

October, 2023  
Volume 83 No 5

# Feathers

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

## **NY Breeding Bird Atlas III Capital Region September Report Alison Van Keuren, Regional Coordinator**

Report as of 4 September 2023:

Many thanks to all who have made contributions to the Breeding Bird Atlas

Albany County – 21 Priority Blocks; 17 Complete; 1 in queue for higher review  
Fulton County – 19 Priority Blocks; 1 Complete; 0 in queue for higher review  
Greene County – 23 Priority Blocks; 1 Complete; 1 in queue for higher review  
Montgomery County – 18 Priority Blocks; 5 Complete; 0 in queue for higher review  
Rensselaer County – 25 Priority Blocks; 14 Complete; 4 in queue for higher review  
Saratoga County – 32 Priority Blocks; 10 Complete; 0 in queue for higher review  
Schenectady County – 7 Priority Blocks; 2 Complete; 0 in queue for higher review  
Schoharie County – 20 Priority Blocks; 1 complete; 0 in queue for higher review  
Warren County – 35 Priority Blocks; 4 Complete; 2 in queue for higher review  
Washington County – 31 Priority Blocks; 6 Complete; 6 in queue for higher review

The Atlas continues to promote participation, with the caution that some migrant species in the fall young of the year may continue to demonstrate begging behavior. It is most likely these migrant species are breeding elsewhere and adding a breeding code does not contribute to the quality of the data. Save your zeal for coding until the owls start setting up territories in late December and January.

Thanks in advance,

Alison Van Keuren  
Regional Coordinator  
NY Breeding Bird Atlas

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### HMBC BOARD Officers

**President:**

Tristan Lowery  
51 Mereline Avenue  
Albany, NY 12209  
646-323-8914 [tristanlowery@gmail.com](mailto:tristanlowery@gmail.com)

**Vice-President::**

Eric Mulho  
103 Bender Lane,  
Delmar, NY 12054  
518-439-6592 [mohorising@aol.com](mailto:mohorising@aol.com)

**Secretary:**

Amanda Dillon - [amadillon@gmail.com](mailto:amadillon@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:**

Ellen Pemrick  
117 Western Ave  
West Charlton, NY 12010  
[lnmp@nycap.rr.com](mailto:lnmp@nycap.rr.com)

**Directors**

Jim De Waal Malefyt  
518-283-2363 [dewaalmalefyt@gmail.com](mailto:dewaalmalefyt@gmail.com)

Cindy Edwardson  
6 Highfield Lane  
Albany, NY 12208  
218-348-1859  
[cjredwardson@gmail.com](mailto:cjredwardson@gmail.com)

Daniel Schlaepfer  
[danirsch@gmail.com](mailto:danirsch@gmail.com)

Laurie Keefe  
67 Montrose Drive, Delmar NY 12054  
[lkeefe@nycap.rr.com](mailto:lkeefe@nycap.rr.com)

Colleen Williams  
[duceandjerome@aol.com](mailto:duceandjerome@aol.com)

**Committee Chairs**

**Audit:** vacant

**Conservation:** Vacant

**Field Trips:** Naomi  
Lloyd [naomi\\_kestrel@yahoo.com](mailto:naomi_kestrel@yahoo.com)

**Membership:** Gregg Recer  
518- 899-2678 [gregg\\_recer@alum.rpi.edu](mailto:gregg_recer@alum.rpi.edu)

**Outreach:** Vacant

**Programs:** Scott Stoner  
518-785-6760 [programs@hmbc.net](mailto:programs@hmbc.net)

**Publications:** Denise Hackert-Stoner  
[denisehstoner@aol.com](mailto:denisehstoner@aol.com)

**Records:** Vacant

**Reist Sanctuary:** Doug and Maria Conklin  
[Douglas.s.Conklin@gmail.com](mailto:Douglas.s.Conklin@gmail.com)

**Social:** vacant

**Technology:** John Kent  
424-2234 [jwkent@fastmail.fm](mailto:jwkent@fastmail.fm)

**Youth:** Vacant

There is no President's Corner this month.

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**You, too, can contribute to Feathers!**

- Do you have a birding story or photos that might be of interest to other birders?
- Have you led a field trip for HMBC?
- Have you written short prose or poetry on the subject of birds? We're starting a Writers' Page!
- 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](mailto:contact@hmbc.net)

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

Please send all **electronic submissions for Feathers** via e-mail to:  
Denise Hackert-Stoner at [denisehstoner@aol.com](mailto:denisehstoner@aol.com).

Send all paper submissions to:

**Denise Hackert-Stoner**

**6 Knob Hill Road.**

Loudonville,

NY

12211

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## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

**Sunday, September 24, 2023 8:00AM**

**Location: Albany Pine Bush Preserve II (Fall Migrants)**

**Coordinators: Tom and Colleen Williams [twill0526@gmail.com](mailto:twill0526@gmail.com)**

Come explore the Karner Barrens East unit of Albany Pine Bush Preserve, via the "yellow" perimeter trail, and "blue" dune overlook trail. We will be looking for warblers, vireos, and flycatchers. The dune overlook trail has a moderate climb and descent. This is approximately a three-mile loop. Take proper precautions to avoid ticks.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center parking lot, located at 195 New Karner Rd. (Rt. 155) in Albany

**Saturday, September 30, 2023 8:00AM**

**Location: Saratoga Battlefield**

**Coordinators: Linda White - [linda\\_white@nps.gov](mailto:linda_white@nps.gov)**

This popular trip features beautiful foliage and a good chance to see hawks, woodpeckers, sparrows, bluebirds and late migrants as we walk the woods and grasslands of the battlefield. We will carpool to several trailheads. You never know what will turn up.

Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot near the park's visitor center off SR 32.

**Saturday, October 7, 2023 8:00AM**

**Location: Five Rivers EEC**

**Coordinators: Tristan Lowery 646-323-8914 [tristanlowery@gmail.com](mailto:tristanlowery@gmail.com)**

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 at Five Rivers EEC in Delmar.

**Saturday, October 28, 2023 8:00AM**

**Location: Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail, Lions Park**

**Coordinators: Naomi Lloyd 518-596-5964 [naomi\\_kestrel@yahoo.com](mailto:naomi_kestrel@yahoo.com)**

On this trip along the Mohawk River and its backwaters in Niskayuna, we will look for waterfowl, gulls, and sparrows. Our walk may take us as far as the farm fields on Niska Isle. We will retrace our path back to Lions Park. This is approximately 3.5 miles total.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Lions Park in Niskayuna, located along Rosendale Rd. near the intersection with Niskayuna Rd. Bring a spotting scope if you wish to scan the waterfowl groups.

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS (CONTINUED)

**Saturday, November 4, 2023 8:00AM**

**Location:** Collins Lake

**Coordinators:** Coordinator: Jamie Taft [j.taft69@yahoo.com](mailto:j.taft69@yahoo.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 the trees to make finding LBJs (Little Brown Jobs) a bit easier.

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

**Sunday, November 12, 2023 8:30AM**

**Location:** Vischer Ferry Nature and Historical Preserve

**Coordinators:** John Hershey 518-371-3114 [hersheyj@nycap.rr.com](mailto:hersheyj@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. The new hike/bike trail from the Clamsteam Tavern location to Ferry Dr. is completed, and this will open new areas to the east of the Whipple Bridge. The leader may choose to go in this direction.

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the VFNHP main entrance, at the intersection of Riverview and Van Vranken Rds. in Clifton Park.

**Saturday, November 18, 2023 8:30AM**

**Location:** Tomhannock Reservoir

**Coordinators:** Naomi Lloyd 518-596-5964 [naomi\\_kestrel@yahoo.com](mailto:naomi_kestrel@yahoo.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.

### **2023 HMBC-Sponsored Christmas Counts:**

**Saturday, December 16, SCHENECTADY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

**Coordinator/Compiler:** Larry Alden 518-495-6535 [overlook@nycap.rr.com](mailto:overlook@nycap.rr.com)

**Saturday, December 23, SOUTHERN RENSSELAER CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

**Coordinator/Compiler:** Naomi Lloyd 518-596-5964 [naomi\\_kestrel@yahoo.com](mailto:naomi_kestrel@yahoo.com)

**Saturday, December 30, TROY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

**Coordinator/Compiler:** Larry Alden 518-495-6535 [overlook@nycap.rr.com](mailto:overlook@nycap.rr.com)

## SITE DESCRIPTION: PARSON'S MARSH TRAIL, BY JOHN CARSON

### Parsons Marsh – A Fully Accessible Trail

170 Under Mountain Road, Lenox MA 01240

By John Carson

I have become increasingly interested with accessible trails over the last few years; not for any altruistic reason - but because I have become increasingly impaired. At this point I use a motorized wheelchair to travel any distance. I am also a birder – somewhere between beginner and intermediate – so finding a delightful, fully accessible, birding trail was a joy to me. This trail is outside of the usual area of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club but is nearby - less than 1 mile from Tanglewood. I thought the members would want to know about it.

The Parsons Marsh Trail was constructed in 2018 by the Berkshire Natural Resources Council [bnrc.org] on conserved land in the Undermountain Valley. While only 1/3 mile long it passes through old farmland, pines and hardwoods, and finishes through an increasingly wet area to platform view of Parsons Marsh. There is parking at the trailhead for 15-20 cars, and 2 dedicated handicapped spots. The trail is open year-round for hiking, skiing and snowshoeing. Dogs are permitted. There is an accessible picnic table and three benches along the trail, as well as a bench at the viewing platform. There are no toilet facilities.

### Description of Trail – with birds seen in Spring/Early Summer

The trail starts at the kiosk at far end of the parking lot. You will notice a row of Eastern White Pine, these seem to be a favorite for Gray Catbirds and Pine Warblers. The gravel path enters an old field with some rusting [and very photogenic] farming equipment. You will start to hear many bird songs here, but I have only seen Catbirds, Song Sparrows and Robins. After about 500 feet you re-enter a wooded area – there will be an accessible picnic table, bench and small pond on your right. Be on the lookout for turtles and the occasional Green Heron in the pond. As you continue over 2 bridges spanning the outlet of the pond you will be hearing/seeing Common Yellowthroats, American Redstarts, as well as a cacophony of other calls. I have heard but not seen on this section include Baltimore Orioles, Indigo Buntings and Scarlet Tanagers. This past year this section of the trail was dominated by Redstarts, a bird I found fiendishly difficult to photograph.

The trail now reaches a bridge and the 900-foot boardwalk begins. There is more mature hardwood here, and you are likely to see Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, and Sapsuckers. The trail soon passes through an unfortunate, but relatively short section, of Japanese Knotweed before emerging in a brushy area. At the right time of year, you will become aware [annoyed?] of the persistent call of the Red-eyed Vireo. You will hear more warblers – Yellow and Chestnut-sided most commonly. Catbirds are quite frequent, as well as Common Yellowthroats. I have seen a Ruby-Throated hummingbird in this section, and heard Wood and Hermit Thrushes. The boardwalk continues through a mixed forest and you will notice it becoming wetter and wetter, until you emerge through rows of cattails to the platform overlooking Parsons Marsh. Redwing Blackbirds nest in the cattails, and you are very likely to see Eastern Kingbird in one of the dead trees surrounding the Marsh. If you are fortunate, you may see a Belted Kingfisher. You will hear [if not see] Swamp Sparrows. On the marsh I have seen Canadian Geese, Wood Ducks, Mallards and Mute Swans. 2 years ago, I got a photo of a gull circling the marsh – Merlin identified it as an Icelandic Gull, but I'm not sure I believe that. You will likely see a beaver dam in the marsh, and reportedly there are otters and mink.



Red-eyed Vireo

This is not a high-usage trail, if you see anyone it will likely be older folks or families with young children. The viewing platform is not large. After doing the [admittedly short] trail you can extend your day by walking along the lightly traveled Under Mountain Road, visit nearby Kennedy Park [no accessible trails], the Mass Audubon Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary [one accessible trail] or the Berkshire Botanical Gardens [not “officially” accessible but I can get around well].

## WRITERS PAGE



Common Loon Secrets

By: Marilyn Hamecher – 9/3/23

I thought I knew, but the more I learn about the Loon, the less I know.  
 I've learned on my trips to Blue Mt. Lake and watching the Loon show.  
 Watching and determining they were a vision of peace and family.  
 Instead, all my studies have shown, their lives are more like a calamity.

I was always under the impression that all Loons mated for a lifetime.  
 Observing nesting pairs returning, each year to same lake, was a good sign.  
 Research reveals the Loon has about 4 different partners every 10 years.  
 However, they stay devoted during breeding seasons; I'll give them 3 cheers.

Separating and changing partners is a natural course and without tears.  
 After a Loon fledges, they migrate South, where they stay for many years.  
 Having Salt Glands, they can digest plenty of ocean fish, before their trip back.  
 Back to their breeding territory, which may be taken by another Loon hack?

Returning at the age of 3–5 years, they search for a breeding spot on the Lake.  
 If a territory is taken, a hostile takeover or an outright killing is no mistake.  
 These battles between Loons can be violent but rarely observed by folks.  
 Many adult Loons have bill punctures in their bellies from too many pokes.

Learning the safe nests sites and risking their lives saving a spot on the Lake.  
 A lesson is worth fighting for and dying for, is the Loon's obvious take.  
 The next time you hear the Common Loon's call wafting across a Lake.  
 You will understand this beautiful bird, and how much his life is at stake.



## ON NATURE

### On the Wing: Monarchs

With a flutter of wings, and a flash of orange, a butterfly touches down on a flower, extends its delicate proboscis and begins to feed.



This is the Monarch. I can say from my own experience that Monarchs are an iconic butterfly because as a former preschool teacher I had to put out extra orange and black crayons whenever the children were coloring butterflies. This is the butterfly that is imprinted on us. It is our butterfly.

The only butterfly in the world known to make a two-way migration, Monarchs from the eastern US are on the move now. These seemingly delicate creatures, their 4-inch frames weighing less than half a gram, will travel up to 3,000 miles to reach their over-wintering haven in the fir forests of Central Mexico. There they will join millions of other Monarchs, their combined weight bowing the branches of the firs as they cluster close together to stay warm.

The amazing saga of Monarch migration is the work of at least three, and up to five generations. The generation that I have just described, the one that has made the long, 3,000 mile migration, lives the longest, up to nine months. It spends the entire winter in diapause, meaning that it does not reproduce during this time. . Its only job is to survive the winter, and to use environmental cues to sense when the time is right to begin its northward journey, sometime in the spring. Once this generation has reached the southern US the diapause ends, and the butterflies begin to mate and lay eggs. Then that long-lived generation dies, and the next generations continue the long migration north, making new Monarchs as they go.

**ON NATURE** *(CONTINUED)*

As summer follows spring, wherever milkweed grows (the only food of Monarch caterpillars), we find the eggs, caterpillars, and chrysalises of Monarchs. Soon our fields and gardens are filled with winged beauty.

As summer follows spring, wherever milkweed grows (the only food of Monarch caterpillars), we find the eggs, caterpillars, and chrysalises of Monarchs. Soon our fields and gardens are filled with winged beauty.

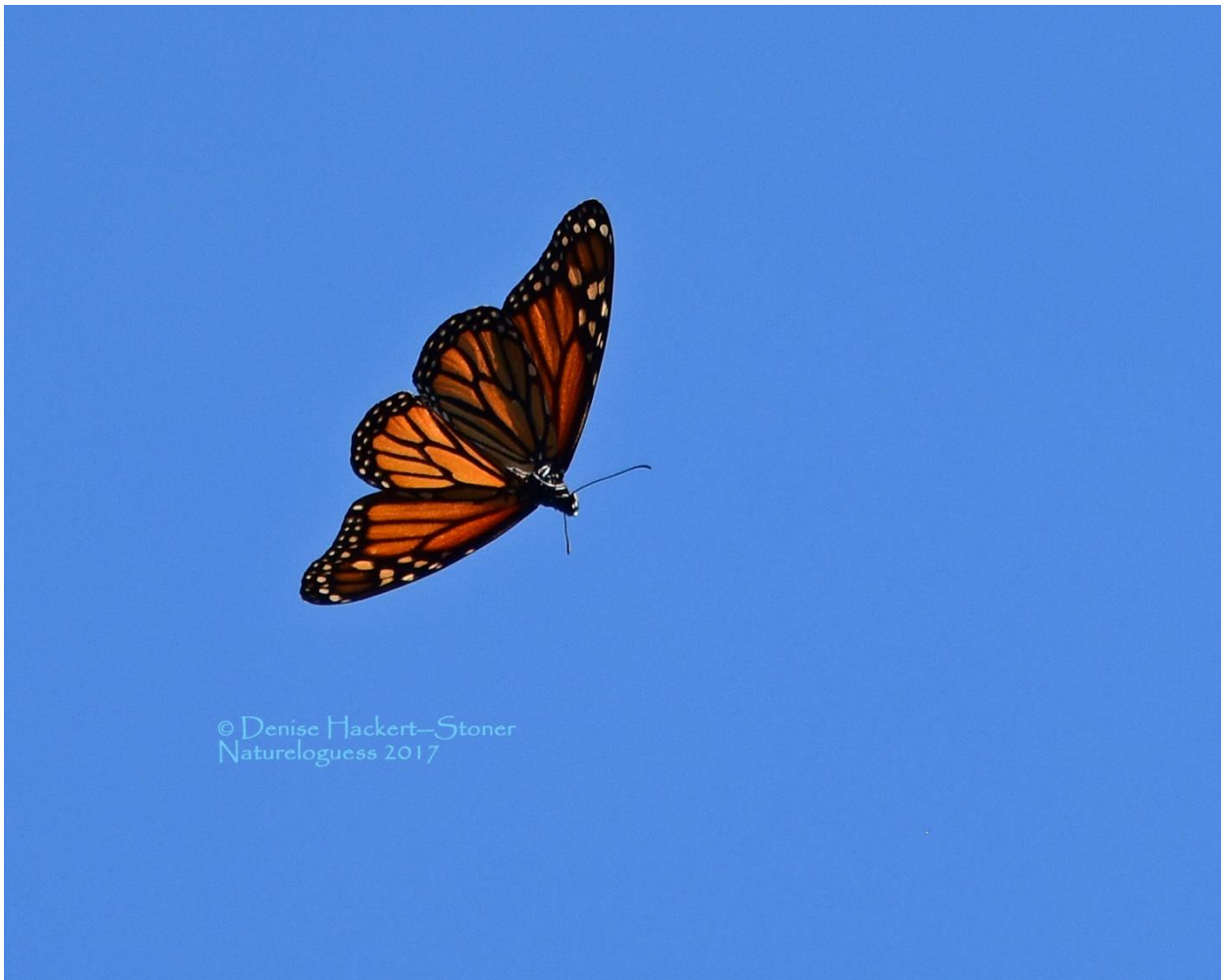


**ON NATURE** (CONTINUED)



**ON NATURE** (CONTINUED)

Now that another fall has arrived, a new migrating generation of Monarchs has emerged. We might see them if we look up. We may see one, then two or three, flying higher than we might expect to see a butterfly flying, and generally southward. Amazingly, every year Monarchs of a new migrating generation land in the same forest in Mexico, with individual butterflies sometimes landing in the same tree as their ancestors. Without a map, without the advice of elders, with only their indwelling wisdom and navigational skills, these butterflies return to their ancestral home. How do they do it? It's a little-understood process. Maybe an inner compass? Maybe the position of the sun? These possibilities are being studied. What we can be sure of is that the butterflies know. They are migrating now, and we just might be witnesses if we remember to look up.



Resources:

To learn more about the amazing migration of the Monarch Butterfly, I recommend the following articles:

US Forest Service:

[US Forest Service](#)

[Monarch Joint Venture](#)

## Field Trip Reports

### Nighthawk Watch, Albany Pine Bush 2023, Scott Stoner

The HMBC Common Nighthawk watch this August covered four days, August 24, 25, 28, and 29, once again at our usual site, the parking lot of the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center on New Karner Road in Albany.

The count started out well but was plagued by rain which hindered participation and likely reduced nighthawk numbers as well. On Wednesday, August 24, about a dozen birders tallied 51 nighthawks over the 2-hour period from 6 PM to 8 PM. We had had several distant and one close flyovers fairly early, with the bulk of them from 7:00 to about 7:30 PM. Interestingly, many of these appeared from the southeast, and headed northwest. The photo below was from this first night. A special treat was the rising moon near the end of the evening (photo below).

Night 2, Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup>, was to be a combined venture with the folks at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, who had both video and extensive educational displays set up inside the Discovery Center for the event. Unfortunately, the rain was steadier and heavier than expected. Only one other person braved the weather, and those of us trying to look for nighthawks in the driving rain only got soaked. With rain continuing and zero nighthawks observed, we called it quits at 6:45 PM.

Night 3, Monday the 28<sup>th</sup>, was also hampered by rain, albeit not as much as the previous attempt. Our first common nighthawk gave us a great look, flying right over us across the parking lot. Then nothing for about 45 mins. But eventually we picked out one group of 4 feeding out to the northeast. They eventually toolled off to the east so never got very close, but we had long repeated looks at them at distance. The rain started again and we called it at 7:30 with a total of 5 nighthawks.

Finally, on Night 4, Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup>, we had good weather and at least double-digit nighthawks. It was our best-attended night, with close to 20 enthusiastic observers present. Most of the nighthawks were quite distant, seen to the north or northwest, identifiable only by their shape and or manner of flight. Finally, one flew over the parking lot as light was fading, part of our total of 12 nighthawks for the evening.

People were also treated to a variety of beauty in the sky, from a sun dog to golden shafts of light to a lovely sunset, followed by the rise of a nearly full moon (one day before the full, blue, supermoon) over the dunes!

We thank everyone who turned out for this year's count, and especially our kind friends at the Pine Bush for providing a venue and partnering for the one, albeit rain-affected evening. Special thanks to Gregg Recer and Cathy Graichen for filling in for us for Night 3. We also appreciate the grand total of 68 Common Nighthawks that flew over during the event. This is always a great opportunity for HMBC members and the public to meet and catch up, and we look forward to seeing you and the Nighthawks next year! -Scott Stoner and Denise Hackert-Stoner



Common Nighthawk at Albany Pine Bush 8-24-23 by Scott Stoner



Moon at Albany Pine Bush 8-24-23 by Scott Stoner



Sunset at Albany Pine Bush 8-29-23 by John Carson

## Field Trip Reports *(continued)*

### Jamaica Bay, Queens NY, August 19th 2023, Gregg Recer

Nine HMBC members joined up at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge visitor's center in Queens, NYC to spend a full day exploring one of the most productive birding sites in New York State. We were not alone, as the date happened to be when the refuge was hosting their annual Shorebird Festival. Although our original plan for the field trip did not include hundreds of other visitors, we were able to negotiate our way around different parts of the very large refuge without any problems. Perhaps somewhat more challenging were the very high water levels in East Pond, combined with a strong front that had come through the night before, resulting in a large exodus of migrant shorebirds that had been reported there for several days beforehand.

With some early intelligence about the reduced shorebird numbers on East Pond, we opted to start the day in the "gardens" area north of the visitor's center. We had a decent smattering of landbirds in the gardens, highlighted by a Cape May warbler, white-eyed vireo (heard but could not get it to show), cedar waxwings including some recently-fledge juveniles, and a perched peregrine falcon that appeared to be keeping an eye on a nearby perched osprey holding a fish. Tidal conditions were best for trying East Pond in the morning, so we circled back to the visitor's center and then over Cross Bay Blvd. Along the way spotted lanternflies were seen (and summarily stomped) all along the sidewalk; one tree trunk was covered with hundreds of them. It appears there is a major outbreak of these invasive insects going on there. Once we got to the south end of East Pond we discovered the high water had greatly reduced the amount of mudflats available for feeding shorebirds, and the overall numbers of birds appeared to be quite low compared to typical mid-August conditions. Nevertheless, where there were birds they were generally concentrated at close range, and so we were able to work on a number of shorebird ID's. Highlights included at least a couple of white-rumped sandpipers amongst many semi-palmated and least sandpipers; a large group of dowitchers (no obvious long-billed candidates, and subsequent photos confirmed they were short-billed), numbers of semi-palmated plovers and both yellowlegs. We were able to pick out a couple of common terns from the more numerous Foster's terns, and we had a very entertaining few minutes as a peregrine made several unsuccessful attempts to strafe the shorebird flocks.

After returning to our cars for a lunch break, we headed out on the trail around West Pond. The numbers and mix of species was somewhat more typical there, with over 30 black-crowned night-herons, a single yellow-crowned night-heron, a single little-blue heron, and a mix of waterfowl including northern shovelers, gadwall, and ruddy ducks. We spent a lot of time scoping the sand spits south and southwest of the trail, and were eventually rewarded with very good looks at many American oystercatchers, as well as a pair of Caspian terns, a single least tern, and opportunities to study juvenile plumaged Forster's terns.

Collectively, the group totalled 68 species for the day, a respectable total considering the relative paucity of rarer shorebird species and the logistical challenges on East Pond this year. Overall, we had a very enjoyable day. Thanks to everyone who joined us on the trip.

Gregg Recer  
Cathy Graichen



White-rumped Sandpiper, Jacquie Tinker



Short-billed Dowitcher, Jacquie Tinker



## Upcoming HMBC Programs

**Date and Time:** Monday October 2, 2023, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

**Location:** ZOOM ONLY

**Topic - raptor identification workshop**

**Speaker:** Erik Bruhnke

Erik Bruhnke has loved birds since he was a child looking at chickadees. He graduated from Northland College in Wisconsin with a Natural Resources degree in 2008 and taught field ornithology at Northland College for three semesters. His college summers and summers to follow graduation were spent conducting bird surveys through northern forests, vast prairies, and western mountains. He worked as an interpreter for six fall seasons at Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory in Duluth, Minnesota; counted migrating raptors at the Corpus Christi HawkWatch in Texas in 2015; and was the 2016, 2017, and 2018 hawk counter at the Cape May Hawkwatch in New Jersey. Erik's wildlife photography has won national awards, and he's written for the American Birding Association's *Birder's Guide*, *BirdWatching* magazine, and *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Erik is a birding tour guide for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours as well as his own business, Naturally Avian. He enjoys hiking, kayaking, cross-country skiing and just being out in the snow. In his free time he loves to cook and bake.



**Date and Time:** Monday, November 6, 2023, 6:30 – 8:00pm

**Location:** Five Rivers EEC, Delmar

**Topic:** Costa Rica Part I: A Birding Overview

**Speaker:** Tim Colborn and Jon Colborn

An Overview of Birding in Costa Rica (with a focus on the Talamanca range, San Isidro Valley, Osa Peninsula, and the Pacific Coast) with brothers Tim Colborn and Jon Colborn

Costa Rica is a verdant tropical country teeming with wildlife! Birds in particular abound throughout the many provinces of this Central American paradise. Costa Rica is smaller than West Virginia, yet contains more than 900 bird species, nearly one-tenth of the world's total. Toucans, Trogons, Motmots, Woodcreepers and more than 50 species of hummingbirds are among the draws for birders and naturalists from around the world to its tropical rainforests and other habitats. Costa Rica has set aside nearly one third of its land in national parks and preserves, from coastal lowlands to volcanic highlands.

In this program, the first of a two-part series, Tim will share an overview of the country's general ecozones and birding hotspots with an eye toward creating your own birding routes or helping you decide between tour company itineraries. He

and Jon will share photos and experiences from their recent 16-day trip held earlier this year that focused on the Caribbean lowlands and a loop south through the Talamanca Mountains to the Southern Pacific Lowlands (including the Osa Peninsula) and back north to the Central Pacific Lowlands (including Carara National Park).



**Date and Time: Monday, December 4, 2023, 6:30 – 8:00pm**

**Location: Five Rivers EEC, Delmar**

**Topic: Birding Costa Rica Part II (And HMBC Holiday Party)**

**Speaker: Scott Stoner and Denise Hackert-Stoner**

The lovely Central American country of Costa Rica is smaller than West Virginia, yet contains more than 900 bird species, nearly one-tenth of the world's total. Toucans, Trogons, Motmots, Woodcreepers and more than 50 species of hummingbirds are among the draws for birders and naturalists from around the world to its tropical rainforests and other habitats. Costa Rica has set aside nearly one third of its land in national parks and preserves, from coastal lowlands to volcanic highlands. In this program, Scott and Denise will showcase some of the birds of the Caribbean foothills and lowlands of this tropical land, along with a sense of the experience of visiting this nature mecca.

All are invited (but not required) to bring a snack, dessert, or non-alcoholic beverage to share!



White-necked Jacobin



Collared Aricari

## Upcoming HMBC Programs *(continued)*

**Date and Time:** Monday, January 8, 2024 6:30 – 8:00pm

**Location:** Zoom Only

**Topic:** Birds of Central Park

**Speaker:** Sundar Das Ruben Giron

Details TBA

**Date and Time:** Monday, February 5, 2024 6:30 – 8:00pm

**Location:** Zoom Only

**Topic:** Birdie Big Year: Elevating Women Birders

**Speaker:** Tiffany Kersten

Details TBA

**Date and Time:** Monday, March 4, 2024 6:30 – 8:00pm

**Location:** TBA

**Topic:** Iceland

**Speaker:** Bruce Dudek

Details TBA

**April, 2024: HMBC Annual Meeting and Program**

Details TBA

**Date and Time:** Monday, May 6, 2024 6:30 – 8:00pm

**Location:** Five Rivers EEC, Delmar

**Topic:** Birding Belize

**Speaker:** John Hershey

Details TBA

*Feathers*

**Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club**

**c/o Five Rivers EEC**

**56 Game Farm Road**

**Delmar, NY 12054**