

June 2012
Volume 72 No. 3

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



FROM ARRANSAS TO ZAPATA: BIRDING IN SOUTH TEXAS

March 24 – April 1, 2012

by Bernie Grossman

Along with Southeastern Arizona, South Texas is a mecca for spring birding. The American Birding Association defines its territory as North America above the US-Mexican border. Thus the portions of Texas along the Rio Grande River benefit from those species of southern birds whose northern range limits can be found just over the line. Finally much of the spring migration funnels through the South Texas area, and large fallouts occur with the right weather conditions.

Chris and I traveled again with Field Guides, Inc., on a track running from Rockport, TX, north of Corpus Christi down to Brownsville. From Brownsville we traveled northwest along the Rio Grande River to Zapata with a fast dash further to Laredo. . Our guide was Chris Benesh, who was leading what he thought was his twenty fifth trip to the area. We were joined by six other clients.

Meeting at mid-afternoon at the Corpus Christi airport, we drove to a seaside wetlands area to view water birds. Here the dominant gull was the LAUGHING GULL. We also viewed a sand spit that was a roost for LEAST, GULL-BILLED, CASPIAN, ROYAL, and SANDWICH TERNS. Waders like TRI-COLORED, and GREAT BLUE HERONS, REDDISH, GREAT, and SNOWY EGRETS. Shore birds included BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER, AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER, BLACK-NECKED STILT, and AMERICAN AVOCET. The latter had not yet begun to display breeding plumage. Interesting sandpipers included WILLET, MARBLED GODWIT, RUDDY TURNSTONE, DUNLIN, and STILT SANDPIPER.

The next morning in Rockport north of Corpus Christi, we boarded the SKIMMER, a boat offering tours of the Aransas NWR where the WHOOPING CRANES winter. Most of the flock had already started north, but we were able to see about twenty individuals. Interestingly Figure 1 shows the colored bands and the GPS transmitter placed on the legs of one crane. Along with the species mentioned above, we saw COMMON LOON, OSPREY, SEASIDE SPARROW, ROSEATE SPOONBILL, , NORTHERN HARRIER,

Inside This Issue ...	
President's Corner.....	40
Field Trip Reports.....	41
Upcoming HMBC Programs	43
In Memorium.....	44
On Nature.....	44
Upcoming Field Trips	49

(continued on p 45)

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President's Corner

The Club is starting another year of trips, programs and publications. This is the electronically produced issue of Feathers. Our editor, Chris Grossman, has successfully produced a product that retains much of the format of the paper newsletter. It was necessary, however, to mail over 50 copies of the April issue to members who have not provided their email address. If you haven't done so and can receive emails, please provide us with yours. You will save the Club money and you will be able to see our author's wonderful pictures in full color.

New officers, directors and committee chairs have taken over the operation of the Club following April's Annual Meeting. Again my thanks to those who have completed their terms for all their good efforts.

The Club's annual program season will be complete about the time you read this. While July and August are typically without programs, they are again scheduled to start in September. Scott Stoner has provided us with a wonderful series over at least the last twenty years. He works hard to line up speakers as I well know. I'm signed up to talk in January about a trip I haven't taken yet as this is written. All thanks to Scott and keep up the good work.

It is early May and our strange winter and early spring have brought the flowers and leaves out early. Some birds whose migrational movement is relatively short have returned early. Most of our other migrants have spent the winter in South and Central American, and they had no knowledge of the strangeness. They are starting to pour through now, so get out in the field. This morning's Thursday informal group had a marvelous look at a stunning male Scarlet Tanager. Don't miss this!

Good birding to all!

- *Bernie Grossman*
President, HMBC

Newsletter Contributions Desired

- Have anything you think other birders would be interested in?
- Have a favorite birding spot you want to share?
- Are there any stories or photos that would inspire others?

Share them with the HMBC membership by submitting them to the addresses below:

HMBC Contact Information

BIRDLINE of EASTERN NEW YORK: (518) 439-8080

E-mail: contact@hmbc.net

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

HMBC Board Meetings

HMBC Board meetings are open to all Club members. Meetings are held at Five Rivers or other local venues at 7:00 pm, usually on the second Monday of odd-numbered months.

Please send all electronic submissions via e-mail to: Chris Grossman at bgrossman@nycap.rr.com. Send all paper submissions to:

Chris Grossman
7 Nott Rd.
Rexford, NY 12148

Field Trip Reports

Ramshorn / Livingston Sanctuary

Saturday, April 28, 2012

Azure blue skies and cool temperatures greeted eleven birders at the RamsHorn-Livingston Sanctuary in Catskill this morning. Co-owned and managed by Scenic Hudson and Audubon New York, the sanctuary offers two miles of trails through a variety of habitats.

Field Trip Reports - *continued*



The birding was slow early, as the sun gradually warmed things up while we walked the old farm road down to the observation tower. A noisy HOUSE WREN popped in and out of view, and some WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS were scratching in the leaf litter of the underbrush.

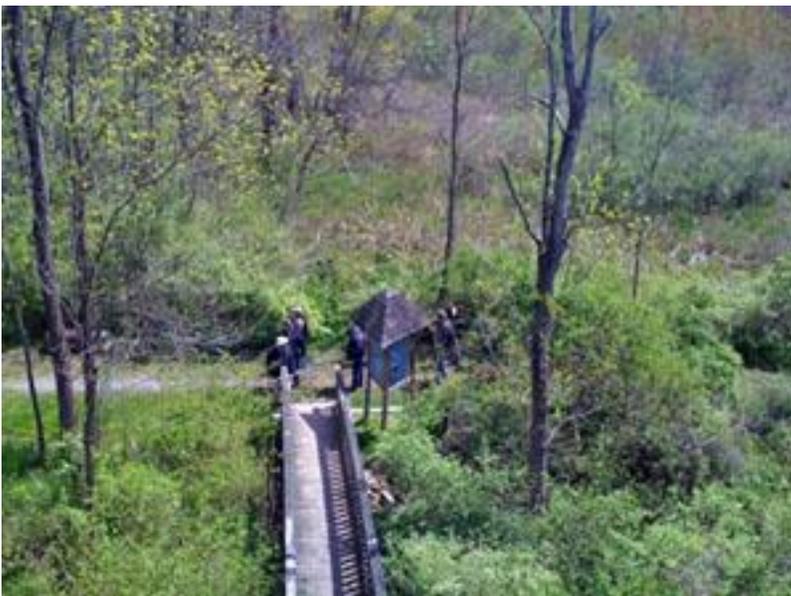
The 28 foot high tower commands a view of the cattail marsh.



From this raised vantage point we were able to survey a wide area below and above; we were rewarded with sightings of BELTED KINGFISHER, EASTERN PHOEBE, BLUE-GRAY

GNATCATCHER, BALD EAGLE, TREE SWALLOW, and SWAMP SPARROW.

Midway along the marshside, we were able to look to the west and locate the nesting BALD EAGLES that are present. A couple of passersby were thrilled to look through a scope to view our majestic national bird.



After crossing RamsHorn Creek, which is tidal along this portion of the Hudson River, we looped around the red and blue trails through mixed forest habitat.

Field Trip Reports - *continued*

Here, sheltered from the wind, we encountered a number of species: WILD TURKEY, SHARP-SHINNED Hawk, EASTERN PHOEBE, RED-EYED VIREO, BROWN CREEPER, RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET, several HERMIT THRUSH, YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER and BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER.

We had a very pleasant hike and all present agreed that this would be a great spot to return to in June once all the resident birds had returned and settled in. Thank you to everyone that turned out in brisk conditions this morning.

- Tom Williams

Four Mile Point

Sunday, April 29, 2012

Nine club members took part in a trip to Coxsackie and Four Mile Point Road (FMPR) today. The best sighting of the morning was a flight of 5 TUNDRA SWANS, seen from the Scenic Hudson Park on FMPR as they headed north along the Hudson River. We also had a RED-SHOULDERED HAWK and a female GREATER SCAUP at Vosburgh Marsh. Other noteworthy finds were BALD EAGLES and OSPREYS at Coxsackie Boat Launch, on the Hudson at FMPR and at the marsh. Our tally was at least 11 Ospreys for the day. Ducks included GREEN-WINGED and BLUE-WINGED TEAL, GADWALL, AMERICAN BLACK DUCK, MALLARD and the one female GREATER SCAUP. MUTE SWANS were nesting at the marsh, and CANADA GEESE there had newly hatched goslings. SWALLOWS included BARN, BANK, and TREE. Smaller migrants were few – one YELLOW-RUMPED was the only WARBLER. The species tally was not bad for achilly morning at 49

.- Alan Mapes

- Bernard Grossman

Upcoming HMBC Programs

Birds of the Adirondacks

Speaker: Warren Greene

June 4, 2012 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Colonie Library

Renowned photographer Warren Greene will take us through the four seasons of the Adirondacks, focusing his Leica film camera on birds, scenics, and other aspects of nature. Warren has been shooting since 1976 and is published in various books, magazines, calendars, etc. through the years. His ultra-sharp photos are completely unaltered except for the occasional use of a polarizing filter. Warren is a native of Gloversville, NY, and recently retired as Director of the Fulton County Probation Dept. giving him even more time for photography! Come early for a good seat as his programs always draw a large audience!

Upcoming Audubon Programs

Unless Otherwise Specified, All Programs To Be Held At:

William K. Sanford Colonie Town Library

629 Albany-Shaker Road, Loudonville, NY 12211

2nd Thursday Of Every Month, Monthly: September - June, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

In Memorium

Beverly Waite died in Maine on April 5th at the age of 93. Bev was active in HMBC and the Nature Conservancy for many years, and an avid birder to the end. She wrote a nature column for the Albany Knickerbocker News. She donated Waitecliff, her home, at the foot of the Helderberg escarpment to TNC.

Robert Marx, a past president of HMBC, died recently. He was known for being an early user of taped bird calls to bring in birds for better viewing.

On Nature

Pileated Shift Change

Denise Hackert Stoner and Scott Stoner

Pileated Woodpecker! The sight of the large white-patched wings as it flies by, its loud, eerie call, its fire-red crest; just the size of this magnificent denizen of the deep forest can be a highlight of any birding trip. And thanks to a fellow birder we had a lead on a nesting location, and finally, a chance at photographing this elusive woodpecker.

We found the nest hole easily; our friend's directions were good. But we didn't see any birds. A round hole about two feet from the top of a thick dead snag, about 35 feet tall. Shortly after we got there, we heard tapping from within the hole as well as soft calling in the woods. Suddenly a female Pileated landed on the tree. The male left the nest, and the female entered the hole. In well under a minute, it seemed, the shift change had occurred. But, when would we see them again? When would the next switch occur? It was about 3:30 PM. Would there be another chance to photograph that afternoon? The light was good, but the heavy camera equipment was back in the car, a good walk away. And, a tougher walk back, with all that weight.

We waited, watched, and debated – what should we do? Finally, decided – had to go for it. So Denise kept watch and Scott hurried back, got some water, called Denise for a status check, attached the long lens to the camera, and lugged it back out.



No action. We sought the best vantage point, took 'test' photos of the nest hole, and waited. And waited. And waited. Denise began researching online, to ascertain how often they change shifts at the nest. She found little info, other than a paper from the 1950's that said they return to the hole for the night... We set a 'leave-by' deadline, which came and went. We set another, which also came and went. We were getting hungry and

On Nature - *(continued)*

the sun had moved, but we found another vantage point, and we gave it just a few minutes more. ..



Then, suddenly, tapping from within the tree, and a head began to show from the hole. We clicked away, as the perhaps half-grown young kept poking its beak and at times its head out. Then, the male landed on the tree, below the nest. The female emerged, and flew off. The male went to the hole, and appeared to feed a young. Soon, the male disappeared, head first, seemingly head down, into the hole and disappeared. Clicking all the while, we recorded every step of this process.

With the thrill of this sighting, and the satisfaction of getting the photos, we packed up our equipment and headed out to dinner, to celebrate capturing shift change at the nest of this magnificent bird.

Birding in South Texas - *(continued)*

WHITE-TAILED HAWK, a regional specialty, PEREGRINE FALCON, WILSON'S PLOVER, and GREAT- and BOAT-TAILED GRACKLES. Later we drove along the barrier island near Rockport, Texas, where we saw BLACK SKIMMER, SANDERLING, and an early cycle LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL. Unfortunately we missed the PIPING PLOVER at all the beaches we visited.



Figure 1. Whooping Crane with Leg Bands and Transmitter

During the last part of the afternoon, we drove north toward the small town of Tivoli through areas of scrubby pasture land and Live Oak thickets. On fences and wires we saw perching COUCH'S KINGBIRD, SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHERS, LOGGERHEAD SHRIKES, and NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS. One kettle of circling TURKEY and BLACK VULTURES contained a very out of place ROUGH-LEG HAWK. Tivoli itself provided a tree where we found all three species of grackle. This area is probably the only region of North America where all three can be found together. A CAROLINA CHICKADEE was seen, too, at its southwestern territorial Limit.

More time was spent on the barrier islands and a bit inland. On one office building lawn, Chris B. found a pair of AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER. Then we spent the night in Kingville in the edge of very large cattle ranch country. We had dinner at a Texas BBQ place, and the odor of smoke clung to our skin for several days. The next morning we stopped at the Kenedy County Rest Area on the Highway 77 south toward Brownsville. The Rest Area is a famous birding point, and here we saw HARRIS HAWK, HOODED ORIOLE, BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD, and BRONZED COWBIRD. As we drove further south, more HARRIS' HAWKS and CRESTED CARACARA appeared. A friend of Chris B. met us at the entrance of her family's small

Birding in South Texas - *(continued)*

ranch which had a nesting pair of FERRUGINOUS PYGMY OWL (Figure 2). We located one owl after a bit of searching. While at the ranch, we saw GOLDEN-FRONTED WOODPECKER (Figure 3) which, along with the LADDER-BACK WOODPECKER, were the only woodpecker species seen on the trip. The ranch also provided a distant AMERICAN KESTREL.



Figure 2. Ferruginous Pygmy Owl

After leaving the ranch, we continued toward Brownsville with a pass along Port Isabel and South Padre Islands. The road to Port Isabel passed along Route 100 and this is prime territory for APLOMADO FALCON. This falcon had been extirpated from Texas by habitat change, but it was being re-introduced in small numbers. It looks like a small Peregrine, and I spotted one (Figure 4) sitting on a favored perch, the crossbar of a high tension tower.

We arrived in Brownsville and spent time before dinner looking for urban specialties. These included GREEN PARAKEET, RED-CROWNED PARROT, TROPICAL KINGBIRD, and CAVE SWALLOW. The next morning, we traveled toward the Rio Grande to the Sabel Palms Audubon Sanctuary. This required our passing through the border fence with a close encounter with the Border Patrol. Any van filled with people is suspicious.



Figure 3. Golden-fronted Woodpecker

Sabel Palms is famous for its South Texas specialties, and it did not disappoint. We started at the visitor's center feeders. These were being visited by PLAIN CHACHALACA, WHITE-TIPPED DOVE, BUFF-BELLIED (Figure 5) and RUBY THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS, WHITE-EYED VIREO, GREEN JAY, LONG-BILLED THRASHER, LEAST GREBE, GREEN KINGFISHER and WHITE IBIS.

No birding visit to Brownsville is complete without a stop at the dump. It is birder friendly, and for many years, the place in North America to see the TAMULIPUS CROW. These aren't found there anymore, but we did see a GLAUCOUS GULL and some beautiful breeding plumage FRANKLIN'S GULL.

Birding in South Texas - *(continued)*

Figure 4. Aplomado Falcon

The tour now headed west from Brownsville to McAllen. Late in the afternoon we drove to the nearby city of Pharr to visit Allen William's famous backyard. The yard is wooded and fenced with paths, feeders and seating areas. We saw more PLAIN CHACHALACA, a BALTIMORE ORIOLE, GREAT KISKADEE, BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER, and a female CRIMSON-COLLARED GROSBECK. I got a glimpse of a CHUCK-WILL'S WIDOW that we disturbed as we walked a path.

We spent a good part of a day in the McAllen area in and around Estero Llano Grande Park. Originally the park was a residential/RV park area as well as wetlands. Ponds were built and most of the RVs removed converting the park into a superb birding area. At the main pond, we saw BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING, MOTTLED, CINNAMON TEAL and RUDDY DUCKS. ANHINGA, WHITE IBIS, and variety of egrets and heron were also present as was a PURPLE MARTIN colony. We saw a RINGED KINGFISHER and a GREEN HERON at one of the back ponds.



Figure 5. Buff-bellied Humming bird

The residential/RV area yielded ALTAMIRA ORIOLE, CLAY-COLORED THRUSH, EASTERN SCREECH OWL, BLACK-CRESTED TITMOUSE, and OLIVE SPARROW (Figure 6). Some of us had a quick look at a ROSE-THROATED BECARD. After lunch, we drove through nearby agricultural fields and saw HORNED LARK, AMERICAN PIPIT, and INCA and WHITE-WINGED DOVE. A large mixed blackbird flock held several YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS. We returned to the Park after dark and quickly located COMMON PARAQUE using the eye shine reflected from flashlights.

A very strong night time thunderstorm damaged our next stop, Anzulus County Park. Our brief visit did produce BLACK PHOEBE, RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET, CEDAR WAXWING, and YELLOW and YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS.

The next stop was the Bentsen Rio Grande State Park where we rode a shuttle to a viewing tower. From the tower, we watched kettles of BROAD-WING and SWAINSON'S HAWKS migrating north. ANHINGA, BLACK and TURKEY VULTURES joined some of these kettles and a flight of WHITE PELICAN passed by. The tower highlight was a soaring HOOK-BILLED KITE. As we walked back to van, we ran into a park employee who pointed out a large tangle in a tree that was the nest of a NORTHERN BEARDLESS TYRANNULET. The bird visited the nest as we watched (Figure 7).

Birding in South Texas - *(continued)*

Figure 6. Olive Sparrow

We then headed up river to Zapata. The terrain became drier and scrubby as we gained altitude. A late afternoon search for BOBWHITE and SCALED QUAIL in the scrubby ranch land was unsuccessful as was a search for a WHITE-COLLARED SEEDEATER. We did get a close view of a male GREEN KINGFISHER (Figure 8) at a small pond.

Early the next morning we drove back some miles to Saleneno and a landing right on the Rio Grande. The targets were BROWN JAY, RED-BILLED PIGEON, and AUDUBON ORIOLE. The strange calls of PLAIN CHACHALACA pairs started as it became light. While we did see OSPREY and a MUSCOVY DUCK, none of the targets appeared. We were too late in the season for the BROWN JAY.



From the landing, we drove west along a dirt road through scrub toward Chapeno. Along the road, we saw CACTUS and BEWICK'S WRENS, VERMILLION FLYCATCHER, WHITE-EYED VIREO, numbers of SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER, PYRRHULOXIA, CURVE- and LONG-BILLED THRASHER, and CASSIN'S, CLAY-COLORED, VESPER, LARK, BLACK-THROATED and GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS. In the Chapeno area, we drove through Falcon County Park and immediately saw several RED-BILLED PIGEON in a fruit tree. Later we spotted GREATER ROADRUNNER and ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER and VERDIN. The afternoon was spent driving the streets of Laredo to a park where Chris B. was able to call in a WHITE-COLLARED SEEDEATER.



Figure 7. Northern Beardless Tyrannulet at Nest

The final morning of the trip was spent fruitlessly looking for an AUDUBON ORIOLE. We did manage to see a LESSER NIGHTHAWK at Saleneno and two very loud Border Patrol airboats at Chapeno. We ended up with approximately 197 bird species including over twenty lifers. It was a successful trip.



Figure 8. Green Kingfisher (♂)

Upcoming Field Trips

JUNE

DEER MOUNTAIN TRAIL

Sunday, June 3 (Albany Co; morning)

Coordinators: David and Sandy Martin 765-4982 david@naturebits.org

Deer Mountain Trail is a protected preserve on the LaFarge Cement property near Ravena in southern Albany County. It has a very good variety of woodland birds; Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, vireos, warblers, thrushes and flycatchers nest there, and cuckoos may be found, especially in 'caterpillar' years. We will search for Worm-eating Warbler and Hooded Warbler which have been found there in recent years. The trail passes along the edge of a swamp and is likely to be muddy, especially if the weather has been wet, so wear appropriate footwear.

Meet at the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk High school on Rt 9W at 7:00 a.m.

SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Saturday, June 9 (Saratoga Co; morning)

Coordinator: Tom Williams 857-2176 trwdsd@yahoo.com.

Meet at the south entrance to the Saratoga National Historic Park, located along Rt. 32 in Stillwater, close to the red Neilson Farmhouse building at the top of the hill. In the fields there we will attempt to identify grassland breeding birds, primarily Northern Harrier, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark. From there we will caravan to the Visitor's Center parking lot, where we will consolidate vehicles and proceed along the auto tour road, stopping periodically to investigate different habitats for the various local breeding birds. Blue-winged Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Baltimore Oriole, Eastern Kingbird, and several other species of vireo, flycatcher, thrush and warbler are commonly found.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the parking area along Rt. 32 in Stillwater. Alternatively, meet the group at the Visitor's Center parking lot at 9 a.m. sharp.

EMMA TREADWELL THACHER NATURE CENTER

Sunday, June 10 (Albany County; morning)

Coordinator: Ellen Pemrick 452-4384 lnmp@nycap.rr.com

The Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center is located near Thompson's Lake State Park in Albany County. The property offers trails through diverse habitats including woodlands, meadows and fields. Nesting Tree Swallows and House Wrens are usually among the first birds we see. We also have found Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting and Bobolink in past years. Depending on weather conditions, we will walk multiple trails in search of warblers, flycatchers, thrushes and other species.

Upcoming Field Trips - *(continued)*

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the larger parking area to the right of the main building.

MOUNTAIN TOP ARBORETUM

Saturday, June 16 (Greene Co; morning)

Coordinator: Tom Williams 857-2176 trwdsd@yahoo.com

The Mountain Top Arboretum is open for the public's enjoyment, 2400 feet above sea level in the rugged high peaks region of New York's Catskill Mountains. It is a preserve and a garden where native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers live side-by-side with exotic transplants hardy enough to survive the elevation and harsh climate. There are three main areas at the Mountain Top Arboretum to stroll through and visit the plant collections, enjoy the views, and watch wildlife. Birders can expect hummingbirds, woodpeckers, waxwings, finches and sparrows in the West Meadow; flycatchers, thrushes and warblers along the Woodland Walk; more flycatchers, warblers, sparrows and hawks at the East Meadow.

Meet promptly by 7:30AM, Colonie Center in Albany, Sears Auto Center at the intersection of Central Ave. and Wolf Rd. We will be on the Wolf Rd. side of Sears Auto Center. Alternatively, you can meet up with the group at Exit 21 of the NYS Thruway (Catskill) by 8:15 a.m. Contact the trip leader if you plan on attending.

H. G. REIST SANCTUARY

Sunday, June 17 (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, Scarlet Tanager, Tufted Titmouse and Black-capped Chickadees have been observed here. The walk is on easy, level trails

Meet at the parking lot at the Hummingbird Manor entrance on Oakmont Street in Niskayuna at 8 a.m.

CHERRY PLAIN STATE PARK

Saturday, June 23 (Rensselaer County; morning)

Coordinators; Phil and Marge Whitney 477-9050 philandmarjwhitney@earthlink.net

Upcoming Field Trips - *(continued)*

Cherry Plain State Park is situated on the Rensselaer Plateau of the Capital District. The relatively high elevation, cool climate and a variety of forested and wetland habitats make this a good area for northern species. Nesting species include Least Flycatcher, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager, Common Raven, Broad-winged Hawk, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Black and White and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Veery, Hermit Thrush and Winter Wren also nest here.

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Hannaford parking lot on the right side of Route 43 just past the intersection of Route 150 in West Sand Lake to carpool to the park.

PAPSCANEE ISLAND PRESERVE

Sunday, June 24 (Rensselaer County; morning)

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

This field trip will take us to the different habitats of Papscanee Island Preserve consisting of deciduous forest, cultivated farmland and freshwater marshes where we will see a variety of bird species. Swallows, herons and Wood Ducks can be observed in the wetland areas. Titmice, nuthatches and woodpeckers are found in the forest as well as Eastern Wood Pewee and Great-crested Flycatcher. Veery, wood Thrush and American Redstarts are common. Other summer birds include Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Black and White and Blue-winged Warblers, Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Kmart parking lot on Routes 9 and 20 in East Greenbush to carpool, since parking at the preserve is limited.

JULY

SILVER LAKE BOG PRESERVE

Saturday, July 7 (Clinton County; all day)

Coordinator: Tom Williams 857-2176 trwdsd@yahoo.com.

Silver Lake Bog Preserve is owned and maintained by The Nature Conservancy. This is Adirondack boreal lowlands habitat. There is a half-mile boardwalk that runs straight through the bog with 15 marked stops that interpret the ecology and plant life. The boardwalk is completely walled by white cedars, black spruce and tamaracks of varying height, with scrub and bog plants below.

Upcoming Field Trips - *(continued)*

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Nashville, Northern Parula, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Black-and-White and Canada Warblers are all summer residents. White-throated Sparrow and Purple Finch are abundant, too. This is one of the few places remaining in New York State where an Olive-sided Flycatcher can be seen singing from the top of a dead snag. Bring your camera.

Meet at 5:30AM at Colonie Center in Albany, Sears Auto Center at the intersection of Central Ave. and Wolf Rd. We will be on the Wolf Rd. side of Sears Auto Center. It is a two and one-half hour drive to the preserve. Contact the trip leader if you plan on attending.

LEADER'S CHOICE TO BETAR BYWAY

Saturday July 28 SARATOGA/ GLENS FALLS Area (morning)

Coordinators: Jim Ries 792-4477 jimries@roadrunner.com

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

We will walk the Betar Byway, a paved walkway, along the Hudson River searching for waterfowl, warblers and other summer residents. This easy walk will take approximately 2-3 hours, covering about 2 miles.

Meet at the Betar Byway parking lot at 8 am. Directions: Take Exit 17N of the Northway and proceed 5.6 miles on Route 9 into South Glens Falls. Turn left onto 1st Street, which is just after Sorrentino's deli." If you cross the Hudson River you have gone too far. The Southern Adirondack Audubon Society website has more information and directions.

AUGUST

RESERVATION DEADLINE FOR CAPE MAY TRIP

Wednesday, August 1

Trip Coordinator: Carol Blackwell 238-3086 cblackwell@nycap.rr.com

Field Coordinator: Jim Ries 792-4477 jimries@roadrunner.com

Contact Coordinators for trip details.

Upcoming Field Trips - *(continued)*

JAMAICA BAY NWR, QUEENS: SHOREBIRD MIGRATION

Sunday, August 12 (all day)

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

Jamaica Bay is a premier place to see shorebirds, herons, egrets and possibly warblers on their southward migration. High tide, the best time to see these birds, will be about 11:00 a.m. We will travel down to visit both the East and West pools to see what we can find. Bring lunch and drinks, waterproof boots, a broad-brimmed hat, sunscreen, and scopes. LONG PANTS ARE REQUIRED, due to environmental concerns.

Meet at the Colonie Center Sears Auto parking area on the Wolf Rd. side at 6:00 a.m. We will car pool, so expect to share expenses.

PEEBLES ISLAND STATE PARK / COHOES FLATS

Sunday, August 26 (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 some of the migrant warblers. The river area and rocky flats around the island are usually good for Peregrine Falcon, Osprey, Bald Eagle as well as sandpipers, yellowlegs, 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 I-787 going north, turn right onto Route 470 (Ontario Street) in Cohoes. Then turn left onto Clark Ave. and proceed to the end.

SEPTEMBER

CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY

September 7, 8, 9 Friday thru Sunday

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

Coordinator: Jim Ries 792-4477 jimries@roadrunner.com

This weekend trip will explore one of the best birding areas in the country. Migration will be in full swing so we will look for raptors, shorebirds, warblers and other migrants.

Feathers**Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club****c/o Five Rivers EEC****Game Farm Road****Delmar, NY 12054****Upcoming Field Trips - *(continued)***

Our schedule will be flexible. We plan to stop at Brigantine NWR on our way down on Friday. On Saturday and Sunday we plan to bird various locations in the morning and again in the late afternoon. Participants will have time during the day to relax, enjoy non birding Cape May or hang out at the Hawk Watch.

Details of the group itinerary including hotels, places to eat and other Cape May information will be provided to each participant as soon as the group is set (August 1 deadline to sign up- limit of 12).

Cape May is approximately 5 hours from Albany. Contact one of the coordinators to sign up or if there are any questions.