June 2017
Volume 77 No 3

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

Feathers

CENTURY RUN 2017

by Larry Alden

The Club's 72nd running of the Century Run took place on the traditional 3rd Saturday of the month, May 20, 2017, a somewhat late date for this count. The Albany International Airport reported a high of 68° and a low of 50°, within the average temperature range for the date. Overall it was mostly cloudy with a light north wind at 9 mph. Precipitation for the month to date preceding the count was 1.5 inches above average. Many trees were fully leafed out in all but the highest elevations. In the week preceding the count, there were two days with temperatures in excess of 90°, and a line of heavy thunderstorms swept through on Thursday.

Seven groups, comprised of 19 individuals, were in the field from 2:15 a.m. through 9:25 p.m. Areas covered included Albany, Washington, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady counties, with 3 of the 7 groups birding a single county.

A total of 154 species were identified, with just three of the seven teams reporting 100 or more. This number of species is about average of the totals for the past ten years but well below the maximum of 188 species found in 1986. One of the teams covering only Albany County had the most species of any group, with 124, about one species above the average high of 122.9 for the previous ten years, but again below the record 156 species found by a single party in 1986.

Fifty-four species (approximately 35% of the total) were seen by all 7 field parties whereas 16 species (just over 10%) were seen by only 1 party. See graph at the end of this article.

One new species was added to the composite of 254 species and three hybrids, with a CLAY-COLORED SPARROW seen in Washington County. The last new species added to the list before this was Black Vulture, added in 2009.

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President's Corner

There is no President's message this issue.

We are happy to announce that **Denise Hackert-Stoner** will replace Chris Grossman as **Publications Chair** in the 2017/ 2018 year.

Phil Johnson, our new Steward of the Reist Sanctuary, needs help maintaining the sanctuary. If you are able to help with this, please contact him at soomee5@earthlink.net

You, too, can contribute to Feathers!

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

SHARE them with HMBC members by submitting them to:

HMBC Contact Information

BIRDLINE of EASTERN NEW YORK:

E-mail: contact@hmbc.net

HMBC website: http//hmbc.net

Please send all **electronic submissions for Feathers** via e-mail to:
Denise Hackert-Stoner at denisehstoner@aol.com.

Send all paper submissions to:
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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 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
26 Scotch Mist Way
Malta, NY 12020

Field Trip Reports

Fulton/Montgomery/Schoharie Counties Tour
April 22,2017

Cloudy, cool weather conditions greeted nine birders on this morning's Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club outing. There was little sunshine, but the wind was light, and the birds were active.

The first stop was the marsh along Cline Rd. near Oppenheim, Fulton County. VIRGINIA RAILS were calling from both sides of the road, and several were in view along the edge of the cattails, including one that flew across the road, legs dangling. WOOD DUCKS and a hen HOODED MERGANSER were swimming at the far side of the water. Other birds of note were BROWN CREEPER, RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (everywhere lately), and a YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER.

http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S36164043

At the horse farm along W. Ames Rd. in Montgomery County, two sharp-eyed birders picked out an UPLAND SANDPIPER foraging in a grassy pasture. Canajoharie Creek held a drake HOODED MERGANSER, a SAVANNAH SPARROW hopping along fence posts, and numerous swallows of three species (TREE, BARN, and N. ROUGH-WINGED.)

http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S36166670

Our final stop was Cobleskill Reservoir in Schoharie County. Waterfowl were absent, save for CANADA GEESE. A COMMON LOON called from the upper reservoir pool, attracting our attention. We also observed flyover GREEN HERON, OSPREY, and PEREGRINE FALCON. An adult BALD EAGLE was fishing from a tree between the pools. We tried to make one of the numerous swallows into a Cliff Swallow, but couldn't get a good enough look as it flew through the swirling mass of TREE SWALLOWS. Two birders who decided to test the slippery, muddy embankment as a shortcut back to the parking area incurred predictable results. Happy to report my camera and scope are fine; laundry currently underway.

http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S36172953

Thanks to everyone who turned out for today's trip. It was a lot of fun, and UPLAND SANDPIPER was a life bird for several attendees. We hope to see you all on future club trips!

- Tom and Colleen Williams

Powell Sanctuary
April 29, 2017

A small but enthusiastic group of birders ventured into eastern Columbia County to sample the birds at the Alan Devoe Bird Club's Powell Sanctuary. Most of the morning was overcast and raptors were sparse with the calm winds and low ceiling, but we totaled about 40 species including all 6 of the local woodpeckers and a number of species that were First Of Season birds for most of us. Highlights included GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER, WARBLING VIREO, ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK, BALTIMORE ORIOLE, and many GRAY CATBIRDS. Warblers are trickling in. We heard or saw OVENBIRD, LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH, BLUE-WINGED WARBLER, YELLOW WARBLER, and PRAIRIE WARBLER. A couple of us added a COMMON YELLOWTHROAT walking back to the car at the end of the trip.

-Kathy Schneider

Field Trip Reports (continued)

New Jersey
May 6, 2017

In a new HMBC weekend itinerary, nine of us had an enjoyable trip to get a head start on spring birding in New Jersey. The trip centered on two excellent National Wildlife Refuges -- Forsythe, aka Brigantine on the coast near Atlantic City, and Great Swamp within the I-287 beltway near Newark. Together, they provide a nice mix of coastal, wetland, and forested habitats.

We started Saturday morning at Brigantine. A hike through some of the wooded trails there produced some nice migrants including OSPREY, GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER, BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, and OVENBIRD. We also had good local resident/breeding species including WHITE-EYED VIREO, CAROLINA CHICKADEE, many CAROLINA WRENS, and a large colony of PURPLE MARTINS. We spent the afternoon working the excellent auto tour road. We had nearly 60 species there, starting with a great show by several SALTMARSH SPARROWS. Other highlights included BRANT, RUDDY DUCK, GLOSSY IBIS, nesting AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER, at least 40 WHIMBREL, 32 DUNLIN, and seven other shorebird species. Larids were a nice feature on the tour road with the numerous LAUGHING GULLS and FORSTER'S TERNS joined by excellent views of 7 GULL-BILLED TERNS and a large group of BLACK SKIMMERS. Bird of the day was located by Scott Stoner -- an immature BLACK-HEADED GULL that gave us ample time for study, first on the beach and then in flight.

Black-headed Gull

Field Trip Reports (continued)

Great Swamp was close to our hotel, so we had an early morning start there on Sunday, beginning at the main boardwalk complex in the middle of the refuge. This area was mainly mature bottom-land swamp and freshwater marsh. We had some mixed flocks of migrants that included many BLACK-AND-WHITE and YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS, and AMERICAN REDSTARTS. Other nice migrants include ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS, SCARLET TANAGER, SWAMP SPARROW, and BALTIMORE ORIOLE. We rolled slowly down the refuge's short tour road that runs through some old field and meadow habitats and added some more species including YELLOW-THROATED VIREO, BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER, FIELD SPARROW, and RUSTY BLACKBIRD. After exploring the refuge's new, and very nicely done educational center, the group headed back to the highway for the quick three-hour drive back to Albany.

American Oystercatcher

Swamp Sparrow

We totaled a very productive 102 species for the weekend. Thanks to all the participants for joining us and making it a very enjoyable and successful trip.

- Gregg Recer
-Cathy Graichen

Vischer Ferry
May 7, 2017

It was a pleasure this morning to be the field trip coordinator for the HMBC May 6 Field Trip at Vischer Ferry Preserve. We had 11 birders, a very good turnout, considering the rain which continued until about 10 minutes before we started and was predicted to continue off and on for the morning. The first outstanding birds we encountered were probably a female and immature male ORCHARD ORIOLE seen just past the Whipple Bridge. Before getting to the back pond an AMERICAN BITTERN very close to the main path flushed and flew a short distance to a wide open perch in the marsh near the path. Everyone who had a camera I'm sure was able to get stellar shots for about a 10-minute period with the sun illuminating this extremely cooperative bird. We then moved a little further to the back pond where we watched an OSPREY overhead. We also had many good looks at singing MARSH WRENS and SWAMP SPARROWS. We were unable to hear or locate a Virginia Rail, but were happy to hear the strange call of a COMMON GALLINULE though we didn't actually see it. We also spotted at least 2 HOODED MERGANSERS and several WOOD DUCKS.

Field Trip Reports (continued)

We continued to the River and walked the entire loop through the woods and down the towpath back to the Whipple Bridge. A SPOTTED and several SOLITARY SANDPIPERS were seen in a flooded area near the river. Some in the group found a SCARLET TANAGER which was a great addition to our list. Altogether we did well with vireos, seeing YELLOW-THROATED, BLUE-HEADED, WARBLING, and RED-EYED VIREOS. We did perhaps less well with warblers but managed 8 species including BLACK-THROATED BLUE, BLACK-AND-WHITE, OVENBIRD, and NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH. Returning along the towpath, we found a WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW across the canal. Of course, many ROSE-BREASTED GROSSBEAKS and BALTIMORE ORIOLES were heard or spotted along the over 3-mile loop, not to mention an adult BALD EAGLE AND A FEW squeaky vocalizations from a RUSTY BLACKBIRD. In our final tally the group pooled a total of 64 species. Everyone agreed that the AMERICAN BITTERN was the "best bird" of the morning. Thanks go to all the intrepid birders who, halfway through, chose not to quit but continue birding despite a sudden shower and occasional pools of water on the trails.

-John Hershey

Birds and Breakfast at Five Rivers
May 13, 2017

The predicted rain held off until around 9 AM and didn't get heavy for a while, allowing 3 groups totaling 15 hardy birders at least some opportunity to scour the varied habitats of Five Rivers on our annual Birds and Breakfast event. We collectively tallied 67 species before the weather shut us down completely. While well below a "good" year total of 80 plus species, it was a pretty good list considering the weather and the fact that we had zero through-migrating warblers!

We did have all of the expected breeding warblers, including PINE, OVENBIRD, CHESTNUT-SIDED, YELLOW, COMMON YELLOWTHROAT, PRAIRIE, BLUE-WINGED, AMERICAN REDSTART and a surprising total of 7 LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSHES! We were pleased to note the continued annual presence of EASTERN TOWHEE (including two males squabbling), BROWN THRASHER, and ORCHARD ORIOLE.

Prairie Warbler

Other species included PILEATED WOODPECKER, BALTIMORE ORIOLE, ROSE -BREASTED GROSBEAK, SCARLET TANAGER. GREEN HERON and GREAT BLUE HERON. BOBOLINKS joined EASTERN BLUEBIRDS, EASTERN MEADOWLARK, and SAVANNAH SPARROW in the large field to the east, and a WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW was at the Vlomankill Pavillion to the west. The breakfast was held in the Guided School Program building as Five Rivers' is transitioning from the old to the new visitor center. We look forward to using the brand new one next year!

Many thanks to group leaders Tom Williams and Bernie Grossman, and to Denise Hackert-Stoner for both doing the breakfast and leading a group!

- Scott Stoner

Field Trip Reports (continued)

Normanskill Farm
May 26, 2017

Fourteen birders - including me as leader, as well as a few HMBC first-timers - spent a little over 2 1/2 hours at the City of Albany's Normanskill Farm property this morning. I was there about an hour before the official start, and tallied 56 species for the morning, while the official field trip count was 47 species.

It's getting late for through-migrant songbirds, though we did hear a few BLACKPOLL WARBLERS (however, on the way to the farm this morning from my home nearby, I saw singing BLACK-THROATED GREEN and CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLERS, as well as a silent ., in a small city park off Whitehall Road). We had good looks at many crowd-pleasing birds that breed at Normanskill, including both local orioles (including a first-summer male and female ORCHARD ORIOLE together), singing WILLOW FLYCATCHER and GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER, both male and female BOBOLINKS, a BROWN THRASHER, many YELLOW WARBLERS, two BALD EAGLES, and a hapless BROAD-WINGED HAWK we saw three times, each time being mercilessly harassed by blackbirds.

Before the walk began officially, I heard an ALDER FLYCATCHER singing in the private property gully north of Normanskill Drive, the first time I've observed this species here in two years.

Complete eBird checklist, with a few photos here.

Good birding - and thanks to all who came out!

-Tristan Lowery

Upcoming HMBC Programs

Photos of Nature, with Warren Greene

Speaker: Warren Greene

June 5, 2017 - 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Note the start time - 6:30 PM

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

Warren has a life long love of the natural environment. He learned to express his fascination with nature through photography which he began in 1976. For 37 years he shot slide film photography and only switched to digital 3 years ago. Although Warren is best known for his bird photography he also enjoys photographing landscapes, macro, and a variety of other living things. Warren has been widely published in various books magazines and calendars throughout the years.

Warren Greene is a native of Gloversville, NY where he still resides. He recently retired from The Family Counseling Center after working with that agency for 6 years. Previously he had worked for the Fulton County Probation Dept. for nearly 34 years including 22 years as Director. He currently is a county legislator representing Gloversville on the county Board of Supervisors. Warren is married and has two grown sons.

Warren's presentation for HMBC will be mostly a collection of images he has taken over the past 3 years with a digital camera with a smattering of older scanned photos from his film days. There will be special sections of warblers and owls of the Northeast as well as other birds, landscapes, and other wildlife from around the region.

Upcoming Audubon Programs

There are no Audubon programs currently scheduled.

Awards at HMBC Annual Meeting and Dinner

President's Awards were presented to Chris and Bernie Grossman for service to the club.

Chris has been Publications Editor for 11 years and Bernie has been club President in the past and was Field Trip Chair this past year. Chris and Bernie are moving to Florida to join their son and his family.

Mike Gann was awarded the President's Award in absentia.

Mike has been Steward of the Reist Sanctuary for several years. He is retiring from the position.

HMBC President presents the President's Award to Chris Grossman, Bernie Grossman and Mike Gann (in absentia.)

Awards at HMBC Annual Meeting and Dinner…(continued)

Sam Madison Award was given to the Huyck Preserve

Tom Lyons and Kelly Martin accepted the award on behalf of Susan Kesler, President of the Huyck Preserve Board of Directors.

Summer Programs like Nature Study (K-5), the Natural History Day Program (6-10), and Wildlife Ecology Research (11-12) provide unique field-based learning experiences by giving students the opportunity to explore nature, ask, questions, and carry out research projects while learning about the various facets of field biology. Since 1931 the Preserve has supported research in fields such as behavioral, forest, aquatic, and evolutionary ecology bringing in researchers from all over the world. These researchers help to shape our summer programming by giving students the opportunity to interact with scientists from around the globe and gain authentic hands-on experiences in field research.

http://www.huyckpreserve.org/

Cathy Graichen presents the Sam Madison Award to Tom Lyons and Kelly Martin

On Nature

“An In-Between Season”

by Denise Hackert-Stoner and Scott Stoner

We don’t get to Florida as often as we used to. South Florida has two seasons, wet and dry. Winter is the dry season, with wintering songbirds, fewer mosquitoes, and ever-diminishing pools of water which concentrate the wading birds in often close and photographable proximity! Usually we go in January or February, the thick of the dry season, but this year we planned it for late March to early April, hoping for the best of the winter birding and at least some of the spring arrivals.

But when we got there, it seemed that we had botched the timing. The everglades were dry, with few of the expected waders. The rarities in the Fort Lauderdale and Miami areas, reported daily for weeks, had seemingly vanished, and the water birds had been heading out for a couple weeks before we arrived. But we were not completely skunked; target Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were still there, on the wires between Florida City and the Everglades, and Swallow-tailed Kites were seen nearly every day somewhere between the Everglades park entrance and Flamingo. Warblers and vireos were still there in the trees and scrub at Anhinga Trail, and we even caught up with Gray Kingbird on one of the islands in beautiful Biscayne National Park.

We headed north to Palm Beach County to explore several promising wetland areas. First was Green Cay Wetlands in inland Boynton Beach. This site featured butterflies, Common Gallinules, and a Green Heron on eggs in a well-concealed nest near the start of the extensive boardwalk. However, people there suggested that we visit Wakodahatchee Wetlands, just a few miles away in Delray Beach, and described as so overrun with nesting Wood Storks that people went to Green Cay to get away from the masses of birds!

While Green Cay was nice, we were seriously looking for Wood Storks, and immediately headed over to Wakodahatchee! As described, it was indeed, full of nesting Wood Storks!

Wood Stork – Wakodahatchee Wetlands

They were right next to the boardwalk, noisily feeding young, working on their nests, and fairly peacefully sharing the small tree islands with nesting Snowy and Great Egrets, Glossy Ibis, Tricolored Herons, and Anhingas. Everybody was nesting, everybody was noisy, and it was great! We spent the rest of the day photographing, then went back the next morning and did it all over again! We never made it back to Green Cay and totally skipped our third Palm Beach county site, Loxahatchee NWR!

Next up as we headed north was the Viera Wetlands, more officially known as the Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands at Viera, just west of I-95 near Melbourne. A Brevard County preserve, it reminded me of many National wildlife refuges with its multiple impoundments, water birds, and a wildlife drive along the berms. There were a few ducks, but unlike most refuges, the birds were mostly large waders – a great assortment of herons, egrets and ibises, and some of them close enough for photos! It was a great new place to get acquainted with, and a well-spent morning.

Snowy Egret – Viera Wetlands

Finally, we reached our final destination was the Space Coast, the area near Cape Canaveral where the juxtaposition of nature and human endeavor is profoundly illustrated by the sight of NASA's immense Vehicle Assembly Building and launch facilities towering over Merritt Island NWR and Canaveral National Seashore. The nature of the area is symbolized by the beautiful and often barren beaches, the wildlife drive, and conspicuous Florida Scrub Jays of these contiguous properties. Merritt Island was very dry and almost devoid of birds, until we came upon a pond filled with American Avocets, and then a canal with some of the closest looks at Roseate Spoonbill we could imagine! The jays were easily found near the entrance station to Canaveral seashore, with several pairs within a few hundred yards of the pay station.

Scrub Jay – Canaveral National Seashore

Roseate Spoonbill – Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

In retrospect, this in-between season ended up being a wonderful time to visit!

World Series of Birding Results

We had a very mixed day in the World Series of Birding last Saturday. It was a very early date for the event and it showed with some pretty poor migration on the previous two days and most of the migrants that were present on Friday seemed to leave on Friday night, not to be present on Saturday! Also intermittent rain foiled our plans somewhat. Nonetheless we did about as well as we ever had with breeders and so we managed a respectable 182 species which was good enough for third place but was a drop from last year when we got 190 species. Cornell returned this year and came in first - as they usually do when they are in the competition. Our personal goal was to break 200 species but it was not to be this time.

Though we were lacking migrants the weather coughed up quite a few rarities. There had been a Little Egret around a week or so before the WSB but it had disappeared from its location for several days until it returned two days before the competition and was intermittently dutifully present on the Big Day (we missed it). Also 2 separate Red-necked Phalaropes were present, and a flock of 15! White Ibises made an appearance. Also, amazingly, in two

WORLD SERIES OF BIRDING RESULTS (CONTINUED)

different locations in NJ, Black-bellied Whistling Ducks showed up - the Great Swamp on at least the Friday before, and at the Rea Farm in Cape May on the Saturday. Also on Friday a Fork-tailed Flycatcher showed up in Cape May. And our own special rarity spot - on Friday on the same sand spit at Brigantine we had a juvenile Bonapartes Gull, a Breeding plumaged Black Tern and a first winter Black-headed Gull. (some of these were seen on the WSB day but none by us!!)

If you had wanted to support us in our fund-raising - I would ask you to send your donation direct to the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society (see below) and tell them it is related to our WSB run. To remind everyone - we are supporting their scholarship program for youth to attend an Audubon camp this summer. Here is the contact info -

Southern Adirondack Audubon Society
P.O. Box 4076
Queensbury, N.Y. 12804 (for mail)

or

http://www.southernadirondackaudubon.org/

for online donations. For those of you who got back to me about supporting us in our quest - I am going to send you all a separate email about it.

Thanks to everyone!

Steve and Jackson

CENTURY RUN 2017..... *(continued)*

As usual, waterfowl provided the most variety, with a few "odd ducks" reported. A hen Greater Scaup was seen on Alcove Reservoir by one group, representing the 16th occurrence on the Century Run. A pair of White-winged Scoters were seen on Alcove by two groups, as was a single Common Loon. Ring-necked Duck was seen by the Washington County group. And five Ruddy Ducks were at Basic Creek Reservoir (14th occurrence) and reported by several field parties and making it onto the list for the third year in a row.

Otherwise, there was just one other species seen on fewer than 20 counts - Black Vulture (7th occurrence). Fifty-six of the species seen this year have been seen on all 72 Century Runs and an additional 31 species have been seen on 68 or more counts.

Now for the species seen on 45 or more Century Runs but missed this year: Wilson's Snipe (56 counts), Great Black-backed Gull (47 counts – last missed in 1975!), Black Tern (45 Counts), Eastern Screech-Owl (49 counts – last missed in 2008), Horned Lark (67 counts), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (53 counts), Tennessee Warbler (57 counts), Cape May Warbler (47 counts), Vesper Sparrow (59 counts), Grasshopper Sparrow (56 counts – last missed in 2009), Pine Siskin (45 counts). There were no grebes and no terns reported.

CENTURY RUN 2017..... *(continued)*

There are several possible reasons for these missed species, and I'll list them in no particular order: Fewer field parties going out, fewer parties hitting the known areas (e.g., Saratoga Airport for Vesper Sparrow or Saratoga Lake for terns), count held too late for early species, count held too early for late species, global warming, habitat loss (Horned Lark, Vesper Sparrow), or the birds just aren't around (e.g., Pine Siskin). One has to also keep in mind that some birds are notoriously silent during nesting season, or at least if they are not advertising for a mate or defending territory.

Finally, in the "timing is everything" category, Short-billed Dowitchers and a Red-necked Phalarope were reported in the area six days after the count.

Listed below are the names of the participants, their times and places afield, and those species reported only by their group. Names marked with an asterisk represent each group's reporter.

Group A – Jim Suozzo* and Chris Suozzo. Albany and Rensselaer Counties. 0530-2130, 97 species. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.

Group B – John Roosenberg, Ed Patten and David Harrison*. Washington County only. 0215-2100, 122 species. RING-NECKED DUCK, SORA, WINTER WREN, CLAY-COLORED SPARROW, LINCOLN'S SPARROW.

Group C– Jackie Bogardus, Steve Chorvas, and Larry Alden*. Albany County only. 0230-2125; 121 species.

Group D – Hank Stebbins, David Gibson, Chris Cameron, Kathleen LoGiudice, and Carl George*. Schenectady and Montgomery Counties. 0700-1900, 75 species.

Group E – Jeanette Roundy*and Fransje Holloway. Albany and Montgomery Counties. 0600-2100; 94 species. NORTHERN PARULA.

Group F – Tristan Lowery* and Tom Williams. Albany County only. 0510-1900, 124 species. GREATER SCAUP, SEMIPALMATED PLOVER, SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER, YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO, WORM-EATING WARBLER, NASHVILLE WARBLER.

Group G – Nancy Slack* and George Shaw. Schenectady, Albany, and Saratoga Counties. 0530-1930, 86 species. PECTORAL SANDPIPER, BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO, PURPLE MARTIN.

Group B has concentrated on a different county in each of the last five years. So far they have birded Schenectady, Fulton, Schoharie, Montgomery, and now Washington Counties. This effort always provides some interesting data and tends to point out the different habitats in our region. What county will they do next year?

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Canada Goose	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mute Swan						X	X
Wood Duck	X	X	X			X	X
Gadwall	X		X			X	X
American Black Duck	X	X	X				
Mallard	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ring-necked Duck		X					
Greater Scaup						X	
White-winged Scoter			X			X	
Hooded Merganser		X	X				X
Common Merganser						X	X
Ruddy Duck	X		X				X
Ruffed Grouse				X		X	
Wild Turkey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Common Loon			X			X	
Double-crested Cormorant	X	X	X		X	X	X
American Bittern	X	X	X			X	
Least Bittern		X	X			X	
Great Blue Heron	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Green Heron	X	X	X		X	X	X
Black Vulture			X			X	
Turkey Vulture	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Osprey		X	X			X	X
Bald Eagle	X		X		X	X	X
Northern Harrier		X	X	X			
Sharp-shinned Hawk	X						
Cooper's Hawk	X				X		
Broad-winged Hawk		X	X			X	
Red-tailed Hawk	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Virginia Rail	X	X	X		X	X	X
Sora		X					
Common Gallinule		X				X	
Semipalmated Plover						X	
Killdeer	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Spotted Sandpiper	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Solitary Sandpiper	X	X	X			X	
Lesser Yellowlegs		X					X
Greater Yellowlegs	X	X					
Semipalmated Sandpiper						X	
Least Sandpiper		X	X			X	X
Pectoral Sandpiper							X
American Woodcock		X	X		X	X	
Ring-billed Gull		X	X	X	X	X	X
Herring Gull			X			X	X
Rock Pigeon	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mourning Dove	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Yellow-billed Cuckoo						X	

Black-billed Cuckoo							X
Great Horned Owl	X	X					
Barred Owl		X	X		X		
Common Nighthawk	X				X		
Eastern Whip-poor-will	X	X	X				
Chimney Swift	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Belted Kingfisher	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	X	X	X		X	X	
Downy Woodpecker	X	X	X	X		X	
Hairy Woodpecker	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Flicker	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pileated Woodpecker	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
American Kestrel	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Peregrine Falcon			X			X	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	X	X	X		X	X	X
Alder Flycatcher		X	X		X	X	
Willow Flycatcher	X	X	X		X	X	X
Least Flycatcher	X	X	X	X			X
Eastern Phoebe	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Great Crested Flycatcher	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eastern Kingbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Yellow-throated Vireo		X	X		X	X	
Blue-headed Vireo		X	X			X	
Warbling Vireo		X	X	X	X	X	X
Red-eyed Vireo	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Blue Jay	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
American Crow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fish Crow	X		X	X	X	X	
Common Raven	X	X	X	X		X	X
Purple Martin							X
Tree Swallow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
No. Rough-winged Swallow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bank Swallow		X	X			X	
Cliff Swallow	X				X		
Barn Swallow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black-capped Chickadee	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tufted Titmouse	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Red-breasted Nuthatch	X	X	X			X	
White-breasted Nuthatch	X	X		X	X	X	
Brown Creeper		X	X				

House Wren	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Winter Wren		X					
Marsh Wren	X	X	X			X	X
Carolina Wren	X	X	X		X	X	X
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		X	X		X	X	X
Golden-crowned Kinglet		X	X				
Eastern Bluebird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Veery	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Swainson's Thrush					X	X	
Hermit Thrush	X		X	X		X	
Wood Thrush	X	X	X	X	X	X	
American Robin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Gray Catbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Mockingbird		X	X	X		X	
Brown Thrasher	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
European Starling	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cedar Waxwing	X	X	X			X	X
Ovenbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Worm-eating Warbler						X	
Louisiana Waterthrush	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Waterthrush		X	X				
Blue-winged Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Black-and-White Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Nashville Warbler						X	
Common Yellowthroat	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
American Redstart	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Parula					X		
Magnolia Warbler		X	X		X	X	
Blackburnian Warbler		X	X			X	
Yellow Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Chestnut-sided Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Blackpoll Warbler		X	X		X	X	
Black-throated Blue Warbler		X			X		
Pine Warbler		X			X	X	
Yellow-rumped Warbler						X	X
Prairie Warbler	X	X	X		X	X	X
Black-throated Green Warbler	X	X	X		X	X	
Canada Warbler		X	X				
Wilson's Warbler	X					X	
Eastern Towhee	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Chipping Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Clay-colored Sparrow		X					
Field Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Savannah Sparrow		X	X	X	X	X	
Song Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lincoln's Sparrow		X					
Swamp Sparrow	X	X	X		X	X	X

White-throated Sparrow			X	X	X		
White-crowned Sparrow	X		X				
Dark-eyed Junco	X	X	X			X	X
Scarlet Tanager		X	X	X	X	X	
Northern Cardinal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Indigo Bunting		X	X	X	X	X	
Bobolink	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Red-winged Blackbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eastern Meadowlark	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Common Grackle	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brown-headed Cowbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Orchard Oriole		X			X	X	X
Baltimore Oriole	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Purple Finch	X	X	X			X	
House Finch	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
American Goldfinch	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
House Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Upcoming Field Trips

JUNE

Saturday, June 3, CHERRY PLAIN (Rensselaer County; morning)
Coordinator: Phil Whitney 477-9050 prmlwhitney59@nycap.rr.com

Cherry Plain State Park is situated on the Rensselaer Plateau of the Capital District. The relatively high elevation, cool climate and a variety of forested and wetland habitats make this a good area for northern species. Nesting species include Least Flycatcher, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager, Common Raven, Broad-winged Hawk, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Black-and-White and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Veery, Hermit Thrush and Winter Wren also nest here.

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Hannaford parking lot on the right side of Route 43 just past the intersection of Route 150 in West Sand Lake to carpool to the park.

Sunday, June 4, GALWAY NATURE PRESERVE (Saratoga County; morning)
Coordinator: Ellen Pemrick 882-9163 lnmp@nycap.rr.com

Originally a Christmas Tree farm in the 1950s, Galway Nature Preserve is a property owned and managed by Saratoga PLAN. It contains about 2.5 miles of trails that meander through forest, marshland, and pond habitat. On this trip, we will walk the trails looking – and listening – for warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other woodland species. We'll also look for birds such as Northern Harrier and Barn Swallow in the farm fields adjacent to the preserve.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the preserve parking lot. Directions: http://www.saratogaplan.org/explore/public-preserves-trails/galway-nature-preserve.

Thursday, June 8, RESERVATIONS DUE FOR FOX HILL RD.
Coordinator: John Hershey 371-3114 hersheyj@nycap.rr.com

There is a limit of four cars (16 people max.) for this trip. Call or email the coordinator for a spot.

Saturday, June 10, H.G. REIST SANCTUARY (Schenectady County; morning)
Coordinator: Don Gresens 370-3923 dgresens@nycap.rr.com

Join us at the Club's sanctuary to look and listen for summer and year-round resident species and to try to add new species to the sanctuary's bird list. The sanctuary is a woodland habitat, so woodland species are the highlight of this trip. Several species of thrushes, flycatchers, vireos and warblers as well as woodpeckers, wrens, and Scarlet Tanager have been observed here. The walk is on easy, level trails.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Hummingbird Manor entrance on Oakmont Street in Niskayuna.

Sunday, June 11, FOX HILL RD. (Saratoga County; morning)
Coordinators: John Hershey 371-3114 hersheyj@nycap.rr.com, Ron Harrower

On this trip we will travel through the remote forested and wetland areas along Desolation Lake Rd. and Fox Hill Rd. in Saratoga County. We will bird from the roadside and also explore areas recently acquired by New York State for conservation and recreation. Higher elevation breeders will be the main target. As many as 15 or more breeding warbler species are possible including Nashville, Canada, and Mourning Warbler. Other breeding species that have been seen in the past include American Bittern, Northern Goshawk, Broad-winged Hawk, and Swainson's Thrush.

Because we will be birding from the road, it will be necessary to share vehicles and to limit the number of participants to 16. Waterproof footwear is recommended. Contact the coordinators for reservations, and other information.

Meet at the Saratoga County Airport parking lot off Geyser Rd. at 7:30 a.m.

JULY

Saturday, July 1, LEADER'S CHOICE
Coordinator: David Harrison (908) 892-5495 david.harrison57@earthlink.net

This trip will be leader's choice of one or more areas in Montgomery, Schenectady, or Schoharie County south of the Mohawk River where birding may be productive. Possible habitat choices include hemlock gorges, marshes, river bottom woods, old conifer
forests, deciduous woods, and farmland/grasslands.

Meet at the Park and Ride on Rt. 30A at exit 23 off I-88 at 7:00 AM. Parking is just south of I-88 on the right.

Sunday, July 2, ADIRONDACK TOUR (All day)
Coordinator: Tom and Colleen Williams 857-2176 trwdsd@yahoo.com

This trip will be a leader's choice of one or more destinations, primarily in boreal habitat, where birding may be productive. Stops could include Little Tupper Lake and Sabattis Bog, the Paul Smith's College VIC, Bloomingdale Bog, or Bigelow Rd. This day trip will require an early departure at 5 a.m. Please contact the coordinator if you would like to attend, and for final itinerary and meet-up instructions.

AUGUST

Sunday, August 20, PEEBLES ISLAND STATE PARK / COHOES FLATS (Saratoga/Albany Counties; morning)
Coordinator: John Hershey 371-3114 hersheyj@nycap.rr.com

The wooded areas of Peebles Island are good for seeing a variety of songbirds including early migrant warblers. 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.

August 22 - August 24, COUNTING COMMON NIGHTHAWKS (Albany County; evenings)
Coordinators: Tom & Colleen Williams 857-2176 trwdsd@yahoo.com

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.

In the Capital Region, the bulk of migration occurs from mid-August until early September with the peak around August 24-25th. Continuing an informal project that was begun in 2012, we will observe the skies each evening (weather permitting) between the 22nd and 24th of August, recording our sightings for a final summary. We will conduct our viewing from the parking lot at the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center, located on Rt. 155 (New Karner Road) in Albany. Bring a chair and binoculars. We will begin each night at 6:00 p.m.

Feathers

Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club

c/o Five Rivers EEC

Game Farm Road

Delmar, NY 12054