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PANAMA'S CANOPY LODGE IN APRIL

by John Kent, photos by Gregg Recer

Gregg Recer, Cathy Graichen and I visited the Canopy Lodge during the second half of April. The "Canopy Family" began with Canopy Tower, which is located just west of Panama City near the canal. It is an old Canal Zone military observation tower that has been converted into a small birding lodge, offering the benefit of being able to get up into the tree canopy to view birds. The owners of the Canopy Tower now have two other birding destinations in Panama. The Canopy Camp is in eastern Panama, not far from the Darien Gap in the Pan American Highway. The Canopy Lodge is located on the outskirts of El Valle de Anton, a town of 7600 population in a huge caldera, about a three hour drive west-northwest of Panama City. It is slightly above 2000 feet elevation, making for much more comfortable temperatures than along the coastal plain. The rainy season in Panama usually begins around mid-April; we had planned our visit to get the lower rates offered during their off-peak season while hoping to miss the worst of the rain. We did have some rain, but never enough to seriously hamper birding for more than a few minutes.

We arrived at midday after an overnight flight, so spent the first afternoon relaxing and feeder-watching at the lodge. The fruit feeders are busy with FLAME-RUMPED, BLUE-GRAY, DUSKY-FACED, and CRIMSON-BACKED TANAGERS, CLAY-COLORED THRUSHES, THICK-BILLED EUPHONIAS, and an occasional CHESTNUT-HEADED OROPENDOLA. GRAY-NECKED WOOD-RAILS, ORANGE-BILLED SPARROWS, and GRAY-HEADED CHACHALACAS frequent the ground near the feeders. The common hummingbirds around the lodge included SNOWY-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD, RUFIOUS-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD, RUFIOUS-CRESTED COQUETTE, and BRONZE-TAILED PLUMELETEER. Many other bird species can be found in a short walk around the attractive grounds. GREEN KINGFISHERS and FASCATED TIGER-HERONS are seen in the creek that runs through the property, and basilisk lizards bask on the rocks.

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President's Corner

There is no President's message this month.

Gregg Recer

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Bird Belize with the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society

January 7-16 2017

In addition to its rich Maya history and Caribbean-influenced culture the small country of Belize offers birders a huge diversity of migrant and resident species in lush and varied ecosystems. Join the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society and explore habitats that include wetlands, pine forest, tropical moist forest and a mangrove inland on this unforgettable 10-day adventure. This trip is limited to twelve birders. Space will go quickly.

For more information and to register, visit: <http://holbrook.travel/saasbelize>

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

Vischer Ferry Evening Trip

April 18, 2016

Twelve birders gathered at Vischer Ferry Preserve on the evening of April 18 for the HMBC field trip at 6 pm after an unusually warm and sunny day. We walked slowly west on the towpath checking the pond for waterfowl. Bird numbers were fairly low but there were a good number of species present. All along the towpath we could hear the vocalizing of PIED-BILLED GREBES but most of us never actually saw one. We had some good looks at RING-NECKED DUCKS and a discussion of the confusing name. With at least one duck we were able to see the chestnut-colored ring on the neck which actually can be seen through the scope with enough light. We also saw a few GREEN-WINGED and BLUE-WINGED TEAL. We spotted a few YELLOW-RUMPED and PALM WARBLERS as well as a lone RUSTY BLACKBIRD perched next to a COMMON GRACKLE for comparison. There were many good looks at BELTED KINGFISHERS. At sundown we spotted 2 immature BALD EAGLES, one appearing to be after a CANADA GOOSE. At this point in the dark we aimed our scopes first at the moon and then at Jupiter off to its left. Eventually we were able to see 2 and then 3 of the Jupiter moons as well as the planet's stripes.

Unfortunately we didn't hear or see any American Woodcocks. They do not appear to be present or displaying in the main part of the Preserve as was the case last year, too, after at least 7 consecutive years being present. Earlier in the day I was able to also see AMERICAN WIGEON and NORTHERN SHOVELER along the towpath. I've posted one picture of the NORTHERN SHOVELERS.

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/hmbirds/photos/photostream/lightbox/929501953?orderBy=mtime&sortOrder=desc&photoFilter=ALL#zax/929501953>

- John Hershey

Birds and Breakfast

May 7, 2016

Nearly 40 birders scoured the grounds with the first group heading out at 6:00 AM (and some folks starting before that!). The weather was unexpectedly pleasant, with considerable sun, but migrants remained elusive as they had all week, with the collective tally of only 8 warblers and a total of 67 species. A few highlights though included a flyover immature BALD EAGLE, OSPREY, two NORTHERN HARRIERS, and a singing LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH along the Big Pine Trail that posed long enough for pictures.

KILLDEER seem to be hanging around longer than usual; we also had both SPOTTED and SOLITARY SANDPIPERS, a six-pack of woodpeckers (all the common ones), EASTERN KINGBIRD, WARBLING VIREO, several BROWN CREEPERS, and a couple flocks of CEDAR WAXWINGS. Warblers included the aforementioned WATERTHRUSH, plus BLUE-WINGED, YELLOW, YELLOW-RUMPED, PINE, PRAIRIE, OVENBIRD and COMMON YELLOWTHROAT.

WOOD THRUSH was heard in the north loop trail area, and ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK was at the feeders.

Perhaps the most notable sighting of the morning was a non-avian one: the 6 AM group observed a short-tailed weasel at the Research Ponds!

Field Trip Reports..... (continued)



© Scott Stoner
Naturelogues 2016

Louisiana Water Thrush

Many thanks to our leaders: Tom Williams, John Kent, Gregg Recer, and Cathy Graichen.

Thanks to Denise for getting the food, and to all who participated!

- Scott Stoner

Vischer Ferry Mother's Day Walk

May 8, 2016

Despite the somewhat sloppy weather at the start, a group of 9 birders had a productive morning covering parts of Vischer Ferry. The rain appeared to have paused just as we began, only to pick up enough that we returned briefly to the shelter of the cars. A restart at about 8:20 went better, and we were able to cover the towpath west of the Whipple Bridge, and the main trail south to the river, and then west to the back of the main ponds, returning to the parking area. We opted to avoid the deep woods section where water can pool on the trail after significant rainfall.

Landbird migrant activity was modest: YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS were abundant, but the only other warblers were one BLACK-THROATED GREEN, a possible BLACK-THROATED BLUE, 2 NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH, and local breeders (YELLOW WARBLER, COMMON. YELLOWTHROAT, OVENBIRD); also seen: WARBLING VIREO, BALTIMORE ORIOLE, ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK, BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW. MARSH WRENS were heard in several locations. There were several HOODED MERGANSERS present, including one female trailing a group of about 10 tiny chicks.

Field Trip Reports..... (continued)

Bird of the day goes to a very cooperative VIRGINIA RAIL that called and then emerged from the marsh in response to a very small amount of playback. The bird spent a couple of minutes out in the open foraging along the edge of the water close to where we were standing, seemingly oblivious to our presence.

Thanks to those who braved the elements with us.

- Cathy Graichen and Gregg Recer

Malta Tech Park Evening Walk

May 14, 2016

Six of us tried our luck at the Malta tech park in hopes of hearing, and perhaps seeing, some of the crepuscular/nocturnal birds present there. Although it was raining when we arrived, the group decided to wait it out, and after a 20 minute delay the rain stopped and we were able to do some birding.

We walked a little of the Hundred-acre Wood trails. It was fairly quiet, but WOOD THRUSH, OVENBIRD, and Rose-BREASTED GROSBEAK were heard, and one VEERY made an appearance. Several WOODCOCK were heard (and seen by some) displaying at the site on Stonebreak Road (where BANK SWALLOWS, EASTERN TOWHEE, GRAY CATBIRD, and more VEERY were present) and also at the intersection of Rocket Drive and Luther Forest Blvd. Unfortunately, 30+ minutes of trying several locations for Whippoorwill did not produce any results. They were very vocal only a few nights earlier, so this was something of a surprise, but perhaps the rain or drop in temperatures explains the difference? Thanks to those who joined us.

- Cathy Graichen and Gregg Recer

Upcoming HMBC Programs

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.

Boreal forest birds generally have genetic and morphological patterns that are consistent with a single "boreal" clade in northern and eastern North America and any genetic structure or morphological differences, if present, in the western portions of their range. However, the *Catharus bicknelli/minimus* clade shows a species break in the east between the Bicknell's Thrush and Gray-cheeked Thrush; the Bicknell's Thrush only breeds at high elevations in New York, New England, and the Canadian Maritimes, whereas the Gray-cheeked Thrush breeds in boreal forests from Newfoundland to Alaska. These two species were recently split based on morphological, vocal, and genetic differences, but there is some disagreement on the species status of the Bicknell's Thrush. FitzGerald uses a four-pronged approach to determine the taxonomic relationship of these species: population genetics, next-generation sequencing, local habitat quantification, and large-scale climate models. This study is the first to examine these species genetically using a large, comprehensive sampling from over 260 individuals, and the first to examine the potential for hybridization using next-generation sequencing. She shows that the Bicknell's Thrush and Gray-cheeked Thrush are genetically distinct and reside in different local habitats and regional climates, but some hybridization may occur. Because the Bicknell's Thrush has one of the most isolated and restrictive breeding ranges of North American birds, this research is crucial for conservation strategy.

Bio: Alyssa FitzGerald is a PhD candidate in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology program at SUNY-Albany, and a NYS Museum fellow, working with the Curator of Birds, Dr. Jeremy Kirchman. She earned a B.S. in Biology from Indiana University in 2011. Her research involves examining the evolutionary history and speciation of *Catharus* thrushes, particularly the Bicknell's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, using genetics, next-generation sequencing, and ecological niche modeling.

Upcoming Audubon Programs

**"Taking Flight" - Birding in the Catskills! Conference - A Program of the Catskill Center -
June 10 - 12, 2016**

Not Your Typical Birding Weekend •

We have combined the best of a birding conference with a birding festival, and have invented an event that is rich with presenters you will want to hear, speaking on topics you will want to learn about.

Location: [The Ashokan Center](#), 477 Beaverkill Road., Olivebridge, NY 12461

Friday, June 10th - Sunday, June 12th

Click this link for the full schedule! <http://catskillcenter.org/taking-flight-about/>

Please **REGISTER** for this three day conference here: <http://catskillcenter.org/taking-flight-registration/>

"Taking Flight: Birding in the Catskills" is a three day conference. Check-in begins at 3 PM on Friday, June 10th at the Ashokan Center. You may register for the full 3-day conference which includes: Friday social (with cash bar), and Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner, Saturday social (with cash bar) and Sunday breakfast. Also included are the key note talks both Friday evening and Saturday evening and all on site walks, presentations and workshops.

Attendance for only the Saturday program is available with two options: all three meals - breakfast, lunch and dinner or only breakfast and lunch.

Please see the many sponsors and partners of this event here! <http://catskillcenter.org/taking-flight-sponsors/>

On Nature

Memories of Whitewater Draw, Arizona

by *Scott Stoner and Denise Hackert-Stoner*

This past winter, just after Christmas, we flew west to Phoenix to meet up with a Field Guides tour featuring Arizona's winter birds. After a few days in the Phoenix area our group worked its way down toward Tucson and its vicinity. Along the way we enjoyed views of many western birds including LECONTE'S and BENDIRE'S THRASHERS, MONTEZUMA QUAIL, WHITE-TAILED KITE, a small flock of MOUNTAIN PLOVERS, and spectacularly close BURROWING OWLS, to name only a few. It was really a great tour. On the final afternoon of the trip, our leader and friend Chris Benesh drove us down to McNeal, Arizona for what he promised would be a "grand finale."



We arrived at Whitewater Draw Wildlife Area late in the afternoon. The site of a former ranch, Whitewater Draw has been managed by Arizona's Game and Fish Department since 1997 to protect waterfowl, other water birds, and the Plains Leopard Frog. It has also become, much to our delight, the best spot in the state of Arizona to view wintering SANDHILL CRANES. As we approached the viewing area from the parking lot we heard the Cranes before we saw them. Close to 30,000 large birds make a lot of noise, and the sound is one we will not soon forget. It sounded to me like a large, noisy, amiable yet bickering family, one with many conversations going on at once. It brought back memories of the large family gatherings

of my childhood.

Soon we began to view the birds. Many were grouped together along the water's edge, others flying singly or in small groups. The Cranes spend the night at Whitewater Draw after spending their days feeding in nearby grain fields. As evening approached the flights seemed to increase, many birds sailing right over our heads as others seemed to be flying toward the distant mountains and right into the setting sun. It was a spectacular sight to see so many of these big, beautiful and unique birds, and to have them so close. We had to agree with Chris that Whitewater Draw was the perfect way to end a wonderful birding adventure. It really was a "grand finale"!



Seeking Nightjar Sightings

DEC Seeks Nightjar Sightings:

Made famous for their endless chanting on summer nights, whip-poor-wills were once easy to hear but hard to see. Now, they are becoming both hard to hear and hard to see, as the species is declining rapidly throughout most of its range.

The NYS DEC's Bureau of Wildlife is seeking assistance from birders to locate whip-poor-wills, as well as common nighthawks, this summer. As part of a whip-poor-will monitoring and habitat evaluation project, the DEC is interested in whip-poor-will and common nighthawk observations during the breeding-season (mid-May through July) across the state.

Whip-poor-will are more vocal during the period around a full moon, and relatively quiet when the moon is poorly illuminated or below the horizon, so the Northeast Nightjar Project, a multi-state effort to monitor nightjar populations, has determined the following ideal windows for whip-poor-will surveys in 2016: May 13 – May 29 and June 12 – June 27. Formal whip-poor-will surveys begin at least 15 minutes after sunset and end no later than 15 minutes before sunrise. Whip-poor-will activity is also reduced with precipitation and cloudy conditions. The greatest likelihood of hearing whip-poor-will will be during those survey windows, but the birds may be heard at other times as well, and all observations are of interest.

For the fourth consecutive year, monitoring of established survey routes will be conducted by volunteers and staff as part of the greater Northeast Nightjar Survey Coordinated Bird Monitoring effort, as well as the Bureau's own whip-poor-will monitoring and habitat evaluation project. Ultimately, the data from this work will be used to plot a course for conservation action, including the development of guidelines for habitat management to benefit the species.

For more information, visit www.nightjars.org. To submit any observations of these species in NY, please contact either of the following:

Jenny Murtaugh

Email: jenny.murtaugh@dec.ny.gov

Phone: (518) 357-2153

or

Paul Novak

Email: paul.novak@dec.ny.gov

Phone: (518) 357-2071

NYS DEC, Bureau of Wildlife
Region 4
1130 N. Westcott Rd.
Schenectady, NY 12306

Cuban Vireo

Thick-billed Vireo – NO, Cuban Vireo – YES!

By Jim de Waal Malefyt

I was recently (April 17-27, 2016) on a South Florida birding tour with some ten folks mostly members of the Minnesota Ornithological Union (MOU). We first started the tour at Fort Myers and were working our way down to the Everglades National Park, the Miami area, and then down to Key West and out to Fort Jefferson in the Dry Tortugas. As we started the tour, electronic reports began to be received by members of the tour group of a rare Thick-billed Vireo (*Vireo crassirostris*) being observed starting April 16th at the John U. Lloyd State Park, Broward, FL, south of Fort Lauderdale. Thick-billed Vireos are occasionally seen in south Florida, presumably from the Bahamas. As we approached that area on our tour, our leader Craig Mandel, suggested we try to see this rare vireo, and so, on the afternoon of April 22 we arrived at the park and went to a Gumbo Limbo tree along a trail where the vireo was last seen that morning. We waited and searched along the trail, but came up empty after an hour. It was decided to try again the next morning, Saturday April 23rd, which we did. We arrived around 8 am when the park opened and went to the “stake out” spot and waited with another 10 to 20 anxious birders. There was some excitement of a vireo being seen in a nearby tree which turned out to be a Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloquus*) which was life bird #626 for me, but not the Thick-billed Vireo. We stayed several hours and left before noon without seeing this rare vireo. To my knowledge, it was not seen again.

Although somewhat disappointed, we next headed for the Miami area for some exotic parakeets, and began to receive reports of another rare vireo, a Cuban Vireo (*Vireo gundlachii*), being observed in Key West. This Cuban Vireo, if true, was possibly the first confirmed sighting in North America by the American Birding Association. Our trip leader agreed to try for this vireo the next day as we would be in the City of Key West on Sunday, April 24th.

On April 24th, after a long drive through the Florida Keys and several birding stops, we arrived at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic Park, Monroe, FL, where this vireo had been seen every day since April 19th in another Gumbo Limbo tree near the entrance to the park. As we drove into the parking lot, we could see a line of birders along a wooden stockade fence peering up into an overhanging tree. We instantly grabbed our bins, scopes, and cameras, and did a fast walk over to this group of birders who quickly point us to the top under- canopy of the tree and told us to watch for a moving bird which was the Cuban Vireo. This vireo was searching and feeding on caterpillars in the top tree canopy and would periodically fly down behind the 8-foot residential fence and out of sight, giving us a moment to make sure everyone in the group had seen this extremely rare visitor, probably from Cuba which lies 90 miles south of Key West. After several minutes out of sight and out of the park, this Cuban Vireo would fly back into the top of the same tree, which resulted in several stiff necks and mostly underside photos of the bird. This turned out to be lifer #637 for me. Later, after looking at newspaper reports and photos of this rare vireo on the internet, I discovered that one of my eBird photos of the Cuban Vireo eating a greenish caterpillar was deposited in the Macaulay Library in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology for this species. It was extremely satisfying to possibly witness my first North American record of this Cuban Vireo. Lucky for us, April 24th was also the last day this Cuban Vireo was seen at this location.

Cuban Vireo (continued)

This photo was deposited in the Macaulay Library in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology for documentation.



Cuban Vireo

Cuban Vireo (continued)

Here is my group and others waiting for the Cuban Vireo to appear in the top of the Gumbo Limbo tree.



Annual Meeting – Sam Madison Award

The Annual Meeting and Dinner was held at the Century House on April 6, 2016.



Annual Meeting – Sam Madison Award (continued)

Cathy Graichen presented the Sam Madison Award to Nancy Conway and Nancy Payne.



PANAMA'S CANOPY LODGE (continued)

We had opted for Canopy Lodge's 7-day birding package, so their guides and drivers brought us to different birding spots each day. Most of the time was spent within about 15 miles of the lodge, though one day it took all day to cover that distance since we were on a rough 4WD road. We walked trails in the dense cloud forest, residential roads in dry forest areas, and several areas where agricultural and residential land is interspersed with patches of forest. It seemed that no matter where we birded, we kept seeing new species every few minutes.



Barred Antshrike

On our final day of birding, we took an all day trip down to the Pacific Coast. The agricultural lands on the coastal plain had many birds that were new for the trip. Fallow rice fields had SNOWY, CATTLE, and GREAT EGRETS, GLOSSY and WHITE IBISES, and a few shorebirds in the wet areas. The fields were patrolled by SAVANNA HAWKS, BLACK VULTURES, TURKEY VULTURES, LESSER YELLOW-HEADED VULTURES, CRESTED and YELLOW-HEADED CARACARAS, WHITE-TAILED KITE, COMMON BLACK HAWK, BAT FALCON, and ROADSIDE HAWK. We had lunch on Santa Clara beach, where we saw a few seabirds, as well as a RUFOUS-BROWED PEPPERSHRIKE on a nest. It was a very productive day in terms of species seen. The weather in the lowlands was hot and very humid, except at the beach where an onshore breeze made it more comfortable.

PANAMA'S CANOPY LODGE (continued)



Gartered Trogon

We saw a number of “our” birds – migrants that either wintered in Panama or were passing through on their way north. They included TENNESSEE, YELLOW, CANADA, BLACK-THROATED GREEN, BLACK-AND-WHITE, GOLDEN-WINGED, and MOURNING WARBLERS, SWAINSON’S and GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH, and NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH. Some of these species were already being reported in the Capital District while we were still seeing them in Panama.

Birding in the tropics is a great experience. The variety and colors of tanagers and hummingbirds are stunning. MOTMOTS, MANAKINS, TOUCANS, AND TROGONS are fairly common. The dense forests support numerous species of ANTBIRDS, TINAMOUS, WOODCREEPERS, and ANTPITTAS. There are more wrens than I could keep track of, most of them with loud and distinctive songs, but the most impressive to me was SONG WREN. It comes up with rhythmic songs that sound as if they were composed by a human. The group total of bird species for the trip was over 250, thanks to knowledgeable guides who were good at getting the birders on the birds.



Rufous-crested Coquette

PANAMA'S CANOPY LODGE (continued)



Rufous Motmot

Upcoming Field Trips

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.

Saturday, 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.

JULY

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.

Sunday, July 3, - LEADER'S CHOICE (Montgomery County; morning)

Coordinator: David Harrison (908) 892-5495 david.harrison57@earthlink.net

This trip will be leader's choice of one or more areas in Montgomery County where birding may be productive. Possible habitat choices include hemlock gorges, marshes, river bottom woods, old conifer forests, deciduous woods, and farmland/grasslands.

Meet at the dirt parking lot at the south end of the Rte. 10 bridge over the Mohawk River in Canajoharie at 7 AM.

AUGUST

Friday, August 5, DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS, NEW YORK CITY TRIP (Weekend) (out of area) Coordinator:

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

Mid-August Weekend, JAMAICA BAY NWR (out of area; New York City) Coordinator: Bernie Grossman 399-9159 bgrossman@nycap.rr.com

The actual date for this trip depends on high tide times for Jamaica Bay. The determination will be announced via HMBirds and an email. The best time for shorebirds at Jamaica Bay is the hour before and after high tide. The planned pelagic portion of the trip has been dropped due to cost.

Jamaica Bay NWR is a major resting place for migrating shorebirds in mid-August. We will walk the shore of East Pond and the West Pond dike in search of sandpipers, plovers, herons, egrets, and more

Sunday, August 21, PEBBLES ISLAND STATE PARK / COHOES FLATS (Saratoga/Albany Counties; morning)

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

The wooded areas of Peebles Island are good for seeing a variety of songbirds including early migrant warblers. The river area and rocky flats around the island are usually good for Peregrine Falcon, Osprey, Bald Eagle as well as shore birds, herons, egrets, Chimney Swifts and ducks. From the meeting place, we will check out the Cohoes Flats and then consolidate vehicles before proceeding to Peebles Island since there is a fee for each car entering.

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.

August 22 - August 26, COUNTING COMMON NIGHTHAWKS (Albany County; evenings)

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

The Common Nighthawk is an aerial insectivore that feeds at dusk and dawn. It breeds throughout much of North America, although in decline as it is no longer observed during the summer in many urban and suburban areas.

In the Capital Region, the bulk of migration occurs from mid-August until early September with the peak around August 24-25th. Continuing an informal project that was begun in 2012, we will observe the skies each evening (weather permitting)

between the 24th and 28th of August, recording our sightings for a final summary. We will conduct our viewing from the parking lot at the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center, located on Rt. 155 (New Karner Road) in Albany. Bring a chair and binoculars. We will begin each night at 6:00 p.m.

Feathers

Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club

c/o Five Rivers EEC

Game Farm Road

Delmar, NY 12054