

February 2015
Volume 75 No. 1

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

Feathers

THE 85TH SCHENECTADY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

by Larry Alden

The 85th Schenectady CBC (Audubon CBC #115) was held on Saturday, December 20, 2014. Thirty-one participants in nine field parties took part. Only a little snow remained on the ground in the northern parts of the count circle from snowstorms in the weeks preceding the count, and it only got cold enough for ponds to freeze over, leaving open streams and rivers.

Weather conditions were very comfortable for the count, with temperatures ranging from a low of 24° to a high of 29°. Winds were light and there was no precipitation, but skies were cloudy throughout the day.

Mild weather to the north meant that ducks had little reason to migrate into our area, but it also meant that some of the earlier migrants stuck around to be counted (Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, and American Coot). Mallards dominated the waterfowl category, outnumbering even Canada Geese. The sector containing the Watervliet Reservoir was particularly productive for waterfowl, benefitting from the open water.

Black Vultures have been reported with increasing regularity in the count circle during the last few winters and this year they were finally located on count day. Hawks were not abundant, although Red-tailed Hawks hit a record high of 122. Other hawks, with the exception of Merlin and Cooper's Hawk, were only located in single sectors.

(continued on p 127)

ANNOUNCEMENT - SAVE THE DATE

The Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club is very proud to announce that we are hosting the annual NYSOA conference here in Albany. So mark your calendars now. October 2-4, 2015. That's next year, not this year. If you'd like to help, just give me a buzz. 518-573-7999.

***Jory Langner
President, HMBC***

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President's Corner

Mid-January in Albany. Christmas bird counts, the Five Rivers New Year's Day Bird Count, the Gull ID workshop, publishing our 2015 field trip schedule ... all are successful and complete. Great thanks to all the committee chairs, volunteers, trip leaders, and participants. None of this could be done without your efforts, year after year. I remain awed at the strength of our club. The club has it's own energy, its own life force as activities seem to magically happen, albeit by the hard work of our members. It has its heartbeat, its cycles as we go through the seasons each year

What's next? The club's "HMBC and Climate Change" group will be getting together later this month. Field trips and programs will continue on each month. The NYSOA planning group will be re-initializing efforts planning for our October hosting of the annual meeting.

And some great news. We have re-ordered our very popular book "Birding New York's Hudson-Mohawk Region". You'll be getting a formal announcement of when it will be ready for sale.

ON AGAIN, OFF AGAIN (a personal note)

I have recently spent some time recalling my memories as a birder. For those of you who I have not birded with, I will tell you that I've never been a great birder. Neither by sight or by song. But I sure was enthusiastic. There's nothing like a good Sandhill Crane or Cackling Goose to get me going.

ON: From the beginning in my twenties, I had 25 years of very active birding, around the country and the world, wherever I happened to be. Paper lists, exotic field guides, and my records finally making onto my original IBM PC. I feel very fortunate to have had jobs and other circumstances which brought me to those excellent birding locations.

OFF: Jobs and family brought my attention away from birding and I hung up my binoculars. For 15 years.

ON AGAIN: For the next handful of years I rediscovered the absolute thrill of birding. Still not a great birder, but I became more avid than ever before.

OFF AGAIN: And today, reflecting on this past year I see that I have rarely been out in the field. Although I have some wonderful new-to-me binoculars that sit ready to use, I haven't used them and can feel guilty about that. I am confident that they are in "cold storage" just waiting to be reactivated. This past year I've missed spring migration, fall migration, the excitement of Century Run, shorebirds in late summer, and the occasional chase to see some birds that rare in our area

President's Corner(continued)

What is the lure of birding? What brings me, and you, to fill the feeders, to go outside in the cold or the heat? Why do we drive to Vischer Ferry or Five Rivers or the Reist Sanctuary in the early morning? What is it about these creatures, these animals that fly, that cause us to spend our time trying to see them?

47,000,000. That's the number of birders the US according to our government's 2011 report. It can be found here:

<http://www.fws.gov/southeast/economicImpact/pdf/2011-BirdingReport--FINAL.pdf>

Why do these 47 million people do this? On a personal note, why do I choose to do this? Or not?

ON AGAIN: I will be picking up my binoculars again sometime soon, a little older, a little more appreciative of the time to go see these creatures in their habitat or as they pass through.

Good birding to you all,

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

Field Trip Reports

Five Rivers

January 1, 2015

Party Crasher on New Year's Day

A record-breaking crowd of enthusiastic birders gathered on Albany's "first morning" for the 35th annual New Year's Day Bird Walk at the Five Rivers Visitor Center. Retired Center Director Craig Thompson opened the festivities urging the overflow group, composed largely of seasoned birders, to approach the outing as if they had never seen a bird before. His idealistic exhortation nearly manifested itself, as birds were few and far between afield, at least initially, despite fair skies and light wind. HM Bird Club stalwarts Scott Stoner, George Steele and Rich Guthrie gamely joined Thompson in mustering 4 field parties, the most ever, assuring excellent site coverage to begin the Center's annual list of first-of-year sightings. Fully 1/4 of all the species recorded annually at the Center are logged on January 1, and the impressive body of data casually collected on this long-term tradition clearly echoes broader trends in range changes, especially related to Red-Bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Wren and Yellow Bellied Sapsucker.

As had been found in many local Christmas counts this year, a dearth of berries in the landscape and iced-up waterways kept the day's field prospects low, but, thanks to super-sleuth George Steele, all 4 field parties were able to sneak a peek at an unsuspecting Great Blue Heron sleeping at water's edge just a few yards off the Service Road Loop, a fabulous get and only the 3rd such record in the count's 35 years.

Upon reconvening the field parties at the Visitor Center's bird watching lounge to compile field data, Thompson began a methodical roll-call that developed a composite list of 26 "usual suspects", plus that nifty heron. The eleven benchmark species seen in all 34 previous years of the count were all accounted for, and "early birders" Tristan Lowery, Alan Mapes and Doug Steele each spotted important missing links before the Center doors opened, bringing the day's composite to a respectable but fairly ordinary 30 species. The 34 year average was 31.

All of a sudden, a "swoosh" flashed across the Center's bird-watching window. Colleen Williams pre-emptively exclaimed "THRUSH!!!!!!", and our covey was effectively flushed. Immediately a posse of HM Bird Club sharpshooters bolted for the doors to chase down the extra-limital fly-by, leaving an astonished group of novices to await word while pondering birds at the feeders from the warm comfort of the lounge. Now, among the many arcane laws which took effect on January 1st, there should have been a prohibition against pointing and yelling "THRUSH!!!!!!" during a winter bird watch compilation.

But....what could it have been? Field parties had already reported seeing robins and bluebirds on site, but a savvy birder like Colleen would not have bolted at spotting either of those "thrushes". Hermit thrush had been logged in 4 previous Five Rivers New Year's counts and is a not unheard of half-hearted in local Christmas bird counts. Upon the return of the intrepids, the bird was reported as confirmed....wood thrush, our 31st bird of the day and a species new to the count, the 75th January 1 species overall! Great job, Colleen!

Happy New Year!!!!!!

- Craig Thompson

Upcoming HMBC Programs

Passenger Pigeon: Icon of Extinction

Speaker: Dr. Jeremy Kirchman

February 2, 2015 – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

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

This lecture/slideshow will cover the natural history of North America’s “wild pigeon”, and what we know about its rapid extinction one hundred years ago.

Dr. Jeremy Kirchman is the Curator of Ornithology at the New York State Museum and Affiliate Associate Professor of Biology at SUNY-Albany. He has a BA in Biology from Illinois Wesleyan University, an MS in Zoology from Louisiana State University, and a Ph.D. in Zoology at the University of Florida. He is broadly interested in museum specimen-based ornithology and in the growth and preservation of museum specimen collections. His research program at NYSM focuses on the biogeography and evolution of birds, especially the species that breed in the boreal forest “islands” at high elevations in the Catskills and Adirondacks.

Preparing for Climate Change

Speaker: Mark Lowery

March 2, 2015 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

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

Our changing climate is affecting both human-built environments and ecological communities. Tropical storms make headlines, but other climate-related risks are also on the increase. Signals of climate change include alternating fierce droughts and intense rains, unprecedented heat waves, earlier springs and later onset of frost, and the arrival of heat-tolerant species and subtle decline of those less heat-tolerant. These less-dramatic changes might proceed quite far before their harmful effects are fully recognized.

This presentation will include an overview of climate science and an examination of observed and expected effects of climate change, with a focus on New York’s natural resources. Our speaker will then describe several New York State climate-change programs, especially Climate Smart Communities, the state’s energy and climate outreach and technical support program for local governments. The recently released Climate Smart Communities certification program offers opportunities for local conservationists to engage with their local governments to enhance local resilience and reduce their communities’ contributions to greenhouse gas pollution.

A 27-year veteran of the State Department of Environmental Conservation, Mark Lowery is a climate policy analyst in the Office of Climate Change. His areas of responsibility have included leading public outreach for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, State Sea Level Rise Task Force and state climate action plan. He is currently leading implementation of the Community Risk and Resiliency Act. He also manages the Climate Smart Communities program, serves as the office’s lead on climate-change adaptation and sits on the state’s interagency work group on climate-change adaptation. Mark holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa., and a master’s degree in environmental and forest biology from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, N.Y.

Upcoming HMBC Programs..... (continued)

Bird Work at Airports

Speaker: USDA

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.

Upcoming Audubon Programs

Bird Work at Airports

Speaker: USDA

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

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

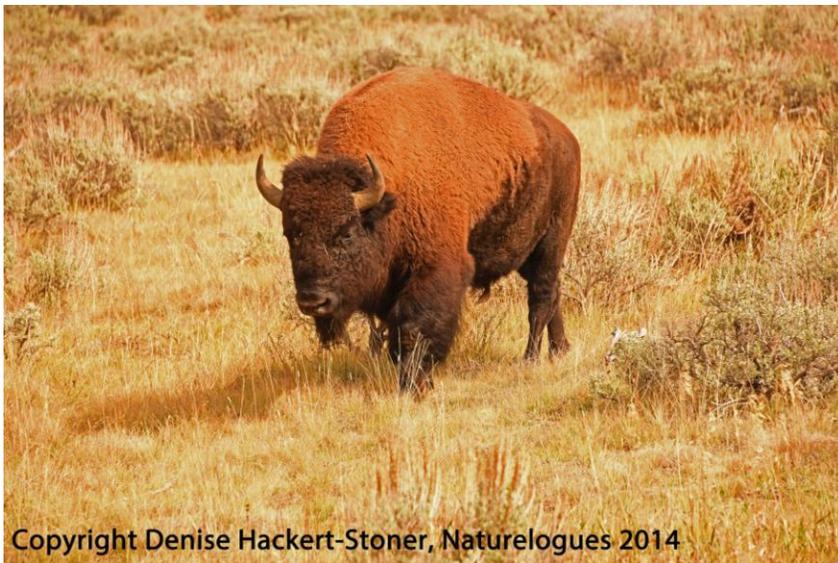
Joint program with Audubon Society of the Capital Region. Learn about bird management at airports.

On Nature

Bison

by Denise Hackert-Stoner and Scott Stoner

The great beast of the plains, the Bison, or American Buffalo, has suffered some of the worst effects of human interaction seen in the animal kingdom. Though the ancient range of our largest land mammal covered much of North America (from Western New York down to Georgia, across and down into Mexico, through Idaho and into west-central Canada up to the Northwest Territories), by 1890 the species was nearly extinct due to over-hunting. From historical numbers estimated as high as 30 million, there are fewer than 5,000 wild and genetically pure Bison living today. Most of those reside in a few national parks in the US and Canada. In our country, most of the wild Bison can be found at Yellowstone National Park, where the ancient population was never completely wiped out.



While visiting Yellowstone it can be difficult to imagine that this is an ecologically extinct species. They seem to be roaming everywhere, and we certainly enjoyed many wonderful views of them while we were there this fall. Of course we also have a hard time contemplating millions and millions of these animals as well. It is a simple fact that as modern people in the modern world, a few thousand of these magnificent creatures just seems like a lot. We don't seem to have the capacity to imagine so many more of them, so we are moved and awed when we see a group of 50 or so Bison

grazing on the beautiful, golden hillsides of the Lamar River Valley, and even more impressed when an individual Bison crosses our path at close range. **{Note: Do not approach wild Bison. They can weigh up to a ton, can run up to 40 mph., and can jump up to six feet high. Bison are among the most dangerous animals to humans in the National Park system. Stay at least 25 yards away while observing them.}**

Copyright Denise Hackert-Stoner, Naturelogues 2014

On Nature..... (continued)

Given the harm they have suffered at the hands of our own species, we feel both compassion for their suffering and respect for their tenacity. We watch them with both wonder and sorrow, knowing that the herd among which we roam is a remnant, one most likely to exist only within Park boundaries, almost like living museum specimens. Yes, they are wild in the sense that they are not fenced in; but due to fear of disease, cattle ranchers just outside of the Park are likely to shoot any Bison who cross that border.

So with a mixture of amazement, sadness, and admiration, we watch the Bison of Yellowstone as they munch on prairie grasses, warm themselves among the many steam vents, and otherwise just "be Bison." They are, at least for now, a living part of America.



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{I learned many facts about the Bison by checking the very thorough article about them on Wikipedia, as well as the fact sheet by Defenders of Wildlife. A site called "Bison Basics" was also helpful, as was the NPS Yellowstone site. I would recommend any of these sites if you'd like to get to know the Bison better! dhs}

Denise Hackert-Stoner and Scott Stoner

HMBC WORKS WITH BETHLEHEM CHILDREN’S SCHOOL

HMBC provides monthly birding programs to the Bethlehem Children's School, located in Slingerlands. This month the older kids learned all about bird song and sounds. The younger kids have been monitoring the feeders over the past month, and this month they got to make peanut butter pinecone feeders.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Gateway National Recreation Area



Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge West Pond Environmental Assessment: Status Update on West Pond - Public Open House

The National Park Service (NPS) will provide an update on project status for the West Pond Environmental Assessment. The West Pond project is in the early stages of the planning process to address storm damage to West Pond during Hurricane Sandy at Gateway National Recreation Area, New York.

The NPS received public input during the initial June 30th - July 30th public comment period. The update on project status for the West Pond Environmental Assessment will be provided at a Public Open House. Please attend an Open House to learn more about proposed concept designs, ask questions and obtain information about West Pond.

OPEN HOUSE:

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center
Thursday, January 22nd, 2015
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Located on Cross Bay Boulevard

MORE INFORMATION:

More information about the proposed project is available at the following website:
Website: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/gate>

Please visit Gateway's website at <http://www.nps.gov/gate> or <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/gate> for additional project information

THE 85TH SCHENECTADY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT..... (continued)

Gulls were not abundant this year, and for the second year in a row, only one Great Black-backed Gull was found. Owling paid off for the three field parties that reported doing this activity, netting ten Eastern Screech-Owls and three Great Horned Owls. A single Barred Owl was tallied, but Snowy Owl was a no-show again despite this being a good irruption year. Three Merlins were found (tying the count record) and individual American Kestrel and Peregrine Falcon rounded out the falcons.

Woodpeckers were found in good numbers. There were record high totals for Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers, and a single Yellow-bellied Sapsucker gave us the local woodpecker six-pack. Blue Jays appear to be having a good year, with their highest total since 1981.

White-breasted Nuthatches were found in record numbers, but their smaller red-breasted cousins were not at all common. Carolina Wrens again hit a count maximum and there was a count week Winter Wren. Only three Golden-crowned Kinglets were found but a count week Ruby-crowned Kinglet was reported.

Eastern Bluebirds were counted at record numbers but Cedar Waxwings were completely absent this year. A Common Yellowthroat was a surprise, but more surprising is that this represents the eighth time this species has occurred on the count!

Another shocker was that it took until the 85th count to add Savannah Sparrow to the count composite. A single Swamp Sparrow was found, and Dark-eyed Juncos set count record for the second straight year.

The three common blackbird species were represented, but in low numbers. One Purple Finch and one Pine Siskin were the sole winter finches.

The count total of 69 species (plus one hybrid and two count week species) was one short of the record high of 70, set on the 108th count in 2007. Exactly one third (23) of the species were seen by only one field party, which seems like a pretty high percentage of the total.

Larry Alden
Compiler

115th CBC - Schenectady Count Circle - December 20, 2014

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I/J	Total
Canada Goose	283	32	89	7		186	6	88		688
Wood Duck	1									1
American Black Duck	8	1				6		1		16
Mallard	270	43	182	22	26	46	56	16	49	710
Mallard hybrid			1							1
Northern Pintail	4									4
Green-winged Teal									1	1
Ring-necked Duck						1				1
Common Goldeneye	3	3				3				7
Common Merganser	14	4				2	5		1	26
Wild Turkey			30	9				15		54
Great Blue Heron	3	1		2		1			1	8
Black Vulture					2					2
Bald Eagle	1									1
Northern Harrier			3							3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1									1
Cooper's Hawk	2				1	2	1	1		7
Red-tailed Hawk	14	8	29	17	13	22	13	3	3	122
Rough-legged Hawk			1							1
American Coot						1				1
Ring-billed Gull	13	14	1		3		11	44	21	107

Herring Gull	8					1	2			11
Great Black-backed Gull	1									1
Rock Pigeon	41		96	143	106	20	153	26	95	680
Mourning Dove	32	13	22	61	52	82	49	57	18	386
Eastern Screech-Owl	3			5		1	1			10
Great Horned Owl				2		1				3
Barred Owl						1				1
Belted Kingfisher		1	1	1		1		1		5
Red-bellied Woodpecker	17	14	5	11	8	12	3	9	10	89
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				1						1
Downy Woodpecker	26	16	6	27	9	14	14	13	18	143
Hairy Woodpecker	2	7		12	7	4	3	4	3	42
Northern Flicker	2	1	2	2		1	1			9
Pileated Woodpecker	2	3	2	3		3	1			14
American Kestrel						1				1
Merlin			1				1	1		3
Peregrine Falcon							1			1
Blue Jay	44	41	38	76	70	62	23	17	33	404
American Crow	46	22	200	1394	254	82	90	22	60	2170
Fish Crow							4		1	5
Common Raven					1	2				3
Black-capped Chickadee	74	42	26	90	66	62	24	13	33	430
Tufted Titmouse	15	15	8	42	18	10	20	7	6	141
Red-breasted Nuthatch			1	1	5					7
White-breasted Nuthatch	38	20	7	35	11	11	8	12	10	152
Brown Creeper	1			1	1					3

Carolina Wren	4	5		4			4	1	4	22
Winter Wren	CW									0
Golden-crowned Kinglet				2	1					3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	CW									0
Eastern Bluebird	5	11	10	29	12	9	21	1		98
American Robin	215	13	41	72	16	480	20	6	6	869
Northern Mockingbird	2		8	8	3	2	2	1	1	27
European Starling	98	193	1613	658	90	347	51	100	170	3320
Snow Bunting	30									30
Common Yellowthroat						1				1
American Tree Sparrow	7	39	21	41	5	68	8	25	6	220
Savannah Sparrow						1				1
Song Sparrow	8	1	1	4		5	2	4	1	26
Swamp Sparrow						1				1
White-throated Sparrow	10	5	5	38	5	50	14	36	14	177
Dark-eyed Junco	51	26	68	72	43	163	27	108	22	580
Northern Cardinal	28	12	19	39	13	29	6	17	8	171
Red-winged Blackbird	4									4
Common Grackle	1									1
Brown-headed Cowbird	7	12		1						20
Purple Finch				1						1
House Finch	39	8	17	66	9	11	42		2	194
Pine Siskin				1						1
American Goldfinch	19	14	3	107	9	45	26	43	37	303
House Sparrow	31	47	51	60	16	14	24	175	18	436

Total Birds	1528	687	2608	3167	875	1866	736	869	652	12983
Total Species	46	33	33	40	30	43	36	32	29	69
Count Week Species	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

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

* Bald Eagles - 1 adult. Common Goldeneyes seen by more than one field party - 7 total birds.

Bold = record number or tied record for the count.

Group A: Bob Yunick, Ted Hicks. 6:05 a.m. - 4:20 p.m. (7.5 hours, 5 miles on foot; 1.5 hours, 31 miles by car. Also 1.25 hours, 9 miles owling.)

Group B: Bernie Grossman, John Hershey. 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., less 1.5 hours not birding (2.0 hours, 3 miles on foot; 4.0 hours, 40 miles by car.)

Group B1: Bernie Grossman. (2.0 hours, 2 miles on foot.) Birds seen included with Group B.

Group C: Gregg Recer, Cathy Graichen, Scott Stoner, Denise Hackert-Stoner. 7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., less 0.5 hour not birding (2.25 hours, 3.3 miles on foot; 6.75 hours, 73 miles by car.)

Group D: Larry Alden, Eric Molho. 5:30 a.m. - 6:45 a.m., 7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (3 hours, 4 miles on foot; 6.5 hours, 58 miles by car. Also 1.25 hours, 12 miles owling.)

Group E: Tom Williams, Colleen Williams, Naomi Lloyd, Tristan Lowery. 7:16 a.m. - 2:10 p.m. (1.5 hours, 1.5 miles on foot; 5.25 hours, 63 miles by car.)

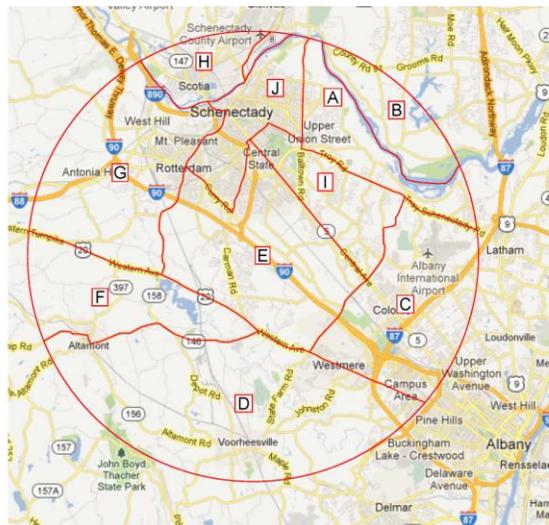
Group F: George Steele, Alan Mapes, Sheryl Collins. 6:50 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (4 hours, 2 miles on foot; 5.5 hours, 52 miles by car. Also 2.75 hours, 8 miles owling.)

Group G: Bill Lee, Jamie Taft, Janet Betlejeskie, Beverley Krauss. 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (4.5 hours, 4 miles on foot, 4.5 hours, 66 miles by car.)

Group H: Kathleen LoGiudice, Kate Storms, Nancy Slack, Carl George, Diane Keller, Stephen Schmidt, Josiah Schmidt. 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., less 1.25 hours not birding (2.75 hours, 3.1 miles on foot, 4.0 hours, 19 miles by car.)

Group I/J: Steve Mesick, Joan McKiever, Tim Demers, Elizabeth Quandt. 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (3.5 hours, 1.5 miles on foot, 4 hours, 36 miles by car.)

Notes: Hours rounded to the nearest quarter hour.



Upcoming Field Trips

FEBRUARY

Monday, February 2, DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS, CAPE ANN & NEWBURYPORT/PLUM ISLAND

weekend, out-of-area trip, February 13- 16

Coordinator/Leaders: Bill Lee 374-3426 BILEEJ@hotmail.com

Bernie Grossman 399-9159 BGROSSMAN@NYCAP.RR.COM

Contact Bill Lee by February 2nd to reserve a spot and for hotel reservation information.

Saturday, February 7, BIRDING BY SNOWSHOE AT FIVE RIVERS (Albany County; morning)

Coordinator: Ray Perry 475-0291 RAYMOND.PERRY@DEC.NY.GOV

Joint trip with the Audubon Society of the Capital Region

Join Ray for a special outing of birding by snowshoe. Meet at the Visitor Center at 9 a.m. for a brief introduction to snowshoeing, then strap on the waffle stompers and go over the meadow and through the woods in search of winter specialties. The program is geared for the birding/snowshoeing novice and is open to the public, but space is limited. The snowshoes are provided through the Friends of Five Rivers. They have changed their policy on snowshoe rentals. There must be at least 8 inches of snow and a \$5 per pair rental charge for non-members of Friends of Five Rivers. Please call Five Rivers at 518-475-0291 by Wednesday, February 4th to register. If there is insufficient snow, we will go on foot. In the event of severe weather, this program may be cancelled.

Friday – Monday, February 13 – 16, CAPE ANN & NEWBURYPORT/PLUM ISLAND (weekend)

Coordinator/Leaders: Bill Lee 374-3426 BILEEJ@hotmail.com

Bernie Grossman 399-9159 BGROSSMAN@NYCAP.RR.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 2 to 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.

Thursday, February 19, DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS, FORT EDWARD GRASSLANDS Washington County; afternoon through dusk)

Coordinators: Scott Stoner & Denise Hackert-Stoner 785-6760 SCOTTISTONER@aol.com

Saturday, February 21, MOHAWK RIVER/COHOES TO CRESCENT (Albany County; morning)

Coordinator: Bill Lee 374-3426 BILEEJ@hotmail.com

This area, including Cohoes Falls and Simmons Island, offers a great opportunity to study gulls and waterfowl that winter along the Mohawk River. We will look for Glaucous, Iceland and Lesser Black-backed Gulls often present in small numbers in the winter. This trip will be a good introduction to the many fine vantage points along the Mohawk. Wintering Bald Eagles are likely.

Upcoming Field Trips..... (continued)

Meet at the NY State Dam Recreation area behind the U-Haul Rental in Cohoes at 8:30 a.m. From 787 going north, turn right onto Route 470 (Ontario Street) in Cohoes. Then turn left onto Clark Ave and proceed to the end. In case of snow, trip will be held on Sunday, February 22.

Sunday, February 22, FORT EDWARD GRASSLANDS (Washington County; afternoon through dusk)

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

Short-eared Owls are seen most winters in the Fort Edward Grasslands, an Important Bird Area in Washington County. This area is also known for other wintering raptors such as Rough-legged Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, and Northern Harriers. Wintering field birds including Horned Lark, Snow Bunting, and Eastern Bluebird are good possibilities, while Lapland Longspur and Northern Shrike are less likely. If Snowy Owl has been reported, we will make a special effort to see it.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED; Contact the coordinators no later than Feb, 19, to sign up and get the meeting time and place. Space is limited and carpooling will be necessary.

Saturday, March 14, WASHINGTON COUNTY WATERFOWL (morning)

Coordinator: Mona Bearor conservebirds@gmail.com

Register by 7 p.m. on March 13

Joint trip with Southern Adirondack Audubon

Join us as we search the Hudson for migrant waterfowl such as Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ring-necked Ducks and Mergansers. In recent years, Horned Grebe, Canvasbacks and Tundra Swans have been lifebirds for many.

Meet at the Schuylerville Central School at Routes 29 and 4. The trip is limited to the first 12 who register. Contact the leader before 7 p.m. on March 13 to register and for meeting time. Dress warmly and bring a beverage/snack, your binoculars and a scope if you have one. We will carpool. Trip will end late morning. You will be contacted if the trip is cancelled due to weather.

Sunday, March 15, WATERFOWL OF THE HUDSON RIVER SOUTH (Greene County; morning)

Coordinator: Bill Cook (518) 851-2678 cook@sunycgccc.edu

This is a joint trip with the Alan DeVoe Bird Club.

We will search the Hudson River from Coxsackie to Catskill where waterfowl usually congregate on their way north. There is a good chance of seeing 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.

Saturday, March 21, BLOOMINGDALE BOG (all day)

Coordinator: Bernie Grossman 399-9159 bgrossman@nycap.rr.com

This is a day trip to a boreal area north of Saranac Lake to search for specialties such as Boreal Chickadee, Gray Jay and Black-backed Woodpecker. Kinglets, Crossbills, and Siskins are also possible. Because of cold and snow cover, winter gear is required. Since this is an away trip, space is limited and first call goes to HMBC members.

Contact coordinator for meeting place and time.

Upcoming Field Trips..... (continued)

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.

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 Cocksackie boat launch. From the intersection of 9W and 385 in Cocksackie go east on 385 \(Mansion St.\) and continue straight to the Hudson River where the road bears left to the boat launch site.](#)

Feathers

Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club

c/o Five Rivers EEC

Game Farm Road

Delmar, NY 12054