

August 2012  
Volume 72 No. 4

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



## **CENTURY RUN 2012**

by Robert P. Yunick

The Club's 67<sup>th</sup> Guy Bartlett Century Run on May 19, 2012 recorded a relatively low 148 total species tying 38<sup>th</sup> overall, but impressively listed four species found ten or fewer times in the past: NORTHERN SHOVELER for only the fourth time (Wright's loop), RUDDY DUCK (tenth, Basic Creek res.), Black Vulture (third, Delmar and Thacher Park) and White-eyed Vireo (fourth, Basic Creek Res.). The highest group species tally of 125 by Group C tied 25<sup>th</sup> against a record 156 in 1986.

Seventeen participants in six field parties were afield from 0210 to 2130 on a cloudless, bright day under high pressure. The National Weather Service at Albany recorded a temperature range of 47 to 82°F. (normal 48-71°F.), average relative humidity of 59 percent and an average wind speed of 1.9 mph with a high of 9 mph out of the N. The searing afternoon sun made the air feel much warmer than the actual air temperature. Month to date had been wetter than usual with 4.22 in. of rain compared to a normal of 2.10 in.

Tree leafing, nearly full for some species, was the most advanced I have experienced on the day of the Century Run in my 42 years of compiling it. This resulted from a combination of two factors: a low winter snowfall followed by "March Madness" with its unusual 80-degree heat waves which triggered early blooming/leafing of shrubs and trees, as well as early migration and onset of birds breeding ahead of schedule.

Below, listed in the order received, are the reports of the names of the participants, their times and places afield, as well as those species seen only by their group. Group leaders are marked with an asterisk.

*(continued on p 60)*

### **Inside This Issue ...**

President's Corner.....	55
Field Trip Reports.....	56
Upcoming HMBC Programs .....	59
Upcoming Field Trips ....	68

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## President's Corner

August is the time that birds have completed their breeding and are preparing for their southward migration. The shorebird migration is in full swing. It is an amazing fact that I saw these birds arriving on their birding grounds just two months ago when I visited St. Lawrence Island and Nome, Alaska. I will describe the first part of this trip in an article in the next issue of *Feathers*. Shorebirds mate, breed, and hatch their young within this narrow window, then the adults get ready to take off south. The young are mostly on their own soon after hatching. As I said: amazing.

At the regular July Club Board meeting, our treasurer, Ellen Pemrick pointed out that the Club's cash flow has stabilized and is slightly positive. This is due to two factors, the shutdown of the Birdline and the reduction of printing and mailing costs for *Feathers*. We still mail almost sixty *Feathers* copies for each printing. I urge all people who are still receiving print copies and can accept emails to let the Club know their email addresses. You will receive a pdf form that will include all pictures in color.

September also brings the return of the Club's programs. Scott Stoner has set up another group of wonderful talks. Thanks to Scott for all his efforts over the years.

Enjoy the last few weeks of summer and the approach of fall.

Good birding to all!

- Bernie Grossman  
President, HMBC

### Newsletter Contributions Desired

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

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

*HMBC Contact Information*  
**BIRDLINE of EASTERN NEW YORK:**  
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 or other local venues at 7:00 pm, usually on the second Monday of odd-numbered months.

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

**Chris Grossman**  
**7 Nott Rd.**  
**Rexford, NY 12148**

## Field Trip Reports

**Schodack Island State Park**  
*Saturday, May 20, 2012*

Thirteen club members observed an abundance of birds in ideal weather conditions. Even the insect population cooperated, with plenty of food for our avian friends but little in the way of bothersome biters.

We walked the orange trail that runs alongside the Hudson River, then cut left at the second connector (red) trail to head over to view Schodack Creek. The round trip took about three hours.

## Field Trip Reports *(continued)*

Some birds of note were:

GREAT BLUE HERON- at least twelve, there is a rookery out of sight on the east side of the "island" that produces frequent flyover traffic, EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE, YELLOW-THROATED VIREO, FISH CROW, VEERY, WOOD THRUSH, SCARLET TANAGER- a vibrant male, ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK, Warblers- AMERICAN REDSTART, OVENBIRD, BLUE-WINGED, BLACK-AND-WHITE, COMMON YELLOWTHROAT, YELLOW, CHESTNUT-SIDED, BLACK-THROATED BLUE, BLACKPOLL, CERULEAN.

The CERULEAN WARBLERS, at least two singing males, were seen fairly high up in the trees on either side of the orange trail, just past the fork for the second connector (red) trail. They sang repeatedly, moving frequently, and a few times came out into the open allowing shaded views.

Thank you to all the participants for terrific morning of birding!

- Tom Williams

### **Malta Tech Park**

*Saturday, May 26, 2012*

The HMBC trip to the Malta Tech Park took place this morning, May 26th with 15 birders in attendance. We walked on two trail systems and along the wide sidewalks that are found throughout the park. The first trail provided singing VEERIES, WOOD and HERMIT THRUSHES, but few sightings. A SCARLET TANAGER in the open was a pleasant exception. Most of the sightings were along the road edges. The highlights were INDIGO BUNTINGS, ORIOLES, CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER, EASTERN BLUEBIRDS and a very ratty looking RED-SHOULDERED HAWK being harassed by a RED-WING BLACKBIRD. Thanks to all the excellent eyes and ears that made this trip a success with a total of 50 species.

- Susan Beaudoin

### **Fort Edwards Grasslands**

*Sunday, May 27, 2012*

May 27 the Club had a trip to Fort Edward, to the grasslands that are part of the IBA. It was a joint trip with Friends of the IBA, and led in the field by Laurie LaFond, President of the Friends of the IBA. Laurie updated us on threats to these grasslands and efforts to protect them. For more information, please visit <http://www.ibafriends.org/>

The avian highlight certainly was the SEDGE WREN, seen (and photographed) from the trail on the Nature Conservancy lands near Fitzpatrick Rd.

Other species included:

NORTHERN HARRIER (male and female), AMERICAN KESTRE, KILLDEER (on a nest), WILLOW FLYCATCHER  
COMMON RAVEN, BROWN THRASHER, BLACKPOLL WARBLER, EASTERN TOWHEE, BOBOLINK, EASTERN MEADOWLARK  
ORCHARD ORIOLE, BALTIMORE ORIOLE

- Scott Stoner, Coordinator

## Field Trip Reports *(continued)*

### **Deer Mountain Trail, Ravena**

*Sunday, June 3, 2012*

Six intrepid birders met on a cool, damp morning to check out the Deer Mountain Trail in Ravena. This trail runs through some mixed forest but mostly tracks the edge of a very nice swamp (it is a muddy not a mountainous trail). Best sightings included two LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSHES, an INDIGO BUNTING, a BALTIMORE ORIOLE and a great close-up view of a BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER. At one point a BARRED OWL gave two descending arghhh calls, and shortly afterwards the group flushed a large owl which one member saw briefly before it disappeared. A pair of TUFTED TITMOUSES had a nest near the boardwalk, and unseen RED-SHOULDERED HAWK called loudly in the same area. As we were preparing to depart, a long-tailed bird landed in some trees two-hundred feet away across the parking lot. Only the top of the closed tail showed at first, but then the bird fanned it revealing its wedge shape and scalloped edges with distinct white spots. This bird was almost certainly one of the YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOOS seen at the same location four days earlier. Altogether 33 species were observed:

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, MOURNING DOVE, YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO, BARRED OWL, RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER, PILEATED WOODPECKER  
EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE, EASTERN PHOEBE, GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER, RED-EYED VIREO, BLUE JAY, AMERICAN CROW  
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE, TUFTED TITMOUSE, BROWN CREEPER, WINTER WREN, EASTERN BLUEBIRD, VEERY, HERMIT THRUSH  
WOOD THRUSH, AMERICAN ROBIN, BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER, BLACK-AND WHITE WARBLER, OVENBIRD  
LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH (2), COMMON YELLOWTHROA, SCARLET-TANAGER (2), NORTHERN CARDINAL, INDIGO BUNTING  
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD, COMMON GRACKLE, BALTIMORE ORIOLE, AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

- David Martin

### **Mountain Top Arboretum**

*Saturday, June 16, 2012*

Mountain Top Arboretum, near Tannersville in Greene County, was the destination of the HMBC field trip on Saturday morning, June 16th. The Arboretum (<http://mtarboretum.org/>) is situated at 2400' above sea level on County Rt. 23C. Ten birders attended the outing, which featured birds as well as plant and tree specimens to examine.

In the West Meadow, we saw a SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, CHIMNEY SWIFT, a couple of RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS, several YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS, and a CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER.

Down along the Woodland Walk, we viewed several hawks circling overhead, including at least one RED-SHOULDERED HAWK. Traveling down the road towards the East Meadow, we could hear BROWN CREEPER, BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER, and a WHITE-THROATED SPARROW. A hen WILD TURKEY spooked from our presence.

The East Meadow hosted LEAST FLYCATCHER, EASTERN PHOEBES, COMMON YELLOWTHROATS, and another CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. On the return leg along Maude Adams Rd., we were greeted at a driveway gate by a RED-TAILED HAWK that paid us little heed until we needed to pass. The property owner later told us that this hawk has gotten used to following the

mowing equipment around the property to scavenge whatever the mowers kick up, and has gotten used to interacting with humans. It was an interesting finish to a wonderful morning in the Catskills.

Thank you to everyone who participated, I hope you enjoyed this special place.

- Tom Williams

## Upcoming HMBC Programs

### **Birding While Sound Asleep: Using Flight Calls to Follow Bird Migration**

**Speaker: David L. Martin**

September 10, 2012, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Colonie Library

**Joint program with Audubon Society of the Capital Region**

Many birds, including warblers and sparrows, migrate at night, and they call as they fly. Some species can be identified from their calls either by listening or by viewing sonograms. For several years David Martin has been following the progress of fall migration by recording nocturnal flight calls at two locations in Albany County. He detects hundreds of calls on some nights and many thousands of calls each season. He will show how to identify birds from flight calls and present some of his results on the migration individual species. He also will discuss the relationship of flight call counts to wind, weather and radar observations. One of his goals is to develop baseline values for the timing of fall migration, as such data could be useful for observing changes in migration timing in response to climate change.

David Martin is a retired biochemist and neuroscientist. He is a lifelong birder and has been recording natural sounds for many years. Some of these recordings can be found on his website [naturebits.org](http://naturebits.org). He is one of the many former presidents of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club.

### **Birding Yellowstone National Park**

**Speaker: David Williams**

October 1, 2012, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Colonie Library

The first part of this slide program describes the Yellowstone area birds likely to be encountered, along with when and where to go, and the different habitats. Then, Dave will show three 10-minute different slide shows that are set to music: Western Wildlife, Western Scenery, and Western Wildflowers.

Dave Williams has been a birder for around 40 years, and has traveled to the Yellowstone area each summer since the early 1980's, where he divides his time among birding, hiking, and fishing. Dave is a retired State Government employee, and a self-described "full time Nature Nut."

## 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**

### **Birding While Sound Asleep: Using Flight Calls to Follow Bird Migration**

**Speaker: David L. Martin**

September 10, 2012 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Colonie Library

**Joint program with HMBC (see above)**

## Century Run *(continued)*

There were 40 species seen by all parties, another 36 by all but one party. Carol Stack who conducted a Half-century Run (50 species) provided a picture of a BRANT, the only one reported, despite numerous recent reports on HMBIRDS of flocks of them moving up the Hudson River. Over these 67 years of the Century Run there have been 60 stalwart species recorded every year, another nine in all but one year; and 11 species recorded only one time. The composite list stands at 254 species plus three sub-species. Each group listed species found only by their group. There were 26 such species ranging from two to nine per group, top honors to Group E with the nine.

Every Century Run has conspicuous misses or downward trends, this year was no exception. No mergansers; only six species of diurnal raptors, missing Broad-winged Hawk for the first time in ten years; Ruffed Grouse missed for the first time in 18 years; Ring-necked Pheasant missing for the 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, no Common Nighthawk, nor Swainson's Thrush previously recorded in 53 of the past 66 Century Runs.

Tom Williams provided an interesting take on his species list. He reported 127 species which would have made his list the top one of the day. Then he began applying discounts: 1) one species "possibly heard but not counted;" 2) 17 species "missed, need a reliable location;" and 3) nine species "missed, need to invent excuses." That brought his final list down to a still-worthy 100.

But on the optimistic side, no excuses required, there were some records beside the top four above worthy of note. THE RED-NECKED GREBE (Mohawk River near Crescent) was the 13<sup>th</sup> record, last in 2001; BRANT (Mohawk River) 17<sup>th</sup> time; BUFFLEHEAD (Basic Creek Res.) 19<sup>th</sup>, last in 1998; OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER (Saratoga Nat. Hist. Park) 15<sup>th</sup>; CAPE MAY WARBLER (Basic Creek Res.) 1<sup>st</sup> since 1997; and YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT 1<sup>st</sup> since 1999.

**Group A** – Carol Stack\*. Broadalbin, Broadalbin boat launch on Great Sacandaga Lake, St. Casimir's Cemetery in Amsterdam, Yankee Hill-Queen Ann Rd. along Mohawk River, Schoharie Crossing, Fonda and Johnstown, 0600-1300, 50 species. BRANT and YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.

**Group B** – David Harrison\*. Clifton Park, Malta Tech Park, Ft. Edward in the dark; while in daylight as follows in Town of Dresden, Washington Co.: Pine Brook Rd., South Bay causeway, Ottenburgh Rd., Le Clare Rd., and Dresden station; then

Ft. Edward grasslands, Towpath Lane, Saratoga Lake, Vischer Ferry and Cohoes flats, 0210-1920, 104 species. HORNED GREBE, BONAPARTE’S GULL, BLACK TERN and ORCHARD ORIOLE.

**Group C** – Larry Alden\*, Steve Chorvas and Jackie Bogardus. In Albany Co.: Stanton Pond, Black Creek Marsh, Alcove and Basic Creek reservoirs, Thacher Park, Partridge Run; and Cohoes, 0230-2105, 125 species. RED-NECKED GREBE, AMERICAN BITTERN, RUDDY DUCK, FISH CROW, NASHVILLE WARBLER and NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH.

**Group D** – Tom Williams\*. Colonie, Black Creek Marsh, Thacher Park, Five Rivers Envir. Ed. Center, Delmar, Stanton Pond, Papscanee Island, Cohoes-Crescent, Malta Tech Park, Wright’s loop, Saratoga Nat. Hist. Park and Saratoga Co. Airport, 0500-1930. NORTHERN SHOVELER and WINTER WREN.

**Group E** – Bill Lee, John Hershey, Nancy Slack\*, Jamie Taft, George Shaw, Tom Anderson and Kate Storms. Union College, Watervliet Reservoir, Basic Creek and Alcove reservoirs, Black Creek Marsh, Thacher Park, Cohoes, Cole Hill, Saratoga Lake and Airport, and Malta Tech Park, 0500-2130. AMERICAN BLACK DUCK, SORA, SEMIPALMATED PLOVER, PURPLE MARTIN, WHITE-EYED VIREO, TENNESSEE WARBLER, CAPE MAY WARBLER and VESPER SPARROW.

**Group F** –Jean Holcomb\*, Carol Blackburn, Jim Ries and Liz Niell. Vischer Ferry, Colhoes flats, Wright’s loop, Saratoga Nat. Hist. Park, Ft. Edward, Glens Falls Towpath, Glen Lake, Hadley Mountain, Tower Rd., Saratoga Airport, Woods Hollow, Saratoga Lake and Luther Forest, 0515-2030. BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO, OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER, NORTHERN PARULA and PINE WARBLER.

	a	b	c	d	e	f
BRANT	a					
CANADA GOOSE	a	b	c	d	e	f
MUTE SWAN			c		e	
WOOD DUCK		b	c	d	e	f
GADWALL			c	d	e	
AMERICAN BLACK DUCK					e	
MALLARD	a	b	c	d	e	f
NORTHERN SHOVELER				d		
BUFFLEHEAD			c		e	
RUDDY DUCK			c			
WILD TURKEY		b	c	d		f
COMMON LOON		b	c		e	f

HORNED GREBE	b
RED-NECKED GREBE	c
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT	b c d e f
AMERICAN BITTERN	c
LEAST BITTERN	c d e
GREAT BLUE HERON	b c d e f
GREEN HERON	b c d e f
BLACK VULTURE	d e
TURKEY VULTURE	a b c d e f
OSPREY	b c
BALD EAGLE	c e f
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	b f
RED-TAILED HAWK	a b c d e f
AMERICAN KESTREL	b c d e f
PEREGRINE FALCON	c e
VIRGINIA RAIL	c d e f
SORA	e
COMMON GALLINULE	b c e
SEMIPALMATED PLOVER	e
KILLDEER	a b c d e f
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	a c e f
SOLITARY SANDPIPER	c d e f
LEAST SANDPIPER	b c d e f

AMERICAN WOODCOCK	b	c	e			
BONAPARTE'S GULL	b					
RING-BILLED GULL	a	b	c	e	f	
HERRING GULL	b	c	d	e	f	
GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL	b	c	d	e	f	
BLACK TERN	b					
ROCK PIGEON	a	b	c	d	e	f
MOURNING DOVE	a	b	c	d	e	f
BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO	f					
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL	b	c				
BARRED OWL	b	c				
EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL	b	c	e	f		
CHIMNEY SWIFT	a	b	c	d	e	f
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD	a	b	c	d		
BELTED KINGFISHER	a	b	c	d	e	
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	a	b	c	d	e	f
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER	b	c	d	f		
DOWNY WOODPECKER	a	b	c	d	e	f
HAIRY WOODPECKER	a	c	f			
NORTHERN FLICKER	a	b	c	d	e	f

PILEATED WOODPECKER	b	c	d	e		
OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER						f
EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE	b	c	d	e	f	
ALDER FLYCATCHER	b	c	d	e		
WILLOW FLYCATCHER	b	c	d	e	f	
LEAST FLYCATCHER	b	c	d	e	f	
EASTERN PHOEBE	a	b	c	d	e	f
GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER	b	c	d	e	f	
EASTERN KINGBIRD	a	b	c	d	e	f
WHITE-EYED VIREO					e	
YELLOW-THROATED VIREO	b	c	d	e	f	
BLUE-HEADED VIREO		c	d	e	f	
WARBLING VIREO	b	c	d	e	f	
RED-EYED VIREO	a	b	c	d	e	f
BLUE JAY	a	b	c	d	e	f
AMERICAN CROW	a	b	c	d	e	f
FISH CROW		c				
COMMON RAVEN	b	c		e		
HORNED LARK			d	e	f	
PURPLE MARTIN				e		
TREE SWALLOW	a	b	c	d	e	f
NORTHERN ROUGH- WINGED SWALLOW	a	b	c	d	e	f

BANK SWALLOW	b c d e
CLIFF SWALLOW	c e
BARN SWALLOW	a b c d e f
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	a b c d e f
TUFTED TITMOUSE	a b c d e f
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	c d
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	a b c d e f
BROWN CREEPER	c d
CAROLINA WREN	b c e
HOUSE WREN	a b c d e f
WINTER WREN	d
MARSH WREN	b c d e
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER	b c d e f
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	c e
EASTERN BLUEBIRD	a b c d e f
VEERY	b c d e f
HERMIT THRUSH	b c e f
WOOD THRUSH	a b c d e f
AMERICAN ROBIN	a b c d e f
GRAY CATBIRD	a b c d e f
NORTHERN	b c d e f

MOCKINGBIRD						
BROWN THRASHER			c	d	e	
EUROPEAN STARLING	a	b	c	d	e	f
CEDAR WAXWING		b	c	d	e	f
OVENBIRD		b	c	d	e	f
LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH		b	c	d	e	
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH			c			
BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	a	b	c	d	e	f
BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER		b	c	d	e	
TENNESSEE WARBLER					e	
NASHVILLE WARBLER			c			
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT	a	b	c	d	e	f
AMERICAN REDSTART	a	b	c	d	e	f
CAPE MAY WARBLER					e	
NORTHERN PARULA						f
MAGNOLIA WARBLER			c	d		
BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER		b	c	d	e	f
YELLOW WARBLER	a	b	c	d	e	f
CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER		b	c	d	e	f
BLACKPOLL WARBLER	a		c	d	e	

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER	b c
PINE WARBLER	f
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	c d e
PRAIRIE WARBLER	b c d e f
BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER	b c d e f
CANADA WARBLER	c f
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT	a
EASTERN TOWHEE	b c d e f
CHIPPING SPARROW	b c d e f
FIELD SPARROW	b c d e f
VESPER SPARROW	e
SAVANNAH SPARROW	b c d e f
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW	d e f
SONG SPARROW	a b c d e f
SWAMP SPARROW	b c d e f
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	a b c f
DARK-EYED JUNCO	b c d e f
SCARLET TANAGER	b c d e f
NORTHERN CARDINAL	a b c d e f
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK	b c d e f

INDIGO BUNTING	b	c	d	f		
BOBOLINK	a	b	c	d	e	f
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	a	b	c	d	e	f
EASTERN MEADOWLARK	b	c	d	e	f	
COMMON GRACKLE	a	b	c	d	e	f
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	a	b	c	e	f	
ORCHARD ORIOLE	b					
BALTIMORE ORIOLE	a	b	c	d	e	f
PURPLE FINCH	b	c				
HOUSE FINCH	b	c	d	f		
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	a	b	c	d	e	f
HOUSE SPARROW	a	b	c	d	e	f

## Upcoming Field Trips

### AUGUST

#### RESERVATION DEADLINE FOR CAPE MAY TRIP

Wednesday, August 1

Trip Coordinator: Carol Blackwell 238-3086 [cblackwell@nycap.rr.com](mailto:cblackwell@nycap.rr.com)

Field Coordinator: Jim Ries 792-4477 [jimries@roadrunner.com](mailto:jimries@roadrunner.com)

Contact Coordinators for trip details.

#### JAMAICA BAY NWR, QUEENS: SHOREBIRD MIGRATION

Sunday, August 12 (all day)

Coordinator: Bernie Grossman 399-9159 [bgrossman@nycap.rr.com](mailto:bgrossman@nycap.rr.com)

## Upcoming Field Trips...*(continued)*

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

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

### PEEBLES ISLAND STATE PARK / COHOES FLATS

**Sunday, August 26** (Saratoga/Albany Counties; morning)

Coordinator: John Hershey 371-3114 [hersheyj@nycap.rr.com](mailto:hersheyj@nycap.rr.com)

The wooded areas of Peebles Island are good for seeing a variety of songbirds including some of the migrant warblers. The river area and rocky flats around the island are usually good for Peregrine Falcon, Osprey, Bald Eagle as well as sandpipers, yellowlegs, herons, egrets, Chimney Swifts and ducks. From the meeting place, we will check out the Cohoes Flats and then consolidate vehicles before proceeding to Peebles Island since there is a fee for each car entering.

Meet at the NY State Dam Recreation area behind the U-Haul Rental in Cohoes at 8:30 a.m. From I-787 going north, turn right onto Route 470 (Ontario Street) in Cohoes. Then turn left onto Clark Ave. and proceed to the end.

## SEPTEMBER

### CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY

**September 7, 8, 9** Friday thru Sunday

Coordinator: Carol Blackwell 238-3086 [cblackwell@nycap.rr.com](mailto:cblackwell@nycap.rr.com)

Coordinator: Jim Ries 792-4477 [jimries@roadrunner.com](mailto:jimries@roadrunner.com)

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

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

Details of the group itinerary including hotels, places to eat and other Cape May information will be provided to each participant as soon as the group is set (August 1 deadline to sign up- limit of 12). Cape May is approximately 5 hours from Albany. Contact one of the coordinators to sign up or if there are any questions.

## Upcoming Field Trips...*(continued)*

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

**Saturday, September 15**

Coordinator: Gary Goodness 862-9260 [goodness@nycap.rr.com](mailto: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.

### **PINE BUSH PRESERVE – WILLOW STREET ENTRANCE (Albany County; morning)**

**Sunday, September 16**

Coordinator: Don Gresens 370-3923 [dgresens@nycap.rr.com](mailto: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.

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

**Saturday, September 22**

Coordinator: Gary Goodness 862-9260 [goodness@nycap.rr.com](mailto: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 Routes 20 and 155 in Guilderland at 8:00 a.m.

### **SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AND BATTLEFIELD (Saratoga County; morning)**

**Sunday, September 23**

Coordinators: Ellen Pemrick 882-9163 [lnmp@nycap.rr.com](mailto:lnmp@nycap.rr.com)

Marne Onderdonk 583-8841 [marne-esq@nycap.rr.com](mailto: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 SR 32.

## Upcoming Field Trips...*(continued)*

### **HUYCK PRESERVE / MYOSOTIS LAKE (Albany County; morning)**

**Saturday, September 29**

Coordinators: David and Sandy Martin 765-4982 [david@naturebits.org](mailto: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. E-mail the coordinator if you plan to attend.

### **October**

### **FIVE RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER (Albany County; morning)**

**Sunday, October 7**

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

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 a.m. in the parking lot by the visitor center.

### **WOODLAWN PRESERVE (Schenectady County; morning)**

**Saturday, October 13**

Coordinator: Don Gresens 370-3923 [dgresens@nycap.rr.com](mailto: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.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in front of Barnes & Noble in Mohawk Commons at the corner of State Street and Balltown Road (State St side)

We will carpool the short distance to the preserve.

## Upcoming Field Trips...*(continued)*

### **FIVE RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER (Albany County; all day)**

**Sunday, October 14**

Coordinator: Tom Williams 857-2176 [trwdsd@yahoo.com](mailto:trwdsd@yahoo.com)

“The Big Sit!” is an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest and founded by the New Haven (CT) Bird Club. The concept: Find a good spot for bird watching, preferably one with good views of a variety of habitats and lots of birds. Next you create a circle 17 feet in diameter and sit inside it counting all the bird species you see or hear. If a bird is seen or heard from within the circle but is too distant to identify, the circle can be left to get a closer look/listen to confirm the bird's identity. However, any new bird species seen or heard while confirming the original can't be counted unless it's seen or heard from an "anchor" who stayed behind in your circle. Big Sit! participants can work in shifts. No one person needs to be there throughout the whole Big Sit! The area can be left and returned to as frequently as desired. Our tally will be sent to the hosts for publication.

Meet at the Five Rivers parking lot in Delmar, where signs will direct you to the “circle.” We will be counting between 7AM and 5PM. Stop by for a few minutes, an hour or all day, everyone is welcome! Bring a portable chair and have some fun.

### **COLLINS LAKE (Schenectady County; morning)**

**Saturday, October 27**

Coordinator: Don Gresens 370-3923 [dgresens@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dgresens@nycap.rr.com)

We will visit Collins Lake for late migrating waterfowl from the beach and the east side of the lake. We will also take a walk going east along the north side of the Mohawk River for fall sparrows. Fox Sparrows have been seen in previous years. Foliage will be off of the trees to make finding LBJ's (Little Brown Jobs) a bit easier.

Meet at **Jumpin' Jacks** in Scotia at 8:00 a.m. Bring a scope if you have one.

## **NOVEMBER**

### **TOMHANNOCK RESERVOIR (Rensselaer County; morning)**

**Saturday, November 10**

Coordinator: Larry Alden 861-6087 [overlook@nycap.rr.com](mailto:overlook@nycap.rr.com)

Join us for a morning trip around the Tomhannock Reservoir. We should find a good variety of waterfowl as well as resident and migrant passerines and possibly shorebirds. Rarities such as Ross' Goose and Gray Kingbird have turned up at the Tomhannock in the fall and we often find a Bald Eagles.

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking area at the intersection of Lake Shore Dr. and NY Route 7 at the west end of the causeway. Bring a scope if you have one.

## Upcoming Field Trips...*(continued)*

**VISCHER FERRY NATURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVE (Saratoga Co; morning)**

**Sunday, November 18**

Coordinator: John Hershey 371-3114 [hershey@nycap.rr.com](mailto:hershey@nycap.rr.com)

On this trip we'll be looking for migrant waterfowl. Sometimes there are surprises such as a Eurasian Wigeon that showed up in November 2010. We will start at the main entrance. We will also explore some of the lesser known areas of the Preserve, such as Ferry Drive and the adjacent area around the Vischer Ferry Power Plant (not in the Preserve) where Bald Eagles are often seen.

Meet at the main entrance along Riverview Road at 8:30 a.m.

### *Feathers*

**Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club**

**c/o Five Rivers EEC**

**Game Farm Road**

**Delmar, NY 12054**