |
| Interest Income    | 921.38  |
| Other Income       | 11.00   |
| Sales Income       | 27.40   |

**TOTAL INCOME 6551.78**

**EXPENSE**

|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Bank Charge               | 113.61  |
| Birdline expenses         | 401.56  |
| Charitable Donations      | 400.00  |
| Christmas Count Expenses  | 305.00  |
| Conference Attendance exp | 243.00  |
| Conservation Expenses     | -30.00  |
| Dues Paid                 | 50.00   |
| Field Trip Expenses       | 43.42   |
| Insurance                 | 1206.00 |
| Legal & Prof. Fees        | 25.00   |
| Mailing Expenses          | 1184.65 |
| Membership Expenses       | 259.72  |
| Office Expenses           | 139.87  |
| Printing Expenses         | 1464.00 |
| Program Expenses          | 247.93  |
| Publications Expenses     | 454.50  |
| Publicity Expenses        | 77.44   |
| Records Expenses          | 200.99  |
| Social Expenses           | 160.14  |
| Taxes (Water Assessment)  | 619.60  |

**TOTAL EXPENSES 7566.43**

**TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE -1014.65**

**ASSETS**

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Cash On Hand | 145.00   |
| Checking     | 3174.69  |
| Savings      | 32110.42 |

**TOTAL ASSETS 35430.11**

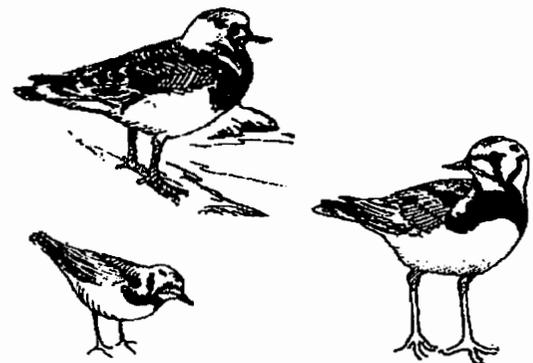
**1993 TOTAL 36377.76**

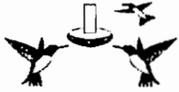
**NET CHANGE -1014.65**

One area we did well was with increased dues revenue and donations to offset the water assessment fee on the Reist Sanctuary. The Reist donations nearly covered the cost of the water assessment fee.

Obviously, the Club does not want to operate at a deficit or raise dues. The Board will be looking for ways to keep our expenses under control to avoid a dues increase.

*- Cathy Graichen*





## HMBC BOARD FOR 1994 - 1995

### Officers

|                                                                                              |                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>President:</b><br>Scott Stoner<br>32-10 Woodlake Rd.<br>Albany, N.Y.<br>12203<br>464-0492 | <b>Vice-President:</b><br>Barb Putnam<br>190 Palmer Ridge Rd.<br>Gansevoort, N.Y.<br>12831<br>356-5768 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                                  |                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Secretary:</b><br>Bette Moon<br>907 St. David's Ln.<br>Schenectady, N.Y.<br>12309<br>372-8330 | <b>Treasurer:</b><br>Cathy Graichen<br>23 Scotch Mist Way<br>Ballston Spa, N.Y.<br>12020<br>899-2678 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



### Directors:

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| William Lee    | 374-3426 |
| Gregg Recer    | 899-2678 |
| Philip Johnson | 895-2969 |
| Laura Sommers  | 489-2712 |
| George Hanson  | 885-5467 |

### Committee Chairs

|                 |               |          |
|-----------------|---------------|----------|
| Conservation:   | Walt Sabin    | 439-7344 |
| Birdline:       | Frank Murphey | 482-1942 |
| Programs:       | Scott Stoner  | 464-0492 |
| Field Trips:    | Cliff Lamere  | 462-9827 |
| Membership:     | Daniel Ruge   | 449-1087 |
| Publicity:      | Ellen Houle   | 279-4585 |
| Publications:   | Gregg Recer   | 899-2678 |
| Records:        | Cliff Lamere  | 462-9827 |
| Sanctuary:      | Bette Moon    | 372-8330 |
| Social:         | Ann B'Rells   | 355-5615 |
| Jr. Activities: | Vacant        |          |

### ...continued from back page

*Finally, I turn to you for help in running YOUR Club. Board meetings are generally held the second Monday of odd-numbered months, at 7:30 p.m. at Five Rivers. These meetings are open and all members are welcome to attend. Help is needed on committees as well. Junior Activities is totally vacant; we need people who would like to help plan and or conduct Club activities for young people. A Call for Programs is listed separately in this Feathers; please contact me if you would like to participate. Your comments, suggestions and criticism are always welcome: please contact me with any input or offers for help in running your Club.*

### SEND THOSE ARTICLES, FIELD TRIP REPORTS AND OTHER MATERIAL (INCLUDING CLIP ART) TO:

**FEATHERS**  
Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club  
c/o Five Rivers EEC  
Game Farm Rd.

To save money (and help stave off a dues increase), we are looking to cut costs without cutting services. One way is to no longer send out a separate program notice with *Feathers*. Programs WILL be listed in *Feathers* and announced on Birdline.



*President's Corner: As we close out the 1993-1994 Club Year and look forward to the next, I would like to briefly report on where we are and where we're going. A State of the Club report, if I may. First, let me express my sincere appreciation to both the Nominations Committee and to the membership for honoring me with another term as your President. This will be my last term, at least for a while, as the By-Laws contain a two-consecutive-year term limitation. Therefore, I can now be considered a 'lame duck'! However, don't expect me to be an idle one!*



*Congratulations to newly elected Vice President Barbara Putnam, to re-elected Treasurer Cathy Gratchen and Secretary Bette Moon, and to newly elected Directors George Hanson, Phillip Johnson, and Laura Sommers. Congratulations also to new committee chairs Ellen Houle (Publicity), Frank Murphy (Birdline) and Ann B'Rells (Social). I look forward to working with all of you.*

*The Club is doing great: a lot has been accomplished, and I don't believe that change for the sake of change alone to be beneficial. However, there are a few areas that I would like to address this year. Feathers, Birdline, field trips, and programs are the four main 'products' or 'services' of the Club; all are running smoothly and will continue in their present form. Work on our two major projects, the birding guide and planning for the 1996 Federation Meeting, is underway and will remain major activities during the next year.*

*One area that will be addressed this year is the long-term financial health of the Club. As Treasurer Gratchen reported at the Annual Meeting, we actually operated at a deficit last year. This was due in part to reduced interest income and in part to increased expenses, including an unanticipated change in our insurance rate.*

*Another is that of publicity. Despite the considerable efforts of Tim Colborn, I believe that there are still a number of birders and potential birders in the greater Capital District who are as yet unaware of the HMB and what we have to offer! I would like to remedy this situation.*

**more on previous page...**

FEATHERS  
Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club  
c/o Five Rivers EEC  
Game Farm Rd.  
Delmar, N.Y. 12054

Forwarding and Return  
Postage Guaranteed

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT 186  
SCHDY NY 12305

Ann & Wayne B'Rells  
3187 Woodhaven Drive  
Schenectady, NY  
12303-4733



Printed on  
Recycled Paper

# FEATHERS

Vol. 56  
No. 4

August  
1994

Published Bi-monthly by The Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club

## LEAST BITTERN IN A MARSH: ALARM AND RESPONSE AROUND THE NURSERY

by  
*Jim Sotis*

Carter Lake and its extensive marsh form the centerpiece of a 435 acre habitat in Washington County managed by DEC. It is here I've been this morning since settling into my canoe as a blazing sun emerged over the eastern ridge about three hours ago. Easing my way through the marsh among the variety of birds found here in early August has been thoroughly engaging. The teeming young about always remind me of the fecundity of this place.

The surprises are especially stimulating. Just moments ago, a Blue-winged Teal suddenly appeared. Eclipse plumage contrasted its wing

patches as it banked to descend and settle behind a dense stand of swamp loosestrife. I was elated. Though late among the ducks and geese north to the breeding grounds, the diminutive teal is commonly first to depart for its winter haunts. A 14 ounce harbinger of the progeny-bearing multitudes soon to grace our skies over fields of harvest.

I am paddling leisurely now, but my alertness to sight and sound wanes. So much here summons consideration -- thought, reflection. A piercing, repetitive call suddenly commands my attention. Keh-keh-keh-keh...! I search about, narrow my view -- there! A Least Bittern, clasped to a stem about twenty yards before me. A mature female, she continues calling,

**continued on next page...**



### **Inside This Issue ....**

*Birding Nepal*

*Common Nighthawk Migration Report*

*Field Trip Reports*

*Fall, 1994 Program Schedule*



She seems alarmed, but why does she remain there? Abruptly, she takes wing, flies over me and drops into a patch of emergents to my right.

I paddle, putting distance between us to ease her plight, following a navigable course to the right. Again -- now behind me -- her calling continues. Strong and insistent! I am puzzled. Now, closer and immediately before me, I hear another call -- similar, but thinner, less mature. I am between two bitterns! I freeze. There, fast to a stalk within ten feet, fringed with natal down, a young one peers at me. It holds its position motionless, its eyes firmly fixed, its upturned beak rigidly still.

Unmoving, I study it. Though I am familiar with Least Bitterns here, this is a new experience, and I want to hold it as long as I can.

Having momentarily ceased, the mature bittern resumes her calling. Still behind me, she rises, flies half circle above me and drops out of view about thirty feet behind the young one and continues sounding her alarm. The juvenile's response is immediate. It descends into the maze of greenery, out of sight. I follow its passage, stalk to stalk, watching the sway

of stem and leaf, which marks its withdrawal toward maternal assurance.

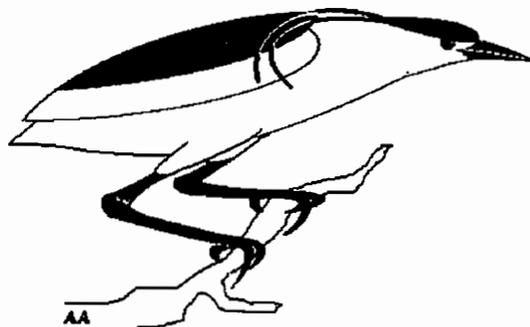
At last, movement ceases; only stillness now. How fascinating to witness such persistent parental regard and wariness, such attentive and appropriate filial response; this perfection we call bonding -- responsibility and obedience -- having shaped itself, somehow, along the dark corridor of avian evolution.

I sit quietly for a few minutes. The notion of time intrudes, and I notice that life in the marsh seems subdued beneath the rising heat and humidity. So, I dip my paddle, slowly swing the canoe around and head it on the course toward open water.

Across the lake, a lone fisherman takes no notice as I emerge from the marsh and paddle for shore.

**Note:** As editors we apologize to Jim for the long delay in publishing this article. We inadvertently left it out of an earlier issue this year. Thanks Jim for the lovely anecdote.

CG & GR



*Nycticorax nycticorax*



## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### CHRISTMAN SANCTUARY

On Sunday morning, May 1st, a small group of dedicated and damp birders braved rain and fog to search Christman Sanctuary for spring arrivals. Heavy rain the night before kept us from exploring both sides of the Bozenkill, but the high waters did provide impressive waterfalls. Perseverance produced some warblers: **BLACK-AND-WHITE**, **YELLOW-RUMPED**, **BLACK-THROATED-BLUE** and **OVENBIRD**, as well as other spring migrants including **ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK**, **WOOD THRUSH** AND **FIELD SPARROW**. It was early in the season and some of our favorites (Prairie Warbler and Common Yellowthroat) were not yet in residence. The best bird of the day was the first **SCARLET Tanager** we had seen for the year; he cooperatively perched for all to see as we returned to the parking lot to tally the trip list. In all, we identified thirty-one species on the trip.

*Phil Johnson  
Debbie Ellinger*

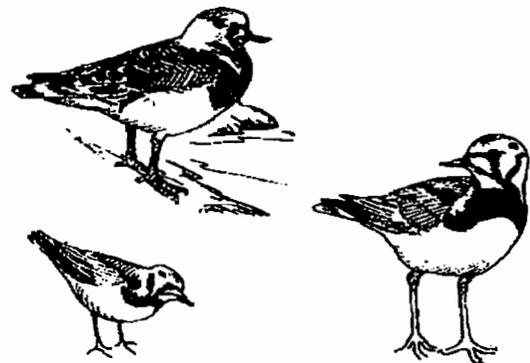
### VISCHER FERRY NHP

A rainy day turned into a nice evening on May 17 and the five participants were rewarded with a pretty sunset and some good birding. Warblers were few in variety, but we did have several **SOLITARY SANDPIPERS** and **WOOD DUCKS**, A **WARBLING VIREO** AND **AMERICAN BITTERN**. Right at the entrance we got a great look at **ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK**. The highlight of the trip, however, was a scope view of a singing **VEERY**, along the path behind the last pond to the right, near the River.

*Scott Stoner*

### DELMARVA

Eight HMBC members made the annual trek for a three-day weekend on the Delmarva Peninsula. This year's trip was scheduled somewhat later than the last few years had been (May 20 - 22) in order to be on the Delaware Bay coast near the peak of horseshoe-crab spawning so to see the tremendous shorebird migration that accompanies that event. The decision turned out to be a good one, as we saw nearly as many species as the previous year (140 vs. 150), missing mainly landbird migrants which we had seen earlier in the month at home and getting to see a little of the terrific shorebird spectacle that occurs every spring on the Delaware and New Jersey shores.



The hot bird around Bombay Hook, when we got there, was an alternate-plumaged Rufous-necked Stint at the nearby Woodland Beach Wildlife Management Area that had been seen for several days previous. We searched long and hard for the bird, as did many other birders in the area for the Maryland Ornithological Society conference that weekend near Baltimore, but had no luck. We later learned that the last day the bird was seen was the day before we got there! Nevertheless, we got a



## Field Trip Reports Cont'd....

good start on our shorebirding, with 15 species including **RUDDY TURNSTONE, RED KNOT, DUNLIN, BLACK-NECKED STILT AND AMERICAN AVOCET**. Other notables at Bombay Hook included **CLAPPER RAIL, BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON, GLOSSY IBIS AND NORTHERN BOBWHITE**. The tide was coming up over the road at Pt. Mahon when we got there, so we left that spot for Sunday.

Two mornings at Pokomoke Swamp provided all of the regular Southern breeders we were hoping for (we're not so silly as to even hope for Swainson's Warbler). Everyone in the group had good views of **PROTHONOTARY, WORM-EATING AND YELLOW-THROATED WARBLERS AND LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH, YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO, ACADIAN FLYCATCHER AND WHITE-EYED VIREO**. We heard several **HOODED AND KENTUCKY WARBLERS** and some of us got a look at these as well. Other highlights included good views of **ORCHARD ORIOLE, SUMMER Tanager, BLUE GROSBEAK AND RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS** at a nest hole.

Saturday afternoon at Chincoteague NWR produced the usual assortment of herons and egrets, including a great view of **TRI-COLORED HERON, CLAPPER RAILS** scurried out of the marsh into full view, at least fleetingly, and we were able to glimpse a pair of **BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCHES** attending their nest. There were some shorebirds at Chincoteague, including a **STILT SANDPIPER** and a terrific alternate-plumaged **SANDERLING**, a plumage several of us had never seen before.

Returning to the Delaware coast on Sunday, we timed the tides much better and were able to see quite large numbers of many species, the most common being **TURNSTONES, KNOTS, SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS, DUNLIN AND SEMIPALMATED AND LEAST SANDPIPERS**. The numbers along the Port Mahon Rd. were truly fantastic, giving us great up-close views of thousands of birds in bright

breeding plumage. As a final treat, an alternate male **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** was spotted spinning out in the open water at the mouth of tidal creek at Port Mahon. The bird moved around a lot but everyone eventually got good scope views of it. As usual, the Delmarva trip did not disappoint.

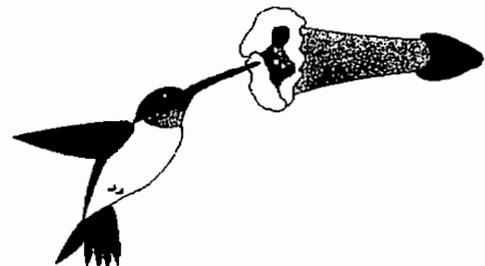
*Gregg Reecer  
Cathy Graichen*

## PALMER'S RAVINE

On May 21, 1994, seventeen birders gathered at Palmer's Ravine at 7 am. Skies were clear with temperatures in the forties and calm winds.

A good variety of birds were seen in the yard and around the feeders including **ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK, EASTERN BLUEBIRD, BLUE-WINGED WARBLER AND RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD**. Good views of **BOBOLINK, EASTERN MEADOWLARK, WILLOW FLYCATCHER, NORTHERN ORIOLE AND SCARLET Tanager** were had further afield around the property. Highlights in the ravine included **GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER, WINTER WREN, LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH, AMERICAN REDSTART AND CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER**.

An additional leg of the trip by car to bird sur-





rounding field areas added **RED-HEADED WOODPECKER AND VESPER SPARROW**, among others, to the trip list. As usual, a good time was had by all.

*Tom Palmer*

## **SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD**

On May 28, 1994, twenty-three birders met in the visitor-center parking lot of the Saratoga National Historic Site. We walked into stop #1 seeing many species including good looks at **BLUE-WINGED WARBLERS**.

After returning for the cars, we proceeded to the **HENSLOW'S SPARROW** area (between miles 1.25 and 1.5 along the loop road). As the bird did not appear immediately, a little patient watching and listening was practiced. Finally we were rewarded with the appearance of the bird – and then another. Everyone in the group had good looks and "listens" and many people claimed it as a lifer, including three visitors from Newton, Ma. – Chris, Sabrina and Judy Hepburn – who had joined us in hopes of seeing this special bird.

One group member, Lou Esch, who had to leave early, excitedly returned with a report of a **GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER** he saw near the end of the tour road. Our enthusiasm sparked, we proceeded on; stopping at #7, where we spent some interesting moments watching a **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER** on nest. The Golden-wing was not as cooperative as we did not see or hear him on this trip, but we did total 58 species for the day, including quite a number of life-birds for several of the participants.

*George & Kay Hanson*

## **BIRDING BY CANOE**

In something of an experimental trip, seven birders in three boats took a paddle through the marshes of Carters Pond State Wildlife Management Area (Town of Greenwich, Washington Co.) on the morning of May 29, 1994. Not surprisingly, the best views of birds during the trip were of water birds. **CANADA GEESE** were on the Pond as we first arrived. **MALLARDS AND WOOD DUCKS** were also seen, and several **GREAT BLUE HERONS** flew over. The number of **COMMON MOORHENS** among the emergent water vegetation was quite remarkable and everyone had numerous good views of these flamboyant (for rails) birds. Later, working our way up the main inlet creek, we heard the calls of several **VIRGINIA RAILS** – no one could get a clear view of them though. A particularly persistent **MARSH WREN** sang non-stop while stretched between two rush stems – the boats allowed us all close views.

Land-bird birding was mainly relegated to ear-birding. However, we did have a good view of a **HAIRY WOODPECKER** flying in and out of a nest hole. **RUFFED GROUSE, YELLOW-THROATED AND WARBLING VIREOS AND WILLOW FLYCATCHER** were among the birds heard as we paddled near the wooded shore of the pond.

We were hoping to hear or see a Least Bittern as Club member Jim Sotis has found them here before (see separate article). Ironically, we didn't find any bitterns, but we found Jim himself paddling out of the marsh as we were headed in! Everyone seemed to enjoy the morning and we felt the experiment, overall, was a success which we should try to repeat in the future.

*Gregg Reiser  
Cathy Graichen*



## Field Trip Reports Cont'd....

### Letchworth State Park

A small group of Club members birded Letchworth State Park, in southwestern NYS on June 4 - 5, 1994. Letchworth boasts 25 species of warblers which have nested in the park, usually around 20 in any particular year, along with a wide variety of other woodland breeding birds, many with a southern flair. We had good success with the nesting warbler species. Highlights included good views of **CERULEAN, MOURNING, BLUE-WINGED, MAGNOLIA, CHESTNUT-SIDED AND HOODED** - the latter has been estimated by Park Naturalists to be the most abundant breeding bird species (not just warbler) in the Park! Other notable woodland birds included **RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, WINTER WREN, HERMIT THRUSH, WOOD THRUSH AND VEERY, BROWN CREEPER AND BLACK-BILLED**



**CUCKOO.** We found six species of Woodpeckers in the Park, including **RED-HEADED AND RED-BELLIED** and seven species of flycatchers, including **WILLOW AND ALDER**, allowing for a nice comparison of their similar songs. Unfortunately we could not locate the Acadian flycatcher, although we were told that a pair was nesting again this year in the Park. On Sunday, we birded the

open fields on the eastern periphery of the Park looking for grassland birds. We had good views of **BOBOLINK, EASTERN MEADOWLARK AND SAVANNAH, FIELD AND GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS.** We finished birding the Park at lunchtime, finding a **WHITE-EYED VIREO** near our picnic table, a species only listed as accidental on the Park checklist. A stop at Montezuma NWR on the way home produced **CANVASBACK AND WOOD DUCKS, SOLITARY, SPOTTED AND SEMIPALMATED**

**SANDPIPERS, OSPREY, BALD EAGLE** (both on nests), more **CERULEAN WARBLERS** and, for two members of the group, a **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** in the swamp along Armatidge Rd. The trip produced 99 species, including the Montezuma birds, for a very good weekend of woodland birding.

*Gregg Rezer  
Cathy Gnaichen*

### FORT EDWARD AREA

After four HOT days in a row, Sunday, June 19 (Father's Day) turned out to be a beautiful day. We had temperatures in the 80's and a nice cool breeze. Eight participants searched for grassland species in the Fort Edward area of Washington County. On the way to our first stop we passed one **UPLAND SANDPIPER** standing guard on a fence post along Route 197. Soon after turning onto Plum Road we sighted four more "Uppies" in the air over the road. We saw at least seven individuals that morning. Several times we were treated to a rendition of their eerie up and down slurred whistle.

We saw and heard most of the breeding farmland/grassland species: **SAVANNAH SPARROW, EASTERN MEADOWLARK, AMERICAN KESTREL, NORTHERN HARRIER, KILLDEER, EASTERN KINGBIRD, BOBOLINK, SONG SPARROW, FIELD SPARROW, AND RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.** We heard at least four **GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS**, but it took almost all morning to locate one by sight. We finally found one cooperative bird that we could put in a scope and enjoy.

We found a total of 35 species.

*Barb Putnam*

### HANNACROIX RAVINE AND BEAR SWAMP

Fourteen enthusiastic birders hiked through Hannacroix Ravine and Bear Swamp on Saturday, July 2, 1994. Both the Swamp and the Ravine are



attractive natural areas well worth visiting for the hiking alone. The **GIANT RHODODENDRONS** at Bear Swamp were just beginning to come into flower. They probably would have been at their peak in another week.

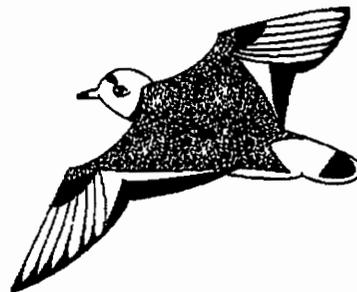
At Hannacroix, we got many **VEERIES**, several **WOOD THRUSHES**, **ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK** AND **SCARLET TANAGER**. A beautiful **INDIGO BUNTING** sang atop a tree in the meadow adjoining one part of the Ravine and a **FIELD SPARROW** was heard singing. **MAGNOLIA, PRAIRIE, BLACK-THROATED-BLUE, BLACK-THROATED-GREEN** AND **CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLERS** and **COMMON YELLOWTHROATS** were seen. The group also flushed three **RUFFED GROUSE**.

**HERMIT THRUSH** sang for us at Bear Swamp. **NASHVILLE, BLACK-THROATED-GREEN** AND **PRAIRIE WARBLERS** were found and **VEERIES** were common. A **YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER** was seen

and another was heard.

Thirty-eight species were seen at Hannacroix and eighteen at Bear Swamp, which was not reached until the afternoon.

*Samuel R. Madison*



---

## NEW HMBC MEMBERS

The Club would like to extend a formal "Welcome" to all the new members who have joined since the beginning of 1994 (listed below). We're glad to have you on board and hope to see you at a Club program or field trip soon!

Gary & Pat Goodness  
Warren Greene  
Steve Gallagher & Nancie  
Shelhamer  
Ruth Pearlman  
Beth Zalinger  
Susan Willson  
Marjorie Molnar  
Jocelyn Cole-Calkins and  
Ronald Calkins  
Kristine Ulrich

Amy Baumann  
Lynne Shultis  
Eugene Vermilyea  
Linda Lawson Fagan  
Barbara Romeo  
Lorraine B. Sloan  
Sheila Mullarkey  
Joan L. Cipriani  
Nancy Denton  
John Pipkin  
Linda Marie Sour

Carol, Vincent & Rosemary  
Ennis  
Faye Harvey  
Myrna Hemmerick  
Lois Halton  
Langdon Stevenson  
Sharon L. Malthusa  
Irene Johnson  
Patricia West  
Alison VanKeuren



## Upcoming Field Trips

### **JAMAICA Bay Wildlife Refuge**

Aug 13 (Sat), Coord: George & Kay Hanson, 885-5467 (9am - 1 pm).

Migrating shorebirds are the main attraction of this long day trip to the New York City area. We should also be able to see most of the New York State herons and egrets along with hard-to-find New York species such as Clapper Rail and Boat-tailed Grackle.

### **Vischer Ferry Evening Walk 2**

Aug 25 (Thu), Coord: Frank Murphy, 482-1942.

This will be an after-dinner get-together from 6:30pm to dusk looking for shorebirds, herons, egrets and possibly rails (Sora were seen here this time last year). Meet at the parking area.

### **Peebles Island State Park**

Aug 28 (Sun), Coord: Phil Johnson & Debbie Ellinger, 895-2969.

On this morning trip, we will walk the trail on Peebles Island in search of migrant passerines. After the walk, we will go to the adjoining Mohawk River and scan for shorebirds. Meet at 7:30am in the Peebles Island State Park parking lot.

### **Vermont-Champlain Valley Weekend**

Sep 3-5 (Sat-Mon), Coord: Walt Ellison & Nancy Martin, 456-6224 (home), 442-4320 (work).

A visit to the pastoral Green Mountain state on Labor Day weekend should result in a trip list in excess of 100 bird species including fall warblers, early waterfowl, herons and many

shorebirds. Bonaparte's Gull and Common Tern are very likely to be seen; Little Gull is possible. We will bird Dead Creek WMA, the Burlington area and probably the southern Lake Champlain islands, as well as Sandbar WMA. Reservations by Aug 15 (limited to 20 people).

### **Camp Pinnacle Hawk Watch**

Sep 10 (Sat) or Sep 11 (Sun), Coord: Art & Dee Long, 758-9283

About 100 Broad-winged Hawks were seen this weekend in 1992. Other possibilities include Red-tailed Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, American Kestrel and Turkey Vulture. The date of this morning trip will be decided at the last minute since hawk movements are so weather dependent (call the coordinator or Birdline). Meet at 8:30am at the Key Bank in the Star Plaza, corner of SR 20 and SR 155 in Guilderland.

### **CONNECTICUT Shore -- NOTE DATE CHANGE!!**

Sep 17 -18 (Sat-Sun), Coord: Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen, 899-2678.

This weekend trip will visit several preserves along the Connecticut coast including McKinney NWR and Lighthouse Pt. Pk. We expect to find migrating shorebirds, landbirds, hawks and butterflies. Reservations by Sep 1. (The date change for this trip was necessitated to avoid a conflict with the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs Annual Meeting, which was recently rescheduled).

continued on page 50....



**HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB**

**1994 FALL PROGRAMS**

All programs will be held at the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center on Game Farm Road in Delmar, are free and open to the public, and will include refreshments. For directions, call Five Rivers at 475-0291.

***Wednesday, September 7 - 7:30 p.m. New Guinea: Birds of Paradise, Pigs and Sweet Potatoes.***

Arthur Cooley, who has led trips to New Guinea for Special Expeditions, will give us a unique look at the wildlife and people of this country, and describe how wild species, including the stunning Birds of Paradise, have affected its culture. His talk will describe both the highlands and lowlands of New Guinea, areas that have experienced far differing exposure to Western society.

***Monday, October 3 - 7:30 p.m. The Hawaiian Islands: Birds and Volcanoes***

Join Scott Stoner and Bill Gorman for a tour of our 50th state. This slide and movie program will include native, migrant and introduced birds and a recent eruption of Kilauea in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

***Monday, November 7 - 7:30 p.m. Alaska Marathon***

In this 90-minute program, we will attempt to cover the magnitude and variety of our 49th state, from the Inland Passage to Denali to the Pribiloffs to Attu. Join Sam Madison, Alan Mapes, Diane Reiner and Scott Stoner for slides and tales of Alaska's scenic beauty and birding hotspots.

***Monday, December 5 - 7:30 p.m. Christmas Party and Program: Birding the Bayous***

Join Gregg Recer and Cathy Graichen for a slide program on the birds and birding sites of Louisiana. Upcoming Christmas Counts will also be discussed this evening, and please bring a dessert to share.



## PROGRAM REPORT

On June 6, 1994 35 people enjoyed a fascinating presentation by Ken Able on the birds of New Zealand. He titled his talk "Outposts..." a reflection of the unfortunate fact that the two main islands have been decimated of native birds due largely to the introduction of mammalian predators, including the cat. Ken concentrated on some of the small islands that still have birds or into which birds are being reintroduced, including Little Barrier Island. New Zealand is about 500 miles long, with a latitude comparable to New York and a climate that seems perpetually damp and cool. Locals, however, say that it gets nice in January! (their summer). In any case, The look that Ken gave us of New Zealand avifauna was enough to spark interest in a birding excursion to the southern hemisphere.

## FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS ANNUAL MEETING

The Federation's Annual Meeting will be held at the William's Lake resort in Rosendale, NY Sept. 23-25, 1994. The meeting will be held jointly with the Association of Field Ornithologists and is co-sponsored by Sullivan County Audubon and Sullivan County Community College. Registration is \$25 per person for General Attendees and \$15 per person for students. A variety of accommodation packages is available. Contact Valarie Freer (914) 647-5496 for reservation information.

---

## Upcoming Field Trips Cont'd....

### CAPE MAY HAWKWATCH

Oct 8-10 (Sat-Mon), Coord: Alan Mapes, 439-4086.

This Columbus Day weekend trip will be to one of the best hawk-watching spots on the east coast. Weather permitting, we will surely see a good number and variety, including Peregrine Falcon. Late passerine and shore-bird migrants should also be seen. Reservations by Sep 4.

### STELLWAGEN BANK PELAGIC TRIP

Oct 29 - 30 (Sat - Sun), Coord: Gregg Recer and Cathy Graichen, 899-2678.

We will join the Brookline Bird Club on one of their annual pelagics leaving from Plymouth, Ma. and birding Cape Cod Bay and Stellwagen Bank. The boat trip will be on 10/29 (weather date 10/30). Possible species include alcids, jaegers and skuas, late shearwaters, Northern Fulmar, Northern Gannets, Black-legged Kittiwake and Sabine's Gull. Cost will be \$23/person for the boat trip. We will bird Boston's south shore or Cape Cod on the other day of the weekend. Reservations by Sept. 16.



## THE TRAVELLING BIRDER: BIRDING IN CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK, NEPAL

by  
*Dan Welch*

Rain is a constant companion when exploring the jungles of Nepal during the monsoon season. Sometime it rains in sheets, sometimes only in steady streams but either way you can expect 14 to 16 hours or more of rain every day during the summer.

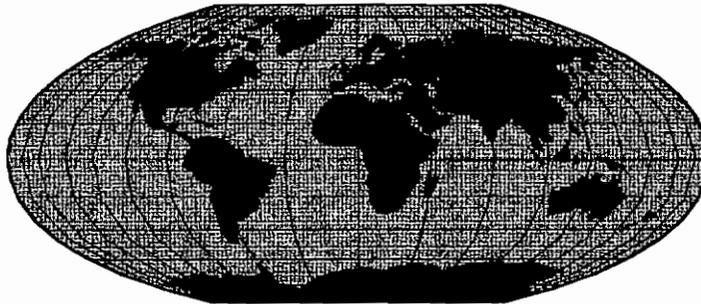
Mountains, and not jungle, is the feature that most people think of first when Nepal is mentioned. While the Himalayas enjoy a richly earned reputation for grandeur less appreciated is that the southern third of this Southeast Asian kingdom is a broad wet forest, thick with flora and fauna. It was this jungle, known as the *tarai*, with its swamps, wild animals and mosquitoes rather than the mountains to the North that for centuries protected the kingdoms of Nepal from invaders from the South. The *tarai* is not wet all year long. The rainy season begins in late June or July when the northern arms of the tropical storms that attack Bangladesh, Pakistan and India reach the foothills of the Himalayas. The rain can then continue almost unabated through September before this land of extremes begins the long dry spell that will end with brown grassland prairies in May. All times of year are good for birding southern Nepal but just before or after the start of the rainy season is among the best. Three to five days spent in a jungle lodge with an experienced naturalist can yield a wealth of new and interesting bird species along with monkeys, wild boar, rhinoceros and the

possibility of tiger. I had the good fortune to take part in such an adventure in 1990 and again in 1992.

One of the best locations to experience the wildlife of the *tarai* is Chitwan National Park. Chitwan was created in 1973, out of the king's personal hunting reserve, to protect the One-horned Black Rhinoceros. The typical visitor to Chitwan will come from Kathmandu, Nepal's capital. A hired car or bus will take five to eight hours to arrive at the edge of the park. Several camps exist inside the park to conduct research and provide visitors with an unparalleled opportunity to experience wildlife firsthand.

Our birding days would generally start early and revolve around perhaps three treks a day of about three hours on foot or on elephant. The wake-up call would come about 5:30 AM and by 6:00 AM I was stepping into a jungle that was just waking up. When you first enter the jungle the sounds and the smells are more predominant than the sights. Everything is so new that making the fine distinctions between bird species has to wait until you become adjusted to the broad distinctions of plants and trees. Soon however your eyes are drawn to the flashes of color that dart under the canopy.

Kingfishers and Nuthatches were among the first to be identified because of their similarity





## Travelling Birder cont'd....

to North American species. **STORK-BILLED, SMALL PIED** and **WHITE-BREASTED KINGFISHERS** worked the ponds and streams of the jungle while **CHESTNUT-BELLIED** and **VELVET-FRONTED NUTHATCHES** characteristically marched down tree trunks on their insect searches.

Next it was time to pick up some easy bird IDs. When visiting someplace new even the most common local bird will likely be new to you. What were the Southeast Asian equivalents to our Robins, House Sparrows and Grackles? Mynas and Drongos turned out to fill some of that niche. The first group were usually loud and gregarious and always within earshot if not sight. **COMMON, TALKING, JUNGLE** and **GRAY-HEADED MYNAS** became common sights. The **ASHY, WHITE-BELLIED** and **BLACK DRONGOS** look much like a slender Grackles with their all black bodies and long V-shaped tails. They swoop from higher branches chasing insects much like some of our flycatchers.

Not surprisingly Parakeets were plentiful birds. Moving quickly in groups, they tend to stay at the tops of the jungle canopy making their green bodies difficult to spot clearly. Their constant loud squawking teases you to keep looking and with some patience I was able to identify four different species including the **ROSE-BREASTED** and **BLOSSOM-HEADED**.

Our camp was located on the edge of a 40 foot cliff with the jungle to our back. To the front the cliff face opened onto tall grasslands crisscrossed with streams and ponds. This ecosystem was filled with waterfowl and shorebirds with the bluffs offering the unique opportunity to view them from above as well as from deep in the grasses below. (It was

strongly requested that we not explore these tall grasses alone because they were prime tiger hunting grounds. We took that advice but could not resist the urge to conduct our birding in groups of 3 to 5 people. After all, how often do you get a chance to see a **BLACK IBIS** up close? Waterfowl birds included the exotic **WHITE-EYED POCHARD** and the familiar **GREEN-WINGED TEAL**. Waders included **BLACK STORKS, OPEN-BILLED STORKS, NIGHT HERONS, CHESTNUT BITTERNs, LITTLE EGRETS** and **WHITE-BREASTED WATERHENS. RED-WATTELED** and **SPUR-WINGED LAPWINGS** and **EURASIAN THICK KNEES** were among the identifiable shorebirds.

No one, not even the most devoted birder, would go all the way to Chitwan National Park and not explore the other jungle delights beside birds. The best way to see a wider area of jungle was by elephant. Their big loping strides made for a fun ride that felt a little like a roller coaster (This voice of experience can report that it is impossible to focus binoculars on anything from the back of a moving elephant!). Elephants fear nothing in the jungle not even tigers and the height and safety they provided allowed us to search freely. While in my two visits to Chitwan I have yet to see a tiger-a mixed blessing-I thrilled to the sight of half a dozen Black Rhinoceros with young, wild boar crashing through the underbrush, spider monkeys rushing across the tree tops, herds of three different species of deer, a mongoose and plenty smaller creatures. Once, while in heavy brush, a friend dropped his glasses to the ground. How does one recover such a loss from elephant back? Simple, the elephant driver speaks into the ear of the great creature who sweeps the brush with his sensitive trunk, dexterously picks up the glasses, extends the trunk straight over his



head and "hands" the lost article directly to my friend. To this day when we reminisce about our visit to Chitwan this fascinating moment is what we chuckle over first.

By now you have forgotten the rains haven't you? Well it remained our constant companion this entire time-on the grasslands, on the elephants and dripping off the jungle trees-but by now we were doing our best to pretty much forget about it, too. Our clothes got wet and stayed that way so changing clothes was pointless. Keeping binoculars, bird books and cameras dry was effort enough. The only real relief, ironically, come from slipping into a small swimming pool at our camp. Better to be all wet in a pool than to be constantly rained on in the jungle.

Days' two, three and four followed a similar pattern. Up early, birding and exploring on foot, by elephant and in jeeps with an occasional dip in the pool. By the end of the stay I had added over 70 new bird species to my life list. They included four **BULBULS**, three **BEE-EATERS**, two **COUCALS**, a **BABBLER**, **BARBETS**, **LEAFBIRDS**, six **WOODPECKERS**, a **MAGPIE**, a **HOOPOE**, two **MINIVETS**, two **ROLLERS**, a **PIPIT**, the **INDIAN TREE-PIE** and more. As one would expect in environment teeming with life, raptors and carrion eaters were well represented. I saw a **CRESTED SERPENT EAGLE**, a **MARSH HARRIER**, **DARK KITES**, the **BROWN FISH OWL** and one **VULTURE**.

Three sightings however highlighted the entire trip for me. The first was multiple sightings of the **PEAFOWLS** performing their mating rituals. The male, the **PEACOCK**, would repeatedly fan his gorgeous multicolored tail, strutting back

and forth in front of several female birds. None of us could imagine it possible that these plainer, brown **PEAHENS** would not be impressed by this gaudy show.

Even more stunning, in part because the bird was new to me, was the **PARADISE FLY-CATCHER**. A plain brown and white 5 inch bird in its first year, by year three the male has added a 12 to 14 inch tail and turned all white with a black head. Often called a "ribbon bird", it is a spectacular sight to follow its undulating flight across open clearings.

My favorite sighting however occurred at 6 AM my last morning in Chitwan. As I stepped out of my cabin into the quiet jungle dawn I turned to the rather large thrashing sounds coming from the fruit-laden fig tree next to my door. I was expecting a squirrel or perhaps a monkey but instead I found myself half a dozen feet from a 30 inch long **PIED HORN-BILL**. This enormous black and white bird had a wide blue eye ring and blue cheek patch. Its long yellow bill was topped with a thick yellow horn called a casque. While not rare the bird is rather shy and but for my early rise I would have missed him altogether.

On my way back to Kathmandu I was thrilled and satisfied with the wildlife I had been able to experience over four days. I was also inspired by the knowledge that I was only seven or eight hours from clean dry clothes. If any readers are interested in learning more about Chitwan National Park or birding Nepal please feel free to contact me through the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club.



## THE UNCOMMON COMMON Nighthawk (*CHORDEILES MINOR*)

by  
*Frank Murphy*



Common Nighthawks are neither hawks, nor are they common as the name implies. Although they are getting scarcer and scarcer each year, the Hudson Mohawk region, for whatever reason, is still a great place to easily view these birds during their migration to South America in late August. Just find yourself an area with a wide view such as Albany, Colonie or even Saratoga and watch for the low-flying flocks during the last week of August -- usually between 5:30 and 7:00 pm seems best. Their erratic flight and pointed wings with white patches are diagnostic. I can recall seeing hundreds at once over Colonie nearly 12 years ago, and last year flocks of at least 50 were reported from Saratoga and points south. I've been tracking reports of these late-summer migrants called in on Birdline; a brief summary from last year follows:

### August, 1993:

- 17th: 20 in Albany at Russell Rd. near Krumkill
- 19th: 16 feeding over Saratoga and headed south  
5 over Western Ave. in Albany headed south  
2 in Castleton going south  
2 by the Northway in Glens Falls
- 20th: 1 in Scotia
- 22nd: 5 at the Northway in Malta headed south  
5 at Niskayuna-Troy Rd.  
10 at State St. in Schenectady  
40 at Union at 7:30 pm near the shopping district
- 23rd: 2 in Scotia headed east
- 25th: 9 at the Northway and Western Ave. in Albany  
6 over Glenville heading south at 7:50 pm  
7 over Jonesville near Clifton Park  
4 over Delmar  
15 over the Normanskill in Delmar  
10 over downtown Loudonville  
50+ over Saratoga Springs, Union Ave. near Circular
- 26th: 22 over Colonie heading west along Central Ave. at 7:30 pm



Please remember to phone in your sightings this year to Birdline at 439-8080!!



## HMBC BOARD FOR 1994 - 1995

### Officers

**President:**  
Scott Stoner  
32-10 Woodlake Rd.  
Albany, N.Y.  
12203  
464-0492

**Vice-President:**  
Barb Putnam  
190 Palmer Ridge Rd.  
Gansevoort, N.Y.  
12831  
356-5768

**Secretary:**  
Bette Moon  
907 St. David's Ln.  
Schenectady, N.Y.  
12309  
372-8330

**Treasurer:**  
Cathy Graichen  
23 Scotch Mist Way  
Ballston Spa, N.Y.  
12020  
899-2678



### Directors:

William Lee 374-3426  
Gregg Recer 899-2678  
Philip Johnson 895-2969  
Laura Sommers 489-2712  
George Hanson 885-5467

### Committee Chairs

Conservation: Walt Sabin 439-7344  
Birdline: Frank Murphey 482-1942  
Programs: Scott Stoner 464-0492  
Field Trips: Cliff Lamere 462-9827  
Membership: Daniel Ruge 449-1087  
Publicity: Ellen Houle 279-4585  
Publications: Gregg Recer 899-2678  
Records: Cliff Lamere 462-9827  
Sanctuary: Bette Moon 372-8330  
Social: Ann B'Rells 355-5615  
Jr. Activities: Vacant

**BIRDLINE of E. NEW YORK: (518) 439-8080**

### President's Corner cont'd....

*opposed allowing pets and language to this effect was placed in the June issue of Feathers. This issue was then reviewed by the Board of Directors at its next regular meeting on July 11, and the Executive Committee's decision was upheld by a vote of 7-1. While I regret that some members will be unhappy with the decision, I do believe that the Board's action was the appropriate one and will be welcomed by the majority of field trip participants.*

*Finally, on a sad note, the HMBC mourns the loss of Cliff Cong, who passed away suddenly in June. Although relatively new to both the Club and to birding, he approached this new interest with the same enthusiasm that he had for everything else he undertook in life. One of his first birding trips was with Alan Mapes in the fall of 1991 to Fort Edward to see the Northern Hawk Owl, and Cliff's yard list in Voorheesville*

### SEND THOSE ARTICLES, FIELD TRIP REPORTS AND OTHER MATERIAL (INCLUDING CLIP ART) TO:

*FEATHERS*  
Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club  
c/o Five Rivers EEC  
Game Farm Rd.

*boasted a Red-bellied Woodpecker. Cliff was a disabled veteran who had served his country in time of need, then in his later years devoted his life to helping others in so many ways. Most evident to many of us was his work as a volunteer at Five Rivers. His enthusiastic welcome and his willingness to share his knowledge enhanced the experience there for so many visitors. It certainly did for me. Cliff added a lot to our Club, and we, and I, will miss him very much.*

*Scott Stoner*



*President's Corner: HMBC 2000? Recently, the Executive Committee (Barbara Putnam, Gregg Recer and myself) and Treasurer (Cathy Graichen) met for an open discussion of where the Club should be going for the rest of this year as well as the rest of the century. We agreed that the basic services (field trips, Feathers, programs and Birdline) are going well and that the two projects for 1996 (book and hosting the Federation Meeting) are enough to keep the Club busy for the next couple of years. However, we did identify needs in the membership, educational and financial arenas.*



*Membership numbers are stable, with new members balancing out a fairly high nonrenewal rate among recent members. To better promote the Club, we're pursuing exchanges of articles (NOT mailing lists!) with other organizations, placement of Club brochures in local locations, distribution of the new HMBC business cards (if you want some to carry and pass out, please leave a message on Birdline), car window decals, and yes, HMBC T-shirts!*

*In the general areas of education and trips, we're looking at cooperative efforts with Five Rivers, adding identification workshops on key groups of species, and adding trips specifically aimed at younger birders. Unfortunately, the Junior Activities Committee remains vacant: if anyone is interested, please call me or leave your name on Birdline. This is a vital function where we could really use your help!!*

*A surprisingly contentious issue that we recently addressed is whether or not to allow pets on field trips. After several instances in which members brought or inquired about bringing their dog on a Club trip, the Executive Committee (empowered to conduct Club business between Board meetings) unanimously*

FEATHERS  
Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club  
c/o Five Rivers EEC  
Game Farm Rd.  
Delmar, N.Y. 12054

Forwarding and Return  
Postage Guaranteed

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT 186  
SCHDY NY 12305

Ann & Wayne B'Rells  
3187 Woodhaven Drive  
Schenectady, NY  
12303-4733



Vol. 56  
No. 5

October  
1994

Published Bi-monthly by The Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club

**BIRDING THE HMBC REGION:  
TOMHANNOCK RESERVOIR**

by  
*William Gorman*

Tomhannock Reservoir is probably one of the best and most productive birding spots in the Hudson-Mohawk birding area. While it consistently produces good numbers of ducks, geese, loons and grebes, it also turns up an exceptional number of rare and unusual birds. Although most trips to the Reservoir are usually directed at birds on the reservoir itself, a great many birds can be found in the varied habitat surrounding the reservoir.

**DIRECTIONS**

Tomhannock Reservoir is located in the town of Pittstown in Rensselaer County, approximately eight miles northeast of Troy. It is easily reached by taking Route 7 east from Troy. Just east of Raymertown, Route 7 crosses the southeastern tip of the reservoir.

**SITE DESCRIPTION**

Tomhannock Reservoir is a fairly large reservoir, approximately 5 miles long and one half to one mile wide while the surrounding countryside extends and supplements the area. The reservoir is fairly high in altitude and is surrounded with hilly terrain with numerous farms nearby. Pine plantations border the shoreline and enhance the habitat making it especially attractive to northern finches. Tomhannock Creek enters the

southwest corner of the reservoir near Raymertown. The Sunkauissia Creek feeds into the reservoir near the center of the eastern shore and Otter Creek enters near the northeastern corner, just west of Tomhannock Village. Several smaller tributaries also feed into the reservoir which eventually drains into Tomhannock Creek at a spillway near its northwestern corner. All of these streams increase and extend the area's habitat to include the lake itself plus streams, mudflats, fields, forests and farms. As a reservoir, Tomhannock remains relatively protected and unspoiled, although licensed fishing from the shore is permitted. There are

**continued on next page...**

**Inside This Issue ....**

*Birding Hawaii*

*Local Events*

*Field Trip Reports*

*Upcoming Programs & Field Trips*



## Tomhannock continued....

only a limited number of usable trails and some areas are posted. Nevertheless, there are adequate vantage points for viewing the reservoir and number of neighboring areas where walking or hiking can be done.

### BIRDING THE AREA

Assuming you wish to cover the entire reservoir rather than a specific nearby site, one usually circles the reservoir by car. In order to optimize lighting, it is best to travel in a counter-clockwise direction, usually starting at the intersection of Routes 7 and 115 (Valley Falls Road) and ending in Raymertown.

There are many areas where you may stop and find good birds, however it is not possible to discuss them all here. Nevertheless, some of the better birding areas are described briefly below and are also identified by number on the attached map.

[1] **The Route 7 Causeway** - This is a very busy road and cares should be exercised while on or near the highway. Look both north and south from the causeway for mergansers, Bufflehead, goldeneye, Canada Goose, Brant, loons and grebes. Check the exposed mud flats for Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Dunlin, Least, Semi-palmated, and White-rumped Sandpipers, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, and Water Pipit. In addition to the usual gulls, Bonaparte's and Franklin's Gulls have shown up here. Also check the tall pines near the highway for Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatch, kinglets, Brown Creeper and woodpeckers.

[2] **Factory Hollow Road** - This is a nice area to walk. Look for Blue Jay, American Robin, Dark-eyed Junco, Chickadees, White-throated

Sparrow, Pileated and Downy Woodpecker. Also check any Crows that you see for possible Northern Raven and keep a lookout for hawks.

[3] **Nortonville Road** - Check the reservoir for ducks, loons or grebes. The inlet sometimes harbors ducks or shorebirds. Ruffed Grouse, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatch, kinglets and Brown Creeper may be found up the hill. A short hike down the road may turn up Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, or Red-tailed Hawk. A small marshy area on the north side of the road frequently harbors interesting birds including: Downy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Goldfinch, House Finch, Black-capped Chickadee, Song and Tree Sparrows, Northern Cardinal, Dark-eyed Junco, and Blue Jay. Also check the nearby fields for Horned Lark and Snow Bunting.

[4] **Ashcroft Road** - A trek down this small dirt road may produce sparrows, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Northern Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, Red-tailed hawk and finches. It only takes a few minutes to cover this area and it is frequently well worth the time.

[5] **Otter Creek Inlet** - In fall and winter, Eastern Screech Owl and Great Horned Owl may be heard early in the morning. The north side of the road may produce Mallard and Black Ducks, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker or Hairy Woodpecker. The south side of the road may contain Common Snipe, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Killdeer, American Coot, Ring-billed Gull, American and sometimes Eurasian Wigeon as well as many other ducks. It is always worth spending some time here.



[6] **Routes 118 and 117 into Valley Falls** - Driving slowly along these roads may produce Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Common Flicker, Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Mockingbird or Evening Grosbeak.

[7] **North end of Reservoir** - Scan the reservoir for loons, geese and ducks. The spillway area may contain ducks, Ruffed Grouse, warblers, or sparrows. Check the surrounding

areas for Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Northern Cardinal, American Kestrel and Northern Mockingbird.

[8] **Pump House Area** - This is a prime vantage area for observing wintering waterfowl. Check the reservoir for Bald Eagle, Canada Goose, Brant, Snow Goose and possibly

more on next page...

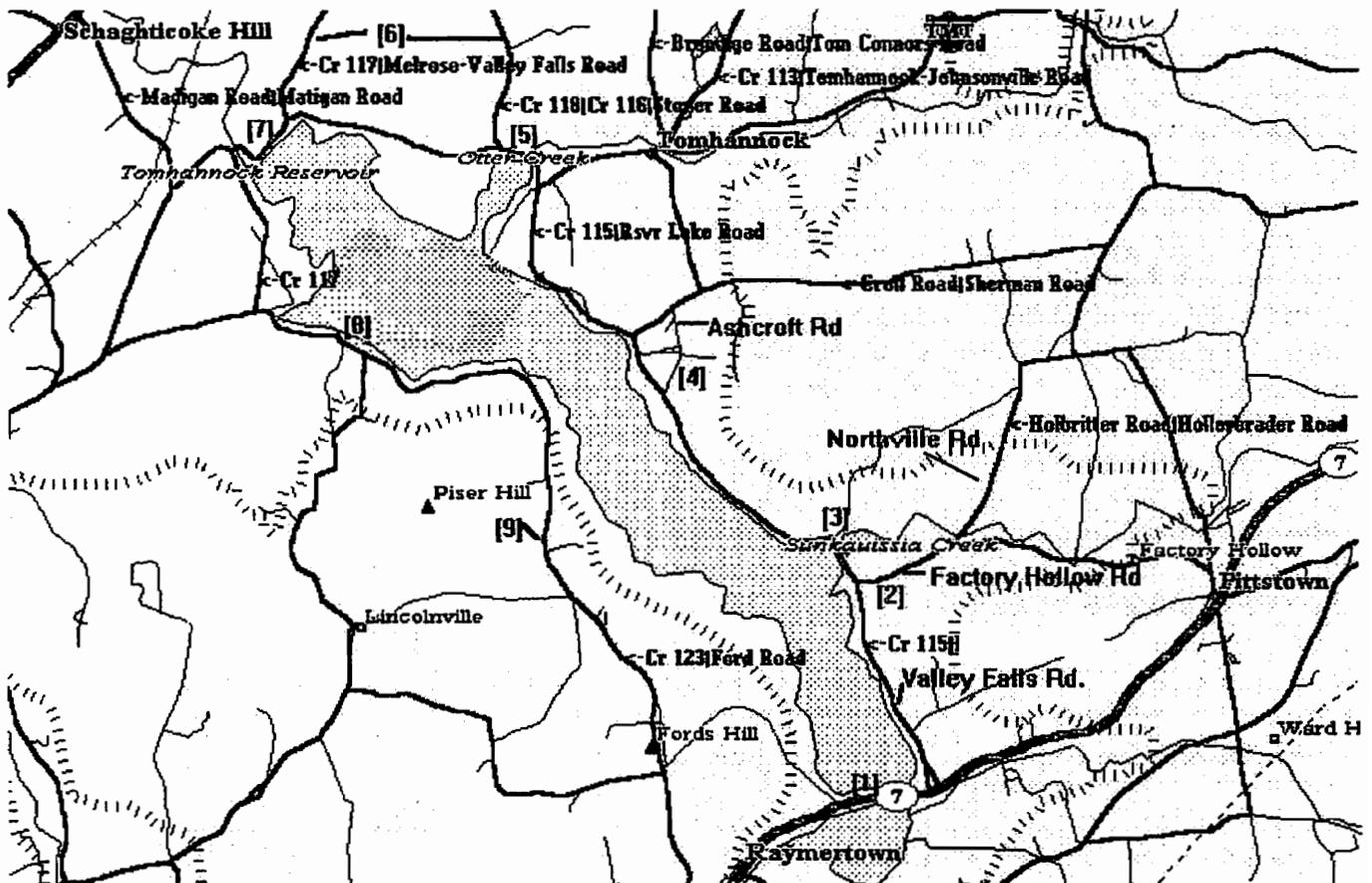


Figure 1: Tomhannock Reservoir and vicinity



## Tomhannock continued....

Ross' Goose. Also look for loons, Red-necked, Horned and Pied-billed Grebe as well as goldeneye, mergansers, Ring-necked Duck, scaup, Northern Pintail and Bufflehead. Scan any gulls for Great Black-backed Gull or perhaps Iceland Gull. The adjacent land areas may harbor Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Pileated Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeak, crossbills, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, White-throated Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco.

[9] **Ford Road** - If you follow this road south into Raymertown, there are many chances for finding birds along the way. Red-tailed Hawk may turn up anywhere. Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, White-throated Sparrow and Common Redpoll should be looked for. Cedar Waxwing and Northern Mockingbird are frequently found and the neighboring fields should be scanned for Horned Lark, Snow Bunting, and Lapland Longspur. During spring and summer, thrushes, orioles, warblers and finches may also be found here.

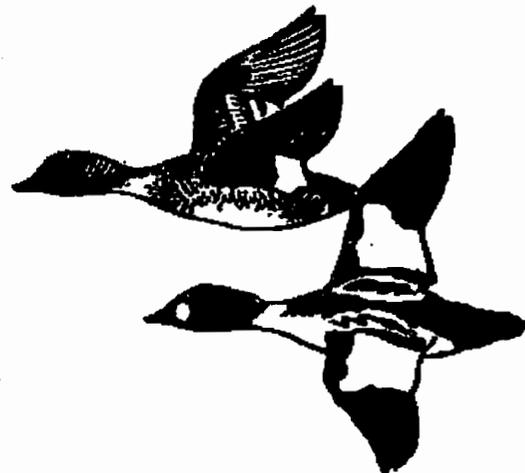
There are so many possibilities in the Tomhannock Reservoir area that it is hard to guess what might be found on any trip.

## SEASON-BY-SEASON GUIDE

During the course of a year, over 150 species of birds may be found in this area. Fall and winter are the most interesting and exciting seasons for birding this area. Almost any of the eastern loons, grebes, geese, ducks, and hawks may show up on the reservoir. Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, American Bittern and late shorebirds may also be found. Bald Eagle, Great Horned Owl, Eastern Screech

Owl and Barred Owl are best found at this time. Evening and Pine Grosbeak, Red and White-winged Crossbill, Purple Finch, Common Redpoll, Cedar Waxwing and Carolina Wren should also be looked for. Water Pipit, Horned Lark, Snow Bunting and Lapland Longspur may also show up on nearby fields.

During spring and summer, many birds breed in this area. Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested and Willow Flycatchers may be found along with Belted Kingfisher, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Tree, Bank, Barn and Rough-winged Swallows. Wood Thrush, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, and Northern Mockingbird are present as well as American Redstart, Louisiana Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Ovenbird, plus Black-throated Green, Canada, Cape May, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, and Yellow Warblers. In addition one may also find Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting along with Chipping, Field, Song and Vesper Sparrows.





## THE TRAVELLING BIRDER: Hawaii by Scott Stoner

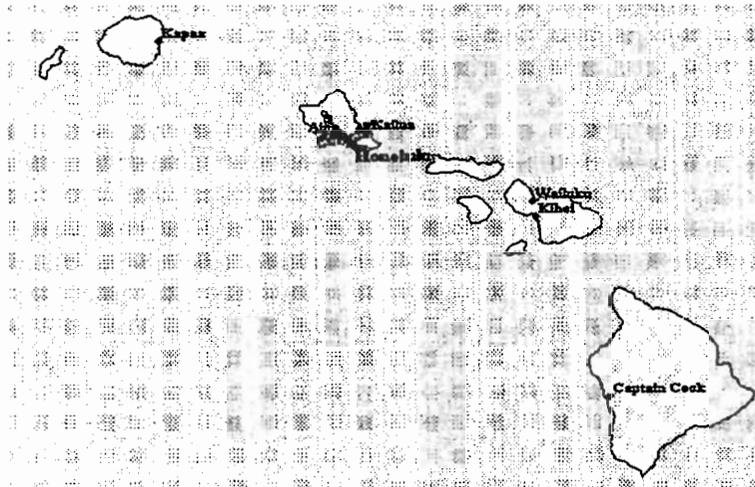
The morning of February 26 was a snowy one, no surprise given the way the winter was going, but I was excited at thoughts of a warm, sunny destination! After deciding it was off on the first leg of a 5000 mile trip to Hawaii! I changed planes in Chicago, then it was about eight hours nonstop to Honolulu. After about 2000 miles of open ocean, it was a thrill to make out the distant volcanic peaks of the lovely Pacific islands I soon would be visiting. After another change of planes it was only a short flight to the Kona coast on the Big Island of Hawaii. It was about 8:30 p.m. when I checked into the hotel, but to my body it was the middle of the night.

Eating breakfast outdoors the next morning, in the view of the beach, green grass and palm trees, the Albany winter seemed truly half-a-world away! However, the best was yet to come. I

was here for a 10-day birding/natural history tour of two islands, Hawaii and Kauai, which constitute the youngest and oldest of the main islands, respectively. Hawaii lies at the southeast end of the island chain, and is dominated by two massive volcanoes, Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa, as well as three others. Mauna Loa is only 13,667 feet, but when one adds the 18,000 feet to the ocean floor, is taller than Mt. Everest.

The Hawaiian Islands formed as the earth's

crust passed over a hotspot that spewed molten rock up onto the ocean floor and eventually above the ocean surface. As the crust moves to the northwest, the islands move away from the hotspot and cease to grow. Natural forces, including that of the sea, begin to wear these islands down, as new islands form over the hotspot. Kauai is long removed from the magma source, and is becoming deeply eroded. Hawaii is still adding land at its southeastern end, and a new mountain is now growing beneath the sea to the southeast of Hawaii.



Our tour, with Bob Sundstrom of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, began with birding the environs of the hotel. Most of the species at the lower elevations are introduced, but many of these are well-established, spectacular, and countable. COMMON MYNA, SAFFRON

FINCH, YELLOW-BILLED CARDINAL, JAPANESE WHITE-EYE, JAVA SPARROW and NUTMEG MANNAKIN were among the common species there!

Native bird species have been decimated by direct human activity as well as the introduction of avian malaria, which killed birds up to about the 2000 foot elevation (above which it was too cold for the mosquitos). People introduced birds to fill the gap in the lowlands, and efforts have been



## Hawaii continued....

made to preserve native forests in the higher elevation. Unfortunately a number of native bird species are endangered.

We next headed north for our hike to Aimakaupa Pond. This hike took us through field (WARBLING SILVERBILLS), woods (YELLOW-BILLED CARDINAL on a nest) and along a beautiful rocky shoreline (PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER and a nudist beach). Birds at the pond included HAWAIIAN COOT, the Hawaiian race of the BLACK-NECKED STILT, and a number of CATTLE EGRETS.

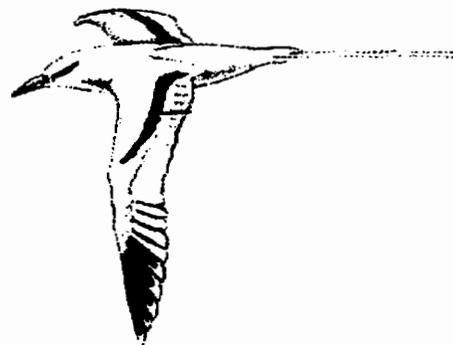
We then took an inland route north to Waimea (Kamuela). Waimea means "beautiful" and I think every city, district and island in the State could vie for that name! Enroute to Waimea we saw the first of what would be several HAWAIIAN HAWKS on the Big Island, the only one where this endangered species occurs. We also stopped in a residential development for our first look at NENE, the Hawaiian Goose, which we would see in encouraging numbers throughout our stay on the Island. After checking into our motel in Kamuela, we headed out to the coast along the northwest part of the Island. In addition to more spectacular scenery, we saw both Black and Gray Francolin along the roadside, as well as HUMPBACK WHALE just offshore. The next day was spent exploring the inland portion of the island, specifically along the "saddle" between Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa. In the Puu Laau dry forest area, we had great looks at our first native honeycreeper, the elusive PALILA. We also found our first I'IWI (pronounced ee ee vee), which resembles a Scarlet Tanager but with a long, decurved bill. ELAPAIO and the common honeycreeper AMIKIHI were also present there.

Moving farther east along the Saddle Road, we stopped for our first study of the lava that

makes up such a major part of Island ecology. There are two types, "aa" which is rough, and "pahoehoe" which is smooth. We then stopped at our first wet forest, an area of ohia. Here we glimpsed APAPANE flying back and forth along the treetops, and had a good scope study of an OMAO, the Hawaiian Thrush.

Wednesday we said goodbye to Kamuela and headed south, stopping at an ethnobotanical garden and for two more HAWAIIAN HAWKS enroute to Ka Lae, or South Point, the southernmost point in the 50 states. This scenic spot of sheer cliffs looks much like St. Paul of the Pribiloff Islands. The grassy fields away from the shore contained large numbers of shorebirds, including (more!) PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVERS.

As we continued east to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, we could see a huge cloud emanating from the edge of the sea, many miles ahead. Resulting from the meeting of hot lava and the ocean, this would soon be the subject of much attention! Dinner and lodging were at the Volcano House, situated at the very rim of Kilauea Caldera, where volcanic gases can be seen emanating from





somewhere within the earth.

Next morning we left early for Hilo, picked up 4-wheel drive vehicles for a trip to the Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge, along the eastern slope of Mauna Kea. The snow-capped peak of Mauna Kea dominates the western horizon from Hilo, and the view only got better as we approached it and began to climb. Our first bird at Hakalau was yet a fourth HAWAIIAN HAWK, a real treat to see so many of these. Hiking into the Refuge of ohia and koa forest, we found such native specialties as AKEPA and APAPANE, and most of the group (not including this author!) saw the diminutive and scarce HAWAII CREEPER. One of the most sought-after species was AKIAPOLAAU, a yellowish woodpecker-like creeper with a long, decurved upper mandible. After hearing but never seeing it, we quickly checked one last location within the refuge, with the assistance of two student researchers. This effort was rewarded with a great look at this elusive and fascinating bird!

The following day was spent in entirety exploring the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Kilauea had been erupting since the early 1980's, and buildings and a roadway had been destroyed several years ago. The eruption continued as we were there, not as a fountain of lava from the crater itself, but as a flow out a side opening, that continued eight miles down to the sea. The lava was flowing through a so-called lava tube, in which the lava at the surface cools to the point of solidifying, insulating the molten rock flowing beneath it. The lava then emerges at the junction with the sea, producing the steam cloud we had seen before, and, in this case, occasional fountains or geysers of fiery red molten rock! This we observed from a safe distance during the day, then returned after dinner for a natural fireworks show that rivaled anything on the Fourth of July!

Earlier that day we had toured some of the main attractions around Kilauea's rim, including a view of Halemaumau Crater, which is a sunken area within the larger Kilauea Caldera. Halemaumau's stark volcanic scenery was punctuated by the sight of WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRDS that kept sailing by. We also walked through the Thurston Lava Tube, perhaps not unlike the one currently ferrying the lava to the sea.

The next morning we had to leave Kilauea behind and fly to the northwest, to the Garden Island of Kauai. Kauai is the oldest of the chain, and provides a great contrast to Hawaii. Where Hawaii is brown with much lava on the surface, Kauai is green and lush, with deeply eroded cliffs. Devastated by Hurricane Iniki in the summer of 1992, Kauai still shows signs of damage to both structures and in the form of the many trees apparently killed by it. Compared to the Albany winter, however, it looked fine to me!

Kauai is a small island, and we stayed for three nights at one resort on the beach in Kapaa, about 10 miles north of the airport at Lihue. Everything on the island is easily accessible from there. A key destination for us was Kilauea Point along the north shore. The Wildlife Refuge there was still closed, due to either or both hurricane damage or toxics abatement at the lighthouse, but the LAYSAN ALBATROSS and large colony of RED-FOOTED BOOBIES were visible from the parking area. We also saw BROWN BOOBY, both WHITE-TAILED and RED-TAILED TROPICBIRD, GREAT FRIGATEBIRD, and PUAO, the Hawaiian race of the Short-eared Owl. Other land birds there included WHITE-RUMPED SHAMA AND MELODIOUS LAUGHING-THRUSH. Another north shore destination was Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge where we found HAWAIIAN DUCK.



## Hawaii continued....

Waimea Canyon and Kokee State Park, both accessible from the southwest part of the island, were absolutely spectacular. Waimea is known as the Grand Canyon of the Pacific, and it's easy to see why. Looking across it in the late-afternoon sun, words simply can't describe its beauty. This also had WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRDS sailing by. Kokee State Park is north of Waimea Canyon, and offers both moist woods and, when clear, spectacular views to the west and north. The evening we were there we saw KAUI AMIKIHI and ANIANIAU, and a partial scenic view through the clouds. Returning the next day for more birding and a hike, we found KAUI AKEPA but the clouds were so thick that they obscured the view.

The tour ended Tuesday morning, but with flights to the mainland not leaving until later, five of us booked a helicopter tour. For about 40 minutes we enjoyed a smooth flight over Waimea Canyon, the absolutely spectacular Na Pali Coast (with its deeply eroded, sheer canyons), and Mt. Waialeale, which receives over 400 inches of rain a year. I realize that aircraft tours of natural areas are controversial, but this was a very easy way to see some spectacular lands without setting foot on them.

I left Kauai in mid-afternoon, for a 5 p.m. connection out of Honolulu bound for Chicago. After encountering some very nasty turbulence, we landed about 5 a.m. I managed to stay awake long enough to board my connection to Albany, which got in about 9:30 Wednesday morning, just a few hours before the onset of the next (16th?) storm of the winter!

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM BIRDLINE (JUNE - AUGUST, 1994)

Cerulean Warbler off Spier Falls Rd, Moreau in June; Bald Eagles nesting along the Hudson River south of Albany; Upland Sandpipers nesting in Ft. Edward; 11 shorebird species at Simmons Island on 7/29 including Ruddy Turnstone, Short-billed Dowitcher and Pectoral Sandpiper; Red Knot at Simmons Island on 7/31; 9 Shorebird species at Myosotis Lake in Rensselaerville on 8/14 including Baird's Sandpiper; 8 Warbler species at Nott Road Park, Guilderland on 8/23 including Wilson's Canada, Blackburnian along with Olive-sided Flycatcher; Least Bitterns at Vischer Ferry on 8/25; peak Nighthawk migration on 8/26; up to 20 Lesser Golden Plovers and Buff-breasted Sandpiper at the Saratoga Sod Farms in Bemis Heights in late August.

Last year this time: Warbler fallout at Ann Lee Pond, 9/18; Northern Wheatear in Ft. Edward, 9/24; Red-necked Grebe, 10/13, Ross' Goose, 11/15 at Tomhannock Reservoir and Common Redpolls began appearing on 12/14.

### Field Guide Found!!!

A Golden Guide was found this past July in Ferd's Bog in the Adirondacks by an HMBC member. The book contains lifelist information but no name or other identifying information. Leave a note on Birdline (439-8080) if this sounds like your field guide.



## Field Trip Reports

### Vischer Ferry NHP

A large group of birders met at Vischer Ferry for an evening outing on August 25. Time and light were limiting, so we walked toward the river and stopped at the second pond on the right where LEAST BITTERN had been recently sighted. The pond was thick with water chestnut but thanks to the sharp eyes of the Hansons we got lucky and spotted at least three LEAST BITTERNS feeding along the pond edge. Other highlights included five COMMON MOORHENS, WOOD DUCKS, GREAT BLUE HERON AND GREEN HERON.

-- *Frank Murphy*

### Peebles Island State Park

Twenty birders took a walk around Peebles Island in Waterford on this morning trip held on August 28. We walked to the southern tip of the island overlooking the power dam and river where hundreds of gulls were resting; then to the northern end via the east side of the island. Two stops provided a mixed flock of warblers and other passerines but numbers and variety were low. Highlights included EASTERN WOOD PEWEES singing and seen well, NORTHERN ORIOLE, AMERICAN REDSTART AND CANADA WARBLER and looking down on the shorebirds from the northwest end of the Island. We flushed an owl, which seemed to have been a BARRED. Overall, it was a great place to observe birds in relative quiet.

-- *Frank Murphy*

### Montauk Pelagic Trip

Six HMBC members joined a crew of about 50 other birders on an 18 hour boat trip out of

Montauk Pt, exploring portions of Block Canyon and Hudson Canyon south of Long Island on September 10. The boat left port just after midnight and headed south, putting us roughly 70 miles off shore by dawn. The seas were a bit rough first thing in the morning, but we had bird action right from the start to keep us occupied. A steady stream of WILSON'S STORM-PETRELS were seen flitting their way down through the wave troughs and patting the surface with their feet. We encountered two groups of about 50 birds each as well as numerous single birds and groups of a half-dozen or less. This was the main activity for the first couple of hours after sunrise, along with occasional single RED-NECKED PHALAROPES which flew quickly by the boat. Among the less expected birds were a BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON AND A YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT!

Around 9am we hit a lull which lasted until after noon, with only an occasional gull or very distant tern to get our attention. Pelagic trips can really be hit-or-miss affairs, and people were clearly getting restless -- would the early morning activity be it for this trip? One adult dark-morph POMARINE JAEGER was seen by several people at the bow of the boat, and then shortly afterwards we entered an area where there was a lot of gull activity. The boat stopped and we waited and watched as GREATER SHEARWATERS began to appear. Initially there were single birds, but we eventually had a group of 20 or so quite close to the boat. Mixed in were 2 or 3 CORY'S SHEARWATERS. At one point most of the birds were perched on the surface, right next to the boat, affording us great views and excellent comparisons of these two similar-looking birds.



## Field Trip Reports continued....

It was now mid-afternoon, so we began heading back toward port with the feeling that we had already had some good pelagic birding. We had a trickle of GREATER SHEARWATERS most of the way in toward Montauk. As we got within an hour or so of port, we came upon the Montauk tuna fishing fleet; a mix of private recreational fishing boats and several commercial trawlers. We headed for the group and found an immense group of birds. Most were gulls, but mixed in were roughly 500 GREATER SHEARWATERS and, perhaps 10 - 20 CORY'S. An AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER was spotted by a couple of people but it disappeared into the melee and was not relocated. We found two SOOTY SHEARWATERS and several more Jaegers in this group including at least 3 more POMARINES and one PARASITIC. This really capped off the boat trip.



Back on shore the next day, we birded the Long Island south shore, covering parts of Fire Island and Jones Beach. This leg of the trip was highlighted by BUFF-BREADED AND BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS together at Cedar Beach Overlook and a nice mix of warblers at the Jones Beach west end including CANADA, MAGNOLIA, AM. REDSTART AND BLACK-AND-WHITE.

*Gregg Reecer  
Cathy Graichen*

## Connecticut Shore

Five of us covered several of the parks and refuges along the Connecticut coast line on September 17 and 18 searching for shorebirds, hawks and passerine migrants. We started at Milford Pt/McKinney NWR on Saturday -- a spot which can be very good for migrant shorebirds. We were there just after high tide, and as sandbars began to appear, we found several groups of resting and feeding birds. Nothing out of the ordinary was found, but we had a good mix of birds including AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER, BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER, BOTH YELLOWLEGS, WILLET, RUDDY TURNSTONE, SEMIPALMATED AND LEAST SANDPIPERS, DUNLIN AND SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS. A large flock of gulls and terns included COMMON, LEAST AND FORSTER'S TERNS.

We moved on to Lighthouse Pt State Park, where a hawkwatch is operated each fall. However, the weather was not right for a hawk flight: southerly winds, high pressure and haze. After a couple of hours with only a handful of AMERICAN KESTRELS and COMMON FLICKERS, we decided to check into the motel, take a short break and then head for Hammonasset Beach State Park.

"Hammo" as the locals call it, is one of the top year-round birding sites on the Connecticut coast. At our first stop we found a grassy field practically covered with KILLDEER. We spotted a hawk fly into a distant tree. As we walked down the field the hawk flew out over the field right at us sending the KILLDEER screaming. It was a beautiful adult COOPER'S HAWK which flew within about 30 feet of us and then continued chasing the KILLDEER across to another field. The KILLDEER flock



settled back down in front of us and, after searching through, we picked out a group of three BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS. We had great views of these birds as we followed them around the field for nearly an hour.

At the east of Hammoneset, we walked around Meig's Pt and had a MERLIN fly over. We noticed two people with a spotting scope set up at a distant parking area and decided to see what they were studying. This bit of "scrounging" proved to be very propitious. As soon as we arrived at the parking lot the people at the scope announced that they had a NORTHERN WHEATEAR in view. The bird was sitting quietly on a picnic table, sometimes jumping down into the grass to chase insects. We had a good look at the bird - an adult male still in alternate plumage - but our time to study the bird was limited as we had gotten there just before sunset when the park closes. We tried to get one last good look as the Park Police came through the parking area announcing that the park was closed for the night.

Overnight a cold front moved through the area, and we tried our luck at the "hot corner" at Bluff Pt State Park for passerine migrants. The corner, and the rest of the park, were anything but hot that morning; we saw a number of American Redstarts but precious little else. So, we returned to Lighthouse getting there about noon. The hawk flight was going strong with a steady stream of AMERICAN KESTRELS and SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS, along with smaller numbers of OSPREY, N. HARRIER, COOPER'S, RED-TAILED AND BROAD-WINGED HAWK and a single immature BALD EAGLE. All together, we had ten hawk species for the trip. It was a terrific few hours and, along with the birds at Hammoneset, it made the trip.

*Gregg Reer  
Cathy Graichen*

## HMBC Audit

Barbara Putnam and George Hanson met with Treasurer Cathy Graichen on July 18, 1994 to conduct an audit of the Club's financial records. The books were reviewed for the period April 1, 1993 through March 31, 1994. The auditors performed an exhaustive review of all club financial records, including the checking account, savings account and cash account. The Treasurer's records were compared against bank statements and files of bills, receipts and individual members' dues sheets and a report of the audit was presented to the Board at the September 12 meeting. The auditors concluded that the Treasurer's records are an accurate reflection of the financial condition of the HMBC.

### Special Field Trip ANNOUNCEMENT!!! EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

HMBC is tentatively planning a mid-winter getaway to warm and bird-filled south Florida. The trip is planned as a relaxing birding vacation of approximately 5-days duration which would include the President's Day holiday. There will be considerable flexibility in itinerary and available free time. Several hot-spots will be covered including Eco Pond, Anhinga Trail and Shark Valley. A trip onto Florida Bay will be included if conditions permit. Possible avian highlights include Smooth-billed Ani, Roseate Spoonbill, White Ibis, Anhinga, Purple Gallinule numerous Herons and Egrets and, with luck, Short-tailed Hawk and Snail Kite. This trip will be listed in the 1995 field trip schedule, but interested members should contact the coordinator as soon as possible as space is limited. Deadline for reservations: December 20. Coordinator: Scott Stoner, 464-0492.



## UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

### CAPITAL DISTRICT AUDUBON

The Audubon Society of the Capital Region (known colloquially as Capital District Audubon) is a family-oriented environmental organization serving the greater Capital District with a wide variety of activities. Our meetings are held the second Thursday of each month from September to June at the William K. Sanford Library on Albany-Shaker Road in Loudonville. Our programs, open to the general public, include presentations on natural history, world-wide travel and subjects of interest to the amateur naturalist. We sponsor special events including field trips and emphasize community outreach by being involved in activities such as Riverwalk and the Festival of Trees. We are involved in education geared toward children with a special column in each of our *Wingbeats* newsletters entitled *Audubon Kids*.



We'd like to cordially invite you to attend our general meetings, which begin at 7:30 pm and end promptly at 9:00 pm; refreshments are always served. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to call: Sue Limeri, President, at 384-1190; Karen Walenick, Vice President, at 439-7830 or Bob Budliger at 439-0006.

#### Upcoming Capital District Audubon Programs:

*October 13:* Garry Lemmo, photographer, on "Polar Bears in Manitoba"

*November 10:* Mike Storey, chief naturalist of the Adirondack Park Agency, presents "A Natural History of the Adirondack Park"

*December 8:* Bob Budliger discusses Christmas Bird Counts

#### COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

HMBC and FIVE RIVERS will jointly offer an introductory bird course on October 14 and 15. Taught by Five Rivers' Director Alan Mapes and HMBC President Scott Stoner, this Friday evening (7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.) and Saturday (9:00 a.m. - noon) course will feature both classroom and field instruction. It will teach the identification of common backyard birds and some not-so-common field and forest birds as well. It will also cover bird feeding, optical equipment and field guides. The materials fee of \$20.00 includes a field guide (\$5.00 without the guide). All are welcome, but please sign up by calling Five Rivers at 475- 0291.



## Upcoming Field Trips

### WATERFOWL of ALBANY COUNTY

Oct. 22 (Sat). Coord: Walt Sabin, 439-7344

This is a trip with beginners in mind, but all members are welcome to join us. We will tour Basic Creek and Alcove Reservoirs as well as Stanton Pond which has had a visiting Eurasian Wigeon the past 3 autumns. The trip will emphasize waterfowl field identification. Meet at 7:30 am at the intersection of Routes 32 and 143 near Alcove Reservoir.

### AUTUMN WATERFOWL AT VISCHER FERRY NOTE DATE CHANGE!!!

Nov. 5 (Sat). Coord: Scott Stoner, 464-0492  
(Originally scheduled for Oct. 29)

This morning trip will focus on aiding beginners in waterfowl identification, although all members are welcome. Reservations by Nov. 1.

### TOMHANNOCK RESERVOIR

Nov. 6 (Sun). Coord: Bill Gorman, 477-4921

This morning trip around the reservoir should yield loons, grebes, a variety of ducks (possibly including sea ducks) and large numbers of geese. Meet at 8:30 am on Valley Falls Road (just east of the reservoir) at its junction with Route 7.

### WATERFOWL of HUDSON RIVER AND SARATOGA LAKE

Nov. 13. Coord: Barbara Putnam, 792-7542

On this mid-day Saratoga County trip we will visit two bodies of water well-liked by waterfowl. We will begin with the Hudson River and finish at Saratoga Lake. Meet at 9:30 am at exit 14 of the Northway at the parking area on the west side of the highway.

### NIAGARA FRONTIER

Dec. 3-4. Coord: Bill Lee, 374-3426

The Niagara River, between Lakes Erie and Ontario, hosts thousands of gulls of a wide variety of species at this time of year. We have a reasonable chance of finding Lesser Black-backed, Little, Franklin's and white-winged gulls plus Black-legged Kittiwake. Early December is best for rare gulls. Reservations by Nov. 28.

### HMBC CHRISTMAS COUNTS

The Club's three Christmas Bird Counts -- Schenectady, Southern Rensselaer and Troy -- will be held toward the end of December. Set aside some space on your calendar to participate in one or more of these annual events. Full details will be available at the December 5th program meeting, on Birdline and in the December issue of *Feathers*.



## PROGRAM REMINDERS

### Alaska Marathon

Nov. 7, 7:30 pm. Scott Stoner, Sam Madison, Al Mapes, Diane Reiner and Bill Gorman will discuss travel and birding in the great expanse of Alaska.

### Birding the Bayous and Christmas Party

Dec. 5, 7:30 pm. Gregg Recer and Cathy Graichen will discuss birding in Louisiana and Mississippi. Bring a dessert to share.

### Looking ahead to 1995:

Programs will include talks on Arizona, India, the Amazon Basin and the Galapagos.

## PROGRAM REPORT

### NEW GUINEA: BIRDS OF PARADISE, PIGS AND SWEET POTATOES

About 50 people arrived on September 7 to hear Arthur Cooley's talk on New Guinea, some, no doubt intrigued by this unusual title. Art, who has led trips there for Special Expeditions, proceeded to explain the fascinating relationship between the natural history of New Guinea and the culture of its people. The similarity between the Birds of Paradise and the costumes worn in the ceremonial dance of the people of the high elevations is remarkable. A similar relationship is seen between the dress of the people of the lowlands and the life of the sea. Of particular interest as well was the ease at which the people transitioned between western dress and native dress, one day guiding western visitors with great expertise, and the next performing in

a local ceremonial event, in full native dress. Sweet potatoes are the staple crop, and pigs are used not only for food but as compensation for damages, both to the sweet potato crop and for other transgressions between groups of people. In one photograph, Art showed that a man had the skulls of a number of generations of his ancestors displayed in his residence; such an historical documentation is valuable there as proof of claim to property, i.e. his family had been there for 7 generations which was more proof of a claim than someone else who'd only been there four.

About the Speaker. Arthur Cooley is retired from 33 years of teaching high school biology on Long Island. His innovative approach (initiating such courses as Ornithology and Taxidermy) brought him many awards while at Bellport High School. He was faculty advisor to the group "Students for Environmental Quality" and a founding trustee for the Environmental Defense Fund. He is actively pursuing his second career as a full-time leader for Special Expeditions, for which he has led trips all over the world. I was very fortunate to take all of his classes, go on countless weekend field trips and be active in SEQ some 20 years ago as a student at Bellport HS.

*-Scott Stoner*





## HMBC BOARD FOR 1994 - 1995

### Officers

|                                                                                              |                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>President:</b><br>Scott Stoner<br>32-10 Woodlake Rd.<br>Albany, N.Y.<br>12203<br>464-0492 | <b>Vice-President:</b><br>Barb Putnam<br>190 Palmer Ridge Rd.<br>Gansevoort, N.Y.<br>12831<br>356-5768 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                                  |                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Secretary:</b><br>Bette Moon<br>907 St. David's Ln.<br>Schenectady, N.Y.<br>12309<br>372-8330 | <b>Treasurer:</b><br>Cathy Graichen<br>23 Scotch Mist Way<br>Ballston Spa, N.Y.<br>12020<br>899-2678 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



### Directors:

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| William Lee    | 374-3426 |
| Gregg Recer    | 899-2678 |
| Philip Johnson | 895-2969 |
| Laura Sommers  | 489-2712 |
| George Hanson  | 885-5467 |

### Committee Chairs

|                 |               |          |
|-----------------|---------------|----------|
| Conservation:   | Walt Sabin    | 439-7344 |
| Birdline:       | Frank Murphey | 482-1942 |
| Programs:       | Scott Stoner  | 464-0492 |
| Field Trips:    | Cliff Lamere  | 462-9827 |
| Membership:     | Daniel Ruge   | 449-1087 |
| Publicity:      | Ellen Houle   | 279-4585 |
| Publications:   | Gregg Recer   | 899-2678 |
| Records:        | Cliff Lamere  | 462-9827 |
| Sanctuary:      | Bette Moon    | 372-8330 |
| Social:         | Ann B'Rells   | 355-5615 |
| Jr. Activities: | Vacant        |          |

**BIRDLINE of E. NEW YORK: (518) 439-8080**

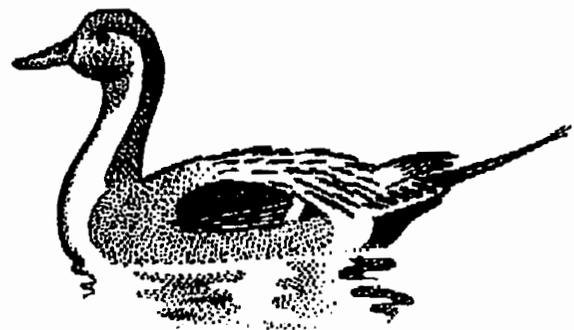
### President's Corner continued....

*receiving everything that they should be, and to answer any questions about Club activities. We're also listing the names of new members in Feathers. Finally, we've been discussing a mentoring type program in which experienced birders could help new members/new birders with bird identification. Let me stress that new members and novice birders are WELCOME on ALL Club field trips, even if not specifically identified as instructional trips. Feel free to tell the coordinator that you are a new member or new birder, for a little extra help on identification skills. Let me also make my usual plea (!) for assistance: Anyone who would like to take new members out birding, please let me know.*

*You will note that this issue contains a listing of several events offered locally by other organizations. HMBC programs are also going to be listed in the newsletter of the local Audubon chapter. This type of exchange gives our Club greater exposure as well as informs our members of local events of potential interest.*

### SEND THOSE ARTICLES, FIELD TRIP REPORTS AND OTHER MATERIAL (INCLUDING CLIP ART) TO:

**FEATHERS**  
Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club  
c/o Five Rivers EEC  
Game Farm Rd.





**PRESIDENT'S CORNER:** *With the advent of autumn and fall migration also comes the intensive planning of next year's HMBC field trip schedule. Cliff Camere, who has done this largely himself for the past two years, will continue as field trip chair but would like your help on items such as proofing and distribution of materials. We'd also like your input...tell us what trips you liked and what ones you didn't, and especially if there are new locations that you'd like to Club to explore. If you would like to CEAD a trip, we'd especially love to hear from you (call Cliff by October 15).*



*I've previously touched on the need for us to provide activities for young people; one way we hope to address this is to include several field trips next year specifically designed for this purpose. IF YOU ARE WILLING TO*

*CEAD SUCH A TRIP, PLEASE LET CLIFF KNOW BY OCTOBER 15.*

*I'm pleased to announce that HMBC will co-sponsor a bird course to be given at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center on the Friday evening, October 14 and Saturday morning, October 15. It will be taught jointly by Five Rivers staff and HMBC personnel. This is a two-part introductory birding course that will feature both classroom and field instruction. Call the Center at 475-0291 to register.*

*We've initiated several activities to address new member issues. First, the Club is including a welcoming/introductory letter along with the packet of materials that we send out (field trip list, membership list, etc.). Second, a member of the Board will call new members to make sure that they are*

**continued on previous page...**

FEATHERS  
Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club  
c/o Five Rivers EEC  
Game Farm Rd.  
Delmar, N.Y. 12054

Forwarding and Return  
Postage Guaranteed

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT 186  
SCHDY NY 12305

Ann & Wayne B'Rells  
3187 Woodhaven Drive

Schenectady, NY  
12303-4733



## Hybrids Highlight CENTURY RUN'S Mixed BAG of RESULTS

by  
*Robert P. Yunick*

The Club's 52nd Guy Bartlett Century Run on May 14, 1994 was a mixed bag of results that one could characterize as being sort of average, based on a review of the day's numbers. Twenty observers in six field parties were afield between 0100 and 2100 (all parties afield 0630-2030), and recorded a total list of 159 species and two hybrids. The species count ranks 18th, behind the record 188 in 1986. The best party effort was 127 species and one hybrid, and that party had the most birds (12 species and one hybrid) seen by only one party. All told, 34 species and two hybrids were tallied by only one party. Fifty-three species were seen by all parties.

The two hybrids, Brewster's and Lawrence's Warblers, were one of the highlights of the count. Not only are they rare: Lawrence's recorded for the sixth time, last in 1981; and Brewster's for the ninth time, last in 1989; but this year's count is only the second time in count history (first in 1981) that both hybrids have occurred simultaneously.

Other species recorded for the tenth or less time were:

- Mute Swan - 10th time, 6th consecutive year, a growing fixture on the landscape.
- Snow Goose - 3rd time, 1st in 1990
- Oldsquaw - 9th time, last in 1980
- Rough-legged Hawk, 8th time

Ruddy Turnstone, 2nd time, 1st in 1965  
Lesser Black-backed Gull, 2nd time, 1st in 1987

Red-bellied Woodpecker, 8th time  
Common Raven, 8th time, 1st in 1986

Among the pluses and minuses of the species totals among selected species groups, the following is how 1994 stacked up to 1993. Waterfowl were down one species from the total in 1993, diurnal raptors down one, shorebirds up two, gulls and terns down two, vireos up one, 26 species and two hybrid warblers up from 25, and sparrows and finches up one. The count total stands at

**continued on next page...**

### **Inside This Issue ....**

*Campership Announcement*

*Birdline Highlights & Update*

*House Finch Disease Alert*

*Upcoming Field Trips & Programs*

*Field Trip & Program Reports*



## Century Run continued....

250 species and two hybrids, because for the third consecutive year no new species were reported.

The day and the weather drew comments from compilers that indicated it was not the most opportune day for birding. The day began cool and generally calm under high pressure at 38 degrees Fahrenheit at the Albany Airport, was sunny and clear; but became partly cloudy with 15-22 MPH WNW wind. The temperature peaked at 70 degrees Fahrenheit, but the wind was bothersome. Several people commented it was too windy, and/or "cold", "birds hard to find", "one week too early", and "not enough migrants were back". Some of these comments were not unexpected given that the arrival of spring was delayed and tree leafing was sparse following a rugged, stormy, long winter.

Personally, I was in New Jersey at Island Beach State Park on May 14, beginning a week of banding. Early that morning, a light NW wind produced a 33-degree wind chill to the 35-degree F air. It was a cool, slow day with only 36 birds of 18 species banded. But through the night, southerly wind from the backside of the high made May 15 a super day with 263 birds of 36 species banded, including a resplendent, fully adult male Hooded Warbler - a life bird, as well as other goodies. Had May 15 been Century Run day, the tally and the observer commentary would have differed substantially. But then again, birding and fishing have one thing in common for people who live fixed-schedule lives that require certain events to take place on pre-set dates such as weekends: it is frequently better on other than the chosen date. May the Field Trip Committee pick that special day in 1995.

My thanks to my wife for saving the weather records for me.

### Key to Groups

Group A - Clarissa E. Ketcham (compiler), and Clarissa K. Simart. 0630-2030. Granville, Medusa, S. Westerlo, Earlton and Coxsackie. 75 species: Black-crowned Night Heron, Snow Goose, Hooded Merganser, Rough-legged Hawk, and Philadelphia Vireo.

Group B - Barbara Putnam. 0515-2100. No. Saratoga Co., So. Warren Co. and W. Washington Co. 103 species: Northern Harrier, Dunlin and Henslow's Sparrow.

Group C - W. Gorman (compiler), M. Gruett, A. Ross and P. Connor. 0330-2100. Black Creek Marsh, Cherry Plain, Castleton, Round and Saratoga Lakes. 112 species and one hybrid: Mute Swan, Ruddy Turnstone, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Fish Crow, Common Raven and Lawrence's Warbler.

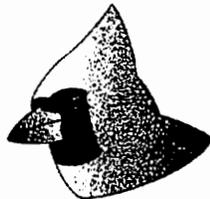
Group D - W.G.Ellison (compiler) and N.L.Martin, 0240-2130. Watervliet Reservoir, Black Creek Marsh, Town of Guilderland, Pine Bush, Thacher Park, Cole Hill State Forest, Basic Creek and Alcove Reservoirs, New Scotland, Peebles' Island, Crescent, Vischer Ferry and Saratoga Lake. 127 species and one hybrid: Oldsquaw, Red-breasted Merganser, Black-billed Cuckoo, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brewster's Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Pine Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Indigo Bunting and Red Crossbill.



Group E - Carl George, Bill Huntley, Nancy Slack, Tom Palmer, Hank Stebbins, Carl Parker, Andy Joachim, Beth and Brad Bidwell and Jody Stollmack (compiler). 0400-2100. Black Creek Marsh, Thacher Park, Five Rivers (Delmar), So. Albany Co. Mohawk River and Glenville Hills. 113 species: Least Bittern, Upland Sandpiper, Common Nighthawk, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Horned Lark and Cedar Waxwing.

Group F - Ray Perry. 0100-2100. Entirely within Schenectady Co.: Collins Lake, Rotterdam Flats, Plotter Kill Preserve, Lishakill Preserve, Christman Sanctuary, Featherstonough State Forest, Cooper's Marsh, Schoharie Turnpike, Wolf Hollow, Lock 9, Niskayuna Bike Path, and County Forest. 90 species: Grasshopper Sparrow.

**Party details on next page.**



## Birdline Highlights

**(Sep-Oct):**

**GOLDEN PLOVERS** at Saratoga Sod Farm thru Sept.; **PHILADELPHIA VIREOS** in early Sept.; unusually high number of **BLACKPOLLS** thru Sept.; many reports of **NORTHERN PARULA**, **MAGNOLIA** and **NASHVILLE WARBLERS**; 72 **BROAD-WINGED HAWKS** at Camp Pinnacle 9/10; **BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS** at Miosotis Lake 9/11; immature **GREAT CORMORANTS** at Cohoes since mid-Sept.; hundreds of **CHIMNEY SWIFTS** in Cohoes at dusk during mid-Sept.; 4th year **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** at Cohoes since mid-Oct.; **NORTHERN GOSHAWK** over Tomhannock 10/22; **LAPLAND LONGSPUR** hear 10/23; **SNOW BUNTINGS** in Catskill 10/23; **RUSTY BLACKBIRDS** in late Oct.

**Last year at this time:**

**ROSS' GOOSE** at Tomhannock Reservoir 11/14; **REDHEADS**, **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**, **RED-NECKED GREBE** at Saratoga Lake mid-Nov; **COMMON REDPOLLS** starting late Nov.

### Wanted: Campers Age 12-14

HMBC would like to send two students to Environmental Education Camp this summer. The camp is run by DEC in three different places. Campers may choose to go to Camp Colby (near Saranac Lake), Camp DeBruce (near Livingston Manor) or Camp Rushford (near Rushford Lake in western NY).

Applicants must be 12 - 14 years old when they attend camp. Both boys and girls attend Environmental Education camp for one week in either July or August. This camp experience heightens environmental awareness and develops understanding of the interrelationship between humans and their surroundings.

Campers should be sincerely interested in an outdoor learning experience and physically able to participate in strenuous activities such as backpacking and canoeing. Preference will be given to club members' children. If you know a student that may be interested in such a residential camp experience, please contact Barb Putnam (792-7542) by January 15th.



## 1994 HMBC Guy BARTLETT CENTURY RUN PARTY LISTINGS May 14, 1994

|                                |        |                                    |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------|--------|
| Red-throated Loon.....         | ef     | Black Tern.....                    | cde    |
| Common Loon.....               | bcdef  | Rock Dove.....                     | abcdef |
| Pied-billed Grebe.....         | de     | Mourning Dove.....                 | abcdef |
| Double-crested Cormorant.....  | a cde  | Black-billed Cuckoo.....           | d      |
| American Bittern.....          | bcde   | Eastern Screech-Owl.....           | cd     |
| Least Bittern.....             | e      | Common Nighthawk.....              | e      |
| Great Blue Heron.....          | abcdef | Chimney Swift.....                 | bcdef  |
| Green-backed Heron.....        | ab def | Belted Kingfisher.....             | abcdef |
| Black-crowned Night Heron..... | a      | Red-bellied Woodpecker.....        | b d f  |
| Mute Swan.....                 | c      | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....      | a cde  |
| Snow Goose.....                | a      | Downy Woodpecker.....              | abcdef |
| Canada Goose.....              | abcdef | Hairy Woodpecker.....              | abcdef |
| Wood Duck.....                 | abcdef | Northern Flicker.....              | abcdef |
| American Black Duck.....       | cdef   | Pileated Woodpecker.....           | ef     |
| Mallard.....                   | abcdef | Eastern Wood-Pewee.....            | e      |
| Oldsquaw.....                  | d      | Least Flycatcher.....              | abcdef |
| Hooded Merganser.....          | a      | Eastern Phoebe.....                | abcdef |
| Common Merganser.....          | bc     | Great Crested Flycatcher.....      | abcdef |
| Red-breasted Merganser.....    | d      | Eastern Kingbird.....              | abcdef |
| Turkey Vulture.....            | bcdef  | Horned Lark.....                   | e      |
| Osprey.....                    | a cdef | Purple Martin.....                 | cde    |
| Norther Harrier.....           | b      | Tree Swallow.....                  | abcdef |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk.....        | de     | Northern Rough-winged Swallow..... | bcdef  |
| Cooper's Hawk.....             | de     | Bank Swallow.....                  | cde    |
| Red-tailed Hawk.....           | abcdef | Cliff Swallow.....                 | abcdef |
| Rough-legged Hawk.....         | a      | Barn Swallow.....                  | abcdef |
| American Kestrel.....          | abcdef | Blue Jay.....                      | abcdef |
| Wild Turkey.....               | b f    | American Crow.....                 | abcdef |
| Virginia Rail.....             | bcdef  | Fish Crow.....                     | c      |
| Sora.....                      | cd f   | Common Raven.....                  | c      |
| Common Moorhen.....            | cde    | Black-capped Chickadee.....        | abcdef |
| Killdeer.....                  | abcdef | Tufted Titmouse.....               | abcdef |
| Greater Yellowlegs.....        | bcd    | Red-breasted Nuthatch.....         | cdef   |
| Lesser Yellowlegs.....         | bcd    | White-breasted Nuthatch.....       | bcdef  |
| Solitary Sandpiper.....        | abcdef | Brown Creeper.....                 | cdef   |
| Spotted Sandpiper.....         | abcdef | House Wren.....                    | abcdef |
| Upland Sandpiper.....          | e      | Winter Wren.....                   | bc f   |
| Ruddy Turnstone.....           | c      | Marsh Wren.....                    | bcde   |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper.....    | c      | Golden-crowned Kinglet.....        | d      |
| Least Sandpiper.....           | bc e   | Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....          | b d    |
| Pectoral Sandpiper.....        | c      | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.....         | bcde   |
| Dunlin.....                    | b      | Eastern Bluebird.....              | abcdef |
| Common Snipe.....              | c e    | Veery.....                         | abcdef |
| American Woodcock.....         | bcde   | Swainson's Thrush.....             | b de   |
| Ring-billed Gull.....          | bcdef  | Hermit Thrush.....                 | b def  |
| Herring Gull.....              | bcdef  | Wood Thrush.....                   | bcdef  |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull.....  | c      | American Robin.....                | bcdef  |
| Great Black-backed Gull.....   | cdef   | Gray Catbird.....                  | abcdef |



1994 HMBC Guy BARTLETT CENTURY RUN PARTY LISTINGS  
MAY 14, 1994

|                                   |        |                             |        |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Northern Mockingbird.....         | a cde  | Louisiana Waterthrush.....  | b def  |
| Brown Thrasher.....               | a cde  | Common Yellowthroat.....    | abcdef |
| Cedar Waxwing.....                | e      | Wilson's Warbler.....       | a e    |
| European Starling.....            | abcdef | Canada Warbler.....         | a cde  |
| Solitary Vireo.....               | abcdef | Scarlet Tanager.....        | a def  |
| Yellow-throated Vireo.....        | bcdef  | Northern Cardinal.....      | abcdef |
| Warbling Vireo.....               | abcdef | Rose-breasted Grosbeak..... | abcdef |
| Philadelphia Vireo.....           | a      | Indigo Bunting.....         | d      |
| Red-eyed Vireo.....               | abcdef | Rufous-sided Towhee.....    | abcd   |
| Blue-winged Warbler.....          | abcdef | Chipping Sparrow.....       | abcdef |
| Golden-winged Warbler.....        | b      | Field Sparrow.....          | abcde  |
| (Brewster's Warbler).....         | (d)    | Savannah Sparrow.....       | b d    |
| (Lawrence's Warbler).....         | (c)    | Grasshopper Sparrow.....    | f      |
| Tennessee Warbler.....            | d      | Henslow's Sparrow.....      | b      |
| Nashville Warbler.....            | bcd f  | Song Sparrow.....           | abcdef |
| Northern Parula.....              | b d    | Swamp Sparrow.....          | bcdef  |
| Yellow Warbler.....               | abcdef | White-throated Sparrow..... | abcd f |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler.....       | abcdef | White-crowned Sparrow.....  | ab def |
| Magnolia Warbler.....             | abcde  | Dark-eyed Junco.....        | bcdef  |
| Cape May Warbler.....             | d      | Bobolink.....               | abcdef |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler.....  | bcdef  | Red-winged Blackbird.....   | abcdef |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler.....        | abcdef | Eastern Meadowlark.....     | ab def |
| Black-throated Green Warbler..... | bcdef  | Common Grackle.....         | abcdef |
| Blackburnian Warbler.....         | ab de  | Brown-headed Cowbird.....   | abcdef |
| Pine Warbler.....                 | d      | Northern Oriole.....        | abcdef |
| Prairie Warbler.....              | bcdef  | Purple Finch.....           | bcd f  |
| Bay-breasted Warbler.....         | d      | House Finch.....            | abcdef |
| Blackpoll Warbler.....            | d      | Red Crossbill.....          | d      |
| Cerulean Warbler.....             | d      | Pine Siskin.....            | ab de  |
| Black-and-white Warbler.....      | bcdef  | American Goldfinch.....     | abcdef |
| American Redstart.....            | abcdef | Evening Grosbeak.....       | bc     |
| Ovenbird.....                     | abcdef | House Sparrow.....          | abcdef |
| Norther Waterthrush.....          | cd     |                             |        |

**The Digital Birdline:**

Birdline is now digital, which essentially means that there are no cassettes or other moving parts to break down. The advantages are many - mostly in consistently good sound quality and operator convenience. Hopefully it will accept recordings of warblers and other high-pitched bird songs that cassettes would not reproduce. Callers leaving messages are

limited to 4 minutes and any pause beyond 7 seconds will be cut off. If you have a touch tone/pulse phone with rotary service, just hit the touch tone switch after dialing the number to use the touch tone feature. The only touch tone feature available on Birdline is pressing the star sign during the recorded message to jump to the end, you'll hear a beep and then leave your message.



## **Collins Lake: A Special Field Trip Report**

*by*  
*Carl George*

Location: Collins Lake, Scotia, Schenectady County; 0800-1000, 2 April 1994.

Conditions: Air temperature 37 d. F; Cloud cover 95-100%; Wind velocity Southeast 1-2 MPH; ice cover on Lake c. 95%; Snow cover c. 60%; Mohawk River level 214.9 ft. above sea level; Lake water/ice level 283 ft. units but not linked to standard survey); visibility excellent.

The Observers (in order of roster signature): Richard Guthrie, Ray Perry, Robert C. Perry, Mae Perry, Wilfred Perry, Carol Lorch, Walton Sabin, Debbie Ellinger, Philip Johnson, Alan Samuelson, Cliff Lamere, Joe Gardner, Alfred and Shirley Schadow, Carl George (leader).

The Observed (in order of appearance): 4 Common Mergansers (flying), 2 Great Blue Herons in Collins Creek (immatures with white crowns), 8 Black Ducks, 6 Mallards, 1 pair of Northern Pintail (flying over), 1 Red-tailed Hawk (flying by), 80 Ring-billed Gulls (SW

Section midwater), 4 Great Black-backed Gulls (SE Section at the Island), 12 Herring Gulls (SW Section midwater), Horned Lark (flying over), Tree Swallows (first of the year seen at the Lake), American Robin, Northern Cardinal, American Crows, European Starlings, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, 1 pair of Canada Geese (collared, the gander L+Z and the goose LX2, Eastern Section lawn), White-breasted Nuthatch, Black-capped Chickadees, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Turkey Vultures (flying by to the north), Northern Harrier, Hooded Mergansers (on Mohawk River south of the Lake), muskrat and beaver.

Remarks: The ongoing daily waterbird survey for Collins Lake was featured. Waterbirds visiting the Lake have been counted daily by Carl George and his students since 20 March 1988. Placards showing histograms of the last five years were presented and discussed. The lake, 55 acres in extent, is spring-fed along the northern and western shores and thus is

---

### **New HMBC Members**

Welcome to the recent new members. We're glad to have you on board and hope to see you at a Club event soon.

Darlyne Ricci-Emerick & Ray Emerick  
Patricia Pulver  
Lila Ferrez & John P. Woodall  
Mike Gibbons  
Michael Higgiston  
Barbara Arum  
Tim Mullen  
Ingrid Eley

Nirmal Bhagabati  
Pat Ashley  
Dorie Knipp  
Julio de la Torre  
Marilyn Becker  
Gloria Van Duyne & John Keeffe  
Naomi Meyer & Ron Renoni  
Bernadine Dawes



usually open along these shores even during the middle of winter. The warming influence of the springs also delays ice-on and accelerates ice-off, but the day of the trip still found the lake ice-covered, consequence of a cold and snowy winter (ice-off dates: 1988 25-27 March; 1989 15-16 March; 1990 17-18 March; 1991 7-8 March; 1992, 26-27 March; 1993 7-8 April; 1994 9-10 April). The lake is usually ice free by the third week of March; the ice-off date of this April was the latest we have observed in 20 years! So apologies are extended for the lean waterbird pickings.

#### Generalizations of the survey:

Canada Geese now nest on the island for the first time; non-breeding Canada Geese also spend much time but do not molt at the Lake; several hundred Mallard and Black Duck overnight from late September until ice-on, their arrival taking place within a twenty minute period after sunset just before darkness; more than one hundred Common Mergansers also overnight at the lake, but unlike the Mallards and Blacks, they remain in the mid-water of the Lake swimming continuously in long trains without diving; during the day the mergansers harvest large numbers of fish.

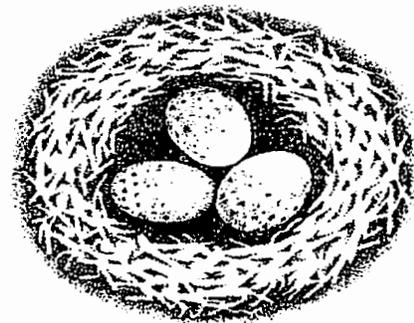
Great Blue Herons overwinter standing in the warm spring waters along the north shore and along Collins Creek, at times draped with hoar frost; Kingfishers also overwinter at the lake; Green Heron numbers are declining; Double-crested Cormorant numbers are increasing; Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull and Great Black-back Gull are especially important day visitors during their non-breeding season; in the late afternoon the gulls leave the lake to overnight on Tomhannock Reservoir and the more quiet waters of the Hudson-Mohawk confluence; dead gizzard shad are attractive for the Great Black-backs; young blue-backed herring are

eaten in large numbers by the Ring-billed; immature Herring Gulls associate closely with the Common Mergansers attempting to steal their catches.

More than 60 other species of 'waterbird' have been seen at the lake during the last six years (including Bald Eagle, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Oldsquaw, Black Scoter, Dunlin, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron).

Observed changes are related to the closing of landfills, hydroelectric alterations of the Mohawk River, arrival of the zebra mussel in the nearby Mohawk River, the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in June of 1991, migration and death of the blue-backed herring and gizzard shad, the use of the lake by boaters and canoeists, and most important of all, the appearance and disappearance of ice cover.

Carl George and his students hope to continue the survey for at least one more year. It is now suspected that this is one of the longest daily surveys of waterbirds in the history of American ornithology. If you know of similar work being conducted elsewhere, please contact Carl George, Department of Biology, Union College, 1-518-388-6330.





## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### CAMP PINNACLE HAWK WATCH

On Sept. 10, the group of six enthusiastic birders gathered at the lookout point felt their spirits dampen and their excitement dwindle as minutes ticked by with no sign of a raptor. Oh, it was pleasant to greet newcomers as they arrived and to recognize old friends, but what response can be made to the query, "What have you seen so far?"

Thus, 9 o'clock became 9:30 then 10 o'clock rolled in. What did the hawks want? The sky was wonderfully blue and clear, the wind was a steady 10-20 MPH NNW. Scopes sat around unused and even binoculars were somewhat forgotten as people clustered in small groups and chatted. (For the record, two or three of the inveterate watchers continuously swept the sky for any sign of a bird.) Finally, at 10:13, a big **TURKEY VULTURE** cruised into view, and thus began nearly 4 hours of pretty decent birding. Surprisingly, the mythical "noon-time lull" proved to be the most active hour: between 12 noon and 1PM we logged 29 raptors. Interestingly enough, the first seven birds tallied represented seven different species, and these were **TURKEY VULTURE, RED-TAILED HAWK, BROAD-WINGED HAWK, SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, AMERICAN KESTREL, COOPER'S HAWK, and OSPREY**. All day we saw no other species. Of the total 101 raptors, 72 were **BROAD-WINGEDS**.

Finally, it was a pleasure to have three new HMBC members join their first hawk watch. I acknowledge with thanks the expertise and sharp eyes of several of the old-timers. All in all, it proved to be a rewarding day.

*- Arthur & Dee Long*

### WATERFOWL of ALBANY COUNTY

On October 22, a total of 16 birders in nine cars met at the designated rendezvous. By carpooling, there was a manageable caravan of six vehicles. The weather was mild and partly cloudy with periods of sunshine; there was however, a chilling northwest wind particularly noticeable at the causeway over Basic Creek Reservoir.

The first stop was at a pull-off area on Route 32 shortly after it crosses the north arm of Alcove Reservoir. (This is the place we did the carpooling.) Some time was spent here checking out a flock of a at least fifty **CEDAR WAXWINGS** plus other assorted other species; seen on the water were **AMERICAN BLACK DUCK, MALLARD and GREAT BLUE HERON**. Because of the high speed traffic on Route 32, I deemed it unsafe to walk back along the causeway, as has been done in the past with only a few birders; in any even not with a crowd of 16.

We next stopped at Basic Creek Reservoir. Because of the chilling wind the scoping of waterfowl was shortened somewhat. We had another **GREAT BLUE HERON**, many **CANADA GEESE, AMERICAN BLACK DUCKS, MALLARDS**, one **WOOD DUCK**, a couple of **NORTHERN PINTAIL**, many **AMERICAN WIGEON, RING-NECKED DUCKS, AMERICAN COOT, and PIED-BILLED GREBES**. Next, we walked down the road to the dam on Basic Creek Reservoir. Along the way we found **AMERICAN ROBIN, HERMIT THRUSH, RUBY- and GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS, BLUE JAY, AMERICAN CROW, BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE, TUFTED TITMOUSE, WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH,**



**DOWNY** and **HAIRY WOODPECKERS**, **NORTHERN FLICKER**, **NORTHERN CARDINAL**, **RUFOS-SIDED TOWHEE**, **FOX**, **SONG** and **WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS**, and **YELLOW-RUMPLED WARBLER**. Also heard were a **RUFFED GROUSE** drumming, and a **PILEATED WOODPECKER**. From the dam an **OSPREY** was seen by all, and below the dam, in the stream, we caught glimpses of what most observers believed to be a River Otter.

From here we went directly over to Stanton Pond. Everyone was impressed as flock after flock of **CANADA GEESE** came into the pond. Among the **CANADA GEESE** were seven **SNOW GEESE**. Among the small numbers of ducks were: **AMERICAN BLACK DUCK**, **MALLARD**, **AMERICAN WIGEON**, **WOOD DUCK**, **NORTHERN PINTAIL** plus **NORTHERN SHOVELER**, **GADWALL** and **HOODED MERGANSER**. Also seen were **PIED-BILLED GREBE**, **GREAT BLUE HERON**, **NORTHERN HARRIER**, **RED-TAILED HAWK**, **KILLDEER**, **HORNED LARK** and a large flock of **BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD** (100+). The trip checklist was compiled here resulting in a total of 50 species for the day.

On the return to pick up the parked cars, several stops were made along Alcove Reservoir, but nothing of note was added although another **RUFFED GROUSE** was heard drumming.

*- Walt Sabin*



## **VERMONT Champlain Valley Trip**

On Labor Day weekend, 12 HMBC members gathered to explore Vermont's Champlain Valley, focusing on the many superb wetlands bordering the valley's meandering rivers. Our first stop was at East Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Orwell, where water birds included a **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** and **COMMON SNIPE** in flight. We also had good looks at an **EASTERN BLUEBIRD** family - adults and well-speckled juveniles. The valley's raptor potential revealed itself as we traversed back roads, encountering a group of 21 **TURKEY VULTURES** and numerous **AMERICAN KESTRELS**, as well as **NORTHERN HARRIER**, **RED-TAILED**, **COOPER'S** and **SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS**. Saturday's lunch stop was planned along a little-used road in Bridport where **RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS** have nested the past two years. A cooperative **OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER** entertained everyone as we ate, but one of the woodpeckers provided only a brief glimpse to two participants. However, a row of dead elms a short distance down the road looked promising and sure enough, we were treated to superb scope views of one of the adults, its velvety head glowing in the bright sun. Other spots in Bridport produced the first of numerous **OSPREYS** for the weekend, as well as **BONAPARTE'S GULL**. Then it was on to Dead Creek WMA in Addison, one of Vermont's premier birding locales, made even more so by a draw-down of one of its impoundments and the resulting press coverage of numerous rare shorebirds seen in August. We pulled in to the Brilyea Access area to find both parking lots nearly full and a **BALD EAGLE** soaring overhead. Joining the crowd scoping the mudflats, we had ample opportunity to make detailed comparisons of



## Field Trip Reports - CONTINUED

**LESSER AND GREATER YELLOWLEGS**, as well as **PECTORAL**, **LEAST** and **SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS**. A single **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** was a lifer for some and provided practice to others learning to pick its long-winged profile out from the other peeps. An early flock of 30 **SNOW GEESE** descending over a nearby cornfield presaged the thousands that arrive at Dead Creek in October and an immature **PEREGRINE FALCON** testing the shorebirds was a finale for the afternoon. At dinner, several people reminded Walter of an offer of owling, so we trekked off in the darkness to floodplain forest at the mouth of Otter Creek and before long our tape raised the ire of an **EASTERN SCREECH-OWL**, which tolerated the flashlight beam long enough to allow some lifer looks.

The group returned to Dead Creek the next morning, but the sunny weather was not conducive to turnover among the shorebirds. We did take time to learn more about the subtle differences between **GREEN-** and **BLUE-WINGED TEAL** in eclipse plumage and then did some further exploration on foot. A couple of people observed a **MERLIN** that had just made its breakfast selection from the shorebird bar and everyone admired a graceful **GREAT EGRET** in flight before heading back to the cars. Our next stop, at South Slang in Ferrisburgh, produced **COMMON MOORHEN**, more **OSPREYS** and acres of wild rice, sure to be teeming with waterfowl in the next several weeks. Keeping to the back roads, we located Vermont's **CATTLE EGRET** flock, which breeds on a small island in Grand Isle County and seems to spend a few weeks in late summer with cattle in Charlotte before continuing its southward migration. The flock moved on both sides of the road as we watched from our cars, allowing us to separate the adults retaining buffy breeding

plumage and their dark-billed offspring. Then it was on to Shelburne Bay and the Burlington waterfront, where birding gave way to relaxed conversation in the warm sunshine along the city's public bike/recreation path.

Monday morning, our destination was Delta Park, at the mouth of the Winooski River in Colchester. The waterbird assortment there included **GREEN HERON**, **NORTHERN PINTAIL**, **RING-NECKED DUCK** and **COMMON MERGANSER**, all new for the weekend. The park's young cottonwoods and lush growth gave us our first opportunity to look for landbird migrants. Various members of the group picked out **RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD**, **LEAST FLYCATCHER**, **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET**, **VEERY**, **SOLITARY**, **WARBLING** and **RED-EYED VIREOS**, and **NASHVILLE**, **CHESTNUT-SIDED**, **MAGNOLIA** and **WILSON'S WARBLERS**. We also watched for leaping frogs underfoot and identified some of the rare flora that had provided incentive for the area to be protected from encroaching development. After the productive morning, we continued north to Sandbar WMA in Milton, where a few drake **WOOD DUCKS** displayed their just-acquired (breeding) plumage while a couple of **GADWALL** were still fully in eclipse. Next, we continued onward though the islands to the ferry landing, where good numbers of lingering **NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOWS** fed overhead and few people decide to take the shorter route back to New York. The rest took the land/bridge route, hoping to encounter the last few birds needed to bring the weekend list up to 100 species. However, the only new species added was **HOODED MERGANSER**, giving us a respectable total of 98 for three pleasant and productive days.

- *Walter Ellison & Nancy Martin*



## Field Trip Reports - CONTINUED

### VISCHER FERRY INSTRUCTIONAL Trip FOR WATERFOWL

Over a dozen people took part in this trip on a balmy November morning. The species of waterfowl were few, but easily studied, and participants got good scope views of **MALLARD**, **AMERICAN WIGEON**, **AMERICAN BLACK DUCK**, as well as **GREEN-WINGED TEAL**. **GREAT BLUE HERONS** were also present, including one that roosted in a tree for a bit.

- *Scott Stoner*

### PELAGIC FROM PLYMOUTH MA

A large group of 19 birders met early Saturday morning (Oct. 29) at the Plymouth Harbor for a pelagic trip to Stellwagen Bank off the coast of Massachusetts. The weather was a pleasant temperature with fairly light winds. Flocks of **BRANT** were seen on the ride out. Three first-winter **ICELAND GULLS** were identified and their striking buffy-white plumage was easy to identify. **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES** were another unusual gull species easily identified. **NORTHERN GANNETS** in both adult and immature plumage were abundant and nearby. True pelagics were few, but several identified the couple of **CORY'S SHEARWATERS**. A couple of lucky members saw a **RAZORBILL** in good light before the boat turned and the bird flew off. Unfortunately for some, the return trip was much rougher.

After a good night's rest, many in the group headed to Rhode Island where a **FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER** was reported and had been seen for several hours on Saturday. Unfortunately, even with a large number of birders scouring the area, that bird could not be found. The group spent the rest of the

morning and early afternoon visiting the Rhode Island coast including Quonochontaug Breachway, Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge, Kimball Wildlife Refuge, Moonstone Beach (overlooking Truston Pond National Wildlife Refuge) and Point Judith. Although the expected waterfowl were few, we found **PIED-BILLED GREBES**, **CANVASBACK**, **RING-NECKED DUCKS**, **MUTE SWANS**, **GADWALL**. In Kimball, we found at least three **VEERY** and also a **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER** caching food for the winter.

- *Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen*

### House Finch Disease Alert

A mysterious illness is attacking the house finch population along the east coast of the US. The unidentified disease will eventually kill tens of thousands of house finches, according to NYS Wildlife Pathologist, Ward Stone.

Look for House Finches

- 1) with severe swelling or closing of the eyes.
- 2) with trouble landing at feeders.
- 3) unable to see to find food.
- 4) not flying away when approached.

If you see diseased, dying or dead finches at your feeders, the current recommendations (subject to change) are:

- 1) bury any seed that the birds may have come in contact with
- 2) disinfect feeder with a bleach and water solution
- 3) stop feeding birds for a week or two to minimize the spread of disease
- 4) call Ward Stone at 439-8017

Although not known to spread to humans, use caution in handling infected seed and washing thoroughly.

### **Looking for Birdline??**

In the future, the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club will be listed in the Yellow Pages under "BIRDS" instead of "CLUBS". Now if we could only get the other listings to make sense...



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### New Topic:

Monday, December 5.

### **Christmas Party and Program: *Birding in the American West***

From the rugged coast of Washington to the deserts of Arizona, and the peaks of Colorado to the depths of Death Valley, the American West offers an unparalleled diversity of spectacular scenery. Join Scott Stoner for a photographic journey that highlights the scenic splendor of more than a dozen Western states, showcasing both well-known parks and less-visited natural areas.

Note: The program on "Birding the Bayous," by Gregg Recer, originally scheduled for December, will be rescheduled for 1995. Details to follow.

Wednesday, January 4

### ***Birding Arizona***

Southeast Arizona is one of America's birding (and meteorological) hotspots, and hosts many species that are found nowhere else in the U.S. Some species common to Mexico barely make it into the corner of Arizona; other desert specialties are more widespread; still others wander north into the state after breeding. Increasing the appeal of Arizona are its "sky islands," and offer a wide range of habitats from the desert floor to the coniferous forest all within an hour's drive! Join Bill Gorman for his MOVIE program on the birds of Southeast Arizona!

Monday, February 6

### **"BIRDS AND SIGHTS OF NORTHERN INDIA"**

Come enjoy Dale and Lillian Samuelson's slides and discussion of their recent birding tour of India, which they visited with Bryan Bland of Wings in the fall of 1993. Their three-week trip took them to Delhi, Brahatpur Sanctuary, Agra (Taj Mahal), the Corbett Tiger Reserve and Nainital in the Himalayan foothills.

### **A PREVIEW OF FUTURE PROGRAMS**

Details will follow, but here's something to look forward to in coming months:

Monday, March 6. ***Amazonia***, with Lila Ferrez

Monday, April 10 (Annual Meeting) ***The Galapagos***, with Dr. Michael Anker

Monday, May 1 ***Birds of East Africa***, with Gerry Lemmo

Monday, June 5. ***A Naturalist in Argentina***, with Carl George

### **CAPITAL DISTRICT AUDUBON PROGRAMS**

Location: William K. Sanford Library, 629 Albany-Shaker Road, Loudonville, NY

Thu. Dec. 8, Mike Storey, ***A Natural History of the Adirondack Park.***

Thu. Jan. 12 Angie Berchielli, ***Animal Tracks and Trails***

Thu. Feb. 9 Graham Cox, ***Creating a Joint US/Russian International Heritage Park on the Bering Strait.***



## PROGRAM REPORTS

### ***The Hawaii Islands: Birds and Volcanos***

On Monday, October 3, about 40 people turned out to enjoy a combined program on Hawaii, given jointly by Scott Stoner and Bill Gorman. Scott gave an overview of the geologic history of the islands, and of the disappearance of native bird species and the introduction of "replacement" species from around the world. He then showed slides of landscapes and volcanic features of the big island of Hawaii, including an ongoing eruption of Kilauea in the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Moving on to the Garden Isle of Kauai, he showed photos of such birding/scenic hotspots as Kilauea Point, Waimea Canyon and Kokee State Park.

Following this scenic explanation, Bill Gorman showed a video of recent volcanic activity, then two reels of home movies of Hawaii's birds. Some of the most memorable included frame-filling shots of Red-tailed Tropicbird in flight, and of Pacific Golden Plover.

### ***Alaska Marathon***

On Monday, November 7, nearly 50 people turned out for a program that highlighted the wildlife and vast scenic beauty of Alaska. Given by no fewer than FIVE speakers, this was dubbed "Alaska Marathon" not because of a foot (or dogsled) race, but because it was a marathon event to try to cover the state in one evening! Diane Reiner began with a journey up the Inside Passage and to the Homer area. Of particular interest in the former were the number of towns with no land access; the Ferry's arrival was a major event to these communities that extended only a few blocks away from the water's edge. Scott Stoner next showed us the seabird colonies and remote tundra of St. Paul Island in the

Bering Sea, followed by Dall Sheep, Grizzly Bear and the mountain of Denali. Then, Alan Mapes took us by small plane to Denali, where arriving pilots can activate a horn to clear the runway of Moose! He had photos of Caribou and Grizzly Bear, as well as the even more remote area of the Brooks Range, between Fairbanks and the Arctic Ocean. After a break, Sam Madison described birding at Alaska's most remote and sought-out hotspot, Attu, at the tip of the great Aleutian Chain. The birding was fabulous there but the conditions horrendous, involving long treks by bicycle and foot to reach key birding destinations. Last, but not least, Bill Gorman showed movies, primarily of cliff-dwelling Alaskan seabirds.

### ***Waterfowl Identification Workshop***

The Club offered an evening workshop on the identification of local and regional waterfowl, taught by Five Rivers' Director Alan Mapes. Working from slides prepared for a DEC course for hunters, Alan took us through the common and less common species of the northeast, giving basic hints for telling a dabbling from a diving duck, all the way through the fine points of differentiating the scaup. Thanks, Alan, for a great workshop, and to Barbara Putnam for organizing this event.

---

### **continued from back page...**

*government. most of your Club officials are restricted by term limitations, and as many of you know, I can no longer be President after April, 1995. If anyone is interested in Officer or Director positions, or would just like to know what they entail, please give me a call. The names of all interested persons will be passed on to the Nominations Committee in January.*

*Happy holidays to all, and best wishes for great birding in 1995!*



## Upcoming Field Trips

### **Christmas Bird Counts (CBC)**

**Schenectady CBC**, Dec 17 (Sat), Compiler: Bill Lee 374-3426

**Southern Rensselaer County CBC**, Dec 26 (Mon), Compiler: Linda Stern 869-1284

**Troy CBC**, Dec 31 (Sat), Compiler: Cliff Lamere 462-9827

**New Year's Day Bird Count at Five Rivers**  
Jan 1 (Sun), Coord: Al Mapes, 475-0291 (work), 439-4086 (home).

The annual 1st day (of the year) count at Five Rivers.

### ***Five Rivers' Winter Birds***

Jan 7 (Sat), Coord: Scott Stoner, 464-0492.  
Reservations Jan 3.

An instructional trip for beginners focusing on common winter residents.

### ***Massachusetts to Maine***

Jan 14-16 (Sat-Mon), Coord: Bill Lee 374-3426.

A weekend trip for winter coastal specialties.

### ***Annual State Duck Count***

Jan 15 (Sun), Coord: Paul Grattan 237-0661 (work).

Just what the name says - help census wintering waterfowl around the area.

### ***Vermont: Southern Champlain Valley to Dead Creek***

Jan 21 (Sat), Coord: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin 456-6224 (home), 442-4320 (work)

Meet at 9:30 (in Vermont!!) to look for wintering birds around Lake Champlain and Dead Creek.

### ***Pine Bush in Winter***

Jan 28 (Sat), Coord: Laura Sommers 489-2712.

Explore the Albany Pine Bush for winter passerines.

### ***Campfire and Owling at Five Rivers***

Jan 29 (Sun), Coord: Al Mapes 475-0291 (work), 439-4086 (home) and Scott Stoner 464-0492. Reservations Jan 29.

Join us for this opportunity to listen for owls at dusk (4PM) at Five Rivers. Following the trek we will enjoy the warmth of the campfire.

### ***Snowshoes and Birds at Five Rivers***

Jan or Feb, Coord: Ray Perry 475-0291 (work), 399-3962 (home).

Since this depends on snowfall, listen to Birdline for the announcement of the specific date.

### ***North Country Owling***

Jan or Feb, Coord: Bill Lee 374-3426 Reservations: Jan 20.

This two day trip will focus on owls in northern NY.

### ***Ft. Edward, Washington County***

Feb 5 (Sun), Coord: Dick Beeler 399-8557

Meet at 11 am focusing on Ft. Edward's wintering raptors.

### ***Sachuest Point & Rhode Island Coast***

Feb 11-12 (Sat-Sun), Coord: Cathy Graichen & Gregg Recer 899-2678 Reservations Jan 27.

Focus on coastal specialties including Harlequin Ducks.

### ***Florida Everglades***

Feb 16-20(Thu-Mon), Coord: Scott Stoner 464-0492 Reservations: **Dec 20, 1994**

Visit the Everglades and escape the snow.

**Check the accompanying 1995 Field Trip Schedule for more details.**



**HMBC BOARD FOR 1994 - 1995**

**Officers**

**Directors:**

**President:**  
 Scott Stoner  
 32-10 Woodlake Rd.  
 Albany, N.Y.  
 12203  
 464-0492

**Vice-President:**  
 Barb Putnam  
 190 Palmer Ridge Rd.  
 Gansevoort, N.Y.  
 12831  
 792-7542

William Lee 374-3426  
 Gregg Recer 899-2678  
 Philip Johnson 895-2969  
 Laura Sommers 489-2712  
 George Hanson 885-5467

**Secretary:**  
 Bette Moon  
 907 St. David's Ln.  
 Schenectady, N.Y.  
 12309  
 372-8330

**Treasurer:**  
 Cathy Graichen  
 23 Scotch Mist Way  
 Ballston Spa, N.Y.  
 12020  
 899-2678

**Committee Chairs**

Conservation: Walt Sabin 439-7344  
 Birdline: Frank Murphy 482-1942  
 Programs: Scott Stoner 464-0492  
 Field Trips: Cliff Lamere 462-9827  
 Membership: Daniel Ruge 449-1087  
 Publicity: Ellen Houle 279-4585  
 Publications: Gregg Recer 899-2678  
 Records: Cliff Lamere 462-9827  
 Sanctuary: Bette Moon 372-8330  
 Social: Ann B'Rells 355-5615  
 Jr. Activities: Vacant



**BIRDLINE of E. NEW YORK: (518) 439-8080**

**SPECIAL PROGRAM REPORT**

*by  
Barbara Putnam*

On Sunday afternoon, October 23rd, a group of 37 children and parents met at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center for a bird program given by members of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club. The group is called the Capital District Homeschoolers. It is made up of families from the greater Capital District and serves children from age 5 through high school.

Barbara Putnam presented her slide show entitled "Fifty Common Birds of the Greater Capital Region". After a brief talk about how to use binoculars and how birders behave on the trail, we formed five smaller groups. Each group was accompanied by an HMBC leader and took a walk around Five Rivers looking for birds. Although the number of bird species seen was low, enthusiasm was high.

Group leaders were: Ann B'Rells, Cathy Graichen, Barb Putnam, Gregg Recer, and Walt Sabin. Scott Stoner provided logistical assistance. Thanks to all involved.

**Opportunity to Add Land to Five Rivers**

Five Rivers Limited has an opportunity to purchase 16 acres, including critical wetland habitat, adjacent to Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, but needs to raise \$15,000 before January 1. Five Rivers Limited is non-profit and contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Make contributions payable to: FRL/Bishop Fund and send to:

Five Rivers Limited  
56 Game Farm Road  
Delmar, NY 12054



**PRESIDENT'S CORNER:** *Once again the holiday season is approaching, and with it the need to start the Club's three Christmas Counts. Dates and compilers are listed below; please consider volunteering your time to help on at least one of these. HMBC will pay the \$5 fee for all who participate. We think it is enough for you to spend a day out in subfreezing weather during this busy season, without being asked to pay to do it!*



*I'd like to particularly welcome new compiler Linda Stern (Southern Rensselaer Count) and urge all to help her on the 26th. On a sad note, the HMBC mourns the passing of Pat Canavan, on September 28, a long-time member who compiled the Troy Count for many years. She will be sorely missed.*

|                            |                              |                                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <i>Count Dates:</i>        |                              |                                        |
| <i>Schenectady</i>         | <i>Saturday, December 17</i> | <i>Compiler: Bill Lee 374-3426</i>     |
| <i>Southern Rensselaer</i> | <i>Monday, December 26</i>   | <i>Compiler: Linda Stern 869-1284</i>  |
| <i>Troy</i>                | <i>Saturday, December 31</i> | <i>Compiler: Cliff Camere 462-9827</i> |

*Volunteers need not be expert birders: Newer birders will be teamed up with more experienced birders and can help just by spotting birds, so please, help us out on this annual event.*

*Along with this issue, you should receive the 1995 Field Trip Schedule. Your Field Trip Committee worked long and hard this fall to put together an ambitious array of trips, both new and old, and local and away. Please read over the Schedule and note that some trips have early reservation deadlines. Please also review the the Guidelines at the beginning of the schedule, which contains important reminders about pets, carpooling, etc., and the Code of Ethics. A special note of thanks to Field Trip Chair Cliff Camere for his efforts to put this schedule together. Great job, Cliff.*

*Finally, the Board will soon be appointing a Nominations Committee to select candidates for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and two Directors for election at the Annual Meeting in April. Unlike many elected officials in*

**continued on page 89...**

FEATHERS  
Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club  
c/o Five Rivers EFC  
Game Farm Rd.  
Delmar, N.Y. 12054

Forwarding and Return  
Postage Guaranteed

**NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT 186  
SCHDY NY 12305**





## 1993 FIELD TRIP REPORT

Prepared by Clifford Lamere

The purpose of this supplement to *Feathers* is to reestablish the past policy of publishing a record of every species of bird observed on every field trip. At times in the past this was sometimes done in various issues throughout the year as the field trip reports came in. At other times it was done in a single issue covering all of the field trips taken during a single year.

Some reasons for publishing these data are as follows:

- 1) HMBC members may use the information to help plan their own personal trips. A series of these publications may help members to decide best dates to visit a particular locality, or where to look for that next life bird. Be aware, however, that a short bird list for a trip could mean poor birding conditions (such as inclement weather or a late spring) rather than a usual scarcity of birds at that locality and season.
- 2) Future readers or scientists may be able to use the data to recognize changes in the distribution of certain birds. By recording even the most common birds, we may become aware of changes that occur in the distribution or abundance of those species as well. Currently, *Birdline* and *Feathers* concentrate their sighting reports on the less common birds (as would be expected).
- 3) Eventually, all issues of *Feathers* will be bound together, with Field Trip Schedules included. This publication will allow corrections to be made that show what changes to the schedule may have been made, such as cancellations or changes of leaders, locations or dates. This will help to present a greater historical accuracy of what has actually happened in the Club, as opposed to what had been planned but may not have actually taken place.

**Explanatory Notes:**

- 1) Birds that were seen and those that were only heard were counted equally.
- 2) Birds identified only to genus (for example, *Accipiter* sp.) are not included in the total given for the number of bird species observed.
- 3) Century Runs will still be reported in the regular issues of *Feathers* in order to give Club members quicker access to those results.
- 4) The number of participants shown includes the leader(s).
- 5) It was impractical to have every trip's data contained on a single page. Therefore, whenever a trip report is divided between two pages, the last character on the page will be an arrow ( ⇒ ).
- 6) The following name changes have occurred to the birds listed on the Club's 1984 checklist, and therefore will show up differently in the lists shown in this publication:

| <u>New Name</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <u>Old Name</u>             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a) <u>Green Heron</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <u>Green-backed Heron</u>   |
| [Green Heron had previously been lumped with the Striated Heron of Central and South America; together they were called Green-backed Heron. Once again they are considered to be separate species and return to their original names.] |                             |
| c) <u>American Golden-Plover</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <u>Lesser Golden-Plover</u> |
| [Lesser Golden-Plover was split into American Golden-Plover (Atlantic species) and Pacific Golden-Plover]                                                                                                                              |                             |
| b) <u>Barn Owl</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <u>Common Barn-Owl</u>      |
| c) <u>American Pipit</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <u>Water Pipit</u>          |
| [No longer considered to be the same species as Europe's Water Pipit]                                                                                                                                                                  |                             |

Although populations of Monk Parakeet in Florida and Texas have very recently been added to ABA's list of countable birds, the Monk Parakeets of Rhode Island have not yet been included. If that state's records committee accepts the bird, so will ABA. Such a decision could affect some of our members who visited Warwick, RI as part of the 1993 Sachuest Pt, RI trip listed below.

NA = Not Available

⇒ = the remainder of the trip report is on the following page

~~~~~

ANNUAL NEW YORK STATE DUCK COUNT - 1/17/93

(Hudson R. from North Troy to Hudson Falls, plus Hoosick R. from the Hudson R. to Schaghticoke)

Leader: Paul Grattan **Participants:** 2

Notes: Normally, the local rivers are covered with ice at this time of year except at dams and a few other spots. Although not part of the HMBC trip, in addition to the species listed below the following were seen on the Hudson R. in the Columbia Co. area: 124+ Mute Swans, 1 Snow Goose, 8 Northern Pintails, 600+ Canvasbacks, and 10 Buffleheads. The complete Region 8 report is published yearly in *Kingbird*.

Birds Observed (7 species):

Mute Swan	American Black Duck	Common Goldeneye	Common Merganser
Canada Goose	Mallard	Hooded Merganser	

~~~~~

## SACHUEST POINT & RHODE ISLAND COAST - 1/23-24/93

(The following were visited: Sachuest Pt. NWR, Norman Bird Sanctuary, Gardner Pond, Watchemocket Cove in East Providence, Turner Reservoir, Sakonnet Pt., Beavertail Pt., Jamestown park, Newport, Roger Wheeler State Beach, Pt. Judith, Galilee, Warwick)

**Leader:** Bill Lee ..... **Participants:** 12

**Birds Observed (73 species):**

|                           |                        |                          |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Red-throated Loon         | King Eider             | Sanderling               | Northern Mockingbird   |
| Common Loon               | Harlequin Duck         | Purple Sandpiper         | European Starling      |
| Horned Grebe              | Black Scoter           | Dunlin                   | Yellow-rumped Warbler  |
| Red-necked Grebe          | Surf Scoter            | Common Black-headed Gull | Palm Warbler           |
| Northern Gannet           | White-winged Scoter    | Bonaparte's Gull         | Northern Cardinal      |
| Great Cormorant           | Common Goldeneye       | Ring-billed Gull         | Rufous-sided Towhee    |
| Double-crested Cormorant  | Barrow's Goldeneye     | Herring Gull             | American Tree Sparrow  |
| Great Blue Heron          | Bufflehead             | Great Black-backed Gull  | Savannah Sparrow       |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | Hooded Merganser       | Black-legged Kittiwake   | Song Sparrow           |
| Mute Swan                 | Common Merganser       | Rock Dove                | White-throated Sparrow |
| Canada Goose              | Red-breasted Merganser | Mourning Dove            | Dark-eyed Junco        |
| American Black Duck       | Ruddy Duck             | Monk Parakeet            | Eastern Meadowlark     |
| Mallard                   | Turkey Vulture         | Belted Kingfisher        | Brown-headed Cowbird   |
| Eurasian Wigeon           | Northern Harrier       | Northern Flicker         | House Finch            |
| American Wigeon           | Sharp-shinned Hawk     | Blue Jay                 | American Goldfinch     |
| Canvasback                | Red-tailed Hawk        | American Crow            | House Sparrow          |
| Redhead                   | American Kestrel       | Black-capped Chickadee   |                        |
| Greater Scaup             | Ring-necked Pheasant   | Carolina Wren            |                        |
| Common Eider              | American Coot          | American Robin           |                        |

~~~~~

SARATOGA & WASHINGTON COUNTIES - 1/31/93

Leader: Bill Graham **Participants:** NA

Birds Observed: NA

~~~~~

## OWLING AT FIVE RIVERS EEC - 2/5/93

**Leaders:** Scott Stoner & Al Mapes ..... **Participants:** 23

**Notes:** Hot chocolate and a friendly gathering around the campfire on this cold winter night helped to compensate for the lack of any owls calling. Al Mapes, however, heard Great Horned Owl both before and after the actual Club trip. A plan was then made to meet one hour earlier in 1994.

**Birds Observed (0 species):**

---



---

## FIVE RIVERS EEC - 2/6/93

**Leader:** Scott Stoner ..... **Participants:** 4

**Notes:** Extremely cold. Most birding was done from inside watching the feeders.

**Birds Observed (19 species):**

|                  |                         |                        |                    |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Red-tailed Hawk  | Black-capped Chickadee  | Northern Mockingbird   | Dark-eyed Junco    |
| Mourning Dove    | Tufted Titmouse         | European Starling      | House Finch        |
| Downy Woodpecker | Red-breasted Nuthatch   | Northern Cardinal      | American Goldfinch |
| Blue Jay         | White-breasted Nuthatch | American Tree Sparrow  | House Sparrow      |
| American Crow    | Carolina Wren           | White-throated Sparrow |                    |

---



---

## CAPE ANN & PLUM ISLAND - 2/13-15/93

(Included Plum Island, Newburyport, Salisbury Beach, Winthrop, Nahant, & Marblehead Neck)

**Leader:** Bill Lee ..... **Participants:** 5

**Birds Observed (55 species on first day; days 2 and 3 NA):**

|                          |                        |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Red-throated Loon        | Common Eider           | Sanderling               | Black-capped Chickadee  |
| Common Loon              | Harlequin Duck         | Common Black-headed Gull | White-breasted Nuthatch |
| Horned Grebe             | Oldsquaw               | Bonaparte's Gull         | American Robin          |
| Red-necked Grebe         | Black Scoter           | Ring-billed Gull         | Northern Mockingbird    |
| Great Cormorant          | Surf Scoter            | Herring Gull             | European Starling       |
| Double-crested Cormorant | White-winged Scoter    | Iceland Gull             | Yellow-rumped Warbler   |
| Great Blue Heron         | Common Goldeneye       | Great Black-backed Gull  | Northern Cardinal       |
| Mute Swan                | Barrow's Goldeneye     | Black-legged Kittiwake   | American Tree Sparrow   |
| Brant                    | Bufflehead             | Black Guillemot          | Song Sparrow            |
| Canada Goose             | Common Merganser       | Rock Dove                | Snow Bunting            |
| American Black Duck      | Red-breasted Merganser | Mourning Dove            | House Finch             |
| Mallard                  | Bald Eagle             | Eastern Screech-Owl      | American Goldfinch      |
| Gadwall                  | Northern Harrier       | Blue Jay                 | House Sparrow           |
| Greater Scaup            | Red-tailed Hawk        | American Crow            |                         |

~~~~~

PARTRIDGE RUN - 2/27/93

Leaders: Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen **Participants:** 6

Notes: Sunny, light winds, 5-20°F. Time: 8-11 a.m.

Birds Observed (17 species):

Red-tailed Hawk	Blue Jay	European Starling	American Goldfinch
Ruffed Grouse	American Crow	Northern Cardinal	House Sparrow
Wild Turkey	Black-capped Chickadee	American Tree Sparrow	
Rock Dove	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco	
Mourning Dove	American Robin	House Finch	

~~~~~

## HUDSON RIVER (GREENE COUNTY) - 3/14/93

**Leader:** Bill Cook ..... Cancelled due to the "Blizzard of '93".

~~~~~

MILL CREEK MARSH - 3/21/93

Leader: Paul Connor Cancelled; marsh temporarily closed.

~~~~~

## DERBY HILL TO ROCHESTER - 3/27-28/93

**Leaders:** Kate Beale and Bob Boehm ..... **Participants:** 10

**Birds Observed (65 species):**

|                     |                        |                         |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Great Blue Heron    | Common Merganser       | Common Snipe            | American Pipit         |
| Tundra Swan         | Red-breasted Merganser | Ring-billed Gull        | European Starling      |
| Mute Swan           | Ruddy Duck             | Herring Gull            | Northern Cardinal      |
| Snow Goose          | Black Vulture          | Great Black-backed Gull | American Tree Sparrow  |
| Canada Goose        | Turkey Vulture         | Rock Dove               | Song Sparrow           |
| American Black Duck | Bald Eagle             | Mourning Dove           | White-throated Sparrow |
| Mallard             | Northern Harrier       | Downy Woodpecker        | Dark-eyed Junco        |
| Northern Pintail    | Sharp-shinned Hawk     | Northern Flicker        | Snow Bunting           |
| Gadwall             | Cooper's Hawk          | Pileated Woodpecker     | Red-winged Blackbird   |
| American Wigeon     | Northern Goshawk       | Horned Lark             | Eastern Meadowlark     |
| Canvasback          | Red-shouldered Hawk    | Tree Swallow            | Common Grackle         |
| Redhead             | Red-tailed Hawk        | Blue Jay                | Brown-headed Cowbird   |
| Ring-necked Duck    | Rough-legged Hawk      | American Crow           | House Finch            |
| Greater Scaup       | American Kestrel       | Black-capped Chickadee  | House Sparrow          |
| Common Goldeneye    | Gyr Falcon             | Eastern Bluebird        |                        |
| Bufflehead          | Killdeer               | American Robin          |                        |
| Hooded Merganser    | Greater Yellowlegs     | Northern Mockingbird    |                        |

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## LOWER HUDSON RIVER - 4/4/93

**Leader:** Walt Sabin ..... **Participants:** 2

**Notes:** Overcast, winds 0-5 mph, 38 + °F. Time: 7-11:30 a.m.

**Birds Observed (41 species):**

|                     |                         |                         |                        |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Mute Swan           | Red-breasted Merganser  | Tree Swallow            | White-throated Sparrow |
| Canada Goose        | Northern Harrier        | American Crow           | Dark-eyed Junco        |
| Wood Duck           | Red-tailed Hawk         | Fish Crow               | Red-winged Blackbird   |
| American Black Duck | Ring-billed Gull        | Black-capped Chickadee  | Common Grackle         |
| Mallard             | Herring Gull            | Tufted Titmouse         | Brown-headed Cowbird   |
| Ring-necked Duck    | Great Black-backed Gull | White-breasted Nuthatch | Purple Finch           |
| Scaup sp.           | Rock Dove               | American Robin          | House Finch            |
| Common Goldeneye    | Mourning Dove           | European Starling       | American Goldfinch     |
| Bufflehead          | Downy Woodpecker        | Northern Cardinal       | House Sparrow          |
| Hooded Merganser    | Hairy Woodpecker        | American Tree Sparrow   |                        |
| Common Merganser    | Northern Flicker        | Song Sparrow            |                        |

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## VISCHER FERRY N&HP - 4/10/93

**Leader:** Scott Stoner ..... **Participants:** 15

**Notes:** Cloudy with rain, no wind, 50°F. Time: 8:30-10:00 a.m.

**Birds Observed (37 species):**

|                     |                   |                        |                      |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Canada Goose        | Bufflehead        | Pileated Woodpecker    | Song Sparrow         |
| Wood Duck           | Hooded Merganser  | Tree Swallow           | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Green-winged Teal   | Common Merganser  | Blue Jay               | Common Grackle       |
| American Black Duck | Killdeer          | American Crow          | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| Mallard             | Ring-billed Gull  | Black-capped Chickadee | House Finch          |
| Blue-winged Teal    | Mourning Dove     | Tufted Titmouse        | American Goldfinch   |
| Gadwall             | Belted Kingfisher | American Robin         | House Sparrow        |
| American Wigeon     | Downy Woodpecker  | Northern Mockingbird   |                      |
| Ring-necked Duck    | Hairy Woodpecker  | Northern Cardinal      |                      |
| Common Goldeneye    | Northern Flicker  | American Tree Sparrow  |                      |

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## UTICA MARSH - 4/25/93

**Leader:** Tim Colborn

**Notes:** Cancelled; marsh flooded. The next trip listed here was substituted in its place.

~~~~~  
VISCHER FERRY N&HP - 4/25/93
 ~~~~~

**Leader:** Tim Colborn ..... **Participants:** 11

**Notes:** Partly sunny, winds about 10-15 mph, about 50-60°F. Time: 7:30-10:30 a.m.

**Birds Observed (40 species):**

|                     |                          |                        |                        |
|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Canada Goose        | Osprey                   | Barn Swallow           | Yellow-rumped Warbler  |
| Wood Duck           | Red-tailed Hawk          | Blue Jay               | Northern Cardinal      |
| American Black Duck | Ring-billed Gull         | American Crow          | Song Sparrow           |
| Mallard             | Rock Dove                | Black-capped Chickadee | Swamp Sparrow          |
| Blue-winged Teal    | Mourning Dove            | Tufted Titmouse        | White-throated Sparrow |
| Gadwall             | Belted Kingfisher        | Ruby-crowned Kinglet   | Red-winged Blackbird   |
| American Wigeon     | Downy Woodpecker         | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  | Common Grackle         |
| Ring-necked Duck    | Northern Flicker         | Eastern Bluebird       | Brown-headed Cowbird   |
| Hooded Merganser    | Tree Swallow             | American Robin         | House Finch            |
| Turkey Vulture      | No. Rough-winged Swallow | European Starling      | American Goldfinch     |

~~~~~  
WOODCOCK AT FIVE RIVERS EEC - 4/29/93
 ~~~~~

**Leader:** Al Mapes ..... **Participants:** 29

The male American Woodcock's flight display was observed on this evening trip.

~~~~~  
DELMARVA PENINSULA - 4/30-5/2/93
 ~~~~~

(Locations visited included Brigantine NWR (NJ), Little Creek WMA (DE), Bombay Hook NWR (DE), Pocomoke Swamp (MD/DE), Trapp Pond SP (DE), and Chincoteague NWR (VA))

**Leaders:** Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen ..... **Participants:** app. 15

**Birds Observed (148 species):**

|                           |                        |                        |                           |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Common Loon               | American Black Duck    | Northern Bobwhite      | Stilt Sandpiper           |
| Northern Gannet           | Mallard                | Clapper Rail           | Short-billed Dowitcher    |
| Double-crested Cormorant  | Blue-winged Teal       | Black-bellied Plover   | Common Snipe              |
| Great Blue Heron          | Northern Shoveler      | Semipalmated Plover    | Wilson's Phalarope        |
| Great Egret               | Gadwall                | Killdeer               | Laughing Gull             |
| Snowy Egret               | American Wigeon        | American Oystercatcher | Bonaparte's Gull          |
| Little Blue Heron         | Black Scoter           | Black-necked Stilt     | Ring-billed Gull          |
| Tricolored Heron          | Bufflehead             | Greater Yellowlegs     | Herring Gull              |
| Cattle Egret              | Hooded Merganser       | Lesser Yellowlegs      | Great Black-backed Gull   |
| Green-backed Heron        | Red-breasted Merganser | Willet                 | Common Tern               |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | Turkey Vulture         | Spotted Sandpiper      | Forster's Tern            |
| Glossy Ibis               | Osprey                 | Whimbrel               | Rock Dove                 |
| Mute Swan                 | Bald Eagle             | Ruddy Turnstone        | Mourning Dove             |
| Snow Goose                | Northern Harrier       | Sanderling             | Black-billed Cuckoo       |
| Brant                     | Red-tailed Hawk        | Semipalmated Sandpiper | Yellow-billed Cuckoo      |
| Canada Goose              | American Kestrel       | Least Sandpiper        | Chimney Swift             |
| Wood Duck                 | Peregrine Falcon       | Purple Sandpiper       | Ruby-throated Hummingbird |
| Green-winged Teal         | Ring-necked Pheasant   | Dunlin                 | Belted Kingfisher ⇒       |

|                          |                       |                           |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Red-bellied Woodpecker   | House Wren            | Yellow Warbler            | Northern Cardinal     |
| Downy Woodpecker         | Marsh Wren            | Blk-throated Blue Warbler | Indigo Bunting        |
| Northern Flicker         | Ruby-crowned Kinglet  | Yellow-rumped Warbler     | Rufous-sided Towhee   |
| Pileated Woodpecker      | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | Blackburnian Warbler      | American Tree Sparrow |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee       | Eastern Bluebird      | Yellow-throated Warbler   | Chipping Sparrow      |
| Acadian Flycatcher       | Gray-cheeked Thrush   | Pine Warbler              | Field Sparrow         |
| Eastern Phoebe           | Wood Thrush           | Prairie Warbler           | Savannah Sparrow      |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | American Robin        | Palm Warbler              | Song Sparrow          |
| Eastern Kingbird         | Gray Catbird          | Black-and-white Warbler   | Swamp Sparrow         |
| Purple Martin            | Northern Mockingbird  | American Redstart         | White-crowned Sparrow |
| Tree Swallow             | Brown Thrasher        | Prothonotary Warbler      | Red-winged Blackbird  |
| Barn Swallow             | European Starling     | Worm-eating Warbler       | Eastern Meadowlark    |
| Blue Jay                 | White-eyed Vireo      | Ovenbird                  | Boat-tailed Grackle   |
| American Crow            | Solitary Vireo        | Louisiana Waterthrush     | Common Grackle        |
| Fish Crow                | Yellow-throated Vireo | Kentucky Warbler          | Brown-headed Cowbird  |
| Carolina Chickadee       | Red-eyed Vireo        | Common Yellowthroat       | Northern Oriole       |
| Tufted Titmouse          | Blue-winged Warbler   | Hooded Warbler            | House Finch           |
| Brown-headed Nuthatch    | Nashville Warbler     | Summer Tanager            | American Goldfinch    |
| Carolina Wren            | Northern Parula       | Scarlet Tanager           | House Sparrow         |

~~~~~  
BREAKFAST AT FIVE RIVERS EEC - 5/8/93
 ~~~~~

**Leader:** Al Mapes ..... **Participants:** 43

**Birds Observed (81 species):**

|                        |                          |                            |                        |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Great Blue Heron       | Eastern Phoebe           | Cedar Waxwing              | Rufous-sided Towhee    |
| Green Heron            | Great Crested Flycatcher | European Starling          | Chipping Sparrow       |
| Canada Goose           | Tree Swallow             | Solitary Vireo             | Field Sparrow          |
| Wood Duck              | No. Rough-winged Swallow | Warbling Vireo             | Savannah Sparrow       |
| Mallard                | Barn Swallow             | Red-eyed Vireo             | Song Sparrow           |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk     | Blue Jay                 | Blue-winged Warbler        | White-throated Sparrow |
| Red-tailed Hawk        | American Crow            | Northern Parula            | White-crowned Sparrow  |
| American Kestrel       | Black-capped Chickadee   | Yellow Warbler             | Bobolink               |
| Killdeer               | Tufted Titmouse          | Cape May Warbler           | Red-winged Blackbird   |
| Solitary Sandpiper     | Red-breasted Nuthatch    | Blk-throated Blue Warbler  | Eastern Meadowlark     |
| Spotted Sandpiper      | White-breasted Nuthatch  | Yellow-rumped Warbler      | Common Grackle         |
| Ring-billed Gull       | House Wren               | Blk-throated Green Warbler | Brown-headed Cowbird   |
| Mourning Dove          | Winter Wren              | Pine Warbler               | Orchard Oriole         |
| Chimney Swift          | Ruby-crowned Kinglet     | Prairie Warbler            | Northern Oriole        |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher    | Black-and-white Warbler    | Purple Finch           |
| Downy Woodpecker       | Eastern Bluebird         | American Redstart          | House Finch            |
| Hairy Woodpecker       | Wood Thrush              | Northern Waterthrush       | American Goldfinch     |
| Northern Flicker       | American Robin           | Louisiana Waterthrush      | House Sparrow          |
| Pileated Woodpecker    | Gray Catbird             | Common Yellowthroat        |                        |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee     | Northern Mockingbird     | Scarlet Tanager            |                        |
| Least Flycatcher       | Brown Thrasher           | Northern Cardinal          |                        |

~~~~~  
CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK CITY - 5/9/93
 ~~~~~

**Leader:** Julie Abramson ..... **Participants:** 5

**Birds Observed (55 species):**

⇒

|                           |                        |                              |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Double-crested Cormorant  | Black-capped Chickadee | Magnolia Warbler             | Northern Cardinal      |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | Tufted Titmouse        | Black-throated Blue Warbler  | Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| Mallard                   | House Wren             | Yellow-rumped Warbler        | Rufous-sided Towhee    |
| Red-tailed Hawk           | Veery                  | Black-throated Green Warbler | Song Sparrow           |
| Spotted Sandpiper         | Swainson's Thrush      | Blackpoll Warbler            | Swamp Sparrow          |
| Herring Gull              | Wood Thrush            | Black-and-white Warbler      | White-throated Sparrow |
| Rock Dove                 | American Robin         | American Redstart            | Red-winged Blackbird   |
| Mourning Dove             | Gray Catbird           | Ovenbird                     | Common Grackle         |
| Chimney Swift             | European Starling      | Northern Waterthrush         | Brown-headed Cowbird   |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker    | White-eyed Vireo       | Louisiana Waterthrush        | Northern Oriole        |
| Downy Woodpecker          | Red-eyed Vireo         | Common Yellowthroat          | House Finch            |
| Northern Flicker          | Blue-winged Warbler    | Wilson's Warbler             | American Goldfinch     |
| Eastern Kingbird          | Northern Parula        | Summer Tanager               | House Sparrow          |
| Blue Jay                  | Yellow Warbler         | Scarlet Tanager              |                        |

~~~~~  
VISCHER FERRY N&HP - 5/9/93
 ~~~~~

**Leaders:** Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen ..... **Participants:** 27

**Notes:** Sunny, 50-75°F. Time: 7-11:30 a.m.

**Birds Observed (67 species):**

|                    |                           |                              |                        |
|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Common Loon        | Great Black-backed Gull   | Marsh Wren                   | Common Yellowthroat    |
| Great Blue Heron   | Mourning Dove             | Wood Thrush                  | Wilson's Warbler       |
| Green-backed Heron | Ruby-throated Hummingbird | American Robin               | Scarlet Tanager        |
| Canada Goose       | Belted Kingfisher         | Gray Catbird                 | Northern Cardinal      |
| Green-winged Teal  | Downy Woodpecker          | Northern Mockingbird         | Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| Mallard            | Northern Flicker          | Cedar Waxwing                | Song Sparrow           |
| Blue-winged Teal   | Least Flycatcher          | European Starling            | Swamp Sparrow          |
| Broad-winged Hawk  | Great Crested Flycatcher  | Yellow-throated Vireo        | White-throated Sparrow |
| Red-tailed Hawk    | Tree Swallow              | Warbling Vireo               | White-crowned Sparrow  |
| Virginia Rail      | No. Rough-winged Swallow  | Red-eyed Vireo               | Red-winged Blackbird   |
| Common Moorhen     | Barn Swallow              | Yellow Warbler               | Common Grackle         |
| Killdeer           | Blue Jay                  | Magnolia Warbler             | Brown-headed Cowbird   |
| Greater Yellowlegs | American Crow             | Black-throated Blue Warbler  | Northern Oriole        |
| Solitary Sandpiper | Black-capped Chickadee    | Yellow-rumped Warbler        | House Finch            |
| Spotted Sandpiper  | Tufted Titmouse           | Black-throated Green Warbler | American Goldfinch     |
| Ring-billed Gull   | White-breasted Nuthatch   | American Redstart            | House Sparrow          |
| Herring Gull       | House Wren                | Northern Waterthrush         |                        |

~~~~~  
ANN LEE POND - 5/12/93
 ~~~~~

**Leader:** Frank Murphy ..... **Participants:** about 8

**Birds Observed (27 species):**

|                  |                  |                        |                      |
|------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Canada Goose     | Northern Flicker | Wood Thrush            | Song Sparrow         |
| Wood Duck        | Eastern Phoebe   | American Robin         | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Mallard          | Tree Swallow     | Cedar Waxwing          | Common Grackle       |
| Killdeer         | Blue Jay         | Warbling Vireo         | Northern Oriole      |
| Mourning Dove    | American Crow    | Yellow Warbler         | American Goldfinch   |
| Chimney Swift    | House Wren       | Yellow-rumped Warbler  | House Sparrow        |
| Downy Woodpecker | Veery            | Rose-breasted Grosbeak |                      |

~~~~~  
CHRISTMAN SANCTUARY - 5/16/93
 ~~~~~

**Leaders:** Phil Johnson & Debbie Ellinger ..... **Participants:** 8

**Notes:** Cloudy, 60-65°F. Time: 7-10 a.m.

**Birds Observed (34 species):**

|                          |                         |                         |                      |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Turkey Vulture           | Black-capped Chickadee  | Blue-winged Warbler     | Chipping Sparrow     |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | Red-breasted Nuthatch   | Yellow Warbler          | Song Sparrow         |
| Northern Flicker         | White-breasted Nuthatch | Yellow-rumped Warbler   | Bobolink             |
| Eastern Phoebe           | House Wren              | Prairie Warbler         | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | Veery                   | Black-and-white Warbler | Common Grackle       |
| Eastern Kingbird         | Wood Thrush             | Ovenbird                | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| Barn Swallow             | American Robin          | Louisiana Waterthrush   | American Goldfinch   |
| Blue Jay                 | Gray Catbird            | Common Yellowthroat     |                      |
| American Crow            | Red-eyed Vireo          | Scarlet Tanager         |                      |

~~~~~  
PALMER'S RAVINE - 5/22/93
 ~~~~~

**Leader:** Tom Palmer ..... **Participants:** 14

**Notes:** Partly cloudy, about 42°F. Trip began at 7:00 a.m.

**Birds Observed (68 species):**

|                           |                          |                            |                       |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Great Blue Heron          | Pileated Woodpecker      | Wood Thrush                | Rufous-sided Towhee   |
| Canada Goose              | Eastern Wood-Pewee       | American Robin             | Chipping Sparrow      |
| Accipiter sp.             | Willow Flycatcher        | Gray Catbird               | Vesper Sparrow        |
| Turkey Vulture            | Eastern Phoebe           | Northern Mockingbird       | Savannah Sparrow      |
| Northern Harrier          | Great Crested Flycatcher | European Starling          | Song Sparrow          |
| Red-tailed Hawk           | Eastern Kingbird         | Red-eyed Vireo             | White-crowned Sparrow |
| American Kestrel          | Horned Lark              | Blue-winged Warbler        | Bobolink              |
| Wild Turkey               | Tree Swallow             | Yellow Warbler             | Red-winged Blackbird  |
| Killdeer                  | No. Rough-winged Swallow | Chestnut-sided Warbler     | Eastern Meadowlark    |
| Rock Dove                 | Barn Swallow             | Blk-throated Green Warbler | Common Grackle        |
| Mourning Dove             | Blue Jay                 | American Redstart          | Brown-headed Cowbird  |
| Chimney Swift             | American Crow            | Ovenbird                   | Northern Oriole       |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | Black-capped Chickadee   | Louisiana Waterthrush      | House Finch           |
| Red-headed Woodpecker     | Tufted Titmouse          | Common Yellowthroat        | American Goldfinch    |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker    | White-breasted Nuthatch  | Scarlet Tanager            | House Sparrow         |
| Downy Woodpecker          | House Wren               | Northern Cardinal          |                       |
| Hairy Woodpecker          | Eastern Bluebird         | Rose-breasted Grosbeak     |                       |
| Northern Flicker          | Veery                    | Indigo Bunting             |                       |

~~~~~  
SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD - 5/29/93
 ~~~~~

**Leaders:** George & Kay Hanson ..... **Participants:** 15

**Notes:** Partly sunny, some wind. Trip began at 7:00 a.m. ⇒

**Birds Observed (56 species + 1 hybrid):**

|                    |                          |                        |                      |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Great Blue Heron   | Eastern Phoebe           | European Starling      | Field Sparrow        |
| Canada Goose       | Great Crested Flycatcher | Yellow-throated Vireo  | Savannah Sparrow     |
| Wood Duck          | Eastern Kingbird         | Red-eyed Vireo         | Henslow's Sparrow    |
| Mallard            | Tree Swallow             | "Brewster's" Warbler   | Song Sparrow         |
| Turkey Vulture     | Barn Swallow             | Yellow Warbler         | Bobolink             |
| Red-tailed Hawk    | American Crow            | Chestnut-sided Warbler | Red-winged Blackbird |
| American Kestrel   | Black-capped Chickadee   | Prairie Warbler        | Eastern Meadowlark   |
| Killdeer           | White-breasted Nuthatch  | American Redstart      | Common Grackle       |
| Mourning Dove      | House Wren               | Ovenbird               | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| Chimney Swift      | Winter Wren              | Common Yellowthroat    | Northern Oriole      |
| Hairy Woodpecker   | Eastern Bluebird         | Northern Cardinal      | House Finch          |
| Northern Flicker   | Wood Thrush              | Rose-breasted Grosbeak | American Goldfinch   |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | American Robin           | Indigo Bunting         |                      |
| Alder Flycatcher   | Gray Catbird             | Rufous-sided Towhee    |                      |
| Willow Flycatcher  | Cedar Waxwing            | Chipping Sparrow       |                      |

-----  
**CASTLETON ISLAND - 6/5/93**  
 -----

**Leaders:** Cliff Lamere & Jean Landry ..... **Participants:** 11

**Notes:** Overcast, wind calm. Time: 7 a.m.- 12 noon.

**Birds Observed (49 species):**

|                          |                          |                         |                        |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Double-crested Cormorant | Willow Flycatcher        | Veery                   | Common Yellowthroat    |
| Great Blue Heron         | Least Flycatcher         | Wood Thrush             | Northern Cardinal      |
| Canada Goose             | Eastern Phoebe           | American Robin          | Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| Red-tailed Hawk          | Great Crested Flycatcher | Gray Catbird            | Song Sparrow           |
| Ring-billed Gull         | Tree Swallow             | Cedar Waxwing           | Red-winged Blackbird   |
| Great Black-backed Gull  | No. Rough-winged Swallow | European Starling       | Common Grackle         |
| Rock Dove                | Blue Jay                 | Yellow-throated Vireo   | Brown-headed Cowbird   |
| Mourning Dove            | American Crow            | Warbling Vireo          | Northern Oriole        |
| Chimney Swift            | Fish Crow                | Yellow Warbler          | House Finch            |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker   | Black-capped Chickadee   | Chestnut-sided Warbler  | American Goldfinch     |
| Downy Woodpecker         | Tufted Titmouse          | Cerulean Warbler        |                        |
| Northern Flicker         | White-breasted Nuthatch  | Black-and-white Warbler |                        |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee       | House Wren               | American Redstart       |                        |

-----  
**PINE BUSH - 6/6/93**  
**(Blueberry Hill area & Albany City Preserve)**  
 -----

**Leader:** Laura Sommers ..... **Participants:** 6

**Notes:** Drizzle, calm wind, cool. Time: 7:30-11 a.m.

**Birds Observed (33 species):**

|                    |                        |                      |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Killdeer           | Blue Jay               | American Robin       | European Starling      |
| Mourning Dove      | American Crow          | Gray Catbird         | Chestnut-sided Warbler |
| Downy Woodpecker   | Black-capped Chickadee | Northern Mockingbird | Prairie Warbler        |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | Tufted Titmouse        | Brown Thrasher       | Common Yellowthroat    |
| Eastern Kingbird   | House Wren             | Cedar Waxwing        | Scarlet Tanager        |

Northern Cardinal  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting  
Rufous-sided Towhee

Chipping Sparrow  
Field Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Red-winged Blackbird

Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Northern Oriole  
House Finch

American Goldfinch

~~~~~  
SARATOGA SPA STATE PARK - 6/12/93

Leader: Sheryl Zink **NA (leader moved)**

~~~~~  
**ELK LAKE - 6/19/93**

**Leader:** Bill Graham ..... **Participants: 13**

**Birds Observed (70 species):**

|                           |                          |                             |                        |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Common Loon               | Eastern Phoebe           | Wood Thrush                 | Northern Waterthrush   |
| Great Blue Heron          | Great Crested Flycatcher | American Robin              | Common Yellowthroat    |
| Mallard                   | Eastern Kingbird         | Cedar Waxwing               | Canada Warbler         |
| Common Merganser          | Tree Swallow             | European Starling           | Scarlet Tanager        |
| Broad-winged Hawk         | Cliff Swallow            | Solitary Vireo              | Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| Killdeer                  | Barn Swallow             | Red-eyed Vireo              | Chipping Sparrow       |
| Herring Gull              | Blue Jay                 | Nashville Warbler           | Song Sparrow           |
| Rock Dove                 | American Crow            | Northern Parula             | Swamp Sparrow          |
| Mourning Dove             | Common Raven             | Yellow Warbler              | White-throated Sparrow |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | Black-capped Chickadee   | Chestnut-sided Warbler      | Dark-eyed Junco        |
| Belted Kingfisher         | Red-breasted Nuthatch    | Magnolia Warbler            | Red-winged Blackbird   |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  | Brown Creeper            | Black-throated Blue Warbler | Common Grackle         |
| Hairy Woodpecker          | House Wren               | Yellow-rumped Warbler       | Brown-headed Cowbird   |
| Black-backed Woodpecker   | Winter Wren              | Blk-throated Green Warbler  | Northern Oriole        |
| Northern Flicker          | Eastern Bluebird         | Blackburnian Warbler        | Purple Finch           |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee        | Veery                    | Black-and-white Warbler     | Evening Grosbeak       |
| Alder Flycatcher          | Swainson's Thrush        | American Redstart           |                        |
| Least Flycatcher          | Hermit Thrush            | Ovenbird                    |                        |

~~~~~  
BIRDING BY EAR WORKSHOP AT FIVE RIVERS EEC - 6/20/93

Leader: Rob Taylor **Participants: 4**

It rained for about 2 hours during which time bird song tapes were played. When the rain let up, the participants walked around for about 1½ hours listening to live bird songs. No list of birds was kept.

~~~~~  
**THACHER PARK - 6/26/93**

**Leader:** Tim Colborn ..... **Participants: 5**

**Notes:** Humid, wind about 10 mph, hot (about 80°F). Time: 7:30-11 a.m. ⇒

**Birds Observed (52 species):**

|                          |                        |                            |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Turkey Vulture           | American Crow          | Solitary Vireo             | Common Yellowthroat    |
| Rock Dove                | Black-capped Chickadee | Yellow-throated Vireo      | Canada Warbler         |
| Mourning Dove            | Red-breasted Nuthatch  | Red-eyed Vireo             | Scarlet Tanager        |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | Brown Creeper          | Chestnut-sided Warbler     | Northern Cardinal      |
| Downy Woodpecker         | Winter Wren            | Magnolia Warbler           | Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| Northern Flicker         | Eastern Bluebird       | Blk-throated Blue Warbler  | Chipping Sparrow       |
| Pileated Woodpecker      | Veery                  | Yellow-rumped Warbler      | Song Sparrow           |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee       | Hermit Thrush          | Blk-throated Green Warbler | Dark-eyed Junco        |
| Least Flycatcher         | Wood Thrush            | Blackburnian Warbler       | Common Grackle         |
| Eastern Phoebe           | American Robin         | Black-and-white Warbler    | Brown-headed Cowbird   |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | Gray Catbird           | American Redstart          | Northern Oriole        |
| No. Rough-winged Swallow | Cedar Waxwing          | Ovenbird                   | House Finch            |
| Blue Jay                 | European Starling      | Louisiana Waterthrush      | American Goldfinch     |

~~~~~

BEAR SWAMP - 6/27/93

(Part of next trip)

Leader: Sam Madison **Participants:** 4

Notes: Clear to partly cloudy.

Birds Observed (15 species):

Hairy Woodpecker	Winter Wren	Gray Catbird	Common Yellowthroat
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Veery	Solitary Vireo	Canada Warbler
Black-capped Chickadee	Hermit Thrush	Chestnut-sided Warbler	White-throated Sparrow
Tufted Titmouse	Wood Thrush	Ovenbird	

Birds seen in the vicinity of Bear Swamp or Hannacroix Ravine (next report) or between them were the following: Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Cliff Swallow, Rock Dove, and Bank Swallow. Also, Ruffed Grouse was seen at Bear Swamp two or three days earlier during a trial run. Huyck Preserve was omitted from the trip.

~~~~~

### HANNACROIX RAVINE - 6/27/93

(Part of previous trip)

**Leader:** Sam Madison ..... **Participants:** 4

**Notes:** Clear to partly cloudy.

**Birds Observed (32 species):**

|                           |                        |                            |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Red-tailed Hawk           | Blue Jay               | European Starling          | Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| Mourning Dove             | American Crow          | Red-eyed Vireo             | Indigo Bunting         |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | Black-capped Chickadee | Magnolia Warbler           | Chipping Sparrow       |
| Downy Woodpecker          | Veery                  | Yellow-rumped Warbler      | Field Sparrow          |
| Northern Flicker          | Hermit Thrush          | Blk-throated Green Warbler | Red-winged Blackbird   |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee        | Wood Thrush            | Ovenbird                   | House Finch            |
| Eastern Phoebe            | American Robin         | Common Yellowthroat        | American Goldfinch     |
| Eastern Kingbird          | Gray Catbird           | Scarlet Tanager            | House Sparrow          |

FERD'S BOG - 7/3/93

Leader: Gerry Colborn ..... Cancelled

HELDEBERG WORKSHOP - 7/13/93

Leader: Cliff Lamere ..... Participants: 11

Notes: Time: 5:30-7:45 p.m. Leader and date of trip were changed.

Birds Observed (27 species):

- |                     |                          |                         |                        |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Turkey Vulture      | Great Crested Flycatcher | White-breasted Nuthatch | Red-eyed Vireo         |
| Red-tailed Hawk     | Eastern Kingbird         | House Wren              | Blue-winged Warbler    |
| Downy Woodpecker    | Tree Swallow             | Veery                   | Chestnut-sided Warbler |
| Northern Flicker    | Barn Swallow             | Wood Thrush             | Indigo Bunting         |
| Pileated Woodpecker | Blue Jay                 | American Robin          | Field Sparrow          |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee  | American Crow            | Gray Catbird            | American Goldfinch     |
| Eastern Phoebe      | Black-capped Chickadee   | Cedar Waxwing           |                        |

FIVE RIVERS EEC - 7/17/93

Leader: Scott Stoner ..... Participants: 9

Notes: Dry, clear, 70-80°F.

Birds Observed (44 species):

- |                           |                        |                     |                      |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Green-backed Heron        | Belted Kingfisher      | Tufted Titmouse     | Chipping Sparrow     |
| Canada Goose              | Downy Woodpecker       | House Wren          | Field Sparrow        |
| Wood Duck                 | Northern Flicker       | Eastern Bluebird    | Song Sparrow         |
| American Black Duck       | Eastern Wood-Pewee     | American Robin      | Bobolink             |
| Mallard                   | Eastern Phoebe         | Gray Catbird        | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Red-tailed Hawk           | Eastern Kingbird       | Brown Thrasher      | Common Grackle       |
| Killdeer                  | Tree Swallow           | Cedar Waxwing       | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| Spotted Sandpiper         | Barn Swallow           | European Starling   | Northern Oriole      |
| Mourning Dove             | Blue Jay               | American Redstart   | House Finch          |
| Chimney Swift             | American Crow          | Common Yellowthroat | American Goldfinch   |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | Black-capped Chickadee | Northern Cardinal   | House Sparrow        |



~~~~~

JAMAICA BAY - 8/8/93

Leaders: George & Kay Hanson **Participants:** 14

Notes: Sunny, wind light, temperatures in the 80's F. Time: 9 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Birds Observed (77 species):

Common Loon	American Wigeon	Least Sandpiper	Gray Catbird
Pied-billed Grebe	Ruddy Duck	White-rumped Sandpiper	Northern Mockingbird
Double-crested Cormorant	Osprey	Pectoral Sandpiper	Brown Thrasher
Great Blue Heron	Common Moorhen	Stilt Sandpiper	Cedar Waxwing
Great Egret	Black-bellied Plover	Short-billed Dowitcher	European Starling
Snowy Egret	Semipalmated Plover	Laughing Gull	Yellow Warbler
Little Blue Heron	Killdeer	Ring-billed Gull	Northern Waterthrush
Tricolored Heron	American Oystercatcher	Herring Gull	Common Yellowthroat
Green-backed Heron	Greater Yellowlegs	Great Black-backed Gull	Northern Cardinal
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Lesser Yellowlegs	Common Tern	Rufous-sided Towhee
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Solitary Sandpiper	Forster's Tern	Song Sparrow
Glossy Ibis	Willet	Least Tern	Red-winged Blackbird
Mute Swan	Spotted Sandpiper	Rock Dove	Common Grackle
Canada Goose	Whimbrel	Mourning Dove	Boat-tailed Grackle
Wood Duck	Hudsonian Godwit	Tree Swallow	House Finch
American Black Duck	Ruddy Turnstone	Barn Swallow	American Goldfinch
Mallard	Red Knot	American Crow	House Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal	Sanderling	Fish Crow	
Northern Shoveler	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Marsh Wren	
Gadwall	Western Sandpiper	American Robin	

~~~~~

## VISCHER FERRY N&HP - 8/14/93

**Leader:** Scott Stoner ..... **Participants:** 7

**Notes:** About 75°F. Time: 7-10:45 a.m.

**Birds Observed (41 species):**

|                           |                        |                         |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Great Blue Heron          | Mourning Dove          | White-breasted Nuthatch | Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| Great Egret               | Belted Kingfisher      | Marsh Wren              | Song Sparrow           |
| Green-backed Heron        | Downy Woodpecker       | American Robin          | Swamp Sparrow          |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | Hairy Woodpecker       | Gray Catbird            | Red-winged Blackbird   |
| Wood Duck                 | Northern Flicker       | Northern Mockingbird    | Common Grackle         |
| American Black Duck       | Eastern Phoebe         | Cedar Waxwing           | Northern Oriole        |
| Mallard                   | Eastern Kingbird       | European Starling       | House Finch            |
| Blue-winged Teal          | Blue Jay               | Warbling Vireo          | American Goldfinch     |
| Cooper's Hawk             | American Crow          | Yellow Warbler          |                        |
| Common Moorhen            | Black-capped Chickadee | Common Yellowthroat     |                        |
| Killdeer                  | Tufted Titmouse        | Northern Cardinal       |                        |

~~~~~  
MONOMOY ISLAND, CAPE COD, MASSACHUSETTS - 8/21/93

(Day #1 of two day trip - see next report)

Leader: Bill Lee **Participants:** 9

Birds Observed (36 species):

Red-necked Grebe	Greater Yellowlegs	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Common Tern
Double-crested Cormorant	Lesser Yellowlegs	Least Sandpiper	Forster's Tern
White-winged Scoter	Willet	White-rumped Sandpiper	Least Tern
Northern Harrier	Whimbrel	Short-billed Dowitcher	Rock Dove
Black-bellied Plover	Hudsonian Godwit	Laughing Gull	Mourning Dove
Semipalmated Plover	Marbled Godwit	Bonaparte's Gull	Barn Swallow
Piping Plover	Ruddy Turnstone	Herring Gull	Northern Cardinal
Killdeer	Red Knot	Great Black-backed Gull	American Goldfinch
American Oystercatcher	Sanderling	Roseate Tern	House Sparrow

~~~~~  
**NORTH MONOMOY ISLAND, CAPE COD, MASS. - 8/22/93**

(Day #2 of two day trip - see previous report)

**Leader:** Bill Lee ..... **Participants:** NA

**Birds Observed (52 species):**

|                           |                        |                         |                         |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Double-crested Cormorant  | Willet                 | Wilson's Phalarope      | Barn Swallow            |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | Whimbrel               | Laughing Gull           | Blue Jay                |
| Canada Goose              | Hudsonian Godwit       | Bonaparte's Gull        | American Crow           |
| Common Eider              | Marbled Godwit         | Ring-billed Gull        | White-breasted Nuthatch |
| Osprey                    | Ruddy Turnstone        | Herring Gull            | American Robin          |
| Northern Harrier          | Red Knot               | Great Black-backed Gull | Gray Catbird            |
| Black-bellied Plover      | Sanderling             | Roseate Tern            | Northern Cardinal       |
| American Golden-Plover    | Semipalmated Sandpiper | Common Tern             | Savannah Sparrow        |
| Semipalmated Plover       | Western Sandpiper      | Forster's Tern          | Red-winged Blackbird    |
| Piping Plover             | Least Sandpiper        | Least Tern              | Common Grackle          |
| American Oystercatcher    | White-rumped Sandpiper | Rock Dove               | House Finch             |
| Greater Yellowlegs        | Dunlin                 | Mourning Dove           | American Goldfinch      |
| Lesser Yellowlegs         | Short-billed Dowitcher | Belted Kingfisher       | House Sparrow           |

~~~~~  
CAMP PINNACLE (RAPTOR WATCH)- 9/12/93

Leader: Tim Colborn **Participants:** NA

Note 1: Weather partly sunny/partly cloudy, unfavorable winds of only 5-10 mph from the south, 65-75°F. Time: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Note 2: The previous day, 9/11/93, 9 HMBC members appeared spontaneously and identified 8 raptors: Turkey Vulture (2), Osprey (2), Northern Harrier (1), Sharp-shinned Hawk (5), Cooper's Hawk (2), Broad-winged Hawk (29), Red-tailed Hawk (6), Merlin (1). Also 2 Common Ravens.

Note 3: Arthur Long observed 8 raptors, 10:48 a.m. - 3:04 p.m., on 9/19/93: Turkey Vulture (10), Osprey (2), Bald Eagle (1), Sharp-shinned Hawk (11), Cooper's Hawk (3), Broad-winged Hawk (86), Red-tailed Hawk (11), American Kestrel (14). Also 2 Common Ravens. ⇒

Birds Observed (18 species, 5 were raptors):

Turkey Vulture (2)	Rock Dove	No. Rough-winged Swallow	Scarlet Tanager
Osprey (1)	Chimney Swift	Blue Jay	Dark-eyed Junco
Sharp-shinned Hawk (2)	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	American Robin	American Goldfinch
Red-shouldered Hawk (1)	Northern Flicker	Gray Catbird	
Broad-winged Hawk (15)	Tree Swallow	Cedar Waxwing	

~~~~~

### FIVE RIVERS EEC - 9/18/93

**Leader:** Ray Perry ..... **Participants:** 9

**Notes:** Rain, no wind, 60°F. 8 a.m. - 12 noon.

**Birds Observed (34 species):**

|                   |                         |                             |                        |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Wood Duck         | Eastern Phoebe          | Gray Catbird                | Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| Mallard           | Blue Jay                | Cedar Waxwing               | Song Sparrow           |
| Northern Harrier  | American Crow           | Red-eyed Vireo              | Brown-headed Cowbird   |
| Cooper's Hawk     | Black-capped Chickadee  | Nashville Warbler           | Northern Oriole        |
| American Kestrel  | Tufted Titmouse         | Magnolia Warbler            | Purple Finch           |
| Mourning Dove     | Red-breasted Nuthatch   | Black-throated Blue Warbler | House Finch            |
| Belted Kingfisher | White-breasted Nuthatch | Blk-throated Green Warbler  | American Goldfinch     |
| Downy Woodpecker  | Wood Thrush             | Common Yellowthroat         |                        |
| Northern Flicker  | American Robin          | Northern Cardinal           |                        |

~~~~~

ANN LEE POND - 9/19/93

Leader: Frank Murphy **Participants:** NA

Birds Observed: NA

~~~~~

### MONHEGAN ISLAND - 9/24-27/93

**Leader:** Bill Lee (data for Sep 25 only; other days NA) ..... **Participants:** 9

**Birds Observed (52 species):**

|                          |                          |                         |                         |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Common Loon              | Great Black-backed Gull  | White-breasted Nuthatch | Palm Warbler            |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Black Guillemot          | Golden-crowned Kinglet  | Bay-breasted Warbler    |
| Canada Goose             | Rock Dove                | Ruby-crowned Kinglet    | Blackpoll Warbler       |
| Wood Duck                | Belted Kingfisher        | American Robin          | Black-and-white Warbler |
| Common Eider             | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | Gray Catbird            | Worm-eating Warbler     |
| Osprey                   | Downy Woodpecker         | Brown Thrasher          | Wilson's Warbler        |
| Northern Harrier         | Northern Flicker         | Cedar Waxwing           | White-throated Sparrow  |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk       | Eastern Kingbird         | European Starling       | Red-winged Blackbird    |
| Cooper's Hawk            | Blue Jay                 | Nashville Warbler       | Common Grackle          |
| American Kestrel         | American Crow            | Cape May Warbler        | Northern Oriole         |
| Merlin                   | Common Raven             | Yellow-rumped Warbler   | Purple Finch            |
| Peregrine Falcon         | Black-capped Chickadee   | Blackburnian Warbler    | House Finch             |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | Red-breasted Nuthatch    | Pine Warbler            | American Goldfinch      |

~~~~~

ALCOVE RESERVOIR & BASIC CREEK RESERVOIR - 10/2/93

Leader: Walt Sabin Participants: 7

Notes: Partly cloudy, wind SSW 10-20 mph, 55°F. Time: 7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Birds Observed (41 species):

Common Loon	Ring-necked Duck	Downy Woodpecker	Gray Catbird
Pied-billed Grebe	Osprey	Northern Flicker	Solitary Vireo
Great Blue Heron	Bald Eagle	Eastern Phoebe	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Snow Goose	Red-tailed Hawk	Tree Swallow	Black-throated Green Warbler
Canada Goose	American Kestrel	Blue Jay	Northern Cardinal
Wood Duck	Ruffed Grouse	American Crow	Rufous-sided Towhee
Green-winged Teal	Killdeer	Black-capped Chickadee	White-throated Sparrow
American Black Duck	Pectoral Sandpiper	Tufted Titmouse	Brown-headed Cowbird
Mallard	Ring-billed Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch	
Gadwall	Rock Dove	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	
American Wigeon	Mourning Dove	American Robin	

~~~~~

## CAMP PINNACLE - 10/9/93

Leader: Tim Colborn ..... Cancelled

~~~~~

LONG ISLAND HAWK WATCH - 10/10/93

Leader: Richard Guthrie. Cancelled

~~~~~

## MASSACHUSETTS COAST - 10/30-31/93

(Boston South Shore to Sandy Neck; pelagic portion cancelled due to high waves)

Leaders: Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen ..... Participants: app. 9

Birds Observed (68 species):

|                          |                        |                         |                         |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Red-throated Loon        | Common Eider           | Semipalmated Plover     | Downy Woodpecker        |
| Common Loon              | Harlequin Duck         | Greater Yellowlegs      | Northern Flicker        |
| Pied-billed Grebe        | Oldsquaw               | Sanderling              | Blue Jay                |
| Horned Grebe             | Black Scoter           | Purple Sandpiper        | American Crow           |
| Red-necked Grebe         | Surf Scoter            | Dunlin                  | Common Raven            |
| Northern Gannet          | White-winged Scoter    | Laughing Gull           | Black-capped Chickadee  |
| Great Cormorant          | Common Goldeneye       | Bonaparte's Gull        | Tufted Titmouse         |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Bufflehead             | Ring-billed Gull        | Red-breasted Nuthatch   |
| Great Blue Heron         | Red-breasted Merganser | Herring Gull            | White-breasted Nuthatch |
| Mute Swan                | Sharp-shinned Hawk     | Iceland Gull            | Brown Creeper           |
| Canada Goose             | Red-tailed Hawk        | Great Black-backed Gull | Carolina Wren           |
| American Black Duck      | American Kestrel       | Rock Dove               | Golden-crowned Kinglet  |
| Mallard                  | Black-bellied Plover   | Mourning Dove           | American Robin          |
| American Wigeon          | American Golden-Plover | Belted Kingfisher       | Northern Mockingbird ⇒  |

European Starling  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Northern Cardinal

Field Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow

Snow Bunting  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle

House Finch  
American Goldfinch  
House Sparrow

~~~~~  
SARATOGA LAKE (only) - 10/31/93

Leader: Barb Putnam Postponed to 11/14

~~~~~  
**TOMHANNOCK RESERVOIR - 11/7/93**

Leader: Bill Gorman ..... Participants: 7

Notes: Cloudy, moderate wind, cold, a few snowflakes. Time: 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Birds Observed (49 species):

|                          |                        |                         |                       |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Common Loon              | Black Scoter           | Herring Gull            | European Starling     |
| Red-necked Grebe         | Common Goldeneye       | Great Black-backed Gull | Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Bufflehead             | Rock Dove               | Northern Cardinal     |
| Great Blue Heron         | Hooded Merganser       | Mourning Dove           | American Tree Sparrow |
| Snow Goose               | Common Merganser       | Downy Woodpecker        | Dark-eyed Junco       |
| Brant                    | Red-tailed Hawk        | Northern Flicker        | Red-winged Blackbird  |
| Canada Goose             | Killdeer               | Blue Jay                | House Finch           |
| Green-winged Teal        | Greater Yellowlegs     | American Crow           | Pine Siskin           |
| American Black Duck      | Lesser Yellowlegs      | Black-capped Chickadee  | American Goldfinch    |
| Mallard                  | Semipalmated Sandpiper | Red-breasted Nuthatch   | House Sparrow         |
| Northern Shoveler        | Dunlin                 | White-breasted Nuthatch |                       |
| Ring-necked Duck         | Common Snipe           | Eastern Bluebird        |                       |
| Lesser Scaup             | Ring-billed Gull       | American Robin          |                       |

~~~~~  
ALBANY COUNTY FOR WATERFOWL - 11/13/93

Leaders: Phil Johnson & Debbie Ellinger Cancelled

~~~~~  
**SARATOGA LAKE (only) - 11/14/93**

Leader: Barb Putnam ..... Participants: 14

Notes: Morning cloudy, afternoon drizzle, no wind, 60°F. Time: 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Birds Observed (34 species):

|                     |                    |                         |                     |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Common Loon         | Greater Scaup      | Red-tailed Hawk         | Downy Woodpecker    |
| Horned Grebe        | Common Goldeneye   | Ring-billed Gull        | Northern Flicker    |
| Great Blue Heron    | Bufflehead         | Herring Gull            | Pileated Woodpecker |
| Canada Goose        | Hooded Merganser   | Great Black-backed Gull | Blue Jay            |
| American Black Duck | Common Merganser   | Rock Dove               | American Crow       |
| Mallard             | Turkey Vulture     | Mourning Dove           |                     |
| Redhead             | Sharp-shinned Hawk | Belted Kingfisher       |                     |

⇒

Black-capped Chickadee  
Red-breasted Nuthatch

White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper

Cedar Waxwing  
European Starling

Dark-eyed Junco  
House Sparrow

**RHODE ISLAND COAST - 11/20-21 1993**

(Sachuest NWR, L. Compton, E. Providence, Pt Judith, Beavertail SP)

**Leaders:** Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen ..... **Participants:** 8

**Birds Observed (75 species):**

Red-throated Loon  
Common Loon  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Horned Grebe  
Red-necked Grebe  
Northern Gannet  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Mute Swan  
Snow Goose  
Brant  
Canada Goose  
American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Northern Shoveler  
Gadwall  
Eurasian Wigeon  
American Wigeon

Ring-necked Duck  
Greater Scaup  
Common Eider  
Harlequin Duck  
Oldsquaw  
Black Scoter  
Surf Scoter  
White-winged Scoter  
Common Goldeneye  
Bufflehead  
Hooded Merganser  
Red-breasted Merganser  
Ruddy Duck  
Turkey Vulture  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Cooper's Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
American Kestrel  
American Coot

Black-bellied Plover  
Killdeer  
Greater Yellowlegs  
Ruddy Turnstone  
Sanderling  
Purple Sandpiper  
Laughing Gull  
Common Black-headed Gull  
Bonaparte's Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Herring Gull  
Great Black-backed Gull  
Rock Dove  
Mourning Dove  
Belted Kingfisher  
Downy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Horned Lark  
Blue Jay

American Crow  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Carolina Wren  
American Robin  
Gray Catbird  
Northern Mockingbird  
European Starling  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Northern Cardinal  
American Tree Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Snow Bunting  
Eastern Meadowlark  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch  
House Sparrow

**FIVE RIVERS EEC - 12/4/93**

**Leaders:** Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen ..... **Participants:** 6

**Notes:** Cloudy, 10-20°F. Time: 7:30 a.m. - 12 noon.

**Birds Observed (23 species):**

Canada Goose  
Mallard  
Northern Harrier  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Ring-billed Gull  
Mourning Dove  
Downy Woodpecker  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Northern Mockingbird  
European Starling  
Northern Cardinal  
American Tree Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
House Finch  
Pine Siskin  
House Sparrow

