

Feathers

ANOTHER CENTURY RUN FIRST: EMAIL CHECK LIST SUBMISSION SAME DAY AS COUNT

by Robert P. Yunick

Following last year's first ever 24-hour coverage in Century Run history, this year's count featured the first ever submission of a check-list on the day of the count. Andrea Denton posted her group's check-list at 10:25 pm on the day of the count. Ah, the virtue of promptness.

Six groups of 21 observers enjoyed a fine day afield on the Club's 70th Guy Bartlett Century Run. Four of the groups exceeded the 100 mark with Group C's 128 species the best of the day, tying 15th highest in the 70 years, record 156 in 1986. This year's composite total was 156 species ranking 29th behind the record 188 also in 1986. Forty-eight species were seen by all groups and another 31 species reported by all but one group. As last year, there were 26 species (high) seen only by one group; each group contributing one to eight (Group D) of those singly reported species.

Following a brief, light shower in the wee hours of the morning, the day turned out well. The National Weather Service at Albany indicated a temperature range of 55-75°F., average wind of 9 mph from the S and SW, average sky cover at 0.9 and relative humidity 43-87 percent. Precipitation for May to the 16th was only 0.06 in. or 1.69 in. below average on the brink of a drought. Year to date precipitation was 5.19 in. below average compared to a 12.57-in. surplus last year at this time. By later in the month the NWS reported this year the driest since 1941. Trees and shrubs were well leafed at lower elevations, less so at higher elevations where the usual laggard oaks were just leafing.

Individual group field coverage ran from 7.75 hours to 20 hours per group over the 20-hr. period of 0115 to 2115 with Group B birding that entire 20-hr. period. They were last year's 24-hr. birders.

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President's Corner

Happy summer! During what is something of a slow period for local birding, I have a few varied and unrelated thoughts to pass along for this issue:

The New York State Ornithological Association's (NYSOA) Annual Meeting and Birder's Conference is coming to the Hudson-Mohawk region this coming October 2 - 4, hosted by HMBC. Preparations are moving along quite well now under the direction of a great group of volunteers who comprise the meeting steering committee, and co-directed by Jory Langner and Kathy Schnieder. Programs, workshops, and field trips are lined up and registration is underway. Look for more details in this issue of *Feathers* and at the NYSOA and HMBC web sites: <http://www.nybirds.org/> and <https://hmhc.net/nysoa/>.

Shifting gears....

I've been reading Candice Millard's *The River of Doubt*, the part-history, part-biography telling of the Roosevelt-Rondon expedition down a major unexplored tributary of the Amazon in western Brazil in 1913-1914. The story is well-known: After losing his attempt at a third presidential term in 1912, Teddy Roosevelt, his son Kermit, and Brazilian officer and surveyor Candido Rondon led an expedition on behalf of the American Museum of Natural History and the Brazilian government to map this previously uncharted river. Millard's writing gives the book the feel of a suspense novel, even though it is really a work of historical non-fiction. It's excellent reading. At the same time, the description of what the expedition endured is really hard to comprehend. While not even remotely comparable, reading the book does bring back to me many enjoyable memories of what Cathy and I experienced on our recent first trip to Brazil. We only scratched the surface of a very large and incredibly diverse place with a trip we did there last year to the Pantanal and Atlantic Forest. I'll be giving a program based on that trip as Part 2 of back-to-back Brazil programs running in October and November this year. Bernie Grossman will present Part 1 describing the trip he and Chris did just a few months before our trip. I'm looking forward to a couple of entertaining presentations. At the same time, all this talk of Brazil is making me itch to get back and see more. Among other places, one can now visit the renamed Rio Roosevelt via river boat. Certainly not quite the "authentic" expedition experience of the turn of the last century, but still, something of an inspiration to be in the same remote place that TR explored and nearly lost his life in the process.

Gregg Recer
President, HMBC
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Committee Chair Changes

Several out-going HMBC committee chairs deserve recognition for their tireless efforts in what are frequently thankless jobs: Social chair Peddy Rudis, Conservation chair Patty Packer, and Reist Sanctuary chair Gary Goodness. Committees do the real day-to-day work of the Club and, as is often the case, committees of 1 put all the work on a single person. A big thank-you to all four out-going chairs for the effort they've put into keeping the Club running smoothly. Suffice to say that the Board and I will need help from new volunteers to fill their shoes. As a start, Cathy Graichen has agreed to help on the Social committee organizing the next annual meeting. Mike Gann, who has been engaged with Sanctuary stewardship for a number of years now, has agreed to act as interim Sanctuary chair, and a number of people have volunteered to assist with conservation activities while we find a new chair for that committee. My top near-term priority is to find a volunteer to chair the Social committee, hopefully in time to be able to begin work with the return of the monthly program meetings on September 14th. Shortly thereafter, we'll need someone to step up to run the Field Trip committee. If you're interested in volunteering, please drop me an email.

-- Gregg Recer, President

You, too, can contribute to Feathers!

- Do you have a birding story or photos that might be of interest to other birders?
- Did you take a birding vacation?
- Do you have a favorite birding spot?

SHARE them with HMBC members by submitting them to:

HMBC Contact Information

BIRDLINE of EASTERN NEW YORK:

E-mail: contact@hmbc.net

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

Please send all **electronic submissions for Feathers** via e-mail to:

Chris Grossman at bgrossman@nycap.rr.com.

Send all paper submissions to:

Chris Grossman

7 Nott Rd.

Rexford, NY 12148

New printing of *Birding New York's Hudson Mohawk Region* is now available

Birding New York's Hudson Mohawk Region, a new printing of HMBC's classic book, is now available. A copy is \$20 for HMBC members and \$25 for non-members. An additional charge of \$5 for postage and handling will be added to the price per book. Contact Chris Grossman bgrossman@nycap.rr.com or (518) 399-9159 if you are interested in purchasing a copy. Checks should be made out to ***Hudson Mohawk Bird Club*** and should be sent to:

Chris Grossman

7 Nott Rd

Rexford, NY 12148

Field Trip Reports

Partridge Run

May 30, 2015

8 HMBC members made the trip to Partridge Run in Southwestern Albany County. We first explored Kingfisher Road, then Fawn Lake Road, Tubbs Pond, Fawn Lake, and the trail between Fawn Lake and White Birch Pond. In all, we found 44 species, including ten warbler species. The highlight was the continuing drab male MOURNING WARBLER who was singing vociferously and perched in the open above the scrubby habitat across Fawn Lake road from the southern end of the newt ponds. Other highlights included BLACKBURNIAN WARBLERS, BLACKPOLLS, a BLUE HEADED VIREO, a male RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, and numerous ALDER and LEAST FLYCATCHERS. On the drive out, many of us saw a female HOODED MERGANSER with ducklings in the Newt Pond.

- Zach Schwartz-Weinstein

Dyken Pond

June 6, 2015

Thirteen of us birded a breezy but beautiful few hours at the Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center of Rensselaer County. 38 species including 8 wood warblers were seen or mostly heard because of windy conditions including MAGNOLIA, BLACKBURNIAN, and BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLERS. Dustin Swamp was flooded by beaver activity but still produced an ALDER FLYCATCHER, NASHVILLE WARBLER and a BROWN CREEPER working up a snag. The forest interior trail gave us a SCARLET TANAGER and numerous OVENBIRDS. A single RAVEN was sighted over Dyken Pond being attacked by various blackbirds.

- Jim de Waal Malefyt

Perch River

June 27 and 28, 2015

Perch River WMA, near Watertown, NY in Jefferson County, was the focus of the HMBC out-of-region field trip this weekend. Seven club members attended this overnight trip, and we had a pleasant, and sometimes raucous, dinner at a local restaurant, which received mixed reviews from the guests. Fortunately the birding was quite good despite a dire forecast. We were able to avoid the rain on Saturday, and only encountered intermittent showers on Sunday.

Our first stop was at the NYSDEC grassland habitat along Dog Hill Rd. Several Amish farms on the west side of the road complement the state managed fields to the east, creating a very rich environment for ground nesting birds. We observed numerous BOBOLINKS, EASTERN MEADOWLARKS, SAVANNAH SPARROWS, GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS, and at least three singing HENSLOW'S SPARROWS. The HENSLOW'S SPARROWS sang frequently, and although they were often within 10-25 meters of the roadside, we were unable to see one perched up, except for a brief glimpse on Sunday morning.

At the large wetlands in the Perch River complex, the breeders include OSPREY, AMERICAN BITTERN, many BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS, COMMON GALLINULE, numerous CASPIAN and BLACK TERNS, PIED-BILLED GREBE, and BLUE-WINGED TEAL. We were also pleased to see a pair of TRUMPETER SWANS with two young cygnets, and a COMMON TERN, likely a foraging visitor from the nearby eastern Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River corridor

At Chaumont Barrens, a short distance from Perch River, we added OVENBIRD, and BLACK-AND-WHITE, NASHVILLE, CHESTNUT-SIDED, and PRAIRIE WARBLERS. Brown Thrasher, Eastern Towhee, and Field Sparrow are common summer residents, too.

Thank you to all the participants, we had an enjoyable experience despite the uncooperative weather. We hope to see you on future HMBC trips!

-Tom and Colleen Williams

Upcoming HMBC Programs

Birding South Florida

Speaker: Scott Stoner and Denise Hackert-Stoner

September 14, 2015 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

William K. Sanford (Colonie Town) Library 629 Albany Shaker Road, Loudonville, N.Y.

Wading bird populations in the Everglades have dropped by more than 90 percent in the past century. Even with that, South Florida is still a great place to go birding. With skimmers and shorebirds, spoonbills, herons, purple gallinules, limpkins, painted and indigo buntings, wintering warblers, nesting anhingas, a remote chance for wild flamingoes and a higher likelihood for 'countable' exotics, winter is a great time to visit.

South Florida holds a special appeal to Scott and Denise. Scott made his first trip there in 1979 when he and a friend drove there from Maine on spring break – not for the beaches but for the Everglades – for the swamps and the birds. Denise and Scott made their first trip there together in 1995, which soon became an annual event of birding, photography, and learning about this threatened ecosystem.

This program provides a detailed photo tour of some of the best birding sites – and most sought-after birds – of southern Florida, from the Gulf coast to the everglades to Key West. From sunrise on Sanibel to sunset at Key West, we take a virtual journey that includes Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Bunche Beach, and Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in SW Florida, across the Tamiami Trail with Big Cypress National Preserve, to the common and lesser known parts of Everglades National Park, the suburbs of Miami, and finally to the Keys and Dry Tortugas.

South Florida is a birder's – and a bird photographer's paradise, and we invite you to join us for a one hour virtual tour! Denise Hackert-Stoner and Scott Stoner are longtime birders and nature photographers. Their award-winning photographs have been exhibited widely in galleries across the Capital Region, featured in *The Kingbird* (journal of the New York State Ornithological Association), as well as in the *New York State Conservationist Magazine* and the 2013 book, *New York Wildlife Viewing Guide* (Watchable Wildlife Series). Denise won first place in the 2013 Fire Island National Seashore wildlife photo contest, and Scott made the top 100 in the 2015 National Audubon Society bird photo contest. Together they operate Naturelogues; information and photos at www.naturelogues.com

Scott is past president of both the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club and the Audubon Society of the Capital Region, and teaches adult education bird courses for several area school districts. Denise is a past director of the Bird Club and gives numerous programs to adults as well as children. More recently, they have developed and taught nature photography courses and workshops including several local school districts, Dyken Pond Environmental Center, the Huyck Preserve, and the Albany Pine Bush Preserve. They were also the jurists for the Pine Bush's first photo contest, held last fall.

Birding Brazil 1

Speaker: Bernie Grossman

October 5, 2015 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

William K. Sanford (Colonie Town) Library 629 Albany Shaker Road, Loudonville, N.Y.

Bernie and Chris Grossman have birded two areas in Brazil near the city of Cuiaba. The first was centered around the Garden of the Amazon, a lodge just in the Amazon drainage and located about 200 miles north of Cuiaba. The second was the northern Pantanal, which is a vast seasonal wetlands draining south into the Paraguay River. Much of their birding was done from boats on the rivers with the goal of seeing the birds of the two regions and, of course, jaguar.

Bernie and Chris Grossman have lived in the Capital District for over 40 years. Since retirement they have traveled widely to see the birds and cultures of the world.

Upcoming Audubon Programs

No programs for August or September

Share Your Research at the NYS Birders Conference

We are soliciting proposals for presentations for the Scientific Sessions at the 2015 NYS Birders Conference and NYSOA Annual meeting right here in Albany, October 2-4. The paper session will be held Saturday afternoon, October 3rd. Students, environmental monitoring groups, resource managers, and scientists are encouraged to share recent research on such topics as avian behavior, life history, ecology, migration, or the effects of climate change, land use, invasive species, and disease on bird populations. Talks are limited to 20 minutes including questions. The deadline for abstract submission is **August 15th**. For more information and to submit abstracts contact Dawn O'Neal, 2015 Scientific Paper Session Co-Chair, dawn@huyckpreserve.org

On Nature

The Kingbirds Are Coming!

by Denise Hackert-Stoner and Scott Stoner

As we paddled Round Lake and its streams this weekend, we saw a number of Eastern Kingbirds flying back and forth, hovering over the water lilies, perching on the water willow, and flying up to the dead snags.



This is particularly relevant because the kingbirds, i.e., the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA), are coming here the first weekend in October. The Eastern Kingbird is the symbol of NYSOA; this impressive bird is on their patch, their window decal, their NYS bird checklist, and is the name of their prestigious journal. HMBC is proud to once again host NYSOA's annual meeting, October 2-4, and we hope everyone will attend! For more info on that please see <http://www.nybirds.org/>

But let's take a closer look at their namesake species itself, the Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*.

Kingbirds begin to arrive in late April and are common by the beginning of May. After raising a single brood, and feeding their young insects for seven weeks, Kingbirds begin to depart the area by the end of August and most are gone by Labor Day. So when NYSOA arrives, they will sadly be long gone for the year, headed south on their long journey to their wintering ground in South America, where they will feast on fruit in Amazonia before returning in the spring. They breed throughout the State except for the mountains, and are widely found across the greater Capital Region. Five Rivers, the Albany Pine Bush, brushy areas and the land around lakes and streams are just a few of many places to see them. Kingbirds are highly

defensive of their territories (remember, they have “tyrant” in *both* parts of their scientific name!) Although not often seen, this king of the birds has a crown of yellow, orange or red feathers that it can raise when it encounters and dive bombs an intruder! It takes patience to photograph kingbirds, as it does for most birds, and we have yet to capture an image showing this crown. But we have had the pleasure to watch, and opportunity to photograph this regal species on a number of occasions, and look forward to spending more time with them this summer, and to welcoming the NYSOA kingbirds in October!

Sources include Cornell Lab, ebird, and NYS Breeding bird atlas



New York State Ornithological Association 68th Annual Meeting

NEW YORK STATE BIRDERS CONFERENCE: Connecting Birders Throughout the State

October 2-4, 2015, Hosted by Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club, Albany, NY

Right Here in Albany, October 2-4, 2015

The local committee is please to report that our HMBC meeting website has gone public and statewide registration for the big happening has begun in earnest. This year’s conference promises to be an exciting event, chock full of great birding and educational activities, along with opportunities to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Here are a few of the things that you won’t want to miss:

Keynote on Warblers by Jon Dunn, author, tour leader, and bird identification expert

Behind the Scenes Ornithology Collection Tours at the NYS Museum

Sumptuous Reception in the NYS Museum Bird Hall Catered by Nicole’s

Workshops, Field Trips, Book Signings, Scientific Papers, Discussions

Fabulous Banquet, NYSOA Awards and Bird Contest

What more could a birder want?

Visit this website for registration and details <https://hmbc.net/nysoa>. Early registration ends August 15th.



Hosted by Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club
 October 2-4, 2015
 Holiday Inn, 205 Wolf Rd, Albany, NY 12205

INSTRUCTION PAGE

Pay by Check

Mail completed form and payment to:
 Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club
 c/o Chris Grossman,
 7 Nott Rd, Rexford, NY 12148

Pay by Credit Card (after July 1)

Register online by visiting
<https://hmbc.net/nysoa>

Make checks payable to: Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club.

**QUESTIONS? - Email questions to Chris Grossman at nysoa-mtg@hmbc.net
 or call Jean Holcomb (518) 935-3353**

Registration Fee includes all workshops, papers sessions, and field trips. Separate fees apply to Friday night Reception and Saturday night Banquet. An email or postcard will be sent to confirm your registration.

Refunds, minus a \$10 processing fee, will be available through Sept 16, 2015.

NYS Museum behind the scenes ornithology tours

On Friday, October 2, behind the scenes tours of the NYS Museum Ornithology research collection will be available for to up to 45 people, in 3 groups of 15 on a first come first served basis. To preregister indicate 1, 2, or 3 for your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice of time slot. If you cannot attend a time slot, leave it blank. You will be notified of the status of your choice. **Tours will fill up early; the sooner you register the better.** Be sure to show up early for the tour or you will lose your slot. If you are accepted for a tour and find you cannot come, let us know so that we can give a place to someone on the waiting list.

Room reservations: A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn through Sept 6 at \$111 plus tax per room per night. Contact the Holiday Inn at 1-800-HOLIDAY to make your reservation at the special rate. **Be sure to reference the code "HMB" when you make your reservation, whether by phone or at www.hialbanywolf.com. The club has to pay if we don't have a certain number of rooms paid for by conference members.**

Liability Waiver (mandatory for all participants) I/we agree and expressly acknowledge, as registrant(s) for the 2015 NYSOA Annual Meeting, that I/we are fully aware that such events involve certain risks and dangers that include, but are not limited to, the hazards of travelling, the risks of injury, and the possibility that an accident or illness could occur as a result of participation in these events. In consideration of, and as part of payment for the right to participate in the Meeting, I/we do hereby waive, release, and hold harmless the

Hudson Mohawk Bird Club, their agents, directors, volunteers, and any contractors hired in connection with the Meeting. By submitting registration and/or payment for this event, I am accepting the terms of this liability waiver.

New York State Birders Conference and NYSOA Annual Meeting

Please fill out the forms below.

BASIC INFORMATION as you wish it to appear on your nametag.

	Registrant #1	Registrant #2
First Name		
Last Name		
Address		
Apartment #		
City		
State		
Zip		
Home Phone		
Cell Phone		
Email		
Club Affiliation		
NYSOA Delegate? (Y/N)		

COST

	Cost	Registrant #1	Registrant #2
Registration postmarked on or before Aug 31	\$45		
Registration postmarked after Aug 31	\$55		
Behind the scenes tour of NYS Museum (limited to first 45 registrants)	free		
Friday Evening Hors d'oeuvres Reception at the NYS Museum	\$25		
Saturday Evening Banquet and Keynote Speaker	\$41		
TOTAL			
TOTAL AMOUNT OWED			

SATURDAY BANQUET – Check one box for each registrant

	Registrant #1	Registrant #2
Prime Rib		
Baked Salmon		
Eggplant Parmesan		

BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR AT THE NYS MUSEUM

	Registrant #1	Registrant #2
2:00 pm tour choice priority (1,2, or 3)		
3:00 pm tour choice priority (1,2, or 3)		
4:00 pm tour choice priority (1,2, or 3)		

Mail completed form with your check to: Hudson- Mohawk Bird Club, c/o Chris Grossman, 7 Nott Rd, Rexford, NY 12148 or register online by visiting <https://hmbc.net/nysoa> and pay by Credit Card (after July 1):

The Beaver Pond

By Scott Stoner and Denise Hackert-Stoner

Beaver Pond! Its' very name evokes excitement and expectation, but how often do we really see beaver there? We know it as one of the several ponds at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, a frequent birding destination with a variety of habitats, a longtime home base of the bird club and still the site of many field trips including our annual spring event, **Birds and Breakfast**. We visit the Beaver Pond to see nesting Canada geese, to look for migrant warblers and other songbirds along the boardwalk, to see blackbirds energetically defending territory in the marsh, and to check off Spotted Sandpiper which is often seen at the top of the spillway at the south end outlet of the pond. We may also note the presence of a large



beaver lodge along the west side, south of the wooden footbridge. But how often do we see beaver there?

In the late spring of this year, the answer was frequently!!

Beavers (*Castor canadensis*) are actively using the pond, swimming around, diving, carrying sticks and green vegetation as it swims, and, most interestingly, frequently seen working on both **their** lodge and

dam. Early morning is a good time to observe them. The beaver lodge is adorned with fresh greens and fresh mud, and there are new additions to the dam at the top of the spillway as well.

The beaver appears to swim the pond in a grid pattern, when it is not obviously working on the dam or the lodge. It will dive under water, swim perhaps 25 feet then emerge, swimming across the surface, dive again, and so forth, working in a grid as it works its way back and forth on the pond. It does not come up with mud or sticks or greens, so we believe the beaver is taking the wood to eat. Beavers rely almost entirely on plant cellulose for food. We suspect that the beaver we have observed may have been taking food into the lodge to feed young, as they are usually born in late May or early June. Sometimes when it is swimming, with most of its body submerged, part of its tail is visible, so far back that it almost seems disconnected from its body! Most of the time, though, only the head is visible.

The beaver has been carrying mud to both its lodge and its dam. We've watched it emerge from the water with a large hunk of mud between its chin and its two front legs. It climbs up the side of the lodge, water streaming off its body and from the load of mud, and works its way up the side, using its large flat wide tail as a third leg, forming a sort of tripod, similar to the way a woodpecker uses its tail for support on a tree trunk. It then deposits the mud, and, at times, green vegetation, on the outside of the lodge, then heads back to the water to get more.



The lodge itself is a marvelous thing. The beaver builds it so that the living area is dry and above water, while the two or more entrances are located below water. This arrangement affords some protection to the lodge and its inhabitants from some of the beaver's predators, including the wolf and coyote. Beaver are still susceptible to predation by other water mammals, however, as young beaver can be taken by mink and otter.

The beaver uses a similar method to build its dam, as it swims over with a load of mud between its chin and front legs, climbs up on the edge, and deposits it on the top of the dam. We watched as it made repeated trips to one section of the dam, then to another, then to a third. With this kind of constant upkeep the dam is kept water-tight. The sound of running water in early spring alerts the beaver to begin making repairs or to rebuild its dams, ensuring that the deep, still water of the



resulting pond will continue to provide protection from predators and also make it possible for the beaver to float food sources to the lodge. Beaver do not hibernate, and need to have a ready supply of food all winter. So as winter approaches, the beaver will construct a food pile near the underwater entrance to the lodge. Both male and female beavers take part in construction and upkeep of the lodge and dams, and sometimes any remaining second-year young may help out as well. The size of a beaver family's territory is flexible. The young remain with their parents for at least

their yearling year, and sometimes into their second year before setting out on their own. Even then, many young will build lodges not far from the parents. This creates a kind of beaver colony, and the more beaver there are in a colony, the more space it will need for raising young and sustaining the colony with food. They mark their territory with scent mounds, small piles of mud and sticks which the beaver mark with castoreum, a scent shared by all of the related beaver in the colony.

The beaver, like all wildlife, is an integral part of its ecosystem. Not only do they change the height and area of a waterbody, and affect the trees along it, but their own engineering can be merely stopping places for other wildlife. For example, this spring we noted a Red-winged Blackbird on top of the beaver lodge, and a snapping turtle inspecting the side of this large structure. Perhaps it was looking for a place to lay its eggs! Finally, at the spillway at the outlet of the pond, a Spotted Sandpiper was walking along the dam, and leaning down into the rushing water in search of food.



In our many decades of observing and photographing nature, we have learned to expect the unexpected. We might go out looking for one thing and end up seeing something totally different. A perfect example of this was one early morning this spring, while watching for beaver activity near the lodge, a startling sound, kind of a snort, came from the nearby water. And a head was sticking out of the water! Thinking it was a beaver, Scott grabbed a quick series of photos before it disappeared, not to be seen again. It was only later, looking at the photos, that we learned (thank you Alan Mapes) that it was a River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*)! Otters had been reported around five rivers, and often make the rounds of multiple ponds. We also learned that otters eat young beavers, which may well have been why this animal was near the beaver lodge.



As we watched these unique and fascinating animals this spring and early summer we were reminded of the phrase “busy as a beaver.” It certainly is true that the beaver is a busy mammal, what with all that dam and lodge building and repair, and all that food gathering. But really, isn’t the beaver simply a very obvious example of what all of nature is busy with at this very

busy time of year? Like other mammals of the northeast, and like our resident birds, spring and summer are short seasons. There is no time to waste. Territory must be sought and secured, and sometimes defended. Young have to be conceived, produced, protected and fed. And as summer's heat gives way to the cooler weather ahead, steps must be taken to ensure survival.

What is so amazing to us about the beaver in particular, is that this animal seems unique in that part of its routine in assuring its family's survival is to change its environment. This capacity for engineering, so rare in animals, sets the beaver apart; gives us pause; makes stand and wonder. And stand and wonder we did. We feel lucky to have had the chance.

Sources include personal observations and information from the NYSDEC website, Beaver (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/63052.html>)

ANOTHER CENTURY RUN FIRST: EMAIL CHECK LIST SUBMISSION SAME DAY AS COUNT (continued)

Five species of birds recorded 15 times or less were the best finds of the count. No new species were recorded leaving the composite list over 70 years at 254 species and three races. BLACK VULTURE seen by two groups made the list for the 5th year, 1st in 2009 and again in 2010, 2012 and 2014. RUDDY DUCK occurred for the 11th time, seen by Group C, last reported in 2012, 2007 and earlier. Two species were logged for the 15th time: NORTHERN GOSHAWK by Group D at Cole Hill State Forest last reported in 2010, 1999 and earlier; and two AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS at Carl George's Glenville feeders. These birds were holdovers from a wintering group at the location. This species was last reported in 1987 on May 16 and prior dates ranged from May 5, 1956 to May 20, 1978.

Finale

As mentioned above, this is the Club's 70th compilation of the Century Run...a nice round number and time to transfer compilation duties to a new compiler. Numerous people have compiled this event in the past. Guy Bartlett was one of the organizer/participants of the first Century Run events in 1932-1934 (the year before I was born) prior to formation of the Schenectady Bird Club in 1939, HMBC's predecessor. He reported results for those three years in *The Schenectady Gazette* writing under the name "G. B. Aves."

The Club began continuous coverage in 1946 following WW II when G. Malcomb Andrews compiled that first Club-sponsored Century Run. Bart compiled it in 1947. Other early compilers included Margaret A. Smith, Minnie B. Scotland, Nelle G. VanVorst, Frazer R. Turrentine, Gustave Angst, Walt Kaskan and Donald J. Tucker (one to three years each).

Bart compiled it a total of 13 years, last in 1970. He died on September 21, 1977. I compiled it first for a three-year span 1959-1961 while in graduate school before leaving the area for my first job. Once back in the area, I resumed compiling from Bart in 1971. This year's compilation represents my 48th. I thought it would be worthy to attempt 50 years, but it is time now. It's been a pleasure to interact with the many dozens of people who have participated in this Club activity that has traced numerous changes in the region's avifauna. And it is a credit to the foresight of those members long ago who started this venerable tradition. Thank you for the opportunity to have been a part of it.

And, thank you also to this year's participants who braved the elements and the clock to produce another fine count. Listed below in order received are the names of the participants, their times and places afield as well as those species reported only by their group. Names marked with an asterisk represent each group's reporter.

Group A – Andrea Denton*, Lydia Scheeren and Jocelyn Cole. Schaghticoke, Black Creek Marsh, Thacher Park and Cohoes, 0450-1400, 78 species. AMERICAN BLACK DUCK.

Group B – John Roosenberg, Ed Patten and David Harrison*. Schoharie Co. only: Corbin Hill, Onderdunk Rd., Max V. Shaul State Park, Blenheim-Gilboa Res., Stone Store State Forest, Franklinton Vlaie, Cobleskill Res., Ecker Hollow and other places in between, 0115-2115, 121 species. NORTHERN HARRIER, SORA, CLIFF SWALLOW, SWAINSON’S THRUSH, PINE WARBLER, MOURNING WARBLER and WILSON’S WARBLER.

Group C – Jackie Bogardus, Steve Chorvas and Larry Alden*. Albany Co. only, 0230-2045, 128 species. LEAST BITTERN, WHITE-WINGED SCOTER, RUDDY DUCK, COOPER’S HAWK, EASTERN WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW and PINE SISKIN.

Group D – Bill Lee, Mark Fitzsimmons, George Shaw and John Hershey*. Union College, Watervliet Res., Hennesey Rd., Black Creek Marsh, Thacher Park, Cole Hill State Forest, Basic Creek Res., Stanton Pond, Dunn Memorial Bridge, Cohoes, Crescent power plant, Saratoga Airport, Saratoga Lake and Malta Tech Park, 0630-2100, 111 species. RED-NECKED GREBE, NORTHERN GOSHAWK, SEMIPALMATED PLOVER, SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER, BONAPARTE’S GULL, RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET, NORTHERN PARULA and VESPER SPARROW.

Group E – Gregg Recer, Cathy Graichen, Denise Hackert-Stoner and Scott Stoner*. Saratoga Co. only: Bog Meadow Brook trail, Tower Rd., Saratoga Co. Airport, Saratoga Spa Park, Saratoga Lake, Saratoga National Historic Park, Stillwater, Ballston Creek Nature Preserve and Malta Tech Park, 0600-2100, 101 species. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, COMMON GALLINULE and BLACKPOLL WARBLER.

Group F – Hank Stebbins, David Gibson, Chris Cameron and Carl George*. Willowledge in Glenville, Lock 8 Mohawk River, Collins Lake, Rotterdam Jct., McDougall Rd., Mohr Rd., Bean Hill, Powerhouse Rd., Lock 10 and Wolf Hollow, 0645-1430, 81 species. AMERICAN TREE SPARROW.

Guy Bartlett Century Run, May 16, 2015

Species						
Canada Goose	a	b	c	d	e	f
Wood Duck	a	b	c	d	e	f
Mallard	a	b	c	d	e	f
American Black Duck	a					
Gadwall			c	d		
White-winged Scoter			c			
Hooded Merganser		b	c			
Common Merganser		b	c	d		
Ruddy Duck			c			
Ruffed Grouse		b	c		e	f
Wild Turkey	a	b	c	d	e	f
Common Loon			c	d		
Red-necked Grebe				d		
Double-crested Cormorant	a	b	c	d	e	f
American Bittern	a	b				
Least Bittern			c			
Great Blue Heron	a	b	c	d	e	f
Green Heron	a	b	c	d	e	
Turkey Vulture	a	b	c	d	e	f
Black Vulture			c	d		
Northern Harrier		b				
Osprey			c	d	e	
Sharp-shinned Hawk					e	
Cooper's Hawk			c			
Northern Goshawk				d		

Red-shouldered	a	b				
Broad-winged Hawk		b	c			
Red-tailed Hawk	a	b	c	d		f
Bald Eagle	a	b	c	d		f
Common Gallinule					e	
Virginia Rail	a	b	c	d		
Sora		b				
Semipalmated Plover				d		
Killdeer		b	c	d	e	f
Solitary Sandpiper	a		c	d		
Spotted Sandpiper		b	c	d	e	f
Semipalmated Sandpiper				d		
Least Sandpiper		b	c	d	e	
American Woodcock		b	c			
Bonaparte's Gull				d		
Ring-billed Gull	a		c	d	e	
Herring Gull			c	d	e	
Great Black-backed Gull	a		c	d		
Rock Pigeon	a	b	c	d	e	f
Mourning Dove	a	b	c	d	e	f
Black-billed Cuckoo	a	b	c			
Great Horned Owl		b	c		e	
Barred Owl		b	c			
Eastern Screech-Owl		b	c			
Eastern Whip-poor-will				d	e	
Chimney Swift	a	b	c	d	e	f
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		b	c	d	e	f
Belted Kingfisher	a	b	c	d	e	f
Red-bellied Woodpecker	a	b	c	d	e	f
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		b	c	d	e	f
Downy Woodpecker	a	b	c	d	e	f
Hairy Woodpecker	a	b	c		e	f
Northern Flicker		b	c	d	e	f
Pileated Woodpecker	a	b	c		e	f
Peregrine Falcon		b	c	d		
American Kestrel		b	c	d	e	f
Eastern Wood-Pewee	a	b	c	d	e	f
Willow Flycatcher	a	b	c	d	e	
Alder Flycatcher		b	c	d	e	
Least Flycatcher		b	c		e	f
Eastern Phoebe	a	b	c	d	e	f
Great Crested Flycatcher	a	b	c	d	e	f
Eastern Kingbird	a	b	c	d	e	f
Blue-headed Vireo	a		c	d	e	
Yellow-throated Vireo	a	b	c	d	e	
Warbling Vireo	a	b	c	d	e	f
Red-eyed Vireo	a	b	c	d	e	f
Blue Jay	a	b	c	d	e	f
Common Raven	a	b	c	d	e	

American Crow	a	b	c	d	e	f
Fish Crow			c	d	e	
Horned Lark				d	e	
Purple Martin				d	e	
Tree Swallow	a	b	c	d	e	f
Bank Swallow		b	c			
No. Rough-winged Swallow	a	b	c	d	e	f
Cliff Swallow		b				
Barn swallow		b	c	d	e	f
Black-capped Chickadee	a	b	c	d	e	f
Tufted Titmouse		b	c	d	e	f
Red-breasted Nuthatch		b	c	d	e	
White-breasted Nuthatch	a	b	c	d	e	f
Brown Creeper		b	c			
Carolina Wren		b	c	d		f
House Wren		b	c	d	e	f
Winter Wren	a	b				
Marsh Wren	a	b	c	d		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	a	b	c	d		f
Golden-crowned Kinglet		b	c			
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				d		
Eastern Bluebird	a	b	c		e	f
Wood Thrush	a	b	c	d	e	f
Veery		b	c	d	e	f
Hermit Thrush	a	b	c	d	e	f
Swainson's Thrush		b				
American Robin	a	b	c	d	e	f
Northern Mockingbird	a	b	c			f
Gray Catbird	a	b	c	d	e	f
Brown Thrasher	a	b	c			f
European Starling	a	b	c	d	e	f
Cedar Waxwing	a	b	c			
Ovenbird	a	b	c	d	e	f
Loiusiana Waterthrush		b	c	d	e	f
Northern Waterthrush		b				
Black-and-white Warbler	a	b	c	d	e	f
Blue-winged Warbler	a	b	c	d	e	f
Nashville Warbler		b	c		e	
Mourning Warbler		b				
Common Yellowthroat	a	b	c	d	e	f
American Redstart		b	c	d	e	f
Northern Parula				d		
Magnolia Warbler		b	c	d	e	f
Blackburnian Warbler		b	c	d	e	
Yellow Warbler	a	b	c	d	e	f
Chestnut-sided Waebler		b	c	d	e	f
Black-throated Blue Warbler	a	b	c	d	e	
Blackpoll Warbler					e	
Pine Warbler		b				

Prairie Warbler	a	b	c	d			
Yellow-rumped Warbler		b	c				
Black-throated Green Warbler	a	b	c		e	f	
Wilson's Warbler		b					
Canada Warbler		b	c				
Eastern Towhee		b	c	d	e	f	
American tree Sparrow						f	
Field Sparrow	a	b	c	d	e	f	
Chipping Sparrow	a	b	c	d	e	f	
Savannah Sparrow		b	c	d	e	f	
Vesper Sparrow				d			
Grasshopper Sparrow				d	e		
Song Sparrow	a	b	c	d	e	f	
Swamp Sparrow	a	b	c	d	e		
Dark-eyed Junco	a	b	c	d		f	
East. White-crowned Sparrow			c				
White-throated Sparrow		b	c		e		
Scarlet Tanager	a	b	c	d	e	f	
Northern Cardinal	a	b	c	d	e	f	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			c	d	e	f	
Indigo Bunting	a	b	c	d	e	f	
Common Grackle	a	b	c	d	e	f	
Red-winged Blackbird	a	b	c	d	e	f	
Brown-headed Cowbird	a	b	c	d	e	f	
Bobolink	a	b	c	d	e	f	
Eastern Meadowlark		b	c	d	e	f	
Orchard Oriole			c	d	e		
Baltimore Oriole	a	b	c	d	e	f	
Purple Finch	a	b	c	d	e		
House Finch		b	c	d	e	f	
Pine Siskin			c				
American Goldfinch	a	b	c	d	e	f	
House Sparrow	a	b	c	d	e	f	
Total		78	121	128	111	101	81

Upcoming Field Trips

AUGUST

Saturday – Sunday, August 8-9, NEWBURYPORT MA, SHOREBIRDS and WHALE WATCH (weekend)

Coordinators: Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen, 899-2678 gregg_recer@alum.rpi.edu

Reservations are required by Monday, June 15

This trip will combine an opportunity to cover Plum Island, MA (Parker River NWR) and other good shore-birding sites in the Newburyport MA area with a half-day whale watch to Stellwagen Bank for both whales and seabirds. Plum Island is a prime location in the Northeast for shorebird diversity during the protracted fall migration. Whale watch boats from Newburyport routinely find Greater and Sooty shearwaters (sometimes Cory's) and Leach's and Wilson's storm petrels; other pelagics such

as gannets, phalaropes and jaegers are also possible. We will travel out Friday evening the 7th in order to be on-site first thing Saturday morning, and plan to make reservations for a whale-watch boat on Sunday morning, returning mid-afternoon Sunday.

Email or call the coordinator for reservations or more information.

Sunday, August 9, DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS, JAMAICA BAY NWR, NY (All Day)

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

Sunday, August 16, DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS, LAKE CHAMPLAIN/VERMONT TOUR

(morning/afternoon)

Coordinators: Tom & Colleen Williams 857-2176 trwdsd@yahoo.com

Sunday, August 16, JAMAICA BAY NWR, NY (All Day)

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

Reservations are required by Sunday, August 9.

Jamaica Bay is a wonderful place to view south-migrating shorebirds. It is located just west of JFK Airport. We'll check out the East Pond near high tide to see herons, egrets, shorebirds, and other residents. Then we will try the West Pond, if it is repaired from Hurricane Sandy, as time permits. Dress for sun, heat, poison ivy and ticks. Bring lunch, water and snacks. Waterproof boots are required to traverse the muddy pond edges. Space will be limited and initially reserved for HMBC members. An early departure from the Capital District is necessary due to tide timing.

Contact leader for meeting place and time.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 5, HUYCK PRESERVE/MYOSOTIS LAKE (Albany County; morning)

Coordinator: John Kent 424-2234 jwkent@fastmail.fm

We will walk along the shore of Myosotis Lake looking for migrating warblers, vireos, kinglets, and flycatchers in the shrubby habitat of the Lake Trail. Depending on the water level, the mudflats at the north end of the lake often host migrating shorebirds. Seven shorebird species were seen on last year's trip. It may be necessary to walk through some mud to get a view, so be prepared. From there we will continue through the woods to Lincoln Pond, where we will check for waterfowl and herons. The total walking distance is around 1.5 miles.

Meet for carpooling at 8:00 a.m. at New Scotland Town Hall on Route 85. Parking at Myosotis Lake is limited.

Saturday, September 12, HAWK WATCHING AND SONGBIRDS IN THE HELDERBERG ESCARPMENT #1 – PINNACLE MT. (Albany County; morning)

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.

Sunday, September 13, SEPTEMBER RAMBLE AT FIVE RIVERS (Albany County; morning-afternoon)

Coordinators: Tom & Colleen Williams 857-2176 trwdsd@yahoo.com

How many species of birds can we observe in one September day at Five Rivers? You are invited to help us find the answer. Come on down to the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar on Sunday, Sept 13, 2015. Walk the trails, and explore the ponds, fields, marshes, and woodlands. Observe for an hour, or bird all day. It's up to you. Join an early group that will meet in the parking lot at 7:30 a.m. and cover much of the property in a three hour walk. You can also bird on your own throughout the day and share your results with the coordinators via e-mail. See you there for a fun day of birding!

Saturday, September 19, HAWK WATCHING AND SONGBIRDS IN THE HELDERBERG ESCARPMENT #2 – PINNACLE MT, (Albany County; morning)

Coordinator: Gary Goodness 862-9260 goodness@nycap.rr.com

This will be a repeat of last week's trip to Pinnacle Mt. for those who may have missed the previous week.

Meet in front of the bank at the southwest corner of Routes 20 and 155 in Guilderland at 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, September 20, FALL MIGRANTS – ALBANY PINE BUSH (Albany County; morning)

Coordinators: Tom & Colleen Williams 857-2176 trwdsd@yahoo.com

We will explore portions of Karner Barrens East including the dune overlook and the northern end of the perimeter trail. We will be looking for warblers, vireos, and kinglets. The dune overlook trail has a moderate climb and descent. Proper precautions should be taken to avoid ticks.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center parking lot, located at 195 New Karner Rd. (Rt. 155) in Albany.

Sunday, September 27, SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AND BATTLEFIELD (Saratoga County; morning)

Coordinators: Ellen Pemrick 882-9163 lnmp@nycap.rr.com

Marne Onderdonk 269-6199 marne37@icloud.com

This popular trip features beautiful foliage and a good chance to see 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.

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 10, WOODLAWN PRESERVE (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. Trips in prior years have seen migrating warblers and sparrows. The pond may attract various waterfowl.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in front of Petsmart in Mohawk Commons at the corner of State Street and Balltown Road (Balltown Rd. side). We will carpool the short distance to the Preserve.

Sunday, October 11, FIVE RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER (Albany County; morning)

Coordinator: John Kent 424-2234 jwkent@fastmail.fm

We'll walk about 2 miles over generally flat terrain with some small hills, passing through a variety of habitats. Migrating sparrows are often abundant at this time of the year, with a good chance of Lincoln's and White-crowned as well as more common species. Both species of kinglet may be present, as well as Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler and Blue-headed Vireo. A late Nashville, Black-throated Green, Blackpoll or Magnolia Warbler might be found. Wood Duck and other waterfowl are possible, as well as Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks and Merlin. Wet grass and muddy spots may be encountered, so waterproof footwear is recommended.

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

Saturday, October 24, COLLINS LAKE (Schenectady County; morning)

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

We will visit Collins Lake to view late migrating waterfowl from the beach and the east side of the lake. We will also take a walk 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 the western end of the Gateway Bridge at Jumpin' Jacks in Scotia at 8:00 a.m. Bring a scope if you have one.

Feathers

Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club

c/o Five Rivers EEC

Game Farm Road

Delmar, NY 12054