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Feathers

TROY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT – SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 2016

by Larry Alden

What a difference two weeks makes. The warm, mild weather we had for the Schenectady CBC changed in the week preceding the count. We got our first snowfall (although it was barely over an inch) and the temperatures dropped to more seasonal levels. Although locally we did not have any significant icing of water bodies, harsher weather to our north coupled with a northerly tail wind gave waterfowl enough of a push to head south in droves.

The Troy count is traditionally the last of the HMBC CBCs, held in the vicinity of New Year's Day, so you'd expect there to be fewer half-hardy species migrating only as far south as they need to. The thought here is if a bird can survive in the northern fringes of the wintering area, come springtime it has the advantage over members of its species that have to migrate further. The drawback is that this could be a fatal decision if it gets too cold or there is not enough food for the bird to survive.

If only it were that simple. Survivability is influenced by a lot of factors, including finding food at bird feeders, discovering a spot with a milder microclimate, locating open water, etc. The Troy count circle certainly has these things, so we did have some half-hardies on this count aside from waterfowl that generally follow the open water.

Count Day dawned a little below freezing, with a sometimes brisk breeze, depending on where you were. The teams that did owling were only somewhat successful. Throughout the day temperatures moderated and the wind died down, making it a fairly pleasant count. The most noticeable thing about the day was the migrating geese. A record number of SNOW GEESE moved through the count circle in huge flocks with only a few stopping to feed or rest. There was movement of CANADA GEESE, too, but they seemed a little bit more sedentary. Otherwise, six out of the thirteen waterfowl species found were represented by six or fewer individuals each. You might say we found a few odd ducks.

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President's Corner

Happy Spring! I just want to update Club members on some of the recent things that have been going on with the HMBC board.

Under the guidance of Jory Langner and Kathy Schneider, and with the efforts of many HMBC volunteers, the Club completed a very successful 2015 NYSOA annual meeting last fall. The meeting netted an operating surplus that was divided between HMBC and NYSOA. The HMBC board recently voted to donate a portion of the proceeds to support the continuing bird-related educational activities at the Bethlehem Children's School, and a portion to support the activities of the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation.

Conservation issues have been a point of discussion at recent board meetings. There are a number of local issues related to grassland habitat conservation that have come to the fore, including residential development in Ft Edward, and local policies for grassland management that can affect bird breeding success at these sites. We have just begun exploring the issue, and I hope the board will be able to develop some concrete actions on the issue in the coming months.

Thanks to Mike Gann's diligent oversight of the Reist Preserve, the Club recently engaged Town of Niskayuna regarding the dilapidated entrance bridge on town land from Oakmont Dr. into the preserve. The town replaced the bridge with a culvert and gravel-covered path. A subsequent heavy rain caused some further damage, and additional repairs that were needed will hopefully result in a permanent solution.

Lastly, kudos and many thanks to David Martin's continued efforts in support of the HMBC web site and online database architecture. David's latest innovation has been to implement online dues payment on the HMBC web site -- a feature that meets a significant need.

Hope to see you at the HMBC Annual Meeting in April.
Gregg Recer

President HMBC
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

Field Trip Reports

Fort Edward Grasslands

February 21, 2016

Our field party on this mid-afternoon to early evening excursion consisted of the two leaders and two participants. The small number allowed us to use one vehicle, which lent an informal mood to the trip. The weather was typical of this past winter, mid-forties and cloudy.

Circuiting our favorite routes through the Fort Edwards Grasslands several times and checking the river at two locations yielded us several expected species, including ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (only one), RED-TAILED HAWK (7), TREE SPARROW (eight, a small number compared to numbers we had on other outings this winter), and an assortment of titmice, chickadees, doves, etc. CANADA GOOSE was fairly-well represented with a total of 172. Looking over the river, we had views of COMMON GOLDENEYE, as well as MALLARD, and both COMMON and HOODED MERGANSER. We had one sighting of a single, perched KESTREL in the late afternoon, and an unexpected view of an early RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.

As evening approached we made our way to Fitzpatrick Road, where we became counters of CROWS as we observed thousands (somewhere above the 3,000 range) rising from the surrounding fields, forming a blackened highway above our heads, making their way to their evening roost. NORTHERN HARRIERS were out in force as well. We counted 10 of them hunting over the fields. Just as daylight faded to gray we had sightings of two SHORT-EARED OWLS. They were rather far back from the road and it was getting a bit dark, but we were very happy nonetheless, as the Owl was a life bird for one of our participants.

A trip to Fort Edward has become a bit of a ritual for many of us each winter, with its promise of raptors, and although this trip may not have yielded record numbers it did not disappoint.

. – Scott Stoner and Denise Hackert-Stoner

Waterfowl of the Hudson River South - Greene County – Coxsackie

March 13, 2016

Distinctly ducky this year despite disappointments of the last decade. Mark counted exactly 101 GREEN-WINGED TEAL in Vosbergh marsh at Four Mile Point. Sharp-eyed Naomi spotted three GADWALL there as well. Also in the marsh were RING-NECKED DUCKS, AMERICAN WIGEON, AMERICAN BLACK DUCK, MALLARD, CANADA GOOSE and MUTE SWAN. The teal were a life bird for Michelle and the swans were a life bird for Claire. COMMON MERGANSERS were seen at the Coxsackie Boat Launch, the only ducks on the river!

Lots of BALD EAGLES, hardly worth mentioning. Adults, immatures and a black and white power box making a good distant decoy. Sharp-eyed Naomi also spotted a solitary YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER and while relieving himself, Mike got a classic look at the GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET that the rest of us only heard. As a photographer he was irked to note that this eye-level beauty, showing off its glorious crown, appeared when his hands were otherwise occupied. The GREAT BLUE HERON was the first of the year for several members of the group. 42 species total including BLACK VULTURES circling over the city of Hudson.

- Bill Cook

Upcoming HMBC Programs

HMBC Annual Meeting

Speaker: Allison Anholt

April 6, 2016 – 6:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Century House 997 New Loudon Rd, Latham, NY

Seabird Monitoring in the Aleutian Islands

Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge encompasses over 1,000 miles of land and sea, mostly spread throughout the Aleutian Islands and the Gulf of Alaska. In the summer of 2012, Allison Anholt was a Seabird Biologist on the remote Aiktak Island, in the Eastern Aleutians. Aiktak is home to one of the largest Tufted Puffin colonies in the world- almost one million individuals call this small island home. Aiktak is also home to many other seabird species, and her work focused on the diet, growth, and productivity of Tufted and Horned Puffins, Leach's and Fork-tailed Storm Petrels, Ancient Murrelets, Glaucous-Winged Gulls, Black Oystercatchers, Common and Thick-Billed Murres, and three species of cormorants. The work was secluded and remote, in what is surely one of the most scenic and bird-dense areas of the world.

Allison has worked in the fields of conservation and research for six years on projects throughout the country. She is currently a Research Scientist studying coastal avian species for a small nonprofit in Cape May County, New Jersey.

HMBC members will receive invitations by mail.

Birding Ecuador

Speaker: Bernie Grossman

May 2, 2016 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

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

Even though it is small country, Ecuador is one of the most diverse, bird-rich places on the planet. Our trip was a survey of some the prime birding regions including the wet western and eastern slopes of the Andes and the dry central valley. Many hummingbirds, tanagers and flycatchers were seen as well as the amazing Andean Cock of the Rock. We saw over 500 species during the trip. The talk includes pictures of many of these birds.

Chris and Bernie Grossman have lived in the Capital District for 42 years and have been active members of HMBC during this time. They have held several positions with the Club.

Bicknell's Thrush

Speaker: Alyssa FitzGerald

June 6, 2016 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

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

Details forthcoming.

Upcoming Audubon Programs

Bird Walk @ Kinderhook Creek Preserve! - a Rensselaer Land Trust preserve

Saturday, April 30, 2016, 7:30 pm (rain date, Sunday, May 1, 2016)

Join us as our ASCR bird walk leaders explore the [Rensselaer Land Trust's](#) Kinderhook Creek Nature Preserve in Stephentown, NY for spring migrants on this joint trip with the with [Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club](#) !

Directions to location:

*****In your GPS or Google Maps, enter: 300 Martha Hicks Road, East Nassau, NY, 12062**

Birdwalk! - 'Birds, Beer, and BBQ' - JOINT TRIP with Hudson Mohawk Bird Club!

Saturday, April 23, 2016, 9:00 am.

Location: Sanders Town Preserve, Town of Glenville (Schenetady County)

Join us as we bird the trails at Sanders Preserve in the Town of Glenville in search of early migrants. Be prepared for wet or muddy conditions. Afterwards, participants may visit the [Wolf Hollow Brewing Company](#) tasting room on Route 5 for beer and [Buzzards Bay BBQ](#) or brown bag your own.

There will also be a drawing for the second annual Cabin Getaway Fundraiser. \$25 per chance to win a week-long escape to a private birding paradise in a peaceful country setting. For more details and to purchase your ticket visit: www.capitalregionaudubon.org

Directions: Meet at 9:00 am at the Preserve parking area, located on the south side of Sanders Road in west Glenville. To reach Sanders Road, take Sacandaga Road (Route 147) north from the Village of Scotia approximately 5 miles. Just after the Glendaal School, turn left on Church Road. Church eventually turns into Sanders Road.

Field Trip Coordinator:

Ellen Pemrick, phone: 518-882-9163 email: lnmp@nycap.rr.com

On Nature

Of Snowy Owls and Eiders

by *Scott Stoner*



© Scott Stoner
Naturelogues 2016

The coast from Plum Island, MA to Portsmouth, NH is a good winter birding spot. We were planning to go last year, last February, but the great snowy winter intervened; high drifts, narrow streets reduced to single lanes, no place to put the snow; refuge road closed... With another storm forecast, even the hotel people suggested that we cancel! So we did... We went finally in late March 2015, and the one Snowy Owl was a distant speck out on the marsh at Plum Island (Parker River NWR), followed by a quick flyover to whereabouts unknown. The snowbanks were still high and only hinted at what had been a month earlier. There were ducks too, but they were far.

This year we tried again. It sounded hopeful, with reports of Snowy Owls along the New Hampshire coast from the early winter. Away in late

On Nature..... (continued)

December. and early January, we scheduled a trip for mid-February, the same weekend as the HMBC. With some of the coldest weather in recent years forecast, plus high winds, we did a last-minute cancellation again. Good thing, as conditions sounded miserable, and it seemed that the owls of December had moved on.

We tried again a month later. Forecast was for upper 50's and sun – and, as luck would have it, Snowy Owls were again being reported on the NH coast!

Staying in Seabrook, NH, we quickly worked our way up the NH coast toward Rye, where we encountered a long line of cars pulled over. Wondering what was happening, we thought that perhaps there was overflow parking from the shore – but then we saw the equally long line of photographers, perhaps 30 lenses large and small all pointing away from the road. A Snowy Owl perched on a post! Pulling over, we grabbed some 'just in case' shots from the car, then set up our equipment and in an open spot in the crowd. After a bit, the bird flew to a nearby roof (actually closer to the road) and stayed there for about 6 hours. We, and many others, spent hours with this bird, photographing, observing from various angles. Despite the warmer weather, it felt cold due to a stiff wind, but it was well worth it!

My sister was coming up later, but was stuck in traffic. Five minutes before she got there, the bird flew again – but then came back to the same roof about 15 minutes later, so she was able to get some great scope views too.

The owl wasn't the only attraction. A nearby inlet, off or Rye Harbor, contained several loons, and an older gentleman told us that when the tide comes in, so do the Eiders. Sure enough, we had a chance to see and photograph Common Eiders there, which even left the far shore and swam over to the closer portion of the water, as they actively fed on crabs!

In all, it was a long, tiring and often chilly day, but one that left us with nearly 4,000 images to go through, and more importantly, memories of a day with nature that will last forever.



Eider with reluctant meal

TROY CBC (continued)

Although there was open water, we found only one GREAT BLUE HERON, which is odd since we also found six BELTED KINGFISHERS. Raptor numbers were not particularly impressive, although two AMERICAN KESTRELS were found (something that last happened ten years ago). The three common gulls were supplemented by four ICELAND GULLS and one of the two LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS seen in the area preceding count day.

Owl numbers were low, perhaps reflecting windy owling conditions, but also possibly reflecting a decreased effort by the field teams. Woodpecker numbers were robust, with three sapsuckers and a record-tying 19 PILEATED WOODPECKERS. Corvids were represented by four species, but no standout numbers.

HORNED LARKS, largely absent from the area prior to the first snowfall, put in an appearance in two of the territories. TUFTED TITMICE hit a record high, and single BROWN CREEPER and WINTER WREN were good finds. Thrushes were relatively abundant. The 118 EASTERN BLUEBIRDS represented a count high (by one), and a SINGLE HERMIT THRUSH was located.

For sparrows (other than what I'll mention in a bit), the only notable species was a WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, representing the ninth occurrence on the count – the only recurring species that had been found on fewer than ten counts. BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS were the only blackbirds found, and a single PINE SISKIN hanging out with a flock of HOUSE FINCHES was the only winter finch.

The five "count week" species would have been good to get on count day, but the best bird had to be an unexpected LARK SPARROW, photographed nicely, bringing the cumulative count list up to 144 species in 68 years.

The 67 species found is just a tad below the 20-year average of 67.5 species and a little further below the 10-year average of 68.2 species, but nonetheless better than the 63 species found last year.

Larry Alden
Compiler

116th CBC - Troy Count Circle - January 2, 2016

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Snow Goose		7330	5600	4325	54	1100	820	14629
Canada Goose	3395	1065	3586	990	2830	2999	785	15650
Gadwall		2						2
American Wigeon						1		1
American Black Duck		21		4	6	4	27	62
Mallard	51	44	91	23	122	140	38	509
Northern Pintail				CW				0
Am. Green-winged Teal						6		6
Ring-necked Duck	1							1

Lesser Scaup	2							2
Bufflehead	3							3
Common Goldeneye	12		11	41	11			64
Hooded Merganser	34	35	11		2	3		85
Common Merganser	75	4	22	7	8	21	28	165
Wild Turkey		57			2		9	68
Great Blue Heron					1			1
Bald Eagle	3	1	9	3	3	2		19
Northern Harrier					CW			0
Sharp-shinned Hawk			2		1		1	4
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	2	2			4	10
Red-tailed Hawk	9	13	10	5	15	17	12	81
Ring-billed Gull	7	72	255	83	547	105	174	1243
Herring Gull		4	2	660	355	2	10	1033
Iceland Gull				2	2			4
Lesser Black-backed Gull				1				1
Great Black-backed Gull		1		112	175	1		289
Rock Pigeon	34	98	99	236	56	284	96	903
Mourning Dove	36	50	26	8	60	67	104	351
Eastern Screech-Owl				3				3
Great Horned Owl		1						1
Belted Kingfisher	1		2		1		2	6
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	15	16	7	5	7	9	63
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		2	1					3
Downy Woodpecker	10	32	20	6	2	11	23	104
Hairy Woodpecker	1	9	4	1		8	8	31
Northern Flicker	3	3	5		3	1	8	23
Pileated Woodpecker	3	3	3	2	2	1	5	19
American Kestrel		1				1		2

Merlin					1			1
Blue Jay	31	82	92	15	18	30	51	319
American Crow	450	332	530	268	141	652	30	2403
Fish Crow		4		10	4	4		22
Common Raven			1			2		3
Horned Lark		55				70		125
Black-capped Chickadee	90	148	94	7	30	64	82	515
Tufted Titmouse	17	51	37	7	4	14	28	158
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2				2			4
White-breasted Nuthatch	12	32	31	9	6	11	19	120
Brown Creeper							1	1
Winter Wren							1	1
Carolina Wren		3	2		1		1	7
Eastern Bluebird	5	34	23	7	12	4	33	118
Hermit Thrush		1						1
American Robin	6	368	9	17	54	112	199	765
Northern Mockingbird	1	6	4	1	3	1	7	23
European Starling	115	236	773	1849	25	714	236	3948
American Pipit						CW		0
Cedar Waxwing	10					7		17
American Tree Sparrow	22	8	6	5	13	6	18	78
Lark Sparrow						1		1
Song Sparrow	4	3	4	2	1	1	10	25
White-throated Sparrow	2	16	8	2	4	2	13	47
White-crowned Sparrow		1						1
Dark-eyed Junco	56	152	167	60	83	109	89	716
Northern Cardinal	16	26	24	13	17	16	27	139
Red-winged Blackbird						CW		0
Brown-headed Cowbird	7					11		18

House Finch	24	78	31	53		27	20	233
Common Redpoll						CW		0
Pine Siskin		1						1
American Goldfinch	48	30	18	2	1	22	29	150
House Sparrow	90	152	116	32	74	288	34	786
								0
Total Birds	4693	10683	11747	8880	4757	6949	3091	46187
Total Species	40	47	40	39	43	44	39	67
Count Week Species	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	5
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total

CW = Denotes species found during the Count Week (3 days on each side of count day) but not on count day.

* Some species totals do not match the total reported by each individual party (e.g., Snow Goose). I adjusted to account for birds which might have been seen by two or more parties.

Large Print = record number or tied record for the count.

Group A: Jeremy Kirchman, Alison VanKeuren. 7:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (1.0 hour, 1.0 mile on foot; 6.75 hours, 36 miles by car.)

Group B: Larry Alden, Steve Chorvas. 5:25 a.m. - 5:05 p.m. (2.0 hours, 1.9 miles on foot; 8.25 hours, 64.1 miles by car. Also 1.5 hours, 14.1 miles owling.)

Group C: Rich Guthrie, Jocelyn Cole, Will Raup. 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (2.0 hours, 1.0 mile on foot; 7 hours, 48 miles by car.)

Group D: Frank Murphy, Deb Ferguson. 5:45 a.m. - 7:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (1.5 hours, 3.5 miles on foot; 7.5 hours, 64 miles by car. Also 1.25 hours, 7 miles owling.)

Group E: Bill Lee, Jamie Taft, Mark Fitzsimmons. 7:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. (3.0 hours, 3.0 miles on foot; 6.25 hours, 70.4 miles by car.)

Group F: Kathryn Schneider, Jim de Waal Malefyt, Naomi Lloyd. 7:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m., less 0.75 hour not birding (2.0 hours, 0.5 miles on foot; 6.5 hours, 76 miles by car.)

Group G: Steve Mesick, Jackson Mesick, Elise Smith. 6:20 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. (3.0 hours, 5.5 miles on foot, 6.5 hours, 85 miles by car. Also 1.0 hour, 3.0 miles owling.)

Notes: Hours rounded to the nearest quarter hour.

Upcoming Field Trips

APRIL

Saturday, April 16, FIVE RIVERS FOR EARLY MIGRANTS, DELMAR, NY (Albany County, morning)

Coordinator: Tom and Colleen Williams 857-2176 trwdsd@yhoo.com

We will explore the diverse habitats of Five Rivers EEC looking for early migrants, including Green Heron, Wilson's Snipe, Eastern Phoebe, Winter Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Hermit Thrush, Brown Thrasher, Louisiana Waterthrush, Pine Warbler, Eastern Towhee and Eastern Meadowlark.

Meet at the parking lot of Five Rivers EEC on Game Farm Rd. in Delmar at 7:00 AM.

Sunday, April 17, VISCHER FERRY (VFNHP), CLIFTON PARK, NY (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 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.

Meet at the main entrance at 6:00 p.m. Bring a flashlight to aid in returning to the parking area.

Thursday, April 21, WOODCOCK AT FIVE RIVERS, DELMAR, NY (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 23, 2016, JOINT TRIP WITH AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE CAPITAL REGION: SANDERS PRESERVE / BIRDS 'N' BREWS (Schenectady County)

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

Join us as we bird the trails at Sanders Preserve in the Town of Glenville in search of early migrants. Be prepared for wet or muddy conditions. Afterwards, participants may visit [Wolf Hollow Brewing Company](#) on Route 5 for beer and BBQ.

Meet at 9:00 am at the Preserve parking area, located on the south side of Sanders Road in west Glenville. To reach Sanders Road, take Sacandaga Road (Route 147) north from the Village of Scotia approximately 5 miles. Just after the Glendaal School, turn left onto Church Road; Church then turns into Sanders Road.

Saturday, April 2, 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 1, PEEBLES ISLAND STATE PARK AND COHOES FLATS (Saratoga County; morning)

Coordinator: John Hershey 371-3114 hersheyj@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.

Saturday, May 7, BIRDS & BREAKFAST AT FIVE RIVERS EEC (Albany County; morning)

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

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 am for coffee, doughnuts, bagels, fresh fruit and a list compilation. The breakfast is free, but donations are encouraged.

Sunday, May 8, 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 14, 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 Big Lots parking lot on Route 9 and 20 in East Greenbush to carpool, since parking at the preserve is limited.

Saturday, May 14, DUSK AT HUNDRED ACRE WOODS (Saratoga County, evening)

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

We'll take a late-evening walk around the Hundred Acre Woods in the Luther Forest Tech Park, looking for migrant and summer-resident songbirds. Then, toward dusk, we'll look and listen for displaying American Woodcock and Whippoorwill, both of which are regular here in summer. We may also have a chance to listen for Barred Owl.

Meet at 7:00 PM at the main Hundred Acre Woods parking area on Luther Forest Blvd. in Malta. Bring a flashlight or headlamp.

Sunday, May 15, BOG MEADOW BROOK (Saratoga County; morning)

Coordinator: Ron Harrower 744-2637 rharrower@nycap.rr.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 21, CENTURY RUN (NYS Region 8; all day)

Compiler: Larry Alden 600 Overlook Ln, Altamont, NY 12009
861-6087 overlook@nycap.rr.com

This is the Club's 71th 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 22, DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS, [DOODLETOWN](#) (Rockland County; morning-early afternoon)
(out of area)

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

Sunday, May 22, 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 Big Lots plaza on Rt. 9 and 20 in East Greenbush to carpool. There will be a per car fee charged at the State Park.

Saturday, May 28, 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 29, DOODLETOWN (Rockland County; morning-early afternoon) (out of area)

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 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 22, if you plan to attend.

Monday, 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.

JUNE

Saturday, June 4, 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 4, DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS, PERCH RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (near Watertown, NY; overnight) (out of area)

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

Sunday, June 5, GALWAY NATURE PRESERVE (Saratoga County; morning)

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

Originally a Christmas Tree farm in the 1950s, Galway Nature Preserve is a property owned and managed by Saratoga PLAN. It contains about 2.5 miles of trails that meander through forest, marshland, and pond habitat. On this trip, we will walk the trails looking – and listening – for warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other woodland species. We'll also look for birds such as Northern Harrier and Barn Swallow in the farm fields adjacent to the preserve.

Meet at 8:00 AM in the preserve parking lot. Directions: <http://www.saratogaplan.org/explore/public-preserves-trails/galway-nature-preserve>.

June 9, RESERVATIONS FOR FOX HILL RD.

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

There is a limit of four cars (16 people max.) for this trip. Call or email the coordinator for a spot.

Sunday, June 12, FOX HILL Rd. (Saratoga County)

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

On this trip we will travel through the remote forested and wetland areas along Desolation Lake Rd. and Fox Hill Rd. in Saratoga County. We will bird from the roadside and also explore areas recently acquired by New York State for conservation and recreation. Higher elevation breeders will be the main target. As many as 15 or more breeding warbler species are possible including Nashville, Canada, and Mourning Warbler. Other breeding species that have been seen in the past include American Bittern, Northern Goshawk, Broad-winged Hawk, and Swainson's Thrush.

Because we will be birding from the road, it will be necessary to share vehicles and to limit the number of participants to 16. Waterproof footwear is recommended. Contact the coordinators for reservations, and other information.

Meet at the Saratoga County Airport parking lot off Geysers Rd. at 7:30 AM.

Saturday, June 11, H.G. REIST SANCTUARY (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, and Scarlet Tanager have been observed here. The walk is on easy, level trails.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Hummingbird Manor entrance on Oakmont Street in Niskayuna.

Feathers

Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club

c/o Five Rivers EEC

Game Farm Road

Delmar, NY 12054