

October 2015
Volume 75 No. 5

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

Feathers

A SURVEY BIRDING TOUR OF ECUADOR

by Bernard Grossman

Chris and I traveled to Ecuador in January, 2015 to participate in the Field Guides, Inc., Austin, TX, survey tour of Ecuador. The tour, named *Jewels of Ecuador: Hummers, Tanagers, and Antpitta*, is designed to provide the chance to see as many birds as possible from a wide variety of habitats as possible. The tour met these expectations.

Our guide was Willy Perez, a native Ecuadorian, who started working in research stations and eco-lodges and then progressed to be a major Ecuador bird specialist. He speaks excellent English and was a superb guide. Six others joined us on the tour.

Ecuador is located on the western edge of South America with the Andes Mountains running north/south through the center of the land. It is about the size of Colorado, and yet it has about 1600 avian species. The mountains are split into two parallel chains and this creates three major ecological regions. The east side of the eastern chain receives moisture from the Amazon Basin and is heavily forested. The western side of the west chain is also forest and gets its moisture from the Pacific Ocean. The long central valley is dry as are the mountain faces on each side. The national capital Quito is located in the north of the central valley and is located at the bottom of Pichincha Volcano.

Our initial group birding began in the forested Yanacocha Reserve located at 9000+ feet on the side of Pichincha Volcano.. We walked an access road ending at a feeding station primarily for hummingbirds. The forest itself was quiet that day, but the feeding area was alive with hummers, tanagers, and flowerpiercers. More tanagers were seen on the return walk.

(continued on p 82)

Inside This Issue ...

President's Corner.....	754
HMBC Birding Guide.....	75
Field Trip Reports.....	76
Upcoming HMBC Programs	78
On Nature	79
DEC Summer Camps.....	81
Lark Sparrow.....	81
Upcoming Field Trips.....	86

HMBC BOARD

Officers

President:

Gregg Recer
 23 Scotch Mist Way
 Malta, NY 12020
 899-2678 gregg_recer@alum.rpi.edu

Vice-President::

Will Raup
 455 Ontario Street Apt 1
 Albany, NY 12208
 944-8711 hoaryredpoll@hotmail.com

Secretary:

Jenny Murtaugh
 6161 Depot Rd Apt 3
 Altamont, NY 12009
 322-7460 agilityfastantics@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Ellen Pemrick
 117 Western Ave
 West Charlton, NY 12010
 882-9163 lnmp@nycap.rr.com

Directors

Carol Blackwell
 238-3086 cblackwell@nycap.rr.com

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

George Steele
 842-9305 silphidae@aol.com

Debra Ferguson
 221-3857 zray.zreee@gmail.com

Ron Harrower
 744-2637 rharrower@nycap.rr.com

Committee Chairs

Audit: vacant

Conservation: vacant

Field Trips: vacant

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

Outreach: George Steele
 842-9305 silphidae@aol.com

Programs: Scott Stoner
 785-6760 programs@hmbc.net

Publications: Chris Grossman
 399-9159 publications@hmbc.net

Records: Will Raup
 944-8711 hoaryredpoll@hotmail.com

Reist Sanctuary: vacant

Michael Gann
 377-2560 mgann@nycap.rr.com

Social: vacant

Technology: John Kent
 424-2234 jwkent@fastmail.fm

Youth: George Steele
 842-9305 silphidae@aol.com

President's Corner

There is no President's message this month. The NYS Birders Conference takes place October 2 – 4. Here's hoping many of you will be able to participate in it. See hmbc.net for details.

Gregg Recer
 President, HMBC
president@hmbc.net

You, too, can contribute to Feathers!

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

SHARE them with HMBC members by submitting them to:

HMBC Contact Information

BIRDLINE of EASTERN NEW YORK:

E-mail: contact@hmbc.net

HMBC website: <http://hmbc.net>

Please send all **electronic submissions for Feathers** via e-mail to:

Chris Grossman at bgrossman@nycap.rr.com.

Send all paper submissions to:

Chris Grossman

7 Nott Rd.

Rexford, NY 12148

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

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

Chris Grossman

7 Nott Rd

Rexford, NY 12148

Field Trip Reports

Doodletown

May 31, 2015

A dour weather forecast did not deter nine HMBirders, and a very special guest from the Albany Pine Bush Preserve staff, from exploring the lush hillsides of Doodletown this Sunday morning. The more southerly-breeding warbler species that are rarely encountered in our area were the target birds on this trip, and we were not disappointed. The weather conditions were much better than we expected, with only a few light showers falling throughout the morning.

The group had several long looks at both BLACK-BILLED and YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOOS, with the latter showing very well out in the open, spreading wings and tail extensively, offering a very good study of structure and patterning, particularly how the undertail "spots" are formed. They were quite vocal as well. It did not take long to hear both CERULEAN and HOODED WARBLERS singing from many locations, and while we had some satisfying views of CERULEANS, we could never lock onto a HOODED WARBLER. Given the dicey weather situation, we somewhat rushed up the hill in order to reach the area where a singing KENTUCKY WARBLER had been seen in previous days. Already on the bird as we arrived were a gregarious bunch of birders from Massachusetts Audubon. With their help we quickly located it, and for that we offer our thanks as it was a life bird for several members of our group. Many pictures were taken, many high-fives were exchanged, and a wall of smiles returned triumphantly down the hill. Good bird. Good birding.

On the return leg to the parking area, we found a WORM-EATING WARBLER perched on a low branch, food in bill, anxiously twittering about. After it concluded that we were not a threat, it went to ground, and entered an apparent nest hole, amongst some tree roots under the leaf litter. A second adult showed up with food minutes later, and they switched out their duties.

Following the Doodletown excursion, part of the group headed home, and the rest drove over to the Pawling Nature Preserve in Dutchess County. We hoped to observe ACADIAN FLYCATCHER there, and we had a decent look at one, and listened to its song and various call notes. We made a final stop at Peach Hill Park in Poughkeepsie, but were unable to find the White-eyed Vireos which have been there this spring. We did hear a winged-warbler making a "bee-buzz" vocalization, and one member of the group saw it well enough to indicate that it was a probable LAWRENCE'S WARBLER. It had the bright yellow and blue-gray of a Blue-Winged Warbler evident, but also showed a thick black eye line and black throat.

Thank you to everyone who turned out today in less than ideal conditions. We were treated to some fine birds and a fun experience. Special thanks to Amanda Dillon for sharing her knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm. We hope to see you all on future HMBC field trips.

-Tom and Colleen Williams

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

August 16, 2015

Three HMBC members drove down to Jamaica Bay NWR where we were joined by two birders from New York City. The best shore birding there occurs shortly before and after the high tide which was at 10:15 AM that morning. As typical for mid-August, the day was sunny, hot and humid. After parking at the Visitors Center and gearing up, we walked north to the access road to the shore at the mid-point of the East Pond. Here, another birder pointed out an AMERICAN AVOCET at the far north end of the pond. The mud and shallow waters were filled with many LEAST and SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS and SEMIPALMATED PLOVER. Other birds of interest include a BRANT; FISH CROW; NORTHERN SHOVELER; MUTE SWAN; GREAT, SNOWY, and immature LITTLE BLUE HERON; GLOSSY IBIS; GULL-BILLED and COMMON TERN; and GREATER and LESSER YELLOWLEGS. Beside the three common gull species, we saw LAUGHING GULL.

Field Trip Reports *(continued)*

Walking back to the road and then to the south access path, we saw a YELLOW WARBLER and several OSPREY. As we reached the mud flat at the south end, we spotted the first of two NORTHERN WATERTHRUSHES that lurked in the tall grass. Large numbers of peeps, plovers, and yellowlegs could be seen on the mudflats. Two SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS and a single PECTORAL SANDPIPER were the only new species seen here.

Superstorm Sandy breached the dike that formed the West Pond, but it is possible to walk the dike path as far as the breach. We could see four distant AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS from barrier at the end of the path. Subsequent to the trip, I learned that the breach will be repaired.

The trip total was 54 species including RED-TAILED HAWK, TURKEY VULTURE and AMERICAN CROW seen on the drive to and from Jamaica Bay.

- Bernie Grossman

Peebles Island/Cohoes Flats

August 23, 2015

The HMBC field trip to Peebles Island/Cohoes Flats was held this morning with an excellent original turnout of 20 birders. The HMBC field trip committee always attempts to time this field trip for the peak of shorebird migration at the Flats, and indeed this week was an outstanding one on some days for overall numbers of shorebirds and rare/unusual ones (such as Short-billed Dowitcher and Willet). However, this morning was not one of those days. We scanned the Mohawk River at the Flats for about an hour but came up with just one LEAST SANDPIPER and one SOLITARY. A few more SPOTTED SANDPIPERS were spotted as well as some KILLDEER. Fortunately, we did find an OSPREY perched in a tree across the Flats, a BLUE-WINGED TEAL dabbling with some MALLARDS, many GREAT BLUE HERONS, and a GREAT EGRET flyover.

Driving over to Peebles Island we then walked the trail around the island. An adult BALD EAGLE flew overhead followed by a brief appearance of a PEREGRINE FALCON. After hearing a BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE and a TITMOUSE, we began some serious pishing in hopes of finding some hidden migrant songbirds. This major effort eventually produced at least one RED-EYED VIREO, a BALTIMORE ORIOLE, a BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, BLUE-WINGED WARBLER, and COMMON YELLOWTHROAT. But, the last three were seen only by one or two persons each. After the final compilation, a WILLOW FLYCATCHER and EASTERN TOWHEE were heard.

Altogether, this was an enjoyable and successful field trip with a congenial and spirited group, although there were few standout species, our efforts paid off with a respectable, overall number of 46 species.

-John Hershey

Huyck Preserve

September 5, 2015

This morning's HMBC field trip to the Huyck Preserve in Rensselaerville (Albany County) had two main targets: Shorebirds on Myosotis Lake, and migrating songbirds. We didn't have much luck with either - the only shorebirds we saw were KILLDEER and one SPOTTED SANDPIPER, and we found no migrant songbirds to speak of. The only warblers were COMMON YELLOWTHROATS and a CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER, both common breeders at Huyck. We had no vireos or flycatchers. However, as a consolation prize, we had a good assortment of raptors - two MERLINS, SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, COOPER'S HAWK, OSPREY, BROAD-WINGED HAWK, RED-TAILED HAWK, and BALD EAGLE. The MERLINS were patrolling the area where shorebirds are usually found, which probably explains their absence. It didn't seem to bother the KILLDEER too much, as we saw at least twelve of them. There were also Hooded Mergansers on both Myosotis Lake and Lincoln Pond.

-John Kent

Upcoming HMBC Programs

Birding Brazil 1

Speaker: Bernie Grossman

October 5, 2015 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

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

Bernie and Chris Grossman have birded two areas in Brazil near the city of Cuiaba. The first was centered around the Garden of the Amazon, a lodge just in the Amazon drainage and located about 200 miles north of Cuiaba. The second was the northern Pantanal, which is a vast seasonal wetlands draining south into the Paraguay River. Much of their birding was done from boats on the rivers with the goal of seeing the birds of the two regions and, of course, jaguar.

Bernie and Chris Grossman have lived in the Capital District for over 40 years. Since retirement they have traveled widely to see the birds and cultures of the world.

Birding Brazil II

Speaker: Gregg Recer

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

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

Picking up where Brazil I left off, this travelogue program will start in Mato Grosso state exploring more of the famed Pantanal, the largest freshwater wetland area in South America. After getting our fill of Jabiru Storks, Toco Toucans, Hyacinth Macaws and other Patanal charisma birds, we'll continue on to Brazil's east coast and the Atlantic Forest biome. The narrow coastal forest running up the east edge of Brazil has been long-isolated from the Amazon Basin. The result is a high degree of endemism among the many neotropical bird families to be found there (think hummingbirds, tanagers, cotingas, antbirds, furnariids, flycatchers, and more). Eight nights at a single lodge provided opportunities to explore all the major habitats the Atlantic Forest has to offer, with the added bonus of a visit to Rio de Janeiro.

Gregg Recer and his wife Cathy Graichen have been HMBC members for over 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 current HMBC president.

HMBC Holiday Party & program - The Passenger Pigeon: Icon of Extinction

Speaker: Dr. Jeremy Kirchman

December 7, 2015 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Five Rivers Environmental Education Center

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.

Everyone is welcome to bring a dessert to share.

Upcoming Audubon Programs

Raptor Rapture! at the NYS Museum **Saturday, November 21, 2015 @ 11 AM - 4 PM**

Join in on the fun for our Fourth Annual Bird and Bird Habitat Awareness Day to bring attention to the challenges birds of Prey and songbirds alike face every day!

Spend a full day at the NYS Museum in Albany and see live birds of prey, hear interesting talks and view many educational displays. There will be plenty of activities for adults and kids alike, including owl pellet dissection, and learning how to do bird art.

This event is organized and sponsored by Audubon Society of the Capital Region, the Friends of the IBA of the Washington County Grasslands, and the NYS Museum.

On Nature

Small World

by Denise Hackert-Stoner and Scott Stoner

Our world is a big place. Full of big things. Mountains. Oceans. Beaches. Deserts. The over-arching sky. The setting sun. And yet upon this big sphere, under this big sky, there lies myriad small wonders. As birders we know this. Most of the birds are indeed, small. But beyond that we learn, as we grow as birders, to look for the ever smaller things. Noticing the few millimeters of dark or light feathers around a bird's eye might help us nail a correct identification. Looking for subtle differences in things like leg color on the tiny legs of distant sandpipers may be a frustrating endeavor, but might also train our eye to notice the small things of this world; the seemingly insignificant and oft-overlooked things.

Being a birder and knowing that I need to pay attention to small details may be one of the factors that draw me to macro photography. In this style of photography the lens is allowed to focus very close to its subject, making it possible to show in great detail the small, the overlooked, the seemingly insignificant details of this great world of ours. It's an interesting way of looking at things and I find that the activity tends to change my vision. I no longer see a field before me, but rather look for a particularly lovely stalk of grain. That grain may have a lovely shape or form of its own, or it may host a beautiful dragonfly. The dragonfly's wings may be reflecting the sunlight like small rainbows, or it may be dining on a small fly. That fly may look familiar. Is it one of my favorites? A hoverfly perhaps? And so it goes, smaller and smaller, until the field itself seems insignificant compared to this life and death struggle on a stalk of grass.



Damselfly with Prey on Milkweed

On Nature *(continued)*



Hoverfly on Grass

We just returned from a wonderful trip to the Pacific Northwest where we were entranced by the large. Mount Ranier. Mount Saint Helens. The vast beaches of the Olympic Peninsula. We were reminded once again of the size of our great earth and its might. But even in thrall of the great and the big, we found ourselves looking for the small. Though we didn't use the macro lens much, we tried to capture the abandoned crab shell left behind by its previous owner on the beach, the small squirrel chomping on a small cone from a very large pine, and yes, the elusive bird, mostly dull yellow, with that tiny bit of an eye ring. It's the small things that count.



Douglas Squirrel on Mt Rainier

DEC ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SUMMER CAMPS

Ah, Autumn's here. The kids are back at school. The warblers are on the move. Fire wood's getting stacked. The time to think about summer is over. Well, not really.

Our club budgets to send one or two kids to the DEC's Environmental Education Summer Camps. There are four camps spread around the state that offer a terrific experience for young people interested in nature, conservation and everything outdoors. The program is open to youth ages 12 to 17.

Here's rub. Though camp registration opens in the middle of winter the time to look for interested kids is now. Do you know a young boy or girl that enjoys the outdoors, is interested in wildlife and the environment, would grow with the special experience the camps have to offer? If you do we need to know about her or him.

Registration for the camps is very competitive, especially for Camp Colby in the Adirondacks. If we have a young person in mind before the registration period opens we will be able to secure a reservation for that child.

Look to your family, a child or grandchild, check with a teacher or youth leader you know. There are future conservationists in our midst. We just have to find them.

For information on the camp program or to let us know that you have a camper candidate call or e-mail me at 518-842-9305 or silphidae@aol.com.

George Steele

FOURTH REGIONAL RECORD OF LARK SPARROW

On July 2, Brendan Hathaway was visiting the Wilton Wildlife Preserve – Camp Saratoga section in Saratoga County, when he noticed a different sparrow mixed in among the numerous Chipping and Field Sparrows. This bird with bold chestnut cheeks and head stripes and white outer tail feathers when it flew, was unmistakable and quickly identified as a Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*); the fourth record for the Hudson-Mohawk Region and first for Saratoga County.

The sighting was reported to eBird (www.ebird.org), and after a short e-mail exchange, the reviewers alerted the birding community. On July 5, Tom and Colleen Williams along with John Kent and Naomi Lloyd, relocated the bird near where it was originally reported. It was then seen by many birders over the next two days, until it disappeared after July 7.



Interestingly, the third regional record [and first Washington County record], was only a few miles east of where the Saratoga bird was, in the heart of the Ft. Edward Grasslands in December, 2014.

Amazingly, the region had gone a long time between second and third records. Before the Ft. Edward bird, last December, the last Lark Sparrow recorded in the region was seen between May 25 and June 20, 1933 in Schenectady, a remarkable 81-year gap! The first known

FOURTH REGIONAL RECORD OF LARK SPARROW *(continued)*

Lark Sparrow record for the region was seen on December 2, 1929 in Rensselaer.

Lark Sparrow is normally found from western Ohio westward, south to northern gulf states and west to California, reaching as far north as southern Alberta and Manitoba. It is classified by the New York Avian Records Committee as [U], meaning that it requests documented reports and reviews all reports of this species away from NYC and Long Island. Lark Sparrow, is rare, but annual, along the dunes and barrier beaches of Long Island. As of this writing, NYSARC has received 18 Lark Sparrow reports since its inception from upstate locations, and has accepted 14, with reports from nearly all parts of the state, but no strong pattern of vagrancy outside of Long Island.

Special thanks to Tom Williams, Rich Guthrie, Bob Yunick, Tristan Lowery and Zach Schawartz-Weinstein and Bruce Dudek for their help in this article.

- Will Raup, HMBC Records Chair

A SURVEY BIRDING TOUR OF ECUADOR *(continued)*

The next morning we flew south to land in the hot, dry scrub land of the Catamayo Valley where the airport for Loja was located (1.5 hours west of town). The fields, bushes, and parking areas surrounding the airport were amazingly birdy, so we just walked around checking off the species. More time was spent in nearby agricultural areas.

Using Loja as a base, we spent 1.5 days birding the accessible portions of the huge Podocarpus National Park (NP). Podocarpus is a genus of trees found in this area. We then drove north and west to Zamora and the lovely Copalinga Lodge with its wonderful feeder setup. Some of the travel was over the old Loja-Zamora Road. From the lodge, we birded a different portion of Podocarpus NP and some of the agricultural areas around Zamora.

Our last southern stop was Cuenca, a beautiful old colonial city, and the nearby El Cajas NP where we traveled and birded up to 13,500 feet. This gave us access to the higher altitude birds such as the cinclodes that inhabit the low trees and scrub lands.

We flew back to Quito for the night, and then drove east over the Papallacta Pass (14,000 feet) on our way to Hacienda San Isidro Lodge. The scrub lands at the top of the pass had extensive groves of the strange *polyepis* tree which were home to the rare GIANT CONEBILL, a rare and elusive tanager. Our goal at the top of the pass was the RUFIOUS-BELLIED SEEDSNIPE which is at its lower elevation limit here. After the seedsnipe, we had lunch at Guango Lodge which has a famous hummingbird feeder setup.



Buff-winged Starfrontlet



Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe

San Isidro is another one of the wonderful lodges we used on this trip. It, too, has extensive hummer feeders where we saw LONG-

TAILED SYLPHS, GREAT SAPPHIREWINGS, and CHESTNUT-BREADED CORONETS fight for access to the sugar water. We saw GOLDEN-HEADED and CRESTED QUETZALS (trogon family) and the strange San Isidro mystery owl of possible mixed parentage in the trees around the lodge's car park.

One of San Isidro's biggest attractions is the WHITE-BELLIED ANTPITTA that has been trained to come to calls and be fed earthworms. Antpittas are very shy and difficult to see. Along with tapaculos, they can be called by tapes to within just a few feet of a forest edge where seeing them depends on luck and sight lines.

We returned briefly to Quito after two days at San Isidro. The next morning, we drove west toward Mindo and the Septimo Paraiso Lodge. The road climbs the mountains west of Quito passing Pichincha Volcano. We stopped a couple of times to bird on the way up to the pass. On the edge of an agricultural road, I was the only one in the group to see a GREEN TRAINBEARER, a hummer with an extraordinarily long tail.



Long-tailed Sylph

On the wetter west side of the west branch of the Andes, we made a lunch stop at Tony and Barbara's house. The couple is trying to develop a private reserve while living a simple, off the grid lifestyle. We sat on their porch and patio while eating and watched an amazing parade of hummers and tanagers visit the feeder setup.

Gold-headed Quetzal



Mindo is a premier birding area in Ecuador. It is at the lowest altitude for the whole trip. We birded the lodge's access road looking for parrots and owls. The first morning, we left the lodge at 4:30 AM to drive to Refugio Paz de las Aves that it is run by Angel and Rodrigo Paz. A few years ago, Angel began to lead birders to a COCK-OF-THE-ROCK lek on his property. Access was difficult and a visitor suggested that Angel could charge more if he improved access with trails. He took government courses on tourism support, and while digging the trails with his brother, discovered that antpittas were coming in to eat the exposed earthworms. He soon named the birds and trained them to come in when called for an earthworm feast. The word spread, and Angel has increased his income ten-fold. While at the Refugio, we saw four antpitta species (including Maria and Chiquita), Tomas, the RUFIOUS-BREADED ANTHRUSH, and an OCELLATED TAPACULO who all came to calls and earthworms.

Chris and I were surprised one evening at Septimo Paraiso to hear a voice call out "Bernie" as we descended the stairs to the dining room. There we found HMBC's own John Kent who was at the lodge to bird the area with another tour group.

Early one morning, we drove to the new Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary in a forest patch lower than Mindo. The reserve has a canopy tower that we used until it got too hot. We were at tree top level and had a hard time keeping up with all the woodpeckers, tanagers, parrots, flycatchers, and furnariids moving about in the cool morning air. Later, Willy was able to call in a WHITE-BEARDED MANAKIN which had a lek in a ground level woods near the tower. After walking trails through the woods, we drove to another low woodlands where we got less satisfactory looks at two more manakin species.

The final morning was spent close to Mindo walking along roads in agricultural areas. From Mindo, we returned to Quito for our flight home that evening.



Cock-of-the Rock



White-bellied Antpitta



Yellow-breasted Antpitta



Rufous-bellied Antthrush

The official trip list includes 529 bird taxa with 63 hummingbirds, 36 furnariids, 62 flycatchers, and 99 tanagers. This was all in sixteen birding days. The lodges that we stayed at were all great, too, with wonderful food. Finally Willy is an amazing guide. He is knowledgeable, enthusiastic, a great storyteller, and very caring about his clients.



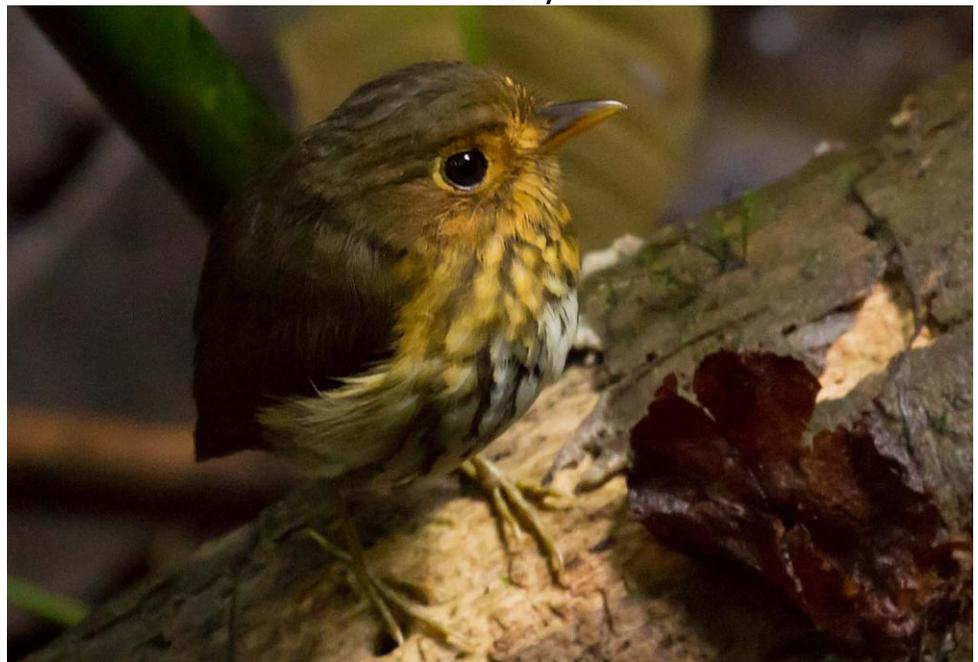
Blue-necked Tanager



Green-and-Gold Tanager



Gray Tinamou



Ochre-breasted Antpitta

Upcoming Field Trips

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 10, WOODLAWN PRESERVE (Schenectady County; morning)

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

The Woodlawn Preserve is located in the Southeast corner of Schenectady County abutting the western edge of the Pine Bush. The area contains a flood control pond, forested sand dunes and general wetland habitat. Trips in prior years have seen migrating warblers and sparrows. The pond may attract various waterfowl.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in front of Petsmart in Mohawk Commons at the corner of State Street and Balltown Road (Balltown Rd. side). We will carpool the short distance to the Preserve.

Sunday, October 11, FIVE RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER (Albany County; morning)

Coordinator: John Kent 424-2234 jwkent@fastmail.fm

We'll walk about 2 miles over generally flat terrain with some small hills, passing through a variety of habitats. Migrating sparrows are often abundant at this time of the year, with a good chance of Lincoln's and White-crowned as well as more common species. Both species of kinglet may be present, as well as Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler and Blue-headed Vireo. A late Nashville, Black-throated Green, Blackpoll or Magnolia Warbler might be found. Wood Duck and other waterfowl are possible, as well as Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks and Merlin. Wet grass and muddy spots may be encountered, so waterproof footwear is recommended.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot by the visitor center.

Saturday, October 24, COLLINS LAKE (Schenectady County; morning)

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

We will visit Collins Lake to view late migrating waterfowl from the beach and the east side of the lake. We will also take a walk east along the north side of the Mohawk River for fall sparrows. Fox Sparrows have been seen in previous years. Foliage will be off of the trees to make finding LBJ's (Little Brown Jobs) a bit easier.

Meet at the western end of the Gateway Bridge at Jumpin' Jacks in Scotia at 8:00 a.m. Bring a scope if you have one.

NOVEMBER

Thursday, November 6, DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS, Friday - Sunday, December 4 – 6, NIAGARA FALLS and NIAGARA RIVER (weekend)

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

Saturday, November 7, TOMHANNOCK RESERVOIR (Rensselaer County; morning)

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

Join us for a morning trip around the Tomhannock Reservoir. We hope to find a variety of waterfowl as resident and migrant passerines and possibly shorebirds. Rarities have turned up at the Tomhannock in the fall and we often find Bald Eagles.

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking area at the intersection of Lake Shore Dr. and NY Route 7 at the west end of the causeway. Bring a scope if you have one.

Sunday, November 15, VISCHER FERRY NATURE AND HISTORICAL PARK (Saratoga Co; morning)

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

On this trip we'll be looking for migrant waterfowl and winter residents. Rusty Blackbirds are often observed at this time of year. We will start at the main entrance to the Preserve. We will also explore some of the lesser known areas of the Preserve, such as Ferry Drive and the area around the Vischer Ferry Power Plant where Bald Eagles and migrant waterfowl are often seen.

Meet at the main entrance of VFNHP at the Whipple Bridge at 8:30 a.m.

DECEMBER**Friday - Sunday, December 4 – 6, NIAGARA FALLS and NIAGARA RIVER** (weekend)

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

Reservations required by Thursday, November 6

The Niagara River, between Lakes Erie and Ontario, hosts thousands of gulls at this time of year. A wide variety of gull species will be present with good chances for Lesser Black-backed, Little, Bonaparte's, Iceland, Glaucous and Thayer's. Rarer species such as California, Sabine's, Mew and Black-legged Kittiwake are possible. Waterfowl diversity should also be good. Friday we will bird our way west along Lake Ontario.

During the weekend, we will bird mainly from the Canadian side of the river from Ft. Erie to Niagara-on-the-lake, so proper documentation to cross back and forth between the US and Canada will be needed. Please confirm documentation requirements when contacting coordinator.

Email or call the coordinator for reservations or more information.

Saturday, December 19, SCHENECTADY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Coordinator/Compiler: Larry Alden 861-6087 overlook@nycap.rr.com

Saturday, December 26, SOUTHERN RENSSELAER CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Coordinator/Compiler: Phil Whitney, 477-9050, philandmarjwhitney@earthlink.net

Feathers**Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club****c/o Five Rivers EEC****Game Farm Road****Delmar, NY 12054**