

# Feathers

## **ROSS'S GULL: A QUICK TRIP TO BARROW, ALASKA**

by Bernie Grossman

Chris and I have traveled extensively with Field Guides, Inc., to see birds and cultural sites around the world. Our first trip with them was to Alaska, and this included several days in Barrow. In mid-June, the tundra and water around Barrow is teeming with many species of birds all in breeding plumage. While recently looking at Field Guides tours on their website, I noticed that they were now offering a short dash to Barrow in early October specifically to look for the rare Ross' GULL. Their first try was to be this year. A similar trip was also offered by Wilderness Birding Adventures (WBA), a small Alaska-based birding company.

Upon applying for a space, I was told that I was number five on the wait list for this year's trip. A few days later and much to my surprise, I received an email saying that I was now in. I made plans to fly to Anchorage on October 3 and then join the group of thirteen others plus two guides going to Barrow the next day. We would all start flying home on the morning flight out of Barrow October 8.

My hotel in Anchorage was right on the shore of Lake Hood, the local base for seaplanes. In the spring, the lake is an important stopping point for migrating waterfowl, but it was much less active now with a few MALLARDS, SCAUP and HORNED GREBES. As I walked across the road to the shore, I heard BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES and saw a BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE.

Our flight stopped first at Deadhorse, the airport for Prudhoe Bay. While flying there, I had a good look at Mt. McKinley, the Dalton Highway, and the pipeline. Many oilfield workers boarded the plane at Deadhorse for rotation out. They typically work for three weeks and then have two weeks off. The guy who sat down next to me said, "I kinda smell, don't I?" "Yes. Of petroleum."

*(continued on p 100)*

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## President's Corner

Winter is coming. "Snow" and "ice" have begun to appear in the weather reports. Colder weather means that some of us will be spending a bit more time indoors, some of that time we might be spending on our computer. Which leads me to a conversation I had with Will Raup in which he related a few stories to me from Feathers. Old Feathers. Very old Feathers. He's been reading our old Feathers online, on the club's website HMBC.NET. All of the club's Feathers, going back to 1939 are available online. Great thanks to Wayne B'Rells and Bob Yunick for this.

To put 1939 in perspective, here are some events from that year:

- WWII begins as Germany invades Poland
- The Great Depression is winding down
- The last public execution happens in France (by guillotine)
- Food Stamps are first issued
- Albert Einstein writes FDR about developing an atomic bomb
- Regular TV broadcasts begin in the US
- Batman comics were first published
- Lou Gehrig ended his streak of 2130 consecutive games

The world in 1939, oh so much different than 2013. What about birding in 1939 and what is the first Feathers?

- A report of a very rare bird. A Mockingbird.
- Election of the first directors of the bird club.

- A report on "The Great Vulture Controversy". During an outing in Central Park in Schenectady, a bird was seen flying with a number of hawks. There was sharp disagreement about the identity of the bird with some leaning towards a Vulture and other people insisting it was not a vulture. Near the end of the article, this was written "Nobody had the forethought to be provided with a rifle in order to bring down the specimen ...". Some thoughts on this report ... a vulture being rare at that time and controversy over its identification, presumably because of its rarity; bringing a rifle while going birding and shooting a rare bird; and most interesting to me is the casualness of bringing a rifle into Central Park. Imagine that today.

- And my favorite "How big is a flock?" I have copied the entire article here: "One local observer, commenting on the heavy migration of winter wrens this spring, said that, although he had never seen more than two of this species at one time before, he had seen a whole flock of them in the cemetery this year. Asked how many there were in the flock, he replied: 'Three.'"

Now that the cold weather is here, I invite you to check out the old Feathers at HMBC.NET when you're not outside birding. You might just be surprised and delighted.

See you on the Christmas Bird Counts!

Jory Langner  
[president@hmbc.net](mailto:president@hmbc.net)

### **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:

*HMBC Contact Information*  
**BIRDLINE of EASTERN NEW YORK:**  
**E-mail:** [contact@hmbc.net](mailto: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](mailto:bgrossman@nycap.rr.com).

Send all paper submissions to:

**Chris Grossman**  
**7 Nott Rd.**  
Rexford, NY 12148

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## Field Trip Reports

### **Cohoes Flats/Peebles Island**

*Sunday, August 25, 2013*

We had an excellent turnout of 18 enthusiastic birders including several new members or members-to-be. The real highlight of the morning was A SANDERLING at the Flats seen well by everyone close to the Clark Ave. access area. When we returned later at the end of the trip (1:00 pm) the bird was still close by the access. Other good birds for the morning include BALD EAGLE, OSPREY, GREATER and LESSER YELLOWLEGS. We found only one warbler species, CHESTNUT-SIDED, seen by only one person. After finding a GRAY CATBIRD and FISH CROW upon returning to Clark Ave., we were able to eke out a respectable, final total of 47 species.

We did discover one gull, while looking down to the Mohawk River from Peebles Island, with a gray mantle that appeared to have white wing tips at rest, raising the possibility of a rare white-winged gull. I have posted 2 pictures of this mystery gull. After looking at these pictures I've concluded that there are dark wing tips at least on the one side. Perhaps some feathers on the other side are missing. So, in the picture the "Mystery Gull" looks like a Ring-billed Gull to me. But, comments on the "Mystery Gull" are welcome. Altogether I posted 6 pictures. The first one was taken yesterday from Peebles Island of an immature BALD EAGLE with the moon (not fabricated) fairly high in the sky around 10 am. The next 2 are the SANDERLING, one showing it towering over a LEAST SANDPIPER. There is a GREATER and LESSER YELLOWLEGS comparison, and 2 shots of the Mystery Gull.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hmbirds/photos/album/77752785/pic/165781352/view?picmode=large&mode=tn&order=ordinal&start=441&dir=asc> (Accessible only to group members)

- John Hershey

### **Saratoga Battlefield**

*Sunday, September 22, 2013*

In spite of the weather predictions there was a good turnout of about 12 congenial birders for Ellen Pemrick's HMBC Field Trip to Saratoga National Historic Park this morning. Highlights included a good list of warblers, a BROWN CREEPER, YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER, GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER, COMMON RAVEN, and a SCARLET TANAGER. One of the first birds at the beginning of the Wilkinson Trail was a BAY-BREASTED WARBLER seen well by everyone. The rest of the warblers we had to work hard for but, I believe, we had BLACK-THROATED GREEN, BLACK-THROATED BLUE, BLACKPOLL, AMERICAN REDSTART, MAGNOLIA, YELLOW-RUMPED, and BLACK-AND-WHITE. Unfortunately we were 2 short of a woodpecker 6 pack. We also enjoyed some wonderful views including the peaks in Vermont -- is it Mt. Equinox?

## Field Trip Reports *(continued)*

I posted a picture of the BAY-BREASTED WARBLER which is not one of my best pictures but it shows many of the field marks which some like myself still need to learn well. A little of the rufous coloring can be seen on the flanks but it is obscured by a branch in front. Legs and feet are not yellow as they would be for Blackpoll. The undertail coverts are buffy, not white. Also, stripes on the back are clear. The second picture is a view looking over to Vermont.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hmbirds/photos/album/77752785/pic/1121621689/view?picmode=large&mode=tn&order=ordinal&start=461&dir=asc> (Accessible only to group members)

- John Hershey

### **Five Rivers**

*Monday, October 7, 2013*

Eight birders turned out in the drizzle for this morning's HMBC field trip at Five Rivers. There was a good amount of bird activity, with forty species counted, not including an unidentified accipiter. A couple of participants added new birds to their life lists. The species mix was as expected for early October - heavy on sparrows and YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS, with a few other warblers, BLUE-HEADED VIREOS, and both RUBY-CROWNED and GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS. I estimated about 25 YELLOW-RUMPS, with one each of COMMON YELLOWTHROAT, BLACKPOLL WARBLER, and BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER. Sparrow species observed were WHITE-THROATED (abundant), SONG, FIELD, WHITE-CROWNED (several), LINCOLN'S, and EASTERN TOWHEE. We had five woodpecker species (no sapsucker), both nuthatches, CEDAR WAXWING, BELTED KINGFISHER, and both GREEN and GREAT BLUE HERON. The drizzle persisted through most of our three hours in the field, and ended just as we finished up. Thanks to all who showed up.

- John Kent

### **Roosevelt Truck Trail**

*Saturday, November 2, 2013*

The Roosevelt Truck Trail became known a few years ago as an accessible place to find boreal birds such as GRAY JAY and BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER. It runs for about 3.5 miles from a point 1.6 miles north of the Boreas River on NYS Route 28N to Blue Ridge Road near Newcomb. The trail starts at a barrier about two hundred feet in on a blacktop drive. The trail itself is really a lightly improved track for high clearance vehicles that can access a pair of handicap-accessible campsites about 2 miles in. A special permit is required to drive on it. Beyond the second camp, the road can only be walked or skied due to blowdown. The trail is easy walking through a nice spruce boreal woods.

## Field Trip Reports *(continued)*

Eleven birders made the trip on a gloomy day. Birds were scarce, but we did see and hear a few BOREAL CHICKADEES flocking with BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES and RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES. We also saw good numbers of GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS. Also heard were COMMON RAVEN and AMERICAN BLUE JAY.

An abandoned rail line that runs to the old titanium mine at Tahawus crosses Route 28N about ¼ mile north of the southern start of the Truck Trail. We walked about three quarters of a mile north along the rail bed. Here we saw MORE BOREAL and BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES and GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS.

The trip ended when it began to rain.

- *Bernie Grossman*

### **Tomhannock Reservoir**

*Saturday, November 9, 2013*

10 participants spent the morning birding Tomhannock Reservoir, finding 44 species. Nothing totally unexpected, although about a half dozen TREE SWALLOWS were good. Other good finds were 2 adult BALD EAGLES, single Ruby-CROWNED and GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS, and a YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER. There were two yellowlegs of undetermined species and we also had the first AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS of the season.

- *Larry Alden*

## Upcoming HMBC Programs

### **Birding in Ecuador**

**Speaker: Greg Recer**

December 2, 2013 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

William K. Sanford Colonie Town Library

629 Albany-Shaker Road, Loudonville, NY 12211

With habitat diversity ranging from Pacific coast, deserts, cloud forest and high elevation paramo grasslands to rainforest in the upper Amazon basin, Ecuador packs an amazing 1550 bird species into an area roughly the size of Colorado. As a first foray into birding "The Bird Continent", Gregg and his wife Cathy took a guided tour of Ecuador's Andes and Amazon, spending time birding on both slopes of the Andes, as well as on the Rio Napo in the eastern lowlands. Gregg will share pictures from the tour, highlighting numerous neotropical bird families such as hummingbirds, tanagers, antpittas, toucans, guans and more.

Gregg Recer and his wife Cathy Graichen have been HMBC members for 25 years and for the past several years have been focused on the joys of tropical birding. Gregg is a research scientist with the NY State Department of Health and a former HMBC president

## Upcoming HMBC Programs *(continued)*

### **Birding in Cambodia**

**Speaker: Bernie Grossman**

January 6, 2014 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

William K. Sanford Colonie Town Library

629 Albany-Shaker Road, Loudonville, NY 12211

Cambodia is the site of remarkable cultural sites and wild life as well as having suffered a terrible national catastrophe 40 years ago. We traveled there in February, 2013 to see the ruins at Angkor Wat and to bird its countryside. We also toured the National Palace and famous Killing Fields in Phnom Penh. The talk presents a photographic summary of our visit.

Bernie and Chris Grossman have lived in the Capital District and have been HMBC members for about 40 years. Bernie was most recently club president and Chris is *Feathers* editor.

### **Birding the Mohawk River**

**Speaker: John Hershey**

February 3, 2014 - 7:00pm - 8:00pm

William K. Sanford Colonie Town Library

629 Albany-Shaker Road, Loudonville, NY 12211

Details TBA

### **Managing Grassland Birds at Saratoga Battlefield**

**Speaker: Linda White**

March 3, 2014 - 7:00pm - 8:00pm

William K. Sanford Colonie Town Library

629 Albany-Shaker Road, Loudonville, NY 12211

Details TBA

## Upcoming Audubon Programs

### **Kestrels! - The Littlest Falcon**

**Speaker: Mike Burger**

March 20, 2014 : 7 PM - 8:30 PM

Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library, 475 Moe Road, Clifton Park, NY 12065.

## Upcoming Audubon Programs . . . *(continued)*

Mike Burger, Director of Conservation and Science for Audubon New York at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, will talk about NY's smallest falcon, the American Kestrel. He will cover its biology, population status, and threats, as well as what Audubon and others are doing to conserve it across NY. Sprinkled throughout will be anecdotes from Mike's Master's thesis research on wintering kestrels.

Mike has been with Audubon New York since 1999, first as a forest ecologist conducting research in the Adirondacks, then as Director of Bird Conservation for seven years, and most recently as Director of Conservation and Science. Based at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, Mike functions as Audubon New York's chief scientist, with a responsibility of providing a solid, science-based foundation for all of the organization's programs. Additionally, Mike oversees several of Audubon New York's conservation programs, including the Important Bird Areas, grassland bird conservation, and forest biodiversity programs. Prior to coming to Audubon, Mike earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Michigan where he studied climatic and physiological determinants of bird ranges and was supported by a Department of Energy Global Change Fellowship.

## On Nature

### Seasons

*by Denise Hackert-Stoner and Scott Stoner*

We are happy to live in the northeast. We like to watch the parade of foliage, flowers, and weather as seasons chase one another through the year, each one following the leader, nipping at its heels, then taking the lead as month follows month. Even in spring, as we heard bees humming their work songs among the apple blossoms we could almost taste the sweet crunch of the fruit that would hang from the same boughs in a few short months. And in the heat of summer, when the leaves hung bright with chlorophyll, it was fun to remember that the deep reds and golds were already present in those same leaves, just waiting their turn to shine.

And now, as December winds blow the last of autumn's color off the branches, winter is about to get its turn. The sleeping garden will soon be tucked in under its thick blanket of snow. Migration is long over, and wintering birds engage in their daily struggle for survival. We watch the small flocks of tiny chickadees and titmice, along with a few Downy Woodpeckers, as they work the brushy areas, making their living as a cooperative. Seeds, hidden insects, berries and fruit: these are the paycheck. What they buy is life in this challenging time of year.

As we watch these voracious foragers it is hard to imagine that one seed, one berry, one ant or insect larva might be left behind. But of course we know better. And we know that spring lives in those left behind, just waiting for lengthening days and warming soil to come to the surface and bloom.

Happy Winter Everyone,  
Denise and Scott



## ROSS'S GULL: A QUICK TRIP TO BARROW, ALASKA *(continued)*

Barrow, the northern-most city in America at about 71°N, 157°W, has a population of about 4000 of whom 80% are Inuit. It is the government seat of the North Slope Borough which includes all of Alaska's coastal plain north of the Brooks Mtns. It has no paved streets; its utilities run through heated underground tunnels; and its power comes from natural gas fields outside of town. The tundra is flat and featureless (Figure 1), and we found it covered with about 4 inches of snow. Barrow is an arctic desert that receives about 6" precipitation/year. However, the snow can blow across immense distances, so drifting is a real problem.

Several of us stayed at the King Eider Inn, a short walk from the airport. It was neat and clean with comfortable rooms. The whole group had been intended to stay at the Top of the World Hotel, but its associated restaurant, Pepe's Mexican, burned down this summer damaging the hotel. We ate at Arctic Pizza or Sam and Lee's Chinese-American, about the only choices left. Luckily the food was filling and good, but expensive.



**Figure 1 Tundra from Gaswell Road**

Barrow is north of the Arctic Circle, so the sun will set at mid-November for about 80 days. Already in early October, the sun rose at about 9 AM and set around 7 PM. Day length decreased noticeably each day- about 15-20 minutes. It was almost dark while we were at dinner at the Arctic Pizza the first evening when I noticed a large bird fly up to a nearby power pole. It was a SNOWY OWL, our first Barrow bird.

The day length and the windy cold limited our birding to 2-3 hour stints in the morning and afternoon. We usually drove out the ten mile long Coastal Road toward Point Barrow. The point and its spit were made of coarse, soft sand, so our small bus couldn't drive out on it. The town had also built a berm along much of the road's length that limited our view of the water. The berm protected against storm surge damaging the road.

## ROSS'S GULL: A QUICK TRIP TO BARROW, ALASKA *(continued)*

Our most numerous birds were the GLAUCOUS GULL. They hang around until the ocean freezes over. This time of year they were attracted to the remains left from the Inuits' butchering BOWHEAD WHALES killed in the fall hunt. The whales (and other protected species) are hunted by the Inuits as a result of their native rights. We had to check each butchering spot to see if any IVORY GULLS were present. None were.

The first morning, October 5, we geared up and headed out along the coastal road. We soon spotted our first bird, a YELLOW-BILLED LOON, swimming in the ocean just off shore. Around it was a small flock of KING EIDER in winter plumage. We could easily see the upturned gape of the male eider's bill line as well as the forehead bill bump. Further along, we saw small numbers of LONG-TAILED DUCKS, and, then finally, a couple of flying Ross' GULL. Unfortunately we were on the bus, so only caught a glimpse of them.

We disembarked from the bus at the road's end and walked over the berm to set up a sea watch. Flocks of KING and COMMON EIDER passed west over Point Barrow as we stood in a cold wind bearing from the west. We had a couple of fly-bys by PACIFIC LOONS. Then the flow of ROSS' GULLS started flying north close along the shore in small numbers.

Guide books describe the ROSS' GULL as a small, delicate gull similar in body type to the BONAPARTE'S GULL or a tern, but having a thin black collar line and a faint pink color on the belly. Our birds were in winter plumage and have a black spot behind the eye. Some of the birds were white, but most had a definite pink color on belly and head (Figure 2 and Figure 6). A total of about 500 gulls were seen that day. The black "M" wing mark of a first year bird is clearly visible in Figure 2.



**Figure 2 First Year Ross' Gull. Note Black Wing 'M'**

It is estimated that there are about 15,000 Ross' GULLS. They live around the Siberian shore feeding on krill and plankton in the Chukchi Sea. It was noted in the early 1970s that the population migrated east from the Chukchi Sea past Point Barrow and into the Beaufort Sea. Geographically, the seas are divided by a line drawn north from Point Barrow. The migration

starts in late September and reverses late in October. By mid-November, the birds have returned to the Chukchi Sea to live off the edge of the ice pack. The reason for the migration is not clear.

## ROSS'S GULL: A QUICK TRIP TO BARROW, ALASKA *(continued)*

The afternoon's birding was similar. Additional birds seen included a flock of SPECTACLED EIDER, a GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL and an immature THAYER'S GULL. Small numbers of COMMON RAVEN were also spotted.

We got another thrill from watching five POLAR BEARS foraging out on the Point Barrow Spit. For our safety, they were a couple of miles from us, but easily visible through spotting scopes. The only other mammal seen by us was a distant ARCTIC FOX.

The weather next morning was clear and calm. As a result, few Ross' GULLS were seen. After lunch, we decided to try a road into the tundra to look for ptarmigan and SNOWY OWLS. The road, Gaswell Road (also called Cakeater Road), accessed the natural gas fields, and, while there are some houses along its start, the road followed a flat, barren course with the tundra view broken by long lines of power poles that serviced the well infrastructure. Soon one of us spotted an owl perched on a pole. It turned out to be a mature female, which I digiscoped with the eyepiece set at high magnification (Figure 3). Further along near a well maintenance complex, we found a mature male owl much closer to us (Figure 4). The birds' sexual dimorphism is clearly seen here. The two birds are probably a mated pair.



**Figure 3 Adult Female Snowy Owl**



**Figure 4 Adult Male Snowy Owl**

Passerines were almost totally absent. Going to lunch the first day, we spotted a small unidentified flock flying away over town buildings. On the second day, the WBA group told us that they had seen a few SNOW BUNTINGS and then both redpolls species at a feeder. There we found a couple of COMMON REDPOLLS, and finally a HOARY REDPOLL stopped in.

The last full birding day started out cloudy and cold and with a strong northerly wind blowing. The drive out the Coastal Road was a repeat of the previous two days, but as we got out of the bus, a flock of about 140

## ROSS' GULL: A QUICK TRIP TO BARROW, ALASKA *(continued)*

Ross' GULLS flew right over us. This was the start of a grand flight. It was too bitter to stand very long at the sea watch, so much of the time was spent in the wind shadow of the bus. Even this was productive, since we witnessed a steady stream of gulls flying by over the point in an easterly direction.

This day's outing included a drive out to the point and spit in a 4-wheel drive pickup truck driven by a local Inuit, Mike. He told us stories about living in Barrow and how he worked as a mechanic, guide, and search and rescue team member. He also listed all 26-some nieces and nephews in correct birth order. I asked him how people got their cars to Barrow, and he said that many were barged in while the coast was ice free. He also transported cars in by driving his truck across the frozen Beaufort Sea pulling a large sled that he had made. The cars were driven up to Prudhoe Bay on the Dalton Highway from Fairbanks.

The first group out to the spit had the good fortune to see ~800 Ross' GULLS feeding off the shore of the spit. By the time my group got out there, the numbers were diminished, but I was able to get great looks and photos of those that remained (Figures 5 & 6). Figure 5 includes a first winter BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE. It was wonderful standing in the surf of the Beaufort Sea taking these.



**Figure 5** Ross' Gull and First Year Black-legged Kittiwak



**Figure 6** Ross' Gulls

Note that pink is not a normal feather color, but derives from pigment ingested with food. The classic example is flamingos, which get their feather color from shrimp. The Ross' GULLS must also get the color from the krill, etc. that they gather from the water. Thus, as Figure 6 shows, birds' color can vary depending upon age, molt stage, and food intake.

We flew out the next morning with a stop in Fairbanks to start an almost 24 hour long trip home for me. I saw a total of seventeen avian species in Barrow including one life lister, Ross' GULL. It was fun doing this, especially with a great group of experienced, well-traveled fellow birders.

## Upcoming Field Trips

### DECEMBER

#### **Wednesday, December 4 RESERVATIONS DUE FOR CAMPFIRE AND OWLING AT FIVE RIVERS**

Coordinators: Scott Stoner 765-6760 [scottjstoner@aol.com](mailto:scottjstoner@aol.com)

Peggy Rudis 371-5051 [peggyrudis@msn.com](mailto:peggyrudis@msn.com)

#### **Saturday, December 7 CAMPFIRE AND OWLING AT FIVE RIVERS** (Albany County; late afternoon / evening)

Coordinators: Craig Thompson 475-0291 (daytime)

Scott Stoner 765-6760 [scottjstoner@aol.com](mailto:scottjstoner@aol.com)

Peggy Rudis 371-5051 [peggyrudis@msn.com](mailto:peggyrudis@msn.com)

*Joint program with the Audubon Society of the Capital Region and Five Rivers Environmental Education Center.*

Great Horned Owls are often heard calling around dusk at this time of year in the deep pine woods at Five Rivers. In this special joint program, we will meet at 4 p.m. at the visitor center at Five Rivers for a brief introduction, then walk about 1 mile out to a woods that has been productive for owls in the past. Along the way or on the way back, stop around our blazing campfire and enjoy a hot dog and a cup of hot chocolate. The owls are not guaranteed, but a good time is nearly a certainty in this popular event on the HMBC schedule.

Reservations are needed in advance so we can plan how much food will be needed.

Contact Craig Thompson 475-0291 (daytime) by December 4th

#### **Saturday, December 14 SCHENECTADY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT** Coordinator/Compiler: : Larry Alden 861-6087 [overlook@nycap.rr.com](mailto:overlook@nycap.rr.com)

#### **Monday, December 28 SOUTHERN RENSSELAER CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

Coordinator/Compiler: Jim de Waal Malefyt 283-2362 [dewaalmalefyt@gmail.com](mailto:dewaalmalefyt@gmail.com)

### JANUARY

#### **Wednesday, January 1, NEW YEAR'S DAY BIRD COUNT AT FIVE RIVERS**

(Albany County; morning)

Coordinator: Ray Perry 475-0291 (daytime)

## Upcoming Field Trips *(continued)*

This year marks the 33rd Annual New Year's Day Bird Count at Five Rivers. The goal of the count is to identify all the bird species present on January 1st. This also marks the start of the annual bird list. HMBC joins the event again this year and encourages members to participate. Groups will go out at 9:00 a.m. from the Interpretive Building (visitor center), but birders are welcome to come earlier to get a head start. Call ahead to Five Rivers in case of inclement weather.

### **Thursday, January 2, NOTIFICATION/LISTING FOR RARE BIRD TRIP**

Coordinator: Bill Lee 374-3426 [bileej@hotmail.com](mailto:bileej@hotmail.com)

If any especially rare bird is reported in our general area, we plan to take a trip to look for it. This is usually a day trip, but sometimes requires an overnight stay. To get on the notification list for alert and trip details, contact the coordinator. In 2010, participants saw Ivory Gull and Tufted Duck.

### **Friday, January 3, DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS, CAPE ANN & NEWBURYPORT/PLUM ISLAND** out-of-area trip, January 17 – 20

See field trip description for particulars.

### **Saturday, January 4, 2014 2013 TROY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

Coordinator/Compiler: Larry Alden 861-6087 [overlook@nycap.rr.com](mailto:overlook@nycap.rr.com)

### **Friday – Monday, January 17 – 20, CAPE ANN & NEWBURYPORT/PLUM ISLAND (weekend)**

Coordinator/Leaders: Bernie Grossman 399-9159 [bgrossman@nycap.rr.com](mailto:bgrossman@nycap.rr.com)

Bill Lee 374-3426 [bileej@hotmail.com](mailto:bileej@hotmail.com)

The Cape Ann and the Newburyport/Plum Island, MA, areas are prime winter birding locations. We will spend Saturday on Cape Ann's shoreline looking for white-winged gulls, wintering sea ducks such as Harlequins, scoters, eiders and loons as well as other winter visitors like Purple Sandpipers and Guillemot. Sunday will be spent at Newburyport and Plum Island searching for more sea birds, Harriers, Snowy Owl, etc. Monday morning is make up time where we will pick up any spots and target species missed. Plan on 2 or 3 nights in a motel. By Club policy, this overnight trip is for members with non- members accommodated if room is available and with the leader's approval. Contact Bernie Grossman by January 3rd to reserve a spot and for housing information.

### **Saturday, January 18, ANNUAL STATE WATERFOWL COUNT** (morning/all day)

Coordinator: Gary Goodness 862-9260 [goodness@nycap.rr.com](mailto:goodness@nycap.rr.com)

## Upcoming Field Trips *(continued)*

On the local segment of this statewide event, participants will count waterfowl and other birds on the Hudson River between North Troy and Hudson Falls.

Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Hannaford parking lot on the east end of the North Troy-Waterford Bridge (NY Route 4).

*Feathers*

**Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club**

**c/o Five Rivers EEC**

**Game Farm Road**

**Delmar, NY 12054**