

Feathers

64th Troy Christmas Bird Count *by Larry Alden*

Weather in the week preceding this year's count was warm, with rain the day before and temperatures flirting with 50° F. Count day temperatures were above freezing, dropping throughout the day with the wind picking up as a cold front came in from the northwest. Rain in pre-dawn hours stopped in time for early owling. While the warm weather was not enough to liberate ponds and reservoirs of ice (particularly Tomhannock Reservoir), the Mohawk and Hudson rivers were largely ice-free. This kept duck numbers low, either because the ducks had already headed south with the ice before the warm spell, or because they were spread out in the open water. BALD EAGLE numbers were lower than expected, with only one immature among the eight adults. There was enough open water for two GREAT BLUE HERONS and a surprising eight BELTED KINGFISHERS to be counted. Woodpecker numbers were high with record numbers of PILEATED and RED-BELLIES. The four YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS reported were less than the record high of 11 reported two years ago, but after many years of being absent or finding only one or two individuals, sapsuckers now seem to be wintering in the count circle with regularity. There were record numbers of CAROLINA WRENS and two GRAY CATBIRDS tied the previous record. Winter finches and blackbirds were virtually absent,

with only two COMMON REDPOLLS and four RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS making the list.

Significant misses were American Kestrel (second year in a row), Wild Turkey (first time in 14 years), Northern Harrier (third time in the last ten years), and any white-winged gulls. Overall gull numbers were low. AMERICAN CROW numbers were also low, probably stemming from an increase in the number of crows roosting in Albany this year.

While the total number of species seen (64) was lower than the average of the ten previous years (66.5), the number of participants (31) was the highest in my memory and this resulted in "doubling up" of cars in a few sectors.

Laura Wright, a reporter from *OnEarth* magazine (published by the Natural Resources Defense Council), tagged along with my field party for the Troy Christmas Bird Count on January 2. Here is the link to her story, entitled "*How I Found Solace Among the Birds*".

<http://www.onearth.org/article/how-i-found-solace-among-the-birds>

Group A: Tomhannock Reservoir, Pittstown

Group B: Town of Schaghticoke (south), Melrose

Group C: Town of Schaghticoke (north), Stillwater, Village of Schaghticoke

Group D: Cohoes, Green Island, Colonie

Group E: Waterford, eastern Halfmoon

Group F: Troy, Brunswick

Group G: Clifton Park, western Halfmoon

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President's Corner




The chorus of the House Finches and the musical o-ka-lee-ee of the Red-Winged Blackbird is a sure sign that spring has begun. Spring also reminds us that a new year for the Hudson Mohawk Bird Club has begun. All of you have received your dues reminder and we do want you to remain loyal members.

Our annual business meeting and program will be in late April. We will honor members, elect new officers and board members and give you a chance to speak to any issues you have. The food and program will also be very good.

Our club is very strong, due to your support and we must keep it up. New issues come up all the time and we must confront them immediately. We have been acting in a pro-active manner so that we are always prepared.

Please renew, come to the Annual Dinner, join in the field trips and enjoy the programs. The more we see you the more we can do for you.

Happy Birding
Gary P. Goodness, President 

HMBC Contact Information

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E-mail: contact@hmhc.net

HMBC website: <http://hmhc.net>

HMBC Board Meetings

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

Newsletter Contributions Desired

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

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

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

Send **all** paper submissions to:

Chris Grossman

7 Nott Rd.

Rexford, NY 12148

Tomhannock Reservoir Saturday, November 6, 2010

Fifteen participants gathered on a chilly, mostly cloudy fall morning for this year's HMBC Tomhannock Reservoir trip. We began at 8:30 a.m. There was no wind to speak of, so viewing conditions were good across the water.

The area south of Route 7 was populated with mostly CANADA GEESE and a few ducks mixed in, including a pair of WOOD DUCKS, but a highlight was an immature BALD EAGLE perched in a tree on the small island. We also picked up our first of two GREAT BLUE HERONS hunkered down on the shoreline. Closer inspection of the ever-shifting geese revealed a single "Blue Goose", or the dark morph SNOW GOOSE, which was formerly considered a separate species. This morph is uncommon in the east, and it was a "life morph" for many. North of Route 7 we saw a distant COMMON LOON but little else.

We then gathered in carpools and began our trip counter-clockwise around the reservoir. At our first stop on Nortonville Road, we found a tight flock of thirty or so BLACK SCOTERS. Most of the birds were females or young males, but there were at least two adult males in the group. Scoters had been reported starting a few days earlier from several locations in the Adirondacks and it turned out that BLACK SCOTERS were also reported from several HMBC-area lakes this day.

At our next pull-off, we hit the jackpot with woodpeckers, getting DOWNY, PILEATED, RED-BELLIED, and YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER. There were A TUFTED TITMOUSE, CHICKADEES, and a BROWN CREEPER. We also had a flock of AMERICAN ROBINS feeding on berries well up in the canopy.

At Otter Creek, we looked for Green-winged Teal, but the water level had risen from a week before and it wasn't conducive for puddle ducks. There were two CORMORANTS and a COMMON LOON,

and just before we moved on, someone pointed out a BELTED KINGFISHER looking for a snack.

At the spillway on the north end of the reservoir, we found distant RING-NECKED DUCKS and a few BUFFLEHEADS. Some people saw some distant swallows, which we surmised were TREE SWALLOWS, although at this time of year you should always check for something more exotic. Cave Swallows have been turning up with greater regularity in the Northeast in the last few years.

Our regular stops on Ford Road didn't turn up much of anything new other than a single WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - our only sparrow of the day - and some HOUSE FINCHES and a LONE AMERICAN GOLDFINCH at a feeder. Although we had a good variety of waterfowl, we saw no blackbirds or winter finches and overall diversity was down. Our total of 40 species was a little lower than average for this trip. We ended back where we started at 12:30 p.m.

Species seen: SNOW GOOSE, CANADA GOOSE, WOOD DUCK, AMERICAN BLACK DUCK, MALLARD, RING-NECKED DUCK, BLACK SCOTER, BUFFLEHEAD, COMMON GOLDENEYE, HOODED MERGANSER, COMMON MERGANSER, RUDDY DUCK, COMMON LOON, DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT, GREAT BLUE HERON, BALD EAGLE, RED-TAILED HAWK, RING-BILLED GULL, ROCK PIGEON, MOURNING DOVE, BELTED KINGFISHER, RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER, YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER, DOWNY WOODPECKER, PILEATED WOODPECKER, BLUE JAY, AMERICAN CROW, TREE SWALLOW, BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE, TUFTED TITMOUSE, WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH, BROWN CREEPER, EASTERN BLUEBIRD, AMERICAN ROBIN, EUROPEAN STARLING, WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, NORTHERN CARDINAL, HOUSE FINCH, AMERICAN GOLDFINCH, HOUSE SPARROW.

— Larry Alden

Waterfowl of the Hudson River South Sunday, March 6, 2011

The river was open but we couldn't see it. Fog obscured most of the water, but at least it wasn't frozen solid as it was the previous weekend. Still we see fewer ducks every year. Eight species of waterfowl last year, this year only five! Roughly 100 CANADA GEESE, 20 COMMON MERGANSERS, 10 HOODED MERGANSERS, 20 MALLARDS and 8 AMERICAN BLACK DUCKS. We didn't see any eagles this year...well we couldn't even see the tree line most of the time. But the few folks that hung on to the bitter, wet, rainy end and went to the farm fields in Catskill were treated to a "flock" of migrant KILLDEER, a total of 16 of them. Everybody got to see lots of RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS and COMMON GRACKLES, both in flight as well as holding territory, whereas only one sharp-eared person heard a blackbird last year. The most delightful moment was when the pair of PILEATED WOODPECKERS flew in and sounded off in front of us at the wood-duck-box swamp on 4-mile Point Road in Athens. The total of 25 species also included GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL and EASTERN BLUEBIRD.

The Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club was represented by Tom and Colleen Williams, Bob Ramonowski, Andrea Ricard and Ann D'Attilio. The Alan Devoe Bird Club was represented by Tom Hobrock, Chris Franks and Jacob Van Zutphen.

— Bill Cook

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
SNOW GOOSE			2		1			3
CANADA GOOSE	478	106	2233		555			3372
WOOD DUCK		2						2
AMERICAN BLACK DUCK		4	22	26	27	5		84
MALLARD	28	109	288	93	111	23	5	657
REDHEAD					1			1
RING-NECKED DUCK			9					9
COMMON GOLDENEYE		3	52	40	21	37		153
HOODED MERGANSER			31		3			34
COMMON MERGANSER	1	18	142	44	54	16		275
RUFFED GROUSE		1				1		2
GREAT BLUE HERON					1		1	2
BALD EAGLE*			4	2	1	4		9
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK		1	3	2	1			7
COOPER'S HAWK		1		1	2	2	1	7
NORTHERN GOSHAWK			1					1
RED-TAILED HAWK	11	7	19	17	13	9	7	83
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK	1							1
MERLIN			1		1			2
PEREGRINE FALCON				1		1		2
RING-BILLED GULL	4	24	13	97	128	32	6	304
HERRING GULL		6		18	136	28	71	259
GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL		10	4	88	86	7	91	286
ROCK PIGEON	128	283	204	310	78	87	231	1321
MOURNING DOVE	88	158	38	19	47	20	63	433
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL		1						1
GREAT HORNED OWL	1	1						2
BELTED KINGFISHER		3	1	1	2		1	8
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	3	6	11	4	3	3	1	31
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER		3	1					4
DOWNY WOODPECKER	15	22	14	18	11	16	7	103
HAIRY WOODPECKER	6	8	4		1		3	22
NORTHERN FLICKER	5	3	2	2		8	4	24
PILEATED WOODPECKER	2	2	5	1		3	3	16
BLUE JAY	41	51	62	30	19	22	39	264
AMERICAN CROW	315	95	402	362	610	747	94	2625
FISH CROW		4		4	2			10
COMMON RAVEN		1	1			1		3
HORNED LARK							29	29
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	85	142	102	62	25	73	25	514
TUFTED TITMOUSE	11	36	31	17	10	8	10	123
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH			1	1			1	3
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	8	22	34	14	4	7	6	95
BROWN CREEPER	3					1		4
CAROLINA WREN		6	3	9	3		1	22
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	3		3					6
EASTERN BLUEBIRD	23	16	23	8	5	9	27	111
AMERICAN ROBIN	31	177	15	6	45	1	83	358

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
GRAY CATBIRD		1			1			2
NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD	3	4			2	1	3	13
EUROPEAN STARLING	378	380	583	194	342	78	422	2377
CEDAR WAXWING	15	14					17	46
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW	22	22	13		8	9	46	120
FIELD SPARROW			2					2
SAVANNAH SPARROW			1					1
SONG SPARROW	2	4	4	3	10	4	2	29
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	7	11	25		6	3	9	61
DARK-EYED JUNCO	91	34	92	27	44	41	38	367
NORTHERN CARDINAL	20	19	19	3	6	6	10	83
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD		4						4
HOUSE FINCH	22	47	16	1	1	11	19	117
COMMON REDPOLL		2						2
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	18	24	34	5	12	23	21	137
HOUSE SPARROW	155	134	72	54	112	86	11	624
								0
TOTAL BIRDS	2024	2032	4642	1584	2551	1433	1408	15672
TOTAL SPECIES	34	48	46	36	43	37	36	64

* BALD EAGLES - 8 adults, 1 immature. Bald Eagle total does not match the total reported by each individual party. Some eagles were seen by two or more parties. I used my professional judgment to make the final determination.

Bold = record number or tied record for the count

Group A: Brad Walker, Alison Van Keuren, Steve Abrahamsen, Brett Abrahamsen. 6:45 a.m. - 1:45 p.m. (0.5 hours, 0.25 miles on foot; 6 hours, 57 miles by car. Also 0.5 hours, 5.5 miles owling.)

Group B: Larry Alden, Jackie Bogardus, Steve Chorvas, Kayleigh Chalkowski, Laura Wright, Pam Higgins. 5:40 a.m. - 5:10 p.m. (0.5 hour, 0.25 mile on foot; 9 hours, 61 miles by car. Also 2 hours, 11 miles owling.)

Group C: Rich Guthrie, Jory Langner, Jocelyn Cole, Tom Beaudoin, Susan Beaudoin. 7:15 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (2 hours, 4 miles on foot; 7.75 hours, 41 miles by car.)

Group D: George Steele, Lena Andersson, Nancy Slack, Hank Stebbins, Jeff Sama. 7:15 a.m. - 5:15 p.m. (3 hours, 3 miles on foot; 6.5 hours, 45 miles by car. Also 0.5 hours, 0.25 miles owling.)

Group E: Bill Lee, Jaime Taft, Carol Blackwell, Jim Ries. 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (4 hours, 3 miles on foot; 6 hours, 59 miles by car.)

Group F: Jeremy Kirchman, Joel Ralston, Kathryn Schneider. 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (4.25 hour, 1.5 miles on foot; 4.75 hours, 64 miles by car.)

Group G: Joan Cipriani, Peggy Rudis, Honey Hollen, Susan Stewart. 7:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. (4.5 hours, 1.5 miles on foot, 4.25 hours, 58 miles by car.)

Notes: Hours rounded to the nearest quarter hour.

HMBC Literary Night

Monday, April 4, 2011

7:00 p.m. at the Colonie Library

The Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club will host a literary event at 7:00 p.m. on April 4 at the Colonie Town Library. If you have a favorite short piece of nature writing, either self-composed or by one of your favorite writers, you are invited to read it to the group. We also welcome listeners so don't feel you have to come prepared to read. If you would like to bring a dessert to share with the group you are more than welcome to do so!

Annual Meeting and Dinner
Tropical Birds Do the Coolest Things

Mark Garland

Wednesday, April 27, 2011

Century House, Latham NY

HMBC MEMBERS will receive a separate mailing in late winter with the details of this event. If you are not a member, please join!

Mark Garland is a free-lance naturalist and founder of a small company that plans, organizes, and conducts nature-oriented tours, classes, workshops, and presentations. He previously worked for 4 year as Senior Naturalist for the Cape May Bird Observatory and, before that, for 17 years as Senior Naturalist with the Audubon Naturalist Society. He teaches Elderhostel Birding sessions in Cape May, serves as Nature Editor for the Metro Connection program on Washington's public radio station (WAMU). He taught for many years at the Hog Island Audubon Camp on the Maine Coast. He has led

over 200 birding and nature tours to destinations on 4 continents. He is a frequent speaker at birding festivals, clubs, and other venues. He lives in West Cape May, NJ, where he is currently an Associate Naturalist with the Cape May Bird Observatory.

His program, "Tropical Birds Do the Coolest Things" looks at some of the fascinating behaviors and activities of many birds found in tropical regions of the Americas and Africa. It's truly a celebration of the beauty and wonder of birds.

LOVE IS a photo BLIND

Victor Lamoureux

Monday, May 2, 2011

7:00 p.m. at the Colonie Library

One of the best ways to get up close to wildlife and to be able to observe wildlife for an extended period of time is through the use of a blind (or hide). Going through photos one day, Victor was amazed to realize just how many stories he can tell about creatures he has taken pictures of from blinds. Although photographic techniques will be briefly discussed, this presentation will largely be about the natural history of species he has had the pleasure to photograph from various types of blinds including shorebirds, kingfishers, herons, songbirds and much more.

Victor S. Lamoureux is a Ph.D. biologist earning his degree studying the ecology of green frogs. He is also a professional educator, having taught High School biology, and is currently an Adjunct Professor at Broome Community College, Binghamton, NY. He has been a northeastern

naturalist, birder, and wildlife photographer for over 20 years. His talks are highlighted by his award-winning, published photography. He lives in Vestal, NY with his wife and three young children.

Looking further ahead – details will follow as available.

Birding Namibia

Gregg Recer

Monday, June 6, 2011

7:00 p.m. at the Colonie Library

A Year with Nature
in Western New York

Tim Baird

Monday, September 12, 2011

7:00 p.m. at the Colonie Library

Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch

Andy Mason

Monday, October 3, 2011

7:00 p.m. at the Colonie Library

Short-eared Owls

John Polunci

Monday November 7, 2011

7:00 p.m. at the Colonie Library

Holiday Party

program to be announced

Monday, December 5, 2011

7:00 p.m. at the Five Rivers

Environmental Education Center

Lillian Thompson Samuelson, 84, died peacefully at home on January 16th, 2011 of multiple myeloma cancer. She was born in Boydton, Virginia in 1926. Lillian attended Boydton High School, graduating Valedictorian at age 16, and then attended a special draftsmanship program at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia.

After completion of her training in about 1941, she worked near Baltimore, Maryland as a drafts person at the Glenn L. Martin Company on the Mars Flying Boat. She then returned to her studies at Virginia Tech where she met her future husband, Dale Samuelson, and they moved together to Chicago. After their marriage on November 1st, 1947, she entered Illinois Institute of Technology, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 1949.

For the past 49 years they have lived in the Capital District region, first in Pattersonville, then Guilderland, and most recently in Niskayuna at the Glen Eddy retirement community.

For nearly 20 of those years she owned and operated “American

Indian Treasures” on Western Avenue in Guilderland. She had a life-long interest in Native Americans, traveling to most of the Indian reservations in the country and studying the huge variety of Native American cultures. She worked with the Indian Arts and Crafts Association for many years and held many offices including the Presidency.


Lillian contributed in many ways to the HMBC by giving many presentations on the places they traveled like Australia, New Zealand, and Malaysia. She also served as Treasurer for many years. She loved the HMBC birding programs and hardly ever missed one – when she was in town and not traveling the world.

Lillian was an avid birder and naturalist, traveling with Dale to more than 80 different countries to meet people from other cultures and study birds. She saw nearly half of the 10,000 species of birds existing in the world. Some of the countries she explored and the number of birds seen there include Costa Rica (469), Belize (229), Mexico (414), Brazil (762), Argentina (441), Ecuador

(702), Venezuela (357), Guatemala (310), Kenya (650), Australia (414), Borneo (151), New Guinea (186), Egypt (72), Thailand (211), India (325), Sweden (131), and the United Kingdom (200). She and Dale also traveled extensively throughout the U.S. where they saw 621 species in the lower 48, and 113 in Hawaii.

She also loved to garden, called herself an “old farmer” and always had several beautiful flower beds. And, of course, she loved to feed the birds.

She is survived by her dear husband of 63 wonderful years, Dale Samuelson, and their two children Ralph Samuelson of Tokyo, Japan and Ann Samuelson of Tucson, Arizona.

At the time of this writing, plans for a memorial service were uncertain. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Nature Conservancy, Attn: Treasury (Web/Sustainer), 4245 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22203, (800) 628-6860 or online at: <http://my.nature.org/donate/donate-online.html> 

Warning: all cities aren't huge, and watch for puns

Q 1. I'm standing in a city on the water. To my north a short ways, winters half the world's population of a large white bird. To my south, a festival celebrates this bird. There are large-tailed grackles in the park. Boat-tailed? Great-tailed? Hard to tell here, it's about 50/50. Maybe I'll go south a short ways, where the Boat-tailed Grackle won't follow!

What small city am I in? (*Hint: It has the same name as some much colder towns*)

Q 2 I'm standing in a city best known for the study of bugs. It has a strange city resident bird (in great numbers) who also likes bugs. You can see it while walking downtown, or you can see its huge nests if you go near where bugs are usually studied.

What small city am I in?

Q 3. I'm standing 10 miles west of a city best known for its snowbirds. I am watching a colorful version of a much more common bird walk around on lily pads. Nearby a bird slightly related to the above-mentioned white bird makes a good meal of escargot. It walks carefully but well. As usual, I'm too late to see the much sought after bird that also likes this meal.

What small city am I near?

Q 4. I'm standing about 2 miles from an unincorporated town known for being very cold a long time ago when a famous father was there. In the spot I'm in the first bird banding took place, done by a man sometimes thought of as the father of birding.

What town am I near?

Turn the page upside down to see the answers.

— Ann B'Rells 

A 1. Rockport Texas is just south of Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, with over 270 Whooping Cranes wintering in 2011. The festival is in February in Port Aransas to the south, and there are almost no Boat-tailed Grackles in Port Aransas or south. Both Rockport Massachusetts and Rockport Maine are on the water and way colder.

A 2. The city known for entomology is Davis, California. The Yellow-billed Magpie eats bugs and carton and other stuff, and nests at the Arboretum on the campus of the University of California at Davis, near the entomology department.

A 3. Boynton Beach Florida is east of Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, where the Purple Gallinule joins its more Common Moorhens. The Limpkin (which doesn't have a leg problem) is kin to the cranes. And Snail Kites are notorious for "having been there this morning".

A 4. Valley Forge, Pennsylvania is best know for the battle that has its name, with George Washington. John James Audubon's first home in the U.S. is near there, and he is in the U.S. is near there, and he is usually credited with doing the first bird banding.

APRIL

VISCHER FERRY

Sunday, April 17
Saratoga County; evening
Coordinator: John Hershey
371-3114
hersheyj@nycap.rr.com

We will start out on this trip looking for spring waterfowl such as American Wigeon, Green & Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser and Pied-billed Grebe. Possible migrant songbirds include Palm Warbler and Rusty Blackbird. We will linger until after dusk to listen for nocturnal bird songs from rails, woodcocks and owls. With a little luck we may get to see one displaying in the moonlight. Bring a flashlight and meet at the main entrance at 5:45 p.m.

WOODCOCK AT FIVE RIVERS

Thursday, April 28
Albany County; evening
Coordinator: Craig Thompson
475-0291 (Daytime)

During a meandering to the Woodcock site, we will look for other early spring birds. Woodcock flight time is expected to be around 8pm. Bring binoculars and a flashlight. Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Five Rivers Interpretive Building.

FOUR MILE POINT AND VOSBURGH MARSH

Saturday, April 30
Greene County; morning
Coordinator: Al Mapes
439-4086
aamapes@nycap.rr.com

On this morning trip, we will hike to the marsh for waterfowl and migrant land birds. We will also check the Hudson River for waterfowl and Bald Eagles. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Cocksackie Boat Launch and car caravan to Four Mile Point Road.

MAY

PEEBLES ISLAND STATE PARK

Sunday, May 1
Saratoga County; morning
Coordinator: Gary Goodness
862-9260
goodness@nycap.rr.com

Peebles Island in early May is an ideal environment to watch the spring migration. The variety of habitat insures a plethora of birds; expect to see songbirds, sandpipers, waterfowl and the rest of an early mix of migrants.

Meet in the parking lot on Peebles Island at 8:30 a.m. There may be a State Park \$6 parking fee, so ride with a friend if you can.

BIRDS & BREAKFAST AT FIVE RIVERS

Saturday, May 7
(Albany County; morning)
Coordinators: Scott Stoner & Denise Hackert -Stoner
475-6760
scottjstoner@aol.com

Our annual celebration of the arrival of spring will be held at Five Rivers on Game Farm Road in Delmar. The center has an excellent trail system through a variety of habitats. You can expect to see and hear a number of resident and migrant species including Canada Geese with their newly hatched goslings, Eastern Bluebirds feeding their young and (hopefully), a number of different warblers. An early group will meet in the parking lot at 6:00 a.m. The building will open at 6:45 a.m. with coffee flowing. Groups will leave at 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. You may join one of these groups or go out on your own as we try to find as many species as possible. We'll rally at 10:30 a.m. for coffee, doughnuts, bagels, fresh fruit and a list compilation. The breakfast is free, but donations will be accepted.

VISCHER FERRY MIGRANTS

Sunday, May 8
Saratoga County; morning
Coordinators: Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen
899-2678
gregg.recer@verizon.net

This is one of the club's most popular spring trips. We will explore this varied site for warblers and other songbirds as well as marsh species including rails and bitterns.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the main entrance next to the Whipple Bridge.

PACHAQUACK PRESERVE

Saturday, May 14
(Columbia County; morning)
Coordinator: Gary Goodness
225-2288
goodness@nycap.rr.com

The Pachaquack Preserve is the main park, in Valatie. Pachaquack is a Mohegan word for a "meeting place". The preserve is the meeting place of the Kinderhook Creek and the Valatie Kill. One third of the trails are along the Kinderhook Creek and are perfect for waterthrush and songbirds that desire insects along a creek.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Park & Ride on the left side of Route 9 leaving exit 12 on I-90 east. When exiting exit 12 on I-90 turn right on Route 9 South. The Park & Ride is a few hundred yards on the left.

SCHODACK ISLAND STATE PARK

Sunday, May 15
Rensselaer County; morning
Coordinator: Tom Williams
857-2176
trwdsd@yahoo.com

Schodack Island State Park is actually on a peninsula in the tidal portion of the Hudson River. The western side of the island, along the Hudson River shoreline, is mostly floodplain forest. Schodack Creek runs along the east

side; there is an observation point at the end of a side trail. The southern portion of the NYS Bird Conservation Area has posted breeding Cerulean Warblers. Spring migrants and returning residents are plentiful, and the boat launch offers views up and down the river for Bald Eagles. We will walk the orange trail south, returning on the yellow trail including a side trip to view Schodack Creek.

Meet at 7 a.m. at the Kmart Plaza on Routes 9 & 20 in East Greenbush to carpool, as there is a \$6 per car fee for the state park.

CENTURY RUN

Saturday, May 21
(all day)

Compiler: Bob Yunick
377-0146
1527 Myron. St.
Schenectady, NY 12309

Coordinator: Larry Alden
861-6087
overlook@nycap.rr.com

Each group must stay together and jointly identify species reported. Reports must be mailed to the compiler by May 29 in order to be counted. Also, please call or email **Birdline** with the total species and highlights for your group.

Note: You can contact Larry Alden if you have any questions or need suggestions. Also let Larry know if you need people to fill out a group or are interested in joining a group; he may be able to make a match.

*NOTE: The compiler MUST have your results by **Saturday May 28** in order to be counted and published in **Feathers**.*

FORT DRUM

Sunday, May 29
Jefferson County; overnight
Coordinator: Donna Zimmerman
869-6624
Local Leader: Jeff Bolsinger

Reservations by March 26 Limit: 15 people

Fort Drum is widely recognized as being one of the best locations in the northeastern U.S. to see grassland birds, especially Henslow's Sparrows and Sedge Wrens, but also has significant populations of shrubland birds, nightjars, Red-headed Woodpeckers and other birds that are rare or declining in the region. Join Jeff Bolsinger, Fort Drum's Migratory Bird Biologist, on a tour of this Army installation, to search for these species and more. We will meet at Fort Drum's Natural Resources Permit Office at 7:00 a.m. and carpool through the training areas until approximately mid-afternoon.

If there is sufficient interest, we will also make a brief visit to the airfield area on the evening beforehand to listen for Whip-poor-wills and Common Nighthawks.

Registration is necessary by March 26 so that the proper permits can be obtained

JUNE

DYKEN POND

Saturday, June 4
Rensselaer County; morning
Coordinator: Tom Williams
857-2176
trwdsd@yahoo.com

Dyken Pond Environmental Center is located on the Rensselaer Plateau near Cropseyville. It is an elevated wet woodlands with a system of loop trails. It can be quite wet and buggy, so wear appropriate footwear and bring bug protection. Our hike will take us down to the edge of the pond, through thick woodlands, across the boardwalk of bog-like Dustin Swamp and back to the

entrance road. Higher elevation warblers and songbirds can be expected here, along with the omnipresent Ovenbird.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Walmart Plaza on Route 7 (760 Hoosick Road) in Troy at the plaza entrance directly across the road from Dunkin' Donuts.

WINIFRED MATTHEWS HOLT PRESERVE

Sunday, June 5
Albany County; morning
Coordinators: David & Sandy Martin
765-4982
david@naturebits.org

The Holt Preserve is a small wooded preserve in the southern part of the town of New Scotland. We will be searching for breeding woodland birds in the preserve and for open-country birds in the surrounding fields. Hooded Warbler and Worm-eating Warbler have been found there in recent years. Trails may be muddy and one mail trail is steep. Meet at 7 a.m. at the CDTA Park & Ride at the corner of Elm Avenue and State Route 32 (Delmar By-pass) in Delmar. We will carpool to the preserve from there.

RESERVATIONS FOR DOODLETOWN ROAD

Wednesday, June 8

DOODLETOWN ROAD

Saturday, June 11
Rockland County; morning – early afternoon
Coordinator: Tom Williams
857-2176
trwdsd@yahoo.com

Reservations by June 8

Doodletown was an isolated hamlet in the town of Stony Point, NY. Purchased by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission during the 1960s, it is now part of Bear Mountain State Park. For birders, it is renowned for the diversity and abundance of its species, especially warblers. Cerulean, Hooded, Blue-winged and Worm-eating are

all present here along with the more common warblers. You might also expect both Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Indigo Bunting, Scarlet Tanager, Wood Thrush and several species each of vireos, flycatchers and swallows.

We should be at Doodletown between 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. We will meet at 5:30 a.m. at Colonie Center in Colonie, with a return time of approximately 2:00 p.m.

Registration is required by Wednesday June 8 for this trip.

PAPSCANEE ISLAND PRESERVE

Sunday, June 12

Rensselaer County; morning

Coordinator: Don Gresens

370-3923

dgresens@nycap.rr.com

This field trip will take us to the different habitats of Papscaanee Island Preserve consisting of deciduous forest, cultivated farmland and freshwater marshes where we will see a variety of bird species. Swallows, herons and Wood Ducks can be observed in the wetland areas. Titmice, nuthatches and woodpeckers are found in the forest as well as Eastern Wood –Peewee and Great-crested Flycatcher. Veery, wood Thrush and American Redstarts are common. Other summer birds include Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Black and White and Blue-winged Warblers, Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Kmart parking lot on Routes 9 and 20 in East Greenbush to carpool, since parking at the preserve is limited.

EMMA TREADWELL THACHER NATURE CENTER

Sunday, June 19

Albany County; morning

Coordinator: Ellen Pemrick

452-4384

lnmp@nycap.rr.com

The Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center is located near Thompson's Lake State Park in Albany County. The property offers trails through diverse habitats including woodlands, meadows and fields. Nesting Tree Swallows and House Wrens are usually among the first birds we see. We also have found Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting and Bobolink in past years. Depending on weather conditions, we will walk multiple trails in search of warblers, flycatchers, thrushes and other species.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the larger parking area to the right of the main building.

CHERRY PLAIN STATE PARK

Saturday, June 25

Rensselaer County; morning

Coordinators: Phil & Marge Whitney

477-9050

philandmarjwhitney@

earthlink.net

Cherry Plain State Park is situated on the Rensselaer Plateau of the Capital District. The relatively high elevation, cool climate and a variety of forested and wetland habitats make this a good area for northern species. Nesting species include Least Flycatcher, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager, Common Raven, Broad-winged Hawk, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Black and White and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Veery, Hermit Thrush and Winter Wren also nest here.

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Hannaford parking lot on the right side of Route 43 just past the intersection of Route 150 in West Sand Lake to carpool to the park.

JULY

BIRDING SCHOHARIE COUNTY

Sunday, July 2

Schoharie County; morning

Coordinator: Tom Williams

857-2176

trwdsd@yahoo.com

We will spend the morning visiting sites that will introduce participants to a variety of habitats and the resident birds of these Schoharie County sites. Corbin Hill Road Marsh is home to rails, herons, and flycatchers. Max V. Shaul State Park hosts a diverse group of woodland birds, including several warbler species. Burnt-Rossman Hills State Forest has stands of pure evergreen species along with the higher elevation summer birds including thrushes and warblers. We will also stop at the N.Y. Power Authority site in North Blenheim visitor center observation area before continuing on to the nature trail there.

Meet at 6:30 a.m. in the Colonie Center parking lot near Sears Auto Center on the Wolf Road side

H. G. REIST SANCTUARY

Sunday, July 10

Schenectady County; morning

Coordinator: Don Gresens

370-3923

dgresens@nycap.rr.com

Join us at the club's sanctuary to look and listen for summer and year-round resident species and to try to add new species to the sanctuary's bird list. The sanctuary is a woodland habitat, so woodland species are the highlight of this trip. Several species of thrushes, flycatchers, vireos and warblers as well as woodpeckers, wrens, Scarlet Tanager, tufted Titmouse and Black-capped Chickadees have been observed here. The walk is on easy, level trails.

Meet at the parking lot at the Hummingbird Manor entrance on Oakmont Street in Niskayuna at 8 a.m.

Feathers

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

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