

# Feathers

## A Move to a Paperless HMBC

by Bernie Grossman, HMBC President

Over the past few years, the HMBC Board has struggled with the issue of how to best disseminate Club information and publications. The Board's first concern was to make the Club as green as possible. The second goal was the reduction of expenses.

At the present time, the Club publishes its newsletter *Feathers* six times per year. Depending on the volume of submissions, an issue may run to as many as twenty pages with approximately four hundred copies printed per run. After printing, the issue is picked up, envelope stuffed if necessary, labeled and taken to the post office. While set up and printing is a paid professional service, the rest of the process including editing is volunteer labor. Additional publications include the annual field trip list and meeting and dues notices. As you can see, this involves a lot of trees and gasoline. The Board has also investigated the use of recycled paper, but this is not cost effective.

A recent volunteer effort has resulted in the complete redesign of the Clubs website, HMBC.net. The website now contains up-to-date information on Club activities like field trips and programs, as well as password protected access to a membership database. Issues of *Feathers* are also posted, but they are accessible to only members for the first year post-publication. Many bird clubs have now done away with mailing newsletters and either email them to members or post them on club websites. The Club has requested its members provide an email address when they join or when they renew

their memberships, and approximately 80% have done so.

The second driver to this change has been cost. The Club has maintained its dues at a level last established in 2005, but it has run a deficit in each of the past few years. The deficit has been covered by transfer from Club reserves, but this is not a long term solution. The Board considered raising dues enough to make this up, but it would require a 33%-50% increase overall. Our Treasurer, Ellen Pemrick, determined that such a raise would make HMBC the most expensive club in New York State. Eliminating the significant portion of printing and mailing cost in our budget would delay a dues rise for some time.

As a start, a couple of options are being explored. The first is to publish *Feathers* and field trip and program information exclusively on the website. Some exceptions would be made for people without access to the internet.

I am also involved with the Friends Support Group for the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library. The Friends uses Constant Contact, an email/publishing service, to publish its newsletter and to send out email reminders for programs and activities and dues notices. The process has found wide acceptance. There are other commercial services that offer similar products. Jory Langner, a Board member, has investigated Constant Contact's cost, and he found that since the Club is a non-profit, the cost would be \$150-\$300 per year depending on the services the club would require. This

is about 10% of the present hard copy cost. Note that the Club's regional birding guide will still be published in a paper format.

The Board voted at its July, 2011, meeting to proceed with this changeover in the coming year. To make it successful, we must have as many email addresses from you as possible. The Club does not give out members' addresses and the database is secure, so I urge you all to register on the website and provide your addresses to the database. We are also committed to maintaining the quality of *Feathers* and to maintaining timely communications. Please feel free to comment on this change. My email address and telephone number are listed in each issue of *Feathers*. 

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## President's Corner



It's now Silent August when the shorebirds are busy with their southward migration, and most other birds are hunkered down and busy with their molt prior to their migration. HMBC has been busy, too, with new officers and board members working, as have others before, at keeping the Club's business and activities going.

For example, a new, much more informative website has been in operation for several months. I urge every member to look at it, and, most importantly, register to access the member-only portions.

Please update or add your current email addresses.

Another activity has been the recently completed bridge project in the Club's Reist Sanctuary. This work which I described in a separate article was done by volunteers, and it is a visible example of the fact that **all** work in the Club is done by volunteers. Consider that this includes arranging for the Club's monthly programs; the generation of an annual field trip schedule and their leadership; the Christmas Counts; and the creation of this very publication by its writers, editor, and formatting. All these people as well as many others deserve our thanks.

The Club now has a critical need for someone to step up to take over the Social Chair position. Among the duties is the arranging of refreshments for the monthly programs and the Club's Annual Meeting. The time commitment is fairly small. Please contact me by telephone or email using the information given in the contact position of *Feathers*.

Have a great fall in the field.

— *Bernie Grossman*  
*President, HMBC* 

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### HMBC Contact Information

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**E-mail:** [contact@hmbc.net](mailto:contact@hmbc.net)

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

### HMBC Board Meetings

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

### Newsletter Contributions Desired

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

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

Please send all *electronic* submissions *via e-mail* to: Chris Grossman at [bgrossman@nycap.rr.com](mailto:bgrossman@nycap.rr.com)

Send **all** paper submissions to:

*Chris Grossman*

*7 Nott Rd.*

*Rexford, NY 12148*



*Henslow's Sparrow at Fort Drum*

## **Fort Drum** *May 29, 2011*

On Sunday May 29, 2011 the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club participated in a field trip at Fort Drum, NY. Home to the U.S. Army's 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, Fort Drum's 107,000+ acres are located in Jefferson and Lewis Counties. Migratory Bird Biologist Jeff Bolsinger led ten HMBC members, and several other birders, on a seven-hour tour through various habitats. We attempted to find bird species representative of those habitats, including several species that are rare elsewhere in New York State. We were very successful on all counts, finding every targeted species, and a few others that were desired by individual birders.

Some members of the group arrived on Friday, or early Saturday, and conducted their own field trip to some other local hotspots and IBAs, including Perch River Wildlife Management Area, which is located just west of Fort Drum. Saturday evening, Jeff led some of the group on a short nightjar survey on the base, and they were able to observe both COMMON NIGHTHAWK and WHIP-POOR-WILL.

Sunday morning was cloudy and mild, with light winds, as the group assembled at the Permit Office to consolidate into a three - vehicle caravan. We set out at about 7 a.m., heading towards the sandy grasslands near Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield. GRASSHOPPER and VESPER SPARROWS were seen and heard there, and as we moved a bit farther along the airfield perimeter, we came

to one of the few locations remaining on the base that is home to UPLAND SANDPIPER. Within a few minutes, an "Uppie" was making a display flight high overhead, and the vocalizations could be clearly heard each time he went up. A tremendous bonus for all present was a CLAY-COLORED SPARROW who appeared and sang just inside the perimeter fence for several minutes. We had furtive views but enough to put a "face" with the sound.

Our next stop (and my favorite!) was at an oak savannah area, quite rare in New York State, where we hoped to locate the resident RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS. We moved deliberately into the open woodland, and our patience was rewarded by one perched about ten feet off the ground, right out in the open, ▶

on a dead snag. A second bird briefly interacted with the first, and it moved around a bit. Flashing the white on its rump and wings. It even dropped to the ground a few times. A life bird for several participants; this bird is stunning in good light, all “field mark”.

Over on the Antwerp Tank Trail (the roads are well-maintained gravel for the most part), we came upon a group of birders pulled over to the roadside, scopes in action, all intently staring just a few meters into the grass. We carefully made our way forward to find a HENSLOW'S SPARROW sitting up on a grass stalk, singing repeatedly, completely unconcerned by the thirty wide-eyed, astonished birders nearby. This is a very secretive species, one that is most often heard only, with just a brief glimpse if one is lucky. We had ridiculously long scope views for everyone, the olive color in the head very prominent. We actually started to ignore the sparrow in favor of flyover AMERICAN BITTERN, NORTHERN HARRIER and nearby SAVANNAH SPARROW and WILLOW FLYCATCHER, only returning to the HENSLOW'S SPARROW after a five-minute break.

Having been successful (and then some) with our target grassland birds, we turned our sights to warblers. Golden-winged Warblers still breed here, but they are becoming increasingly harder to find, as the Blue-winged Warbler, with which it hybridizes, has pushed into the region. We had at least two good sightings of GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLERS, including one who flew up close enough to produce “scope-views” in binoculars. Outstanding bird, beautifully patterned. We continued to roll-up warbler species: NASHVILLE, CHESTNUT-SIDED, PINE, PRAIRIE, BLACK-AND-WHITE and CANADA. The group was getting tired, but Jeff summoned enough energy to find a MOURNING WARBLER that basically did a circular dance right around us in the low cover. Terrific, long looks were had at this very attractive species; the contrast of gray, olive and yellow, with the black bib was striking.

We returned to our starting point, worn-out but elated (if I can speak for

the group), and Jeff gave everyone a map onto which we could record the locations of our sightings for future reference. Mr. Bolsinger is an exemplary birder, naturalist and field leader. He patiently allowed everyone to get their desired looks, but kept us on course and on schedule. His knowledge of the place must be unmatched; we salute him for delivering on some very daunting “promises”. Thanks for taking us on a memorable adventure, already alert when reveille sounded, our convoy of three dodging humvees, with thunderous explosions and the rat-a-tat of small arms fire in the distance, all part of a day's birding at an extraordinary place, Fort Drum.

Sixty-nine species were observed (including ten sparrows!) Big thanks to everyone who made the trip, and our Saturday evening dinner at a local restaurant was a lot of fun. This trip belongs on the calendar every year.

— Tom Williams

### **Perch River Wildlife Management Area May 30, Memorial Day, 2011**

Colleen and I stayed over another day to bird Perch River in the morning. This is a wonderful wetlands complex and refuge, with high numbers of bird species that would favor cattail marshes, shallow ponds and scattered trees for nesting/perching. There is an observation tower on Vaadi Road that overlooks the Stone Mills Pool, and a large pulloff along Route 12 gives views both north and south at the Upper and Lower Pools. Highlights for the morning included:

BLUE-WINGED TEAL, DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (six perched in one lone tree, spreading their wings in the sun), AMERICAN BITTERN, LEAST BITTERN (at least two, by vocalization could have been many more), GREAT BLUE HERON (at least eight on nests), GREEN HERON, BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (seven, mostly flyovers), OSPREY (at least two pair on nests), BALD EAGLE, VIRGINIA RAIL, COMMON MOORHEN (well seen from parking area south of Route 12), CASPIAN TERN, BLACK TERN (many, continuously flying between Upper and

Lower pools), cuckoo species (snuck by us while we watched terns overhead), MARSH WREN (dozens)

— Tom Williams

### **Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center**

*June 4, 2011*

Seven Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club members traveled to Dyken Pond Environmental Educational Center on Saturday, June 4, 2011. Our field trip took place under mostly sunny skies, with mild temperatures and light winds. The Center was conducting a trails clean-up day, and we ran into several groups hard at work cutting overgrown hobblebush, chain-sawing downed trees, and moving trail impediments. They were doing a real nice job here, with a lot of volunteer support. Thank you.

From the parking area we could hear and SEE BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER, PURPLE FINCH and RED-EYED VIREO. On our way back from checking out the pond at the canoe launch, we ran into a couple of the many OVENBIRDS we would encounter during the morning. They were foraging along the gravel road about forty feet ahead, not giving us much heed as we approached. We also heard BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLERS, BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER, a BALTIMORE ORIOLE (making some interesting weeps and whistles), and a BLUE-HEADED VIREO singing as well. A pair of YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS moved through this area also.

The Abbt Farm Trail had TREE SWALLOWS eyeing us warily from their nestbox holes. We transferred to the McFalls Trail and walked past several giant glacial remnant boulders (“The Sentinels”). A bit further along the trail is a boardwalk across a fen (I believe that's the correct classification) that has many irises, pitcher-plants, and even a giant swamp rhododendron, amongst other neat flora. As we emerged back at the small wetland pond near the end of the Cherry Trace Trail, a few of us saw a very large accipiter gliding low just below treetop level... it was a NORTHERN GOSHAWK who quickly disappeared into the woods.

We took our time crossing the wide boardwalk across Dustin Swamp. We observed NORTHERN FLICKER, an EASTERN BLUEBIRD pair (there are many nestboxes out there too), SWAMP SPARROW, a group of CEDAR WAXWINGS, and heard a WHITE-THROATED SPARROW singing. It was a beautiful place to watch wildlife.

Along Dyken Pond Road on the way back to the Center we had BLACKBURNIAN and MAGNOLIA WARBLER, WINTER WREN and BROWN CREEPER singing, a couple of DARK-EYED JUNCOS, and one lone BARN SWALLOW at the wetland pond. The pond also had many tadpoles, salamanders in various stages of development, and a sunning turtle.

As we conducted our trip tally at the picnic tables, a CHIPPING SPARROW flew into a big larch tree nearby to make sure we counted it. When we headed to our vehicles, a fire-throated BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER sang at the tip-top of a hemlock, giving great looks to everyone. Nice finish.

Thank you to everyone who participated! We had some good birds, gorgeous weather and a terrific environment to explore. Next time we'll bring chairs and just bird the parking lot for a while

— Tom Williams

## **Doodletown Road**

*June 11, 2011*

Early on Saturday morning, June 11, 2011 the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club conducted a field trip to Doodletown Road in Rockland County, New York. Participants escaped a deluge of rain in the Capital District, encountering rain on the drive down, but no precipitation on-site from 8 a.m. – 12 noon. Cool temperatures near sixty degrees Fahrenheit were the rule of the day, under cloudy skies and light winds. A small waterfall greets hikers at the bottom of the hill, as Doodletown Creek flows underneath Route 202 at the parking area: On the way up, one can see the perimeter of the Iona Island Bird Sanctuary (IBA) across the road: We saw a number of vultures, both perched in a snag and circling aloft. BLACK VULTURE is just as common as TURKEY VULTURE here, and side-by-

side comparisons of the two are very enlightening, especially concerning wing structure and flight characteristics. Continuing up the gradual incline of the abandoned roadway, we encountered YELLOW-THROATED VIREO, a BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER pair, BLUE-WINGED WARBLER, INDIGO BUNTING and a couple of HOODED WARBLERS, one of which gave excellent looks and was a life bird for one very happy birder.

At the reservoir, the group added CHIMNEY SWIFT, RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD and BALTIMORE ORIOLE.

A short detour up and back down Lemmon Rd. gave us a brilliant red SCARLET TANAGER, and we could hear several more HOODED WARBLERS. We saw a CERULEAN WARBLER briefly as well, but they were more often heard than seen today. We continued up the trail turning right, then taking a fork to the left onto Pleasant Valley Road. A VEERY was sounding off, and AMERICAN REDSTART was plentiful.

On the downhill leg we observed a pair of BELTED KINGFISHER at the reservoir, with a MALLARD and a pair of WOOD DUCK. We had a CHIPPING SPARROW along the edge of the gravel road, and an EASTERN PHOEBE flew about silently. On the way out we heard a WOOD THRUSH, an EASTERN TOWHEE, and CEDAR WAXWINGS overhead. It was a fine day of birding under less than ideal conditions. Thank you to everyone who persevered; it was fun.

— Tom Williams

## **Papscanee Island Preserve**

*June 12, 2011*

Six members of the HMBC braved the insect life of Papscanee Preserve this morning. 48 species were seen or heard with CHIMNEY SWIFTS being seen over the Hess Petroleum storage tanks on the drive out. CATBIRDS and REDSTARTS were abundant as usual. COMMON YELLOWTHROATS and YELLOW WARBLERS were singing all along the way with ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS making several appearances. An immature BALD EAGLE circled and landed in a tree close to the edge of the Hudson River as we approached the end of the trail. All had

good looks at this great creature. On the way out we had a quick look at a LEAST FLYCATCHER. Some of us had the good fortune to locate an AMERICAN REDSTART setting on a nest about 20 feet off the trail. Also a bit later on 2 GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHERS gave us very nice low - level views. We did miss 2 of our target birds, those being the Indigo Bunting and Scarlet Tanager. Forgot to mention we were serenaded along the way by VEERY and WOOD THRUSH arias with interspersed catcalls (by you know who). A nice walk was had by all.

— Don Gresens

## **Cherry Plain State Park and Wildlife Management Area**

*June 25, 2011*

Twelve birders started out walking in the rain down Jiggs Highway to the pond. On the way we saw a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at his sap wells; after he departed a Red-breasted Nuthatch stopped to get a drink or find some bugs. Near the pond a Great Blue Heron flew over and a pair of Common Yellowthroats provided our first of many looks at this species. A walk along part of Dynamite Shack Road added Pileated Woodpecker, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, Cedar Waxwing and Ovenbird plus Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Blackburnian Warblers to the list. Driving down Miller Road toward the park we stopped to watch another flock of Waxwings and listen to a singing Rose-breasted Grosbeak. In the clearing north of the park a Ruby-throated Hummingbird perched atop a tall spruce, Yellow-rumped Warbler appeared along with yet more Cedar Waxwings, and another Blackburnian Warbler put on a good show. On the road east of the lake we stopped to watch a splendid male Purple Finch getting gravel on the roadside. The swamp on CCC Dam Road southeast of the park yielded Yellow Warbler and American Redstart among others, making a total of ten warbler species. At this point the sun broke through the clouds and fog and a Turkey Vulture was seen riding the thermals. As we stopped at the

swamp on Miller Road to compile the list a pair of White-throated Sparrows appeared, a Broad-winged Hawk cruised the treetops, and a spectacular finale was provided by an adult Bald Eagle flying overhead in full view. If the Winter Wren and Scarlet Tanager heard as we drove away are counted, the day's total of species seen and/or heard came to an even 50.

— *Phil Whitney*

### **Schoharie County**

*July 9, 2011*

The HMBC field trip to Schoharie County drew eight birders on Saturday morning, July 9<sup>th</sup>. Azure blue skies, warm temperatures and a nice breeze made for optimal seeing conditions, and kept the insects to a minimum. Our species tally was about sixty, a bit less than expected. The flycatcher group, cardinals and allies, and finches were poorly represented, or absent.

The marsh spanning Corbin Hill Road near Carlisle produced WOOD DUCK, GREEN HERON, a VIRGINIA RAIL calling briefly, and a few SWAMP SPARROWS. Strangely quiet otherwise.

We were able to park for free at Max V. Shaul State Park in Fultonham, thank you very much. Old Route 30 (abandoned) runs just outside the eastern boundary of the park, rising

up above the Schoharie Creek and Route 30. Bird activity was noticeably busier there. Several GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHERS were “wheeping” and chattering, with a BALTIMORE ORIOLE in the mix too. YELLOW-THROATED and WARBLING VIREOS were heard, along with the two nuthatches. A surprise warbler, seen well by some, was a LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH, way up the hillside above the creek, foraging in a cedar.

We heard a warbler that sang persistently in one spot. It was unquestionably a NORTHERN PARULA song, though we could not get visual confirmation. I checked the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas, which showed previous probable and confirmed blocks in Schoharie, and surrounding counties, though few and far between. Perhaps someone can elaborate on the species regional occurrence outside of migration. The various “range maps” would place us in a void between the southern and northern breeding populations.

Stranger yet was the behavior of a RED-EYED VIREO we encountered at the base of Old Route 30 on our way out. It was perched in the sun on a lateral branch about fifteen feet off the ground. At first it was preening, with puffed up body and head feathers, occasionally stopping to hold its wings out away from the body,

with the mouth open. It then rotated completely *under* the branch, hanging upside-down, tail fanned, mouth wide open, remaining motionless for fifteen to twenty seconds. Red-eyed Weirdo then resumed normal bird behavior.

Up at Burnt-Rossman Hills State Forest, elevation 2000 feet, we observed the expected higher elevation birds, including MAGNOLIA, BLACKBURNIAN and BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLERS, along with BLUE-HEADED VIREO, our fourth vireo species on the day.

Our final stop was the NY Power Authority Visitor's Center in Blenheim. We toured the building, which houses some interesting exhibits and interactive learning displays, and also features a wildlife watching and display room facing the lower reservoir. As we tallied up our highlights outside under a shady pavilion, several BALD EAGLES, a RED-TAILED HAWK, two TURKEY VULTURES and an unknown accipiter soared overhead between the ridge and the water.

AMERICAN KESTRELS were very common today; not every bird on a wire is a Mourning Dove out in these parts. I want to thank everyone who participated today, especially for your patience with the postponement from last weekend. Much appreciated. Hope to see a good group in August for Noblewood Park. Good birding!

— *Tom Williams* 

## **Upcoming HMBC Programs**

### ***A Year with Nature in Western New York***

**Tim Baird**

Monday September 12, 2011

7:00 p.m. at the William K. Sanford  
(Colonie) Town Library

Before the main speaker: Laurie LaFond of the Friends of the Washington County Grasslands IBA, a brief presentation on the Washington County Grasslands IBA and the new organization to protect it.

### ***Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch*** **Andy Mason**

Monday October 3, 2011

7:00 p.m. at the William K. Sanford  
(Colonie) Town Library

### ***Short-eared Owls***

**John Polunci**

Monday November 7, 2011

7:00 p.m. at the William K. Sanford  
(Colonie) Town Library

### ***Holiday Party and Wintering Raptor Program***

Monday December 5, 2011

7:00 p.m. at the Five Rivers  
Environmental Education Center

Learn about wintering raptors in the grasslands of the greater Capital Region; speakers will be from DEC and will cover results of surveys and volunteer opportunities for the upcoming winter. Speakers will include Theresa Swenson and Jenny Murtaugh of DEC. 

# Upcoming Audubon Programs

Unless otherwise specified, all programs to be held at:

William K. Sanford  
Colonie Town Library  
629 Albany-Shaker Road  
Loudonville, NY 12211

2nd Thursday of every month,  
monthly: September - June, 7:00 p.m.  
to 9:00 p.m.

## ***A Year with Nature in Western New York*** **Tim Baird**

Monday, September 12, 2011  
7:00 p.m. at the William K. Sanford  
Colonie Town Library

A photographic nature essay entitled “A Year with Nature in Western New York” will be presented on Monday, September 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the William K. Sanford Library in Colonie.

At this program, retired science teacher Tim Baird will present a nature pictorial accompanied by Beethoven’s 6th Symphony, “The Pastoral”, without narration. Discussion of the photos will follow the musical presentation.

The program, sponsored by the Audubon Society of the Capital Region and the Hudson Mohawk Bird Club, is open to the public free of charge.

Prior to the program, Laurie LaFond will present a briefing on the Washington County Grasslands IBA and its newly-formed Friends group.

Tim Baird is a past president of the New York State Ornithological Association and currently serves as the Association’s newsletter editor. He has been studying and photographing birds and other wildlife for over 40 years and has provided programs on nature to many bird, nature, and garden clubs throughout New York State. 

## A Rare Visitor



On June 5, 2011, a Redheaded Woodpecker appeared at my sunflower feeder in the southwest corner of the town of Niskayuna. This beautiful bird is normally seen in the midwest and southern United States. S/he quickly found the suet feeder, and enjoyed quite a few meals over the course of the next several days. Thanks to the HMBirds blog, the word was out, and many folks were able to stop by and catch a glimpse of this beautiful bird. S/he appeared again June 6, and again on June 11. We were able to get 2 photos, and although lacking in sharpness, they still record the visit of a rare species for our area. It was an honor to “host” this bird in our yard, pretty amazing that s/he chose a HMBC birders yard to visit!

— Elayne Ryba 



Seven groups of birders, totaling 16 people, compared to a record low of only three groups last year, resuscitated the Club's 66<sup>th</sup> consecutive Guy Bartlett Century Run on May 21, 2011 by recording 164 species, tying 15<sup>th</sup> place. The best find of the day was the count's only 5<sup>th</sup> ever record of Northern Saw-whet Owl spotted ten feet away in the beam of a headlamp at 0430 on the foot trail up Blackhead Mountain in Greene County. This species was last reported in 1986, first time in 1958.

Every group afield added anywhere from one to six species each seen only by one group; total, 28 species. There were 45 species reported by all groups and another 19 species by all but one group. Five of this year's seven "groups" consisted of single individuals.

The effort put into this year's Century run was impressive. Everyone was afield no less than 13 hours anywhere between 0015 and 2130. Group B (Larry Alden, Jackie Bogardus and Steve Chorvas) birded for nearly 19 hours to amass the top list of 121 species all in Albany County, while Dave Harrison endured the longest time afield: 21 hours between the hours noted above. And T. Lloyd Williams' very determined 17 hours beginning at 0100 led to the 0430 Saw-whet find on the trail up Blackhead.

April was the 11<sup>th</sup> wettest on record at Albany and continued rain into May produced some interesting comments from Century Run participants. High water at Cohoes drove away birds expected to be found there. High water in some marshes produced excessive calling in the dark by amphibians, which hampered listening for birds; and stream noise along the trail up Blackhead Mountain also hampered listening and may have contributed to the lack of finding the Bicknell's Thrush that occurs there.

Spotty showers on the day of the count briefly inconvenienced some participants, depending on location.

The National Weather Service at Albany reported temperatures of 53-76°F, average wind speed of 3.5mph, highest 14mph generally E-NE and average cloud cover of 0.7. Rainfall for May up to the 21<sup>st</sup> was 4.60 in., 2.14 in. above normal following a wet April.

The 164 species was the best list since 1999. Other birds of interest beside the Saw-whet were Rusty Blackbird, last in 1997, found on a pond off Pinnacle Road in the Town of Bleeker, Fulton County, where it had been found in 2003 during the Breeding Bird Atlas project; and Hooded Warbler for the 8<sup>th</sup> time, 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year. Interestingly, this species was first recorded in 1948, then not again until 1999, 51 years later. Common Ravens have firmly established themselves in the area, once being a rare bird locally. It has been recorded every year but one since 1986. Misses included Yellow-breasted Chat last reported in 1999, Cape May Warbler missing since 1997, no Common Nighthawk and only one report of Carolina Wren.

Thanks to all participants who lent their time, energy, determination and expertise to carry on the tradition of this club event.

Listed below in order received are the group reports listing participants, times afield, areas covered and species seen only by that group with group leaders/compilers indicated by an asterisk.

**Group A** - Jean Holcomb\*. Spring Run Trail, Bog Meadow Brook, Fish Creek, Saratoga Battlefield and Airport, Wilton Preserve, Wright's Loop, Saratoga Springs and Moreau State Park all in Saratoga Co.; Glens Falls and Ft. Edward, 0530-1930, 66 species. Green-winged Teal.

**Group B** - Jackie Bogardus, Steve Chorvas and Larry Alden\*. Albany Co., 0230-1920, 121 species. Horned Grebe, Blue-winged Teal, Common Goldeneye, Sora, Bay-breasted Warbler and Wilson's Warbler.

**Group C** - David Harrison\*. Jackson Summit in Mayfield, Great Sacandaga Lake, Galway Lake, Consaul Rd., Town of Perth, Vischer Ferry and Cohoes, 0015-2130, 114 species. White-winged Scoter, Eastern Screech-Owl, Swainson's Thrush and Tennessee Warbler.

**Group D** - Tom Williams\*. Black Creek Marsh, Thacher Park, Hannacroix Ravine, Five Rivers, Staats Island Rd., Schodack Island state park, Cohoes flats/Crescent, Wright's Loop, Saratoga Co. Airport and Colonie, 0600-1815 and 1900-2000, 101 species. Cerulean Warbler.

**Group E** - Tom Anderson, Chris Cameron, John Hershey\*, Bill Lee, George Shaw, Nancy Slack, Hank Stebbins and Kurt Weiskotten. Black Creek Marsh, Thacher Park, Partridge Run WMA, Bear Swamp Preserve, Alcove Reservoir, Staanton Pond, Blossom Hill Rd., Albany, Staats Island Rd., Papscaanee Island, Wright's Loop, Saratoga Lake and Airport and Cold Spring Rd., 0530-2115, 118 species. Osprey, Bonaparte's Gull, Common Tern, Black Tern and Purple Martin.

**Group F** - T. Lloyd Williams\*. Blackhead Mountain (Greene Co.), Town of Windham, Burnt-Rossman State Forest, Partridge Run WMA, Black Creek Marsh and Towns of New Scotland and Coeymans, 0100-1800, 105 species. Cooper's Hawk, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Cliff Swallow and Pine siskin.

**Group G** - Larry Rowland\*. Pinnacle Rd. and Bleeker in Fulton Co.; Saratoga Airport, Wright's Loop and Vischer Ferry in Saratoga Co.; and Deer Mountain Preserve in Albany Co., 0430-1730, 115 species. Hooded Merganser, Semipalmated sandpiper, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, Carolina Wren and Rusty Blackbird.

Common Loon		b	c		e		g
Horned Grebe		b					
Double-crested Cormorant		b	c	d	e		g
American Bittern		b		d	e		g
Least Bittern		b			e	f	
Great Blue Heron	a	b	c	d	e		g
Green Heron		b		d	e	f	
Canada Goose	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Wood Duck		b	c	d	e	f	g
Green-winged Teal	a						
American Black Duck	a	b		d	e		g
Mallard	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Blue-winged Teal		b					
Gadwall		b			e	f	
Ring-necked Duck			c				g
White-winged Scoter			c				
Common Goldeneye		b					
Hooded Merganser							g
Common Merganser		b	c			f	g
Turkey Vulture	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Osprey					e		
Bald Eagle		b	c		e	f	

Northern Harrier	a		c				
Sharp-shinned Hawk		b	c		e		g
Cooper's Hawk						f	
Broad-winged Hawk		b	c		e	f	
Red-tailed Hawk	a	b	c		e	f	g
American Kestrel		b	c		e	f	g
Peregrine Falcon		b			e		
Ruffed Grouse		b	c		e	f	g
Wild Turkey	a	b		d	e	f	g
Virginia Rail		b	c	d	e	f	
Sora		b					
Common Moorhen					e		
American Coot		b			e		

Killdeer		b	c	d	e		g
Greater Yellowlegs	a			d	e		g
Lesser Yellowlegs				d	e		g
Solitary Sandpiper				d	e	f	g
Spotted Sandpiper		b	c	d	e		g
Semipalmated Sandpiper							g
Least Sandpiper				d	e		g

American Woodcock		b	c			f	g
Bonaparte's Gull					e		
Ring-billed Gull	a	b	c	d	e		g
Herring Gull		b		d	e		g
Great Black-backed Gull		b	c	d	e		
Common Tern					e		
Black Tern					e		
Rock Pigeon	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Mourning Dove	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Yellow-billed Cuckoo							g
Eastern Screech-Owl			c				
Great Horned Owl							g
Barred Owl		b	c		e	f	
Northern Saw-whet Owl						f	
Whip-poor-will		b	c		e		
Chimney Swift	a	b	c	d	e		g
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	a	b	c	d	e		g
Belted Kingfisher		b	c	d	e		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		b	c	d		f	g
Downy Woodpecker		b	c	d	e	f	g
Hairy Woodpecker	a	b	c	d			
Northern Flicker	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Pileated Woodpecker	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Eastern Wood-Pewee	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher						f	

Alder Flycatcher		b	c	d		f	g
Willow Flycatcher		b		d	e		
Least Flycatcher	a		c	d	e	f	g
Eastern Phoebe	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Great Crested Flycatcher	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Eastern Kingbird	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Horned Lark	a			d	e		g
Purple Martin					e		
Tree Swallow	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Northern Rough-winged Swallow		b	c	d	e		g
Bank Swallow		b	c				g
Cliff Swallow						f	
Barn Swallow	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Blue Jay	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
American Crow	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Fish Crow			c		e		g
Common Raven	a	b	c		e	f	
Black-capped Chickadee	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Tufted Titmouse	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Red-breasted Nuthatch		b	c	d		f	
White-breasted Nuthatch	a	b	c	d	e	f	
Brown Creeper		b	c		e	f	
Carolina Wren							g

House Wren		b	c	d	e	f	g
Winter Wren		b	c	d		f	g
Marsh Wren		b		d	e	f	
Golden-crowned Kinglet		b			e	f	g
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		b	c	d	e	f	g
Eastern Bluebird	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Veery	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Swainson's Thrush			c				
Hermit Thrush		b	c	d		f	g
Wood Thrush		b	c	d	e	f	g
American Robin	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Gray Catbird	a	b	c	d	e	f	g

Northern Mockingbird		b		d	e		g
Brown Thrasher		b	c		e	f	g
Cedar Waxwing		b	c		e	f	
European Starling	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Blue-headed Vireo	a		c			f	g
Yellow-throated Vireo		b	c	d	e		g
Warbling Vireo	a	b	c	d	e	f	
Red-eyed Vireo	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Blue-winged Warbler		b	c	d	e	f	g
Tennessee Warbler			c				
Nashville Warbler			c			f	
Northern Parula		b					g
Yellow Warbler	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Chestnut-sided Warbler	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Magnolia Warbler	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Black-throated Blue Warbler		b	c	d		f	g
Yellow-rumped Warbler		b	c	d		f	g
Black-throated Green Warbler	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Blackburnian Warbler		b	c	d	e	f	g
Pine Warbler			c	d		f	
Prairie Warbler	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Bay-breasted Warbler		b					
Blackpoll Warbler		b	c	d		f	g
Cerulean Warbler				d			
Black-and-white Warbler	a	b	c	d	e		g
American Redstart	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Worm-eating Warbler					e	f	g
Ovenbird	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Northern Waterthrush					e	f	g
Louisiana Waterthrush				d	e	f	g
Mourning Warbler			c			f	
Common Yellowthroat	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Hooded Warbler					e	f	
Wilson's Warbler		b					
Canada Warbler			c			f	g
Scarlet Tanager		b	c		e	f	g

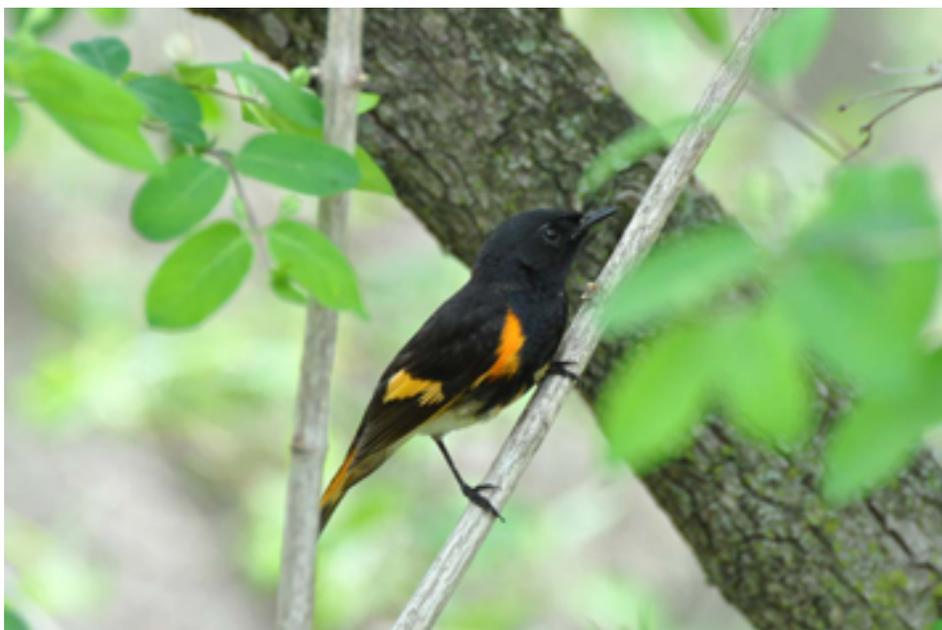


Northern Cardinal	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Indigo Bunting		b	c	d	e	f	g
Eastern Towhee	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Chipping Sparrow	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Field Sparrow	a	b		d	e	f	g
Savannah Sparrow		b	c	d		f	g
Grasshopper Sparrow				d	e		g
Song Sparrow	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Swamp Sparrow	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
White-throated Sparrow		b	c			f	g

Dark-eyed Junco	a	b	c	d	e	f	gg
Bobolink	a	b	c	d	e	f	gg
Red-winged Blackbird	a	b	c	d	e	f	gg
Eastern Meadowlark	a	b	c	d	e	f	gg
Rusty Blackbird							gg
Common Grackle	a	b	c	d	e	f	gg
Brown-headed Cowbird		b	c	d	e	f	gg
Orchard Oriole			c	d			
Baltimore Oriole	a	b	c	d	e	f	gg
Purple Finch		b	c		e	f	gg
House Finch	a	b	c	d	e		gg
Pine Siskin						f	
American Goldfinch	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
House Sparrow	a	b	c	d	e	f	g

For years I had heard about a place on the Lake Erie shore of Ohio where the northbound songbirds gather before crossing the lake. Our bird club had been there a couple years ago; there was an article in *Winging It*, and it was across from Point Pelee. I'd been to Pelee the last two years; now it was time to see Magee.

Enlisting Denise and two good friends from the HMBC (Gregg Recer and John Kent), we headed out for three days of intense birding. We had learned that there was a festival there at the same time as our visit: the Biggest Week in American Birding. No surprise, since we were going there for the same reason! Our interest was not in taking in the festival; if anything we wanted to avoid its crowds. With information from Tim Colborn, a long-time HMBC member and friend who now lived in the area, we learned that the boardwalk at Magee Marsh was the place to go. What I did not realize that this seemingly long boardwalk was in a patch of woods a mere 7 acres in size! The activities were centered at the nearby Black Swamp Bird Observatory but the boardwalk at the marsh was the hotspot of bird- and birder activity.



*American Redstart*

Pictures of the place showed a boardwalk wall-to-wall with birders, a veritable gridlock of binoculars, vests, and hats of avian enthusiasts. I wondered if we would be able to move at all there. Fortunately, except for a few “bird jams” by especially sought-after species, it wasn't quite that bad, especially if you got there early.

Our first morning, we met Tim at 7 a.m.; he had directed us to meet at the west

entrance to the boardwalk, where the woods are, where most people started, and where most of the warblers were generally seen. With great expectations, onto the boardwalk we went. There were other birders, but it was not jammed. There were enough people to swap information with, but no problem getting around or seeing the birds. And see the birds we did! Warblers were everywhere, from PROTHONOTARY to MAGNOLIA; CAPE MAY, BLACKBURNIAN, BAY BREASTED, CHESTNUT-SIDED, and many more. Some were in the treetops; others in the understory, and more were on the ground. A MOURNING WARBLER garnered much attention, and was the cause of our first “bird jam” (think “bear jam” at Yellowstone National Park). In such hot spots, the boardwalk was lined several deep with birders, all anxious to get a look, or a picture, of the sought-after species. Some leaned over the near rail; others sat up high on the back rail. Some, like our friend Tim, were so tall that they could see over everyone with ease! We spent the entire morning at the boardwalk and easily tallied over 20 species of warbler (including 3 lifers for John) along with several vireos and thrushes. The biggest surprise was that



*Birders at a hot spot on trail*

people told us that it was a slow day!

People more tech-savvy than me (and that includes most people!) were sharing info, real time, via reports on Twitter; but the old fashioned word-of-mouth worked nearly as well. Again, it was only 7 acres!

In the afternoon, we headed over to the nearby Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge where a walk did finally produce the sought after GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER, along with a photographable SCARLET TANAGER!

The next day we did it all again, with similar results. While down at the nearby trails at the Sportsmen's Center, we saw TENNESSEE WARBLER, a lifer for John, and got word of the biggest prize of the day - CONNECTICUT WARBLER back at the boardwalk. So we headed back and did manage to see it (thanks to John) despite an immense jam of people that made it nearly impossible to pass through the

crowd on the boardwalk. I had never seen so many birders at one point in my life - amazing (and gratifying) that so many people cared about seeing birds! After that, Gregg and John went back to Ottawa NWR while Denise and I went back into the Magee boardwalk, for slower looks and more photos, including GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH and a very close BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER.

Non-passerines were also evident over the two days at the Magee boardwalk; four cryptic species come to mind: EASTERN SCREECH-OWL, AMERICAN WOODCOCK, a COMMON NIGHTHAWK sleeping on a high tree limb, and an EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL on or near the ground that was so cryptic that I never did see it (!) (but Denise did).

Our final day was Saturday, with even greater crowds of people expected for the festival/international bird migration

day. Having had more than enough of the people jams, we decided to bird elsewhere! Although it rained much of the morning, we were able to check out Metzger March Wildlife Area and the boardwalk at Maumee Bay State Park (nice visitor center, but boardwalk was very slippery and lacked the numbers of migrants of Magee). Then after lunch we went to a Metroparks property south of Toledo, highly touted by Tim for good reason: "Oak Openings" had grasslands and beautiful oak woods, with LARK SPARROW, RED-HEADED WOODPECKER, and SUMMER TANAGER. In less than two hours, we saw all three species in this lovely place. Then it was time to prepare for our trips home, with 125 species on our list, many photos in our cameras, and memories of another great birding trip!

— Scott Stoner



*Gray-cheeked Thrush*

You can walk through the HMBC's Reist Sanctuary, a >100 acre woodlands in Niskayuna, on several color-coded paths that occasionally cross wet spots. The bridges that span these points have deteriorated with time, and Mike Gann, the Sanctuary Steward, recommended their replacement. Some years ago, the Club was able to obtain some mitigation funds, which are monies that developers must donate when destroying a natural area in the course of development construction. These funds were set aside by the HMBC Board for future use in maintaining the Sanctuary. Mike prepared a materials estimate and located a source of rough sawn hemlock for the bridges. Hemlock is a stable, long-lasting wood. Brother Yusuf Burgess of the Children & Nature Network provided two work crews of young men who moved the timbers into position. The Club has made a donation to Brother Yusuf's organization in honor of his assistance with the project. Mike and Pete Trivillino assembled the bridges over two seasons, the shorter ones last year and the longer one this past June. Pictures of the new long bridge and the deteriorated one it replaced are below. The Club thanks Mike and Pete for all their hard work on this project. Please think of their effort the next time you cross the wet spots with now dry feet.

— Bernie Grossman



*The Long New Reist Sanctuary Bridge*



*The bridge that it replaced*

The flora and fauna of the Pine Bush remind me of Australia's outback or the deserts of the Sahara.

The locality of this established area ranges from Colonie and proceeds into Schenectady. In regard to the habitat, the overall area consists of sand, stands of pine trees, a few oak trees with beech, maple and marshland. Wildlife, like mammals, reptiles, birds and insects, flourish here. There is a perpetuating variety of mammals, ranging from the petit shrews, voles, and moles to bigger wildlife such as the red fox and white-tailed deer. The reptiles take into account snakes, turtles, lizards, newts,

(a form of lizard), fish, frogs, and other aquatic animals.

The birds that exist in this region number greatly in species from songbirds such as warblers, vireos, flycatchers, thrushes and wrens to raptors like hawks, and owls. There may be an exceptionally rare occurrence for a fortunate birder to see a prairie falcon or golden eagle. There are over one hundred confirmed bird species that exist in the Pine Bush. In the vicinity, one can catch exceptional views of a most highly, strikingly profound, abundant insect known as the Karner Blue butterfly. Rare anywhere

else except in the Pine Bush, where its population is over ten thousand-plus each year, it has a sense of habit to lay its eggs on a type of flower called the blue lupine in which both go hand-in-hand with each other, as both need one another in order to survive. Also rare anywhere else except here, the blue lupine numbers "in the thousands" each year.

The Pine Bush is truly one of a kind. It exhibits a diversity of wildlife and nature that is offered nowhere except here in the "final frontier".

— Robert Ramonowski 

## NYSOA County Listing Project – Submit Your 2010 Life List Report

Do you keep track of your bird sightings? Since 1993, birders all over the state have enjoyed sharing and comparing their numbers by participating in the New York State Ornithological Association's (NYSOA's) County Listing project. If you haven't done so yet, join in! For added convenience, and to encourage participation, annual county list

reports can now be submitted online (or a mail-in form can be downloaded and printed) at <http://www.nybirds.org/RecordsReporting.htm>. You can report your life list totals for NYS plus each county and each region where you've recorded bird sightings. Report on just one county, or every county you've ever birded in the state – the choice is yours. Results are published

in NYSOA's newsletter, *New York Birders* and on the NYSOA website. The only requirement for participating is membership in NYSOA or one of its member clubs – that means all members of RTWBC can join in the fun! **The deadline for submitting reports is August 31, 2011.** 

**AUGUST****PEEBLES ISLAND S.P./  
COHOES FLATS**

Sunday, August 28

Saratoga/Albany Counties; morning

Coordinator: John Hershey

371-3114

hersheyj@nycap.rr.com

The wooded areas of Peebles Island are good for a variety of songbirds including some of the migrant warblers. The river area and rocky flats around the island are usually good for Peregrine Falcon, Osprey, Bald Eagle as well as sandpipers, yellowlegs, herons, egrets, Chimney Swifts and ducks.

From the meeting place, we will check out the Cohoes Flats and then consolidate vehicles before proceeding to Peebles Island since there is a \$6 fee for each car there.

Meet at the NY State Dam Recreation area behind the U-haul Rental in Cohoes at 8 a.m. From I-787 going north, turn right onto Route 470 (Ontario Street) in Cohoes. Then turn left onto Clark Avenue and proceed to the end.

**SEPTEMBER****RESERVATIONS FOR  
MONTEZUMA WETLANDS  
COMPLEX**

Saturday, September 4

**HAWK WATCHING AND  
SONGBIRDS IN THE  
HELDERBERG ESCARPMENT  
#1 PINNACLE**

Saturday, September 10

Coordinator: Gary Goodness

862-9260

goodness@nycap.rr.com

We'll first explore the trails of Camp Pinnacle for fall migrants, then head out to "Sunset" the hawk-watching site to search the skies for Broad-winged Hawks and other migrating raptors. Meet in front of the bank at the southwest corner of Routes 20 and 155 in Guilderland at 8:00 a.m.

**MONTEZUMA WETLANDS  
COMPLEX**

Sunday, September 11

Out of area; all day

Coordinator: John Hershey

371-3114

hersheyj@nycap.rr.com

Local Leader: Matt Medler

*Reservations by September 4, Limit 14 people*

This day trip to the Montezuma Wetlands Complex located between Syracuse and Rochester is a great opportunity to find a variety of species that are rare or hard to find in our own region. Shorebirds will be a major attraction with the possibility of up to 30 different species including Buff-breasted Sandpiper and American Golden Plover. We can also expect to see a large number of herons, waterfowl and raptors. This trip is limited to 14 participants because of the need for a vehicle caravan through the area. Contact the coordinator to make reservations & for further details about carpooling.

**HAWK WATCHING AND  
SONGBIRDS IN THE  
HELDERBERG ESCARPMENT  
#2 HIGH POINT**

Saturday, September 17

Coordinator: Gary Goodness

862-9260

goodness@nycap.rr.com

We will bird our way out to the hawk watching area, looking for migrating passerines along the 1.5 mile trail out to High Point. There, we will look for Broad-winged Hawks and other migrating raptors. Meet in front of the bank at the southwest corner of Rts. 20 & 155 in Guilderland at 8:00 am.

**HUYCK PRESERVE/MYOSOTIS  
LAKE**

Saturday, September 24

Albany County; morning

Coordinators: David &amp; Sandy

Martin

765-4982

david@naturebits.org

Join us to search for migrant shorebirds and songbirds at the Huyck Preserve near the hamlet of Rensselaerville. The main attraction in the fall is Myosotis Lake. The lake's level usually drops in late summer exposing the mudflats that attract migrant shorebirds and, in many years, American Pipits. We may have to walk on the mudflats to get good looks at the birds, so come prepared to walk in soft mud. After searching the shoreline, we will walk some of the trails through the surrounding hardwood-hemlock forest looking for migrants and other woodland birds. Aside from one steep section, the trails are fairly level, but they are uneven in places and may be muddy.

Meet at 8 a.m. at the New Scotland Town Hall on State Route 85 in New Scotland. We will carpool to the preserve from there. Email the coordinator if you plan to attend.

## OCTOBER

### **PINE BUSH PRESERVE – WILLOW ST. ENTRANCE**

Saturday, October 1  
Albany County; morning  
Coordinator: Don Gresens  
370-3923  
dgresens@nycap.rr.com

We will explore some of the trails in the “Great Dune” area of the Pine Bush. This section of the pine barrens is southwest of the Discovery Center and north of Route 20. This area is more forested than the area around the Discovery Center and has a stream running through it. We should see some late migrating songbirds of both wooded and scrub barrens. Prairie Warbler and Eastern Towhees are common if they haven’t left for warmer climes. Sparrows are common with Field Sparrows in abundance.

Meet at 8 a.m. in front of the bank at the southwest corner of Routes 20 and 155 in Guilderland.

### **SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AND BATTLEFIELD**

Sunday, October 2  
Saratoga County; morning  
Coordinators: Ellen Pemrick  
452-4384  
lnmp@nycap.rr.com  
Marne Onderdonk  
583-8841  
marne-esq@nycap.rr.com

This popular trip features beautiful foliage and a good chance of hawks, woodpeckers, sparrows, bluebirds and late migrants as we walk the woods and grasslands of the battlefield. You never know what will turn up. Please note that a fee is charged to walk the Wilkinson Trail, payable at the visitor center.

Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot near the park’s visitor center off State Route 32.

## **FIVE RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER**

Sunday, October 9  
Albany County; morning  
Coordinator: John Kent  
426-7919  
jwkent@verizon.net

We’ll walk about 2 miles over generally flat terrain with some small hills, passing through a variety of habitats. Previous trips have come up with 6 species of sparrows and 5 species of woodpeckers as well as both species of kinglets. Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Wood Duck and perhaps other waterfowl may be present. Wet grass and muddy spots may be encountered.

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

## **WOODLAWN PRESERVE**

Saturday, October 15  
Schenectady County; morning  
Coordinator: Don Gresens  
370-3923  
dgresens@nycap.rr.com

The Woodlawn Preserve is located in the Southeast corner of Schenectady County abutting the western edge of the Pine Bush. The area contains a flood control pond, forested sand dunes and general wetland habitat. Previous trips have come up with 6 species of sparrows and 5 species of woodpeckers as well as both species of kinglets. Great Blue and Green Herons, Wood Duck and perhaps other waterfowl can be found on the pond. Hopefully, weather could provide us with some late migrating warblers along with some sparrow family birds.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in front of Barnes & Noble in Mohawk Commons on the corner of State Street and Balltown Road in Niskayuna. We will carpool the short distance to the preserve. 

***Feathers***

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

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