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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Ronald P. Laforce

Many readers may not realize the fact that Feathers has been without an editor for about a year. I have recently accepted the position and am in the process of sorting out the accumulation of material for publication that is now in my possession. In order to get back on schedule, those articles that appear most important and newsworthy are included in this issue. It was necessary to delete some material which a few people would like to have seen printed. For taking this action, I apologize. Getting Feathers back on schedule seems most important at this time, so that the material presented is timely.

Please do not be discouraged if an article you submitted in the past was not printed. These things will be corrected as soon as possible and the regular flow of information will be printed, as in the past.

Your ideas for new features and suggestions for changes are requested. Continue sending in articles.

All material for 1977 is present in this issue and is condensed into Volume 39, Number 1-4. The next issue will be Volume 40, Number 1, Winter 1978. For those who do not realize it, our regular schedule puts the winter issue first and the fall issue last in the calendar year. These changes should put us back on this schedule.

BIRD IDENTIFICATION COURSE

A Bird Identification Course including instruction in how, where, and when to find birds, will be offered at three locations. Seven evening sessions feature bird slides, tape recorded bird songs, and use of field guides. Three field trips teach birding skills.

Schools and starting dates are: Bethlehem Central Middle (Delmar) Feb. 28, 1978, Scotia-Glenville High (Scotia) March 13, 1978, Hudson Valley Community College (Troy) April 5, 1978. Fee information can be obtained by calling the Continuing Education office of the respective school. Enrollment is limited and advance registration is required directly with the school.

A weekday morning class is pending for the Schenectady School District. If scheduled, it will start about the middle of April and will be more field trip oriented.

The instructor is Bob Marx, phone 377-1453.

1976 SOUTHERN RENSSELAER CHRISTMAS COUNT

Dec. 26, 1976

Unusual aspects of the 1976 Southern Rensselaer Christmas Count appeared not in the kinds of birds observed, but rather in the relative abundance of many species. A total of 55 species were reported, which is about average for the eleven count years. No new species were added to the composite list. Red-tailed hawks, mourning doves, robins, cardinals, evening grosbeaks and purple finches seemed especially abundant. Pheasants and song sparrows set new low records. Kestrels, crows and tree sparrows also seemed quite scarce and, for the first time in eleven years, great horned owls were missed entirely. Of the 46 robins reported, 45 were in a single flock observed by Dick Philion. Dick also had a winter wren crash into his window on the day following the count (the wren survived).

The most unusual birds reported were a red-shouldered hawk seen by Mrs. La Pan, a hermit thrush found by Dick Philion and Dean Bogardus, two ruby-crowned kinglets reported by Mrs. Clickner, a fox sparrow seen by Bill Shuster, Jr., a rufous-sided towhee at the Gruett feeder and a field sparrow (for the third year) at the Gorman feeder.

We wish to thank all of the field observers listed on the tally sheet and the following feeder reporters: Noel Albertson, Mrs. Addie Ashline, Malcolm and Nancy Bell, Mrs. Ruth Bordt, Mrs. Walter Bubie, Mrs. Harriet Coffey, Mrs. Jeanne Covert, Mrs. Muriel Danahy, Mrs. Robert Don, Mrs. Beryl Drobeck, Frank Dufour, Jr., Raymond Elliott, Mrs. Edna Gorman, Mrs. Mary Grandjean, Mrs. Donna Gruett, Mrs. Earl Gundrum, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hall, Mrs. James Hargrave, Mrs. Rolf Jensen, Michael Kuhrt, Herbert Lange, Mrs. John LaPan, Mrs. Louise Lesher, Mrs. Kathy Mapes, David Messer, Miss Alice Mohl, Helmut Neumann, R. A. Pearce, Mrs. Jessie Plume, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Widstrand and Joseph Baum.

GROUP A: North Greenbush. Frank Kysor.

GROUP B: Poestenkill area. James and Rob Covert, Steve Facticeau and Malcolm Kogut.

GROUP C: Northwest East Greenbush and Rensselaer. David and William Gorman.

GROUP D: Eastern East Greenbush and northeastern Schodack areas. Norman Fancher, Monte Gruett, Sam Madison and Geoffrey Neary.

GROUP E: Town of Sand Lake and northern Nassau areas. Dean Bogardus, Dick Philion and Greg Meissner.

GROUP F: Glenmont area. Robert Kornis.

GROUP G: Western East Greenbush and western Schodack areas. Robert Budliger, William Lee, William Shuster and William Shuster Jr.

GROUP H: Southeast Schodack and southern Nassau areas. Edward Cummings.

GROUP X: Feeder Reports. Total of 35 feeders.

The count was held on December 26, 1976. The temperature ranged from 20 F to 38 F, wind 0-20 mph from the northwest. The sky was overcast with light snow in the morning, with partial clearing in the afternoon. Ponds were frozen while streams and the Hudson River were partly open. Snow cover amounted to 1-4 inches.

Monte D. Gruett
Compiler

1976 SOUTHERN RENSSELAER COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

SPECIES	GROUPS										TOTALS
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	X		
mallard	0	0	3	0	0	0	9	0	0	12	
black duck	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
red-tailed hawk	0	0	10	12	2	1	22	1	2	50	
red-shouldered hawk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
rough-legged hawk	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	4	
American kestrel	1	1	2	2	0	1	3	3	0	13	
ruffed grouse	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	4	
ring-necked pheasant	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	
herring gull	0	0	2	0	0	2	12	0	0	16	
ring-billed gull	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	
rock dove	0	639	200	50	0	0	154	50	6	1099	
mourning dove	0	15	18	80	10	7	151	12	185	478	
screech owl	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
belted kingfisher	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	
common flicker	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
pileated woodpecker	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	5	
hairy woodpecker	0	1	6	11	3	4	6	0	30	61	
downy woodpecker	0	0	10	18	11	3	18	2	61	123	
horned lark	0	0	0	45	0	50	95	30	0	220	
blue jay	5	116	20	77	36	12	61	15	230	572	
common crow	13	38	10	42	13	5	19	20	16	176	
bk-capped chickadee	0	50	18	46	56	16	36	15	260	497	
tufted titmouse	0	0	4	0	0	3	2	0	28	37	
wh-breasted nuthatch	0	3	8	7	8	1	6	1	48	82	
rd-breasted nuthatch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	
brown creeper	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	
mockingbird	2	1	4	4	1	0	4	0	4	20	
American robin	0	0	0	0	45	0	0	0	1	46	
hermit thrush	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
golden-cr kinglet	0	0	1	0	4	2	0	0	0	7	
ruby-cr kinglet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	
cedar waxwing	0	0	0	0	0	9	10	0	0	19	
starling	40	890*20K	420	82	200	570	40	653		22895	
house sparrow	20	184	20	66	10	30	146	25	223	724	
Eastern meadowlark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	12	
red-winged blackbird	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	3	15	
common grackle	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	5	
brown-headed cowbird	0	0	2	1	0	0	160	0	30	193	
cardinal	2	12	10	15	1	5	35	3	93	176	
evening grosbeak	100	358	12	153	130	8	76	16	702	1555	
purple finch	0	1	2	4	0	0	4	1	47	59	
house finch	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	22	28	
pine grosbeak	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
common redpoll	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	3	0	9	
pine siskin	0	0	0	2	0	6	0	4	0	12	
American goldfinch	4	32	12	21	11	4	10	8	211	313	
rufous-sided towhee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
dark-eyed junco	2	30	20	18	15	20	30	15	154	304	

FEATHERS

1977

SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	X	TOTALS
tree sparrow	0	12	50	32	6	6	50	6	153	315
field sparrow	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
wh-throated sparrow	0	0	10	2	0	8	13	0	44	77
fox sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
swamp sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	6
song sparrow	0	0	4	0	0	1	2	0	12	19
snow bunting	0	0	50	200	0	12	32	0	0	294
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	190	20531	447	1753	3236	2385	1336	418	284	30580
TOTAL SPECIES	11	19	36	26	21	26	35	23	32	55

*ALBANY ROOST COUNT
20,000

MUTE SWAN HIGHLIGHTS TROY CHRISTMAS COUNT

Jan. 2, 1977

An exceptionally large number of bird sightings were reported during the annual Troy Christmas Bird Count held on Sunday, January 2, 1977. Some 61 species were spotted, and a total of 8,687 individual birds were reported by five field groups and numerous feeding station observers. Perhaps most notable among a number of rare species seen, was a mute swan seen in an open section of the Mohawk River east of the Route 9 bridge and just below the power station dam. This sighting added a new bird to the composite list of birds seen during the Christmas Count.

Other unusual sightings included a great blue heron near Melrose, two yellow-rumped warblers and a vesper sparrow reported from Cohoes, and a common snipe seen at Clifton Knolls.

A surprisingly large number of ducks and other waterfowl were reported in the rather limited amount of open water in the Hudson, Mohawk, and Hoosic Rivers and the Tomhannock Reservoir.

Hawk sightings were numerous with quite a few red-tail hawks reported, as well as kestrels and rough-legged hawks. Somewhat more unusual was the sighting of a goshawk off Hansen Road in Melrose.

Thanks go to the field observers and the following feeder station reporters:

Kay Gagliardi	Marvin Wulf	Lee Devine
Fred Nussbaum	Ruth Hurd	Jack Paris
Jack Francis	Frank Kysor	Patricia Kaelen
Nancy Shuster	Rita Shakeley	Dorothy Olsen
Gale Wetsel	Randall Rowland	Peter Olsen
Irma Campbell	Dorothy MacChesney	Mrs. Alson Ives
Edward Clemens	Gertrude Vanderheide	Edward Pattison
Marilyn Decker	Sarah Klinowski	John Murphy
Linus Thrasher	Linda Delaney	Amy Singiser
Claire Ferris	Warren Broderick	Emile Catricala
Harry Baker	Mrs. Philip Lessels	

GROUP A: Tomhannock area. William Gorman, Monte Gruett, Mike Kührt. 6:15 A.M. to 4:15 P.M., 4 hours afoot, 6 hours by car, 3.5 miles afoot, 60 miles by car. Vesper sparrow, yellow-rumped warbler.

GROUP B: Melrose, Speigletown to Schaghticoke. William W. Shuster, William C. Shuster, Pat Canavan, Elizabeth Washburn. 6:15 A.M. to 4:15 P.M. 1 hour afoot, 9 hours by car, 5 miles afoot, 110 miles by car. Great blue heron, hermit thrush, goshawk.

GROUP C: River Road, east and west sides of the Hudson. Sam Madison, Norm and Marilyn Fancher, Judy Dietz, John Speck. 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. 3 hours afoot, 6 hours by car, 3.5 miles afoot, 42 miles by car. Flicker, cedar waxwing.

GROUP D: Mohawk River and west Hudson from Cohoes to the Congress Street bridge. Dick Pillion, Richard and Elayne Marine. 7:15 A.M. to 3:45 P.M. 1.5 hours afoot, 7 hours by car, .3 miles afoot, 60 miles by car. Mute swan, savannah sparrow.

GROUP E: Lower Saratoga County. Walt Sabin, Carol Gillespie, Marion Huxley, Alan Mapes, Robert Budliger. 7:10 A.M. to 4:10 P.M. 1 hour afoot, 8 hours by car, 2 miles afoot, 100 miles by car. Common snipe, rufous-sided towhee.

GROUP X: Feeder reports collected by Lois Norton. Thirty-two feeder reports. Brown thrasher, pheasant, fox sparrow.

January 2, 1977, 6:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Clear and sunny; 15 F to 30 F; wind 0 mph; snow cover about 3 inches; water was partly open. There were a total of twenty observers in five partys plus thirty-two feeder reporters. Party hours were 10 afoot and 36.5 by car. Party miles were 17 afoot and 372 by car.

William W. Shuster
Compiler

TROY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - JAN. 2, 1977

SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	X	TOTALS
great blue heron	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
mute swan	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Canada goose	250	0	0	0	0	0	250
mallard	2	0	0	341	0	0	343
black duck	2	30	6	151	0	0	189
canvasback	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
common goldeneye	0	0	12	3	0	0	15
common merganser	0	0	24	20	0	0	44
goshawk	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
sharp-shinned hawk	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
red-tailed hawk	8	6	7	3	7	1	32
rough-legged hawk	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
American kestrel	1	2	1	2	2	1	9
ruffed grouse	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
ring-necked pheasant	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
common snipe	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
gt black-backed gull	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
ring-billed gull	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
rock dove	350	180	578	166	325	0	1599

SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	X	TOTALS
mourning dove	4	103	90	26	8	86	317
screech owl	3	2	0	1	0	0	6
great horned owl	6	1	0	0	0	0	7
common flicker	0	1	1	2	1	0	5
hairy woodpecker	1	2	2	1	0	5	11
downy woodpecker	5	13	9	2	4	20	53
horned lark	30	0	0	75	2	0	107
blue jay	54	47	30	9	118	112	370
common crow	56	93	34	14	103	21	320
bk-capped chickadee	50	49	34	14	35	168	350
tufted titmouse	0	0	5	6	4	12	27
wh-breasted nuthatch	8	8	10	3	3	28	60
rd-breasted nuthatch	15	1	0	0	2	1	19
brown creeper	1	1	0	2	0	0	4
mockingbird	2	0	0	1	2	4	9
brown thrasher	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
American robin	2	0	1	2	1	0	6
hermit thrush	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
golden-cr kinglet	14	0	0	0	0	0	14
cedar waxwing	0	0	3	0	0	6	9
starling	88	354	301	711	306	106	1866
yellow-rump. warb.	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
house sparrow	127	108	148	61	175	257	876
brown-headed cowbird	8	0	0	0	8	2	18
cardinal	5	17	5	24	23	68	142
evening grosbeak	28	66	52	2	38	356	542
purple finch	15	9	39	0	18	83	164
house finch	0	0	0	0	0	9	9
pine grosbeak	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
pine siskin	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
American goldfinch	19	25	8	34	30	162	278
rufous-sided towhee	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Savannah sparrow	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
vesper sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
dark-eyed junco	8	7	7	18	9	94	143
tree sparrow	38	76	11	43	64	81	313
chipping sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
wh-crowned sparrow	0	0	0	0	1	8	9
wh-throated sparrow	9	11	17	0	0	35	72
fox sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
song sparrow	7	4	0	7	2	4	24
snow bunting	2	0	25	0	0	0	27
TOTAL SPECIES							61
TOTAL COUNT	1226	1221	1460	1751	1293	1736	8687

BIRDERS LIBRARY
Aububon Leader

American Birds has issued a second edition of it's booklet titled "On the building of a basic ornithological library." It is available in limited quantities to Aububon Society shops and chapters at the discount price of \$1 each, for resale at \$1.75 (in quantities of 10 or more). Single copies are \$1.75. Order from American Birds at the society's New York headquarters.

GOLDEN EAGLE AND GADWALL HIGHLIGHT CENTURY RUN'S 155 SPECIES

Robert P. Yunick

Twenty-eight observers in eight groups spent various times of May 14, 1977 between 0245 and 2300 participating in the club's 32nd annual Century Run. They amassed a moderately impressive list of 155 species and one hybrid, but more interestingly they added golden eagle and gadwall to the composite list making a total of 236 species and two hybrids. Two groups exceeded the century mark with counts of 119 and 118 species. All things considered, it was a successful count despite the typical vagaries of the local spring weather.

Scattered frost greeted early morning birders in some low-lying local areas as high pressure took hold after frontal passage the day before. Thus it was a sunny, bright day with (at times) a little too much northerly breeze. Despite a ground-covering snow (1.5 inches) five days before the count, earlier unseasonably warm weather had caused an abundance of early leafing by trees and shrubs, and visibility in the tree tops was limited.

The best find of the count was an immature golden eagle which was seen being pursued by an unidentified hawk at the 2600 foot summit of Leonard Hill in Schoharie County. The other addition to the list, a gadwall, was at Vischer Ferry. Also notable was the sighting of a Lawrence's warbler in Greene County. This species has been listed only twice previously.

Other rarities were congregated among the water birds. A red-necked grebe at Round Lake was only the seventh such sighting; a double-crested cormorant was the eighth; an American widgeon at Vischer Ferry was the fifth; a bufflehead at Saratoga Lake was the tenth; and a great black-backed gull at Niskayuna was the seventh such sighting.

There were also some conspicuous misses for the day. The common nighthawk was missed for the second year in a row. The worm-eating warbler which has appeared on 25 of the 31 previous lists was missing. Also missing were pine, blackpoll, and bay-breasted warblers and yellow-breasted chat. The grasshopper sparrow, a regular of 28 of the previous counts, was not found either. In general, there were no unusual sparrows, and warbler numbers were down, no doubt as a result of the northerly wind and frontal passage which created unfavorable migration conditions on the night before. More favorable weather, i.e., a warm front with south or southwesterly wind, may well have produced a much more impressive landbird flight and a higher species count.

Such stuff the dreams of next year's count are made of.

PARTICIPANTS AND AREAS - The following is a list of the participants, the areas that they covered, and the species seen by that group only:

GROUP A - Marion Ford, Gretchen DeKalb, and Betty Hicks. 0600 to 1800. 72 Species. Lock 7, Galway Lake, Black Creek Marsh, Altamont, and Karner. Indigo bunting.

GROUP B - John Girdner and C. W. Huntley. 0500 to 1400. 74 Species. Black Creek Marsh, Indian Ladder escarpment, and Glenville. Winter wren.

GROUP C - Doug Allen, Dana Mather and Tom Palmer. 0430 to 2030. 87 Species. Eastern Schoharie County (Note--Due to a conflict, this group conducted their count on May 13, one day ahead of the regular count). Golden eagle and golden-crowned kinglet.

GROUP D - Robert Yunick and Robert Pantle. 0445 to 1200. 59 Species. Banding at Vischer Ferry. Swainson's thrush.

GROUP E - Clarissa L. and Clarissa E. Ketcham. 0430 to 1800. 71 Species and one hybrid. Greenville, South Cairo, Gayhead, and Medway. Pied-billed grebe and (Lawrence's warbler).

GROUP F - Bill Gorman, Monte Gruett, Ron Laforce, Paul Connor, Mike Kuhrt, and Pete Wickham. 0245 to 2100. 119 Species. Cherry Plain, East Greenbush, Castleton Marsh, Five Rivers, Stoney Creek, Averill Park, Vischer Ferry, Niskayuna, Round Lake, Saratoga, and Malta. Least bittern, gadwall, bufflehead, Cooper's hawk, barred owl, northern waterthrush, rusty blackbird, and vesper sparrow.

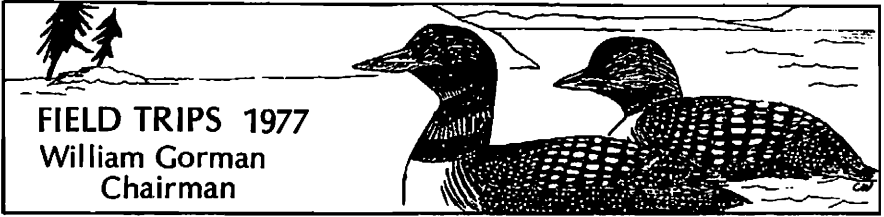
GROUP G - Gus Angst, Marilyn and Norm Fancher, Peter Feinberg, Bill Lee and Liz Mikols. 0530 to 2100. 87 Species. Black Creek Marsh, Meadowdale, Tygert Road, Indian Ladder, New Salem Reservoir, Five Rivers, Saratoga Lake, Palmer's Ravine, and Lake Lenox. Eastern bluebird.

GROUP H - Sam Madison, Walt Sabin, Dick Guthrie, and Bob Kornis. 0345 to 2300. 118 Species. Horned grebe, double-crested cormorant, scaup, common merganser, red-breasted merganser, upland sandpiper, ruby-crowned kinglet, and water pipit.

CENTURY RUN -- MAY 14, 1977 -- 155 SPECIES AND 1 HYBRID

SPECIES	GROUP	SPECIES	GROUP
common loon	a c f h	turkey vulture	c e g h
red-necked grebe	f h	Cooper's hawk	f
horned grebe	h	red-tailed hawk	abc e f g h
pied-billed grebe	e	red-shouldered hawk	f h
double-cr. comorant	h	broad-winged hawk	f h
great blue heron	bc e	golden eagle	c
green heron	a cd fg	harrier	a d g
least bittern	f	osprey	a c d e
American bittern	bcd f g h	American kestrel	a c e f g h
Canada goose	b e f g h	ruffed grouse	def
mallard	abc e f g h	ring-necked pheasant	a g h
black duck	abc f g h	Virginia rail	abc f g h
gadwall	f	sora	f h
blue-winged teal	abc e f g h	common gallinule	bc f g h
American widgeon	f h	American coot	e h
wood duck	a c e f h	semipalmated plover	f h
greater scaup	h	killdeer	abc e f g h
bufflehead	f	American woodcock	a c f g h
common merganser	h	common snipe	b f g h
red-brst. merganser	h	upland sandpiper	h

SPECIES	GROUP	SPECIES	GROUP
spotted sandpiper	cdefgh	ruby-cr kinglet	h
solitary sandpiper	a c e fgh	water pipit	h
greater yellowlegs	fg	cedar waxwing	de
lesser yellowlegs	c h	stafling	abcdefgh
least sandpiper	c f h	yel-throated vireo	c ef h
gt black-backed gull	f h	solitary vireo	c f h
herring gull	ab d fgh	red-eyed vireo	b f h
ring-billed gull	a fgh	warbling vireo	bcdefgh
Bonaparte's gull	gh	black-and-wh. warb.	b defgh
common tern	f h	golden-winged warb.	a h
black tern	c gh	blue-winged warbler	a c ef
rock dove	abcdefgh	(Lawrence's warbler)	e
mourning dove	abcdefgh	tennessee warbler	b d f h
black-billed cuckoo	a d f	Nashville warbler	bc efgh
screech owl	f h	Northern parula	c f
great horned owl	c gh	yellow warbler	abcdefgh
barred owl	f	magnolia warbler	cdef
whip-poor-will	f h	Cape May warbler	ef h
chimney swift	abcdefgh	bk-thr. blue warb:	b defgh
ruby-th. hummingbird	c g	yellow-rump. warb.	abcdefgh
belted kingfisher	bc fgh	bk-thr. green warb.	bcd f h
common flicker	abcdefgh	Blackburnian warbler	cd f
pileated woodpecker	fg	chestnut-sided warb.	bc ef
yel-bellied sapskr.	a f	prairie warbler	e h
hairy woodpecker	a d fgh	ovenbird	bcdefgh
downy woodpecker	cdefgh	Northern waterthrush	f
Eastern kingbird	abc efgh	Louisiana w'thrush	c f
great-crest. flyctr.	de gh	common yellowthroat	abcdefgh
Eastern phoebe	abc efgh	Wilson's warbler	de h
least flycatcher	abcdefgh	Canada warbler	b gh
horned lark	gh	American redstart	bcdef h
tree swallow	abcdefgh	house sparrow	abcdefgh
bank swallow	abcd fgh	bobolink	abc efgh
rough-winged swallow	abc fgh	Eastern meadowlark	abc efgh
barn swallow	abcdefgh	red-winged blackbird	abcdefgh
cliff swallow	a c f h	Northern oriole	abcdefgh
purple martin	a fgh	rusty blackbird	f
blue jay	abcdefgh	common grackle	abcdefgh
common crow	abcdefgh	brown-headed cowbird	abcdefgh
bk-capped chickadee	abcdefgh	scarlet tanager	b efgh
tufted titmouse	a d h	cardinal	abcdefgh
wh-breasted nuthatch	abc efg	rose-breasted g'beak	abcdefgh
rd-breasted nuthatch	bcd fg	indigo bunting	a
brown creeper	cd f	evening grosbeak	cd
house wren	abcdefgh	purple finch	a fgh
winter wren	b	house finch	abc f h
lg-billed marsh wren	ab fgh	American goldfinch	abcdefgh
mockingbird	a e fgh	rufous-sided towhee	abc ef h
catbird	abcdefgh	Savannah sparrow	b fgh
brown thrasher	abc efgh	Henslow's sparrow	f h
American robin	abcdefgh	vesper sparrow	f
wood thrush	abcdefgh	dark-eyed junco	bc fgh
hermit thrush	b h	chipping sparrow	abc efgh
Swainson's thrush	d	field sparrow	abc efgh
veery	ab d f h	wh-crowned sparrow	a e efgh
Eastern bluebird	g	wh-throated sparrow	bcdefgh
bl-gray gnatcatcher	ab d fgh	swamp sparrow	abcd fgh
golden-cr kinglet	c	song sparrow	abcdefgh



FIELD TRIPS 1977
William Gorman
Chairman

NORTH JERSEY SHORE

January 22, 1977

On January 22, 1977, a group of Hudson-Mohawk birders met in Sea Bright, New Jersey. It was very cold and windy as we moved south along the coast. We searched the ocean at Long Branch, looking for some harlequin ducks which had been reported in this area several days previously. None were to be found, but we did see many brant, canvasback, and sanderlings. After a quick breakfast, we stopped at Takanassee Lake, which was frozen with the exception of a small area of open water where we found black ducks, canvasback, American widgeon, mallards, and ring-billed gulls. At Deal Lake we found a hooded merganser, two ring-necked ducks, a ruddy duck and an albino mallard. Most of the nearby ponds were covered with ice and snow, and they had no lingering birds. At Shark River Inlet we found purple sandpipers, red-breasted mergansers and a cormorant. As we moved upstream, we found coot, red-headed ducks, bufflehead and many American widgeon. At the yacht basin, we found gadwall, pied-billed grebe, horned grebe and killdeer. We searched for a Barrow's goldeneye among a few common goldeneyes, without success. As we circled Shark River; we saw a merlin, several red-winged blackbirds, common grackles, several great-blue herons, double-crested cormorants, a mute swan, and some pintails. We even managed to photograph some dunlin and two clapper rails. At Mannasquan Inlet a possible razorbill was seen flying, but it could not be located for positive identification. The Point Pleasant Lakes were frozen, but open water had apparently been made by local residents. We freed a duck which was frozen to the ice, and we also fed popcorn to some local ducks. We ended the day at Barnagat Bay with a total of 45 species.

The following day, we covered the Long Branch area again and found a flock of about 50 snow buntings and some oldsquaws. A Carolina wren was found near Takanassee Lake, and some wood ducks were seen at Shark River. We moved on to Sandy Hook and watched Bonaparte's gulls and purple sandpipers along the coast. We found several tree, song and white-throated sparrows near Spermaceti Cove and many robins at Old Dune's Trail. We ended this day with 49 species, giving 55 species for the whole trip. Although hampered by cold weather and frozen ponds, we had an enjoyable and fruitful trip.

--Bill Gorman

LOWER HUDSON

April 2, 1977

The day was cloudy and cold, with some rain toward the end of the trip, as 11 of us worked our way down the east side of the Hudson River from Rensselaer to Stockport Creek.

Several stops along Papscanee Creek and vicinity early in the trip were productive for waterfowl. Mallard, black duck, pintail, green-winged teal, blue-winged teal, American widgeon, wood duck, ring-necked duck, canvasback, scaup and common goldeneye were recorded. Probably the most spectacular sight was that of snow geese migrating; two flocks numbering about 135 and 50 passed over on their way north. Also one large flock of Canadas came over, two snipe were sighted, and swamp sparrows sang in the cattail marshes.

Farther along, we found some common mergansers, a resting flock of Canada geese, and at Stockport a great blue heron and more ducks. For gulls, we saw great black-backed, herring, and ring-billed. Hawks for the day included red-tailed, an unusual, completely light-bellied rough-legged, and kestrel, one of which was "tame" enough for a really close approach. Flickers here and there added a spring-like touch among the relatively few land birds observed. The trip total was 44 species.

-- Paul F. Connor

TOMHANNOCK RESERVOIR

April 17, 1977

Sixteen birders enjoyed clear skies and warm temperatures for a trip to Tomhannock Reservoir. Among the 44 species sighted were horned and pied-billed grebes, common loon, ring-necked ducks, turkey vulture and marsh hawk. The seven who remained until the end were rewarded at the last minute with a close look at a sharp-shinned hawk.

-- Norman G. Fancher

HENRY G. REIST WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

April 30, 1977

Fifteen birders participated in a hike through our sanctuary on a clear cool morning. Twenty-seven species were observed, five additional species identified by sound. A broad-winged hawk presented an excellent soaring display directly overhead and the beautiful singing of the brown thrasher will be long remembered. The yellow warbler and yellow-rumped warbler were observed at fairly close range and remained in the vicinity long enough for all to catch a glimpse as they flitted through the brush.

-- Alfred and Shirley Schadow

BOMBAY HOOK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

April 30, - May 1, 1977

For those of you who have never been on this field trip, I'll try to tell you what you've missed and perhaps next time this trip is run, you'll be one of the first to sign up. For those of us who went, we know it's a super trip.

Everyone usually leaves home sometime on Friday to arrive at Salisbury, Maryland by about 9:00 P.M. The next morning we leave at 6:00 A.M. for the Pokomoke swamp. A dirt road runs for about one mile through the swamp. Parking the cars at one end and walking the road is certainly a delight, because the warblers are in the trees on both sides of the road. Some of my favorite are the hooded, parula, prothonotary, and worm-eating warblers. I'm always surprised at how fast time flies and soon it's time to drive down to Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge for the afternoon. Birds are plentiful but there are always a couple of sightings which make Chincoteague something special, like the adult little blue heron, and Marion Ford picking out an American avocet. Then we finish a splended day at a good restaurant for dinner.

Sunday is occupied with the trip from Salisbury to Bombay Hook. The trip today would be along the coast, stopping at different refuges along the way. Some people would drop out, to make an early start for home.

The first stop would be Indian River Inlet, next to Cape Henlopen. In the afternoon it's Prime Hook and then to Little Creek Wildlife Area. A couple of birds I always enjoy seeing are the black-necked stilt and the Wilson's phalarope in summer plumage. They were great. I also enjoyed the many shore birds, ducks and terns. We must hurry on for Bombay Hook before it's too late. At Bombay Hook we hear a rumor of a ruff and we come within minutes of seeing it. A woman said she had seen it a few seconds before, but we had no such luck. We waited around, near the spot where it was last seen, and in a pool near by we saw a common gallinule, sora rail, coot, common snipe and blue-winged teal. Such were the riches of Bombay Hook!

Some of us stayed over until Monday for the trip home, and the ruff was not to elude us the second time. We could add it to our life list, and as we reluctantly left for home a bald eagle was sighted on the horizon. What an end for a perfect trip! Come along next time to see what I mean.

-- E. F. Koch

BLACK CREEK MARSH (MEADOWDALE) PANCAKE BREAKFAST

May 7, 1977

More than 45 birders participated in the Black Creek Marsh field trip on May 7th, 38 of whom gathered later in the morning

to enjoy a pancake breakfast. A total of 64 species were noted by two groups; the first group started at 6:00 A.M. and a later group started at 8:00 A.M.

A few early warblers were seen and several blue-gray gnatcatchers showed off nicely. The prize performers were the Virginia rail and the long-billed marsh wren, both of which responded to the tape of their songs and calls. The wren came close to the tracks filled with excitement and everyone got an excellent view of him. Several Virginia rails came in close to the tapes, calling repeatedly as they made their way through the cattails. Meanwhile the osprey soared majestically overhead, wheeling and presenting a fine aerial show. With such fine views of birds, this trip will probably continue being one of the most popular field trips.

-- Audrey Madison

FIVE RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

May 8, 1977

The 70 species recorded in a half-day indicates that Five Rivers is a tolerably decent place to bird. Diversity of habitat, easy trails, and the interpretive building with natural history exhibits are attractive to the expert as well as the beginner.

Twenty-one birders spent the morning under clear skies and a balmy light breeze. Beginners got a good introduction to spring warblers - a dozen species. There was a good flight of swallows - 5 species - and an abundance of common song birds.

An osprey was around most of the morning and two American bitterns were seen high overhead, no doubt migrating. The best of the day was a Henslow's sparrow that allowed 21 people to view him on his singing perch through a scope. No one had ever seen a Henslow's sparrow so well - not even Walt Sabin!

-- Robert E. Budliger

VISCHER FERRY - BIRD BANDING

May 21, 1977

Human beings and mosquitos outnumbered the birds on this hot and humid May morning. The species banded were typical of the latter stages of spring migration: Lincoln's sparrow, blackpoll warbler, gray-cheeked thrush and swainson's thrush. This was a good chance to compare both thrushes. A mourning warbler was a first for many. On our return to the cars a common gallinule was seen.

-- L. Ellis

FERD'S BOG

May 22, 1977

On May 22, 1977 a group of birders left Latham for Ferd's Bog. We heard a northern waterthrush singing at Blue Mountain Lake, but were unable to get a look at it. We did see a greater yellowlegs along the lake shore. We were able to drive all the way in on the dirt road. (It has been extremely muddy in other years.) It was a warm, bright day as we hiked over to the bog. At the bog, we flushed a Lincoln's sparrow and heard an olive-sided flycatcher. We used a tape recorder to call the bird over where we all got good looks at it. We then headed north following a woodpecker's tapping. We saw some rusty blackbirds, yellow-rumped warblers, tree swallows, and Lincoln's sparrows. We also heard several other birds, including a solitary vireo, Canada warbler, least flycatcher, ruby-crowned kinglet, black-throated green warblers, etc. As we returned to where we entered the bog, we met three other birders who had arrived after us. We all watched a male black-backed three-toed woodpecker which soon flew north several hundred yards. Soon another (?) three-toed woodpecker landed in the same tree as the first one. A few observers saw faint white barring on the bird's back, but the bird flew off before a positive identification could be made. The identification is being called a possible northern three-toed woodpecker. (It was later learned that two birders camped in the area had found a pair of northern three-toed woodpeckers in the same tree.)

The three birders who had arrived late, reported that they had stopped at Wampsville to see a lark bunting. While several of our group remained at Ferd's Bog, two cars decided to go to Wampsville to see if they could find the lark bunting. We arrived at Wampsville after 3:00 P.M. and found bobolink, meadowlark, and hummingbird, but no lark bunting. We ended the trip with a total of 53 species.

-- Bill Gorman

PALMERS RAVINE & VICINITY

May 28, 1977

Commenced 7 A.M. Temp. 65 F. Breezy winds from West at 10 M.P.H. Partly cloudy. Thirteen observers.

One of the highlights was a yellow-bellied sapsucker observed and photographed by R. Laforce. Other species responding to tapes and photographed also by R. Laforce were: meadowlark, bobolink, savannah sparrow and indigo bunting among others. Of special interest, 1 mile from the ravine on Langley Road, was the response to a tape of a red-headed woodpecker. Since it was quite windy (15 M.P.H.) at 11 A.M. at a point on Langley Road where red-heads had been seen before, it was recommended by R. Laforce that the group stop, and being up wind from the general location, play the tape of the red-head. Almost immediately one responded to be viewed by all those present.

A special thanks goes to Bob Marx without whose tape recorder many species would not have been seen nearly as well.

P.S. At 6 P.M. the previous day the one and only sighting of a cerulean warbler (male) was made. Up to June 26, 1977 none have been seen or heard in the ravine.

-- Tom Palmer

BERKSHIRE BIRD PARADISE

Oct. 29, 1977

On a clear, brisk, brilliantly sunny day six birders grouped to go to the Berkshire Bird Paradise in Petersburg. Three members were joined by three non-members of the Hudson Mohawk Bird Club. Walton Sabin and Carmelo Gazzia of Clifton Park took a number of pictures of the waterfowl and pheasants. The wood ducks and Mandarin ducks really showed their full beauty in the brilliant sunshine. Besides the native species listed on the checklist the group enjoyed seeing the following rare, endangered, exotic species, (most of us for the first time): Laysan teal, Hawaiian duck, black-necked swan, western bean goose, Ethiopian blue-winged goose, Cuban tree (whistling) duck, marbled teal, Indian spot billed duck, sharp-winged teal, Chiloe widgeon, bar-headed goose, northern shelduck, ruddy shelduck, cape shelduck, gray teal, Philippine duck, red-crested pochard, European pochard, and tufted duck. The following beautiful pheasants were seen close up: golden, Lady- Amherst, swinhoe, and Mikado of Formosa, Hume's bar-tailed, Elliot's, Reeve's, silver, white-crested Kaly and the most beautiful of all, the Himalayan monal or Impeyan pheasant - the national bird of the country of Nepal. Charlie Dubacher answered our questions most obligingly and was a most gracious host. Since it was most late in the season we decided to do no wild birding and left at 11:30 A.M. I am sure many of us will want to return soon.

-- Philip R. Harris

1978 PELAGIC TRIPS F.N.Y.S.B.C.

During the first half of 1978, the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs will sponsor 2 chartered pelagic trips to the edge of the Continental Shelf 80-90 miles south of Montauk Point, Long Island, to visit Block Canyon and Vetch Canyon.

A Washington's Birthday weekend trip is scheduled for February 19, 1978. Northern fulmars, gannets, skuas, "white-winged" gulls, kittiwakes and alcids (especially Atlantic puffin and dovekie) are expected at this season. Combined with birding at Montauk and eastern Long Island, Saturday and Monday, this should make for a productive, interesting midwinter weekend.

The second trip is scheduled for Saturday, May 20, 1978 at the height of the spring offshore movement. The bird list at this season may include northern fulmar, manx, greater, Cory's

and sooty shearwaters, Wilson's and Leach's storm petrels, gannets, red and northern phalaropes, skua, pomarine, parasitic and long-tailed jaegers and Arctic tern.

Arrangements have been made to use Captain Paul Forsberg's "Viking Star" for these trips. This is a sturdy 104 foot boat with a heated cabin and large numbers of foam-cushioned bunks and reclining seats. The distance to be traveled offshore necessitates a midnight departure to return in the evening. The cost of each trip is \$26.00 per person. Each trip is limited to 70 participants.

For further information regarding these trips, telephone Tom Davis evenings at (212) 847-0860. For reservations mail you check payable to the "Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc." to Barbara Spencer, 154 Dayton St., Sea Cliff, N.Y. 11579. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your check for Barbara to return a receipt, directions to the boat, list of accommodations at Montauk and general instructions for pelagic trips.

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