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## **SCHENECTADY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2015**

by Larry Alden

I like to point out every year that although a CBC is a one-day snapshot of the general state of birds in the count circle, the weather on and preceding the count day has a significant effect on what we find. Case in point – up to this year's Schenectady CBC count date it had been a very mild winter, with no measurable snow and no appreciable ice on the water bodies. The temperatures in the week before the count were in the 40s and even the 50s. We might guess that there would be a lot of half-hardy species hanging around because there was nothing compelling them to move south: Gray Catbird, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Yellow-rumped Warbler. With a couple of exceptions, this was not the case!

One thing we could predict was that with open water everywhere, there would probably be few concentrations of waterfowl. Conditions to our north were similar; so many waterfowl were just hanging out where they happened to be, with no particular concerns (like ice or snow) driving them southward. This prediction came true, with generally low numbers of waterfowl, but good variety, particularly with puddle ducks (i.e., the ones that don't dive for their food).

With no snow before the count, we could predict that natural food would be plentiful and passerines would probably be harder to find. This prediction proved correct, too. We noticed feeders stocked with seed and no takers to speak of beyond gray squirrels or House Sparrows. Birds may have been out there, but they blended in with the browns and grays of dormant vegetation and didn't stand out against a carpet of white snow.

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## President's Corner

### HMBC BOARD

#### Officers

**President:**

Gregg Recer  
23 Scotch Mist Way  
Malta, NY 12020  
899-2678 [gregg\\_recer@alum.rpi.edu](mailto:gregg_recer@alum.rpi.edu)

**Vice-President::**

Will Raup  
455 Ontario Street Apt 1  
Albany, NY 12208  
944-8711 [hoaryredpoll@hotmail.com](mailto:hoaryredpoll@hotmail.com)

**Secretary:**

Jenny Murtaugh  
6161 Depot Rd Apt 3  
Altamont, NY 12009  
322-7460 [aquityfastantics@yahoo.com](mailto:aquityfastantics@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer:**

Ellen Pemrick  
117 Western Ave  
West Charlton, NY 12010  
882-9163 [lnmp@nycap.rr.com](mailto:lnmp@nycap.rr.com)

**Directors**

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

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

George Steele  
842-9305 [silphidae@aol.com](mailto:silphidae@aol.com)

Debra Ferguson  
221-3857 [zray.zreee@gmail.com](mailto:zray.zreee@gmail.com)

Ron Harrower  
744-2637 [rharrower@nycap.rr.com](mailto:rharrower@nycap.rr.com)

**Committee Chairs**

**Audit:** vacant

**Conservation:** vacant

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

**Membership:** Gregg Recer  
899-2678 [gregg\\_recer@alum.rpi.edu](mailto:gregg_recer@alum.rpi.edu)

**Outreach:** George Steele  
842-9305 [silphidae@aol.com](mailto:silphidae@aol.com)

**Programs:** Scott Stoner  
785-6760 [programs@hmbc.net](mailto:programs@hmbc.net)

**Publications:** Chris Grossman  
399-9159 [publications@hmbc.net](mailto:publications@hmbc.net)

**Records:** Will Raup  
944-8711 [hoaryredpoll@hotmail.com](mailto:hoaryredpoll@hotmail.com)

**Reist Sanctuary:** vacant  
Michael Gann  
377-2560 [mgann@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mgann@nycap.rr.com)

**Social:** vacant

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

**Youth:** George Steele  
842-9305 [silphidae@aol.com](mailto:silphidae@aol.com)

We're in the midst of the mid-winter doldrums around here. Granted, this winter has, so far, been unusually mild. But it is still hard to avoid feeling cooped up and missing the long, pleasant evenings of May and June. Birding-wise, it's also a bit of a slow time, or at least it seems to take a lot of effort to dig up something beyond the two-dozen or so standard winter species in our area. We're having the odd experience this year of huge amounts of open water continuing through January, meaning there continues to be more waterfowl diversity around than usual. But, typical winter waterfowl concentration spots haven't formed, so birds seem to be spread very thin.

The big challenge of winter around here is finding something to get you interested enough to drag yourself out of the warm house. A good ski season (if it ever materializes this year) is one possibility. I decided to try joining up with the Region 8 Fun Run last year, and that provided a new bit of motivation for getting out and doing more local winter birding than I had in a long while. The Fun Run is a friendly group of folks who keep a running tab of the total number of species they've seen during the year in NYSOA's Region 8 (the 11 county area centered on Albany, from Greene & Schoharie in the south to Warren & Washington in the north, and from the state line west to Fulton & Montgomery). I hesitate to even use the word 'competition' for the Fun Run; there are no prizes (and I'm reminded of the old David Letterman line: "Please... no wagering"). Like most bird-listing endeavors, this is really about competition with yourself. Set your own goals and your own measure of success, and then see what happens. Last year I ended up seeing 183 species in R8. A far cry from the top total in last year's group (Tom Williams at a remarkable 222, considering 300 in the entire state in a year is a difficult challenge), but I was just a newbie to the Run (and realistically could only participate on weekends, while many participants are retirees). Participating did give me a little boost to not only go out more often, but to try covering a bigger variety of locations than I probably would have otherwise. Having kept R8 records on my own in prior years, my 2015 total exceeded my best previous total by 17 species, or about 10%. I would shoot for a similar increase this year over last and at least get to the 200 mark. The group keeps their running tabs on a shared Google Docs spreadsheet. If you're interested in joining in, it's not too late – just drop me an email.

Changing gears completely, I want to remind everyone that our annual dues renewal notices will be going out toward the end of February. One new feature to look for this year – online dues payment. David Martin has been working very hard to get this facility set up and we hope for it to be operational by the time dues notices go out. Details should be included with your renewal notice.

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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## Field Trip Reports

There are no Field Trip Reports for this issue.

## Upcoming HMBC Programs

### **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.

### **Wilton Wildlife Preserve**

**Speaker: Margo Olsen**

March 7, 2016 – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

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

Joint Program with Audubon Society of the Capital Region

The largest population of the endangered Karner blue butterfly in the eastern United States is found in Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park. The Preserve & Park is a non-profit organization that partners with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, Saratoga County, and the Town of Wilton. The protection of lands within the Saratoga Sandplains ecosystem and the creation of additional acreage of the meadow habitat that is required by the butterfly has been a priority effort of NYS DEC and TNC. This presentation will cover the formation of the Preserve & Park, the fire-dependent ecosystem of the Sandplains, the natural history of the Karner blue butterfly, and an overview of the other threatened and species of special conservation need that are found there. The presentation will also cover the benefits of the early successional habitat that is being created to a host of important bird species. Several of the citizen science projects relating to these bird species will be highlighted.

The presenter will be Margo Olson, Executive Director of Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park where she has been for over five years. Prior to the Preserve & Park, her career has revolved around non-profit management and education. She has worked as an Interpretive Ranger for the National Park Service, and worked in nature centers, museums, and most recently at Skidmore College.

HMBC Annual Meeting

Speaker: TBA

April 6, 2016 – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Century House 997 New Loudon Rd, Latham, NY

## Upcoming Audubon Programs

### Wilton Wildlife Preserve

**Speaker: Margo Olsen**

March 7, 2016 – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

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

Joint Program with Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club

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## On Nature

### Seeing Red

*by Denise Hackert-Stoner and Scott Stoner*

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With the colors of fall behind us, with all of the holiday glitter packed away, the gray season has begun. When I look out my window I see a world virtually void of color. Branches blackened from the damp morning bend over snowy mounds dotted with black sunflower seeds. Bleached stems and seed heads poke through. The finches and sparrows, the doves, the chickadees and titmice, all look gray in this low light. All this under a steely sky that hangs so low it seems to brush the treetops. It is easy on the eyes, all this gray. It is a call to rest, to the “long winter’s nap,” as the poem goes.

Then one by one they appear: small snags. I remember my mother, an of the color red; how even a tiny bit make itself known. And now more Cardinals on branches, at feeders, on nine, ten, and still they come; a flock brown females. They seem to glow light up the snow around them. "Wake Up!"



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dots of red, way back in the pine artist, once pointing out the strength of it will shout out in a landscape and come, and closer: bright red snow banks, fences and vines. Eight, of males, along with a few soft with their own light. They seem to Their silent bills seem to scream,



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Naturelogues 2015

## REIST SANCTUARY REPORT

### Bridge from Oakmont Drive Parking Area Replaced

Our Steward for the Reist Sanctuary, Mike Gann, reports that after several "false starts" the bridge on the entry trail leading into the Reist from the Oakmont Drive Parking Area has been replaced. The original wooden foot bridge was built approximately 15 years ago and was in a badly deteriorated condition. Since it is not on Reist Sanctuary property, HMBC has no responsibility to maintain it, although we had been doing some minimal "maintenance" on it for many years. However its condition worsened significantly over the past year, and a long-term solution was in order.





### **Deteriorated bridge**

Following a clear determination that the bridge was on a Town of Niskayuna-owned parcel of property, an on-site meeting with the Town Parks' lead person and Town Highway Superintendent was arranged. The Town readily agreed that the bridge was on Town property, was badly deteriorated, and in need of a replacement.

The Town Highway Superintendent suggested replacing the bridge with twin culverts and compacted earth fill to create a safe, convenient, "zero-maintenance", grade-level

crossing. This was readily agreed to. The work was undertaken and completed by the Town Highway Department on December 16/17, taking advantage of the unusually "warm" and snow-free weather. The new "crossing" is now a grade-level, approximately 8ft wide, compacted earth pathway. It should provide safe and convenient, and truly handicapped-accessible access into the Reist from this important entry point for many years to come. And concurrently, it provides the Town of Niskayuna with a much improved access point for undertaking maintenance of their sewer line right-of-way which traverses the Reist from this point. A truly "win-win" situation for all involved!



### **New culverts**



## SUCCESSFUL NYSOA ANNUAL MEETING

The Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club hosted the NYS Birders Conference and 68<sup>th</sup> NYSOA Annual Meeting on October 2-4, 2015 at the Radisson Hotel in Albany. The event was a great success and full of enjoyment for the 165 participants.

As we arrived at the hotel, our HMBC hosts warmly welcomed us. They were very informative about all the questions we had. They especially gave us good tips on what field trips to join.

My favorite field trips were to Vischer Ferry and the Albany Pine Bush. Vischer Ferry was really beautiful. The vibrant yellow blossoms of Jerusalem Artichoke enhanced the fall foliage. We had some nice birds including a Wilson's Snipe, but my personal highlight was great looks at a trio of River Otters frolicking in the marsh. The Albany Pine Bush was not particularly birdy, but it was a great opportunity to see a globally rare and unique habitat – inland pitch pine/scrub oak barrens. The Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center there was great and we had the opportunity to talk to resource management staff who told us about the history and conservation of the area.



Overall, 101 bird species were recorded on conference field trips, an amazing total for the date and a tribute to the expertise of the many trip leaders and field trip committee chairs Carol Blackwell and Jim Ries. Among the highlights were Philadelphia Vireo, Cape May Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow and the aforementioned Wilson's Snipe.

A big shout-out goes to Jeremy Kirchman and the New York State Museum for their contributions to

the conference. All who attended lauded Jeremy's behind the scenes tours of the museum's ornithology labs and bird collection. The Friday night reception in the museum's bird hall was in a wonderful setting and the food was great.

Jon Dunn's keynote address on wood warblers at the Saturday night banquet was very interesting. George Steele's and Jory Langner's photo identification quiz was an original addition to the banquet proceedings. Rather than bird identification, it





## SUCCESSFUL NYSOA ANNUAL MEETING..... *(continued)*

included a number of mysterious objects found in the field, and the identification challenge was akin to solving a riddle. It was great fun!

There were many great workshops and papers. Great credit goes to all the authors, but my personal favorite was Tom Salo's talk on Golden Eagle Research in Upstate New York. This important research revealed that a large proportion of the eastern Golden Eagle population uses a narrow corridor in which to migrate. This corridor has been proposed for development of wind power projects, and the research may help to avoid impacts on the birds. Tom also showed photos and videos of baited wildlife cameras used to track winter resident Golden Eagles. He relayed how his son sent photos of the birds on a deer

carcass to his friends, writing "Take a look at my Dad's bird feeders".



Having hosted the 2013 NYSOA Conference on Long Island, I know the enormous commitment and great teamwork required for such an endeavor. Conference leads Jory Langner, Kathy Schneider and all those in the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club who contributed so much to the event should be commended. NYSOA is extremely grateful for their efforts.

I also understand that HMBC made a small profit on the event, a possible incentive to clubs considering hosting future conferences.

As always, the NYSOA conference was a great opportunity to meet new friends and renew ties. I'm looking forward to the 2016 conference, hosted by the Chemung County Bird Club on September 9-11, 2016.

- Seth Ausubel, NYSOA Vice-President

## SCHENECTADY CBC ..... *(continued)*

Finally, by monitoring conditions far to our north, we could anticipate that we would not have much in the way of "winter finches" (grosbeaks, crossbills, redpolls, etc.) This appears to be a function of food availability more than weather conditions. With two exceptions (Red-breasted Nuthatch and Purple Finch), this prediction also came true.

Despite the clement weather preceding the count, count day was in the 30s (ranging from 30-37F) with a brisk 15-20 mph wind from the west. However, it was partly sunny and field teams spent quite a lot of time on foot this year.

Although there were some significant species we missed, we benefitted from some staked-out birds which actually showed themselves on count day. The primary stake-out bird was a juvenile Red-headed Woodpecker first found over a month before the count and representing only the third time this species has been found on this count. When first discovered, it

## SCHENECTADY CBC ..... (continued)

appeared to be caching food and now it looks like it has chosen our area to try to overwinter. A second stake-out was a male Common Yellowthroat first located in mid-November, representing the ninth occurrence on the count. Finally, a drake Northern Shoveler was found in the same small pond where it was seen several weeks before. This represented the newest addition to our count composite list, boosting it to 139 species. This was one of those puddle ducks that benefited from the lack of ice. In fact, two more shovelers were seen at Vischer Ferry a few days before the count, but not on count day.

Going through the spreadsheet, here are some noteworthy observations from this year's count other than those noted above:

Gadwall – 5, only the 6<sup>th</sup> occurrence on the count  
 Northern Pintail – 3, 10<sup>th</sup> occurrence  
 Green-winged Teal – 12, 6<sup>th</sup> occurrence and the maximum individuals seen  
 Canvasback – 1, only the 2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence  
 Bufflehead – 3, 7<sup>th</sup> occurrence and ties maximum number  
 Black Vulture – 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence  
 Belted Kingfisher – 1, only one seen despite open water  
 Merlin – 1, 7<sup>th</sup> occurrence  
 Common Raven – 6, ties maximum  
 Rusty Blackbird – 3, 10<sup>th</sup> occurrence, last seen 15 years ago

We missed a few species on count day that we normally get, although some of these were count week birds:

Wild Turkey, Great Horned Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, American Kestrel, Brown Creeper, Snow Bunting, Brown-headed Cowbird

You can't do anything about the weather, but despite the non-ideal conditions, all nine field parties put in a good effort, and the 62 species seen equals the 20-year average for this count.

Larry Alden  
 Compiler

### 116th CBC - Schenectady Count Circle - December 19, 2015

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I/J	Total
<b>Canada Goose</b>	152	350	50	48		198	21	280	22	1121
<b>Mute Swan</b>	1									1
<b>Wood Duck</b>			2							2
<b>Gadwall</b>						5				5
<b>American Wigeon</b>		CW								0
<b>American Black Duck</b>		14	2	2			4	2		24
<b>Mallard</b>	142	201	125	30	12	46	23	56	67	702

<b>Northern Shoveler</b>	1									<b>1</b>
<b>Northern Pintail</b>	3									<b>3</b>
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>	12									<b>12</b>
<b>Canvasback</b>	1									<b>1</b>
<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>	CW									<b>0</b>
<b>Bufflehead</b>	3									<b>3</b>
<b>Common Goldeneye</b>	CW									<b>0</b>
<b>Hooded Merganser</b>	1 1									<b>2</b>
<b>Common Merganser</b>	24	11	1			1	6	3		46
<b>Wild Turkey</b>	CW	CW								<b>0</b>
<b>Great Blue Heron</b>	2		1			2	1			6
<b>Black Vulture</b>	2									<b>2</b>
<b>Bald Eagle*</b>	2				1	2	1			6
<b>Northern Harrier</b>	1									<b>1</b>
<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b>	1									<b>1</b>
<b>Cooper's Hawk</b>	2				1			1		4
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>	9	1	5	4	8	6	6	5		44
<b>Ring-billed Gull</b>	6	6	5		9		107	90	91	314
<b>Herring Gull</b>	2		9				1	1		13
<b>Great Black-backed Gull</b>	1		5							6
<b>Rock Pigeon</b>	6		59	435	121	30	181	53	2	887
<b>Mourning Dove</b>	11	37	5	34	35	70	14	4	3	213
<b>Eastern Screech-Owl</b>	1	1		1						3
<b>Great Horned Owl</b>	CW									<b>0</b>
<b>Belted Kingfisher</b>	1									<b>1</b>
<b>Red-headed Woodpecker</b>	1									<b>1</b>
<b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b>	8	8	1	4	9	8	3	6	4	51
<b>Downy Woodpecker</b>	6	3	1	8	11	7	2	5	7	50
<b>Hairy Woodpecker</b>	1			4	2		3		3	13



Northern Flicker	2	1	1			2				6
Pileated Woodpecker	1		1		1	1				4
Merlin									1	1
Peregrine Falcon							CW			0
Blue Jay	29	7	23	17	28	18	10	2	11	145
American Crow	22	59	13	300	151	55	94	6	90	790
Fish Crow									1	1
Common Raven			2		1	3				6
Black-capped Chickadee	49	19	8	37	56	47	6	12	20	254
Tufted Titmouse	9	10	1	13	10	20	17	9	8	97
Red-breasted Nuthatch					7					7
White-breasted Nuthatch	15	6	2	17	9	12	15	7	13	96
Carolina Wren		1	1	1		1			2	6
Winter Wren							1			1
Golden-crowned Kinglet							1			1
Eastern Bluebird	4	5	3	10		10				32
American Robin	13	31	17	88	82	204		6	9	450
Northern Mockingbird			2	4		6	3		1	16
European Starling	64	46	273	139	77	366	1130	10	73	2178
Cedar Waxwing				1	10	80				91
Common Yellowthroat			1							1
American Tree Sparrow		1	3	5	11	33	8			61
Song Sparrow		2		3	1	3			2	11
White-throated Sparrow	3	1		1		25	11	7	1	49
Dark-eyed Junco	24	25	25	71	36	46	8	44	33	312
Northern Cardinal	11	9	17	4	13	12	11	6	3	86
Red-winged Blackbird	42			3		28		12		85
Rusty Blackbird						3				3
Brown-headed Cowbird							CW			0

<b>Purple Finch</b>						2				2
<b>House Finch</b>	14			49	2	40	1	1		107
<b>American Goldfinch</b>	19	29	3	33	4	24	6	8	6	132
<b>House Sparrow</b>	59	17	52	121	72	16	12	69	20	438
<b>Total Birds</b>	756	918	725	1487	781	1436	1707	705	493	9008
<b>Total Species</b>	34	31	38	30	29	38	30	26	25	62
<b>Count Week Species</b>	2	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	7
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I/J	

CW = Denotes species found during the Count Week (3 days on each side of count day) but not on count day.

\* Bald Eagles - 5 adults, 1 immature.

**Italic** = record number or tied record for the count.

**Group A:** Bob Yunick, Ted Hicks. 6:10 a.m. - 3:40 p.m. (6.25 hours, 6 miles on foot; 2.25 hours, 30.5 miles by car. Also 1.0 hour, 10 miles owling.)

**Group B:** Bernie Grossman, Chris Grossman, John Hershey. 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., less 1.0 hour not birding (2.5 hours, 3 miles on foot; 4.5 hours, 41 miles by car.)

**Group B1:** Bernie Grossman. (2.5 hours, 2 miles on foot.) Birds seen included with Group B.

**Group C:** Gregg Recer, Cathy Graichen, Scott Stoner, Denise Hackert-Stoner. 7:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., less 0.5 hour not birding (3.75 hours, 2.25 miles on foot; 5.5 hours, 69.1 miles by car.)

**Group D:** Larry Alden, Dan Capuano. 5:25 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., 4:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. (3.75 hours, 6.2 miles on foot; 5.75 hours, 62.8 miles by car. Also 3 hours, 18 miles owling.)

**Group E:** Tom Williams, Colleen Williams, Naomi Lloyd, Tristan Lowery. 6:45 a.m. - 4:15 p.m., less 0.5 hours not birding (2.25 hours, 2.5 miles on foot; 6.75 hours, 73 miles by car.)

**Group F:** George Steele, Alan Mapes, Eric Molho. 6:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (6 hours, 3 miles on foot; 3.5 hours, 69 miles by car. Also 1.0 hour, 3 miles owling.)

**Group G:** Bill Lee, Jamie Taft, Janet Betlejeskie. 7:00 a.m. - 3:40 p.m. (3.0 hours, 2.5 miles on foot; 5.5 hours, 52.5 miles by car.)

**Group H:** Kathleen LoGiudice, John Blanchard, Hank Stebbins, Kurt Weiskotten, Stephen Schmidt, Josiah Schmidt. 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., less 1.25 hours not birding (2.5 hours, 3.8 miles on foot; 4.25 hours, 22 miles by car.)

**Group I/J:** Steve Mesick. 8:20 a.m. - 3:10 p.m. (4.25 hours, 3.5 miles on foot; 2.5 hours, 38.5 miles by car.)

Notes: Hours rounded to the nearest quarter hour.

## Upcoming Field Trips

### 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 [BILEEJ@hotmail.com](mailto:BILEEJ@hotmail.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 [BILEEJ@hotmail.com](mailto:BILEEJ@hotmail.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.

### MARCH

#### **Sunday, March 13, WATERFOWL OF THE HUDSON RIVER SOUTH** (Greene County; morning)

Coordinator: Bill Cook (518) 851-2678 [COOK@SUNYCGCC.EDU](mailto:COOK@SUNYCGCC.EDU)

This is a joint trip with the Alan DeVoe Bird Club.

We will search the Hudson River from Cocksackie to Catskill where waterfowl usually congregate on their way north. There is a good chance of seeing Bald Eagles.

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Cocksackie boat launch. From the intersection of 9W and 385 in Cocksackie go east on 385 (Mansion St.) and continue straight to the Hudson River where the road bears left to the boat launch site.

#### **Sunday, March 20, WASHINGTON COUNTY WATERFOWL** (morning)

Coordinator: Mona Bearor [CONSERVEBIRDS@gmail.com](mailto:CONSERVEBIRDS@gmail.com)

Register by 7 p.m. on March 13

*Joint trip with Southern Adirondack Audubon*



Join us as we search the Hudson for migrant waterfowl such as Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ring-necked Ducks and Mergansers. In recent years, Horned Grebe, Canvasbacks and Tundra Swans have been lifebirds for many.

Meet at the Schuylerville Central School at Routes 29 and 4. The trip is limited to the first 12 who register. Contact the leader before 7 p.m. on March 13 to register and for meeting time. Dress warmly and bring a beverage/snack, your binoculars and a scope if you have one. We will carpool. Trip will end late morning. You will be contacted if the trip is cancelled due to weather.

## APRIL

### **Saturday, April 16, FIVE RIVERS FOR EARLY MIGRANTS, DELMAR, NY (Albany County, morning)**

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

We will explore the diverse habitats of Five Rivers EEC looking for early migrants, including Green Heron, Wilson's Snipe, Eastern Phoebe, Winter Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Hermit Thrush, Brown Thrasher, Louisiana Waterthrush, Pine Warbler, Eastern Towhee and Eastern Meadowlark.

Meet at the parking lot of Five Rivers EEC on Game Farm Rd. in Delmar at 7:00 AM.

### **Sunday, April 17, VISCHER FERRY (VFNHP), CLIFTON PARK, NY (Saratoga County; evening)**

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

We will start out on this trip looking for spring waterfowl such as American Wigeon, Green and Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, and Pied-billed Grebe. Rusty Blackbirds are also a possibility. We will linger until after dusk to listen for nocturnal bird sounds from rails, woodcocks and owls. With a little luck we may get to see an American Woodcock displaying at dusk.

Meet at the main entrance at 6:00 p.m. Bring a flashlight to aid in returning to the parking area.

### **Thursday, April 21, WOODCOCK AT FIVE RIVERS, DELMAR, NY (Albany County; evening)**

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

Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Visitor Center for a brief talk about the American Woodcock and its management at Five Rivers. We'll then stroll out the Service Road through managed areas and feeding swales to arrive at the Bat Barn area at a time good for watching and hearing the Woodcock do its thing. Bring binoculars and a flashlight and dress appropriately for the weather.

### **Saturday, April 23, 2016, JOINT TRIP WITH AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE CAPITAL REGION: SANDERS PRESERVE / BIRDS 'N' BREWS (Schenectady County)**

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

Join us as we bird the trails at Sanders Preserve in the Town of Glenville in search of early migrants. Be prepared for wet or muddy conditions. Afterwards, participants may visit Wolf Hollow Brewing Company on Route 5 for beer and BBQ. (Club function?)

Meet at 9:00 am at the Preserve parking area, located on the south side of Sanders Road in west Glenville. To reach Sanders Road, take Sacandaga Road (Route 147) north from the Village of Scotia approximately 5 miles. Just after the Glendaal School, turn left onto Church Road; Church then turns into Sanders Road.

### **Saturday, April 30, VOSBURGH MARSH (Greene County; morning)**

Coordinator: Al Mapes 439-4086 [aamapes@nycap.rr.com](mailto:aamapes@nycap.rr.com)

On this morning trip, we will hike to the marsh for waterfowl and migrant land birds. We will also check the Hudson River for waterfowl and Bald Eagles.

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Cocksackie boat launch. From the intersection of 9W and 385 in Cocksackie go east on 385 (Mansion St.) and continue straight to the Hudson River where the road bears left to the boat launch site.

***Feathers***

**Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club**

**c/o Five Rivers EEC**

**Game Farm Road**

**Delmar, NY 12054**