

April 2015
Volume 75 No. 2

*Bi-monthly publication of the
Hudson-Mohawk
Bird Club, Inc.*

Feathers

THE 115TH TROY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

by Larry Alden

The 66th running of the Troy CBC was held on Saturday, January 3, 2015. The weather prior to the count was mostly snow-free and mild. However, cold weather hit a few days before the count and froze most of the Tomhannock Reservoir, leaving only a few open patches. The overnight period before count day was calm and cold, meaning the owling conditions were excellent.

Temperatures rose from a low of 20° to 28° by the afternoon. Winds were light throughout the day, but light snow started at about 2:15, continuing through the end of the count. Ponds and lakes were largely frozen over, but streams and rivers had open water. Small patches of ice floated downstream along the larger rivers.

Waterfowl diversity was low, with a single Snow Goose, pair of Pintails, trio of Green-winged Teal (a count high), and two dozen Hooded Mergansers being the only waterfowl of note. Wild Turkeys and a single Ruffed Grouse were found this year, unlike last year, and Great Blue Herons were also back after year off.

Raptors were found in lower than normal numbers and diversity, but Bald Eagles were widespread across the circle. Five Iceland Gulls were the only white-winged gulls around this year. The three common owl species were found in four of the seven sectors, and Belted Kingfishers were around thanks to open water.

(continued on p 28)

Inside This Issue ...

President's Corner.....	18
HMBC Birding Guide.....	19
NYS Birder's Conference..	20
HMBC and Bethlehem School	21
Welcome to new members..	22
Reist Sanctuary.....	22
Field Trip Reports.....	22
Upcoming HMBC Programs	25
Upcoming Field Trips.....	31

HMBC BOARD

Officers

President:

Jory Langner
46 Tamarack Dr
Delmar, NY 12054
439-0604

Jory.Langner@gmail.com

Vice-President:

Carol Blackwell
110 Elmhurst Ave
Rensselaer, NY 12144

238-3086 cblackwell@nycap.rr.com

Secretary:

John Hershey
15 Carriage Road
Clifton Park, NY 12065

371-3114 hersheyj@nycap.rr.com

Treasurer:

Elen Pemrick
117 Western Ave
West Charlton, NY 12010

882-9163 lnmp@nycap.rr.com

Directors

Don Gresens 370-3923
dgresens@nycap.rr.com

Gregg Recer 899-2678
gregg_recer@alum.rpi.edu

Jim Ries 792-4497
jimries@roadrunner.com

George Steele 842-9305
silphidae@aol.com

Scott Stoner 785-6760
programs@hmbc.net

Committee Chairs

Birdline: Phil Whitney
birdline@hmbc.net

Conservation: Patti Packer
pattiac@nycap.rr.com

Field Trips: Don Gresens
dgresens@nycap.rr.com

Youth: George Steele
silphidae@aol.com

Membership: Gregg Recer
gregg_recer@alum.rpi.edu

Programs: Scott Stoner
programs@hmbc.net

Publications: Chris Grossman
publications@hmbc.net

Publicity: Ann B'Rells
ann9br-hmbc@yahoo.com

Raptor Migration: Gary Goodness
Goodness@nycap.rr.com

Records: (vacant)

Reist Sanctuary: Michael Gann
mgann@nycap.rr.com

Social: Peggy Rudis
peggyrudis@msn.com

President's Corner

On April 1, my term as president comes to an end, as I am term-limited. You can attend our Annual Meeting on this date to listen to my funny and incredibly moving speech, one that is inspirational, gets to the true meaning of life and will bring you to enlightenment and give you good birding for years to come. There will be joy in mudville for men and women, young and old, birders and non-birders alike.

Or not.

I haven't created the speech yet. But I'll be sure to talk loudly so that you won't fall asleep.

Great appreciation to the board, the committee chairs, all the volunteers and members. Thank you all for your support, your hard work, your creativity and best of all, for your sense of humor.

I am looking forward to releasing my responsibilities with the club, getting my binoculars nice and shiny, and go out birding again. Something I've missed these past two years. See you at the annual meeting, and then out in the field. Good birding to you all,

Jory Langner
president@hmbc.net

You, too, can contribute to Feathers!

- Do you have a birding story or photos that might be of interest to other birders?
- Did you take a birding vacation?
- Do you have a favorite birding spot?

Share them with HMBC members by submitting them to:

HMBC Contact Information
BIRDLINE of EASTERN NEW YORK:
E-mail: contact@hmbc.net
HMBC website: <http://hmbc.net>

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

Send all paper submissions to:
Chris Grossman
7 Nott Rd.
Rexford, NY 12148

New printing of *Birding New York's Hudson Mohawk Region* is now available

Birding New York's Hudson Mohawk Region, a new printing of HMBC's classic book, is now available. A copy is \$20 for HMBC members and \$25 for non-members. An additional charge of \$5 for postage and handling will be added to the price per book. Contact Chris Grossman bgrossman@nycap.rr.com or (518) 399-9159 if you are interested in purchasing a copy. Checks should be made out to ***Hudson Mohawk Bird Club*** and should be sent to:

Chris Grossman
7 Nott Rd
Rexford, NY 12148



SAVE THE DATE AND LEND A HAND!!

HMBC IS HOSTING THE NEXT ANNUAL NYS BIRDERS CONFERENCE AND NYSOA ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 2 - 4, 2015

Guess what? We are hosting this year's NYS Birders Conference / NYSOA Annual Meeting this October 2-4 at the Holiday Inn on Wolf Road in Albany. This is a great opportunity to show off our favorite birding locations to our compatriots throughout the state and to have the chance to hang out with past friends while meeting new ones.

We have secured Jon Dunn as our banquet speaker for Saturday evening. He will be speaking on "Wood Warblers of Eastern North America" Here is a short bio:

Jon Dunn is a senior leader for **Wings Birding Tours**. Mr. Dunn started birding at age 8, an event triggered, he says, by the life-altering appearance of a bright male Hooded Oriole in his garden. He has extensive knowledge of the identification and distribution of North American birds, and has published numerous papers in a wide variety of journals. He has been Chief Consultant / Editor for all six editions of the National Geographic Society's Field Guide to the Birds of North America and the Peterson's Field Guide to Warblers. In 2012 Jon was the recipient of the ABA's Roger Tory Peterson Award, given for a lifetime of achievements in promoting the cause of birding. We are most fortunate to have Jon Dunn headlining our program this year.

Aside from encouraging everyone to attend the conference, getting this show on the road is a great opportunity to meet some more club members and have some fun working together. Our steering committee, currently comprised of Jory Langner, Bill Lee, Nancy Kern, Chris Grossman, Will Raup and Kathy Schneider (NYSOA liaison) is working hard to set up a budget, recruit volunteers and solicit vendors and corporate sponsors.

Great appreciation for those who have stepped up to chair our committees:

Audio visual: John Kent

Speakers: Scott Stoner

Finance: Ellen Pemrick

Printed Materials - Kate Storms

Publicity - George Steele

Registration and Hospitality - Chris Gossman

Field Trips - Don Gresens

Workshops - Craig Thompson

Exhibits / Vendors - Naomi Lloyd

Corporate Sponsors - Will Raup

Papers Sessions - Dawn O'Neal / Jeremy Kirchman

Hotel Liaison - Jory Langner

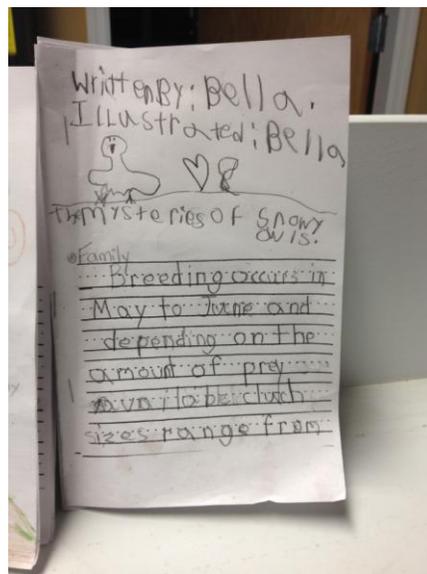
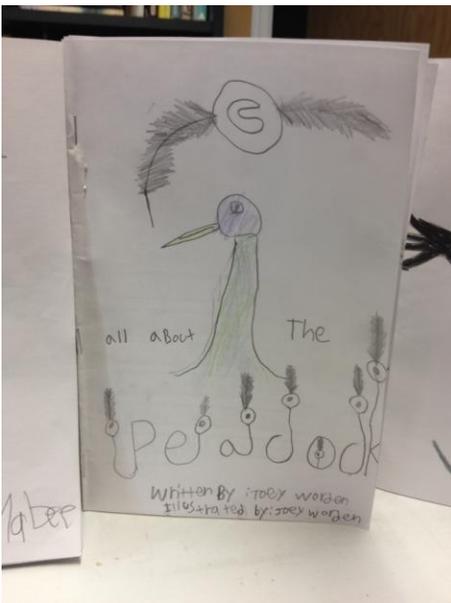
Most of our committees will need additional support. If you've got as little as a few hours between now and October ... or you have significant time, we'd love to have you. We need everyone's participation. Let's all jump on the bandwagon and make this the best NYS Birders Conference / NYSOA Annual Meeting since the last one we hosted ten years ago!

HMBC Youth Program at Bethlehem Children's School

As part of our ongoing programs at the BCS, Bill Robinson conducted a morning session concerning raptors. Bill is a master at engaging youngsters (and adults too!) with his bevy of raptors, including hawks, owls and this Turkey Vulture. He showed and he explained about the beak and lack of feathers around the head ... sharp beak for punching a hole in a deer carcass and sticking the head inside for a meal without getting its head all mucky. Bill also explained that in contrast with other raptors who capture live birds or mammals, the vulture's claws are more similar to a chicken claws ... they're designed to be standing rather than catching.



The youth bird program at Bethlehem Children's School is really catching on! On a recent visit, we saw a display of research papers that some of the students had written. This was a complete surprise to us. We were delighted!



HMBC Welcomes New Members

HMBC welcomes members who have joined in 2014. These include: Craig Driggs, Qi Song, Janice Butler, David Slack, Robert Longley, Thomas Anderson, Amanda Pyskadlo, Philip Johnson, Debbie Ellinger, Nancy Kern, Ellen Scott, Alfred Garrison, Mary Garrison, Dave Goyer, Maria Morris, Russell Schwartz, Carol Schwartz, John Piwowarski, Ron Harrower, James Ford, Jacquie Tinker, John Temps, Harriet Temps, Susan Klein, Richard Klein, Angela Stammel, Beverley Krauss, Rhonda van Heuvein, Bram van Heuvein, Kathy McCarthy, Chris McCarthy, Jeanette Roundy, Linda Davern, Ursula Lauper, Holly Reese, Lew Millenbach, Linda Millenbach, Joyce Lavery, Jonathan Albrecht, Joanne Smith, Julia Burnetter, Olivia Burnetter, Patricia Fuller, Bob Mackey, Maryanne Mackey, Linda Weigel, Shayla Butler, Mary Morin, Mark Fitzsimmons, Sapan Mukherji, Elizabeth Craft, Laura Barry, Ellen Marcil, Evan Mistur, Marilyn Hamecher, Peter Morrill, Priscilla Morrill

Mammals Inventory for the Reist Sanctuary Developed

While primarily known and utilized by HMBC's members and the public as a "bird sanctuary", The Henry G. Reist Preserve is blessed with a diverse flora and fauna well beyond its rich bird life. For the past several years, Professor Kathleen LoGiudice of Union College has been making use of the Reist as a field laboratory for her Vertebrate Biology and Ecology classes. In the process she and her classes have had occasion to scientifically document the presence of the many mammals that live within the Reist. At the request of our Reist Sanctuary Steward, Michael Gann, Professor LoGiudice has assembled the first comprehensive list of all the mammals known to reside in the Preserve. There are 17 known species (Star-nosed mole, Short-tailed shrew, White-footed mouse, Gray squirrel, Red squirrel, Flying squirrel, Eastern Chipmunk, Groundhog, Eastern cottontail, Fisher, Long-tailed weasel, Raccoon, Opossum, Striped skunk, White-tailed deer, Gray fox and Red fox) and one possible but unconfirmed species (Coyote - which has been confirmed in other similar settings in Schenectady County). The list is an interesting and welcome addition to the record of the flora and fauna of the Reist.

-Michael Gann

Field Trip Reports

Gull ID Field Trip

February 10, 2015

15 Intrepid birders covered the area between Cohoes and Crescent, looking to refine our Gull ID skills.

Initially Gulls were hard to find, but we did have 22 HORNED LARKS at the end of Flight Lock Road in Waterford. A mature BALD EAGLE was sitting on one of the transformers over the river, while AMERICAN and FISH CROWS called nearby. A lone AMERICAN ROBIN was spotted in a nearby Tree, and several RED-TAILED HAWKS were present.

Field Trip Reports..... (continued)

We next checked the area off Clark Ave in Cohoes, where we had a nice concentration of Gulls, there we had several immature ICELAND GULLS and one adult ICELAND GULL among the big numbers of HERRING and GREAT BLACK-BACKED. Lots of MALLARDS and COMMON GOLDENEYE were in the open water, along with a few COMMON MERGANSERS. A BELTED KINGFISHER was also present. One member also reported a WOOD DUCK in with the MALLARDS, but was not relocated.

From there we checked behind the Elks Club in Cohoes, the 3 GREATER and 1 LESSER SCAUP were still present, along with quite a few COMMON GOLDENEYE. AMERICAN BLACK DUCKS and MALLARDS were standing and feeding on the edge of the ice. It's also then we noticed the Gulls streaming down river back towards the Cohoes Flats. We returned to the New Street Overlook, to find a growing staging area of gulls (hundreds), there were at least 3 immature ICELAND GULLS above the dam, with 2 more immature and the adult Iceland Gull below the dam. On our return trip, we also found a 2nd Cycle GLAUCOUS GULL. There were almost no gulls up river towards the Power plant. We ended with some of the best looks, I've personally ever had of an adult Iceland Gull, an age not commonly found in this area.

In the end I'm confident we had 6 ICELAND GULLS (5 immature, 1 adult) and 1 GLAUCOUS GULL and hundreds of HERRING and GREAT BLACK-BACKED.

We certainly hope that those who attended got a chance to sharpen their gull ID skills and get some more practice picking out those white-winged gulls in big groups. Try as we might, we could not turn up a Lesser Black-backed.

Thank you for all who attended and shared scopes and eyes!

-Will Raup and Gregg Recer

Fort Edward

February 22, 2015

We are not ordinarily pessimistic birders. In fact, we usually approach time out in the field with great enthusiasm and hope. But having spent two afternoons exploring the area in the two weeks before our scheduled field trip to Fort Edward, we were feeling pretty dismal about our prospects. A couple of distant hawks, a few HORNED LARKS, some pigeons, assorted JUNCOS and STARLINGS were all we had been able to scare up on those forays, and we were worried that the snow that had fallen since then might even make matters worse. We had even forewarned the people on our participant list that there was a good chance we might not see many birds at all.



Our group of 10 met for carpooling at 1:30 on a beautiful afternoon and headed up to Washington County by way of Stillwater. After weeks of subfreezing temperatures and snow, sun and 30's felt positively balmy! Although we were prevented by deep snow and unplowed parking lots from stopping for any Hudson River views some of us did enjoy looks at two BALD EAGLES near a small stretch

Field Trip Reports..... (continued)

of open water along with a large number of CANADA GEESE. A drive around Wright's Loop did offer up an assortment of songbirds that included AMERICAN TREE SPARROW, BLUE JAY, JUNCO, CARDINAL, WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH, TUFTED TITMOUSE, AND GOLDFINCH. We were later very glad we had chosen to drive that road because we saw few songbirds elsewhere on the trip.

Upon entering Fort Edward we enjoyed spending some time watching a beautiful group of HOODED MERGANSERS on some open water behind the Stewart's at the intersection of 4 and 197 in the village along with some very bright Mallards.

As we had feared, the Grasslands themselves were not teeming with birdlife. However, the group was treated to a very good scope view of a ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK from Swamp Road, and a much poorer look at a probably second one into the sun along Plum Road. The only other raptor we had was a RED-TAILED HAWK. We did have one HORNED LARK along Plum Road, and two RING-NECKED PHEASANTS among the brushy areas along Blackhouse Road. Although most certainly released by the state for hunting purposes it was still fun to see these pretty creatures. We spent some time observing a group of feeder birds including about 20 AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS, but that was about the extent of the birding.

There were no owls at all; perhaps the depth of snow cover caused the usual Short-eareds to move south in search of food, and the Snowy reports from the winter here have been very intermittent.

This particular trip to Fort Edward will certainly not be remembered for its large species count, but it gave everyone in the group a chance to get outside on a beautiful winter's day, enjoy a good look at one of our favorite winter raptors, and to enjoy the company of other birders. Maybe our pessimism was misplaced, after all.

-Denise Hackert-Stoner and Scott Stoner

HMBC Mohawk River, Cohoes – Crescent February 21, 2015

The trip was sparsely attended but successful, despite below zero temps and wind chill. Among the highlights of the 35 species - at Tibbetts Ave., Green Island, were both GREATER and LESSER SCAUP, 2 adult BALD EAGLES and a MERLIN; at the Cohoes Elks Club, a single BUFFLEHEAD female, both Scaup species again; at the pool below the Crescent Power Plant, 1 adult and 3 immature BALD EAGLES, a FISH CROW, 2 immature GLAUCOUS GULLS and an adult ICELAND GULL, on the west side of Rt. 9 Crescent Bridge, another immature GLAUCOUS GULL. On the roof of a building in an off Fonda Road industrial park adjacent to the Colonie Landfill, an adult LESSER-BLACK-BACKED and an immature ICELAND GULL. BALD EAGLES were on the ice and continually in the air, particularly at the Crescent Power Plant Pool, so it was difficult to get a number. We estimated 10-12 eagles for the entire trip. There were COMMON GOLDENEYE and MERGANSERS, MALLARDS and AMERICAN BLACK DUCKS, and the 3 common gull species at almost every open water spot and a number of CANADA GEESE off Bridge St., Cohoes.

-Bill Lee

Upcoming HMBC Programs

HMBC Annual Meeting and Dinner

Finding and identifying shorebirds in New York State

Speaker: Shai Mitra

April 1, 2015 - 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Century House, 997 New Loudon Rd, Latham

New York State features an exceptional variety of habitats for shorebirds and almost unlimited opportunities for appreciating and studying these beautiful birds. In this talk Shai will discuss tactics for finding and studying the many species of shorebirds that occur in New York State and explain how to distinguish some of the most challenging look-alike species. Special emphasis will be given to geographical and ecological factors that influence shorebird occurrence in the Hudson-Mohawk region

Shai Mitra has studied birds in the northeastern United States and around the world for more than thirty years. He received a BA in Biology from Cornell University in 1989 and a PhD in Evolutionary Biology from the University of Chicago in 1996. From 1996-2000 he operated a major bird-banding station at the Fire Island Lighthouse, on the South Shore of Long Island. Currently, he is an Assistant Professor of Biology at the College of Staten Island, with research interests in the areas of avian ecology, evolution, and conservation. Shai is Editor of *The Kingbird*, the quarterly publication of the New York State Ornithological Association; co-compiler of bird records for the New York City and Long Island region; Chair of the Rhode Island Avian Records Committee; and co-compiler of three Christmas Bird Counts on Long Island and Rhode Island.

The Interesting Life of a USDA Wildlife Management Services Expert at Albany International Airport

Speaker: Kenneth Preuser

April 6, 2015 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

William K. Sanford (Colonie Town) Library 629 Albany Shaker Road, Loudonville, N.Y.

FREE and Open to the Public! Joint program with Audubon Society of the Capital Region

Remember all those Snowy Owls at the Albany International Airport last year?

Birders also saw a few Grasshopper Sparrows, which are grassland birds, this past summer on the airport property, which are listed as a 'Threatened' species by the NYSDEC. These sightings prompted us to ask, "Does the airport know about these threatened species? If they do...What are they doing about managing them appropriately?"

These questions will be answered, as well as what the USDA Wildlife Services does at the airport to manage other wildlife, such as foxes, coyotes, and other animals that wander onto the airport property. What we can tell you is that the knowledgeable and caring personnel of the USDA Wildlife Management Services provide excellent safety to airplanes, travelers, and airport personnel through their management practices.

Kenneth Preusser, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services Biologist and District Manager will enlighten us on the activities he conducts at Albany International.

Upcoming HMBC Programs..... (continued)

Birding Australia

Speaker: Ken Harper

May 4, 2015 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

William K. Sanford (Colonie Town) Library 629 Albany Shaker Road, Loudonville, N.Y.

Birding Australia with Ken Harper

Bluebird Trail Management and Research

Speaker: Kevin Berner of SUNY Cobleskill

June 1, 2015 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

William K. Sanford (Colonie Town) Library 629 Albany Shaker Road, Loudonville, N.Y.

Professor Kevin Berner is in the SUNY Cobleskill Fisheries, Wildlife, and Environmental Science Department, where he has taught Wildlife Management, Wildlife Techniques, Terrestrial Ecology, and Natural History of the Vertebrates for 28 years. He has conducted bluebird research since 1987. Professor Berner was the Research Chairman for the North American Bluebird Society for a dozen years and has been on their Nest Box and Education Committees. He has also been the Research Chairman for the New York State Bluebird and President of the Schoharie County Bluebird Society.

Upcoming Audubon Programs

The Interesting Life of a USDA Wildlife Management Services Expert at Albany International Airport

Speaker: Kenneth Preuser

April 6, 2015 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

William K. Sanford (Colonie Town) Library 629 Albany Shaker Road, Loudonville, N.Y.

Joint program with Audubon Society of the Capital Region. Learn about bird management at airports.

On Nature

The Hawk and the Dove

by Denise Hackert-Stoner and Scott Stoner

As I was at my computer this week, I noticed what appeared to be 20 mourning doves in the tree across the street. A bit later, the doves were gone, and there was a Cooper's Hawk perched up in the trees in the same area. The hawk stayed for a while, and there were no birds at our feeders either. A short while later, we noticed the birds returning to the feeders. I checked, and to no surprise, the hawk was no longer there.

We see this interplay between our bird-eating accipiters, Coopers Hawks and Sharp-shinned Hawks, and our feeder birds quite frequently. The accipiters are well suited to catch birds; with short wings and a long tail, they agilely maneuver through the trees to catch small birds on the wing. They also, rather frequently, take birds from the ground. Mourning Doves appear to be a favorite prey in our yard. The hawk is not always successful; often times the birds scatter (or freeze) and the hawk goes away "empty-taloned." But quite often we find all that remains are a pile of dove feathers, or sometimes, we see the hawk with its prey before it flies away with it (below). Sometimes the approach of the hawk

On Nature..... (continued)

causes the birds to take off with such urgency that, sadly, they hit the windows. Recently, we heard a thud and found a dead Mourning Dove lying in the snow beneath our picture windows. Fortunately, this is rare, and we generally avoid serious window strikes by locating the feeders close enough to the house that the birds either see the windows as they take off, or hit so gently, not having built up enough speed, that they fly off uninjured. But sometimes it does happen, and when it does, it is most certainly due to the hawk.

We work actively to attract the birds, and that this includes the three basics that we and they all need: food, water, and shelter. As we succeed in attracting more and more birds, the hawks seem to have taken notice, and we see them more often now.

In the winter, we keep a large brush pile near our feeders in the back to provide shelter for the birds (although this year it is nearly buried in snow). This also protects the birds from the hawks, as we've seen accipiters climbing all over the pile, unable to reach the birds taking refuge within. One time we had a Cooper's Hawk actually land on the bird bath, and stand there for a number of seconds (enough to take about 10 photos; see below), wholly uninterested in the water but seemingly eyeing eagerly the birds in the brush pile a few feet away!



On Nature..... (continued)

We often get asked how to prevent hawks from taking the birds from one's feeders? Along with gently suggesting that it is all part of nature, and the hawks need to eat too, about the only thing we can offer is to take the feeders down, or stop feeding, for a couple of weeks to temporarily take the hawks dinner off the table.

Good birding, and Happy Spring, everyone!!

-Stoner and Scott Stoner

HMBC ANNUAL DUES RENEWAL

Don't forget to send in your annual HMBC dues renewal. Fill out the form that was sent to you February 25 and enclose a check (Student is \$6, Active is \$20, Sustaining is \$40 and Life is \$1000. Send the form and check to Gregg Recer, 23 Scotch Mist Way, Malta NY 12020. If you are a life member (or even if you are not) you can make donations to the Sam Madison memorial award, to the Reist Sanctuary, or to the General Fund, if desired.

THE 115TH TROY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT..... (continued)

The six area woodpeckers were all found, with Red-bellies and Pileateds again setting new count records. Seven Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found, making this species one that is now expected on this count. We missed American Kestrel - the sixth year in a row now, but Merlins tied the count high and two Peregrine Falcons were tallied.

Only three Red-breasted Nuthatches were located, but White-breasted Nuthatches set a new count high. Half-hardy Carolina Wrens were around in decent numbers, and single Hermit Thrush and Gray Catbird were good finds. The common sparrow species were augmented by a single Savannah Sparrow and a single White-crowned Sparrow, which had not been found on this count since the winter of 1980-81.

Blackbirds were represented only by one Common Grackle and four Cowbirds, and there were no "winter finches."

Some species missed were Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Harrier, Horned Lark, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Snow Bunting, and Red-winged Blackbird. It's likely that these species just weren't around this year. On the other hand, there were five new high counts and one tie.

The total of 63 species found on count day was below the average of 68 over the preceding 10-year period. Notable is the fact that just 13 species were seen by only one field party. I think that number is usually higher, but we didn't have much in the way of odd ducks or other waterfowl, which usually account for a large proportion of these single-party sightings.

Larry Alden
Compiler

115th CBC - Troy Count Circle - January 3, 2015

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Snow Goose						1		1
Canada Goose	813	559	2634	90	263	5	73	4437
American Black Duck	3	47	30	53	48		15	196
Mallard	34	172	114	190	317	7	10	844
Northern Pintail							2	2
Am. Green-winged Teal		1		2				3
Common Goldeneye		16	48	32	19			115
Hooded Merganser		4	20					24
Common Merganser		26	29	61	14	7		137
Ruffed Grouse	1							1
Wild Turkey		48			78	11		137
Great Blue Heron		3	2	1			1	7
Bald Eagle	4	2	6	4	4	1		17
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1	2	1		1		5
Cooper's Hawk	2	2	1	2	1			8
Red-tailed Hawk	18	13	19	12	5	12	10	89
Ring-billed Gull		27	72	380	479	71	165	1194
Herring Gull		6		879	83	3	110	1081
Iceland Gull				3	2			5
Great Black-backed Gull		1		113	56	5	51	226
Rock Pigeon	88	196	81	170	50	270	32	887
Mourning Dove	37	83	95	106	54	57	40	472
Eastern Screech-Owl	2	1		2				5
Great Horned Owl		5		2				7
Barred Owl	1		1					2
Belted Kingfisher		3	3		1			7
Red-bellied Woodpecker	11	12	11	10	7	6	11	68
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	4	1		1			7
Downy Woodpecker	14	25	20	22	10	9	22	122
Hairy Woodpecker	6	13	2	7	4	3	7	42
Northern Flicker	2	7	1		1		4	15
Pileated Woodpecker	6	2	4	2	3	1	1	19
Merlin			2	1				3
Peregrine Falcon						2		2
Blue Jay	55	66	78	9	26	34	29	297
American Crow	500	1652	261	439	404	371	45	3672
Fish Crow		2		16	5	2		25
Common Raven		2			1			3
Black-capped Chickadee	93	141	87	39	51	63	61	535
Tufted Titmouse	16	33	30	5	7	18	14	123
Red-breasted Nuthatch			3					3
White-breasted Nuthatch	13	30	23	11	18	14	22	131
Brown Creeper						1		1
Winter Wren		1						1
Carolina Wren	1	2	2	7		1	3	16
Eastern Bluebird	31	14	23	4	24	11	10	117

Hermit Thrush					1			1
American Robin	4	13	1	176	31	16	15	256
Gray Catbird							1	1
Northern Mockingbird		4	1	4	2	1	4	16
European Starling	10500	47	327	532	177	489	254	12326
American Tree Sparrow	6	21	16	15	1	5	47	111
Savannah Sparrow			1					1
Song Sparrow	3	8	20	2	5	5	3	46
White-throated Sparrow	6	16	8	11	1	3	34	79
White-crowned Sparrow		1						1
Dark-eyed Junco	55	136	64	87	32	63	96	533
Northern Cardinal	18	24	26	23	12	13	31	147
Common Grackle			1					1
Brown-headed Cowbird		4						4
House Finch	14	18	17	5	9	15	24	102
American Goldfinch	12	17	14	20	24	38	49	174
House Sparrow	87	95	55	144	16	107	44	548
Total Birds	12457	3626	4256	3694	2347	1742	1340	29458
Total Species	34	50	44	43	42	38	35	63
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	

* Bald Eagles - 11 adults, 6 immatures. 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: Jeremy Kirchman, Alyssa FitzGerald, Alison VanKeuren. 5:30 a.m. - 6:40 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., less 1.0 hour not birding (1.0 hours, 1.0 miles on foot; 6.5 hours, 53 miles by car. Also 1.25 hours, 10 miles owling.)

Group B: Larry Alden, Steve Chorvas. 5:20 a.m. - 4:35 p.m. (2.0 hour, 2.0 miles on foot; 7.75 hours, 63 miles by car. Also 1.5 hours, 14 miles owling.)

Group C: Rich Guthrie, Jocelyn Cole, Will Raup. 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (3 hours, 2 miles on foot; 6 hours, 60 miles by car.)

Group D: George Steele, Alan Mapes. 6:00 a.m. - 4:40 p.m. (3.75 hours, 6 miles on foot; 6 hours, 32 miles by car. Also 1.0 hour, 6 miles owling.)

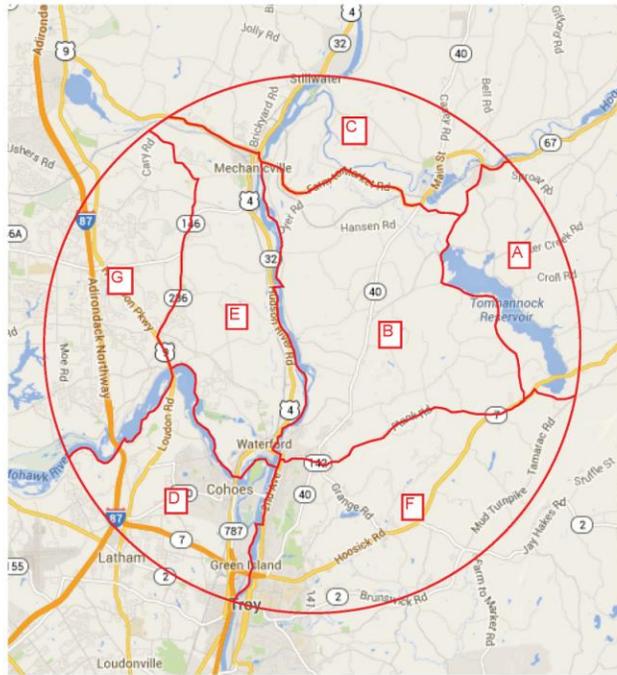
Group E: Bill Lee, Jamie Taft, Mark Fitzsimmons. 7:05 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. (4.5 hours, 3.0 miles on foot; 4.75 hours, 58 miles by car.)

Group F: Kathryn Schneider, Jim de Waal Malefyt, Naomi Lloyd, Kayleigh Chalkowski. 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (1.5 hours, 1.0 miles on foot; 7.0 hours, 91 miles by car.)

Group G: Steve Mesick, Eric Molho. 6:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. (2.75 hours, 1.75 miles on foot, 6.0 hours, 75.5 miles by car. Also 1.0 hours, 3.5 miles owling.)

Notes: Hours rounded to the nearest quarter hour.

115th CBC - Troy County Circle - January 3, 2015



Upcoming Field Trips

APRIL

Sunday, April 12, DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS, Thursday, April 16, Sunday, April 19, VISCHER FERRY (VFNHP), (Saratoga County; evening)

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

Thursday, April 16, Sunday, April 19, VISCHER FERRY (VFNHP) (Saratoga County; evening)

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

Reservations required by April 12th to secure a trip date.

We will start out on this trip looking for spring waterfowl such as American Wigeon, Green and Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser and Pied-billed Grebe. Rusty Blackbirds are also a possibility. We will linger until after dusk to listen for nocturnal bird sounds from rails, woodcocks and owls. With a little luck we may get to see an American Woodcock displaying at dusk.

In order to comfortably accommodate all who are interested in this popular field trip, it will be held twice, once on Thursday evening and again on Sunday evening with a limit of 18 participants for each evening. Meet at the main entrance at 6:00 p.m. Bring a flashlight to aid in returning to the parking area.

Upcoming Field Trips..... (continued)

Thursday, April 23, WOODCOCK AT FIVE RIVERS (Albany County; evening)

Coordinator: Ray Perry 475-0291 (Daytime only) raymond.perry@dec.ny.gov

Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Visitor Center for a brief talk about the American Woodcock and its management at Five Rivers. We'll then stroll out the Service Road through managed areas and feeding swales to arrive at the Bat Barn area at a time good for watching and hearing the Woodcock do its thing. Bring binoculars and a flashlight and dress appropriately for the weather.

Saturday, April 25, VOSBURGH MARSH (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 a.m. at the Coxsackie boat launch. From the intersection of 9W and 385 in Coxsackie go east on 385 \(Mansion St.\) and continue straight to the Hudson River where the road bears left to the boat launch site.](#)

MAY

Saturday, May 2, PEBBLES ISLAND STATE PARK (Saratoga County; morning)

Coordinator: Gary Goodness 862-9260 goodness@nycap.rr.com

Peebles Island in early May is an ideal environment to watch spring migration. The variety of habitat ensures 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 parking fee, so ride with a friend if you can.

Sunday, May 3, PAPSCANEE ISLAND NATURE PRESERVE (Rensselaer County; morning)

Coordinator: Don Gresens 370-3923 dgresens@nycap.rr.com

This field trip will take us to the different habitats of Papscanee 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 seen in the wetland areas. Early returning resident species could include Least Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and both Baltimore and Orchard Oriole. Veery, Wood Thrush and American Redstart are common, along with several other warbler and vireo species.

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

Saturday, May 9, BIRDS & BREAKFAST AT FIVE RIVERS (Albany County; morning)

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

Peggy Rudis 371-5051 peggyrudis@msn.com

Our annual celebration of the arrival of spring will be held at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center 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.

Upcoming Field Trips..... (continued)

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 are encouraged.

Sunday, May 10, VISCHER FERRY NATURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVE MIGRANTS (Saratoga County; morning)

Gregg Recer and Cathy Graichen 899-2678 gregg_recer@alum.rpi.edu

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 herons and rails.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the main entrance of VFNHP on Riverview Rd. next to the Whipple Bridge.

Saturday, May 16, CENTURY RUN (NYS Region 8; all day)

Compiler: Bob Yunick 1527 Myron Street, Schenectady, NY 12309
377-0146 anneboby@aol.com

This is the Club's 70th Guy Bartlett Century Run, where teams of birders try to find as many species of birds as they possibly can in a single day within the eleven county NYS Region 8. Each group must stay together and jointly identify species reported.

The Century Run is not so much a field trip, but a challenge where you or your group tries to identify as many birds as possible in a 24-hour period. Groups informally compete for bragging rights, but in actuality, the Century Run provides a good snapshot of what's out there in a single day. A good Century Run (so named for the goal of reaching a "century", or at least 100 species) calls for good planning to hit a wide variety of habitats at the right time. Some groups try to cover the whole HMBC area; others limit themselves to a smaller geographic area – a single county, town, etc. Also, there's nothing that says you can't go out on your own, where you want and at your own pace, to see what you can see.

Reports must be snail mailed or emailed to the compiler by May 28th in order to be counted and published in "Feathers." Also, please e-mail Birdline (birdline@hmhc.net) with the total species and highlights for your group.

Sunday, May 17, DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS, DOODLETOWN (Rockland County; morning-early afternoon)

Coordinators: Tom & Colleen Williams 857-2176 trwdsd@yahoo.com

Sunday, May 17, SCHODACK ISLAND STATE PARK (Rensselaer County; morning)

Coordinator: Naomi Lloyd 674-8495 naomi_kestrel@yahoo.com

Schodack Island State Park sits along the eastern shore of the Hudson River just south of Castleton-on-Hudson. Approximately seven miles of Hudson River and Schodack Creek shoreline bound the 1,052 acre site. A portion of the park shelters a Bird Conservation Area (BCA) that is home to Cerulean Warblers, and a Great Blue Heron rookery. Resident songbirds are plentiful.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Kmart plaza on Rt. 9 and 20 in East Greenbush to carpool. There will be a per car fee charged at the State Park.

Upcoming Field Trips..... (continued)

Saturday, May 23, NORMANSKILL FARM (Albany County; morning)

Coordinator: Tristan Lowery (646)323-8914 tristanlowery@gmail.com

Normanskill Farm is a city-owned park and farm that offers a variety of habitat for birding within the City of Albany. During spring migration, its woodland trails, grassy fields, and gardens are ideal for finding flycatchers, vireos, thrushes, sparrows, and orioles. Two dozen species of warblers have been recorded here in recent years (including Hooded, Mourning, and Yellow-throated). The Normanskill Creek occasionally attracts waterfowl, shorebirds, and large numbers of swifts and swallows.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Normanskill Farm parking lot on Mill Rd. From Delaware Avenue heading south, turn left on Mill Road just before the bridge over the Normanskill Creek, at the self-storage sign. Parking lot is on the left ¼ mile along Mill Road.

Sunday, May 24, BOG MEADOW BROOK (Saratoga County; morning)

Coordinator: Lindsey Duval, 744-9072 eccentricvirgo@gmail.com

Bog Meadow Brook Trail, an old rail trail just east of Saratoga Springs, runs along the northern edge of a swamp and consists of wetland habitat with two ponds with a wet mixed forest in between. In late May this habitat becomes busy with migrants, including warblers (approximately 15 species previously reported), vireos, flycatchers, swallows, and sparrows. A shorebird or waterfowl species may be possible, along with Virginia Rails.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the trailhead pull-off on Meadowbrook Road, about 0.3 mile west of Stafford Bridge Rd/Rt. 67. Please carpool to the destination if possible, as parking is limited.

Saturday, May 30, PARTRIDGE RUN WMA (Albany County; morning)

Coordinator: Zach Schwartz-Weinstein zachsw@gmail.com

Map: http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/partridgerunwma.pdf

We will explore Albany County's higher elevation habitat for late and breeding migrants. Most of the birds in this area can be seen and heard from the major roads that pass through the forest. Possibilities include Blackburnian Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and many other species.

Meet at 7 a.m. at the New Scotland Town Hall, located on State Route 85 in New Scotland. We will carpool to the preserve from there.

Sunday, May 31, DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS, WASHINGTON COUNTY GRASSLANDS (Washington County, morning)

Coordinators: Tom Williams 857-2176 trwdsd@yahoo.com

Pat Fitzgerald 792-6846 fitzgeraldsaas@yahoo.com

Sunday, May 31, DOODLETOWN (Rockland County; morning-early afternoon)

Coordinators: Tom & Colleen Williams 857-2176 trwdsd@yahoo.com

Doodletown is the site of a former isolated hamlet near Bear Mountain in the town of Stony Point, NY. The site was settled in the 1760s and reached its peak population in the 1940s. After the Second World War, the Palisades Interstate Park Commission began to purchase many of the homes and in the 1960s the remaining properties were acquired through

Upcoming Field Trips..... (continued)

eminent domain. The stone remains of some of the homes can still be seen. For birders, it is renowned for the diversity and abundance of its species, especially warblers. Cerulean, Hooded, Kentucky and Worm-eating are all present here along with some of the more common warblers. Birders can also expect an assortment of vireos, flycatchers and a host of other woodland species. We should arrive at Doodletown about 8:00 a.m. and leave around 11:30 a.m.

We will meet at 5:30 a.m. at Colonie Center in Albany, Sears Auto Center at the intersection of Central Ave. and Wolf Rd. We will be on the Wolf Rd. side of Sears Auto Center. Our return time to Colonie Center should be approximately 2:00 p.m.

Please contact the trip coordinator by May 17th if you plan to attend.

JUNE

Saturday, June 6, DYKEN POND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER (Rensselaer County; morning)

Coordinator: Jim de Waal Malefyt 283-2363 dewaalmalefyt@gmail.com

Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center is located on the Rensselaer Plateau near Cropseyville. It is elevated wet woodlands with a system of loop trails. This trip will take the group down to the edge of the pond, then through thick woodlands, across the boardwalk at Dustin Swamp and back to the entrance road. Birds such as Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green and Magnolia Warbler, Ovenbird, and Blue-headed Vireo are common, along with Scarlet Tanager, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco. It is a wet environment so proper footwear is advised.

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.

Sunday, June 7, MOSHER MARSH (Saratoga County; morning)

Coordinator: Ellen Pemrick 882-9163 lnmp@nycap.rr.com

Mosher Marsh is a 43-acre preserve donated to the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy in 2008. Located in the Town of Amsterdam, it is a mix of wetlands, grasslands, and second-growth forest with trails that loop around the property. We will look for various bird species including Common Yellowthroat, Marsh Wren, Green Heron, and Bobolink. Be prepared for wet grass and muddy trails.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Amsterdam Park and Ride lot on Rt. 30 next to Thruway exit 28. Parking is limited at Mosher Marsh, so carpooling is encouraged. Mosher Marsh is on the west side of Manny's Corners Road approximately 0.5 mile north of Route 67.

Feathers

Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club

c/o Five Rivers EEC

Game Farm Road

Delmar, NY 12054