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Feathers

*Bi-monthly publication of the
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HMBC Ecuador Bucket Birding Adventure January 9-19, 2020 By Kevin McGrath

Adventurers: Debra Ferguson, Nancy Ebel, Lon and Helen Penna, Don and Heather Drinkwater, Pat Demko, Vincent McGrath, and Karen and Kevin McGrath

In the wee hours of Thursday January 9, 6 intrepid club members gathered at Albany County Airport. After a brief scramble to adjust our connection flights due to a departure delay, we met up with our other 4 travelers at Miami International for our evening flight to Quito. Arriving in Quito at about 10:30 pm, we breezed through customs and were met by our tour driver and taken to our somewhat elegant hotel in downtown Quito. Arriving at 11:45 pm we sped off to our rooms for wash-up and a short night's sleep. (A long nap really).

DAY 1

Up at 4:15 we met up in the lobby at 4:45 and at 5 am on Friday Jan 10, we loaded up our private tour van/bus and headed out into the pre-dawn darkness for our first day of birding. Even in the middle of the City, the morning chorus was boisterous with a wild array of strange calls, chirps, chips, squawks, and coos echoing down the glass canyons from the rooftops and ledges as numerous thrushes, sparrows, tyrants, and doves called out to the approaching dawn.

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HMBC BOARD
Officers

President:

Patricia Fuller
1301 Sumner Ave
Schenectady, NY 12309
(518) 421-2318 pfuller310@gmail.com

Vice-President::

Tristan Lowery tristanlowery@gmail.com

Secretary:

Debra Ferguson
3 Castle Point Rd
Athens, NY 12015
518-221-3857 zray.zreee@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Ellen Pemrick
117 Western Ave
West Charlton, NY 12010
lnmp@nycap.rr.com

Directors

Gregg Recer
518-899-2678 gregg_recer@alum.rpi.edu

Bruce Dudek
518-452-4938 bdudek2@nycap.rr.com

Eric Molho
518-439-6592 mohorising@aol.com

Amanda Dillon - amadillon@gmail.com

Tristan Lowery tristanlowery@gmail.com

Cassandra Davis daviscass33@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

Audit: vacant

Conservation: Kathy Schneider
fallline@nycap.rr.com

Field Trips: Tom Williams
trwdsd@yahoo.com

Membership: Gregg Recer
899-2678 gregg_recer@alum.rpi.edu

Outreach: Vacant

Programs: Scott Stoner
785-6760 programs@hmbc.net

Publications: Denise Hackert-Stoner
denisehstoner@aol.com

Records: Will Raup
944-8711 hoaryredpoll@hotmail.com

Reist Sanctuary: Philip Johnson
soomee4@earthlink.net

Social: vacant

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

Youth: Vacant

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

There is no President's Corner column this month, but here is the very appreciative response from Julie Hart, coordinator of the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas regarding HMBC's generous donation to the Atlas project:

Hi Patricia,

Thank you so much for your donation to the Atlas! It will indeed be very helpful. I just created a new page on the Atlas website to [recognize donors](#). I'm still tweaking the page, but I wanted to let you know that I added HMBC to the list of donors. Yours is the largest donation received so far and it will go a long way toward kickstarting our fundraising efforts and paying for some unfunded pieces of the Atlas. We greatly appreciate your support.

Thanks again,

Julie

You, too, can contribute to Feathers!

- Do you have a birding story or photos that might be of interest to other birders?
- Have you led a field trip for HMBC?
- Have you written short prose or poetry on the subject of birds? We're starting a Writers' Page!
- 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:
Denise Hackert-Stoner at DeniseHStoner@aol.com.

Send all paper submissions to:

Denise Hackert-Stoner

6 Knob Hill Road.

Loudonville,

NY

12211

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 Gregg Recer gregg_recer@alum.rpi.edu or (518) 899-2678 if you are interested in purchasing a copy. Checks should be made out to ***Hudson Mohawk Bird Club*** and should be sent to:

Gregg Recer

23 Scotch Mist Way

Malta, NY 12020

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

The following field trips are tentatively scheduled to occur, but may be affected by conditions related to COVID 19 in our area. Please check hmbc.net frequently for any updates.

Monday, August 24 through Thursday, August 27 COUNTING COMMON NIGHTHAWKS (Albany County; evenings)

Coordinators: Scott Stoner & Denise Hackert-Stoner 518-785-6760 scottjstoner@aol.com (8/24 & 8/27) and Tom and Colleen Williams 518-857-2176 trwdsd@yahoo.com (8/25 & 8/26)

The Common Nighthawk is an aerial insectivore that feeds at dusk and dawn. It breeds throughout much of North America, although in decline as it is no longer observed during the summer in many urban and suburban areas. A long-distance migrant, Common Nighthawks often travel in large flocks, on one of the longest migration routes of any North American bird. Most travel over land through Mexico and Central America to reach their wintering grounds in southern South America. Common Nighthawks are also among the last migrants to return to their breeding grounds in spring. In the Capital Region, the bulk of southbound migration occurs from mid-August until early September with a peak around the end of August.

We will conduct our viewing from the parking lot at the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center, located at 195 New Karner Rd. (Rt. 155) in Albany. Bring a chair and binoculars. We will begin each night at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 30, PEBBLES ISLAND STATE PARK/COHOES FLATS (Saratoga/Albany Counties; morning)

Coordinator: John Hershey 518-371-3114 hersheyj@nycap.rr.com

The wooded areas of Peebles Island are good for seeing a variety of songbirds. The river area and rocky flats around the island are usually good for Peregrine Falcon, Osprey, Bald Eagle as well as shore birds, 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 787 going north, turn right onto Route 470 (Ontario Street) in Cohoes. Then turn left onto Clark Ave. and proceed to the end.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS *(continued)*

Saturday, September 5, ALBANY RURAL CEMETERY (Albany County; morning)

Coordinator: Tristan Lowery 646-323-8914 tristanlowery@gmail.com

Albany Rural Cemetery in the Town of Colonie is one of the most historic burial grounds in the United States – and it's also a great place for birding in a beautifully-landscaped, park-like setting.

We'll visit Albany Rural Cemetery at the very onset of the peak weeks for fall songbird migration, so a variety of southbound warblers, vireos, kinglets, and flycatchers may be possible, in addition to many year-round species. Depending on where the birding takes us along the cemetery's meandering trails, we may also find ourselves by the graves of such national and local luminaries as 21st President of the United States Chester A. Arthur, Erastus Corning and Erastus Corning 2nd, Daniel Manning, Erastus Dow Palmer, Stephen Van Rensselaer, and Thurlow Weed.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the cemetery chapel and mausoleum. From Broadway (NY-32) HEADING north through Menands, turn left onto Cemetery Avenue at the prominent Albany Rural Cemetery gate. Continue west on Cemetery Avenue, keeping right at the St. Agnes Cemetery gate and continue past the Albany Rural Cemetery office to the chapel. There is adequate visitor parking at the chapel.

Sunday, September 6, HAND HOLLOW CONSERVATION AREA (Columbia County; morning)

Coordinator: Marian Sole 203-710-9096 mrnssole7@gmail.com

Columbia Land Conservancy owns and manages 433 acres at Hand Hollow Conservation Area for the protection of wildlife and open space. The property has an active beaver pond and two lakes, and trails that pass by ponds, creeks, wet meadows and a hemlock ravine. We will be looking for migrant songbirds as well as lingering residents.

Meet 8:00 am at the parking lot. From the intersection of Route 22 and 20 in New Lebanon, take US 20 4.5 miles to CR 9. Take CR 9 south 1.2 miles and turn west (right) into a parking lot at the farmhouse just past the pond.

Saturday, September 12, HAWK WATCHING AND SONGBIRDS AT THACHER STATE PARK (Albany County; morning)

Coordinator: Gary Goodness and Tom and Colleen Williams 518-857-2176 trwdsd@yahoo.com

We will be looking for migrating Broad-winged Hawks that use the warming air thermals along the face of the escarpment to continue their migration south. Other raptors may be seen using the thermals for similar reasons. Osprey, Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks are among those that can be seen soaring over the Helderbergs. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds also migrate over the escarpment very low and fast, and sparrows and warblers can also be found along the trails around the overlook.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. in front of the Key Bank at the southwest corner of Routes 20 and 155 in Guilderland.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS *(continued)*

Sunday, September 13, FALL MIGRANTS AT ALBANY PINE BUSH PRESERVE (Albany County; morning)

Coordinators: Tom and Colleen Williams 518-857-2176 trwdsd@yahoo.com

We will explore the Karner Barrens East unit of Albany Pine Bush Preserve, via the "yellow" perimeter trail, and "blue" dune overlook trail. We will be looking for warblers, vireos, and flycatchers. The dune overlook trail has a moderate climb and descent. This is approximately a three-mile loop. Take proper precautions to avoid ticks.

Map: <http://www.albanypinebush.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/1-KBarrensEW-2-pages.pdf>

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center parking lot, located at 195 New Karner Rd. (Rt. 155) in Albany.

Saturday, September 19, SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD (Saratoga County; morning)

Coordinator: Marne Onderdonk 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. We will carpool to several trailheads. You never know what will turn up.

Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot near the park's visitor center off SR 32.

Sunday, September 20, SARATOGA SPA STATE PARK (Saratoga County; morning)

Coordinator: Lindsey Duval and Naomi Lloyd 518-596-5964 naomi_kestrel@yahoo.com

Picnic table graveyard? Hardly! Explore this very productive area at the south end of Saratoga Spa Park. From weedy brush lot to capped landfill, and through woods, this spot has earned attention as a haven for migrants in its many edge habitats. Expect warblers, sparrows, flycatchers and vireos. The path is level and mostly gravel.

Meet at 8:00am at the Carlsbad parking area. From Rt. 50 or Rt. 9, take East-West Road through the south end of the Park. Carlsbad parking lot is just west of the Peerless Pool lot. Admission is charged after 8:30 so please be prompt.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS *(continued)*

Saturday, September 26, NUTTEN HOOK (Columbia County, morning)

Coordinator: Kathy Schneider 518-248-8665 fallline@nycap.rr.com

Nutten Hook is part of Stockport Flats, a Hudson River Estuarine Research Reserve site in Columbia County. The area includes the remains of the largest icehouse on the Hudson as well as a loop trail that borders the river for a quarter mile. The return path cuts inland through oak woods, abandoned farmland, and tidal marshes. Bald Eagles and early fall migrants are expected.

Meet at 8:00 AM in the parking area by the pavilion, which is west of the railroad tracks, and the buildings on Ice House Rd. Ice House Rd. is off Route 9J in Stuyvesant.

Sunday, September 27, WOODLAWN PRESERVE (Schenectady County; morning) ****beginner-friendly****

Coordinator: Bill Lee 518-374-3426 bileej@hotmail.com

The Woodlawn Preserve is 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.

Saturday, October 3, GARNSEY PARK (Saratoga County; morning)

Coordinator: David Harrison 908-892-5495 david.harrison57@earthlink.net

Garnsey Park is a new 151 acre Clifton Park open space purchase that features well-marked trails through shrubby overgrown fields and forests. We will look for migrant vireos, thrushes, sparrows and warblers. Trails can be wet and muddy so please wear appropriate footwear.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the parking lot on Rt. 146 west of Waite Rd.

Saturday October 10, BOG MEADOW BROOK (Saratoga County; morning) Coordinator: Ron Harrower ronharrower14@gmail.com

Bog Meadow Brook Trail, an old rail trail just east of Saratoga Springs, runs along the northern edge of a swamp and consists of wetland habitat with two ponds with a wet mixed forest in between. In October, sparrows are moving in and late migrants are still present. There should be a good variety of waterfowl and lingering shorebirds are possible.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the trailhead pull-off on Meadowbrook Road, about 0.3 mile west of Stafford Bridge Rd/Rt. 67. If we have enough participants, we will stage some vehicles at the Lake Ave end to save walking the round trip.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS *(continued)*

Sunday, October 11, FIVE RIVERS EEC (Albany County; morning)

Coordinator: John Kent 518-424-2234 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 at Five Rivers EEC in Delmar.

Tuesday, October 20, DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS, LONG ISLAND IN WINTER (Dec 12-14)

Coordinators: Gregg Recer and Cathy Graichen 518-330-4552(GR, c) gregg.recer@gmail.com

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. Contact the coordinators by October 20th for reservations and logistics details.

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

Coordinator: Bill Lee 518-374-3426 bileej@hotmail.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 the trees to make finding LBJs (Little Brown Jobs) a bit easier.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. near the western end of the Gateway Bridge at Jumpin' Jacks in Scotia. Bring a scope if you have one.

Sunday, November 1, VISCHER FERRY NATURE AND HISTORICAL PRESERVE (Saratoga County; morning)

Coordinator: John Hershey 518-371-3114 hersheyj@nycap.rr.com

On this trip we'll be looking for migrant waterfowl and winter residents. Rusty Blackbirds are often observed at this time of year. We will start at the main entrance to the Preserve. We will also explore some of the lesser known areas of the Preserve, such as Ferry Drive and the area around the Vischer Ferry Power Plant where Bald Eagles and migrant waterfowl are often seen. The new hike/bike trail from the Clamsteam Tavern location to Ferry Dr. is completed, and this will open new areas to the east of the Whipple Bridge. The leader may choose to go in this direction.

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the VFNHP main entrance, at the intersection of Riverview and Van Vranken Rds. in Clifton Park.

WRITERS' PAGE

Haiku by Mona Bearor

Spring

White cloud canopy
Warm breeze caresses my face
A welcome return.

Warblers

Songs sweet on the air
Feathers brushed by the rainbow
A gift from God's hand.

The Woods

Wet stones whispering
A spiderweb's soft caress
All senses at peace.

Birdsong

A flute plays at dawn
Silence makes way for beauty
Wood Thrush awakens.

ARTIST'S PAGE

Oriole by Maryanne Martin



ON NATURE

Migration and Metamorphosis: Life Strategies of the Monarch – by Scott Stoner



How does a tiny creature weighing less than one gram make it from upstate New York to the forests of Mexico for the winter? How do monarchs survive, and, over several generations, make their way back north in the spring?

Most butterflies overwinter as eggs, caterpillars, or pupae, but the Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) is unique. No other butterfly is known to make a two-way migration. Monarchs in the Northeast have several generations in the summer, each living from two to six weeks. After the last brood of the year, the monarch heads south on a 3,000 mile journey to the Oyamel fir forests in the mountains of central Mexico. Let's take a closer look at its life history.

I. Four Weeks and Four Stages: From Egg to Butterfly

Monarch eggs are laid exclusively on milkweed plants, one at a time, attached with glue to underside of leaves. A single female will lay a total of 300 – 500 tiny eggs, the size of a pinhead!



ON NATURE *(continued)*

The eggs hatch in 3 -5 days, and the first meal of the tiny caterpillar is its own eggshell. Then it turns its attention to milkweed, which it voraciously consumes night and day over the next 10 to 14 days!



After that, the caterpillar goes through five successive stages or Instars over 10 to 14 days, shedding its skin each time. At its full size of about two inches, it gets restless, and begins searching for a place to pupate. Although this may be on a milkweed leaf, it is often on another surface such as a tree or the side of a building. The caterpillar then attaches itself to the surface and hangs in a “J” shape before shedding its skin one last time, to form the pupa (chrysalis).

At first, the chrysalis appears a beautiful green, but in its last couple of days, the shape and colors of the adult butterfly become apparent, providing a window into the remarkable transition taking place within. How does it change from a leaf-eating caterpillar to a nectar-drinking butterfly in less than two weeks?



ON NATURE *(continued)*



It was once thought that everything dissolved inside, to be reformed into the butterfly. However, this is not fully true. Much of the ‘insides’ does dissolve into undifferentiated “imaginal cells” full of protein, but there are also “imaginal discs,” which become the formation points for eyes, wings, etc. This is still not fully understood, but appears to be some combination of changes to caterpillar organs and rebuilding from the dissolved proteins.

Once this transformation is complete, the adult butterfly emerges from the chrysalis, a process called “eclosure.” From this photographer’s experience, this happens very quickly and is easy to miss! Following eclosure, the adult hangs onto the empty chrysalis for a while, pumping fluid from its enlarged body into its wings, which

harden and dry. Within a few hours, the butterfly is ready to fly away.

II. Staying Safe from Predators: Toxic Monarchs

Many of us have learned from grade school on about the toxicity of the monarchs, which protects them from being eaten by birds, and how the related Viceroy butterfly has evolved a similar appearance to trick the predators into thinking they are also toxic. But how does the monarch toxicity really work, and is it true about the viceroys? The answer is more complicated than we knew.

As noted above, the caterpillars exclusively eat milkweed, which contains toxic chemicals (cardiac glycosides). However, the caterpillars are resistant to the toxin, and store it as a defense against birds. This protection continues in the adult butterfly, making the toxic monarchs taste bad and be avoided by birds. The similar looking viceroy was long believed to be avoided by birds because of mimicry. However, newer research strongly suggests that the viceroy may itself be unpalatable, and monarchs and viceroys co-mimic each other. Viceroy toxicity results from an accumulation of salicylic acid (related to the active ingredient in aspirin) derived from its caterpillar’s diet of willow leaves.

ON NATURE *(continued)*



III. Migration: The Great Journey

The last generation of the year (emerging in September) in the north is a ‘super generation’ that flies up to 3,000 miles south to its wintering grounds. Most of the monarchs in the eastern US migrate to and winter in the highlands of Mexico; some go to Florida. They travel up to 50 miles a day for two or three months, flying during the day and roosting at night, often congregating at peninsulas such as Cape May, NJ. Their navigational tools are not fully known,

but likely involve a combination of earth’s magnetic pull and sun position. But how they find the specific wintering grounds remains a mystery!

Living for seven or eight months, this generation actually pauses its breeding (“diapause”) while at the wintering grounds. The wintering grounds are along mountain hillsides at 8,000 – 10,000 feet in the Oyamel fir forests of central Mexico. There may be 10,000 monarchs in a single tree, clustered together to keep warm. Scientists refer to these protective forests as providing both a “blanket and umbrella.” A dense canopy creates microhabitat, which retains heat from the ground, keeping it 10 degrees F warmer under the canopy, while also protecting the monarchs from rain, snow, and wind.



In the spring they head back north, initially to Texas and Oklahoma, where they stop, find milkweed, and breed. After four weeks, the next generation of butterflies is ready to continue the monarchs’ journey north.

ON NATURE *(continued)*

IV. Monarchs in Decline

As of last year, monarch populations have dropped 80% over the last 25 years as measured at their wintering grounds in Mexico. Possible reasons for their precipitous decline include: Loss of milkweed in agricultural fields and roadsides, pesticides, and loss of wintering habitat due to degradation of Oyamel fir forest in Mexico from illegal and legal logging. Climate change is stressing forests in wintering grounds and driving summer breeding areas north, forcing the monarchs to migrate farther. We had noticed a high relative abundance of monarchs last summer here in the Capital Region, and were hopeful that the overall population was doing better. However, WWF Mexico's winter count sadly revealed that there were only half as many this past winter as the year before, which may have been due to drought-induced migratory failure, and continuing the overall decline seen over the past quarter century (eeb.cornell.edu/agrawal). We continue digging up our grass and planting milkweeds, documenting the story of the monarch, and advocating for its recovery.

Ecuador *(continued)*

In what would become our daily pattern, we travelled through the pre-light and early dawn to our first destination for the day. We travelled the winding one-lane mountain roads (that frequently looked like this). The awe and inspiration of breathtaking vistas competed with the dread of impending doom as our driver navigated the treacherous mountain road.



After about an hour we really started to openly express our appreciation for the skills of our driver. I suspect that many were quietly busy updating their wills. An occasional OMG!!! “did you see that!” followed by “OHHHH, Ty Ty Ty” broke the knuckle glanced silence. Of course, in a day or two our trust in our driver increased but today it was way to new and hard on the psyche of us flat-landers.

At about 7:45 am we arrived at the Yanacocha Ecologica Reserve. The reserve is several 1000 hectares of protected cloud forest and research stations on the north face of the Pinichia Volcano at the top of the Tandayapa Valley. We started the day with a 2.5 km hike along the ridge trail from the research station to a feeder station in a heavily forested saddle between two peaks.

One of the first birds we saw was a nice fly-over by an *Andean Condor*. Every few hundred meters along the road a mixed flock would suddenly appear moving up the slope through the canopy and cross the trail in-front of us. As each group passed heading up the mountain side we had some time brief to extended looks at several different species. The sudden flurry of excitement lasted 5 to 10 minutes each time. I was difficult for the group to stay focused as several new species would suddenly appear (and then disappear) so everyone could see each new specie before the flock moved away into the thick growth all around us. Birds would appear at near eye level but the very steep slopes (35-60%) combined high canopies were a perfect recipe for near instant Warbler-Neck.

After an hour or so reached the small plateau/saddle were a feeder station and been set up in a man-made clearing in the forest. We stayed about 40 minutes gawking at point-blank range at eye level at the numerous hummers and other banana-feeder hoppers. We also took turns playing modesty guards for those who needed to use the doorless restrooms.



Sapphire-vented Puffleg



Great Sapphire-wing

Ecuador *(continued)*

By time we headed back toward the research station, the weather had cleared a bit and improve our visibility and the light. The walk back to the bus was almost as equally exciting as the walk out. However, a 5 km morning hike at 11,700 feet really pressed home the importance of aerobic conditioning for many of us flatlanders, me included. We took a short walk around the research station before enjoying our well-earned hot lunch they had prepared just for us. After lunch we enjoyed sitting at the feeders around the station where more hummers, and various dickies came to feed on the sugar water and bananas.

The feeders stations were a constant shifting flurry of birds with seven species of hummers, including *Sword-Billed Hummingbird*, *Sapphire-Vented Pufflegs*, *Great Sapphire-Wing Hummingbirds*, *Grey-Browed* and *Yellow-Breasted Brushfinchs*, *Blue-Winged*, *Black-Chested*, and *Scarlett Bellied Mountain Tanagers*; and a bunch of others.

About 2 pm we left Yanacocha and headed down the west side of the Andes travelling the road from Nano to Tandayapa along the crest of the ridge on the north side of the Tandayapa valley. As we descended from 11,500 feet to the lodge at 5,500 feet, we made a few stops along the way to enjoy the vistas, some roadside birding, and to see our first group of *Andean Cock-of the Rock*. We arrived at the lodge at about 5. After settling in, we spent the last hour of daylight enjoying the hummingbird show at the feeders. We finished the day with a collective tally of 54 species seen or heard by one or more members of the group (not counting the new hummers seen at the lodge, we saved for tomorrow's list).

DAY 2

Karen was woken on Day 2 about 5 am by a screaming bird outside our open window. When she described it, its distinctive call was readily identified by our guide Alex as a *Wattled Guan* who confirmed it for her by playing a tape. Unfortunately, it never made another appearance and was not positively seen nor heard again during the trip.

The group rallied for coffee at 6 am then took a short (200 yards) pre-dawn walk up to the large bird blind. We spent about an hour before breakfast viewing some of the resident birds that frequent the compost pit and feeders and the flying insect feeders. A rather noisome Pitta and a cooing ground were easy to identify with the tapes but were no-shows. It was a bit of a cool damp morning and the birds seemed to prefer sleeping in that morning, but a few came out to greet us. The *Three-Striped* and *Russet-Crowned Warbler*, *Ornate Flycatcher*, and *Orange-bellied Euphonia* were highly active.

After breakfast (it was yum!) we packed our bus and head about 2.5 miles up the ridge that flanks the south side of Tandayapa Valley to about 6,500 ft. We paused briefly to view a *Toucan Barbet* bathing in a knot hole and photograph a female *Cock-of-the-Rock* nestled into her cliffside perch. A *Squirrel Cuckoo* made a dash across the road before us but most saw nothing or the last flash of its tail as it darted for cover never to reappear. The weather had appeared to clear, and it was warm and partly sunny as we hiked about a mile along the windy narrow roadway along the ridge and collected an array of Choco endemics. Our guide used his tapes to lure in specific target birds, and as is typical of woodland birds, several other species would come to inspect the "chatter". The weather turned quickly and a light drizzle that started about 10:30 turned suddenly to torrential rain so we headed back to the lodge for lunch.

Ecuador *(continued)*



After lunch we hung out for a while at the hummingbird feeders hoping the rain would abate. So, we spent an hour playing with the dozen hummingbird species at the feeders. We took many photos and videos of folks feeding hummers from their hands and from flowers held in their teeth. The birds were fearless and aggressive in pursuit of nectar.

The rain let up, so we piled back into the bus and headed back up the mountain to 8,500 feet to find the Plate-Billed Mountain Toucans. We were soon rewarded by a noisy active flock of 10-12 of them feasting in a fruit tree. Then the deluge returned and drove us back down the ridge.

About half-way down the ridge to the lodge, the rain stopped so we stopped to walk the road. We came upon a small house we had passed morning with a tended garden and some ripe fruit trees that were alive swirling flitting dickies.

We spent the next 40 minutes picking up one specie after another, with great looks at point blank range. In rapid succession we picked up *Headed Barbet*, *Crimson-Rumped Toucanet*, *Crimson-Mantled Woodpecker*, and a score of Tyrants, Tanagers, Flower Piercers, Euphonias, Tree Hunter, and a *White-Winged Becard*. Returning to the we finished the day at the lodge feeders playing with the hummingbirds again and watching the Rufous Motmots and *Crimson-Rumped Toucanets* jockey for bananas bits.



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lodge,

After another fine meal we tallied the day. We had picked up a total 82 species seen or (9 heard). Only 12 of the days 82 species were repeats from the day before.

Day 3-5:

We followed a similar general pattern each day for the next three days with an early departure before sunrise (earlier each day) and a long bus ride (longer each day) to our morning destination, followed by three-four hours of birding on foot (or butt at feeder stations), followed by a fine lunch, and an afternoon of leisurely roadside birding as we slowly made our way back to the lodge.

We systematically worked our way by bus and foot from the Cloud Forest at 6,000 feet at the Amagusa Ecological Preserve, through the temperate rain forests at Milpi Bird Sanctuary at 3500 feet, and down to the lowland forest at Rio Silanche Bird Sanctuary at about 1500 feet. The change in ecological zones each day brought us a different group of new local endemics mixed with some repeats.

Each reserve we visited had a well-supplied and very active feeder stations at the headquarters building where we spent the first half of each morning enjoying the each specie take its turn owning the feeder before being pushed off by the next. Typically, about half the species we saw each day were seen in the first couple hours of the morning.

Ecuador *(continued)*

Our tallies for the three day include 99, 80, and 109 species (including heard) with 133 new species for the trip. A full listing would be tedious for the reader but a few highlights that we all got great leisure looks at and quite a few photos included: *Lyre-tailed Nightjar*, *Velvet-purple Coronet*, *Empress Brilliant*, *Green-crowned Woodnymph* *Purple-chested Hummingbird*, *Hook-billed Kite*, *Choco Trogon*, *Crimson-mantled Woodpecker*, *Guayaquil Woodpecker*, *Laughing Falcon*, *Slaty-capped Shrike-Vireo*, *Glistening-Green Tanager*, *Flame-faced Tanager*, *Purple Honeycreeper*, and *Yellow-faced Grassquit*.

Day 6

On the sixth day we slept in a bit (6:30) and started the day with a leisurely breakfast then a short trip to a nearby locally well-known lekking site for Andean Cock-of-the-Rock. Although it was not the breeding season, there were still a dozen males on site learning, practicing, and showing off their courtship displays for each other (not one female appeared in the 30 minutes we were there).

From there we travelled about 40 minutes to an incredibly special small private bird sanctuary run by the Paz Family. The owner, Angel Paz, and his brother are sometimes referred to as the Antpitta Whisperers due to their self-cultivated affinity for the variety of Antpitta species that will come to them and their cans of tasty worms. Of the six species known to frequent their property, they were able to coax, *Chestnut-Crowned Antpitta*, *Yellow-Breasted Antpitta*, and *Ochre-Breasted Antpitta* out into the open for all to see easily and photograph. A *Slaty-backed Nightingale Thrush* and a *Mountain Wren* also came to partake in the fresh worms and larva breakfast.

We had some coffee and homemade Ecuadorian empanada pastry and corn balls at the feeder stations while watching a flurry of Tanagers, Euphonia, and Saltators jockeying for banana bits. A *Crested Guan*, *Roadside Hawk*, *Harris Hawk*, and *Cinereous Conebill* also put in appearances. After our morning coffee and snack, we worked our way back to the lodge with several stops to work the road margins. Back at the lodge we had a quick lunch, packed the bus, said goodbye to our hosts, and head out for the long trip back to Quito.

Although only 35 miles from the lodge to the hotel on Quito, we had to go more than 90 miles to get around the 16,000-foot Pichincha Volcano. The ride to Quite was amazing as we travelled up and over the pass from the western slope of the Andes and back down into the central plateau. We had grown accustomed to the incredibly steep slopes, gapping chasms, near constant bumpy jostling about and sometimes absurdly narrow roadways. Travelling on relatively smooth actual pavement with standard-sized travel lines made much easier to truly relax and enjoy the scenery and incredible vistas. We ended up with 75 species for the day but only 13 of them were new for the trip.

Day 7

Heading out early we headed toward the eastern range of the Andes. It was a gloriously clear sunny morning and the line of snow peaked stratocone volcanoes stretching south on both flanks of the central plateau was breathtaking. About 40km SSE of Quito we left the main highway and head up toward Antisana Ecological Reserve. We climbed up past the tree line into the high Andean alpine tundra to a lake at 14,500 feet to the foot of the snow and glacier capped 19,000 ft volcanic cone.

The high altitude specialties we saw along the way up to, at and on the way back from the lake included *Andean Ibis*, *Andean Lapwing*, *Andean Gull*, *Andean Ruddy Duck*, *Slate Colored Coot*, *Silvery Grebe*, *Black-Chested Buzzard Eagle*, *Variable Hawk*, *Carunculated Caracara*, and a group of *Andean Condor* on the ground finishing a meal.

On the way back we stopped for a fine lunch and to spend some time enjoying the several new species of hummers at their feeders including *Empress Brilliant*, *Black-tailed Trainbearer*, *Giant Hummingbird*, *Sparkling Violetear*, and *Viridian Hummingbird*.

Ecuador *(continued)*

From Antisana we travelled north and east swinging around the north side of Antisana to the village of Papalacta and our hotel (at 10,500 feet). We arrived early enough to spend the 90 minutes searching the grounds the resort before dinner and added *Tyrannine Woodpecker*, *Brown-Backed Chat Tyrant*, and *Saffron Finch*, *Tropical Mockingbird* and a couple of antpittas with several repeated species, including a very cooperative *Spectacled Redstart* who posed for photos. We ended the day with only 43 species, however, 29 of them were new for the trip and unique to the specific ecological zone we visited.

Day 8

The final day of the trip started out cold and rainy. We attempted an early morning trip before breakfast up into the highlands to the north of our lodgings to find a few local specialties known to be resident in this area. It wasn't a complete bust but the cold (about 45°) and intermittent cloudbursts made it difficult to enjoy and kept the birds mostly inactive but we did get a few new species before breakfast including; *Black-Crested Warbler*, *Andean Guan*; *Mountain Carique*, and *Paramo Tapuculo*.

After breakfast we loaded up and head out for our final birding destination of the trip. Travelling eastward for about an hour we reached the Guango Birding Lodge on the NE slope of Antisana. Located at 8,500 feet on the eastern slope of the eastern range of the Andes we were back in the cloud forest about 30 miles from the edge of the Amazon Basin. The air was 15° warmer and the heavy rain had given way to a fine mist making the morning much more comfortable.

Upon arrival we were grated immediately by the flurry of wild activity at the lodge's hummingbird feeders. Within minutes, it was obvious that we had an almost completely new assemblage of hummers. In short order we picked up *Tourmaline Sunangel*, *Long-tailed Sylph*, *Collared Inca*, *Buff-winged Starfrontlet*, *Mountain Velvetbreast*, *Chestnut-breasted Coronet*, and *White-bellied Woodstar*, plus several repeat species. A *Turquoise Jay* also made a brief appearance. We spent about 30-40 minutes sipping our coffee and gathering photos before heading out on the trails. About 500 meters from the lodge we found the steel bridge spanning a raging mountain stream at the base of the gorge behind the lodge. From the bridge we watched a small family of *Torrent Duck* (2 females and some younglings) sunning themselves on the rocks feeding in the roaring white water. As we watched the Ducks a pair of *White-Capped Dipper* foraged there way along the shoreline and passed beneath us for some great viewing and photo ops. We climbed out of the gorge and back to the lodge adding *Andean Potoo*, *Capped Conebill*, and *Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan* to the trip list.

After a fine late lunch at the lodge and another short walk around the grounds we packed up and headed back to Quito. Our last stop was a reservoir near Papallacta hoping to find Andean Teal for those that missed them at Antisana and we were not disappointed. In addition to the small flock of Teal, we also found some *Neotropical Cormorant* and a lone *Yellow-Billed Pintail*. The tally for the day finished up at 53 Species with 21 new for the trip, 29 repeats, and 4 heard only.

Final Count and Comment.

For the entire trip, the total number of species seen or heard by one or more members of the group was 338 with about 240 seen by every member of the team. Of the 338, 308 were seen and 30 were heard clearly responding to or readily identifiable from our guides digital recordings but would not make an appearance (like the *Andean Pygmy Owl* and *Mustached Antpitta*). 17 of those seen were species found in North America although not typically in Albany (not too many Short-Tailed Hawks or Tropical Mockingbirds seen in our area ☺).

Based on families the Cardinals, Tanagers, and their Allies were the most abundant with 58 species, followed by s at 41 Hummingbirds, 30 Flycatchers, 26 Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers, 17 birds of prey, 10 each for Pigeons, Wrens, and

Ecuador *(continued)*

Sparrows, 9 Woodpeckers and 9 Warblers, and 1-8 representatives of 36 other families. Ranging from 14,000 feet to 1,500 feet, we passed through so many different ecological zones, each with its own unique clusters of endemics, 168 species (almost exactly half) were seen or heard on only one day during the trip, with 74 species seen on two days and another 40 seen three days. Given the distance (about 85 miles) and width (about 5 miles) of the area covered that is an amazing diversity for a total area that is less than Albany County.

There were unpleasanties along the way, like the GI bug that slammed one person after another with starting the third day of the trip with 18-24 hours of misery for 4 straight days. Most of the group lost a day of birding preferring to stay close to their bed and a bathroom. We also had the flight on our final leg home from Reagan to Albany cancelled and had to spend a 16 hour overnight at the airport. However, the consensus of the group was that the trip was amazing. Our guide was fantastic (unbelievably patient and skilled), the accommodations, food, and transport were more than adequate, the service

staff and locals were warm, accommodating, friendly, and helpful wherever we went, the pace was perfect for the size of the group, and most importantly the birds were varied and abundant.

In conclusion, I want to take a moment to thank everyone who attended for the 10 great days of birding and with a great group in an amazing place. Next stop AFRICA (or maybe Ireland, or New Guinea, or back to South America...arrrrgh.. so many birds so many places, not enough time!). Once all the photos from the group have been collated, I will try to make the field trip checklists and photo album available on-line to any that may be interested. Sorry for the length of the report, but ten days is like ten separate field trips packed into one.

Upcoming HMBC Programs

The following programs are scheduled for the fall of 2020. Due to COVID 19 we are uncertain of the location of these events. Some or all may be offered virtually instead of at a gathering place. Please check the Club's website, www.hmhc.net for the latest updates.

When: September 14, 2020, 6:30-8:00 PM

Location: TBA, possible virtual

Speaker: Kevin McGrath

Topic: Birding Ecuador (Check www.hmhc.net for details)

When: October 5, 2020, 6:30-8:00 PM

Location: TBA, possibly virtual

Speaker: Scott Stoner and Denise Hackert-Stoner

Topic: From Desert Valleys to Islands in the Sky: Birding Southeast Arizona

Summary: Southeastern Arizona, with its deserts, canyons, grasslands, riparian areas, and mountains close to Mexico, has long been a mecca for birders. From common species in the lovely Sonoran desert to hummingbirds, flycatchers, trogons, and passerines whose range just barely enters the USA, the region entices birders in every season. The several "sky island" mountains allow the exploration of desert scrub to coniferous forests in a single day! This slide-illustrated program focuses on the unique birds and key birding destinations in the splendidly scenic beauty of southeast Arizona!

When: November 2, 2020, 6:30-8:00 PM

Location: TBA, possible virtual

Speaker: Angelena Ross of NYSDEC

Topic: Spruce Grouse (check www.hmhc.net for details)

When: December 7, 2020, 6:30-8:00 PM

Location: TBA

Speaker: Kitty Rusch

Topic: Distressed Wildlife

Summary: This program is presented by licensed wildlife rehabilitator and environmental educator Kitty Rusch. Learn about the steps to take if you find an orphan baby rabbit, a fledgling bird or a snapping turtle in the middle of the road and the reasons why these steps are so important in the ultimate reintroduction the animal back into the wild. We will also discuss personal experiences of heartbreaking failures and uplifting success including the antics of messy Marvin the opossum in the basement.

If you are interested in becoming a wildlife rehabilitator, want to hear stories of wild animal rescue or just want to save that baby bird that fell out of the nest, please join us.

Century Run 75'th Year Commemoration

By Larry Alden

Introduction

The HMBC's Guy Bartlett Century Run just celebrated its 75th anniversary this past May. As compiler, I felt that some commemoration was in order. The following articles dive into the treasure trove of 75 years of data to provide you with fascinating tidbits of knowledge and nuggets of interest. Enjoy!

Larry Alden - Compiler

Mining Century Run Data

In 2016, when I took over as compiler for the club's Century Run, I met with Bob Yunick to get my hands on his records from Century Runs of the previous 70 years. I knew from Bob's informative annual write-ups published in Feathers that these records had much to tell.

After I pulled together my article for Feathers, I took his paper records and put them into a spreadsheet so that my job coming up with interesting statistics for the subsequent counts would be easier. Now instead of tediously counting how many times Olive-sided Flycatcher (for example) had been found on a Century Run, I could simply put in a formula at the end of the row to count up the times. How long has it been since a Henslow's Sparrow was seen on the count? Easy! Just position my cursor at the end of the Henslow's Sparrow row and hit End-Left Arrow! Putting all this information in a spreadsheet also made it easier to put the composite species list into the ever-changing checklist order and add new species.

I started with just putting an "X" in a row for each species found on each count. After all, Bob and prior compilers did a good job putting together a table in Feathers each year showing which teams got which species. And although individual team counts can be very interesting, the team's members and areas covered change from year to year. My interest was for the overall composite list from the 11-county HMBC area, which was the one constant from year to year.

After a year or two of analyzing the results this way, the "bird nerd" in me kicked in and I started to think about different ways to mine the data. Looking at the whole spreadsheet showed that certain species became less common while others started to be found every year. I thought there must be some convenient way to show how abundant a species has been over the years. Was a species being found by almost all the field parties or by just a few? That's when I decided to try something like Audubon does with the Christmas Bird Count data.

In a CBC, data is reported on the number of individuals of each species along with the number of field parties and the number of hours spent in the field. This gives a value for individuals of a species per party-hour, which tends to even out the differences in CBCs that have a bunch of participants compared to ones with only a few participants.

Since we only count species and not individual birds in the Century Run, my idea was to take the Century Run data and calculate a factor of abundance. How many field parties found a particular species on a particular count? I'm calling it the **Count Abundance Factor**, or **CAF**, calculated by merely dividing the number of parties that found a particular species on a count by the total number of field parties doing that year's count then multiplying the result by ten and rounding to a single decimal place. So a common species such as Yellow Warbler, which was seen by all field parties, gets a CAF of 10. An uncommon species such as Ruddy Duck, seen by only a few field parties, gets a much lower CAF.

Century Run 75'th Year Commemoration *(continued)*

The CAF values for each individual count are useful for judging which species are relatively rare for a specific count, but this is also pretty easy to tell directly from the results table in the Feathers write-up. However, since the number of field parties in different Century Runs varies from count to count, comparing one species' CAF from one count to another doesn't necessarily tell you all that much. If a Ruddy Duck is seen by one field party out of the eight that were out looking that day, that yields a CAF of 1.3 whereas a Ruddy Duck seen by one party out of three would have a CAF of 3.3.

My solution is to make a slightly different factor I'm calling the **CRAF**, or **Century Run Abundance Factor**. The CRAF is calculated by counting up the total number of parties finding a species over the history of the count and dividing by the total number of field parties ever taking part in a Century Run then multiplying the result by 1000 and rounding off. This should let me know if a few or a lot of individuals of a particular species have been found over the history of the Century Run. Thus, a species seen by most parties during most Century Runs (e.g., Song Sparrow) will get a CRAF around 1000 (actually it's 998 – there was a field party in 1955 that didn't report one!) but a species seen by one field party on one Century Run (e.g., Yellow-throated Warbler in 1986) will get a value of 2.

I would have liked to use all 75 Century Runs in my calculation, but counts from 1947 and 1948 only reported the cumulative results for all field parties rather than for individual parties.

I admit my scheme is not exactly perfect. I've identified a few things that will skew the CRAFs:

One individual seen by multiple parties – A single Ruddy Duck right next to Route 32 on the Alcove Reservoir seen by three of seven teams would have a CAF of 4.3 instead of 1.4 if only one team had found it. The CRAF, accounting for all Ruddy Ducks seen by all field parties over all Century Runs will be a better indicator, but may still be skewed since Ruddy Ducks have been found on only 14 of the 73 counts I used and probably haven't been represented by more than one or two individuals on any given count.

Field parties putting in unequal efforts – For example, for many years, Bob Yunick, along with other individuals assisting him, spent part of each count day banding birds at Vischer Ferry and/or Jenny Lake. His results from a single location for a limited amount of time count the same as a field party that spent 20 hours in the field covering locations in three different counties. I'm not minimizing the effort that Bob put in collecting banding data or picking on him. In fact, he often had species not found by the other field parties. But by limiting his day to a single location for a limited time, it's no surprise that his lists are only in the neighborhood of 50 species and he has some big "misses" that the other teams found easily. Many of the early counts involved someone counting birds in his or her back yard for a few hours or listed someone as a field party when they reported a species not found by the other "serious" field parties. For some of the earlier counts, sometimes separate field parties split up then "pooled" their results. Unequal effort is probably the factor that most affects the CRAF, but hopefully the effect gets tempered as more data is accumulated. For my calculations, I didn't include field reports with less than 20 species, however, I included unique species if that field party had any, because those species were included in the count totals.

Count dates – Over the years, the Century Run has been done as early as May 5 to as late as May 22. The club has since settled on the third Saturday in May, so there is some uniformity, but some of the earlier counts had some decidedly "Winter" species such as Common Redpoll and Rough-legged Hawk. I can't really imagine finding redpolls on a count between May 15 and May 21 these days. Counts earlier in the spring are usually going to find more lingering waterfowl and fewer of the later migrants (e.g., Mourning Warbler or Common Nighthawk) while later counts miss the earlier migrants.

Century Run 75th Year Commemoration *(continued)*

Regional effort – There are 11 counties in the HMBC area. The vast majority of the count effort takes place in Albany and Saratoga counties, with a handful of teams covering parts of Rensselaer, Schenectady, or a few others. These days if you want to get Cerulean Warbler, you pretty much have to go to Schodack Island State Park in Rensselaer County. Montgomery County is probably your only chance at Upland Sandpiper. The northern counties may yield a few lingering early migrants (think Ruby-crowned Kinglet) that you wouldn't find in the southern counties. There's also a southern aspect to take into account. Hooded Warbler and Worm-eating Warbler, for example, are easier to find in the southern counties of the HMBC area than in the northern counties. If these areas aren't covered by any team, it's unlikely those species will be found on count day, even if they're present within the 11-county club area.

Human errors – The CRAF for American Robin is NOT 1000. It is inconceivable that a team couldn't find an American Robin on count day. I looked into this and found that the CAF for robins in 1994 was 8.3 (i.e., one of six teams missed it). So I checked on the old Feathers (available on the HMBC website – a wonderful resource, by the way). The “offending” party had 75 species, including the only Black-crowned Night-Heron, Snow Goose, Philadelphia Vireo, Hooded Merganser, and Rough-legged Hawk. I counted the species in the table and got 75, but no robin. Did they forget to mark it down when they submitted their results? Did it get missed in the editing process? I wasn't there, so I can't guess. Thus, American Robin joins Song Sparrow as the two species with closest to perfect attendance in the history of the Century Run.

Change over time – Let's face it. It's awfully hard to find a Golden-winged Warbler in the club's 11-county area these days. Between hybridizing with Blue-winged Warbler and loss of emerging habitat (as well as factors we don't know about), Golden-wings just aren't around. Yet they have a CRAF of 297, higher than Carolina Wren (145)! Looking at results based on the combined 75-year history of the Century Run doesn't tell us how things have changed over time. Golden-winged Warbler has been found only once in the last twenty years. One bird found by one team. There were 129 teams out in the field in those twenty years, which yields a CRAF of 8. Between 1951 and 1970, Golden-wings were found on eighteen counts by 82 of 187 groups, giving a CRAF of 439! Quite a difference. And when I compared Golden-wings to Carolina Wrens? That was skewed, too, because Carolina Wrens are relatively new to the area and were found on only three of the first twenty-five counts.

Like I said, my system is not perfect. So to address this last skewing factor, I decided to do sub-CRAFs for 15-year blocks. Since this is the 75th Century Run, that makes for a nice even five abundance factors. To get rid of some of the “noise” in these values, I rounded them to the nearest ten. Using a 15-year block of time smooths out some of the choppiness because it included all the Century Run teams from that 15-year period yet takes into account changes over time by looking only at that 15-year interval. So I've included these sub-CRAFs in the table showing the cumulative Century Run species list. **To boil it all down, these factors merely represent a relative species abundance on a scale between 0 and 1000.**

I would have liked to include a little chart for each species showing how abundance changed over the past 75 years, but that's beyond my current talent. You'll just have to look at the numbers and see if they're going up, going down, or doing something else.

SPECIES	NO. of COUNTS	CRAF 1946-1960	CRAF 1961-1975	CRAF 1976-1990	CRAF 1991-2005	CRAF 2006-2020	75-year CRAF VALUE
Snow Goose	5	0	0	20	20	30	13
Brant	20	40	60	100	30	40	55
Canada Goose	67	150	280	750	980	990	608
Mute Swan	24	0	80	40	140	260	98
Tundra Swan	1	0	0	0	10	0	2
Wood Duck	74	360	530	800	850	880	674
Blue-winged Teal	57	310	580	470	270	70	352
Northern Shoveler	5	0	0	0	20	40	11
Gadwall	25	0	0	50	140	270	84
American Wigeon	11	10	30	30	40	20	27
Mallard	74	470	840	960	1000	980	848
American Black Duck	74	650	800	690	610	240	608
Northern Pintail	15	80	20	20	10	0	27
Green-winged Teal	27	30	90	100	60	30	64
Canvasback	5	10	20	30	0	0	13
Redhead	6	40	40	0	0	0	16
Ring-necked Duck	26	50	40	90	80	110	73
Greater Scaup	17	40	50	110	0	40	48
Lesser Scaup	21	130	100	60	0	0	61
<i>Scaup species*</i>	7	10	50	10	0	10	16
Surf Scoter	6	0	10	10	40	10	13
White-winged Scoter	23	30	40	110	100	80	70
Black Scoter	3	0	20	0	20	0	7
Long-tailed Duck	11	0	50	10	10	50	23
Bufflehead	23	50	120	70	70	100	84
Common Goldeneye	15	50	30	60	10	20	34
Hooded Merganser	33	10	60	40	140	240	93
Common Merganser	58	130	140	200	310	400	229
Red-breasted Merganser	31	50	110	90	80	30	75
Ruddy Duck	14	20	40	20	30	100	39
Northern Bobwhite	26	30	150	90	70	0	73
Ring-necked Pheasant	47	740	640	380	30	30	386
Ruffed Grouse	70	280	350	530	430	320	381
Wild Turkey	37	10	10	80	630	810	281
Pied-billed Grebe	45	160	160	110	260	70	148
Horned Grebe	23	100	80	30	80	40	68
Red-necked Grebe	14	20	20	30	80	20	34
Rock Pigeon**	50	0	190	970	960	930	590
Mourning Dove	75	870	980	1000	980	990	966
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	32	130	200	200	30	80	134
Black-billed Cuckoo	54	110	230	420	350	180	259
Common Nighthawk	49	150	300	270	130	90	195
Chuck-will's-widow	1	0	0	0	0	10	2
Eastern Whip-poor-will	65	320	270	290	180	300	274
Chimney Swift	75	810	910	920	850	900	880
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	72	310	480	500	720	780	549
King Rail	4	10	30	10	0	0	11
Virginia Rail	72	130	370	650	730	700	508

SPECIES	NO. of COUNTS	CRAF 1946-1960	CRAF 1961-1975	CRAF 1976-1990	CRAF 1991-2005	CRAF 2006-2020	75-year CRAF VALUE
Sora	65	80	320	450	440	320	322
Common Gallinule	73	360	550	530	420	290	436
American Coot	25	90	110	80	40	30	73
Black-bellied Plover	7	0	20	30	10	0	13
Killdeer	75	750	840	890	920	870	852
Semipalmated Plover	39	60	50	150	250	190	134
Upland Sandpiper	47	70	230	140	180	40	134
Ruddy Turnstone	3	0	10	0	10	10	5
Sanderling	2	20	0	0	0	0	4
Dunlin	20	0	70	100	80	0	52
Baird's Sandpiper	2	0	20	0	0	0	5
Least Sandpiper	65	120	330	390	560	520	377
White-rumped Sandpiper	11	0	30	30	30	0	20
Pectoral Sandpiper	31	60	80	80	140	30	77
Semipalmated Sandpiper	38	30	90	90	170	120	98
Western Sandpiper	3	0	20	0	10	0	7
Short-billed Dowitcher	6	0	20	30	10	10	13
American Woodcock	74	380	420	610	570	530	501
Wilson's Snipe	58	70	390	450	410	130	295
Spotted Sandpiper	75	610	800	770	810	860	769
Solitary Sandpiper	74	390	480	430	660	550	496
Lesser Yellowlegs	38	70	80	140	290	180	148
Greater Yellowlegs	55	170	230	240	350	190	234
Bonaparte's Gull	40	50	110	180	240	160	145
Laughing Gull	3	0	0	0	30	0	5
Franklin's Gull	1	0	0	10	0	0	2
Ring-billed Gull	73	310	610	710	800	770	635
Herring Gull	75	550	730	690	660	430	617
Iceland Gull	4	0	0	30	20	0	11
Lesser Black-backed Gull	3	0	0	10	20	0	5
Glaucous Gull	1	0	10	0	0	0	2
Great Black-backed Gull	49	10	50	530	710	330	309
Caspian Tern	4	0	0	30	30	20	14
Black Tern	46	80	270	190	230	80	174
Common Tern	34	60	140	120	170	40	106
Red-throated Loon	14	0	40	100	30	30	41
Common Loon	70	160	360	530	630	470	422
Double-crested Cormorant	51	60	50	280	670	770	342
American Bittern	72	530	550	500	670	280	504
Least Bittern	45	20	70	190	190	310	150
Great Blue Heron	71	250	200	650	860	920	555
Great Egret	14	40	40	20	40	50	36
Snowy Egret	2	0	0	20	0	0	4
Little Blue Heron	1	0	0	10	0	0	2
Cattle Egret	1	0	10	0	0	0	2
Green Heron	75	460	630	810	690	760	671
Black-crowned Night-Heron	23	400	20	50	30	0	97
Glossy Ibis	2	10	0	0	10	0	4

SPECIES	NO. of COUNTS	CRAF 1946-1960	CRAF 1961-1975	CRAF 1976-1990	CRAF 1991-2005	CRAF 2006-2020	75-year CRAF VALUE
Black Vulture	10	0	0	0	0	170	32
Turkey Vulture	57	60	130	570	780	900	465
Osprey	63	370	240	360	230	460	331
Golden Eagle	1	0	0	10	0	0	2
Northern Harrier	55	370	80	150	190	240	199
Sharp-shinned Hawk	44	100	30	190	130	180	122
Cooper's Hawk	50	100	50	160	210	200	138
Northern Goshawk	16	0	20	90	20	20	30
Bald Eagle	36	30	10	90	160	640	174
Red-shouldered Hawk	46	370	100	190	150	70	174
Broad-winged Hawk	65	190	260	440	300	340	308
Red-tailed Hawk	72	250	550	870	910	900	685
Rough-legged Hawk	8	10	30	20	10	0	14
Barn Owl	5	0	0	50	0	0	11
Eastern Screech-Owl	51	60	130	310	180	150	168
Great Horned Owl	49	50	130	460	190	200	206
Barred Owl	53	80	70	220	170	470	195
Long-eared Owl	2	0	40	10	0	0	11
Short-eared Owl	1	10	0	0	0	0	2
Northern Saw-whet Owl	5	10	0	30	0	10	9
Belted Kingfisher	75	610	670	780	740	780	716
Red-headed Woodpecker	19	30	40	140	10	0	47
Red-bellied Woodpecker	35	0	0	80	430	970	274
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	72	190	230	400	750	790	451
Black-backed Woodpecker	1	0	10	0	0	0	2
Downy Woodpecker	75	860	960	930	940	950	930
Hairy Woodpecker	75	710	740	750	760	770	746
Northern Flicker	75	980	960	970	950	960	966
Pileated Woodpecker	75	310	410	450	640	900	528
American Kestrel	75	600	710	810	840	680	726
Merlin	9	10	20	30	0	40	20
Peregrine Falcon	30	20	0	20	150	350	98
Great Crested Flycatcher	74	710	740	890	930	930	835
Eastern Kingbird	75	710	860	910	960	960	877
Olive-sided Flycatcher	17	30	30	30	50	40	36
Eastern Wood-Pewee	66	160	450	490	500	670	451
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	21	20	50	40	40	20	36
Acadian Flycatcher	3	10	0	0	0	0	2
Alder Flycatcher	31	0	10	110	200	420	138
Willow Flycatcher	41	0	0	460	510	680	311
<i>Traill's Flycatcher***</i>	15	70	200	0	0	0	63
Least Flycatcher	75	690	810	960	820	800	818
Eastern Phoebe	75	880	890	890	920	970	909
Loggerhead Shrike	2	10	10	0	0	0	4
White-eyed Vireo	4	0	0	10	10	20	7
Yellow-throated Vireo	74	440	590	750	750	710	644
Blue-headed Vireo	75	420	310	470	670	680	494
Philadelphia Vireo	24	60	120	70	40	10	63

SPECIES	NO. of COUNTS	CRAF 1946- 1960	CRAF 1961- 1975	CRAF 1976- 1990	CRAF 1991- 2005	CRAF 2006- 2020	75-year CRAF VALUE
Warbling Vireo	73	560	760	870	910	930	801
Red-eyed Vireo	74	480	630	810	890	950	742
Blue Jay	75	970	950	1000	1000	1000	984
American Crow	75	970	970	1000	1000	990	986
Fish Crow	34	10	0	170	230	380	148
Common Raven	34	0	0	100	500	750	249
Horned Lark	69	340	520	200	350	210	331
Bank Swallow	75	630	830	790	660	460	683
Tree Swallow	75	810	990	1000	1000	1000	961
No. Rough-winged Swallow	75	460	620	690	850	870	692
Purple Martin	68	280	530	420	460	180	379
Barn Swallow	75	930	960	970	900	950	945
Cliff Swallow	73	310	320	490	490	380	395
Black-capped Chickadee	75	920	1000	980	1000	1000	980
Tufted Titmouse	59	0	350	790	950	930	587
Red-breasted Nuthatch	73	240	270	470	680	630	444
White-breasted Nuthatch	75	730	870	860	840	880	837
Brown Creeper	73	190	300	420	550	340	356
House Wren	75	870	920	990	960	950	939
Winter Wren	63	70	200	430	520	330	306
Sedge Wren	10	10	30	60	0	0	21
Marsh Wren	72	360	550	650	690	610	571
Carolina Wren	32	30	20	70	150	500	145
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	57	10	150	720	730	690	444
Golden-crowned Kinglet	54	60	80	160	330	310	181
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	55	350	330	170	180	110	234
Eastern Bluebird	75	620	600	670	930	860	723
Veery	75	810	940	920	890	900	893
Gray-cheeked Thrush	16	40	50	30	10	0	29
Swainson's Thrush	61	280	440	330	140	250	297
Hermit Thrush	75	400	340	530	720	620	508
Wood Thrush	75	930	950	1000	970	960	962
American Robin	75	1000	990	1000	990	1000	996
Gray Catbird	75	880	990	990	980	1000	970
Brown Thrasher	75	650	810	690	640	620	689
Northern Mockingbird	56	10	310	740	790	670	492
European Starling	75	940	1000	1000	990	990	986
Cedar Waxwing	72	230	280	540	540	520	417
House Sparrow	75	940	960	970	920	960	953
American Pipit	24	60	50	70	30	10	45
Evening Grosbeak	45	280	280	270	200	20	215
Pine Grosbeak	1	0	10	0	0	0	2
House Finch	51	0	130	930	950	890	556
Purple Finch	75	700	610	690	580	570	633
Common Redpoll	3	20	10	0	0	0	5
Red Crossbill	13	80	70	30	30	0	43
White-winged Crossbill	2	0	0	10	10	0	4
Pine Siskin	46	110	170	380	210	100	195

SPECIES	NO. of COUNTS	CRAF 1946-1960	CRAF 1961-1975	CRAF 1976-1990	CRAF 1991-2005	CRAF 2006-2020	75-year CRAF VALUE
American Goldfinch	75	920	980	1000	1000	1000	980
Grasshopper Sparrow	59	290	280	220	140	220	233
Chipping Sparrow	75	980	950	900	970	980	953
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	10	2
Field Sparrow	75	810	840	810	830	770	816
Fox Sparrow	4	10	20	10	0	0	7
American Tree Sparrow	15	50	60	40	0	10	34
Dark-eyed Junco	75	370	430	680	740	700	574
White-crowned Sparrow	61	490	420	420	340	110	365
White-throated Sparrow	75	750	800	730	570	610	701
Vesper Sparrow	62	460	520	190	220	150	320
Henslow's Sparrow	45	210	190	240	160	0	163
Savannah Sparrow	75	370	560	550	590	750	564
Song Sparrow	75	990	1000	1000	1000	1000	998
Lincoln's Sparrow	22	20	70	90	20	20	47
Swamp Sparrow	75	670	830	900	890	870	830
Eastern Towhee	75	820	900	850	850	900	868
Yellow-breasted Chat	27	90	190	70	20	10	82
Bobolink	75	690	800	860	900	940	837
Eastern Meadowlark	75	880	890	870	810	800	855
Orchard Oriole	35	30	40	140	40	350	116
Baltimore Oriole	75	840	990	980	990	1000	962
Red-winged Blackbird	75	980	990	1000	990	1000	993
Brown-headed Cowbird	75	990	990	990	990	970	987
Rusty Blackbird	19	60	70	40	10	30	43
Common Grackle	75	940	1000	1000	1000	1000	989
Ovenbird	75	800	890	940	910	990	903
Worm-eating Warbler	54	140	310	230	90	130	190
Louisiana Waterthrush	73	200	310	580	640	650	465
Northern Waterthrush	71	200	430	700	540	410	460
Golden-winged Warbler	47	350	510	450	70	10	297
Blue-winged Warbler	67	60	270	770	810	790	526
Black-and-White Warbler	75	730	720	750	810	790	757
Prothonotary Warbler****	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tennessee Warbler	60	230	430	630	160	190	342
Orange-crowned Warbler	3	10	0	10	10	0	5
Nashville Warbler	73	310	440	480	400	410	411
Connecticut Warbler	5	10	10	10	10	0	7
Mourning Warbler	22	10	40	70	20	110	50
Kentucky Warbler	1	0	0	10	0	0	2
Common Yellowthroat	75	810	940	1000	960	1000	941
Hooded Warbler	14	0	0	0	50	120	32
American Redstart	75	780	830	950	830	960	869
Cape May Warbler	49	270	300	390	90	140	247
Cerulean Warbler	23	50	30	70	20	60	45
Northern Parula	52	250	240	210	140	280	225
Magnolia Warbler	75	450	430	530	570	610	515
Bay-breasted Warbler	45	240	330	310	160	180	250

SPECIES	NO. of COUNTS	CRAF 1946-1960	CRAF 1961-1975	CRAF 1976-1990	CRAF 1991-2005	CRAF 2006-2020	75-year CRAF VALUE
Blackburnian Warbler	74	540	500	540	570	640	555
Yellow Warbler	75	820	980	980	980	1000	953
Chestnut-sided Warbler	74	720	770	850	860	870	812
Blackpoll Warbler	57	80	270	350	390	420	299
Black-throated Blue Warbler	74	510	500	660	730	600	594
Palm Warbler	14	100	60	0	10	50	45
Pine Warbler	64	290	80	230	380	320	249
Yellow-rumped Warbler	75	850	860	880	860	740	843
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	0	0	10	0	0	2
Prairie Warbler	71	330	320	600	730	740	531
Black-throated Green Warbler	75	610	670	680	710	830	698
Canada Warbler	68	240	520	610	530	310	447
Wilson's Warbler	42	60	200	200	150	140	156
Scarlet Tanager	73	620	700	850	810	760	748
Northern Cardinal	67	240	930	1000	990	1000	835
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	74	740	930	990	920	900	900
Indigo Bunting	69	330	480	440	490	660	478
HYBRIDS							
Brewster's Warbler	11	30	20	30	30	0	23
Lawrence's Warbler	10	10	0	40	40	0	18
White-thr. Sparrow X Junco	1	0	0	0	10	0	2

* Scaup unidentified as to species but a unique species for the particular count nonetheless.

** Rock Pigeon (or Rock Dove) wasn't counted as a "real" bird until 1971.

*** Traill's Flycatcher was split into Alder Flycatcher and Willow Flycatcher after the 1974 count. Earlier counts did not differentiate between the two, and in fact, the first few counts identified "Alder Flycatcher," but there is no way to determine if this was what we now call Alder Flycatcher or Willow Flycatcher.

**** Prothonotary Warbler has CRAF values of zero across the board because individual team results were not published for 1947, the only year (so far) it was found.

Note: More insights into the Century Run to come in the October issue. Stay tuned! (Editor)

Feathers

Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club

c/o Five Rivers EEC

56 Game Farm Road

Delmar, NY 12054