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GLAUCOUS GULL HEADS SIGHTINGS ON TROY CHRISTMAS COUNT

William W. Shuster

This year the Troy Christmas Bird Count, held on Saturday, January 2, 1982, netted a total of 7,891 individual birds. Six field groups plus several feeding station observers reported 51 species seen during the day. Both numbers of species and individual birds were down considerably from last year despite comparable weather conditions for both years.

Probably the most interesting sighting was a glaucous gull seen near the Niagara Mohawk power dam in the Mohawk River. This bird was seen by an experienced observer not officially a member of one of the field groups, but who followed the route of Group D at a somewhat later time. Other interesting sightings included a great horned owl, a Cooper's hawk, several pileated woodpeckers, a hermit thrush, and a swamp sparrow. The numbers of waterfowl were down despite some open water in flowing streams and the larger bodies of water. Numbers of hawks, owls, crows, blue jays, woodpeckers, starlings, half-hearty species in general, and many others were down. Sightings of evening grosbeaks were spotty, but pine grosbeaks were seen by most all groups.

The count area covered a 15-mile circle that is centered at River and Turner Roads in Melrose (42° 50' N, 73° 40' W) and includes portions of Center Brunswick, Clifton Park, Cohoes, the Hudson River from Troy to near Stillwater, Melrose, Schaghticoke, Valley Falls, Speigletown, Tomhannock Reservoir, and most of Troy. The count this year was held from 6:15 am to 6:15 pm. The day was clear throughout with a slight wind in the morning tapering off during the day. The temperature ranged from about 10°F to about 25°F. Snow cover varied from 4 to 10 inches. Parts of the Mohawk River and most of the Hudson River were open while most smaller streams were partly or completely frozen over. A small area of the Tomhannock Reservoir was free of ice, accounting in part for a heavy concentration of Canada geese. There were a total of 18 observers in 6 field groups plus 2 feeder observers. Total party-hours were 52 of which 22 were on foot and 30 were by car. Total party-miles were 411 of which 24 were on foot and 387 were by car.

The efforts of the field observers and the feeding station reporters were much appreciated.

Troy Christmas Count (con't.)

Key to Groups

Group A: Tomhannock area. William Gorman, Monte Gruett, Michael Kuhrt. 6:30 am to 3 pm. 4 hours afoot, 4.5 miles by car. 3 miles afoot, 40 miles by car. Canada geese, Cooper's hawk, screech owl, pileated woodpecker.

Group B: Melrose to Schaghticoke. Pat Canavan, Paul Hebert, William Shuster, Elizabeth Washburn. 6:15 am to 3:15 pm. 2 hours afoot, 7 hours by car. 6 miles afoot, 80 miles by car. Great horned owl, pine grosbeak.

Group C: East and west sides of Hudson River. Samuel Madison, Peter Feinberg, Andrew Guthrie, Richard Guthrie. 7:45 am to 6:15 pm. 6.5 hours afoot, 4 hours by car. 5 miles afoot, 45 miles by car. Scaup, brown creeper, swamp sparrow.

Group D: Mohawk River, Cohoes, Green Island. Richard Philian, Doug Allen. 7:20 am to 4:00 pm. 6 hours afoot, 2.5 hours by car. 4 miles afoot, 76 miles by car. Glaucous gull, belted kingfisher, common flicker.

Group E: Lower Saratoga County. Walton Sabin, William Lee, Gilbert Banner. 7:15 am to 4:30 pm. 1 hour afoot, 8 hours by car. 1 mile afoot, 96 miles by car. Sharp-shinned hawk, rough-legged hawk, hermit thrush, red-winged blackbird.

Group F: Brunswick and Eagle Mills. Marilyn Fancher, Norman Fancher. 7:30 am to 3:30 pm. 3 hours afoot, 5 hours by car. 5 miles afoot, 50 miles by car. Sharp-shinned hawk, robin.

Group X: Feeder reports-Nancy Shuster, Lois Hartnett. Purple finch, hairy woodpecker.

Troy Christmas Bird Count - January 2, 1982

Species	A	B	C	D	E	F	X	Totals
Canada Goose	600							600
Mallard	4		167	190	8			369
Black Duck	6		23	15	2			46
Greater Scaup			1					1
Common Goldeneye			7					7
Common Merganser	1		38	1				40
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1				1	1		3
Cooper's Hawk	1							1
Red-tailed Hawk	5	9	13	8	4	3		42
Rough-legged Hawk					1			1
American Kestrel		1	1		1	1		4
Ruffed Grouse	4	1	5		2			12
Glaucous Gull				1				1

Troy Bird Count (concluded)

Species	A	B	C	D	E	F	X	Totals
Gr black-backed Gull			7	8				15
Herring Gull			8	185				193
Mourning Dove	12	20	61	30	61	31	2	217
Screech Owl	2		1					3
Great Horned Owl		1						1
Belted Kingfisher			3	1				4
Common Flicker			2	1				3
Pileated Woodpecker	2		1					3
Hairy Woodpecker	7		3	2	1		1	14
Downy Woodpecker	12	12	11	6	18	7	2	68
Horned Lark	12	16	21	32	20			101
Blue Jay	47	49	41	12	117	36	10	312
Common Crow	67	23	11	10	54	89	15	269
Blk-capped Chickadee	64	78	77	8	81	67	4	379
Tufted Titmouse	6	5	10	2	6	3	4	36
White-br Nuthatch	16	2	16	4	4	5	2	49
Red-br Nuthatch	3				2			5
Brown Creeper			3					3
Northern Mockingbird	5	8	2	4	6	3	1	29
American Robin	2		4			1		7
Hermit Thrush					1			1
Starling	27	223	108	750	192	84	4	1388
House Sparrow	153	240	37	100	180	83	52	845
Red-winged Blackbird					1			1
Northern Cardinal	18	4	15	12	24	10	3	86
Evening Grosbeak	42	29	10		2	57	29	169
Purple Finch	2						4	6
Pine Grosbeak	83	10	13		7	14		127
Common Redpoll		100	36					136
Pine Siskin	10	2	8					20
American Goldfinch	15	24	21		13	8	21	102
Northern Junco	36	40	18	3	47	15	7	166
Tree Sparrow	56	50	59		129	62	1	357
White-thr Sparrow	2	2	11	4	13		3	35
Swamp Sparrow			1					1
Song Sparrow	2		5	3	7			17
Rock Dove	134	368	352	80	311	160		1405
House Finch		67	63	16	33	2	9	190
Total Count	1460	1384	1294	1488	1349	742	174	7891
Total Species								51

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DIAL-A-BIRD 377-9600 . . . . DIAL-A-BIRD 377-9600 . . . . . .

SOUTHERN RENSSELAER COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - 1981

Michael Kuhrt

Reports from 8 field parties and 18 feeders comprise the 16th Annual Southern Rensselaer County Christmas Bird Count held December 26, 1981. Two official first-sightings became the 97th and 98th species to be added to the composite record as 24,701 individuals, representing 58 species were recorded on the Count Day. Conditions were generally favorable with partly cloudy skies, moderate temperatures (approximately 18-38°F), light wind, complete snow cover, ice on small bodies of water and good wild food supplies.

Average numbers of mallards and black ducks were seen on the Hudson River. A lesser scaup and an oldsquaw, both reported near the port area were the 97th and 98th species to be added to the all-time list for the count. Numbers of raptors were down sharply from last year's unusual records. Red-tailed and rough-legged hawks were present in average numbers, as were great horned and screech owls. An adult bald eagle, seen at a distance of less than 100 feet, near the village of Nassau, by 4 observers was the most dramatic sighting of the day. This marks the second sighting of an eagle in as many years for the Count--an amazing occurrence.

Pheasants appear to be making a comeback in selected areas, perhaps due to successive light winters in 1979 and 1980. Mourning doves have also increased in abundance wih this year's total more than twice the previous record. A yellow-bellied sapsucker was reported, only the second in the history of the Count and the first since 1967. Crows have increased significantly in numbers, up from last year's record 645 to 1070. Several large flocks were reported throughout the area. This year marks the first year that the mockingbird has not shown an increase in numbers over the Count area since 1977.

A record 206 robins continue a pattern set the last three years. The birds are localized at lower altitudes of the Count area but may be so abundant as to "suggest a day in early spring" as one field observer remarked. Bluebirds again made a strong showing with 8 reported in the southern sector of the circle.

Again this year, kinglets were totally absent. No golden-crowned kinglets have been reported since 1977.

Starlings made a modest recovery to 14,218. The large roost at the Dunn Bridge accounts for many of these birds and seems to be growing.

The hardy blackbirds were present in normal numbers except

Southern Rensselaer Count (con't.)

for meadowlark which was absent for only the third time since the beginning of the Count.

Winter finches were well represented except for pine siskin. Pine grosbeaks were present in record numbers and were widely distributed (reported by 7 of 8 field parties). A red crossbill, 4th report and first since 1975, was seen.

Swamp sparrow was missed completely for the third time in Count history. However, a field sparrow has returned to winter in the area. While not inhabiting the celebrated Gorman feeder as in past years, it none-the-less obliged Bill with a brief appearance in the "field."

A report of a wintering great blue heron was received well after the official reporting deadline and thus cannot be included on the composite. However, we shall watch for this bird during the 17th Annual Count.

Our gratitude is extended to all who made this count possible. In the field: 1) Ed Cummings, Bill Lee, Paul Hebert, and Ted Koniowka (Schodack); Richard Philion and Greg Meissner (Averill Pk.) 3) Jim Covert and Don Bermas (Sand Lake-Poestenkill), 4) Bob Budliger, Alice Ross, and Richard Waugh (Menands, North Greenbush); Paul Connor, Norm and Marilyn Fancher, Debbie Shaw, and William Ritz (Hudson River, W. East Greenbush, and Schodack); 6) Monte Gruett, Bill Shuster, and Mike Kuhrt (East Greenbush); and 8) Richard Guthrie, Andrew Guthrie, Peter Feinberg, and Bill Cook (Glenmont). At feeders: Noel Albertson, Nancy Bell, Ruth Bordt, Chris Carabateas, Robert Christiansen, Helen and Jeanne Covert, Mrs. Robert Don, Frank Dufour, Edna Gorman, Donna Gruett, Winnie Haupt, Kathy Kuhrt, Frank Kysor, Gail Loz, Dave Messer, Helmut Neumann, Richard Pearce.

SOUTHERN RENSSELAER COUNTY CHRISTMAS COUNT
December 26, 1981

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	F	Totals
Mallard					40	33		37		110
Black Duck					3	7		7		17
Lesser Scaup								1		1
Oldsquaw						1				1
Com Merganser					50					50
Goshawk								1		1
Sh-shin Hawk	1								1	2
Cooper's Hawk									1	1
R-tailed Hawk	5	4	1	16	24	9	5	12		76

Southern Rensselaer Count (concluded)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	F	Totals
Ro-legged Hawk					4	1			1	6
Bald Eagle	1									1
Am Kestrel	1	1	2	1	3	5	2	2	1	18
Ruffed Grouse				2	1			5		8
R-necked Pheasant				4	2	2		1	4	13
Gr blk-backed Gull								5		5
Herring Gull					6	4		9		19
Ring-billed Gull					2	8		5		15
Rock Dove	335	113	903	100	280	100	172	460		2463
Mourning Dove	185	55	83	182	137		96	250	144	1132
Screech Owl						1		4		5
Gr Horned Owl						1	3		1	5
Belted K'fisher					1	1		1		3
Common Flicker	1	1		1	1	1			1	6
Pileated Wdpker					2					2
Yel-bel Sapsker									1	1
Hairy Wdpker	6	2	1		2	2	4	8	11	36
Downy Wdpker	16	6	6	24	17	9	15	17	23	133
Horned Lark	30	20	12	5				60		127
Blue Jay	110	68	84	51	46	40	85	26	89	599
Common Crow	102	59	71	380	182	40	64	150	22	1070
Blk-cap Chkdee	136	62	18	72	32	30	78	59	146	633
Tufted Titmse	6	2	1	4	6	4	4	12	35	74
Wht-br Nuthtch	17	11	6	26	10	7	8	14	22	121
Red-br Nuthtch						1				1
Brn Creeper					2	1	1	4	1	9
Mockingbird	5	3	2	8	9	5	13	8	12	65
Robin	8				193	2		2	1	206
East. Bluebd	8									8
Cedar Waxwing					2			2		4
Starling	624	139	303	650	573	10K	433	1400	96	14218
House Sparrow	77	60	95	80	96	40	115	122	128	813
Red-wnged Blkbd								4		4
Com Grackle								1		1
Br-hded Cowbird						30		130		160
Cardinal	12	6	2	27	15	9	14	26	46	157
Evening Grosbk	20	84	192	37	39	3	70	1	173	619
Purple Finch		2	5						2	9
House Finch	8	3		90	37	50	31	16	39	274
Pine Grosbeak	34	55	30	17	2	6	11			155
Com Redpoll	100			44				77	2	223
Am goldfinch	14	31	3	22	68	4	58	44	76	320
Red Crossbill				1						1
No. Junco	28	12	6	28	8	16	51	21	82	252
Tree Sparrow	40	17	19	44	84	35	48	24	46	399
Field Sparrow						1				1
Wht-thr Sparrow				12	8	2	4	12	6	44
Song Sparrow		2		3	5	2	1	7	3	23
Snow Bunting		1			14					15
Total Count	1930	819	1845	1931	291	10513	1386	3047	1219	24701
Number of Species	58									

F I E L D N O T E S

Fall 1981

Bill Cook

Heavy rains characterized this fall with about three times the normal amount for October according to the American Meteorological Society. The heaviest rainfall for the region was in Fulton County where 6.34 inches fell in Gloversville during October. Yet, following last year's drought, streams and ponds are still down. This plethora of precipitation persisted bringing October hail storms to the Hudson Valley and considerable snow accumulation in the late fall.

A generally colder autumn (five to seven degrees below normal in October) and the very early appearance of winter species offer evidence for perhaps another hearty winter. Evening grosbeaks appeared in Corinth on September 13. Red crossbills were at Camp Pinnacle in Albany County on October 11 and by the end of the month white-winged crossbills were there, too. Flocks of pine siskins became numerous by mid October. A snow bunting was found at Basic Creek Reservoir on October 24 and a flock of common redpolls passed through New Baltimore on November 3.

The highlight species of the northern invasion is, however, the boreal chickadee. No fewer than 11 have been reported in the Albany-Columbia County area from October 25 thru November, with a majority of the observations having been made by Ken Able. The appearance of this Adirondack species outside its range was unexpected so soon after the fall 1975 eruption when it received Bob Smart's "BOTS" award.

On the other end of the scale, a late rose-breasted grosbeak (immature) was reported to Dial-A-Bird by Margret Krolick of Colonie. The November 10 sighting is eight days later than John Bull's record for inland New York.

A great horned owl found "in tremmors" by Jane Barry at Embough Bay in Catskill on October 10 was autopsied by the State pathologist, Ward Stone. The owl's brain contained 357 ppm PCB and 45 ppm DDE. Ward Stone considers this important documentation of bird mortailty due to Hudson River pollution and urges other finds to be referred to him.

This season has been good for gulls and woodpeckers but poor for owls. The seven species of gulls reported include glaucous, Iceland, and lesser black-backed--all at the Colonie Landfill. Ken Able's report of Larus fuscus graellsii, the

Field Notes (con't.)

British subspecies of the lesser black-backed gull, is the third local record. An equal number of woodpecker species include two red-bellied woodpeckers and nine or more red-headed woodpeckers.

Local birders seemed to concentrate their hawk migration watch at Camp Pinnacle in the Helderbergs of Albany County. They tallied 12 species from the Falconiformes including a merlin on October 24. B. and R. Dietert had the most exciting news though, with a sighting of an early rough-legged hawk and a bald eagle elsewhere in the county on September 20.

The 191 species reported this season is 19 more than last year's total. Some of the newcomers include dickcissel, which hasn't been reported in the region since December 1979 (two years), common raven, Northern shrike, sora and many of the northern species already mentioned. Absent from this list are at least ten species from last year's list. Once can't expect white-winged scoter, white-rumped sandpiper, and snowy owl every fall but the absence of barn owl, lesser scaup, and canvasback is probably due to inadequate coverage or the lack of a major bird census during this period.

Slingerlands - October 29. In an attempt to beat November's "rush hour traffic" a speeding Northern shrike collided with a parked house window. Injuries were sustained by the driver who was immediately rushed to a rehabilitation center for medical attention.

Connecticut warbler once again makes the celebrity column with a cameo appearance in Albany on September 15. Otherwise, warblers were few in number according to Bob Yunick.

Good Birding and may you be greeted by the "Cheery" of a cheery mourning warbler in the morning.

Contributors: Ken, Mary & Joshua Able, V. & B. Able, Dean Amadon, Roberta Bernstein, Rachael Brody, Arlene & Tom Brown, Jeff Cherry, Bill Cook, Juanita Cook, Donald Cooper, B. & R. Dietert, Dave Dister, Rena Dodd, Kate Dunham, Peter Feinberg, Barbara & Hugo Gardina, Elisabeth Grace, Bernard Grossman, Andrew & Richard P. Guthrie, Philip Ingalls, Mike Kuhrt, Betty Laros, Ron & Carolyn Laforce, E. Mansell, Robert Marx, M. Mickle, Tom Palmer, Jon Powell, Alice Ross, Walt Sabin, Scott & Linda Terrill, M. & B. Ulmer and Robert P. Yunick.

Abbreviations: HHW - Helderberg Hawk Watch at Camp Pinnacle in Albany County.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com loon: Lake Taghkanic Nov. 3; six Saratoga Nov. 21. Pied-bill grebe: Castleton Sep 7-Oct. 28; Coeymans

Field Notes (con't.)

Sep.20; Bell's Pond in Oct.; Collins L. Scotia Nov. 1. Double-crested cormorant: 16 Embough Bay Sep 2 (eight imm.); Hudson Oct 21; Clermont Nov 18 (A&TB). Great blue heron: the latest of more than 20 reports is Nov 4 at Hudson's South Bay. Green heron: three reports in early Sep from Castleton, Ghent and Catskill. Snowy egret: Embough Bay Sep 19 (JP). Black-crowned night heron: two imm. at Cohoes Sep 21 (ST&JCH). Mute swan: four remained in Embough Bay Catskill thru Oct and Nov despite heavy duck hunting; one imm at Stony Creek Res in Saratoga Co. was observed as it developed thru the period. Canada goose: 750 at Coeymans on Nov 11 was the largest flock reported. Brant: 50 New Baltimore Oct 26. Snow goose: 250 Camp Pinnacle on Oct 31; at least five others reported thru Nov 18. The ratio of mallards over black ducks was 5:1 at Franklin Fly in Schoharie Co. Gadwall: one Embough Bay Sep 2; one Coeymans Nov 8. Pintail: 15 Coeymans Nov 11; Ghent Nov 16. Green-winged teal: Bell's Pond Sep 11; Alcove Res Sep 20; Taghkanic Nov 3-11. Blue-winged teal: Alcove Res Sep 20; Castleton Sep 30-Oct28; two Cohoes Oct 7. Am. wigeon: 20 Coeymans Nov 11; six other reports from earlier in the period. Northern shoveler: Clermont Nov 4; two Coeymans Nov 11. Wood duck: at least 25 reports. Redhead: one Basic Creek Res Sep 20 (RG). Ring-necked duck: Bell's Pond Oct 21-Nov. 18; two Jenny L. Oct 30; three Saratoga Nov 21. Greater scaup: 40 Basic Creek Nov 8. Com goldeneye: Oom's Pond Nov 1; 'Many"Saratoga Nov 27. Bufflehead: 2 Saratoga Nov 21. Oldsquaw: male Basic Creek Oct 24; female shot in Embough Bay early Nov.; six Basic Creek Nov 8. Black scoter: two Hudson R. at Alb. Nov 19. Ruddy duck: three Basic Creek Nov 8. Hooded merganser: Clermont Oct 28; 60 Coeymans Nov 11; six Saratoga Nov 21. Com merganser: Embough Bay Sep2; two Jenny L Nov; six Sara. Nov 21; *

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey vulture: at least 13 reports; two HHW Sep 20; one in Greenville and one in Ghent on Oct 3. Goshawk: Chatham Sep 7 and 27; two HHW Oct 24. Sharp-shinned hawk: at least 56 reports; 40 HHW Sep 20; four HHW Oct 24. Cooper's hawk at least 12 reports; one HHW Sep 20; one HHW Oct 24. Red-tailed hawk: seven HHW Sep 20; 39 HHW Oct 24. Red-shouldered hawk: Castleton Sep 30; four HHW Oct 24. Broad-winged hawk: 47 HHW Sep 20; 1,144 counted by Harry Goldman in Moreau Sep 16 riding the crest of a passing cold front (Mike Peterson). Rough-legged hawk: Westerlo Sep 20 (B&RD); one HHW Oct 24; four other reports from Greene and Montgomery Cos. Bald eagle: Rensselearville Sep 20 (B&RD). Marsh hawk: two HHW Sep 20; one HHW Oct 24; about 20 other reports. Osprey: seven HHW Sep 20; the latest of three other reports is Oct 13 Old Chatham. Merlin: one HHW Oct 24. Am. kestrel: four HHW Sep 20; at least ten other reports. Ruffed grouse: at least ten reports. Bobwhite: Castleton Sep 6-11. Turkey: Spencertown Sep 26-27; 14 Voorheesville Nov 21. Sora: Franklin Fly Sep 6 (DC). Com gallinule: one adult and two hatch year birds at Franklin Fly Sep 15. Am coot: about 100 birds from five reports Oct 11-21. Killdeer: last reported Oct 20 from Amsterdam. Am. golden plover: seven

*eight Mohawk R. at Amsterdam Nov 22

Field Notes (con't.)

Coxsackie Oct 25 (KA). Black-bellied plover: one Alcove Res. Oct 25 (KA). Am. woodcock: last of seven reports Amsterdam Oct 14. Spotted sandpiper: ten Embough Bay Sep 2. Solitary sandpiper: Castleton Sep-Oct 14. Greater yellowlegs: latest of four reports Nov 11 Alcove Res. Lesser yellowlegs: latest of five reports Oct 25 Hudson. Pectoral sandpiper: one Cohoes Falls Sep 21; one Coxsackie Oct 25. Least sandpiper: eight Embough Bay Sep 2. Semipalmated sandpiper: two Embough Bay Sep 2. Glaucous gull: two Colonie Landfill Nov 7 (JCh, S&LT). Iceland gull: one adult Colonie Landfill Nov 9 and an imm. there Nov. 25-26 (KA et al.). Great black-backed gull: at least 12 reports. Lesser black-backed gull: a third year bird at Colonie Landfill Nov 24-30 (KA). Herring gull: 300 Colonie Landfill Nov. 26. Ring-billed gull: 300 Colonie Landfill Nov. 26; 30 Hudson Landfill thru Nov. Bonaparte's gull: two Alcove Res. Sep 20 (RG). Black tern: one Basic Creek Res. Sept 20 (RG).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock dove: ten reports. Mourning dove dove: congregating in cornfields. Black-billed cuckoo: Castleton and Hagel Hill Sep 1-27. Screech owl: Castleton, Spencertown, and Ghent Sep 5-Nov 21. Great horned owl: four or five permanent residents in Amsterdam; Muitzeskill and Spencertown thru period. Barred owl: one heard at dusk following HHW Sep 20. Com nighthawk: one Amsterdam Sep 2; Castleton Sep 1-3; Old Chatham Sep 14. Chimney swift: one MenandsSep 7; two Amsterdam Sep 24; three Amsterdam Oct 5. Ruby-throated hummingbird: one banded Jenny L. Sep 12; last of six other reports Oct 9 in Old Chatham. Belted kingfisher: about 20 reports thru period. Com flicker: one banded Schenectady Nov 22. Pileated woodpecker: resident at Jenny L. heard Sep 26; pair at Amsterdam thru period; 12 other reports. Red-bellied woodpecker: one Ghent Oct 6 (BC); one male at West Berne Nov 5 since June 1980 (KA). Red-headed woodpecker: five Amsterdam Sep 3-7 (TP); two Lyon L. Sep 7-30 (JC); Germantown Oct 28-Nov 28 (A&TB); Ghent Nov 2 (B&HG). Yellow-bellied sapsucker: Old Chatham Sep 26-Oct 10 (KD&EG). Hairy woodpecker: about 12 reports. Downy woodpecker: about 30 reports; four banded Jenny L. in Nov.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Eastern kingbird: wave of three to five per day at Niskayuna following cold front of Aug 18; four at Amsterdam and one at Menands on Sep 7. Great crested flycatcher: six max at Amsterdam Sep 1-7; Chatham Sep 1-7. Eastern phoebe: nine reports; two Amsterdam thru Oct 11. Yellow-bellied flycatcher: Hagel Hill Sep 21 (V&BA). Two Empidonax flycatchers reported as: Willow flycatcher: one Amsterdam Sep 3. Least flycatcher: Chatham Sep 7. Eastern wood pewee: one Amsterdam Sep 6; one menands Sep 7; three other reports in September. Horned lark: one at Amsterdam Oct 10, nine on Nov 27; Coxsackie Flats Nov 8; three other reports in Nov. Tree swallow: migrating in numbers Hudson R at Embough Bay Sep 2; latest of ten

Field Notes (con't.)

other reports Oct 9 Hudson. Bank swallow: migrating along Embough Bay Sep 2; Castleton Sep 12-18. Rough-winged swallow: Castleton and Ghent Sep. Barn swallow: migrating along Embough Bay Sep 2; two Amsterdam Sep 7-9; three other reports in Sep. Blue jay: numbers dropping to only six to eight at Jenny L. feeder in Nov. Com raven: one Alcove Res. Sep 20 (RG). Com crow: 20 reports. Black-capped chickadee: 50 in banding net at Jenny L. this period; "modest flight compared to last year's record"(RY). Boreal chickadee: one Albany Oct 25; one SUNYA Oct 29; one Alb.Nov3; one Berne Nov 25; three Chatham Nov 26; one E. Berne Nov 30. (all KA et al.); one Tomhannock Res Nov 1 (MK); one banded New Baltimore Nov 11 (RG); Chatham Res. Nov 26 (V&BA). Tufted titmouse: "scarcer than usual in Schenectady"(RY). White-breasted nuthatch: the five banded at Jenny L. Aug-Nov is normal. Red-breasted nuthatch: one banded at Jenny L. in Nov following total absence since August; 20 other reports. Brown creeper: migrants at Jenny L. Sep 26-27, two or three remaining thru Nov 30; eight other reports. House wren: one Amsterdam Sep 19; three other reports in Sep. Winter wren: one Amsterdam Oct 10; (TP). Carolina wren: Ghent Sep 26 (B&HG); Ballston L Oct 27 (BG). Mockingbird: 14 reports thru period. Gray catbird: last of seven reports Oct 26 Amsterdam. Brown thrasher: Castleton Sep 1-5; Amsterdam Sep 19. Am. robin: often seen congregating in dense conifers as winter approaches. Wood thrush: four reports in Sep. Hermit thrush: one Amsterdam Sep 19. Swainson's thrush: one banded New Baltimore Sep 19; Chatham Oct 19-21; Hagel Hill Nov 1. Gray-cheeked thrush: one banded New Baltimore Sep 17. Veery: last banded at Jenny L. Sep 7. Eastern bluebird: 20 reports from Amsterdam, Ghent, New Baltimore, Old Chatham, Spencertown and Taghkanic thru period. Golden-crowned kinglet: migrants at Jenny L. Sep 26-27; Castleton-Chatham Sep 26-Nov 30; Amsterdam Oct. 19-Nov 30. Ruby-crowned kinglet: Ghent Sep 12; one Amsterdam Oct 10; Castleton-Old Chatham (Oct 5-30. Water pipit: 20 or more at Amsterdam Oct 10; with the last one seen Nov 7 (TP); Castleton Oct 12-Nov 8 (JC). Cedar waxwing: late fledging of young at Jenny L. Sep. 10; over 100 in flocks migrating past Franklin Fly Sep 15 with many more in the trees below. Northern shrike: am imm. Slingerlands Oct 29; Knox Nov. 27 (KA); Clarksville Nov. 28 (AR). Starling: 12 reports.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Solitary vireo: two Amsterdam Sep 19. Red-eyed vireo: latest of 12 reports Sep 19 in Amsterdam. Philadelphia vireo: Ghent Sep 12 (B&HG); one banded New Baltimore Sep 19 (RG). Warbling vireo: Castleton Sep 9; one singing at Franklin Fly Sep 15. Black-and-white warbler: one Menands Sep 7; Chatham Sep 7; West Ghent Sep 16. Tennessee warbler: two Menands Sep 7; Jenny L. Sep 6-7; three other reports in Sep. Nashville warbler: two Menands Sep 7; Ghent Sep 12. Northern parula: several Menands Sep 7; 18 SUNYA Sep 18. Magnolia warbler: several Menands Sep 7; latest of five reports Oct 5 Hagel Hill. Cape May warbler: Ghent Sep 12. Yellow-rumped warbler: latest

Field Notes (con't.)

of 11 reports Nov. 6 Chatham. Black-throated green warbler: latest of nine reports Sep. 16 Amsterdam. Blackburnian warbler: two Menands Sep. 7; Muitzeskill Sep. 19. Chestnut-sided warbler: one Menands Sep. 7; three other reports in Sep. Bay-breasted warbler: three Menands Sep. 7; Jenny L. Sep 6-7; Chatham Sep 7-9. Blackpoll warbler: Ghent Sep. 12; Old Chatham Oct. 5. Pine warbler: Ghent Sep 26; Castleton Oct. 1-3. Prairie warbler: Old Chatham Oct. 12. Palm warbler: one Amsterdam Sep. 19; Old Chatham Sep 16-Oct. 4. Ovenbird: 26 banded Jenny L. Jul. 31-Sep 13; two Menands Sep. 7. Northern waterthrush: one Menands Sep 7; Ghent Sep. 8. Connecticut warbler: one SUNY Albany Sep. 15 (ST&JCH). Mourning warbler: one banded New Baltimore Oct. 6 two days shy of John Bull's record late date (RG). Com yellowthroat: several Menands Sep 7; five other reports in Sep. Wilson's warbler: two Menands Sep. 7; Ghent Sep. 17. Canada warbler: several Menands Sep. 7. American redstart: several Menands Sep 7; three other reports in Sep.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: House sparrow: only five banded in Schenectady Sep-Nov. Bobolink: Amsterdam Sep 3-9. Eastern meadowlark: Castleton Sep 3-Oct; Amsterdam thru Oct 31; Schodack Nov. 5. Red-winged blackbird: Amsterdam thru Nov 1. Orchard oriole: Ghent Sep 12 (JC, B&HG). Northern oriole: six Amsterdam Sep 6; three other reports. Rusty blackbird: Oom's Pond Oct. 5 (PI); Ghent Nov 2 (B&HG); Valatie Nov. 28 (DA). Com grackle: latest of 13 reports Nov. 8 New Baltimore. Brown-headed cowbird: 25 Amsterdam thru Oct 28; down to one at Schenectady feeder Nov 22. Scarlet tanager: one Amsterdam Sep 7; three other reports in Sep. Cardinal: much reduced after last year's abundance in Schenectady: four banded Sep 30-Oct 8 Schenectady. Rose-breasted grosbeak: an immature male at Colonie Nov 10 (RY). Dickcissel: one imm at Berne feeder Nov 25 (KA). Evening grosbeak: first report Corinth Sep 13 (RY); 14 reports Sep 27 thru Nov.; 60 max at Saratoga L. Nov 21. Purple finch: abundant at Jenny L with 645 banded plus 109 returns May thru Oct. This represents the second highest number in 12 years. Bob Yunick also notes that the proportion of adults is larger and that the birds stayed later (Nov 7 at Jenny L.). House finch: 141 banded Schenectady Sep 29 thru Nov; max 70 on Oct 3, becoming scarce in Nov. Pine grosbeak: "a flight year" (RY); earliest date Oct 31 Camp Pinnacle (JCh, S&LT); one Jenny L. Nov 14; Old Chatham Nov 14; two Camp Pinnacle Nov 15; six Jenny L Nov 21; one Schenectady Nov 24; six Berne Nov 19-30. Com redpoll: 12 New Baltimore Nov 3; one Berne Nov 13; seven Amsterdam Nov 14-30; Schenectady Nov 16; one Altamont Nov 18. Pine Siskin: six Amsterdam Oct 10; Ghent Nov 2; one banded Schenectady Nov 8; one banded New Baltimore Nov 10; 100 Saratoga Nov 21. Am goldfinch: 15 reports thru period. Red crossbill: one male Camp Pinnacle Oct 11, three there on Nov 1 (KA et al.); * Savannah sparrow: Castleton Sep 7; one Amsterdam Oct 10. Vesper sparrow: Ghent Oct 1 (B&HG); Chatham Oct 23 (V&BA). Dark-eyed junco: 85 banded Jenny L May-Nov 7, a winter resident banded Nov

*New Baltimore Nov 20 (AG). White-winged crossbill: 20 Camp Pinnacle Oct 31, nine there on Nov 1; one Rensselaerville Nov 5; four East Berne Nov 30 (all KA et al).

Field Notes (concluded)

23, 1975 was recaptured; 50 Ghent Nov 27; eight other reports Oct-Nov. Tree sparrow: Amsterdam Oct 14 thru period; Basic Creek Oct 24; Hagel Hill Oct 31; 12 Saratoga Nov 21. Chipping sparrow: only two banded Jenny L.; two Amsterdam Oct 10; one banded New Baltimore Oct 14; Castleton-Hudson Oct 9-29. Field sparrow; Amsterdam Sep 12-Oct 10; Ghent-Old Chatham Oct 17-31. White-crowned sparrow: two Amsterdam Oct 10-14; three other reports in Oct; Ghent Nov 2-8. White-throated sparrow: first migrant at Jenny L Sep 7; 101 banded at Schenectady Sep 29-Nov 1. Fox sparrow: the five banded at Jenny L and Schenectady Oct 18-Nov 8 is the highest number Bob Yunick has ever banded locally; two Amsterdam Oct 31-Nov 14; 15 banded New Baltimore Oct 10-Nov 12; seven other reports. Lincoln's sparrow: Ghent Sep 17-26 (B&HG); Hagel Hill Oct 18 (V&BA). Swamp sparrow: two Franklin Fly Sep 15; Ghent Sep 17-Nov 2; two banded New Baltimore Sep 30 and Oct 13; one Amsterdam Oct 14. Song sparrow: eight reports thru period. Snow bunting: one Basic Creek Res Oct 24 (DD), Oct 25 (KA); one Amsterdam Nov 2; Schodack Nov 7; Lake Taghanic Nov 11.

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BICENTENNIAL YEAR OF THE AMERICAN BALD EAGLE AND NATIONAL BALD EAGLE DAY

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Whether silhouetted against the sky on a rocky pinnacle in Alaska or soaring majestically overhead in Florida, the bald eagle is admired as one of nature's most spectacular creatures.

To catch a glimpse of this majestic raptor is to understand why the Founding Fathers chose it to represent the strength and courage of our great Nation. Its grace and power in flight, its vigilance and loyalty in defending its family group, and, most of all, its courage make the eagle a proud and appropriate symbol for the United States. Its presence on the Great Seal of the United States--one talon extending the olive branch of peace, the other brandishing the arrows of defense--is a symbol of friendship and cooperation to our allies and a warning to our adversaries that we are not to be trod upon.

No one is certain what the original United States population was, although it may have approached 75,000-100,000. We do know, however, that its extinction has become a disheartening possibility in recent years.

Bicentennial Year (concluded)

We have sought to prevent that possibility by restricting the use of certain pesticides. Shooting and habitat destruction are also being brought under control as a result of protection and conservation programs conducted under the Bald Eagle Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. Scientists believe we are now beginning to see a subtle but definite population increase through the cooperative efforts of Federal and State fish and wildlife agencies, conservation and industrial groups, scientists, and private citizens. These efforts are truly indicative of the spirit of cooperation and perseverance which is at the very heart of our national character.

On June 20, 1782, the bald eagle became our Nation's symbol and national bird. As we approach the bicentennial anniversary of that event, we have an excellent opportunity to pause and reflect upon the importance of the bald eagle, indeed of all our fish and wildlife resources, to a healthy America. On this occasion, let us renew our commitment and dedication to the conservation of our natural heritage as symbolized by the bald eagle.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, in accordance with a joint resolution of the Congress do hereby proclaim June 20, 1982 as "National Bald Eagle Day" and designate the year 1982 as the "Bicentennial Year of the American Bald Eagle." I callupon the people of the United States to join in these observances with appropriate activities in their homes and communities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 28th day of January in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixth.

Signed:
Ronald Reagan

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RARE BIRD SIGHTING IN CORPUS CHRISTI

A Jabiru showed up in Corpus Christi on September 6, 1981. The word went out from coast to coast, and on the following day the 700 Club began to pass in review. In the Club's wake came the aspirants, as well as those who were there to gain a philosophical experience. This is the fifth or sixth record of the jabiru north of Mexico. All records have been in late summer. The jabiru is one of the largest flying birds in the New World; its beak alone is a foot long. On September 18, while birders watched, the jabiru took off, found a thermal, and soared upward until it was out of sight. It has not been seen since.

BIRDING - October 1981

F I E L D T R I P S

NORTH JERSEY SHORE

On January 23, 1982 thirteen Hudson-Mohawk birders ventured into the cold windy sleeting weather at Asbury, N.J. A stop at the ocean produced herring, ring-billed, great black-blacked, and Bonaparte's gulls along with brant, many scaup, and a few scoters, and sanderlings. Moving south, we added ring-necked duck, canvasback, American wigeon, common goldeneye to our list. Shark River added great and double-crested cormorants, all three mergansers, bufflehead, redhead, gadwall, and a lone pintail and brant were also present. The blowing sleet prevented careful scrutiny of distant birds. As we continued south we almost ran over an oldsquaw coming towards us on the left side of the road. We stopped and chased the bird off the road. At Manasquan Inlet we had nice looks at purple sandpiper. As we headed back to the motel, we stopped to watch a glaucous gull and got into a discussion on how to differentiate glaucous from Iceland gulls.

Sunday was a clear beautiful day and we headed north along the coast. We found many brant, scaup, and the more common gulls. At Long Branch we found redhead, gadwall, and ring-necked ducks. We then moved rather rapidly to Sandy Hook. Most of the members in the group decided to go to Jamaica Bay. We added Iceland gull, marsh hawk, and snow bunting to our list before arriving at the Bay.

At Jamaica Bay we searched a group of cedar and holly trees for a saw-whet owl that had been staying in that area. The owl was found, providing a beautiful climax to our trip. The group disbanded with some birders planning to try to find Harris' sparrow and tufted duck reported in other areas.

Locality: North Jersey; Date: 1-23 & 24, 1982; Species: 58; In Group: W. Gorman, W. & G. Sabin, S. & A. Madison, B. Budliger, W. Lee, M. Gruett, A. Mapes, R. & C. Laforce, J. Suozo, B. Kirker;

1-23-82 - +-30° - sleet, windy. SPECIES SEEN: Common loon, great cormorant, double-crested cormorant, mute swan, Canada goose, brant, mallard, black duck, gadwall, pintail, American wigeon, redhead, ring-necked duck, canvasback, greater scaup, common goldeneye, bufflehead, oldsquaw, white-winged scoter, black scoter, ruddy duck, hooded merganser, common merganser, red-breasted merganser.

American coot, purple sandpiper, sanderling, glaucous gull, great black-backed gull, herring gull, ring-billed gull, Bonaparte's gull, rock dove, mourning dove, belted kingfisher, blue jay, common crow, fish crow, mockingbird, American robin, starling,

Field Trips (con't.)

house sparrow, house finch.

1-24-82 - clear, cold, mild breeze. SPECIES SEEN: Common loon, brant, mallard, black duck, gadwall, redhead, ring-necked duck, canvasback, greater scaup, common goldeneye, bufflehead, oldsquaw, surf scoter, red-breasted merganser, Cooper's hawk, marsh hawk, bobwhite (Jamaica Bay); ring-necked pheasant, American coot, purple sandpiper, sanderling.

Iceland gull, great black-backed gull, herring gull, ring-billed gull, Bonaparte's gull, rock dove, mourning dove, saw-whet owl (Jamaica Bay), common flicker, common crow, black-capped chickadee, red-breasted nuthatch, mockingbird, American robin, starling, yellow-rumped warbler, house sparrow, cardinal, house finch, white-throated sparrow, song sparrow, snow bunting.

W. Gorman

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Coxsackie Flats
February 13, 1982

Despite the weatherman's forecast of six to eight inches of snow, thirteen brave birders showed up to challenge the elements.

Everyone agreed that it was hard work, and cold and windy but worth it.

Our first birds were right at the meeting place as three rough-legged hawks and an American kestrel moved about in the fields across from Red's Restaurant in Coxsackie.

Our next stop was at the fields on River Road to see a large flock of horned larks, one of which was captured and banded. After everyone had a good close look at the miniature "horns" and the long hind toe (which may serve as a snowshoe), and those who remembered their cameras had a chance to take some close photos, the bird was released to rejoin the flock a short distance away.

We then drove around the prison grounds and fields to the south, tallying more rough-legged hawks, red-tailed hawks, a lone meadowlark, a small flock of snow buntings, but no Lapland longspurs.

Then it was off to the pine grove for the owls. After we set the spotting scopes up and focused each on an empty branch of a sumac in the middle of the field, four of us went into a conifer patch in search of the owls. As though on cue, three short-eared owls flew out and circled around for everyone to see. One of the owls flew up to the branch for all to observe through

Field Trip Reports (concluded)

the scope - a real show-off performance.

Next came the hard part. One of the species that we hoped to find on the trip was the Lapland longspur, which would have been a new species for some of the party. Unfortunately, the birds were not to be found in their usual haunts. The last chance was a large field behind one of the active dairy farms. The problem was that the fields were way too big to search on foot (besides the fact that it was getting colder and windier). After a little conference and with the permission of the farmer, we decided that we'd drive across the frozen fields. Off we went, with hope and uncertainty, somewhat resembling a safari making its way through the Serengeti. We drove as far as we dared then trudged through snow-covered furrows where we found an enormous flock of snow buntings swirling around in a blizzard of nervous snowflakes. Through the musical twitters of the buntings we heard the raspy "Bronx cheer" of the longspur and knew that we were in for a treat. Finally, after much searching, and numerous good looks at the buntings, we were able to pick out not one, but three, Lapland longspurs who even stayed still long enough for everyone to get excellent views of them through the scopes.

The final tally for the day was 28 species, which all agreed, though low in number, was high in quality.

--Richard Guthrie

* * * * * *

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROJECT

Richard Guthrie
Regional Coordinator

There was an increase in coverage in our region last year--but...

*Out of 183 squares, only 92 have had coverage at any level in the two years of the project.

*There are morethan 730 blocks in our region (We have the most blocks in the state). Of these, only 157 (21%) have had any coverage.

*Of the above, about 10 squares may be considered inaccessi-

Atlas Project (concluded)

ble - if there is such a thing - more challenging may be more like it! However, some blocks do not have any roads.

*About 40 blocks may be considered "remote," but even that's misleading - they're remote only to those people who don't live near them.

*Through the 1981 season we had about 150 field workers in the project, but out of these, only 25 were Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club members.

*Much of the central HMBC region has not had any coverage - not one species reported - i.e.

-14 out of 22 blocks in Schenectady County
-51 out of 53 blocks in southern Saratoga County

*This coming June will mark the half-way point in this five-year atlasing effort. Let's have the Hudson-Mohawk Region produce a respectable contribution to this important task. When the Atlas book is published, it would be rewarding if everyone could look at it with pride at our accomplishments.

*Great expertise, expensive equipment, extensive wilderness experience, and the sighting of exotic species are not important ingredients to a valid reporting of an atlas block. Backyards, woodlots, and vacant lands provide many important species: robins, orioles, and swallows count too! I'm sure that just about everyone can come up with fifteen or thirty species around his house. All it takes is an observant eye and a few enjoyable hours out of doors.

* Finding nests is not the object of this project. In fact, the tracking down of nests is actually discouraged as it may lead predators to the nest. Singing males, territorial displays, birds carrying nest material or food is the sort of information that is sought to provide evidence of a species' nesting in a block.

*Contact your Regional Coordinator, Richard P. Guthrie, Box 46, New Baltimore, NY 12124, or Robert Marx at 377-1453. Listen to Dial-A-Bird 377-9600 for more information.

*IMPORTANT: A Breeding Bird Atlas Workshop will be held at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Game Farm Road, Delmar on April 10 at 1:00 p.m.

DIAL-A-BIRD 377-9600. . ... . DIAL-A-BIRD 377-9600. . . . .

BIRD IS A FOUR-LETTER WORD

Richard Guthrie

Many Atlasers have noticed and commented about the combination of letters next to the bird species' names on the Atlas data sheet (green sheet). Some have decoded this mystery. For those who have not yet done so, let me offer this explanation.

Each of the four letter combinations is simply an abbreviation for the bird's common name. The system was devised by M. Kathleen Klimkiewicz and Chandler Robbins of the Bird Banding Laboratory.

Abbreviated bird names and codes have been around for a long time and you may have even devised your own system. The problem has been that either the codes had to be memorized individually or would vary from user to user or from day to day, resulting in errors in decoding.

The system devised was a simple and workable tool that I have found to be easy to remember and fun to use. All you have to know are the five simple rules for abbreviating.

Each species' name is broken down to a four-letter code, according to its common name, in the sequence it is given in ordinary speech.

1. If the bird's common name is a single word, use the first four letters, i.e.: Canvasback-CANV; Bufflehead-BUFF; Starling-STAR; Sanderling-SAND.

2. If the common name consists of two words, use the first two letters of the first word, followed by the first two letters of the second name, i.e.: Common loon-COLO; American Bittern-AMBI; Least Sandpiper-LESA; Pine Warbler-PIWA.

3. If the common name consists of three words (with or without hyphens), use the first letter of the first word, the first letter of the second word, and the first two letters of the third word, i.e.: Pied-bill grebe-PBGR; Red-tailed hawk-RTHA; White-rumped sandpiper-WRSA; Great horned owl, GHOW.

4. If the name consists of four words, use the first letter of each word, i.e.: Great black-backed gull-GBBG; Black-crowned night heron-BCNH; Black-throated green warbler, BTGW.

Bird is (concluded)

5. Treat the very few five word names as three word names, i.e.: Black-backed three-toed woodpecker, BTWO.

As with all rules, there are a few exceptions; but these conflicts usually involve very rare or remote species, i.e.: Green jay vs Gray jay; Sharp-tailed sandpiper vs Stilt sandpiper; and Roseate tern vs Royal tern. In these cases, let the more common species prevail. In such instances I find myself writing out the more complete name anyway.

We do have a few local species that defy the system none-the-less: Barred owl vs Barn owl; Bank swallow vs Barn swallow; Prothonotary warbler vs Prairie warbler; Cerulean warbler vs. Cedar waxwing, and Blackpoll warbler vs Blackburnian warbler. In these cases, I defer to the Atlas sheets: BDOW for Barred owl; BKSW for Bank swallow, and BPWA for Blackpoll warbler. I disagree with the code for Black-and-white warbler, however. I think it should be BAWW rather than BAWA.

It is interesting to note, that this system is flexible enough to incorporate the anticipated name changes by the American Ornithological Union (AOU) and the universal names by the American Birding Association (ABA). If the Short-billed marsh wren (SBMW) becomes Sedge wren (SEWR) and Dark-eyed junco (DEJU) becomes Northern junco (NOJU), the system can adjust well.

Remember to use the full common name of a bird to avoid confusion: Eastern kingbird (EAKI); Belted kingfisher (BEKI).

Through the years I have developed a few favorites among the abbreviations. Some of these are TUTI, PUFI, BOBO, SCOW, MODO, and SORA. Now if I could only remember what I meant when I jotted down MASH, GLIB, and WROW.

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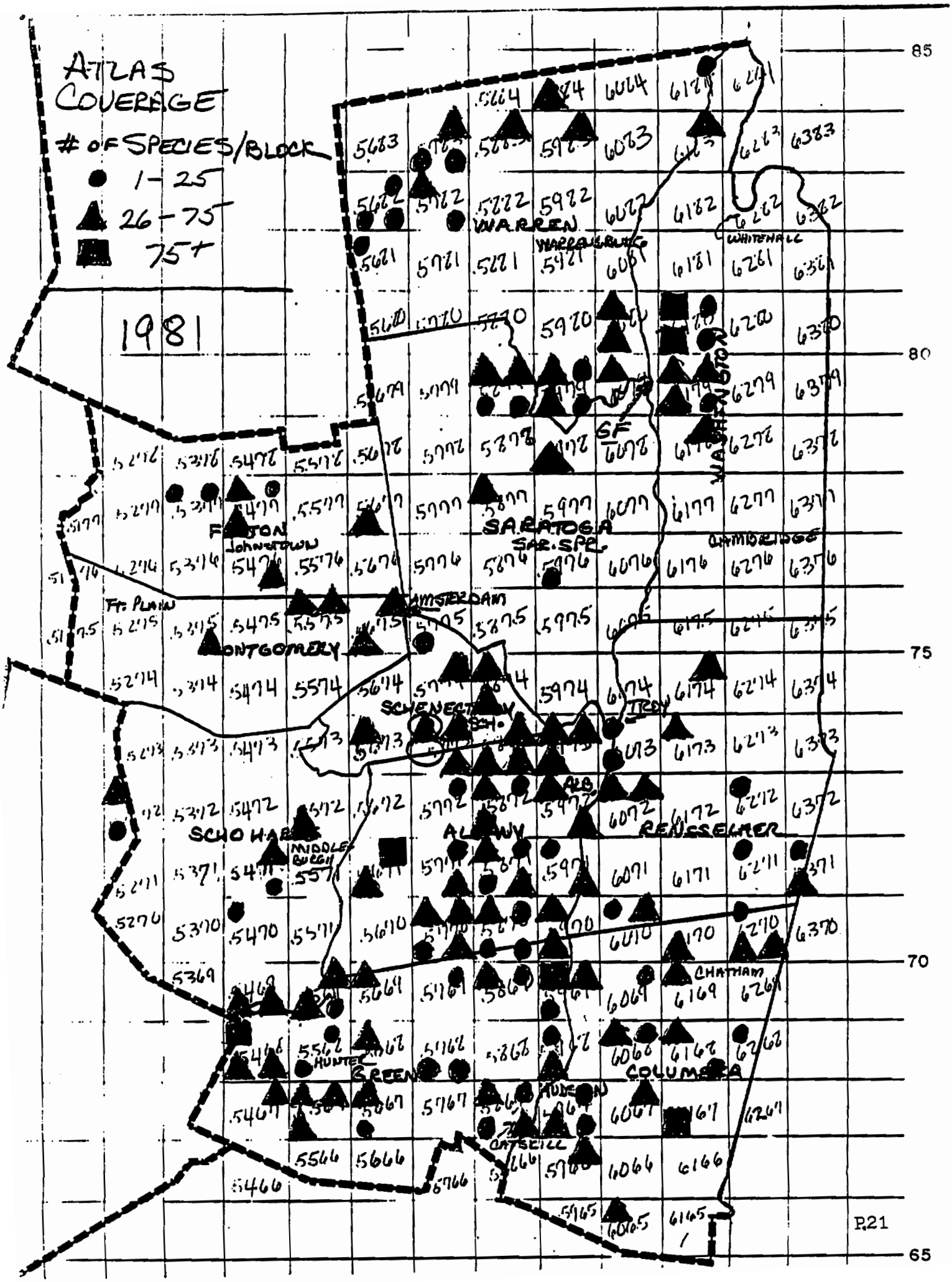
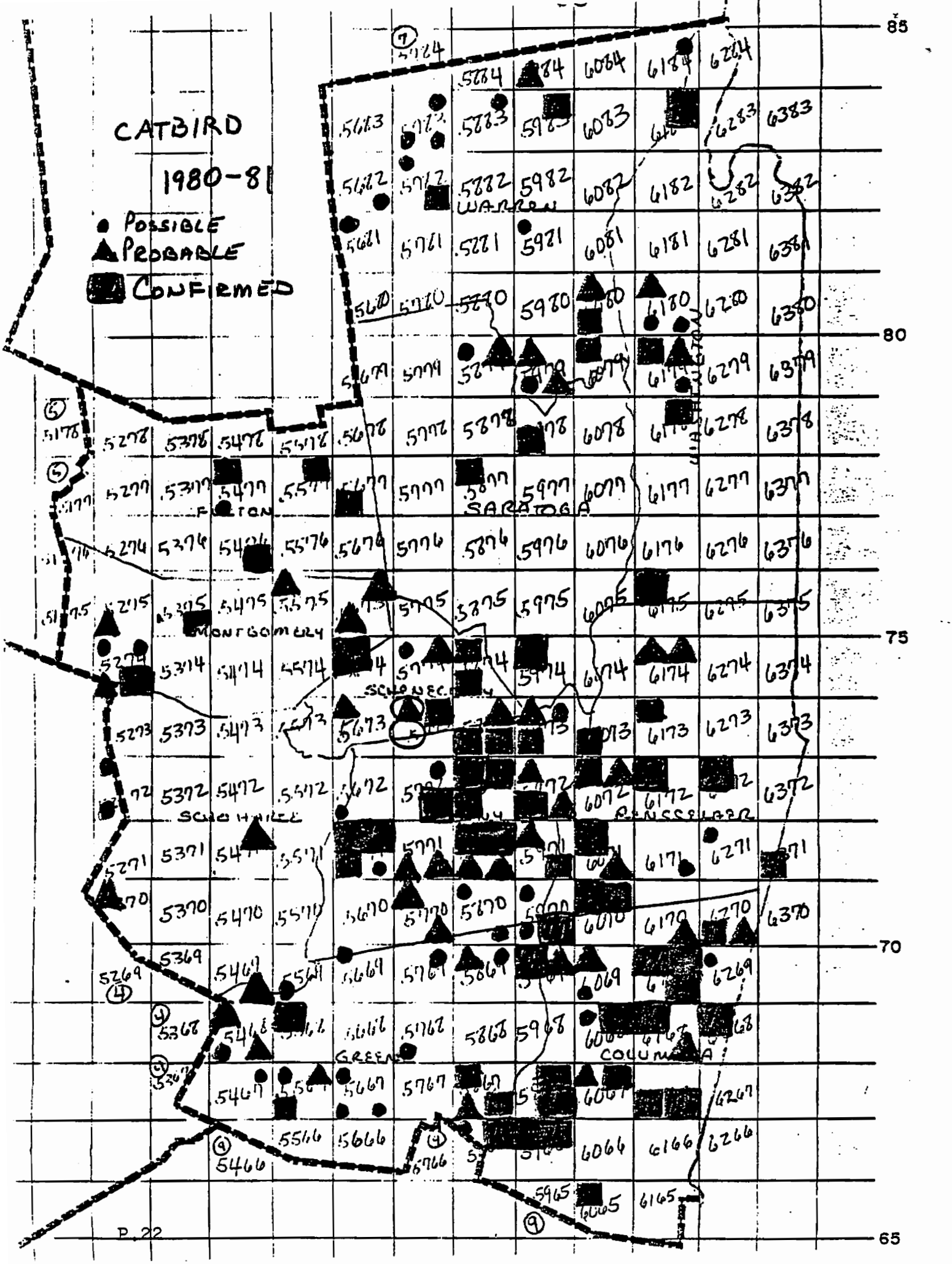
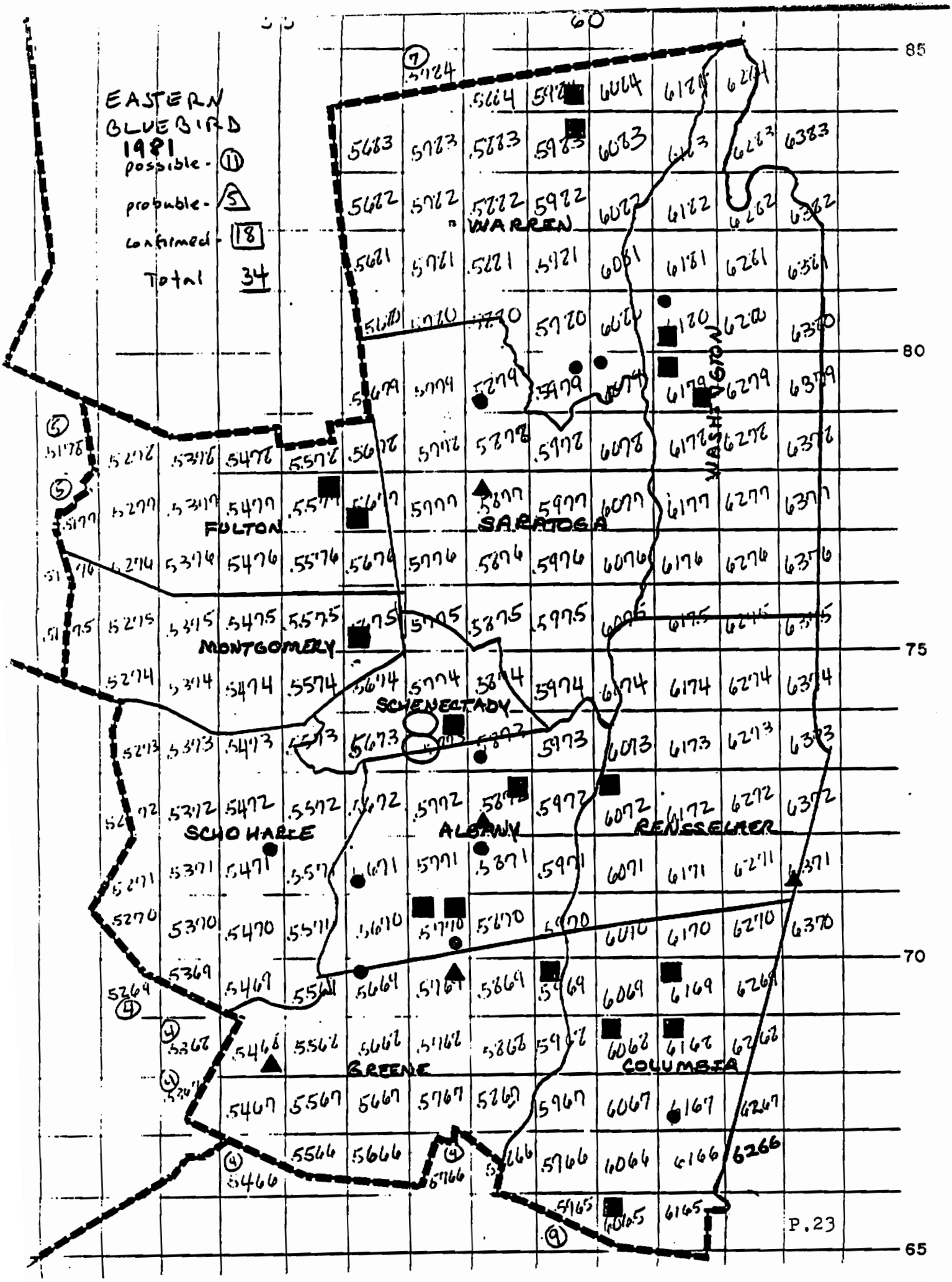
NEW YORK STATE ATLAS PROJECT

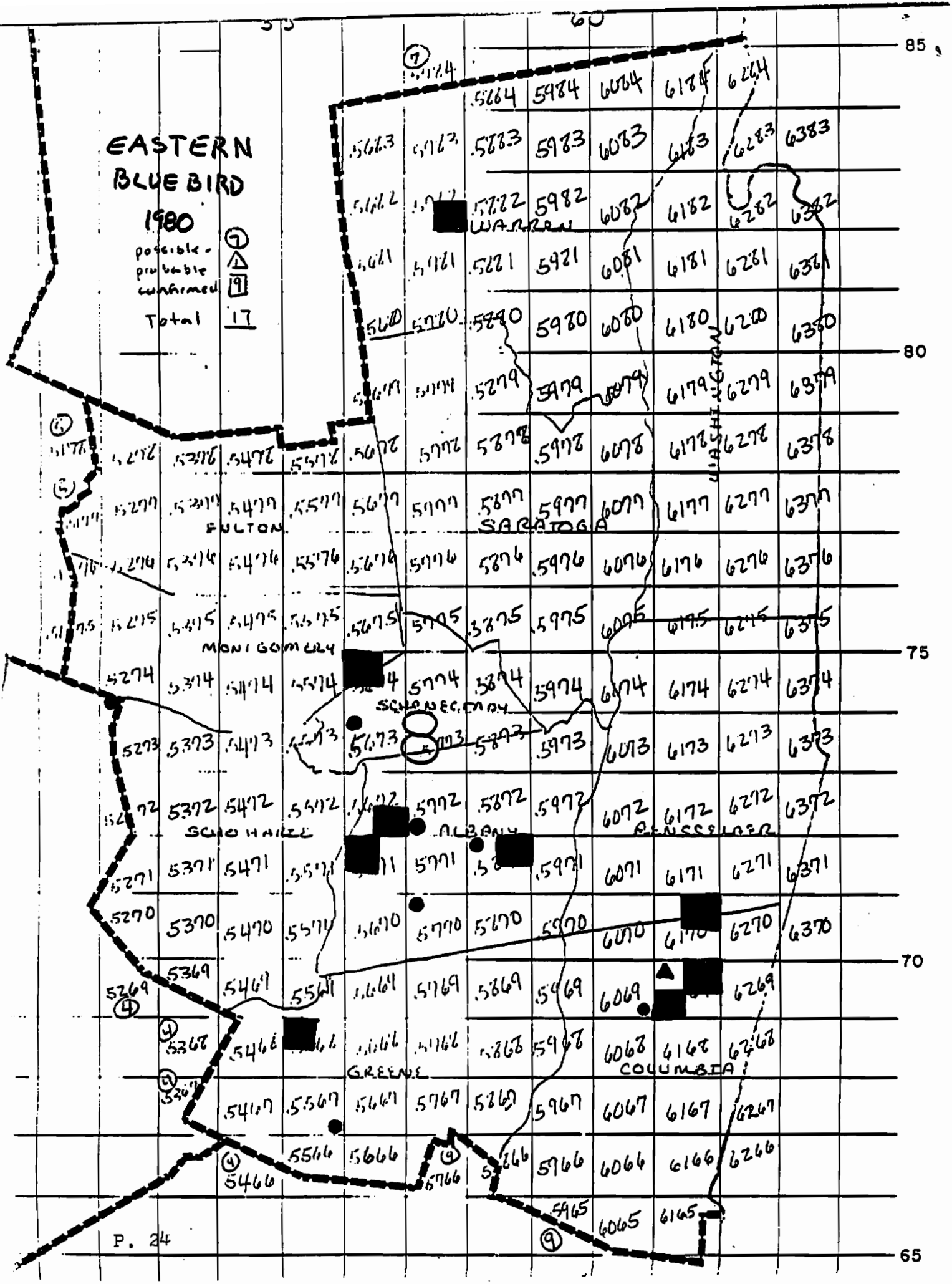
In 1980 the New York State Atlas Project found evidence of the breeding of 228 species, of which 203 were definitely confirmed, 19 are probable, and 6 are possible. In 1981 the total of confirmed breeders rose to 212, and two species which had never been recorded as having bred in the state were confirmed--Forster's tern and Boat-tailed grackle.

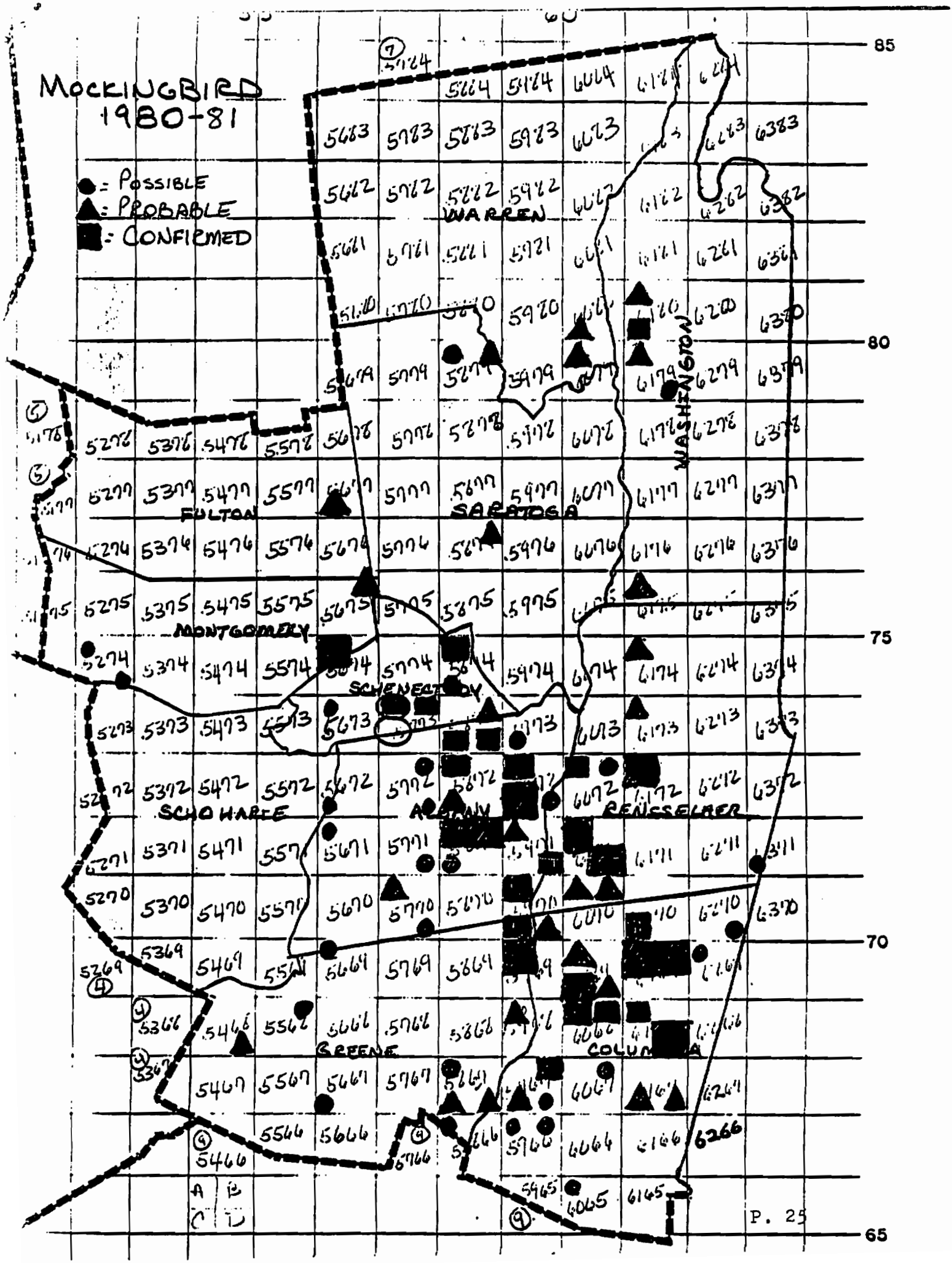
--BIRDING
October 1981


ATLAS COVERAGE
OF SPECIES/BLOCK
1-25
26-75
75+
1981
WARREN
WHITEHALL
SARATOGA
SAR. SPR.
CAMBRIDGE
FULTON
JOHNSTOWN
FT. PLAIN
AMSTERDAM
MONTGOMERY
SCHENECTADY
TROY
ALB.
SCHOHARIE
MIDDLEBURGH
ALBANY
RENSSELAER
CHATHAM
HUNTER
GREENE
COLUMBIA
HUDSON
CATSKILL
85
80
75
70
65


CATBIRD
1980-81
POSSIBLE
PROBABLE
CONFIRMED
WARREN
SARATOGA
MONTGOMERY
SCHOHARIE
GREENE
COLUMBIA
85
80
75
70
65


EASTERN BLUEBIRD
1981
possible - 11
probable - 5
confirmed - 18
Total 34
WARREN
WASHINGTON
SARATOGA
FULTON
MONTGOMERY
SCHENECTADY
SCHOHARIE
ALBANY
RENSSELAER
GREENE
COLUMBIA
85
80
75
70
65
P.23


EASTERN
BLUE BIRD
1980
possible -
probable
confirmed
Total 17
FULTON
MONTGOMERY
SCHENECTADY
SCHOHARIE
ALBANY
RENSSELAER
GREENE
COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
WARREN
SARATOGA
85
80
75
70
65
P. 24


MOCKINGBIRD
1980-81
● = POSSIBLE
▲ = PROBABLE
■ = CONFIRMED
WARREN
WASHINGTON
FULTON
SARATOGA
MONTGOMERY
SCHENECTADY
SCHOHARIE
ALBANY
RENSSELAER
GREENE
COLUMBIA
85
80
75
70
65
A
B
C
D

A Birding Area in Albany
Robert Ramonowski

The Parsons Child & Family Center grounds are located on Academy Road. A mixed habitat includes conifers, deciduous trees, brush, and hedgerows. There are streams and some areas are flooded after a rain.

1981-Sightings for February and March: American crow, black-capped chickadee, blue jay, ring-necked pheasant, cardinal, mallard, common grackle, downy woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, common flicker, tufted titmouse, Northern junco, brown-headed cowbird, house finch, ring-billed gull, rock dove, mourning dove, starling, house sparrow, red-tailed hawk, song sparrow, white-throated sparrow, red-winged blackbird, white-breasted nuthatch, robin, and mockingbird.

-Sightings for April, May, and June: Cedar w xwing, wood thrush, Northern oriole, Eastern phoebe, great crested flycatcher, Eastern wood pewee, house wren, gray catbird, American goldfinch, tree swallow, barn swallow, chimney swift, chipping sparrow, Eastern meadowlark, American redstart, black-and-white warbler, Cape May warbler, yellow-rumped warbler, Nashville warbler, Wilson's warbler, yellow warbler, and warbling vireo.

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Winter
1982

FEATHERS

Shirley Schadow, Editor
230 Lake Hill Road
Burnt Hills, NY 12027

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Dr & Mrs Robert P Yunick
1527 Myron St
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FEATHERS

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1982

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RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER BECOMES NO. 240 ON CENTURY RUN COMPOSITE LIST

by Robert P. Yunick

The 37th Annual Guy Bartlett Century Run logged its 240th species on May 15, 1982 when 34 observers in 11 groups beat the local bush in search of 100 species. That species was the Red-bellied Woodpecker which was seen in Saratoga Co. Otherwise, a total of 170 species was logged, giving the third highest total behind the record of 180 in 1980 and 172 with two hybrids in 1981. Six of the field parties exceeded the century mark with the highest list at 124 species.

Most groups were afield $13\frac{1}{2}$ to $20\frac{1}{4}$ hours ranging from a start at 0300 to a conclusion at 2345. It was a lovely day for human activity, but very little migration was occurring. The temperature ranged from 45° to 70°F. It was at least the third day of clear, cloudless weather with bright sun and light northerly winds under high pressure. For nearly a week there had been no substantial frontal passage through the area; and certain migrants, though present, were low in number. Warbler activity and numbers were low with 25 species recorded.

There were 28 species which every party reported (vs. 18 last year), 15 were seen by all but one party and 21 were recorded by only one party (vs. 18 last year). In addition to the Red-bellied Woodpecker that was recorded for the first time, other rarities that were recorded for the tenth or less time in the history of the Century Run were Red-throated Loon, Goshawk, and Willow Flycatcher for the sixth time; Red-necked Grebe, White-winged Scoter, and Red Crossbill for the eighth time; Brant and White-rumped Sandpiper for the seventh time; Canvasback and Alder Flycatcher for the fourth time; and Common Goldeneye for the tenth time.

In reviewing the list, the following are worth mentioning. Waterfowl species were more abundant than usual. The 14 species recorded this year were above last year's nine species and a recent average of about 10 per year. Raptor and marsh bird species were about average in number. The 11 species of shorebirds were also about average but were down from last year's 14. The ruby-throated hummingbird was missed for the first time in many a moon. Pine Siskins were widespread and reported by all but one group.

Century Run (con't.)

The following is the list of groups and includes names of participants, time afield, areas visited, number of species observed and species recorded by that group only.

Key to Groups:

A: Robert P. Yunick*, Robert J. Pantle and James C. Covert III. 0500-1800. Banding at Vischer Ferry and Niskayuna. 53 species. Lincoln's Sparrow.

B: Douglass Allen*. 0530-0900, 0945-1100, 1230-1330, and 1745-2100. Niskayuna, Clifton Park, and Mariaville. 97 species. Marsh Hawk and Bonaparte's Gull.

C: Janet Carroll* and Betty Rist. 0600-1930. Albany Co. 106 species. Goshawk.

D: Mike Crevier, Mike DiGiorgio, Dana Mather, and Tom Palmer*. 0500-2100. Franklinton Vly, Schoharie Co., Scotch Bush, and Langley Road, Montgomery Co., Duane Lake, Bozenkill, Mariaville, Rotterdam, Meadowdale, Black Creek Marsh, and Altamont. 113 species. Green-winged Teal and Bobwhite.

E: Charles Cobb and William Cleveland*. 0300-1830. Seward Swamp, Engleville Pond, Sharon Beaver Pond, Little York Swamp, Schuyler's Lake, Cobleskill, Sloansville, and Barnerville-all in northern Schoharie Co. 83 species.

F: Samuel Madison, Carl Parker (part time), and Walton Sabin*. 0345-2200. Black Creek Marsh, Indian Ladder, Five Rivers, Widewaters, Lock 7, Stony Creek Res., Crescent, Half Moon, Mechanicville, Round and Saratoga Lakes, Luther's Wood, Saratoga Springs. 106 species. White-winged Scoter and Willow Flycatcher.

G: Nancy Slack*, Bill Huntley, Bob McCullough, and Hank Stebbins. 0500-1430 and 1700-1930. Glenville, Black Creek Marsh, Indian Ladder, and Vischer Ferry. 93 species. Semi-palmated Sandpiper.

H: R. P. Guthrie*. 0330-2345. New Baltimore, Embough Bay, Vosburgh Marsh, Coxsackie, Black Creek Marsh, Mohawk R. and Saratoga Co. 123 species. Brant, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Indigo Bunting.

I: Mr.* and Mrs. E. L. Thomas. 0700-1600. Fuller Rd., Ann Lee Pond, Vischer Ferry. 38 species. Philadelphia Vireo.

J: W. Gorman*, M. Gruett, M. Kuhrt, Jory Langner, P. Connor, and N. Fancher (part time). 0300-2130. Castleton Marsh, Cherry Plain, East Greenbush, Niskayuna, Colonie, and Saratoga.

Century Run (con't.)

124 species. Red-necked Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Common Goldeneye, White-rumped Sandpiper, Black Tern, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Red Crossbill.

K: R. Budliger*, C. Hasko, W. Lee, A. Ross, J. and W. Suozzo. 0300-2100. Black Creek Marsh, Thacher Park, Five Rivers, Pine Bush, Watervliet Res., Mohawk R., Cohoes, Bethlehem, Coeymans, Alcove and Basic Cr Res., and Bear Swamp. 112 species. Winter Wren.

*Indicates person reporting for group.

GUY BARTLETT CENTURY RUN

May 15, 1982

Common Loon	h jk	Ruffed Grouse	cdef j
Red-thr Loon	f h j	Bobwhite	d
Red-necked Grebe	j	Ring-n Pheasant	c f j
Pied-billed Grebe	j	Virginia Rail	bcd fgh jk
Do-cr Cormorant	c h	Sora	d f j
Gr Bl Heron	cde g k	Common Gallinule	d gh j
Green Heron	abcd fgh jk	Killdeer	bcdefgh jk
Am Bittern	cd fgh k	Am Woodcock	b d fg jk
Canada Goose	abcd fgh jk	Com Snipe	def jk
Brant	h	Upland Sandpiper	d f h
Mallard	abcdefghijk	Spotted Sandpiper	bcdefgh jk
Black Duck	cdef h jk	Solitary Sandpiper	bcde j
Gr-winged Teal	d	Gr Yellowlegs	b f
Bl-winged Teal	b fg	Less Yellowlegs	b
Wood Duck	bcdefgh k	Wh-rump Sandpiper	j
Canvasback	b h	Least Sandpiper	bc h jk
Greater Scaup	h	Semi-pal Sandpiper	g
Lesser Scaup	h	Gr Bl-backed Gull	bc f h jk
Common Goldeneye	j	Herring Gull	bc f h jk
Wh-winged Scoter	f	Ring-billed Gull	abc f h jk
Com Merganser	b k	Bonaparte's Gull	b
Red-br Merganser	h	Black Tern	j
Turkey Vulture	cdefg k	Rock Dove	abcdefgh jk
Goshawk	c	Mourning Dove	abcdefghijk
Sh-shinned Hawk	cd	Black-bill Cuckoo	a cd gh j
Cooper's Hawk	b k	Screech Owl	ef h k
Red-tailed Hawk	bcdefgh jk	Gr Horned Owl	ab defgh k
Red-sh Hawk	ij	Barred Owl	b h j
Br-winged Hawk	h jk	Whip-poor-will	h j
Marsh Hawk	b	Com Nighthawk	f h j
Osprey	e gh	Chimney Swift	abcdefghijk
Am Kestrel	bcdefghijk	Belted Kingfisher	bcdef hijk

Century Run (con't.)

Common Flicker	abcdefghijk
Pil Woodpecker	b defgh jk
Red-bel Woodpkr	h
Red-head Woodpkr	de
Yel-bel Sapsucker	bcde g jk
Hairy Woodpecker	abcde ghijk
Downy Woodpecker	abcdefgh jk
Eastern Kingbird	abcdefgh jk
Gr Cr Flycatcher	bcdefgh jk
Eastern Phoebe	cdefgh jk
Willow Flycatcher	f
Alder Flycatcher	gh k
Least Flycatcher	abcdefghijk
E. Wood Pewee	c e jk
Horned Lark	b h
Tree Swallow	abcdefghijk
Bank Swallow	abcdefghijk
R-wing Swallow	bcdefgh jk
Barn Swallow	abcdefgh jk
Cliff Swallow	cd h j
Purple Martin	d f h j
Blue Jay	abcdefghijk
Common Crow	abcdefghijk
Bl-cap Chickadee	abcdefgh jk
Tufted Titmouse	abc efgh jk
Wh-br Nuthatch	abcdefghijk
Red-br Nuthatch	de h jk
Brown Creeper	bc f j
House Wren	abcdefghijk
Winter Wren	k
L-bil Marsh Wren	d fgh jk
Mockingbird	bcd fgh jk
Catbird	abcdefghijk
Brown Thrasher	bcdefgh jk
Am Robin	abcdefghijk
Wood Thrush	abcdefghijk
Hermit Thrush	bcd g jk
Swainson's Thrush	a d jk
Gr-cheek Thrush	j
Veery	abcd fghijk
E. Bluebird	cdefgh jk
Bl-gr Gnatcatcher	cdefghijk
Ruby-cr Kinglet	d k
Cedar Waxwing	h jk
Starling	abcdefghijk
Yel-thr Vireo	bcd gh jk
Solitary Vireo	bcd h jk
Red-eyed Vireo	bcdefgh jk
Phila Vireo	i
Warbling Vireo	abcdefghijk
Bl+wh Warbler	cd f h jk
Worm-eating Warbler	fg k
Gold-wing Warbler	bcd gh jk
Blue-wing Warbler	cdefgh jk
Tennessee Warbler	bcdefgh k
Nashville Warbler	cd f h jk
No. Parula	d h j
Yellow Warbler	abcdefghijk
Magnolia Warbler	d j
Cape May Warbler	cd f h jk
Blk-thr Bl Warbler	cd fgh jk
Yel-rump Warbler	abcdefghijk
Blk-thr Gr Warbler	bcd fgh jk
Blackburnian Warbler	bc jk
Chest-sided Warbler	abcd fghijk
Blackpoll Warbler	h j
Pine Warbler	f h
Prairie Warbler	cd fgh jk
Ovenbird	abcdefgh jk
No. Waterthrush	cdef h jk
Louisiana Waterthrush	bcd fgh jk
Common Yellowthroat	abcdefghijk
Wilson's Warbler	a d h
Canada Warbler	bc efg k
Am Redstart	abcdefgh jk
House Sparrow	abcdefghijk
Bobolink	bcdefgh jk
Eastern Meadowlark	bcdefgh jk
Red-wing Blackbird	abcdefghijk
Orchard Oriole	d h
Northern Oriole	abcdefghijk
Common Grackle	abcdefghijk
Brown-headed Cowbird	abcdefghijk
Scarlet Tanager	bcdefgh jk
Cardinal	abcdefghijk
Rose-br Grosbeak	abcdefgh jk
Indigo Bunting	h
Evening Grosbeak	ab defg i
Purple Finch	bcde g jk
House Finch	abcdefghijk
Pine Siskin	abcdefgh jk
Am Goldfinch	abcdefghijk
Red Crossbill	j
Ruf-sided Towhee	abcdefgh jk
Savannah Sparrow	b def h jk
Grasshopper Sparrow	b d h j
Henslow's Sparrow	bc
Vesper Sparrow	c e j
Dark-eyed Junco	bc efgh jk
Chipping Sparrow	bcdefg jk
Field Sparrow	cdefgh jk
Wh-cr Sparrow	cdef h k

Century Run (con't.)

Wh-thr Sparrow	abcdefgh j	Swamp Sparrow	abcd fghijk
Lincoln's Sparrow	a	Song Sparrow	abcdefghijk

* * * * * *

A TROPICAL TEXAS TOUR

by Chet Vanderbilt

I feel the need to share with you the delightful time I've recently experienced and in doing so create a record and basis for my own recollections at a later date.

The focus of my delight was a four-day birding trip with Ben Feltner's Peregrine, Inc., a tour billed as "Tropical Texas and the Whooping Crane." To that was added an extra day of birding on each end of the March 18-21 guided trip.

The trip was precipitated by my having to be in Dallas for a National News Consultation sponsored by the United Methodist Church from March 23-25 and by my having an interest in birding renewed after a lapse of seven years. During my vacation last July on the South Jersey shore I had picked up a copy of Donald Heintzelman's Birdwatching Manual. In it had been listed the book Roger Tory Peterson's Dozen Birding Hot Spots. I had secured a copy from the library and one of the featured hot spots mentioned was southern Texas and its three refuges. So with my being in Dallas, I began to itch to do something about visiting one or more of those hot spots.

About that time I made a visit to the Albany Public Library and by sheer coincidence made contact with Dick Waugh, an active birder whom I remembered seeing on an Audubon-sponsored outing a short time before. One of the resources Dick pointed out to me was the "Bird Watcher's Digest." In there I saw the tour ad. An inquiry to Peregrine Tours revealed a trip, occurring on the weekend before my meeting, included two of the three refuges listed in Dr. Peterson's book, the Santa Ana and Laguna Atacosa Parks. The tour did not include the land portion of the Aransas Refuge in which the whooping cranes are present, but did have a boat tour in that refuge. In addition, the tour included the Falcon State Dam area and the Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park.

Flight arrangements booked me to Corpus Christi on 3/16. The tour started in McAllen, over 100 miles distant, on 3/18. In checking with the Peregrine office on how best to negotiate that distance, I lucked out. Some of the guides were picking up rental

Tropical Texas (con't.)

equipment in Corpus Christi on the 17th and would provide my transportation to McAllen. That accounted for the one extra day of birding on the front end of the tour. I was met at the airport about 12:30 pm and had some excellent birding on the way to McAllen, logging 56 species of which 16 were lifers for me. Most pleasing was the Greater Roadrunner. That was a species I had expected (hoped) to see in Arizona when on a cross-country trailer trip in 1971, but had been disappointed. So getting to see it as the bird, curiously enough, sat perched high in a tree, and before the tour had even officially started, was a source of great satisfaction and, I felt, a good omen.

In those four days of birding we sighted over 170 species, 63 of them first-time sightings for me. One of the men in the party stayed over in Rockport with me and we birded the rest of the Aransas Refuge and I picked up another lifer, the wild turkey, on the day after the tour ended.

Outstanding among our sightings on the trip were the Least Grebe, Brown Jay, Caribbean Coot, Red-billed Pigeon, Green Kingfisher, Pauraque, Ringed Kingfisher, and Tropical Parula Warbler. You might have expected the Whooping Crane to be included here, but the fact is that I had seen the Whooper on the one instance of having done any serious birding in the seven years I mentioned. On a trip to Texas six years ago my wife and I visited Rockport and took the boat ride to see the cranes.

Hoped for but not seen were the Hook-billed Kite, Mexican Crow, and Flamingo. For about 1½ hours we staked out at the Bentsen State Park where the kite had been seen on previous days, but we waited to no avail. Searched fruitlessly was the Brownsville city dump where 1000 Mexican Crows had been counted two days earlier. The hope of seeing a Flamingo was short-lived. Ben and his associate, Bob Behrstock, had received a report from their Houston office that a Flamingo had been sighted in the Corpus Christi area; but it did not deign to stay around for our benefit.

The other species added to my life list were Pied-billed Grebe, Olivaceous Cormorant, Reddish Egret, White-faced Ibis, Black-bellied Tree Duck, Fulvous Tree Duck, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, American Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck, White-tailed Kite, White-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Harris' Hawk, Plain Chachalaca, Scaled Quail, Sandhill Crane, Caribbean Coot, Long-billed Curlew, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Short-billed Dowitcher, Dunlin, Franklin's Gull, Sandwich Tern, Inca Dove, White-tipped Dove, Barn Owl, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Tropical Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Greater Kiskadee, Green Jay, White-necked Raven, Black-crested Titmouse, Bewick's Wren, Long-billed Thrasher, Curve-billed Thrasher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, White-eyed Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Orange-crowned

Tropical Tour (concluded)

Warbler, Altamira Oriole, Great-tailed Grackle, Bronzed Cowbird, Pyrrhuloxia, Lesser Goldfinch, Olive Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Cassin's Sparrow and Lincoln's Sparrow.

Our daily counts numbered 66 species, 1st day; 64, 2nd day; 85, 4th day. On the 3rd day we recorded 101 species!

I was amazed to see the starling, so abundant in our region, on less than five occasions.

For Bill Gorman's special attention: I got a good look at a Screech Owl to whose call he had first introduced me on the start of the recent Christmas Bird Count.

The conditions of the tour were excellent; the weather dry and warm. There were five persons on the tour and two expert guides. Two of the five participants were highly experienced birders, with a third not far behind.

I felt extremely extravagant when signing on for the trip; but it will afford me, I'm sure, many pleasant memories.

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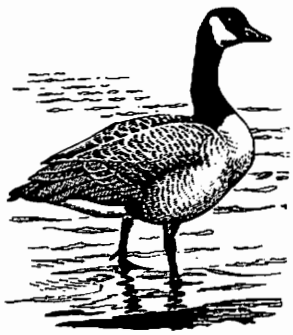

ANNUAL STATE WATERFOWL COUNT

The 1982 State Waterfowl Count for Region 8 of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs was held on the target date of January 10. The scheduled Count period was from January 9 through the 17. Four parties reported: Paul Grattan for the Hudson R at Waterford north to Hudson Falls and the Hoosic R west of Schaghticoke; Bill Lee for the Mohawk R from Lock 9 east to Cohoes and Green Island; Dick Guthrie for the Hudson R between Albany and Catskill; and Kate Dunham from Ghent and the east shore of the Hudson R in Columbia County.

The overall count was 2724 of which 2230 were either Mallard, Black or Mallard x Black. Canada Geese were the next in number, 346. Common Goldeneye (18) and Common Merganser (78) were observed in several locations. On the Hudson south of Albany 40 Canvasbacks

Field Trips (con't.)

were seen, also 9 Pintail at Five Mile Point and 3 Brant at Embough Bay, Catskill.

---Paul Grattan

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RONDOUT

February 20, 1982

Species seen along NYS Thruway: Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Mourning Dove, Horned Lark, Blue Jay, Common Crow, and Snow Buntings.

Species seen At Rondout: Mallard (1♀), Black Duck, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Bald Eagle (2A, 1 Im), Herring Gull, Common Crow, and Black-capped Chickadee.

Weather: Cloudy til about 10:30 then partly cloudy. Temperature: 35°F (approx.) Wind: WNW, light; Less than 5 mph with gusts to 8 mph (approx.). Observers: 13. Species: 14.

Observation of Eagles: The immature Eagle was first observed feeding upon the carcass of a ♀ deer. There was a total of 3 eagles seen: 2 adults, 1 imm. Two deer cascasses on the ice, with one additional ♀ deer caught in the ice, dying. This seems to be the major food resource at this time of year for the eagles at Rondout.

---Timothy K. Judge

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TOMHANNOCK RESERVOIR

March 27, 1982

Species: 35 (40); Weather: Partly cloudy, cold, windy (10-15 mph); Temperature: 20-30°F; Time 8:30-1:30.

On the drive to the trip meeting place at Valley Falls Road, we saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk and on John Snyder Lane, a Great Blue Heron. While waiting for everyone to arrive, we heard a number of Brown Creepers in full song. Due to the brisk wind, the creepers

Field Trips (con't.)

and nearby White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches were hard to see. As we progressed past a local tree farm, we found a Savannah Sparrow and an Eastern Phoebe. We heard a Turkey gobbling but due to the proximity to a nearby farm, suspect it was of the domestic variety. One of the few open water spots on the Reservoir produced 3 Common Goldeneyes and a pond east of the Reservoir produced 4 Mallards. The wind made it difficult to stay out for long periods of time and also kept the birds in seclusion. We added American Kestrel and Red-tailed Hawk to our list along with Fox, Song, White-throated, and Tree Sparrows. A number of Killdeer were found on some local fields. The west side of the Reservoir was also somewhat quiet, but did produce a a few Rusty Blackbirds, two Mockingbirds, two Ring-billed Gulls, and a lone skunk. We ended the trip with a total of 35 species. On the way home, we found Wood Duck and Hooded Mergansers plus a Belted Kingfisher for an unofficial total of 40 species.

---Bill Gorman

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LOWER HUDSON

April 3, 1982

Species: 48; Weather: showers, cloudy; Wind: SE, gusty; Temperature: Low 40's; Time: 8 am - 1 pm; Observers: 12.

Although spring has been slow, we had a good trip this year in the Lowlands along the east side of the Hudson R from Rensselaer to Stockport Creek. In the time allotted for this trip we visited easily accessible points overlooking creeks, marshes, and the river itself. The twelve observers were alert, contributing to a good list of 14 species of waterfowl and some other interesting species besides. We were also extremely fortunate to squeeze this trip in just before a cold, heavy, and steady rain set in during the noon hour. Scattered preliminary showers and gusty southeast winds earlier did not slow us down much.

Highlights included 75 canvasbacks and a redhead at Stuyvesant, a group of 50 ring-necked ducks, a migrating flock of 25 snow geese, and good, close views of most of the duck species. But we did not hear any swamp sparrows which are usually singing in the marshes at this season.

Species seen: Horned grebe (1); great blue heron (1), snow goose (25), mallard (400±), American black duck (300±),

Field Trips (con't.)

green-winged teal (2), blue-winged teal (2), wood duck (1), redhead (1), ring-necked duck (66), canvasback (81), scaup (26) 2 greater were identified), common goldeneye (14), bufflehead (5), hooded merganser (4), common merganser (33), turkey vulture (1), Cooper's hawk (1), red-tailed hawk (6), American kestrel (2), ring-necked pheasant (1), killdeer (2), great black-backed gull (11), herring gull (14), ring-billed gull (4), rock dove, mourning dove (30), belted kingfisher (2), common flicker (4), pileated woodpecker (1), downy woodpecker (2), Eastern phoebe (3), tree swallow (5), blue jay (6), common crow (20), black-capped chickadee (3), white-breasted nuthatch (1), mockingbird (1), American robin (100+), starling, house sparrow, red-winged blackbird (common), common grackle (common), brown-headed cowbird (2), cardinal (3), house finch (2), Northern junco (4), song sparrow (15).

---Paul F. Connor

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SARATOGA AND ROUND LAKES

April 24, 1982

An eager group of 25 birders met at Round Lake on a delightfully sunny, warm spring day--one of our first nice days after an awesome, never-ending winter. There was very little activity at Round Lake -- a few Gulls, a Downy Woodpecker, some noisy Evening Grosbeaks still lingering at local feeders I suspect and some Chickadees. Some of those folks who arrived early had observed a Common Loon and Red-necked Grebes.

As we continued on our way to Saratoga Lake, we made one stop on Kramer Road, where, again, things were very quiet with the exception of a singing Chipping Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow. Just as we were going to move on, someone spotted two hawks soaring just above. We had beautiful looks at two Broad-winged Hawks. We could clearly see the bands on their tails as they were almost at tree-top level. "Twas a real treat!

Our first stop at the Lake was quite productive: numbers of Common Loons, only two Canada Geese, Mallards, Scaup, Common Goldeneyes, Bufflehead, and Belted Kingfisher. On the walk to the Lake, we saw Ruby-crowned Kinglets, juncos, Tree Swallows, and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Also sighted were two chickadees excavating a nesthole.

Field Trips (con't.)

Our next stop yielded Bank Swallows, Barn Swallows, Bonaparte's Gulls, Osprey, and Pileated Woodpecker. Stops along Kayaderosseros Creek revealed ring-necked Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Killdeer, American Kestrel, Meadowlarks, and Phoebes.

At our final stop at Riley Cove, we added Common and Red-breasted Merganser.

Although we had hoped for more varieties of waterfowl and more spring arrivals, it was the consensus of opinion that we had shared a beautiful spring morning in the company of folks with a common bond. It just seemed as if the birds were suffering from Spring Fever and were stretched out somewhere--quietly out of sight--"catching the rays"as the young folks say.

P.S. A quick check of Round Lake on the return trip added a pair of Horned Grebes in breeding plumage and a Common Loon thoroughly enjoying a bath! I know I'm going to be accused of being anthropomorphic by some of my erstwhile friends.

Weather: Sunny, clear. Wind: South. Temperature 70°F. Time 8 am. Observers: 24. Species: 54.

Species seen: Common Loon (15), Red-necked Grebe (2), Horned Grebe (2), Canada Goose (2), Mallard (6), Black Duck (4), Blue-winged Teal (8), Ring-necked Duck (2), Greater Scaup (10), Common Goldeneye (8), Bufflehead (25), Common Merganser (6), Red-breasted Merganser (3), Red-tailed Hawk (2), Broad-winged Hawk (2), Osprey (1), American Kestrel (2), Killdeer (2), Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Bonaparte's Gull (8), Rock Dove (1), Mourning Dove (2), Belted Kingfisher (2), Pileated Woodpecker (2), Downy Woodpecker (3).

Eastern Phoebe (4), Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow (7), Barn Swallow, Blue Jay (6), Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee (6), Tufted Titmouse (4), White-breasted Nuthatch (4), American Robin, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (1), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (2), Starling, House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark (2), Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Cardinal (6), Evening Grosbeak (12), Purple Finch (4), House Finch, American Goldfinch (2), Dark-eyed Junco (2), Chipping Sparrow (3), White-throated Sparrow (2), Song Sparrow (8).

---Alice Ross

Field Trips (con't.)

BOMBAY HOOK

May 1-2, 1982

In addition to a good variety of birds, the Bombay Hook trip found two great days of spring weather on the Delmarva Peninsula. Blue skies and temperatures in the seventies were very enjoyable.

The Pocomoke Swamp produced black-billed cuckoo, red-bellied woodpecker, Carolina wren, white-eyed and yellow-throated vireos, and Kentucky and hooded warblers. Very good looks at yellow-throated warblers were obtained at several locations. Prothonotary warblers were plentiful. In spite of these great birds, it was generally felt that a trip scheduled the following weekend would have produced even better birding since spring seemed to be about a week late this year.

On Saturday afternoon we were at Chincoteague and Assateague where we found oystercatchers, ruddy turnstones, whimbrels, boat-tailed grackles, and several brown-headed nuthatches.

On Sunday we returned to the Pocomoke Swamp where we added yellow-billed cuckoo and blue grosbeak to our list. When we reached Little Creek we found very few birds from the Pickering Beach side; but when we entered by the headquarters road, we found the sought after black-necked stilts.

Bombay Hook produced bald eagle and 37 avocets and we wound up the trip at 3:00 pm with 121 species.

Observers: 10 adults, 2 children

Species seen: Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Louisiana Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Glossy Ibis, Mute Swan, Canada Goose, Brant, Mallard, Black Duck, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Wood Duck, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Bald Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, American Kestrel, Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, Clapper Rail, American Oystercatcher, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Whimbrel, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Semi-palmated Sandpiper, Sanderling, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt.

Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Laughing Gull, Forster's Tern, Common Tern, Royal Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated

Field Trips (con't.)

Hummingbird, Common Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Fish Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Starling.

White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Ovenbird, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Boat-tailed Grackle, Cardinal, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

---Ronald Laforce

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BLACK CREEK MARSH
Pancake Breakfast

May 8, 1982

Sixteen birders started "walking the tracks" at 6 AM on this cool spring morning, followed by over 36 more at 8 AM. They were rewarded by good views of 70 species. One of the highlights was seeing Virginia Rails at several locations. Nesting bluebirds were a welcome sight, as were the early warblers.

Forty-three of the birders enjoyed the pancake breakfast at the conclusion of the trip.

Species seen: Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Wood Duck, Osprey, American Kestrel, Ruffed Grouse, Virginia Rail, Sora, Killdeer, Solitary Sandpiper, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Wood Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Starling.

Field Trips (concluded)

Warbling Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Oriole, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow.

---Audrey B. Madison

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BIRD BANDING
Vischer Ferry Historic and Nature Preserve

May 15, 1982

The weatherman was good to the over seventy persons gathered to witness the annual bird banding conducted by Bob Yunick. The bright coolness of the early morning warmed as the day wore on, making for a most pleasant experience. "But," Bob said, "barometric pressures and winds out of the northeast for the preceding two days had lowered the bird activity."

Nonetheless, Bob and his two companions, Jim Covert of Averill Park and Bob Pantle of Canton, banded a total of 82 birds of 20 species. Outstanding among the day's captures were two Lincoln's Sparrows and a seven-year-old hairy woodpecker.

Species: Common Flicker (2); Hairy Woodpecker (2); House Wren (1); Gray Catbird (11); Wood Thrush (4); Swainson's Thrush (1); Veery (2); Starling (2); Warbling Vireo (2); Yellow Warbler (17); Yellow-rumped Warbler (12); Chestnut-sided Warbler (1); Northern Waterthrush (2); Common Yellowthroat (6); Wilson's Warbler (1); American Redstart (1); Red-winged Blackbird (1); Brown-headed Cowbird (2); Cardinal (1); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (3); House Finch (1); American Goldfinch (1); Rufous-sided Towhee (1); Lincoln's Sparrow (2); Swamp Sparrow (1); Song Sparrow (2).

The future of birding was enhanced by Bob's attentiveness to the children present. Their eyes filled with awe and wonder as he placed birds supine in their hands. Their fascination, however, was no greater than that of this reporter, who, in pinch-hitting for Lois Norton, long-time coordinator for the bird-banding field trip, was experiencing his first banding.

---Chet Vanderbilt

DIAL-A-BIRD, 377-9600 - - - - -DIAL-A-BIRD, 377-9600 . . . .

F I E L D N O T E S

WINTER 1982

Bill Cook

Numerous exotic species in and around our region this season made Winter '81-'82 a most interesting one for the cold weather birder. Temperatures never got as low as last year but the rainy fall persisted as a snowy winter, possibly signaling an end to the drought conditions of the past few years. The snow seemed to intensify feeder activity which included a Dickcissel in Berne, a Pine Warbler in Colonie, a Red-bellied Woodpecker in Amsterdam, a Carolina Wren in Glenville, a mysterious blue-colored grosbeak in Cobleskill, a European Goldfinch in Charlton, and an Ivory Gull, described as the "feeder bird of the century," in Saratoga Springs.

Outside the region, but near enough and regular enough for viewing by many local birders were a Harris' Sparrow in Dutchess Co., a Golden-crowned Sparrow in Holyoke, Mass., and a Hawk Owl in Keene, Essex Co.

An Ivory Gull at a feeder: Yes, and not only that, but the nearest open water was estimated to be a least ten miles away! This unlikely feeder bird appeared near Saratoga Springs on 14 January. It was banded the next day and its wing cord of 342 mm indicated that it was an adult male.

A bird that would more likely be expected at your feeder, assuming that you put out your sunflower seeds in tropical South America, is the Blue-black Grosbeak (Cyanocompsa cyanoides). A blue grosbeak that was not our North American Blue Grosbeak was photographed at Cliff Collins' feeder in Cobleskill on 19 December. The photographs were circulated among local birders, compared to specimens of Blue-black Grosbeak in the State Museum, Albany, sent to the National Museum, Washington, D.C. and to the American Museum of Natural History, New York City. Local lack of expertise with South American birds has left this poor waif unnamed as yet.

No such problems occurred when snapshots of a European Goldfinch were examined. The bird was observed by Paul Hartman at his feeder near Charlton, Saratoga Co. on 10 January. Whereas the tropical grosbeak must be considered an escaped cagebird or stowaway from a banana boat, the goldfinch is potentially a wild bird.

An albinistic House Finch appeared for one day, 4 January,

Field Notes (con't.)

at a feeder in Ghent. Its creamy white body, lacking any streaking, was marked only by a tawny buckskin head and shoulders, somewhat reminiscent of a Snow Bunting.

Albinism may also be behind some noted identification difficulties. Many reports of Hoary Redpoll subjected to the scrutiny of local birders turned out to be light-colored commons. This observer encountered an albinistic Common Redpoll (all white except for the forehead which, lacking melanin, was brilliant pink rather than deep red) in Keene, Essex Co. on 16 February.

Still, some bona fide Hoary Redpolls did invade our region this winter. In addition we were host to multitudes of Pine Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, Snow Buntings, some Pine Siskins, Red Crossbills, White-winged Crossbills, Bohemian Waxwings, Northern Shrikes, Snowy Owls, a Boreal Chickadee, and an irruption of Black-capped Chickadees.

Lesser Black-backed Gulls seem to be becoming commonplace these days and Scott Terrell's report of a first year bird tantilizingly suggests the possibility of this species' breeding in North America.

No less than seven Christmas Bird Counts and the New York State Waterfowl Count held in the Capitol District were submitted for this report, resulting in an abundance of data and a total of 116 species which is 19 more than last winter. One of the more interesting species encountered was the Black-hooded Parakeet from the Alan Devoe count. Was it just an escapee or could it be from that wild population apparently established in Ontario?

SUMMARY OF AREA CHRISTMAS COUNTS AND WATERFOWL COUNT

DATE	COUNT	ABBREVIATION	TOTAL SPECIES	APPROX. NUMBERS	OBSERVERS	PARTY HOURS
19Dec81	Schenectady	SNCBC	59	14500	33	92
19Dec81	Alan Devoe	ADCBC	67	8474	30	103
19Dec81	Cobleskill	COCBC	43	4292	27	
23Dec81	Coxsackie	CXCBC	61	8394	12	37
26Dec81	So. Rennselaer	SRCBC	58	24701	41	
31Dec81	Fort Plains	FPCBC	43	2739	12	64
2Jan82	Troy	TRCBC	51	7891	20	52
10Jan82	Waterfowl	NYSWC	8	2724	12+	28

With 67 species Alan Devoe set a new record for itself; Schenectady tied its record set in 1977 and Cobleskill celebrated its first count.

The influx of numerous northern species indicated reduced food supplies through the winter but rumors of Barred Owls

Field Notes (con't.)

literally falling out of the trees and in broad daylight is a bit disturbing. One such specimen from Glenmont now rests in the Columbia-Greene Community College collection. Disappointing also was the failure to find any Barn Owls on a 15 February search on the Coxsackie Flats.

Lower numbers of wintering kinglets was another negative noted, and no hardy Hermit Thrushes remained around this winter although once again a catbird was found for a Christmas Count.

The reduced food supplies apparently made feeder activity of interest to more than just birders. A Starling at a feeder in Niskayuna became a holiday meal for a Cooper's Hawk on Valentine's Day. A well-fed female Sharp-shinned Hawk fared less well however when a Cobleskill feeder tender fired and felled her. Bill Cleveland, the local Christmas Count compiler, tactfully took some action concerning this inappropriate deed and also had the resourcefulness to ship the frozen hawk to Columbia-Greene.

Duck hunters from Embough Bay in Catskill noted high numbers of Pintail, the presence of unusual species including Oldsquaw and Bufflehead but reduced numbers of Canvasbacks and teal in the 1981 season.

Reports of Lincoln's Sparrow and Whistling Swan were dismissed by the Records Committee as probable immature Swamp Sparrow and Mute Swan based on insufficient supporting evidence.

Good Birding and may the bluebirds blissfully breeding in your backyard afford affection to your avian atlas adventures.

Contributors: Ken Able (KA), V. & B. Able, Douglas Ayres, Roberta Bernstein, Rachael Brody, Arlene & Tom Brown (A&TB), Bob Budliger (BB), Bill Cook, Juanita Cook (JC), Bill Cleveland, Rena Dodd, Kate Dunham, Peter Feinberg, R. Frazier (RF), Barbara & Hugo Gardina (B&HG), M. & A. Giddings (M&AG), Bob Goodrich (BG), Elisabeth Grace, Andrew & Richard Guthrie (RPG), Paul Hebert (PH), Philip Ingalls, Ron Laforce (RL), Betty Laros, William Lee (WL), Elaine Mansell, Tom Palmer (TP), Elsie Powell, Jon Powell (JP), Alice Ross (AR), Walt Sabin (WS), Shirley & Al Schadow (S&AS), Linda and Scott Terrill (L&ST), L. Thomas (LT), M. & B. Ulmer, Peter Worthington (PW), Robert Yunick (RY), all of the Dial-A-Bird reporters and CBC participants.

LOONS-DUCKS: Great Blue Heron: one Collins L. 9 Dec; one Fort Plains 24 Dec. Mute Swan: one CXCBC on Hudson R (BB). Canada Goose: 63 SNCBC; 106 ADCBC; 200 CXCBC; 600 TRCBC; 346 NYSWC; six other reports - total perhaps a thousand birds. Brant: three NYSWC. Snow Goose: one ADCBC; several Tomhannock Res 5 Dec; a blue morph sighted in Cohoes on 28 Feb may be an escapee (PH). Mallard: three SNCBC; 99 ADCBC; two COCBC; 228 CXCBC; 110 SRCBC; 14 FPCBC; 369 TRCBC; 888 NYSWC. Black Duck: 11 SNCBC; 24 ADCBC; 278 CXCBC; 17 SRCBC; 46 TRCBC; 477 NYSWC. Pintail:

Field Notes (Con't.)

four CXCBC; nine NYSWC; a report of 300 on Embough Bay 12-13 Dec with equal numbers of Blacks and Mallards is amazing if accurate (JP). Wood Duck: reported from Ghent and Hudson 13-14 Dec. Redhead: four Cohoes, Mohawk R 19 Jan. (L&ST); five there 25 Jan (S&AS); 12 there 11 Feb (KA,ST). Ring-necked Duck: Hudson 13 Dec (A&TB). Canvasback: 40 NYSWC; 500 Embough Bay Jan 8; 20 there 10 Jan. Greater Scaup: one TRCBC. Lesser Scaup: one SRCBC; two Cohoes 16 Jan. Com Goldeneye: one ADCBC; seven TRCBC; 18 NYSWC; one Cohoes 19 Jan; two New Baltimore 28 Feb. Oldsquaw: one ADCBC; one SRCBC. Com Merganser: two ADCBC; three CXCBC; 50 SRCBC; 11 FPCBC; 40 TRCBC; 78 NYSWC; 50 Cohoes 19 Jan; eight New Baltimore 21-28 Feb displaying courting behavior. Red-breasted Merganser: Tomhannock Res 5 Dec.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Goshawk: two SNCBC; two COCBC; one SRCBC; seven other reports from Chatham Jan-Feb; Coxsackie 15 Feb; Colonie 8 Feb; Guilderland 13 Feb and Albany 20 Feb. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one SNCBC; two ADCBC; five CXCBC; two SRCBC; three TRCBC; one taking a Starling from a Saratoga feeder; four other reports from Charlton 26 Dec, Burnt Hills 23 Jan, Ghent 3 Jan and Cobleskill feeder 30 Jan. Cooper's Hawk:one SNCBC; one ADCBC, one COCBC; one FPCBC; one TRCBC; four other reports from Albany Pine Bush 10 Feb, Niskayuna feeder 14 Feb, Coxsackie 15 Feb and Guilderland picnic table 18 Feb. Red-tailed Hawk: 63 SNCBC; 52 ADCBC; 12 COCBC; 28 CXCBC; 81 SRCBC; 17 FPCBC; 42 TRCBC. Red-shouldered Hawk: one SNCBC. Rough-legged Hawk: nine SNCBC; seven ADCBC; two COCBC; 14 CXCBC; six SRCBC; three FPCBC; one TRCBC; 16 max Coxsackie Flats 13 Feb; one banded there 15 Feb; seven other reports. Bald Eagle: one SRCBC; one adult near Carlisle, Schoharie Co. 15 Jan (RY). Marsh Hawk: two ADCBC; one CXCBC; one Columbia Co. near Hudson R 19 Dec; Hudson 3-7 Jan; two Coxsackie Flats 28 Feb. Merlin: one Ghent 7 Dec a late date (JC). Am. Kestrel: eight SNCBC; 14 ADCBC; eight COCBC; 21 CXCBC; 18 SRCBC; nine FPCBC; four TRCBC; down in numbers on Coxsackie Flats (RPG). Ruffed Grouse: three SNCBC; 12 ADCBC; three COCBC; two CXCBC; eight SRCBC; two FPCBC; 12 TRCBC. Ring-necked Pheasant: three ADCBC; three CXCBC; 13 SRCBC. Turkey: 29 ADCBC; one CXCBC; pair feeding Duanesburg 14-17 Jan; hen with 14 young Craryville cornfield 13 Feb; pair Central Bridge 16 Jan; several other reports from Altamont, Acra and Kinderhook. Com Snipe: one SNCBC. Glaucous Gull: a first year bird at Colonie made the TRCBC; a second year bird was there 10 Feb. Iceland Gull: two Colonie 10 Jan (WL). Great Black-backed Gull: one ADCBC; five CXCBC; five SRCBC; 15 TRCBC. Lesser Black-backed Gull: a third year bird at Colonie 5 Dec (WS)-6 Dec (RL); a first year bird at Cohoes Falls 19 Jan (ST). Herring Gull: 177 SNCBC; 35 ADCBC; 39 CXCBC; 19 SRCBC; one FPCBC; 194 TRCBC. Ring-billed Gull: 44 SNCBC; one ADCBC; 33 CXCBC; 15 SRCBC; vacated Colonie by 19 Jan (RY). Ivory Gull: adult male Coleman feeder Saratoga Springs 14 Jan, photographed and banded 15 Jan (RY).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: 582 SNCBC; 432 ADCBC; 380

Field Notes (Con't.)

COCBC; 264 CXCBC; 2463 SRCBC; 349 FPCBC; 1405 TRCBC. Mourning Dove: 538 SNCBC; 1025 ADCBC; 272 COCBC; 595 CXCBC; 1132 SRCBC; 161 FPCBC; 217 TRCBC. Black-hooded Parakeet: one ADCBC Screech Owl: four SNCBC; one ADCBC; one CXCBC; five SRCBC; three TRCBC; one Colonie Jan 28; one Bramanville, Schoharie Co. thru period; one whistled midday in bright sunshine Coeymans 28 Feb. Great Horned Owl: three SNCBC; two ADCBC; six COCBC; five SRCBC; one TRCBC; three other reports from Niskayuna, Rotterdam, and Ghent. Snowy Owl: one FPCBC; one Niskayuna 16 Dec; one perched on roof in Colonie 6 Feb; one Altamont 20 Feb. Barred Owl: one SNCBC; one ADCBC; one roadkill Glenmont 21 Jan; one Rotterdam 29 Jan. Short-eared Owl: one Fort Plains 1 Jan; three Coxsackie Flats 13 Feb. Saw-whet Owl: one Niskayuna 15 Jan; one roadkill Athens 10 Jan. Belted Kingfisher: five SNCBC; one ADCBC; one COCBC; two CXCBC; three SRCBC; four TRCBC; one New Baltimore 4 Jan and 4 Feb. Com Flicker: nine SNCBC; eight ADCBC; 11 CXCBC; six SRCBC; seven FPCBC; three TRCBC; four reports thru Feb. Pileated Woodpecker: five SNCBC; seven ADCBC; three COCBC; one CXCBC; two SRCBC; three TRCBC; at least 13 other reports. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one CXCBC (RPG); one Scotch Bush, Montgomery Co thru Jan and Feb (TP); one Vosburgh's Marsh 15 Feb (BG); one Greendale 23 Feb (A&TB). Red-headed Woodpecker: two ADCBC (B&HG); one Rotterdam feeder 12 Jan - 1 Feb. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one ADCBC; one SRCBC. Hairy Woodpecker: 45 SNCBC new max; 33 ADCBC; 30 COCBC; eight CXCBC; 36 SRCBC; 17 FPCBC; 14 TRCBC. Downy Woodpecker: 113 SNCBC; 102 ADCBC; 54 COCBC; 44 CXCBC; 133 SRCBC; 41 FPCBC; 68 TRCBC.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Phoebe: one ADCBC New Baltimore (RPG). Horned Lark: 12 SNCBC; 833 ADCBC; 31 COCBC; 240 CXCBC 127 SRCBC; 215 FPCBC; 101 TRCBC. Blue Jay: 512 SNCBC; 360 ADCBC; 288 COCBC; 133 CXCBC; 549 SRCBC; 87 FPCBC; 312 TRCBC. Com Raven: Berlin, Rensselaer Co 7 Dec (AR). Com Crow: 1443 SNCBC; 431 ADCBC; 246 COCBC; 186 CXCBC; 1070 SRCBC; 48 FPCBC; 269 TRCBC. Black-capped Chickadee: 805 SNCBC; 309 ADCBC; 444 COCBC; 151 CXCBC; 633 SRCBC; 172 FPCBC; 379 TRCBC. Boreal Chickadee: one came daily to a feeder in Hagadorn Mills, Saratoga Co. 13 Feb (fide Bob Kirker). Tufted Titmouse: 64 ADCBC; 21 COCBC; 28 CXCBC; 74 SRCBC; seven FPCBC; 36 TRCBC. White-breasted Nuthatch: 87 SNCBC; 53 ADCBC; 54 COCBC; 33 CXCBC; 121 SRCBC; 21 FPCBC; 49 TRCBC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: ten SNCBC; three ADCBC; four COCBC; four CXCBC; one SRCBC; one FPCBC; five TRCBC; scarce compared to last year's invasion (RY). Brown Creeper: four SNCBC; one ADCBC; two COCBC; three CXCBC; nine SRCBC; one FPCBC; three TRCBC; becoming more common locally in the winter (RPG). Winter Wren: one CXCBC. Carolina Wren: one CXCBC; one Glenville feeder 16-21 Jan (RY). Mockingbird: 55 SNCBC; 37 ADCBC; one COCBC; 36 CXCBC; 65 SRCBC; two FPCBC; 29 TRCBC. Gray Catbird: one SNCBC. Brown Thrasher: one Amsterdam 2 Jan (TP). one Niskayuna 11 Jan (RY). Am Robin: 33 SNCBC; 135 ADCBC; ten COCBC; 373 CXCBC; 206 SRCBC; three FPCBC; seven TRCBC. E. Bluebird: seven SNCBC; 32 ADCBC; three CXCBC; eight SRCBC; two Ravena 24

Field Notes (Con't.)

Dec-16 Jan; male investigating house Central Bridge 27 Feb; four Unionville 1-26 Feb; six Voorheesville 6-14 Feb; one male, two females Acra 25 Feb; 21 more reports include Charlton, Altamont, Earlton, and Castleton. Golden-crowned Kinglet: one CXCBC; Castleton 1-3 Jan. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one Cobleskill feeder 17 Jan; one Cohoes 15 Feb. Bohemian Waxwing: 40 near W. Charlton 12-19 Jan (RY,#). Cedar Waxwing: one ADCBC; 60 CXCBC; four SRCBC; only four other reports indicate lower numbers locally this winter. N. Shrike: one SNCBC; two CXCBC; one Guilderland Center thru period (KA); one Amsterdam 27 Dec (TP); immature Albany 1 Jan; adult Coxsackie 5 Feb; one Glenville 9 Dec (PW). Starling: 6813 SNCBC new max; 1248 ADCBC; 497 COCBC; 1341 CXCBC; 14,216 SRCBC; 356 FPCBC; 1388 TRCBC.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: one Central Bridge feeder 1-8 Jan; one Catskill 10 Jan. Pine Warbler: one Colonie feeder 22 Dec-17 Jan (LT).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: 859 SNCBC; 838 ADCBC; 523 COCBC; 327 CXCBC; 813 SRCBC; 141 FPCBC; 845 TRCBC. E. Meadowlark: one SNCBC; 25 ADCBC; two COCBC; nine CXCBC; one FPCBC. Red-winged Blackbird: one SNCBC; eight ADCBC; four SRCBC; one TRCBC; female Rensselaer 19 Feb (RPG). Rusty Blackbird: two males and two females at Hagadorn Mills 2-12 Jan (KA). Com Grackle: two SNCBC; one ADCBC; one SRCBC; Castleton Dec-Jan; Rensselaer feeder 23 Feb. Brown-headed Cowbird: 14 SNCBC; 19 ADCBC; six CXCBC; 160 SRCBC; ten FPCBC. Cardinal: 257 SNCBC new max; 164 ADCBC; 35 COCBC; 25 CXCBC; 157 SRCBC; 23 FPCBC; 86 TRCBC. Blue-black Grosbeak (?): COCBC. Dickcissel: one FPCBC at Palatine Bridge feeder 24 Nov-20 Jan (RF); one Berne feeder 25 Nov-17 Jan (KA,#). Evening Grosbeak: 261 SNCBC; 364 ADCBC; 515 COCBC; 78 CXCBC; 619 SRCBC; 323 FPCBC; 169 TRCBC; ten other reports total 400 individuals; two banded with lower numbers at Jenny L. Purple Finch: seven SNCBC; 12 ADCBC; 46 COCBC; one CXCBC; nine SRCBC; four FPCBC; six TRCBC. House Finch: 250 SNCBC; 273 ADCBC; 137 COCBC; 104 CXCBC; 274 SRCBC; 35 FPCBC; 190 TRCBC. Pine Grosbeak: 69 SNCBC; 81 ADCBC; 122 COCBC; five CXCBC; 155 SRCBC; 14 FPCBC; 127 TRCBC; nearly 30 other reports attest to widespread invasion; max 20 Fuera Bush 20 Dec. Hoary Redpoll: female Altamont 14-28 Feb (ST). Com Redpoll: 210 SNCBC; five ADCBC; 43 COCBC; 223 SRCBC; three FPCBC; 136 TRCBC; 14+ reports with max of 60 East Greenbush 12 Feb; one banded Schenectady 13 Feb. Pine Siskin: 45 SNCBC; one ADCBC; two COCBC; 20 TRCBC; nine other reports but considered scarce with max of eight Burnt Hills 1-15 Feb. European Goldfinch: one Charlton feeder 10 Jan (RY). Am Goldfinch: 192 SNCBC; 147 ADCBC; 100 COCBC; 39 CXCBC; 320 SRCBC; 36 FPCBC; 102 TRCBC: perhaps our most abundant feeder bird (RY). Red Crossbill: two SNCBC; one SRCBC; five in flight Jenny L 5 Dec; one Malta feeder mid Jan; small flock Delmar 27 Jan; one Altamont 10 Feb. White-winged Crossbill: six Burnt Hills 21 Jan (S&AS); Hudson 17-28 Feb (A&TB); one unconfirmed Galway L 17 Feb (RL). Rufous-sided Towhee: one COCBC; one unconfirmed near Schagticoke 1 Feb. Savannah Sparrow: one FPCBC. Dark-eyed Junco: 171 SNCBC; 445

Field Notes (con't.)

ADCBC; 73 COCBC; 125 CXCBC; 252 SRCBC; 22 FPCBC; 166 TRCBC; one "Oregon"subspecies Schenectady 23-30 Jan (PW). Tree Sparrow: 256 SNCBC; 345 ADCBC; 165 COCBC; 123 CXCBC; 359 SRCBC; 137 FPCBC: 357 TRCBC; a male banded at New Baltimore 24 Nov 78 was recaptured 23 Jan 82. Field Sparrow: one SNCBC; one CXCBC; one SRCBC; after six years Bill Gorman's winter visitor did not return. White-crowned Sparrow: one FPCBC; Chatham Center 1-13 Feb (M&AG). White-throated Sparrow: 67 SNCBC; 102 ADCBC; 24 COCBC; 308 CXCBC; 44 SRCBC; 20 FPCBC; 35 TRCBC. Swamp Sparrow: one ADCBC; four CXCBC; one TRCBC; Ghent thru Jan (B&HG). Song Sparrow: 30 SNCBC; 17 ADCBC; nine COCBC; 14 CXCBC; 23 SRCBC; three FPCBC; 17 TRCBC. Lapland Longspur: two ADCBC; two CXCBC; one Coxsackie 17 Jan; three there 13 Feb (RPG). Snow Bunting: 100 SNCBC; 105 ADCBC; 47 COCBC; 61 CXCBC; 15 SRCBC; 479 FPCBC; 14 other reports with max of 2000 Coxsackie 28 Feb.

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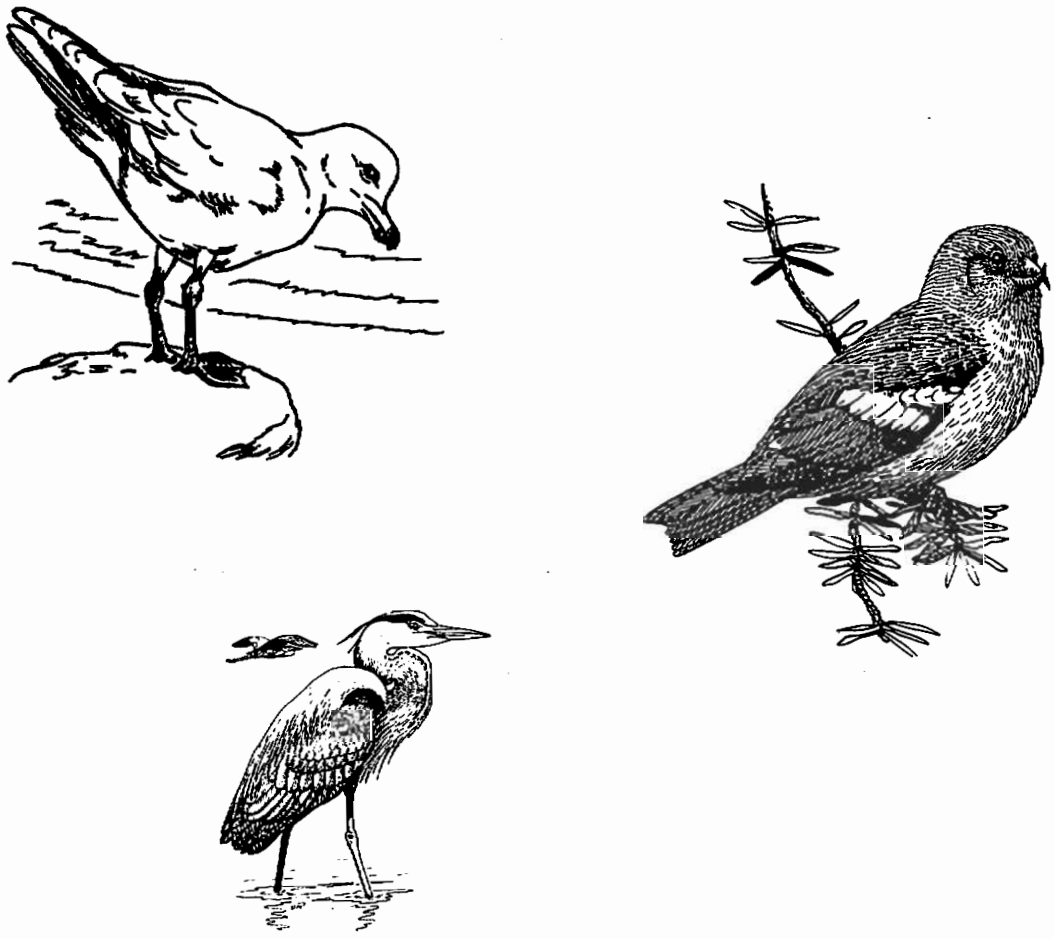


Ivory Gull by Lynn Dingman, local artist

HIGHEST TALLY OF INDIVIDUAL BIRDS EVER ON 52nd ANNUAL SCHENECTADY CHRISTMAS COUNT

by William J. Lee

Highest tally of individual birds ever; record high of 59 species is tied; 4 species set new highs; 11 species tied or set new 2nd place counts, participants also at record high.

The 1981 Schenectady Christmas Bird Count on December 19, 1981, with almost 15,000 individuals counted, set an all time record high count for its 52 years and tied the record high of 59 species set in 1977. Record high numbers of Red-tailed Hawk (1 more than the record set last year), Hairy Woodpecker, Starling, and Cardinal were seen. Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Mockingbird, Rock and Mourning Doves, Evening Grosbeak, and House Finch tied or exceeded previous 2nd place records. Among the best finds were Red-shouldered Hawk, last recorded in 1977 and only the second time since 1960; Common Snipe, last recorded in 1979 and Barred Owl, the first since 1968 and only the second record since 1947.

Waterfowl were few with Canada Geese recorded for the fifth time. Horned Lark appeared for only the 3rd time in the past ten years, having been recorded in 1977 and 1980. Catbird was recorded for the fifth time, with its most recent appearances in 1971 and 1977, as was Red Crossbill which also was last seen in 1977. Field and Fox Sparrows were recorded for the 4th time, although it was the second consecutive year for Field Sparrow. Two of the three previous records of Fox Sparrow were also of three birds, in 1944 and 1963, although it hasn't been recorded since 1972. Winter finches were fairly abundant with the highest count of Common Redpoll since 1969. Common Redpoll were tallied for the 5th time and Snow Bunting for the 4th time in the past ten years. White-throated Sparrows and Robins were scarce with the lowest counts since 1975 and 1976, respectively. Cedar Waxwing was missed for the first time since 1975, but the Eastern Bluebird count of 7 was the highest in more than 30 years, since 1950 when 20 were seen. Eastern Meadowlark made up for the absent Waxwing, turning up for the first time since 1975. Warblers were missing for the 3rd consecutive year since two species were recorded in 1979. No Wrens or members of the thrush family other than Robin and Bluebird were found. Snowy Owl and Pine Warbler were seen during Count Week but not on Count Day.

Schenectady Christmas Count (con't.)

The thirty-three observers encountered deep snow with drifts making travel afoot almost impossible except by skis or snowshoes. Despite the difficult conditions, the record high individual and tied species counts indicate that a new record of 60 or more will only be a matter of time. Perhaps next year?

Schenectady,N.Y. (42° 45'N, 73° 55'W); 15 mile circle centered at Lydius Street and Lone Pine Road in Guilderland; December 19, 1981; 5:25 am to 4:45 pm; AM Clear to occasionally cloudy, PM Mostly clear; Temperature +3° to +20°F; Wind, W, 0-9 MPH; Snow cover 20-28" with drifts waist deep; Water, ponds and rivers frozen, some streams and portions of Mohawk R partially open; Wild food crop, poor to fair; Forty-nine observers, 33 in 10 parties, 17 at feeders (1 in field and at feeder); total party hours, 91½ (40.25 afoot, 51.25 by car), hours at feeders unknown. Total party miles, 535 3/4 (32 3/4 afoot, 503 by car).

Key to Groups: Group A: Robert P. Yunick, Ronald P. Laforce, Robert L. Marx, and Karen Randell. South shore of Mohawk River from Niskayuna Landfill to Mohawk View including River and Rosendale Roads, GE Research and Development Center, Craig School, Lock 7. 6:15 am to 2:30 p.m. 6 miles afoot; 35 miles by car. 6 3/4 hours afoot; 1½ by car.

Group B: William Lee, Ann B'Rells, Paul Hebert. Route 7 south to Washington Avenue Extension east of Rt 155 including Albany Airport, Ann Lee Pond, Shaker Farm, Memory Gardens, State Office and SUNY Campuses, Karner Road. 7:45 am to 4:45 pm. 2 miles afoot; 51 miles by car. 2 hours afoot; 6 hours by car. Snow Bunting.

Group C: Robert Budliger, Alice Ross, James and Wendy Suozzo. Reist Sanctuary, Central Park, Colonie Golf Course, portion of Pine Bush north of Thruway and west of Rt 155. 7:00 am to 3:00 pm. 1 mile afoot; 27 miles by car. 2 hours afoot; 6 hours by car.

Group D: Alan and Lois Schroeder, John Hughes. Karner Road-Pine Bush south of Thruway, Old State Road, Watervliet Reservoir. 6:00 am to 4:30 pm. 5 miles afoot; 84 by car. 3 hours afoot; 7½ by car. Canada Goose, Common Snipe, Horned Lark.

Group E: Walt Sabin, Bill Brooks, Mike Crevier. Black Creek Marsh, Meadowdale, Krumkill, and points between Vorheesville and Altamont. 7:10 am to 4:10 pm. 3 miles afoot; 64 miles by car. 1½ hours afoot; 7½ by car. Cooper's Hawk.

Group F: Kenneth P. Able, Jeff Cherry, Elizabeth Marschall, Scott Terrill. Altamont, Settles Hill, and a portion of Princetown, area west of Rt 158, Gardner Road and Rt 146. 7:00 am to 4:00 pm. 1½ miles afoot; 76 by car. 2½ hours afoot; 6½ hours

Christmas Count (con't.)

by car. Barred Owl, Northern Shrike, Red-winged Blackbird.

Group G: Bernard Grossman, Arthur Garland, and Peter Worthington. Parts of Scotia including Collins Lake, parts of Rotterdam, Princetown, and Duanesburg. 6:20 am to 3:00 pm. 1 3/4 miles afoot; 81 by car. 2 hours afoot; 6½ hours by car. Red-shouldered Hawk, Eastern Meadowlark, Field Sparrow.

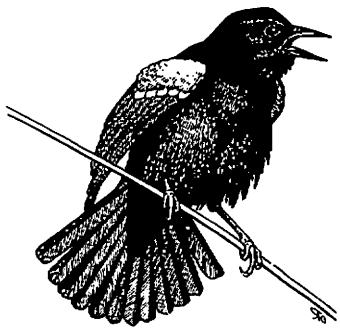
Group H: Douglass and Judith Allen, Carol and James D'Aleo. Vail Cemetery and Park, south side of Mohawk River from Schenectady County Community College to west of Lock 8. Campbell, Putnam, Schemerhorn, and Gordon Roads area. 5:25 am to 4:25 pm. 11 miles afoot; 58 by car. 11 hours afoot, 5 hours by car--some as separate parties.

Group I: Hank Stebbins and Nancy Slack. Schenectady County Airport, Alplaus Kill, north side of Mohawk River, Mohawk and Maple Avenues, Alplaus Road. 8:00-11 am; 2:00-3:00 pm. 1 mile afoot; 5 miles by car. 2 hours afoot, 1 hour by car.

Group J: Alfred, Shirley, and John Schadow. North side of Mohawk River from Rexford to Count Boundary west of Vischer's Ferry. 8:15 to 10:30 am; 1:15 to 3:15 pm. ½ mile afoot; 22 miles by car. ½ hour afoot; 3 3/4 hours by car. Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Feeder Watchers: Katherine Angell, Mary Becker, Dawn Force, Jean Hadley, Barry Havens, and friends (Messrs Keseberg, Safford, and McTaggert), Hal and Grace Jonson, Carolyn Laforce, Arthur Long, Ann Sklar, Eleanor Temple, Ann Thompson, Beverly Waite, Robert Yunick. Catbird, Fox Sparrow.

* * * * * *



SCHENECTADY CHRISTMAS COUNT
December 19, 1981

Species	Groups											Totals
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	FW	
Canada Goose				63								63
Mallard				1				1	1			3
Black Duck				6				5				11
Goshawk			1			1						2
Sharp-shinned Hawk										1		1
Cooper's Hawk					1							1
Red-tailed Hawk	5	13	1	6	15	7	4	3	2	3	3	62
Red-shouldered Hawk							1					1
Rough-legged Hawk	1				4	1	1	2				9
American Kestrel		2	2	1		1	1	1				8
Ruffed Grouse	1			1		1						3
Common Snipe				1								1
Herring Gull	89			16			11	54	7			177
Ring-billed Gull	1						41	1		1		44
Unidentified Gull										2		2
Rock Dove	26	93	2	98	70	4	110	110	10	59		582
Mourning Dove	66	37	40	40	148	17	69	7		90	124	638
Screech Owl						1		3				4
Great Horned Owl	1			1		1						3
Barred Owl						1						1
Belted Kingfisher	2	1		2								5
Common Flicker					8	1						9
Pileated Woodpecker	1		1	1		1					1	5
Hairy Woodpecker	5		5	1	5	4	5	3			17	45
Downy Woodpecker	14	5	7	10	12	19	4	10		4	28	113
Horned Lark				12								12
Blue Jay	37	58	48	58	83	39	60	42	3	16	68	512
Common Crow	525	23	16	69	268	18	140	281	1	100	2	1,443
Bl-capped Chickadee	93	31	66	31	119	171	56	92	8	44	94	805
Tufted Titmouse	6	3	14	10	14	11	6	11			30	105

Schenectady Christmas Count (Con't.)

Species	Groups											
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	FW	Totals
Wh-br Nuthatch	11	5	10	5	7	12	3	12		3	19	88
Red-br Nuthatch				1		3					6	10
Brown Creeper	1						1			1	1	4
Mockingbird	7		4	3	14	13	3	3		1	17	55
Catbird											1	1
Robin	7			1	2	11		12				33
Eastern Bluebird						4					3	7
Northern Shrike						1						1
Starling	731	2130	62	314	545	88	252	2548	83	8	52	6813
House Sparrow	78	84	93	82	165	117	95	63		38	44	859
E. Meadowlark							1					1
Red-winged Blackbird						1						1
Common Grackle		1			1							2
Brown-headed Cowbird				2		12						14
Cardinal	31	16	17	18	32	20	15	15	1	5	87	257
Evening Grosbeak			2	65	9	108	19	10			48	261
Purple Finch							6	1				7
House Finch	4	2	5	35	23	26	51	39		17	48	250
Pine Grosbeak				7	6	54	2					69
Common Redpoll	49	125		28		1					7	210
Pine Siskin		12	30			1	2					45
Am Goldfinch	6	15	6	26	4	36	7	34		5	53	192
Red Crossbill			1			1						2
Dark-eyed Junco	5	16	14	21	13	12	24	6		10	50	171
Tree Sparrow	11	62	20	5	31	67	11	16		1	32	256
Field Sparrow							1					1
Wh-thr Sparrow	2			2	15	11	3	4		5	25	67
Fox Sparrow											3	3
Song Sparrow	2	1		3	6		1	11			6	30
Snow Bunting		100										100

CENTURY RUN ADDITION

A twelfth group (Group L: K. Able, J. Cherry, L. and S. Terrill) whose report was received too late to include in the count summary accounted for 148 species, a new group record surpassing a previous high of 134 in 1981.

Group L was afield 23 hours from midnight to 2300 and added six species (Least Bittern, Hooded Merganser, Merlin (only fourth record), Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Water Pipit to the composite list for a total of 176 that ranks second to 1980's record 180. Areas covered: Berne, Partridge Run, 5-Rivers, Black Cr Marsh, Thacher Park, Basic Cr & Alcove Res, Coxsackie, Catskill, Pine Bush, Saratoga Lake.

Species seen: Common Loon, Red-throated Loon, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Least Bittern, American Bittern, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Goshawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Merlin, American Kestrel, Ruffed Grouse, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Gallinule, Killdeer, American Woodcock, Common Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Semi-palmated Sandpiper, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Gre Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Winter Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Veery, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Yellow-throated Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Canada Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak,

.....SPECIAL NOTICE. . . SPECIAL NOTICE. . . . SPECIAL NOTICE

POINT PELEE FIELD TRIP

The Club is sponsoring a trip to Point Pelee on May 13/14, 1983. Accommodations are very limited and will be accepted on a first-call basis. Please call the coordinator as soon as possible as an early commitment is necessary in order to reserve rooms.

If there is enough interest (sufficient waiting list), additional accommodations may be secured. The deadline for these additional rooms is December 15, 1982.

Coordinator: Bob Kirker
1/518/587-1460, between
6-9:30 pm.

. . .SPECIAL NOTICE. . . SPECIAL NOTICE. . . . SPECIAL NOTICE

* * * * * * *

Century Run Addition (Concluded)

Indigo Bunting, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

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Spring
1982

FEATHERS

Shirley Schadow, Editor
230 Lake Hill Road
Burnt Hills, NY 12027

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Membership: Life, $150; Sustaining, $15; Active, $10, Student, $5; each per year with an additional charge of $2 per additional family member. Write or call Membership Chairman: Mrs. Ronald Laforce, 5 St. Joseph St., Schenectady, NY 12303; 518/372-0504.

HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.: William Shuster, President; Ronald Laforce, Vice-President; Peter Worthington, Treasurer; Alice Ross, Secretary.

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Vol. 44
No. 3

FEATHERS

SUMMER
1982

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE HUDSON-MOHAWK BIRD CLUB, INC.

DONALD A. MCCRIMMON, Ph.D.

Speaker at Annual Meeting

Dr. Donald A. McCrimmon, Director, Colonial Bird Register, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, was the guest speaker at our Annual Meeting held on April 22, 1982 at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar.

Dr. McCrimmon presented a slide-illustrated talk on the status and distribution of the Great Blue Heron in New York State. He elaborated on the background to his study: Many naturalists expressed concern regarding this colonial bird's ability to sustain population figures. Other studies previous to that of Dr. McCrimmon had been carried on. Through misfortune some of the original data has been misplaced. The surveys had been conducted from the ground and the information did not always contain reference to active nests or were the same heronries reported in succeeding years. Dr. McCrimmon's survey was from the air with the pilot and assistants helping to count nests, active or inactive. Some heronries are in inaccessible areas and had not been counted heretofore because of their being in out-of-the ways places.

Active heronries were identified in the central and western parts of New York State and in the peripheral areas of the Adirondacks and the Catskills. At this point in time it seems that the Great Blue Heron is doing well in New York State in the upland deciduous forests and swamps, with the greater populations being found from Madison and Chenango Counties west to Chautaugua County.

A note of caution was noted when Dr. McCrimmon commented that, while some agricultural lands are becoming reforested, woodcutting near heronries and the increase in the level of acid rain may have a detrimental effect on future populations of *Ardea herodias*.

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ELECTED FOR COMING YEAR

William Shuster, President; Ronald Laforce, Vice-President; Peter Worthington, Treasurer; Alice Ross, Secretary. Directors: Kenneth Able, Robert Budliger, Richard Guthrie, William Lee, Alfred Schadow.

F I E L D N O T E S

Spring 1982

By Bill Cook

Winter held a firm grip on our region until 12 March when bright sunshine and warm air suddenly released the first flows of melting snow and spring migrants. 74 crows streamed past Columbia-Greene Community College in blackbird formation that day and Killdeer returned to their breeding ground in Ghent on 13 March exactly one month earlier than last year. Robins arrived in Schenectady en masse a few days later and by the 17th the annual procession of blackbirds could be viewed along the Hudson River at the Rip Van Winkle Bridge.

With a bleary-eyed inspection of the morning weather on 6 April one could have felt oneself to be taking the brunt of a belated April Fool's joke. But that was just the beginning of a storm of blizzard proportions that besieged our area for two days, dropped an average of 18 inches of snow, drove frenzied birds to feeders in desperation and littered the highways with those less fortunate. A month later heavy flights were noted with the hot weather of 11-13 May.

Highlights of the season include a Caspian Tern in Niskayuna, numbers of loons and grebes, Common Ravens nesting at Lake George, a resident Red-bellied Woodpecker at Ken Able's feeder, Prothonotary Warblers possibly breeding at Black Creek Marsh, both "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" Warblers reported and Chimney Swifts returning on schedule to Lake Luzerne on 6 May for their annual welcoming celebration.

Among the 18 species reported exclusively on the 15 May Century Run were White-rumped Sandpiper and Merlin. Upland Sandpiper and Worm-eating Warbler also made the list again but among the missing were Short-billed Marsh Wren and Cerulean Warbler so that the total count for the season was down from last year's 212 to 207. This report includes records from 12 groups, 11 from the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club and one from Schoharie County.

A Mourning Warbler banded by Bob Yunick at Vischer's Ferry and another banded by Dick Guthrie in New Baltimore had incomplete eye rings suggesting MacGillivray's Warbler. Both banders checked identification with wing measurements and were impressed by the persistence of this juvenile characteristic in an "After hatch year" bird. Banding activities have also indicated that House Finches may be decreasing in suburban areas while increasing in atypical habitat away from buildings. Banding records in this report are totals from Vischer's Ferry, Schenectady, Jenny Lake

Field Notes (con't.)

and New Baltimore.

The single Henslow's Sparrow found at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar on 1 May unfortunately did not stay. This possibly signals an end to this previously productive colony. Reproductive difficulty is also suspected when all of the male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks banded and sighted at Vischer's Ferry were adults with no second year males in evidence. Further, Osprey numbers were notably down on the Hudson River and the only Barn Owl reported was a bird found dead in a barn during the Century Run in Coxsackie.

In keeping with past reports of trivia we present the albino and celebrity birds of the season. The albino of the season is an American Robin who retained its red breast for an appearance in Tannersville in late May while the celebrity of the season is a female Red-necked Grebe who had local news coverage after she was grounded at Schenectady on 4 March. She was banded on 9 March and subsequently flown to Long Island for release to the amusement of local birders who expected to soon be seeing this disgruntled bird wearily retracing her northward path.

In perhaps another dramatic demonstration of the incompatability of human technology with wildlife, a Great Horned Owl was found in a state of self-inflicted crucifixion with wings outstretched and impaled on a barbed wire fence. According to Doug Bush of Catskill, who found and released the greatly weakened bird, it had hit the fence with enough force to spin the bird thus wrapping the skin of the wings tightly around the wire. Apparently it isn't only the high towers that take a toll.

Good Birding and may a Golden Plover plop into your clover.

Abbreviations: CR-Century Run 15 May, followed by a number indicating the number of groups reporting that species. HR-Hudson River between Albany and Hudson. NB-New Baltimore.

Contributors: V. & B. Able, V. Austen (VA), Roberta Bernstein, Fran Bogausch, Rachael Brody, Arlene & Tom Brown (A&TB), William Cleveland, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Juanita Cook (JC), Rena Dodd, Kate Dunham, Norman Fancher (NF), Peter Feinberg, Bargara & Hugo Gardina, Elisabeth Grace, Monte Gruett, Andrew & Richard Guthrie (RG), Philip Ingalls, Ronald & Carolyn Laforce, Betty Laros, E. Mansell, Elsie Powell, Alice Ross (AR), Walt Sabin, Shirley and Al Schadow, Emmy Thomee (ET), M. & B. Ulmer, Robert Yunick (RY), and all of the Century Run participants.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com Loon: CR three; one Hudson 12 Apr; 15 Saratoga 24 Apr. A flock of five Red-throated Loons at Saratoga L was found by three CR groups. Red-necked Grebe: CR one Saratoga; female Schenectady 4 Mar; two Saratoga 24 Apr. Horned Grebe:

Field Notes (con't.)

one HR 3 Apr; one NB in May. Pied-billed Grebe: CR one; HR 25 Mar; two Stony Creek Res 4-11 Apr; one Schoharie 11 Apr. Double-crested Cormorant: CR two; Germantown 14-24 Apr. Great Blue Heron: CR six; seven reports max seven Schoharie 11 Apr. Green Heron: CR eight; seven reports earliest Ghent 22 Apr. A Cattle Egret seen in Ellsmere, Albany Co. among some dairy cows on 30 May is the first regional report since the fall of 1979. Black-crowned Night Heron: one NB early May. Am Bittern: CR six. Canada Goose: CR nine; fledged young Manorton 10 May; 20 reports max 200 Schoharie Apr. Brant: CR one; several flocks of 30 or more flew over NB especially at night in May. Snow Goose: 25 migrating over Schodack 3 Apr; two Saratoga 4 Apr; Hudson 25 Mar. Mallard: CR 12; two breeding pairs Jenny L; 30 reports max 400 HR 3 Apr. Black Duck: CR eight; 25 reports max 300 HR 3 Apr. Gadwall: two Coeymans 14 Apr; Stockport 27 Mar; two Watervliet Res 5 Apr. Pintail: nine reports max 16 Stony Creek Res 10 Apr. Green-winged Teal: CR one; ten reports max 4 Mohawk R 28 Mar. Blue-winged Teal: CR three; nine reports max eight Saratoga 24 Apr. Am wigeon: ten reports max five Stony Creek Res 10 Apr. Wood Duck: CR nine; 15 reports max ten Stony Creek Res 10 Apr. Redhead: Hudson 10-29 Mar; one Embough Bay 30 Mar; one Stuyvesant 3-26 Apr. Ring-necked Duck: 12 reports max 66 HR 3 Apr. Canvasback: CR two; four reports max 81 HR 3 Apr. Greater Scaup: CR one at Embough Bay: nine reports max ten Saratoga 24 Apr. Lesser Scaup: CR one at Niskayuna; Stuyvesant 10 Apr. Com Goldeneye: CR one; 12 reports max 14 HR 3 Apr. Bufflehead: 12 reports max 25 Saratoga 24 Apr. White-winged Scoter: CR one; one NB 21 Mar. Hooded Merganser: 17 reports max 12 Embough Bay 30 Mar. Com Merganser: CR two; possibly nesting at Jenny L; 15 reports in Mar and Apr max 40 NB. Red-breasted Merganser: CR one; one NB Mar; three Saratoga 24 Apr.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: CR seven; 15 reports beginning with one at Chatham 20 Mar. Goshawk: CR one; one NB 20 Mar. Sharp-shinned Hawk: CR two; 11 individuals reported thru period. Cooper's Hawk: CR two; eight individuals thru period. Red-tailed Hawk CR 10; 15 reports max six HR 3 Apr. Red-shouldered Hawk: CR two. Broad-winged Hawk: CR three; courtship flight Jenny L 30 May six reports. Rough-legged Hawk: four reports latest Chatham 14 Apr (ET). Bald Eagle: Castleton 14 Apr (JC). Marsh Hawk: CR one; nine reports thru period. Osprey: CR four; 11 reports max eight NB late Apr. Ken Able saw the only Merlin for the period on 15 May. Am Kestrel: CR 11; 16 reports thru period. Ruffed Grouse: CR seven; 12 reports max five Central Bridge May. Bobwhite: CR one; Castleton 30 Mar; one Glenville 12 Apr. Ring-necked Pheasant: CR three; 11 reports; numbers down in Hollowville according to one resident. Turkey: reported consistently in Col Co thru period. Virginia Rail: CR eight. Sora: CR three. Com Gallinule: CR four. Am Coot: Hudson 18 Mar. Killdeer: CR ten; 18 reports; fledgling Charlton 20 May. Am Woodcock: CR six; 15 reports; a display flight was observed by an evening biology

Field Notes (con't.)

class at Columbia-Greene Com Coll on 12 Apr and a nest with four eggs was discovered by another class two days later. Com Snipe: CR six; Castleton 26 Apr. Upland Sandpiper: CR three. Spotted Sandpiper: CR nine; several Schoharie in May; one Schodack 29 May. Solitary Sandpiper: CR six;Ghent 30 Apr; four Manorton 10 May; three Sharon 15 May for the CR. Greater Yellowlegs: CR two; four Embough Bay 17 Apr; two Manorton 10 May; two Seward 14 May. Lesser Yellowlegs: CR one; Castleton 26-29 Apr. four Manorton 10 May. Pectoral Sandpiper: one Castleton 2 Apr; Stockport 18 Mar. White-rumped Sandpiper: CR one. Least Sandpiper: CR five; ten Manorton 10 May. Semi-palmated Sandpiper: CR one. Great Black-backed Gull: CR six; ten reports max 11 HR 3 Apr. Herring Gull: CR six; 15 reports max 200 Duanesburg 20 Mar. Ring-billed Gull: CR seven; at least ten flocks of several hundred were found in fields and landfills in Columbia and Greene Cos. in late Mar, max 500 Claverack 21 Mar. Bonaparte's Gull: CR one; 45 Embough Bay 17 Apr; eight Saratoga 24 Apr. Com Tern: one NB 10 May. Caspian Tern: one Niskayuna 14 May (RG). Black Tern: CR one.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: CR 11. Mourning Dove: CR 12; possibly breeding in atypical habitat, forest clearing 1250 feet Jenny L; banded three. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one NB 9 May. Black-billed Cuckoo: CR six; five reports earliest NB 12 May. Screech Owl: CR five; two reports in Mar and two found dead on the highway Vischer Ferry 12 Mar. and NB 11 Apr. Great Horned Owl: CR nine; two young Albany 13 May; eight reports thru period. Barred Owl: CR three; Kinderhook 9 Mar. Whip-poor-will: CR two; two Albany 13 May; NB 15-30 May. Com Nighthawk: CR three. Chimney Swift: CR 12;nine reports beginning Niskayuna 26 Apr. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: only a few at Jenny L in May; one Leeds late May. Belted Kingfisher: CR ten; nine reports beginning with two HR 3 Apr. Com Flicker: CR ten; 16 reports; banded six. Pileated Woodpecker: CR nine; 12 reports max two Saratoga 24 Apr. Red-bellied Woodpecker: Ken Able's feeder bird was tallied by two CR participants; Hudson 24 Mar-21 Apr (A&TB). Red-headed Woodpecker: CR three; five reports. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: CR eight including one in Seward; Chatham 8-15 Apr; Albany 30 May. Hairy Woodpecker: CR 11; 11 reports; banded four. Downy Woodpecker: CR 11; 15 reports; banded three.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: E. Kingbird: CR 11; two reports in May. Great Crested Flycatcher: CR ten; three reports max four Central Bridge May; banded one. E. Phoebe: CR one; 13 reports with at least three from Columbia Co in Mar. Willow Flycatcher: CR one; one Schodack 29 May. Alder Flycatcher: CR three; banded three Traill's Flycatchers. Least Flycatcher: CR 12 four reports; banded seven. E. Wood Pewee: CR five; three reports max three Schodack 29 May. Horned Lark: CR two; Ghent Mar; Castleton thru 13 Apr. Tree Swallow: CR 12 nesting Jenny L; 12 reports earliest three HR 3 Apr. Bank Swallow: CR 12; active nesting

Field Notes (con't.)

colony found in sand quarry Livingston 10 May; seven Saratoga 24 Apr. Rough-winged Swallow: CR 10; seven reports beginning Apr. Barn Swallow: CR 11; several Central Bridge 18 Apr. Cliff Swallow: CR three. Purple Martin: CR three. Blue Jay: CR 12; banded 24. Com Raven: nesting at Tongue Mountain, Lake George (RG). Com Crow: CR 12; max 74 Hudson 12 Mar. Fish Crow: two NB early May (RG). Black-capped Chickadee: CR 11; wintering Jenny L. numbers declined rapidly in April where 147 were banded over the winter, second only to last year's record invasion; a chickadee with a white crown and bill and reduced bib was seen in Greenville 5 May (RG). Tufted Titmouse: CR ten; 13 reports. White-breasted Nuthatch: CR 12; 15 reports; banded one. Red-breasted Nuthatch: CR six; did not invade for two years in a row as did the chickadees; banded eight. Brown Creeper: CR four; Castleton 29 Mar; Canaan 31 Mar; Spencertown 13 Apr. House Wren: CR 12; eight reports max four Central Bridge 28 Apr; banded three. Winter Wren: CR one; E. Poestenkill 2 May (AR). Long-billed Marsh Wren: CR six. Mockingbird: CR eight; ten reports. Gray Catbird: CR 12; banded 70. Brown Thrasher: CR ten; ten reports earliest Hudson 6 Mar. Am Robin: CR 12; major spring arrivals 15-30 Mar; banded 31. Wood Thrush: CR 12; singing in Blue Stores 10 May. Hermit Thrush: CR six; earliest one Central Bridge 14 Apr; banded one. Swainson's Thrush: CR four; banded eight in May. Gray-cheeked Thrush: CR one; banded two in May. Veery: CR ten; earliest one Hudson 3 May; banded 13. E. Bluebird: CR nine; 12 reports max 15 Central Bridge Apr where visiting a nestbox. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: CR ten; six reports earliest Embough Bay 17 Apr; max four Schodack 29 May. Golden-crowned Kinglet; several Central Bridge 11 Apr; Hudson 11 Apr; Chatham 22 Apr. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: CR two; eight reports 17 Apr-15 May; banded two. A flock of about 100 Water Pipits was found in Coxsackie 15 May by Ken Able. At least one Bohemian Waxwing was in a flock of about 60 waxwings in Glenville 22 Apr (B. Havens fide RY). Cedar Waxwing: CR three; three reports max 15 Schodack 29 May. Starling: CR 12; banded five.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: CR eight; three Schodack 29 May; Albany 30 May. Solitary Vireo: CR six; earliest Chatham 26 Apr; banded one. Red-eyed Vireo: CR ten; max four Schodack 29 May; banded one. Warbling Vireo: CR 12; one Albany 10 May; three Schodack 29 May; banded four. Black-and-white Warbler: CR six; two Central Bridge May; banded two. A male Prothonotary Warbler was found singing at Black Creek Marsh 16 May by Scott Peters and the bird was found with a female on 30 May by Bob Budliger. Worm-eating Warbler: CR three. Golden-winged Warbler: CR seven; banded one. Blue-winged Warbler: CR nine; max five Central Bridge May; banded one. "Brewster's" Warbler: one Alcove Res 30 May (NF); banded one NB. For the third year in a row a "Lawrence's" Warbler appeared at Five Rivers in Delmar on 8 May.

Field Notes (con't.)

Tennessee Warbler: CR nine; banded eight. Nashville Warbler: CR six; banded six. Northern Parula: CR three; banded three. Yellow Warbler: Cr 12; earliest Ghent 30 Apr; banded 45. Magnolia Warbler: CR two; banded five. Cape May Warbler: CR six. Black-throated Blue Warbler: CR seven; one Troy 7 May; Albany 30 May; banded two. Yellow-rumped Warbler: CR 12; earliest Central Bridge 18 Apr; banded 56. Black-throated Green Warbler: CR eight; banded two. Blackburnian Warbler: CR four; singing male Hollowville 10 May; banded two. Chestnut-sided Warbler: CR ten; banded five. Bay-breasted Warbler: one Schenectady 25 May. Blackpoll Warbler: CR two; Albany 30 May; banded two. Pine Warbler: CR two. Prairie Warbler: CR seven. Palm Warbler: one Central Bridge May; Hudson 30 Apr. Ovenbird: CR 11; max three Central Bridge May; banded four. N. Waterthrush; CR eight; max four Engleville May; banded 21. Louisiana Waterthrush: CR eight; one Delmar 6 May. Mourning Warbler: banded two. Com Yellowthroat: CR 12; earliest Livingston 10 May; banded 31. Wilson's Warbler: CR three; banded three. Canada Warbler: CR seven; banded 15. Am Redstart: CR 11; four reports max 20 Schodack 29 May; banded 23.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: CR 12. Bobolink: CR 10; two Catskill 7 May. E. Meadowlark: CR 10; 13 reports thru period. Red-winged Blackbird: CR 12; major flight began 17 Mar; banded 17. Orchard Oriole: CR two including three Niskayuna; one NB 9 May. N. Oriole: CR 12; earliest Old Chatham 23 Apr. (Ed Reilly); banded eight. Rusty Blackbird: two Schoharie 18 Apr; one Saratoga 24 Apr; Ghent 25-30 Apr; 15 Albany 5 May. Com Grackle: CR 12; banded five. Brown-headed Cowbird: CR 12; banded 13. Scarlet Tanager: CR ten; two singing males in Hollowville 10 May; two Seward May; banded one. Cardinal: CR 12; scarce in Schenectady; banded 12. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: CR 11; max eight Schodack 29 May. Indigo Bunting: CR one; three reports including pair at Hollowville feeder 10 May; banded one. Evening Grosbeak: CR eight; 18 reports; returned to Jenny L in Apr; banded 269. Purple Finch: CR eight; 16 reports thru period; banded 67. House Finch: CR 12; banding numbers down in Schenectady; banded 68. Pine Grosbeak: three reports from Columbia Co in Mar; Canaan 2-5 Apr (VA). The pair of Hoary Redpolls wintering at Scott Tertill's feeder in Altamont were still there 11 Apr. The Com Redpoll flight was late peaking 5-15 Apr; banded 796 in Apr. Pine Siskin: CR 11; 16 reports mostly in Apr; peak flight in Schenectady 6-15 May; banded 669. Am Goldfinch: CR 12; poor winter showing in Schenectady; banded 128. Red Crossbill: CR one; one Niskayuna 7 Apr; 11 Delmar 1 May; two Schenectady 5 May-one 17 May. White-winged Crossbill: Troy 9-18 Mar (AR). Rufous-sided Towhee: CR 11; earliest three Central Bridge 28 Apr; banded five. Savannah Sparrow: CR eight; four reports beginning Central Bridge 11 Apr. Grasshopper Sparrow: CR four. Henslow's Sparrow: CR two; one Delmar 1 May. Vesper Sparrow: CR four; six reports beginning Central Bridge 11 Apr; max 7 Delmar 20 Apr. Dark-eyed Junco: CR nine; returned to Jenny L 27 Mar and breeding in May; banded 100.

Field Notes (concluded)

Tree Sparrow: migrated through Jenny L 27 Mar-24 Apr; banded eight. Chipping Sparrow: CR nine; 12 reports earliest Hudson 19 Mar; banded one. Field Sparrow: CR nine; eight reports earliest Central Bridge 18 Apr. White-crowned Sparrow: CR seven; three reports 10-16 May. White-throated Sparrow: CR ten; 13 reports thru period. Fox Sparrow: ten reports earliest one Schenectady 27 Mar; latest two Central Bridge 6 Apr; banded two. Lincoln's Sparrow: CR one; banded eight. Swamp Sparrow: CR ten; banded nine. Song Sparrow: CR 12; banded 32. Snow Bunting: Castleton and Ghent 1-20 Mar.

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AUTOMATED WATCHER TRACKS BIRDS' NIGHT FLIGHTS

Palo Alto, CA - An automated bird-watcher is gathering data on migratory flight patterns to help determine which has the right-of-way: birds or electric utilities planning construction of new power lines.

Before a utility is granted a right-of-way by federal or state agencies, it must prove that lines will not interfere with flight patterns. Proof is difficult to obtain in the case of migratory patterns because most birds do long-distance flying at night. Until now, no method of accurately assessing nighttime bird activities in relation to power lines existed.

Interference is primarily a matter of collision, and many birds can't see transmission lines in the dark, which can result in injury or electrocution--a disaster in terms of endangered species. Even daytime flight can be hazardous. Eagles, for example, have a huge wingspan and easily can come into fatal contact with two high-voltage lines. In desolate areas without trees, they perch on lines or power towers because they can get a bird's-eye view of game. Thus, line configurations had to be altered to accommodate wood perches.

Now, the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and Clemson University biology Professor Sidney Gauthreaux, who is an authority on bird migration patterns, developed a system to track bird night flight.

The system consists of radar combined with a night-vision scope and a computer that stores collected data on tape for subsequent analyses that are housed in a modified recreational vehicle. The night-vision scope, sometimes called "owl eyes," is calibrated with radar readings to permit an operator to identify the number of birds, their range and altitude and occasionally the species even during periods of low visibility.

Automated watcher (concluded)

This mobile laboratory is undergoing preliminary field testing at the Bonneville Power Administration 500kV power line in Oregon. The agency has been studying the line's impact on birds for several years, but only during the daylight periods. Comparing results of the laboratory with those of BPA will help researchers determine effectiveness of the EPRI vehicle. If results are positive, the unit will be available to utilities to ensure siting away from bird populations.

--DESIGN NEWS 5-10-82

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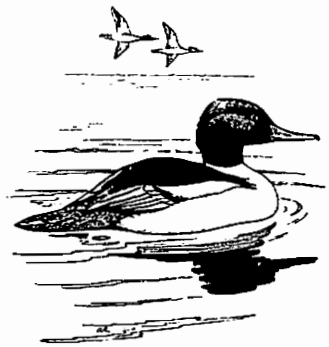

FIELD TRIPS

William Gorman, Chairman

FERD'S BOG
May 22, 1982

A group of twenty birders had a very pleasant, partly sunny day for exploring Ferd's Bog. A Northern three-toed woodpecker was located by tracking down drumming heard coming from inside a dead tree. The female poked her head out several times and threw out wood chips before finally emerging for all to get a good view. While observing the woodpecker, members of the group saw three great blue herons fly over in a beautiful formation. Olive-sided flycatchers, tree swallows, and yellow-rumped warblers were abundant and we also saw a bluebird, broad-winged hawk, goshawk, and several other warblers.

Weather: partly sunny; Wind: light; Time: 6:30-5:00; Species: 60.

SPECIES SEEN: Great Blue Heron; Mallard; Black Duck; Common Merganser; Goshawk; Red-tailed Hawk; Broad-winged Hawk; Peregrine Falcon; Ruffed Grouse; Rock Dove; Belted Kingfisher: Common Flicker; Pileated Woodpecker; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Hairy

Field Trips (con't.)

Woodpecker; Northern 3-toed Woodpecker; Eastern Kingbird; Great Crested Flycatcher; Alder Flycatcher; Least Flycatcher; Olive-sided Flycatcher; Tree Swallow; Barn Swallow; Blue Jay; Common Crow; Black-capped Chickadee; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Brown Thrasher; American Robin; Hermit Thrush; Veery; Eastern Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Starling.

Red-eyed Vireo; Warbling Vireo; Blue-winged Warbler; Tennessee Warbler; Nashville Warbler; Yellow Warbler; Black-throated Blue Warbler; Yellow-rumped Warbler: Black-throated Green Warbler; Blackburnian Warbler; Chestnut-sided Warbler; Pine Warbler; Ovenbird; Common Yellowthroat; Canada Warbler; Red-winged Blackbird; Northern Oriole; Common Grackle; Brown-headed Cowbird; Scarlet Tanager; Indigo Bunting; AmericanGoldfinch; Dark-eyed Junco; White-throated Sparrow; Swamp Sparrow; Song Sparrow.

---Marilyn J. Fancher

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SCHODACK ISLAND
May 29, 1982

Six observers met in the rain on Saturday morning to go to Schodack Island in search of Cerulean Warblers. In spite of a rotten forecast, the rain stopped just as we arrived and we were afforded a rather pleasant four-hour walk through deciduous woodlands and along the Hudson River. The damp weather and overcastskies did appear however to inhibit bird activity and singing. A total of 42 species were recorded including several blue-gray gnatcatchers, three Eastern wood pewees, a willow flycatcher, three yellow-throated vireos, numerous cedar waxwings, American redstarts, rose-breasted grosbeaks, and one fine indigo bunting. No ceruleans were found although a single song was heard which was suggestive of one.

Mrs. McMichael returned in the afternoon and reported seeing some house wrens and a black-billed cuckoo, additions to the species seen in the morning. She also confirmed the willow flycatcher about which there was some confusion earlier in the day.

Observers were Mrs. Joan Johnson, Richard Waugh, Mrs. Margaret Kelly, Mrs. Dot McMichael, Mrs. Martha Connor, and Monte Gruett.

SPECIES SEEN: Green Heron; Mallard (3); Killdeer; Spotted Sandpiper; Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull; Rock Dove (6);

Field Trips (con't.)

Mourning Dove 10; Common Flicker; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Downy Woodpecker; Eastern Kingbird; Eastern Phoebe; Willow Flycatcher; Eastern Wood Pewee; Blue Jay 10; Common Crow 4; Black-capped Chickadee; White-breasted Nuthatch; Gray Catbird 20; American Robin 25; Wood Thrush 6; Veery 4; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 4; Cedar Waxwing 15; Starling few.

Yellow-throated Vireo 3; Red-eyed Vireo 4; Warbling Vireo 3; Yellow Warbler 10; Common Yellowthroat 5; American Redstart 20; Red-winged Blackbird 20; Northern Oriole 10; Common Grackle 20; Brown-headed Cowbird 2; Cardinal 4; Rose-breasted Grosbeak 8; Indigo Bunting ; American Goldfinch 6; Rufous-sided Towhee 2; Song Sparrow 20.

---Monte D. Gruett

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BEAR SWAMP
May 30, 1982

A small group of mostly inexperienced birders was rewarded with a list of 56 species including a verylong, close-up view of a black-billed cuckoo. Other birds which were seen well by most of the group were ovenbird, Canada warbler, common yellowthroat, Eastern wood pewee, turkey vulture, yellow-bellied sapsucker, bobolink, and Eastern meadowlark.

Weather: overcast, some sun; time: 7:00-2:00; Observers: 8. The group traveled from Bear Swamp to Basic Creek Reservoir to Corning Preserve near Alcove Reservoir where the Brewster's Warbler was sighted. A permit is needed to bird the latter property or birders will be asked to leave.

SPECIES SEEN: Mallard; Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed Hawk; Marsh Hawk; American Kestrel; Ruffed Grouse; Killdeer; Rock Dove; Mourning Dove; Black-billed Cuckoo; Common Flicker; Pileated Woodpecker; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Downy Woodpecker;

Eastern Kingbird; Great Crested Flycatcher; Eastern Wood Pewee; Tree Swallow; Barn Swallow; Blue Jay; Common Crow; Black-capped Chickadee; White-breasted Nuthatch; House Wren; Mockingbird; Gray Catbird; American Robin; Wood Thrush; Veery; Cedar Waxwing; Starling;

Field Trips (con't.)

Yellow-throated Vireo; Solitary Vireo; Red-eyed Vireo; Brewster's Warbler; Yellow Warbler; Black-throated Blue Warbler; Chestnut-sided Warbler; Blackpoll Warbler; Ovenbird; Northern Waterthrush; Common Yellowthroat; Canada Warbler; American Redstart; House Sparrow; Bobolink; Eastern Meadowlark; Red-winged Blackbird; Northern Oriole; Common Grackle; Brown-headed Cowbird; Cardinal; American Goldfinch; Savannah Sparrow; White-throated Sparrow; Song Sparrow.

---Marilyn J. Fancher

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DYKEN POND
June 6, 1982

The weather proved to be the highlight of the first field trip I led. It was off and on drizzle and quite windy. Needless to say, it kept bird activity to a minimum.

In addition to myself and the director at Dyken Pond, three other birders braved the elements; Margaret kelly, Shirley Redington, and Donald Girard.

We managed to compile a list of 14 species despite the weather.

Dyken Pond is open to the public and offers an excellent opportunity to observe many woodland species including yellow-bellied sapsucker. I plan to go back several times. I hope to list 15 species on my own.

Weather: rainy; wind: 20-30 mph; temperature: 55; time: 9-11 am; observers: 5

SPECIES SEEN: Hairy Woodpecker; Tree Swallow; Barn Swallow; Blue Jay; Brown Creeper; American Robin; Solitary Vireo;* Red-eyed Vireo, Pine Warbler;* Black-throated Green Warbler;* Ovenbird;* Rose-breasted Grosbeak;* White-throated Sparrow; Song Sparrow.*

*Heard

Additional species observed 6/2: Yellow Warbler; Ovenbird; Common Yellowthroat; Cardinal; Dark-eyed Junco.

---Paul Hebert

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Field Trips (con't.)

MACHIAS SEAL ISLAND
June 26-27, 1982

Machias Seal Island - 478 miles northeast of Capital District - 9 miles off Maine Coast.

Notes: Departure - 6:45 am, trip to island about 1 hour,15 minutes - return about 50 minutes. 3 hours on island in morning - Capt. B. B. Norton - 12 passengers only. Capt. Purcell Corbett of Cutler has afternoon trip.

Island perimeter has high granite rocks covered by the acre with seaweed, including devil's apron, shiny rockweed. Access to lawns - after granite perimeter - via steel boat ramp - walks limited to wooden board walks and two gray blinds, one open deck. Island was once mountain top surrounded by dry land. Structures - at top of ramp is boat house - lighthouse keepers store small boats, oars, outboard motors; oil shed with fuel oil (in large tank) to run furnaces and machinery; whistle house with diesel engines which supply power for foghorn (air pressure built up for blasts, short and grunt, long). Each island has distinctive foghorn blast so that ships' captains can know what island they are near; three white houses for lighthouse keepers and families; 60 ft. whitewashed concrete lighthouse, 90 ft. above sea level (island is 28 ft. above sea level) with 1,000 watt bulb, surrounded by lenses which are motor-driven. Light is obscured by lenses at times so that it appears to be flashing on and off every three seconds; can be seen for some 14 miles.

Plants - about 104 varities including angelica of parsley family, roseroot stonecrop, golden lichen - no trees, only grass and weeds.

Time - Atlantic Daylight, one hour ahead of EDT.

Seals - harbor seals visible as boat leaves harbor but Machias Seal Island no longer has seal population - moved to a smaller rock a mile away. Only mammal which lives on island is brown bat.

Report: Saturday's dawn was as wet and drizzly as Sunday's was warm and sunny on the boat ride to Machias Seal Island on 26 and 27 June.

Even before reaching the island we observed plump, little, ducklike forms on rapidly-beating wings speeding past the boat. With lenses focused sharply on the birds' beaks we saw

PUFFINS - difficult to see but certainly THE BIRD.
Observers cheered. One boy was impressed, but busy keeping

Field Trips (con't.)

his breakfast in place.

Then birders climbed into a dory for the trip to shore. The captain's precise instructions were followed about where to sit. Saturday's stalwarts had to climb over high granite rocks carpeted with wet, slippery seaweed, and walked over a ravine on three narrow planks to the steel boat ramp to get to the lawns. Sunday's group was able to be landed on the steel ramp.

Instructions were given by Steve Daniels, Canadian government representative: 25 minutes in blinds, don't walk on grass as tern chicks are nesting there; remain on boardwalk; walk quietly as ovenbirds nest under the walk; wear head covering to blinds; don't even think of capturing wildlife or the Canadians might begin a Falklands right on Machias Island!

After the rules' chat, four moved off to the first blind for a look. Instantly all four were under attack, terns being protective of nests and chicks. One hatless birder was in peril - angry terns pecked his pate, and doused all liberally. Tern's bill can lacerate skin - or as one dory man put it: "They'll peck your brains out."

After a short wait in the blind (for the birds to quiet down), life became exciting. Puffins strolled by the openings. Some stretched. Some yawned, showing the bright yellow lining inside the mouth. Some disappeared into the rocks to feed young in the burrows.

The foot-high Auk seemed larger than it is. Its face, chest, and belly feathers are white, darkening to gray near edges. Black feathers cover the back of the head and from a collar around the throat. The three-toed webbed feet are reddish-orange. Deep red outlines the eye. Bills rested on chest. Their legs appeared to bow just a little.

Cameras clicked away as photographers kept their equipment well hidden. Photos were taken of another Auk - the Razorbill. They are quiet, too, and walk flat-footed, built more for swimming - like Puffins - than flying, with their short, stubby wings which they use as flippers, like a seal.

The 25 minutes being up, the four birders moved on, braving the terns' fury and gained the next blind.

Beside the walk to the third lookout - a narrow deck - were nesting terns. The deck was not so close to the nests and it was possible to see terns feeding their fluffy brown chicks some brits (small fish).

Sunday birders reported that they heard the Puffin's "chain-

Field Trips (concluded)

saw" sound from the first blind.

Birders reported seeing puffins which appeared to have silvery mustaches when carrying small fish in a crosswise position in their bills.

A mystery bird was sighted which even the resident ornithologist Daniels did not identify. One photographer-birder may have taken a slide of it. Meantime, some speculate on whether it could be a "Reed Bunting" a British bird.

So, next year, let's drop in on the Atlantic Puffins' Pacific relatives, the Horned Puffin and the Tufted Puffin!

Observers: M. Kelly, coordinator, R. Waugh, the Grossman family, T. Roberts, R. Kirker, B. Hartigan, P. Wayne, C. Vanderbilt, W. Greenfield, B. Putnam, R. Putnam, J. Johnson, J. Lott, M. Cobart, P. Williman.

SPECIES SEEN: Common Loon; Great Cormorant; Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Common Eider; Common Gallinule (possible); Spotted Sandpiper; Solitary Sandpiper; Great Black-backed Gull; Herring Gull; Ring-billed Gull; Common Tern; Arctic Tern; Razorbill; Atlantic Puffin; Thin-billed Murre; Black Guillemot; Eastern Wood Pewee; Tree Swallow; Bank Swallow; Barn Swallow; Gray Catbird; Ovenbird; Common Yellowthroat; Brown-headed Cowbird; Savannah Sparrow; Song Sparrow.

A skin of a Leach's Storm-Petrel was seen. No live birds sighted.

---Margaret Kelly

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BIRD SEED SALE TO BENEFIT FIVE RIVERS CENTER

Bird seed for the backyard bird feeder will be available through Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar this Fall. Five Rivers Limited, a non-profit organization, is conducting the sale to support the educational programs at the Center on Game Farm Road. A variety of high-quality seed mixtures are available at reasonable prices, along with information on bird feeding. For further information and an order blank, contact the Center at 457-6092. Orders must be in by Thursday, October 14 and must be picked up at the Center on Saturday, October 23 between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

URBAN BIRDING

By Dorothy J. McMichael

Birders who live in the city often feel cheated. Their bird feeders seldom yield anything more exciting than a cardinal or a house finch. However, the observant city birder who walks the streets to and from work is sometimes rewarded by a rare find, or the viewing of a species not usually found in the city. When I lived in Buffalo, I frequently saw, on the way to and from my job, a male black-backed three-toed woodpecker that worked over the dying elms along city streets from January to April, 1977 (McMichael and Wilcove, "Wintering Woodpeckers in an Urban Environment," Kingbird, Winter 1977).

In Albany I saw my first saw-whet owl, an immature bird, while walking home from church through the west end of Washington Park (Oct. 12, 1980). The owl allowed me to approach very near, fortunately, as I had not brought binoculars. Earlier in the same year (Aug. 31, 1980), a Connecticut warbler visited my backyard on Chestnut Street between Lark and Dove. The olive-backed, yellow-bellied warbler with the dusky hood and long yellow tail coverts obligingly uttered its very loud chip sound which enabled me to distinguish it from a mourning warbler. During the winter of 1981 a snowy owl in downtown Albany gave office workers a view of an arctic visitor. Such species take on a special quality when seen in a city setting where they are not expected.

I have watched a Cooper's hawk winging its way along South Pearl Street near the ramp of I-787 (Jan. 1981), a pair of horned larks searching for food on piles of fresh earth around the American Legion skating rink of Frisbie Road (Apr. 1980), and an American kestrel hovering over the intersection of Chestnut and Dove (Apr. 1982). What urban birder doesn't enjoy the aeronautic feats of courting nighthawks soaring above downtown Albany on summer evenings? Whether checking out warblers in the sunken garden of the northwest corner of Empire State Plaza, spotting white-throated sparrows on the wooded hill behind the New York State Museum, birding the urban marshland off Delaware Avenue (Feathers, Spring 1981), or scouting the grounds behind the Parsons Child and Family Center (Feathers, Winter 1982) as suggested by Robert Ramonowski, the urban birder can find satisfaction in observing many species of birds in a city setting. Occasionally the reward is a rarity.

REIST SANCTUARY CHOICES

Robert Budliger

You recently received a questionnaire that asked your opinions about Club programs and the Reist Sanctuary. A temporary study committee has been reviewing the Reist Sanctuary issue-history, acquisition, management, and future. We've received 102 responses to our questionnaire, and by way of this article will discuss the findings and ask for further comments.

A short background will help to put the issue into perspective. In the 1960s, the Club sought actively to acquire a sanctuary for the purpose of developing a headquarters which would house meeting place, exhibits, and library. In late 1969, Mrs. Henry G. Reist donated the 108-acre parcel of wet woods in Niskayuna which was to become the Henry G. Reist Sanctuary. A sanctuary committee was formed and in the first couple of years a variety of volunteers cleared entrance areas, marked trails, erected entry signs, and began posting the boundaries. However, no specific plans for education, research, or management have yet been developed. Three different chairmen have served, and the initial enthusiasm waned to the current state. The Sanctuary is without a committee. In the meantime, special water district assessments have increased to over $600 a year.

A temporary study committee was established early this year to look at the problem. Sanctuary management is a serious responsibility which is further complicated by the current economy. What was possibly a good idea in 1960 appears to be an unattainable goal. We chose to look at all the separate options and believe they boil down to four. We've asked your opinion. The Board of Directors must now discuss the results and decide on a course of action to recommend to the membership at a special meeting in the near future. Some of you received no questionnaire due to an error made by the mailer. The questionnaire was for the purpose of soliciting opinion, and is not a binding note of any kind. Nevertheless, you are encouraged to express your opinion by writing or phoning the author.

The four options for the Reist Sancturary are:

A. Develop a facilities-dependent program that would include building a headquarters housing meeting room, library, and exhibit area. This was the original intent of the Development Committee of the early 1960s. This would require a major financial commitment, an enormous input of volunteer time, and/or the employment of a staff.

B. Develop a facilities-independent program of nature interpretation or environmental education that would involve construction and maintenance of nature trails. These would require trail booklets and sign development/maintenance. Program development for general public and school/youth groups would require significant input of volunteer time.

C. Leave as is; this is called "benign neglect." This requires little volunteer effort, but will require continued financial support that is expected to increase.

D. Abandon ownership of the sanctuary. Deed reverter states property goes to The Nature Conservancy or other organization determined by the courts who would be bound to forever keep it in natural state.

Respondents were asked to circle the letter of the one choice they recommended and would support. The results are:

- 8 - responded they didn't get questionnaire
- 8 - made no choice, some indicating they were new
- 1 - A, facilities-dependent program
- 26 - B, facilities-independent program
- 15 - C, benign neglect
- 44 - D, abandon sanctuary

A great deal more thought and discussion must go into the Club's decision on the Reist Sanctuary. As one respondent, a long-time member and active supporter, wrote, "a headquarters is momentarily out of sight because of a lack of sufficient, thoroughly committed people to drive the project to completion, and to sustain it." Certainly others have succeeded but where are those committed people. Of the 26 who chose B-facilities-independent program requiring significant input of volunteer time, only 9 indicated any willingness to support the sanctuary. A far more thorough investigation of the results of choices C and D must be made.

The question has been asked. The discussion shall now be opened.

ADIRONDACK FORUM - 1982

A lecture series offered by the Adirondack Research Center and the Graduate and Continuing Studies office at Union College.

This program is designed to foster a better understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural heritage of the Adirondack Park region of northern New York State. Participants will have the opportunity to meet with highly qualified individuals who will share their knowledge on the protection, use and enjoyment of the Adirondacks.

The forum was initiated in 1981 by the Adirondack Research Center at Union College whose primary mission is to assemble a permanent collection of books, maps and other material on the Adirondacks to be used by the public for research and education. Proceeds from "Adirondack Forum" will benefit this endeavor.

Session I: ADIRONDACK BOUNDARY RIVERS TOURWAY — Oct 28

A slide-illustrated presentation of the great natural features to be found around the 600-mile periphery of the Adirondack Park, incorporating the early military, missionary and pioneer history of the area.

Speaker: Paul Schaefer, Vice President of the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks and a member of the Adirondack Highway Council.

Session II: A FORESTER LOOKS AT CLEARCUTTING — Nov 4

In this slide-illustrated lecture a controversial system of forest management is discussed and defended by a proponent of the professional use of the practice.

Speaker: John Stock, Adirondack Park Agency Commissioner and a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters.

Session III: THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY: THREE PERSPECTIVES — Nov 11

The Adirondack Park Agency is an independent agency within the State of New York's Executive Department. It was established by the legislature in 1971 to administer the "Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan" that gives the Agency regulatory authority over the 3.7 million acres of private land in the Park. Three well-informed and respected individuals assess the work of the APA in carrying out this task.

Speakers: Hon. Glenn H. Harris (invited), minority whip of the N.Y.S. Assembly and representative of the 109th Assembly District comprising Fulton, Hamilton, and parts of Franklin and Montgomery counties.

Vincent J. Moore, Executive Director of the Adirondack Park Agency.

Richard Booth, Esq., Assistant Professor of City and Regional Planning at Cornell University, and past president of the Environmental Planning Lobby.

Session IV: ECOLOGY OF THE ADIRONDACK HIGH COUNTRY — Nov 18

A slide-illustrated lecture describing the ecological organization of the Adirondack forests. Particular emphasis will be placed on sequential vegetative zones of the high peak region which culminate in the unique and fragile alpine flora.

Speaker: Edwin Ketchledge, Distinguished Teaching Professor at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University, and Consultant to the Adirondack Research Center.

Four Thursdays — Starting Oct 28 — 7:30-9:00 pm
Social Sciences Bldg 016
$28 complete series; $8 per session
Students: $15 complete series; $5 per session

Persons registering for single sessions should indicate specific dates on the registration form.

Course Organizer: Thomas L. Cobb, Chairman, Adirondack Research Center.

To Register: Fill in the registration form and mail with check (payable to Union College) or register in person Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30 pm, at the Graduate and Continuing Studies office, Union College, Wells House, 1 Union Ave., Schenectady, NY 12308. Tel (518) 370-6288.

ADIRONDACK FORUM REGISTRATION FORM - FALL 1982

Name_____ Home Phone_____ Work Phone_____

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☐ Check here if you have attended a Non-Credit course at Union College.

A WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Claire and Jim Dalton; Laura Farrar; Louise D. Gunn; Judith G. Johnson and Carol and Eric; David Mosher, Brooky C. Peters, Lynne A. Shultis.

Join other members on the coming field trips. The hawk watch at the Helderbergs provides sightings of migrants heading south to regions as far as Colombia and Ecuador.

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Summer
1982

FEATHERS

Shirley Schadow, Editor
230 Lake Hill Road
Burnt Hills, NY 12027

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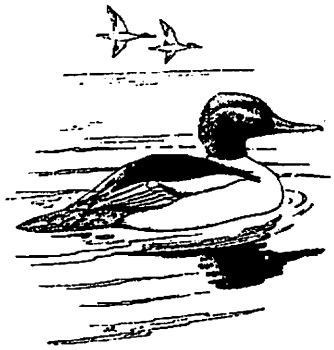
FEATHERS

Feathers Fall 1982



FIELD TRIPS

HENRY G. REIST WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
September 18, 1982

Seventeen bird species were observed during the fall field trip to our sanctuary, on Saturday, September 18, 1982. The weather deteriorated as the trip progressed and raindrops accompanied our departure.

Many chickadees were observed and responded readily to our "pishing" or whistling. Several unidentified fall warblers were with the chickadees. Everyone spotted the male Redstart perched in the open on a branch. We heard but did not see a Great Horned Owl. The owls calls greatly agitated the Blue Jays in the area.

SPECIES SEEN: Ring-billed Gull, Common Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Gray Catbird, American Robin, Wood Thrush, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, American Redstart, Common Grackle.

---Shirley and Alfred Schadow

* * * * * * *

TOMHANNOCK RESERVOIR
October 23, 1982

Nine observers were afforded a rare treat on this fall's trip to the Tomhannock Reservoir, east of Troy, on October 23rd. A small gull with a dark gray head was sighted near the causeway, at the south end of the reservoir. The gull was well studied, viz binoculars and scopes, at fairly close range. After thirty

Field Trips (cont'd)

minutes and much consulting of field guides by the entire group, the bird decided to cooperate by lifting his wings, which revealed a wide white stripe near the tips, a characteristic field mark of the Franklin's Gull. We believe that this is the first report of this species in our area.

Other highlights of the trip included spotting Horned and Pied-billed Grebe, 250 Canada Geese, (one Cackling Goose subspecies), Wood Ducks, Oldsquaw, White-winged and Black Scoter, Hooded and Common Mergansers, one Goshawk, ten Pectoral Sandpipers, Dunlin, Bonaparte's Gull, four Water Pipets, and Snow Buntings.

SPECIES SEEN: Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Wood Duck, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Oldsquaw, White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter, Hooded Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Goshawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Rock Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Horned Lark, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, American Robin, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, House Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Cardinal, American Goldfinch, Dark-eyed Junco, Tree Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Snow Bunting.

---Monte D. Gruett

* * * * * * *

ALCOVE AND BASIC RESERVOIRS
November 7, 1982

A good turnout of fourteen observers enjoyed a fine, sunny fall field trip. It was especially enjoyable when we were able to find protection from the wind.

The trip began at Basic Reservoir. To many of the party the highlight of the trip was the sighting of four Pectoral Sandpipers. Using spotting scopes we were able to watch the birds from a distance of about 150 yards. Mallards, Buffleheads, Common Mergansers and some of the first Tree Sparrows of the season were found. Moving to the Alcove Reservoir, we added to our list Common Loons, Black Scoters, Oldsquaws and Coots. These water birds were observed from a considerable distance. Land birds were not in great abundance that day. However, all found the trip very enjoyable.

Field Trips (cont'd)

SPECIES SEEN: Common Loon, Mallards, Black Duck, Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Oldsquaw, Black Scoter, Common Merganser, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ruffed Grouse, American Coot, Killdeer, Pectoral Sandpiper, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, Starling, House Sparrow, Purple Finch, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Vesper Sparrow, Tree Sparrow.

---Walton Sabin

* * * * * * *

SARATOGA AND ROUND LAKES
November 13, 1982

As we made the circuit of Saratoga Lake on a cloudy and windy Saturday morning, Common Loons outnumbered the twelve members of our group. Other species noted included Canada Geese, Mallards in the 100's, Black Ducks, American Wigeon, Canvasbacks, Scaup, Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, and Hooded Mergansers. One Oldsquaw, in beautiful black and white plumage, was spotted at the north end of the lake, east of the boat launching facility.

The trip started at Round Lake, where we saw only gulls.

SPECIES SEEN: Common Loon, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Oldsquaw, Hooded Merganser, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Pileated Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Mockingbird, American Robin, Starling, House Sparrow, Cardinal, House Finch, Dark-eyed Junco, Tree Sparrow.

---Shirley and Alfred Schadow

SUMMER 1982

REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

BILL COOK

Breeding confirmation for at least thirteen new species highlights the third year of the Avian Atlas project in Region 8. The newcomers include Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Bobwhite, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-throated Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Nashville, Magnolia and Pine Warbler, Pine Siskin, Grasshopper and Swamp Sparrow. Confirmation for many of the northern species was due to "block-busting" efforts into the more remote mountainous areas of the region as well as more extensive coverage by residents of Fulton, Warren and Washington Counties. Data summarized in this report come from the first 103 green sheets received by regional coordinator Dick Guthrie. Of 158 species recorded for breeding evidence this year, 120 have confirmed status. The season's total of 172 is six more than last summer.

Birds still needing confirmation include Com. Loon, Least Bittern, Sora, Alder Flycatcher, Short-billed Marsh Wren (I hope all of you Atlas participants asked Santa for hip boots this year.), Barn Owl, Fish Crow, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Northern Parula, Cerulean Warbler and Henslow's Sparrow.

Bob Yunick reports four new state records for late fledging dates and speculates that the weather may have been the cause. June was reported wet and July hot but the summer could generally be described as cooler than usual and dry. Fledging in several species appeared delayed; fewer young were noted in June and July and the following record late dates were recorded:

SPECIES	LATE DATE (BULL, 1974)	NEW RECORD
Blue Jay	31 July	18 August
Black-capped Chickadee	3 August	13 August
Red-breasted Nuthatch	18 August	22 August
Yellow-rumped Warbler	17 August	6 September

Yellow-breasted Chat appears on the regional roster for the first time since the 1980 Century Run with probable breeding evidence in Wilton, Warren County submitted by Linda Morzillo. Loggerhead Shrikes, last reported in April 1981, were found in Fran Vosburgh's Gloversville Atlas block and Mike Crevier's Princetown block.

A sighting of a male Cassin's Finch has been submitted to the New York State Avian Records Committee by this observer. This western relative of the Purple Finch is not normally expected east of the Rocky's except for occasional strays in late spring. Lack of photographic evidence is reason for the committee to reject this report but unaccepted reports are still important as documentation, just as late migrants reported on Atlas green sheets are important even though they are edited out by the regional coordinators.

A nest with young Pine Siskins was found in Columbia County by Dean Amadon near the southern edge of its breeding range and Janet Carroll confirmed breeding for Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Warren County near the northern edge of its range. Four reports of Saw-whet Owl on Atlas sheets are also worthy of note.

Dick Guthrie, whose birding ability leads his companions to suspect that he sews rare birds into his shirt sleeves before field trips, hosted a fourth of July spectacle on his back porch overlooking the Hudson River. A Turkey Vulture relaxing on a perch across the river was inconsiderately displaced by an immature Bald Eagle. Whereupon an Osprey immediately flew into a territorial defense against the Eagle.

From Hagel Hill comes a report of an albino House Finch on 16-17 July following a 4 January report from Ghent perhaps five miles away. Hybridization possibly accounts for the unusual plumages noted for Scarlet Tanager, Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warbler.

The Alan DeVoe Bird Club mourns the loss of Elsie Powell who Died on 7 September.

Good Birding and a reminder to put lemmings on your winter feeder shopping list.

Contributors: V.& B. Able, Dean Amadon (DA), V. Austen, Janet Carroll (JCa), William Cleveland (WC), Bill Cook (BC), Juanita Cook (JC), Mike Crevier (MC), Kate Dunham (KD), Barbara & Hugo Gardina, Elisabeth Grace, John Gregor (JG), Richard Guthrie (RG), Linda Hoyt (LH), Philip Ingals, Ron LaForce (RL), M. Mickle (MM), Tom Palmer (TP), Robert Yunick (RY) and all of the Avian Atlas participants.

Abbreviations: CO - Confirmed breeding; PR - Probable breeding; PO - Possible breeding. County names are also abbreviated.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: PO Ful. Co. is probably a late migrant; Queechy L. 26 Jul (MM). Pied-billed Grebe: PR Grn. Co.; Castleton 15 Jun. Double-crested Cormorant: Stockport 3 Jul. Great Blue Heron: CO Col., Grn., Ren. and Wsh. Cos. Green Heron: CO Alb., Col., Ful., Ren. and Scn. Cos. Black-crowned Night Heron: PO Ful. Co. Am. Bittern: PR Col. Co.; PO in four counties. Canada Goose: CO in five counties. Mallard: CO in eight counties. Black Duck: CO in six counties. Pintail: PO Buck Mt. Wrn.Co. (LH). Green-winged Teal: PR Alb. and Col. Cos. Blue-winged Teal: CO Wsh. Co.; Castleton 8-18 Jun. Wood Duck: CO in seven counties. Canvasback: Castleton 8 Jun (JC). Hooded Merganser: CO Ful. and Wrn. Cos. Com. Merganser: CO Ful. Co. and twice in Wrn. Co. Red-breasted Merganser: PR New Baltimore Grn. Co. (RG); pair at Jenny L. thru 27 Jun (RY).

HAWKS - ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: PR Alb., Col., Wrn. and Wsh. Cos. Goshawk: PO Scn. and Wsh. Cos.; adult Middlegrove 11 Jul; Chatham 20 Jul. Sharp-shinned Hawk: PR Ful. and Scn. Cos.; two Jenny L. 14 Aug; Canaan 20 Jul. Cooper's Hawk: CO Scn. Co. Red-tailed Hawk: CO in seven counties. Red-shouldered Hawk: CO Wsh. Co.; PR Ren. and Wrn. Cos.; PO Alb., Ful., Grn.and Scn. Cos. Broad-winged Hawk: CO Col., Ful., Ren. and Wrn. Cos. A Golden Eagle has been reported by an Atlas worker in the Adirondacks. Bald Eagle: an immature spent the fourth of July weekend in New Baltimore (RG). Marsh Hawk: PR in five counties. Osprey: PR New Baltimore Grn. Co. 4 Jul (RG); adult Jenny L. 26 Jun first summer record (RY). Am. Kestrel and Ruffed Grouse CO in eight counties. Bobwhite: CO in Sar. Co.; Hollowville 1 Jun; Castleton 3 Jun. Ring-necked Pheasant: CO Col. and Sar. Cos. Turkey: CO Alb., Col., Grn. and Wsh. Cos. Virginia Rail: PR Alb. Co. Sora: PR Saratoga Springs (David Smith). Com. Gallinule: PO Col. and Ful. Cos. Killdeer: CO in nine counties. Am. Woodcock: CO Col., Scn. and Wsh. Cos. Com. Snipe: PR Alb., Col., Scn. and Wsh. Cos. Upland Sandpiper: PO Selkirk Alb. Co. (JCa). Spotted Sandpiper: CO Alb. and Wrn. Cos. Solitary Sandpiper: one Howes Cave Jul (WC). Great Black-backed Gull: 50 Mohawk R. 16 Jun eating dead herring. Herring Gull: 14 Mohawk R. 16 Jun. Ring-billed Gull: three Mohawk R. 16 Jun. Black Tern: adult Vischer's Ferry 16 Jun.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: CO in eight counties. Mourning Dove: CO in nine counties. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: CO Col., Ful. and Scn. Cos. Black-billed Cuckoo: CO Col., Ren. and Scn. Cos. Screech Owl: CO Alb., Grn. and Scn. Cos. Great Horned Owl: CO in seven counties. Barred Owl: PR Ful., Grn., Scn., Wrn. and Wsh. Cos.; Queechy L. Jul; Sacandaga Res. Aug. Saw-whet Owl: PO Col., Ful., Sco. and Wrn. Cos. Whip-poor-will: PR Sar., Wrn. and Wsh. Cos.; Castleton 2-30 Jun. Chimney Swift: CO Alb., Col., Sar., Scn. and Wsh. Cos. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: CO Col., Grn. and Wrn Cos. Belted Kingfisher: CO in seven counties. Com. Flicker: CO in all but Sco. Co. Pileated Woodpecker: CO Ren., Sar. and Wrn. Cos.; five other reports. Red-headed Woodpecker:

CO Mon. Co. (TP); PR Scn. Co.; one Central Br. Jul; Ghent 1 Jun; Ren. Co. 19 Jun. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: CO Alb., Scn. and Wrn. Cos. Hairy Woodpecker; CO in seven counties. Downey Woodpecker: CO in eight counties.

FLYCATCHERS - STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: CO in all but Sco. Co. Great Crested Flycatcher: CO in six counties. E. Phoebe: CO in all eleven counties. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: PR Ful. and Grn. Cos.; one banded New Baltimore 17 Aug. Willow Flycatcher: CO Alb., Col. and Scn Cos. Alder Flycatcher: PR Ful., Scn., Wrn. and Wsh. Cos. Least Flycatcher and E. Wood Pewee CO in five counties. Olive-sided Flycatcher: CO twice in Wrn. Co. Horned Lark: PR Wsh. Co. All six swallows confirmed breeders with Purple Martin in Sar. and Sco. Cos. Blue Jay: CO in all but Sco. Co.; late fledging Jenny L. 18 Aug. Com. Ravin: CO Tongue Mt. Wrn. Co. (JCa). Com. Crow: CO in eight counties. Fish Crow: PR Grn. Co. Black-capped Chickadee: CO in nine counties; late fledging Jenny L. 13 Aug. Tufted Titmouse: CO Alb., Col., Ful., Scn. and Wsh. Cos. White-breasted Nuthatch: CO in nine counties. Red-breasted Nuthatch: CO Ful., Scn. and Wrn. Cos.; late fledging Jenny L. 22 Aug. Brown Creeper: CO in four counties. House Wren: CO in all eleven counties. Winter Wren: PR Ful. and Wrn. Cos. Carolina Wren: PO Mon. Co. (TP). Long-billed Marsh Wren: CO Ren. and Wrn. Cos. Short-billed Marsh Wren: PO Thatcher Park Alb. Co. (RL). Mockingbird: CO Alb., Col., Grn., Sar. and Scn. Cos. Gray Catbird: CO in all but Sco. Co. Brown Thrasher: CO in eight counties. Am. Robin: CO in all eleven counties. Wood Thrush: CO in five counties. Hermit Thrush: CO in the four northern counties. Swainson's Thrush: PR Alb. Co. may be a migrant. Veery: CO in five counties. E. Bluebird: CO in all but Ren. and Scn. Cos. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: CO Alb., Ren. and Wrn. Cos. Golden-crowned Kinglet: CO Ful. and Wrn. Cos. Cedar Waxwing: CO in eight counties. Loggerhead Shrike: PO Ful. and Scn. Cos. Starling: CO in all eleven counties.

VIREOS - WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: CO Alb., Col. and Wrn. Cos. Solitary Vireo: CO Ful., Sco. and Wrn. Cos. Red-eyed Vireo: CO in seven counties. Philadelphia Vireo: CO Silver Bay Wrn. Co.. (Cindy McCranels); PR Glenville Center Scn. Co. (Shirley Schadow). Warbling Vireo: CO Ren., Sco. and Wsh. Cos. Black-and-white Warbler: CO Col., Ful., Grn. and Wrn. Cos. Prothonotary Warbler: PR Alb. Co. (RL). Worm-eating Warbler: PR Scn. Co. (MC). Golden-winged Warbler: PR Ful., Ren. and Wrn. Cos.; one with yellow wash on breast banded New Baltimore 31 Jul. Blue-winged Warbler: CO Alb. and Scn. Cos.; one with yellow wing bars banded New Baltimore 1 Aug. "Brewster's Warbler": one banded New Baltimore 29 Jul (RG). "Lawrence's Warbler": one banded New Baltimore 27 Jul (RG). Tennessee Warbler: two Jenny L. 31 Aug. Nashville Warbler: CO Ful Co. Yellow Warbler: CO in all but Mon. and Sco. Cos. Magnolia Warbler: CO Ful Co. Black-throated Blue Warbler: CO Ful., Scn. and Wrn. Cos. Yellow-rumped Warbler: CO Ful., Scn. and Wrn. Cos.; late fledging Jenny L. 20 days after Bull's (Birds of New York State, 1974) late date. Black-throated Green Warbler: CO Ful., Scn. and Wrn. Cos. Cerulean Warbler: PO Thatcher Park Alb. Co. and Duanesburg Scn. Co. (RL). Blackburnian Warbler: CO Ful. and Wrn. Cos. Chestnut-sided Warbler: CO Alb., Col., Ful. and Grn. Cos. Bay-breasted Warbler: late migrant Ful. Co. Blackpoll Warbler; late migrant Duanesburg Wrn. Co. 10 Jul (JG). Pine Warbler: CO with fledglings located on Crane Mt. Wrn. Co. (F. Greene). Prairie Warbler: CO Alb.,Grn. and Scn. Cos. Ovenbird: CO in five counties. N. Waterthrush: CO Grn. and Wrn. Cos. Louisiana Waterthrush: CO in Mon. and Sco. Cos. Mourning Warbler: PR Ful. Co. Com. Yellowthroat: CO in all but Mon. and Sco. Cos. Yellow-breasted Chat: PR Wilton Sar. Co. (Linda Morzillo). Wilson's Warbler: one New Baltimore 30 Aug. Canada Warbler: CO Ful. Co.; an early migrant banded in New Baltimore 12 Aug. Am. Redstart: CO in five counties.

WEAVERS - SPARROWS: House Sparrow: CO in all but Sco. Co. Bobolink: CO in six counties; PR in all the rest. E. Meadowlark: CO in six counties. Red-winged Blackbird, N. Oriole and Com. Grackle CO in all counties. Orchard Oriole: PR Alb. and FUL. Cos. Brown-headed Cowbird: CO in five counties. Scarlet Tanager: CO in seven counties; one with wingbars banded in New Baltimore 14 Aug. Cardinal: CO in eight counties including Wrn. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: CO in eight counties. Indigo Bunting: CO in five counties. Evening Grosbeak: PR Sar. and Wrn. Cos. Purple Finch: CO Col., Ful., Grn. and Wrn. Cos.; 492 captured as most abundant feeder bird at Jenny L. Cassin's Finch: male Hollowville 1 Jun (BC). House Finch: CO in nine counties. Pine Siskin: CO Col. Co. (DA); PR Scn. and Wrn. Cos. Am. Goldfinch: CO in all but Mon. and Sco. Cos. Rufous-sided Towee: CO Alb., Col., Ful., Scn. and Wrn. Cos. Savannah Sparrow: CO Col., Grn. and Scn. Cos. Grasshopper Sparrow: CO Crum Church Cem. Col. Co. (KD) and Princetown Scn. Co. (MC). Henslow's Sparrow: PO Altemont Alb. Co. (RL). Vesper Sparrow: CO Col Co. Dark-eyed Junco: CO Grn., Scn., Sco. and Wrn. Cos.; poor breeding season at Jenny L., first juv. late 10 Jul, banded only 13 (21-90 range for past 11 years). Chipping Sparrow: CO in all eleven counties; only two banded at Jenny L. as population declines over 12 year period. Field Sparrow: CO in five counties. White-throated Sparrow: CO Ful., Wrn. and Wsh. Cos. Swamp Sparrow: CO Alb., Scn. and Wrn. Cos. Song Sparrow: CO in all eleven counties.

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Richard A. DuMez, Editor
2164 Stuyvesant Street
Schenectady, NY 12309

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