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# Feathers

## WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT CBCs?

by Larry Alden

Every year we see announcements in *Feathers* and on HMBirds about Christmas Bird Counts, or CBCs. But what is a CBC, anyway? CBCs were suggested as a non-lethal replacement for the Christmas “side hunt”, a holiday tradition where “sportsmen” would go out and shoot as many birds as possible in a competition to see who killed the most. Some tradition!

Over the years, CBCs have become an important citizen science effort and the procedures have been standardized. The rules of a CBC are pretty simple: a count must be held on a single day within a three-week period from December 14 to January 5; the count takes place in a set 15-mile diameter count circle that doesn't overlap another count circle; every bird is counted.

As compiler for two of the three CBCs sponsored by HMBC, I am responsible for reporting the results of my CBCs to the National Audubon Society. That's the easy part. Since a 15-mile diameter count circle contains an awful lot of area (just over 176 square miles!), count circles are broken up into sectors, usually bounded by some physical landmark like a road or stream. My job is to make sure that all the sectors have adequate coverage on count day and to make sure I don't have two or more teams covering the same territory (it has happened). Luckily, CBCs are somewhat contagious, meaning that once someone does one, they often tend to do it again. One long-time HMBC member has covered the same territory on a CBC for a whopping 61 years!

What I first look for is to assign someone as a sector leader – someone who is familiar with the territory and is responsible for keeping track of hours spent in the field, distances covered, and birds identified and counted. Many times a sector leader already has a group of birders he or she goes out with. This is great, but what do I do when somebody contacts me, wanting to do the count? This is where the compiler needs to do some juggling.

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## President's Corner

I'm happy to report that HMBC hosted a very successful 2015 New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) Annual Meeting and Birder's Conference in October. The meeting was excellent, and I've heard nothing but great reviews about all aspects of it -- programs, field trips, logistics, and the social gatherings. A very large 'Thank You' on behalf of all of HMBC goes to the Steering Committee co-chairs: Jory Langner and Kathy Schneider, and to all the many HMBC volunteers who helped plan, organize, and implement a terrific event.

While doling out kudos, I want to thank Ann B'Rells for her long-time contributions to HMBC. Ann and Wayne have been HMBC members for over 40 years. Ann is a past-president, and for as long as I can remember chaired the former Publicity Committee (recently melded into a broader Outreach Committee now chaired by George Steele). As Publicity chair, Ann did one of those jobs no one ever hears about unless something goes wrong -- namely, issuing regular announcements of HMBC programs and activities for coverage by local media. Suffice it to say that her skill and diligence handling this task for many years meant it was something the HMBC Board never had to think twice about. Ann has decided to hand that task off to the new Outreach Committee, and so, on behalf of the board and the membership, I thank her again for her tireless dedication to HMBC for so many years.

Lastly, the Club continues to look for new people interested in helping out with Club operations and management. We are an all-volunteer organization and even small contributions to any of our committees are greatly appreciated. So, if you have an interest in contributing to any aspect of HMBC, please drop me an email. Right now, I am especially seeking one more person to join our Social Committee -- the main need at the moment is to help with providing refreshments for some of our monthly program meetings over the winter. If you are interested, please let me know.

Thanks, and happy holidays.

Gregg Recer  
President HMBC  
[president@hmbc.net](mailto:president@hmbc.net)

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**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](mailto: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](mailto:bgrossman@nycap.rr.com).

Send all paper submissions to:

**Chris Grossman**

**7 Nott Rd.**

Rexford, NY 12148

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**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](mailto: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

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**Saratoga Springs Christmas Bird Count**

The Saratoga Springs Christmas Bird Count will be held on Dec 20th. Contact Jean Holcomb, 518 935-3353, [JHolcomb5@nycap.rr.com](mailto:JHolcomb5@nycap.rr.com), if interested in participating.

### Thanks to NYSOA Field Trip Leaders

Several HMBC members volunteered to be Field Trip leaders at the NYSOA conference in October. Thanks to them all the Field Trips received lots of kudos and praise from folks who participated. **101** species were seen at 6 sites over 3 days.

The sites birded were Albany Pine Barrens, 5 Rivers Ed Center, Vischer Ferry, Peebles Island, Schodack Island and Landis Arboretum.

Just to name names of those who responded to our gentle arm twisting:

**Tom Williams, John Hershey, Stan Blanchard, Bill Lee, Zach Schwartz, Bill Cook, Susan Beaudoin, Marcie Onderdonk, Rich Guthrie, Naomi Lloyd and George Steele.**

Thanks again.

Carol Blackwell

## Field Trip Reports

### NYS Birders Conference (NYSOA Annual Meeting) Field Trips



**NYSOA Field Trip participants at the Albany Pine Bush**

## Field Trip Reports....(continued)



**Five Rivers NYSOA Field Trip**

### **Vischer Ferry NYSOA Field Trip**

*October 3, 2015*

It was my pleasure, along with Stan Blanchard., to lead a field trip Saturday, October 3, at Vischer Ferry Preserve for the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) Annual Meeting. HMBC hosted NYSOA's Annual Meeting in Albany at the Radisson on Wolf Road. We had 17 truly outstanding birders from across the state as participants in this non-delegate field trip. Highlights for me included 2 NORTHERN SHOVELERS, 5 raptors, a BROWN THRASHER, GOLDEN-CROWNED and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, RUSTY BLACKBIRDS and 8 warbler species including a CAPE MAY WARBLER. Altogether we had an impressive, late season count of 59 species. Despite the cloudy and cold weather, we encountered several waves of songbirds: in the interconnecting trails, on the scout trail, at the spruce circle, and along most of the towpath (lots of YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS and a CAPE MAY WARBLER). A more complete list includes: WOOD DUCK, GADWALL, BLUE-WINGED TEAL, GREEN-WINGED TEAL, NORTHERN SHOVELER (2), PIED-BILLED GREBE (2), GREEN HERON (1), BALD EAGLE (1), SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, COOPER'S HAWK, AMERICAN KESTREL (1), BELTED KINGFISHER (1), YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER, EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE, BLUE-HEADED VIREO (3), RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (1), WINTER WREN (2), GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET (2), RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (3), BROWN THRASHER (1), NASHVILLE WARBLER, NORTHERN PARULA (1), MAGNOLIA WARBLER (5), CAPE MAY WARBLER (1), YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (abundant), BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (3), AMERICAN REDSTART, COMMON YELLOWTHROAT, SWAMP SPARROW, WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (abundant), WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (2), DARK-EYED JUNCO (1), RUSTY BLACKBIRD (3).

- John Hershey

## Field Trip Reports....(continued)

### Vischer Ferry NYSOA Field Trip

October 4, 2015

I guided a short NYSOA field trip on Sunday, October 4, to Vischer Ferry. Participants were mostly 5 very sharp, young birders at the annual meeting from the NYS Young Birders Club along with 2 parents. The young birders were able to rack up 44 species in a short time. In my opinion the best bird was a PHILADELPHIA VIREO which was a life bird for at least one young person. Other good birds included GREEN-WINGED TEAL, PIED-BILLED GREBE, BALD EAGLE, BLUE-HEADED VIREO, BROWN CREEPER; GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET, MAGNOLIA, YELLOW-RUMPED, and BLACKPOLL WARBLERS. They also enjoyed checking out the River Otters, a Leopard Frog, a dead snake, and Jewelweed pods.

- John Hershey

### Tomhannock Reservoir

November 7, 2015

About a dozen people joined the Club's annual trip around Tomhannock Reservoir. Waterfowl have been scarce both in species and numbers, but we were able to see forty species. It was speculated that this fall's warm weather has not pushed the waterfowl south yet. Two adult BALD EAGLES, at least two COMMON LOONS, a YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER, and a distant BONAPARTE'S GULL were the most significant sightings. The very few BUFFLEHEAD and RUDDY DUCKS seen was a disappointment.

- Bernie Grossman

### Vischer Ferry Nature Preserve

November 15, 2015

There were 9 congenial participants for our HMBC Vischer Ferry Field Trip this morning. We walked along the towpath and also checked out the VF Power Plant and Ferry Dr. Although waterfowl were meant to be the main focus, there seemed to be unusually low numbers of them as has been the case elsewhere in this area as well. As usual there were Canada Geese, Mallards, and American Black Duck. We could only find about 2 Common Mergansers for the whole morning. Conservative estimates of other ducks include Green-winged Teal (15), Gadwall (2), American Wigeon (5), Bufflehead (2). We also had a Mallard hybrid of unknown genetic origins. Other birds include: Great Blue Heron (2), Bald Eagle, Pileated Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Tree Sparrow, and Purple Finch. No trace of the Surf Scoter which I found yesterday afternoon above the dam.

Everyone voted unanimously that the "best bird" of the morning was actually 2 Minks originally found under an old tree stump, one of which then swam across the canal underwater. Altogether we had a modest, final list of 35 species.

- John Hershey

## Upcoming HMBC Programs

### **HMBC Holiday Party & program - The Passenger Pigeon: Icon of Extinction**

**Speaker: Dr. Jeremy Kirchman**

December 7, 2015 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Five Rivers Environmental Education Center

This lecture/slideshow will cover the natural history of North America's "wild pigeon", and what we know about its rapid extinction one hundred years ago.

Dr. Jeremy Kirchman is the Curator of Ornithology at the New York State Museum and Affiliate Associate Professor of Biology at SUNY-Albany. He has a BA in Biology from Illinois Wesleyan University, an MS in Zoology from Louisiana State University, and a Ph.D. in Zoology at the University of Florida. He is broadly interested in museum specimen-based ornithology and in the growth and preservation of museum specimen collections. His research program at NYSM focuses on the biogeography and evolution of birds, especially the species that breed in the boreal forest "islands" at high elevations in the Catskills and Adirondacks.

Everyone is welcome to bring a dessert to share.

### **Wild Birds Through the Seasons**

**Speaker: Dr. Gordon Ellmers**

February 1, 2016 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

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

Dr. Gordon Ellmers will present "Wild Birds Through the Seasons" on Monday, Feb. 1, as part of the monthly program of the Hudson Mohawk Audubon Society. The program will be held in the William K. Sanford (Colonie) Town Library. The program starts at 7 p.m.

Gordon Ellmers lives in Fort Edward, N.Y., and is a practicing veterinarian. He is an amateur wildlife photographer specializing in wild birds in their natural habitat. He started by photographing some of the beautiful birds on his property. Most of his photographs are taken locally. Ellmers photographs wild birds every day of the year.

His wildlife photography has been featured in a number of newspapers and websites as well as The New York State Conservationist magazine. Many of his photos have been donated to a number of institutions and organizations including: Friends of the IBA, Trinity College, Michigan State University, Oberlin College, Shenendehowa Central School District, Queensbury School District, Greenwich Library and Wiawaka. He is a member of the National Audubon Society and the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society.

## Upcoming Audubon Programs

### Hudson Valley Bald Eagles

**Location:** Guilderland Public Library, 2228 Western Ave, Guilderland, NY 12084

**Saturday, January 23, 2016, 2:30pm - 4:00pm**

**Time:** 2:30pm Audubon Society of the Capital Region info table and activities. 3:00pm Bald Eagle presentation Begins.

Tom Lake, Hudson River Estuary Program Naturalist for the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation, will be the guest speaker for a program on Hudson Valley Bald Eagles.

Since 1782, the Bald Eagle has been our national bird. However, the last 230 years have been difficult for them. The talk will travel across those centuries to see how the Bald Eagle evolved from an honored symbol to a target for human ignorance and neglect.

This downward spiral culminated in the mid-20th century with their extirpation from New York State from the effects of DDT. They were subsequently placed on the Federal Endangered Species List.

The final chapter in this story finds the Bald Eagle rising from near ruin to their present day abundance, and a recovery so complete that you may see an eagle any day of the year, anywhere in the Hudson Valley.

In addition to his ongoing work with eagles, Lake has compiled and edited the Hudson River Almanac, a weekly natural history journal, for 20 years. He teaches Anthropology and Archaeology at SUNY Dutchess Community College.

To register for this event please contact the Guilderland Public Library:

**Registration Ends:** 1/22/2016 at 12:00 AM

**Contact:** Maria Buhl

**Contact Number:** 518-456-2400 ext. 2

## On Nature

### Bird of the Shadows

*by Denise Hackert-Stoner and Scott Stoner*

Our juncos are back! We love these seemingly simple, peaceful winter visitors. We eagerly await them each fall and watch each day for them to return. We observe and enjoy their presence in our yard all winter, and sadly see them depart in the spring. These seemingly simple, small dark gray and white birds are signs of winter. Some call them snowbirds. It is interesting to watch them.

## On Nature ..... (continued)



© Scott Stoner 2015

As photographers, we are always cognizant of the light. Juncos photograph, tend to favor the shadows. With great light just inches away, they stay on the ground, in the shade, making them difficult to photograph.

They probably do this for their own safety, to better conceal themselves from any predators, such as the accipiters that often visit our yard. Juncos are light below and dark above, so staying in the shade makes them less visible to predators. This reminds us of many sea creatures and sea birds, which are similarly patterned,

making them less visible against the sky from below and in the water from above.

Juncos are seed-eaters, as evident by their substantial seed-cracking bill. At our feeders they like black oil and other sunflower seeds as well as the smaller millet. Like other sparrows they often feed on the ground, although they also visit our platform feeders.

We put up a brush pile every winter to give the birds added shelter and cover, and the juncos often take full advantage of this.

Earlier this fall we had the opportunity to see the full length movie, Ordinary Extraordinary Junco, up at the Huyck Preserve. The event was hosted by Jon Loz of Capital Region Audubon and Dr. Dawn O'Neal, Executive Director of the Preserve, and featured Jonathan Atwell, the film's producer, writer and director, who traveled out from Indiana University to speak in depth to the group after the screening.

This extraordinary and captivating 90-minute film details the research conducted on this fascinating species from North America to Central America, and showed how it is rapidly evolving. In fact, the rapid



© Denise Hackert-Stoner  
2015

diversification among junco groups is compared to that of Darwin's finches in the Galapagos. ([juncoproject.org](http://juncoproject.org))



© Scott Stoner 2015

## On Nature ..... (continued)

Dawn's own PhD research at Indiana was on the Dark-eyed Junco, and we look forward to her being a speaker at one of the HMBC's upcoming Monday night programs in 2016. Check the website for details!

In the meantime, we will enjoy our ordinary yet extraordinary juncos this winter!



## A TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE

By Naomi Lloyd

On October 20<sup>th</sup> a possible TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE was reported at Thacher Park. Of course a crowd dashed there the next morning hoping this local rarity had stuck around. We were delighted to find the bird not only present, but very accepting of human foot traffic and nearby construction. We were able to see all the diagnostic marks: white eye ring, buffy patches on and under the wings, and white edges to the tail.



The Solitaire disappeared for long periods, causing much anxiety until it would suddenly appear perching on the highest bare branches, and diving into Red Cedars to feast on berries. Cedars at the edge of the Helderberg Escarpment are not all that different from Junipers on cliff edges in the West!

Soon, birders were showing up from out of town and out of state. After being viewed intensively for a week, sightings tapered off until it was refound in the same location on the Indian Ladder Trail November 8<sup>th</sup>. Perhaps we've got an exciting addition to the Christmas Bird Count. Thanks to Craig Thompson and Ro Woodard for recognizing this entertaining visitor!

## Harris's Sparrow and Bohemian Waxwing

A Harris's Sparrow was spotted recently in Loudonville. While waiting for it to show, birders spotted a Bohemian Waxwing also.



**Harris's Sparrow (Scott Stoner)**



Bohemian Waxwing (John Hershey)

## WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT CBCs? ..... (continued)

My first order of business is to find out if the prospective CBCer knows what he or she is getting into. This is really important. If they have never done a CBC before, I usually explain that I expect them to be in the field all day and possibly before dawn and after dark. If that still sits well with them, then I try to find a field party that needs bodies.

Sometimes you can have too many people in a field party. Anything more than one carload of birders is going to make things difficult. Figuring out what the other car is looking at, pulling over when a good bird is spotted, and other logistics become more complicated when there is more than one car. Then there is the comfort factor. Nobody wants to spend most of the day crammed into the middle back seat trying to see out a foggy window. For me, four birders makes for a perfect CBC field party. There are lots of eyes looking for birds yet everyone has the comfort of their very own car window plus a little elbow room.

So what if I get too many people? I haven't actually had that happen yet, but if it does, I'll have to split up some sectors to form a new territory and find an additional sector leader. Some sectors are quite large and are difficult to cover in a day. A smaller sector allows the field party to spend more time out of the car, where they should be able to identify more birds. The opposite can also be true, where sectors must be combined due to low turnout. These situations would not be a problem if

## WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT CBCs? ..... *(continued)*

the sector leader was not familiar with the sector. But when a chunk of your sector is split off, you may not be covering that great spot where you always find a Winter Wren, or the field where you had Horned Larks last year. And if you now have more territory to cover, you may not be able to take that two-mile walk along the railroad tracks you always take.

This brings the timing issue into the mix. As compiler, I want to have my field parties set up on their sectors about a week before the count. Anything closer to count day usually makes for last-minute plans that sometimes don't work out well. My goal is for everybody to have their meeting times and places agreed on and their trip mapped out with plenty of time to spare.

Once the counting is done, the compiler has some further responsibilities. Often, there is a compilation dinner, where the field parties meet at a home or restaurant for a bite to eat or a beverage of choice to sip. This is where the participants relate tales of past and present CBCs – who drove off the road or fell in a pile of snow, who found a Hermit Thrush when relieving themselves in the bushes, who had a pre-dawn run-in with the police. Typically, there is some sort of roll call of species and everyone waits to see if anyone found anything good. Field parties usually keep this information close to the vest, to provide for maximum drama. Conversations usually go something like this, “So, how was your day?” “Oh, OK. We saw a couple good things. You?” “Yeah, we had a couple good birds.” Then they quickly change the subject, “Sure was cold out.” The major coup is finding a species new to the count composite list, but you'd better be prepared to defend your sighting in a room full of jealous skeptics.

The compiler needs to sort out the details of the count. Did three field parties really see three separate Bald Eagles or was the same bird flying back and forth between sectors? Was one party poaching birds on another sector? Was that mystery little brown job a Savannah Sparrow or a female Lapland Longspur? We might ask you to fill out a Rare Bird Documentation Form, which provides details of your sighting. Pictures are great, if you can get them (hint: always have your cell phone handy).

Finally, all this is tallied up and submitted along with hours and distances (the count effort) to Audubon's CBC database. Audubon also collects information on weather condition, snow cover, wind, and whether water in the count circle was open or frozen.

So what good is collecting all this information? This is where it gets interesting. Because these counts are done the same way over many years, certain trends become apparent. For example, an irruptive pattern in redpolls was noticed where they often came south in great numbers in alternate years. Traditionally “southern” species have made inroads into the area such as Northern Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, and Northern Mockingbird. Red-bellied Woodpeckers were new to the local counts around 20 years ago and Black Vultures are now being counted. Some species are declining, e.g., American Kestrel, Ruffed Grouse, and Evening Grosbeak.

Some of these changes can be traced to changes in the habitat (rural to suburban), some are due to random fluctuation, some are due to weather, but some changes are a mystery. Why are Merlins being found in increasing numbers? Why are Cooper's Hawk numbers growing but not Sharp-shinned Hawks? What effect is global warming having on the local bird population?

## WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT CBCs? ..... (continued)

We can leave those questions to the graduate students and government agencies, but without having this wonderful treasure trove of data collected by citizen scientists, nobody would have the means to look for answers to these and other questions.

Taking part in a CBC isn't for everyone. But don't let the fact that you're only a beginning birder dissuade you from doing one. Just let the compilers know far enough in advance so we can place you with a field party led by an experienced birder and you can see for yourself what CBCs are all about.

## Upcoming Field Trips

### DECEMBER

#### **Friday - Sunday, December 4 – 6, NIAGARA FALLS and NIAGARA RIVER** (weekend)

Coordinators: Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen, 899-2678 [gregg\\_recer@alum.rpi.edu](mailto:gregg_recer@alum.rpi.edu)

#### **Reservations required by Thursday, November 6**

The Niagara River, between Lakes Erie and Ontario, hosts thousands of gulls at this time of year. A wide variety of gull species will be present with good chances for Lesser Black-backed, Little, Bonaparte's, Iceland, Glaucous and Thayer's. Rarer species such as California, Sabine's, Mew and Black-legged Kittiwake are possible. Waterfowl diversity should also be good. Friday we will bird our way west along Lake Ontario.

**During the weekend, we will bird mainly from the Canadian side of the river from Ft. Erie to Niagara-on-the-lake, so proper documentation to cross back and forth between the US and Canada will be needed. Please confirm documentation requirements when contacting coordinator.**

Email or call the coordinator for reservations or more information.

#### **Saturday, December 19, SCHENECTADY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

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

#### **Saturday, December 26, SOUTHERN RENSSELAER CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

Coordinator/Compiler: Phil Whitney, 477-9050, [philandmarjwhitney@earthlink.net](mailto:philandmarjwhitney@earthlink.net)

### JANUARY

#### **Friday, January 1, NEW YEAR'S DAY BIRD COUNT AT FIVE RIVERS EEC, DELMAR, NY**

(Albany County; morning)

Coordinators: Ray Perry 475-0291 (daytime) [raymond.perry@dec.ny.gov](mailto:raymond.perry@dec.ny.gov)

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

Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, located on Game Farm Rd, Delmar, NY, is a large area of fields and forest and is one of the premier birding locations in the Capital District.

This year marks the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual New Year's Day Bird Count at Five Rivers. The goal of the count is to identify all the bird species present on January 1st. This also marks the start of Five Rivers' annual bird list. HMBC joins the event again this year and encourages members to participate. Groups will go out at 9:00 a.m. from the Interpretive Building (visitor center), but birders are welcome to come earlier to get a head start. Call ahead to Five Rivers in case of inclement weather.

### **Wednesday, January 20, NOTIFICATION/LISTING FOR RARE BIRD TRIP**

Coordinator: Bill Lee 374-3426 [bilee@hotmai.com](mailto:bilee@hotmai.com)

If any especially rare bird(s) is/are reported in our general area, we plan to take a trip to look for it. This is usually a day trip, but sometimes requires an overnight stay. To get on the notification list for alert and trip details, contact the coordinator. In past years, participants saw Ivory Gull and Tufted Duck.

### **Saturday, January 2, TROY 2016 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

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

### **Saturday, January 16 or 23, ANNUAL STATE WATERFOWL COUNT** (morning/all day)

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

The exact date of this trip has not been settled as of this writing. The correct date will be given in the trip schedule due out in early December.

On the local segment of this statewide event, participants will count waterfowl and other birds on the Hudson River between North Troy and Hudson Falls.

Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Hannaford parking lot on the east end of the North Troy-Waterford Bridge (NY Route 4).

## **FEBRUARY**

### **Monday, February 2, DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS, CAPE ANN & NEWBURYPORT/PLUM ISLAND**

weekend, out-of-area trip, February 13- 16

Coordinator/Leaders: Bill Lee 374-3426 [bilee@hotmai.com](mailto:bilee@hotmai.com)

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

Contact Bernie Grossman by February 2nd to reserve a spot and for hotel reservation information.

### **Saturday, February 6, BIRDING BY SNOWSHOE AT FIVE RIVERS** (Albany County; morning)

Coordinator: Ray Perry 475-0291 [raymond.perry@dec.ny.gov](mailto:raymond.perry@dec.ny.gov)

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

Join Ray for a special outing of birding by snowshoe. Meet at the Visitor Center at 9 a.m. for a brief introduction to snowshoeing, then strap on the waffle stompers and go over the meadow and through the woods in search of winter specialties. The program is geared for the birding/snowshoeing novice and is open to the public, but space is limited. The snowshoes are provided through the Friends of Five Rivers. They have changed their policy on snowshoe rentals. There must be at least 8 inches of snow and a \$5 per pair rental charge for non-members of Friends of Five Rivers. Please call Five Rivers at 518-475-0291 by Wednesday, February 4th to register. If there is insufficient snow, we will go on foot. In the event of severe weather, this program may be cancelled.

### **Friday – Monday, February 12 – 15, CAPE ANN & NEWBURYPORT/PLUM ISLAND** (weekend) (out of area)

Coordinator/Leaders: Bill Lee 374-3426 [bilee@hotmai.com](mailto:bilee@hotmai.com)

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

The Cape Ann and the Newburyport/Plum Island, MA, areas are prime winter birding locations. We will spend Saturday on Cape Ann's shoreline looking for white-winged gulls, wintering sea ducks such as Harlequins, scoters, eiders and loons as well as other winter visitors like Purple Sandpipers and Guillemot. Sunday will be spent at Newburyport and Plum Island searching

for more sea birds, Harriers, Snowy Owl, etc. Monday morning is make-up time where we will pick up any spots and target species missed. Plan 2 to 3 nights in a motel. By Club policy, this overnight trip is for members with non- members accommodated if room is available and with the leader's approval.

***Feathers***

**Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club**

**c/o Five Rivers EEC**

**Game Farm Road**

**Delmar, NY 12054**