

# Feathers

## Birds and Breakfast May 12, 2018

Despite the rainy forecast, this year's Birds and Breakfast drew about twenty-five birders split pretty evenly in the three groups. As the rain held off until around 9:30, and temperatures in the upper 40's made for tolerable birding.

Some highlights among the 74 species found collectively by the three groups included Virginia rail (in the Heron Pond), 14 warbler species including Blackburnian, Wilson's, Magnolia and Canada, Orchard Oriole, and views of Spotted and Solitary Sandpiper together at the beaver pond. One group was amused by the rare sight of a Canada Goose perching in a tree beside the pond!

A mink running back and forth across the service road near the goose pond was the most notable non avian sighting.

Thanks to our trip leaders, Tom and Colleen Williams, Doug Steele and Alan Mapes, and Gregg Recer and Cathy Graichen.

Denise Hackert-Stoner and Scott Stoner



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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As I write this message, May is quickly speeding toward a close and I have recently attended my first HMBC Board Meeting as a fledgling President. I'm proud to be a member of a Board and a Club which is actively working to represent and advance both the Club and birding activity. This can be seen in our excellent and varied public programs, our diverse and fabulous field trips, our conservation efforts, our strategic partnerships with other organizations and the exciting birding projects our members engage in on a regular basis. When we're at our best; we encourage, promote, advocate and defend our respectful affection for birds and birding activities. Please continue to share your passion, knowledge and enthusiasm both within our Club (e.g. contribute to Feathers, join a committee, donate your time & knowledge, etc.) and the general public.

The Bird Club has a tradition of partnering with local organizations which promote birding activities. That partnership continues as we move forward in the International Year of the Bird which marks the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the most powerful bird-protection law ever passed. In honor of this milestone, the Club has chosen to promote birding in partnership with some of our local nature centers. In the first of several donations, Five Rivers Environmental Center will be the recipient of a range of new birding books to assist novice and experienced birders alike.

The Board has active plans for the remainder of 2018. These plans include the following:

- We plan to strengthen the presence of the Club at local birding-related events to promote birding and Club membership. We'll also attempt to update our public presentation materials for these fabulous public events. Look for a HMBC table at Lupine Fest (6/2) and at the Fall Festival for Five Rivers.

- The Club's stewardship of the Reist Sanctuary continues. The Sanctuary committee will accept the challenge to look at routine maintenance as part of developing a larger Five Year Plan. If you would like to be part of this exciting and important effort, please reach out to me for further information.

- Last but not least, our Technology Committee has undertaken the project of moving our digital presence into the future. The Board has given the go-ahead for our Technology committee to begin the process to update our current digital platform. This comprehensive task will be accomplished in stages. Members will be notified by email and through Feathers of the specific changes once details are confirmed. Weekly email notifications of changes will begin one month prior to the discontinuation of the current platform. Please be on the lookout for these emails.

Again, thank you in advance for sharing your enthusiasm, knowledge and passion for birding and HMBC.

Sincerely,

Patricia Fuller, President, HMBC

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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?
- Have you led a field trip for HMBC?
- Have you written short prose or poetry on the subject of birds? We're starting a Writers' Page!
- Did you take a birding vacation?
- Do you have a favorite birding spot?

SHARE them with HMBC members by submitting them to:

***HMBC Contact Information***

**BIRDLINE of EASTERN NEW YORK:**

**E-mail:** [contact@hmbc.net](mailto: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](mailto:DeniseHStoner@aol.com).

Send all paper submissions to:

**Denise Hackert-Stoner**

**6 Knob Hill Road.**

Loudonville,

NY

12211

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

Gregg Recer

23 Scotch Mist Way

Malta, NY 12020

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## SEEKING WRITE-UPS OF NEW (ER) BIRDING SITES!!

Since the 2005 revision of our Club's book, Birding New York's Hudson-Mohawk Region, a number of new sites have been identified, some of which are destinations for Club field trips; others are visited to pick up one or two key species; still others have substantially changed. Not everyone is familiar with these spots...

While a new book version may be a ways off, we are seeking write-ups of these sites via articles of any length which will be published as featured articles in Feathers. These can be just brief descriptions of a place, where it is, what key species are found there, where to find them, and a few hints about what the site is like. We are not asking for a four-season, multipage write-up if the site does not warrant that, or if you are just familiar with it in one season.

A preliminary list of sites includes (feel free to add to it and offer up your favorite location):

### Albany County:

Normanskill Farm  
 Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail  
 Corning Preserve  
 Washington Park  
 Louise Keir WMA  
 Deer Mountain  
 Berne woods

### Saratoga County:

Malta Tech Park  
 Hundred Acre Woods  
 Zim Smith Trail  
 Round Lake Preserve  
 Saratoga Airport  
 Stillwater School Trail  
 Galway Nature Preserve  
 Ballston Creek Preserve  
 New access at the east end of Vischer Ferry,

### Columbia County: Nutten Hook

### Schenectady County: Woodlawn Preserve

### Montgomery County: Ames areas for Upland Sandpipers

I am volunteering to coordinate this project, so please contact me! I look forward to hearing from you at [Scottjstoner@aol.com](mailto:Scottjstoner@aol.com) or at 518-785-6760. Thanks so much - Scott Stoner

## Field Trip Reports

### Vosburg Marsh - April 7, 2018

Nine warmly-dressed birders faced not-very-springlike conditions in Columbia County today, and were rewarded for it.

We met at the Coxsackie boat launch, where we found six Long-tailed Ducks and a flock of mixed Scaup swimming. The Bald Eagle nest on the other shore had one adult sitting and another hanging out nearby, while two immature birds practiced synchronized flying. Some birders caught sight of a fast flythrough Merlin, and we saw the first of several Osprey.

At Four Mile Point we watched nest-building activity from a Chickadee excavating a hole in a signpost, and a White-breasted Nuthatch bringing bark chips into a hole.

Our first notable bird at Vosburg Swamp WMA was a Hermit Thrush, puffed up almost circular against the chill. Waterfowl variety was good, with Green-winged Teal by far the most numerous. We also had Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall, American Wigeon, a Pied-billed Grebe, and over 20 Wood Ducks plus the usual suspects. Multiple Great Blue Herons seen, and several more Osprey. Songbird migration is finally getting a move on, with Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Swamp Sparrow, Yellow-rumped Warblers and Palm Warbler all seen. Tree Swallows made a big appearance over the marsh once the air warmed.

At the end of the trip I checked back at the boat launch to see if I could get a better look at the Scaup, and found a Horned Grebe making a quick stop before flying upriver.

Not counting the Horned Grebe, we tallied a respectable 56 species! Thanks to everyone who joined in today.

Naomi Lloyd

### Five Rivers - April 14, 2018

The HMBC field trip to Five Rivers EEC in Delmar attracted about twenty participants (some folks left early, and others arrived later). The weather was less than ideal, with cool temperatures and a steady north wind, but in spite of lowered expectations the group recorded 54 species, a bit better than average for the date and location! Highlights of the day included:

- a male Northern Harrier (grey ghost) hunting low over the Wild Turkey Trail field
- a pair of Killdeer that are apparently nesting on the eco-friendly roof of the new visitor's center
- large numbers of Northern Flickers (25+) moving south to north for the first hour or so of the morning
- a pair of American Kestrels hunting from perches on bluebird boxes in the Wild Turkey Trail field.
- many kinglets of both expected species, especially Golden-crowned
- two ground-foraging Hermit Thrushes
- two pair of Louisiana Waterthrush on territories along the Vlomankill
- several each of Palm, Pine and Yellow-rumped Warblers
- TEN species of sparrow (Eastern Towhee, Chipping, Field, Fox, White-crowned, White-throated, Savannah, Song, and Swamp Sparrows, and Dark-eyed Junco.
- Eastern Meadowlark singing at the Wild Turkey Trail field

Thanks to everyone who turned up Saturday morning, we had a great time seeing old friends and new faces alike! We hope to see you all on future HMBC trips.

Tom and Colleen Williams  
Colonie

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

### Vischer Ferry - April 15, 2018

Field Trip Report Vischer Ferry, April 15, 2018

A winter weather advisory today for sleet and freezing rain reduced turnout for this morning's HMBC Field Trip at Vischer Ferry Preserve to just 4 birders including the leader. Nevertheless, we had a pretty good morning with lots of good birds and no precipitation. Most of the birders were relative beginners or at least beginners with regard to North American birds, and eager to learn. One of the first birds we spotted was an Eastern Bluebird by the Whipple Bridge. I learned from some of the participants that this bird resembles a European robin. We walked down the main path to the River where we spotted a good assortment of waterfowl including American Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, and Hooded Merganser. (Having gotten there early, I spotted 2 Pied-billed Grebes that the group missed during the actual trip.) We saw and heard lots of Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. We also had some vocalizing Rusty Blackbirds along the path which was a first-of-the-year species for me. We heard 2 different Winter Wrens, one singing the twittering, territorial song and the other just the "kip-kip" notes. On the way back to the main entrance we heard a Virginia Rail grunting in the back pond. (This was also a first-of-the-year bird for me.) After seeing 2 Pine Warblers behind the back pond yesterday I decided to go back again today but we did not find them there. However, a Hermit Thrush was seen by some on the way out of the pine grove.

We decided to end the trip a little earlier than usual because of the unseasonable cold. After the group left, I spotted a Great Egret in flight from the parking lot (most likely one of the same ones I reported yesterday). I hope to see all the beginners on future HMBC field trips and sorry that the weather report kept others away this morning.

John Hershey, coordinator

### Peebles Island – April 28, 2018

More than twenty birders met at Peebles Island on a cool damp morning that felt more like late March than late April. The clouds soon broke and we had lovely weather for our walk - unfortunately the birds thought it was too soon to show up. We had only one Palm Warbler - not one species, but a single bird! Very few other migrants - not even the ubiquitous Kinglets were here. Swallows were well represented in species if not number, with Barn, American Tree, and No. Rough-winged, plus a dozen or so Chimney Swifts. Despite raging waters we saw a few Spotted Sandpipers teetering along the shore.

Our most interesting sightings were of raptors. We had flyby looks at a Peregrine Falcon, Cooper's Hawk, and (probable) Red-tail. Two Osprey carried sticks to and copulated on a transmission tower near the south end of the Rt 32 bridge. It will be worth watching to see if this is a serious nest-building attempt, or just a young pair practicing. Next we particularly wanted to check the Bald Eagle nest on Second Island to confirm whether it had chicks. After watching the massive adult eagle in the nest, we could see two fluffy gray heads against her dark breast. One was noticeably larger than the other and bumped the smaller one when the adult appeared to be feeding it. For now at least the nest is not blocked by foliage and is very easily watched. Stop by and check the nestlings' progress through the summer!

We ended our walk with a surprising 45 species. It certainly didn't feel like we'd seen that many! Thanks to all who turned out and keep thinking SPRING!

Naomi Lloyd  
West Sand Lake

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

### **Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary - April 29, 2018**

Nine hardy souls from Columbia, Albany, and Rensselaer Counties participated in the joint HMBC/Alan Devoe Bird Club field trip to Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary in Old Chatham on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. The weather was, frankly, miserable with a 40-degree steady rain the entire time. With rain gear and positive attitudes, we hiked the white trail to Dorson's Rock, returning via the red and orange trails to Reilly Pond. Despite the weather, most of us heard or saw about 30 species including a first-of-the-season Blackburnian Warbler. The Dutchman's breeches were in full bloom and trout lilies and bloodroot were not far behind. This preserve is a lovely site that I hope to be able to showcase on a warm spring day sometime in the future!

Kathy Schneider

### **Under Mountain Rd - Harlem Valley Rail Trail - May 6, 2018**

Marian Sole and Mike Nicosia led a joint HMBC/Alan Devoe Bird Club field trip today to the far corners of Region 8 in Columbia County. Six of us started out in a steady rain that soon stopped and we saw 46 species including Yellow-throated Vireo, Veery, Wood Thrush, Blackburnian Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and for those of us who lingered, killer looks at Cerulean Warbler on the way back that others only heard or saw briefly. Complete list on eBird.

Kathy Schneider  
Stuyvesant Falls

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

### **Ernest R Lasher Memorial Park, Germantown – March 31, 2018**

A beautiful early spring day greeted birders at Ernest R. Lasher Memorial Park in Germantown, Columbia County this morning. Under bright blue skies, we deployed our scopes at the boat launch to observe the comings and goings along the Hudson River. There were two Great Cormorants perched on the base of the navigation light marked "CB" (Upper Coal Beds Light), south of Germantown. Although they were quite a distance away, the white throat and bill could be seen when the birds turned their heads. One of them also revealed the characteristic white flank patch as well. Many Double-crested Cormorants were swimming and perched nearby, or flying upriver in small groups. Waterfowl were not particularly numerous, although many groups of migrating Canada Geese were observed flying north in formation. One or two Tree Swallows were noted flying upriver just above the water. At the parking area, two Eastern Phoebes were flitting among the trees and shrubs along the shoreline.

Our group split up after leaving Lasher Park. One group headed farther east into Columbia County, the second moved on to RamsHorn-Livingston Sanctuary(RHLS) in Catskill. At RHLS we walked south along the trail to the observation tower, and then down to RamsHorn Creek, which was near low tide. On the way we heard a Fox Sparrow singing a rich, whistled song. At the tower we observed a pair of Eastern Phoebes interacting. In past years they have constructed a nest under one of the observation decks. A Carolina Wren was singing loudly, along with numerous Song Sparrows. The marsh was quiet outside of Red-winged Blackbirds on territory. We could see the distant Bald Eagle nest, but could not see any activity on it. At the creek we flushed four Great Blue Herons farther upstream.

Many thanks to the group that turned out for the trip, it was a lot of fun. Special thanks to Bill Cook and the members of the Alan DeVoe Bird Club that joined us. We hope to see you all again on future outings!

Tom & Colleen Williams  
Colonie

### **Vischer Ferry May 13, 2018**

A large group spent a full morning into early afternoon birding the 3 mile loop from the main VF entrance south to the river, west and north through the woods, and back east along the towpath trail. The group collectively tallied over 60 species. Highlights included several virginia rails calling and making brief forays into the open for most to see; least bittern seen and heard near the main preserve road; 11 species of wood warblers including blackburnian, bay-breasted, magnolia, and chestnut-sided; and good numbers of several summer breeders including eastern kingbird, yellow-throated vireo, rose-breasted grosbeak, and baltimore oriole.

Thanks to everyone who joined us for a successful outing today.

Gregg Recer  
Cathy Graichen  
Malta.

## Upcoming HMBC Programs

**Speaker:**

Don Morton

**Location of Event:**

Five Rivers EEC

**Date:**

June 4, 2018 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

**Topic:** The Galapagos

This trip was the inspiration for a hobby to photograph birds which I have enjoyed for many years as the birds on the Galapagos Islands are so friendly one does not need any fancy equipment or long telephoto lenses in order to obtain interesting photographs.

**Leader or Speaker:**

Tom Lake

**Location of Event:**

Five Rivers EEC

**Date:**

September 10, 2018 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

**Topic:** The Rainforests of South America

## UPCOMING ASCR PROGRAMS

There are no programs scheduled at this time.

## WRITERS' PAGE

### Why We Live Here

Denise Hackert-Stoner

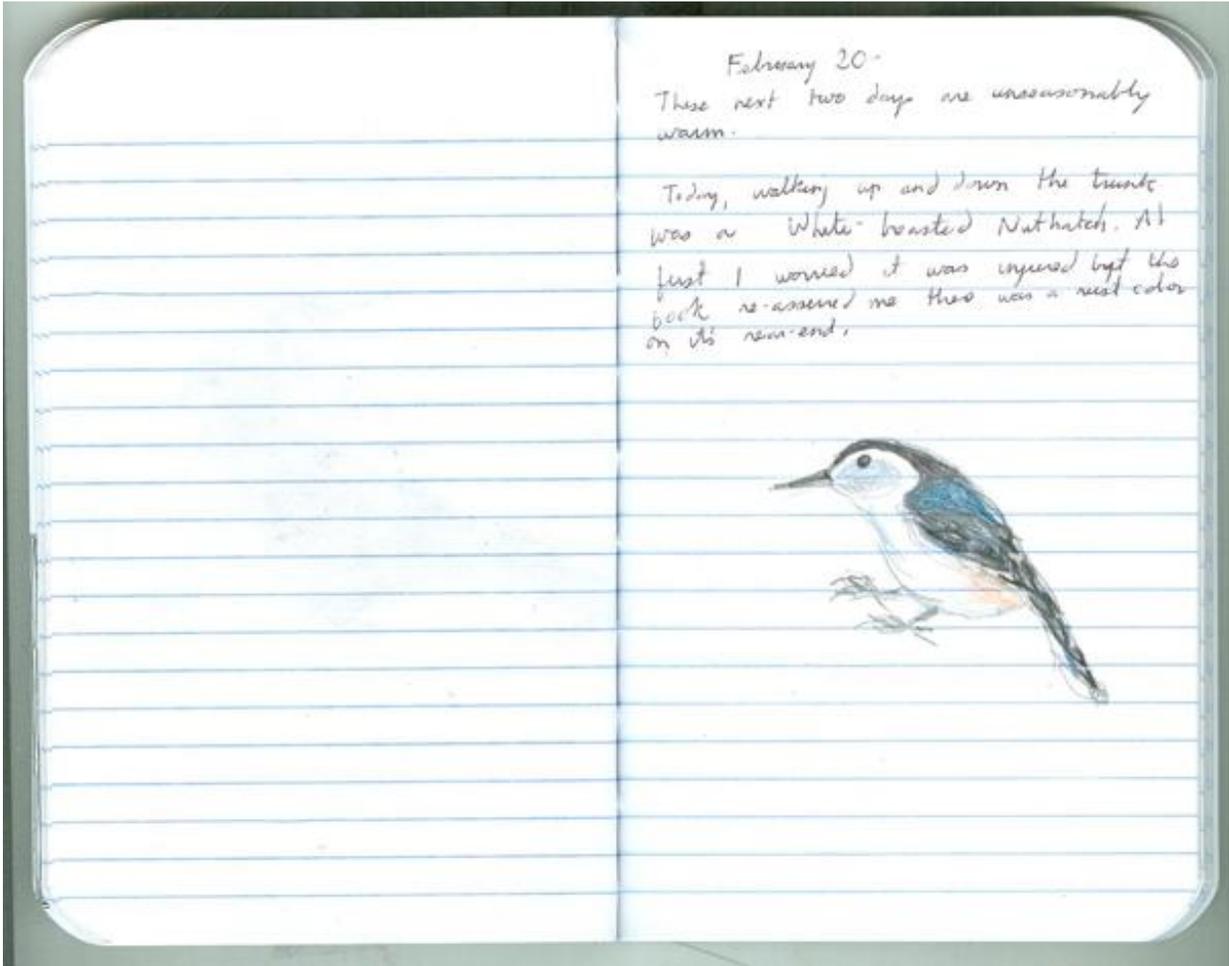
New leaves turn in the scrubbed blue sky.  
 Robin and Cardinal,  
 Goldfinch and Nuthatch  
 Bounce hopeful notes  
 From tree to tree.  
 Trillium, Bleeding Heart,  
 Poppy and Bluebell  
 Tumble unbound,  
 Unruly and bold in the  
 Wildflower garden.  
 And the baby on my lap,  
 Just in from outdoors,  
 Smells of fresh grass and apple blossom.

In the iron-gray darkness of February  
 We ask ourselves why we live here.  
 This is why.

### Sun Spotlight

by Marilyn Hamecher

Curled up in a tiny thin shell in a pile of woven twigs.  
 Baby Robin pokes her beak through her thin cover.  
 Peeping. She's happy to be born, it's Spring.  
 Protected by a rounded pile of grass and twigs.  
 Meshed together with the other birds of a feather.  
 High up with nothing around to break her fall.  
 Wings are not strong or ready to extend outward.  
 Food arrives in flaps and flutters from mother.  
 Siblings strain, push and tussle for a small bite,  
 Wriggly worms menu strengthens her existence.  
 Sun spotlight warming her bones and feathers.  
 Growing and waiting for mother to return.  
 Waiting for more food, more food, more food.  
 Stretching and flapping her wings.  
 Pointing her head and beak towards the Sun.  
 The Sun spotlight focused on her.  
 Prompting her... to fly away.

**ARTISTS' PAGE****White-breasted Nuthatch**  
Dagmar Frinta

## ON NATURE

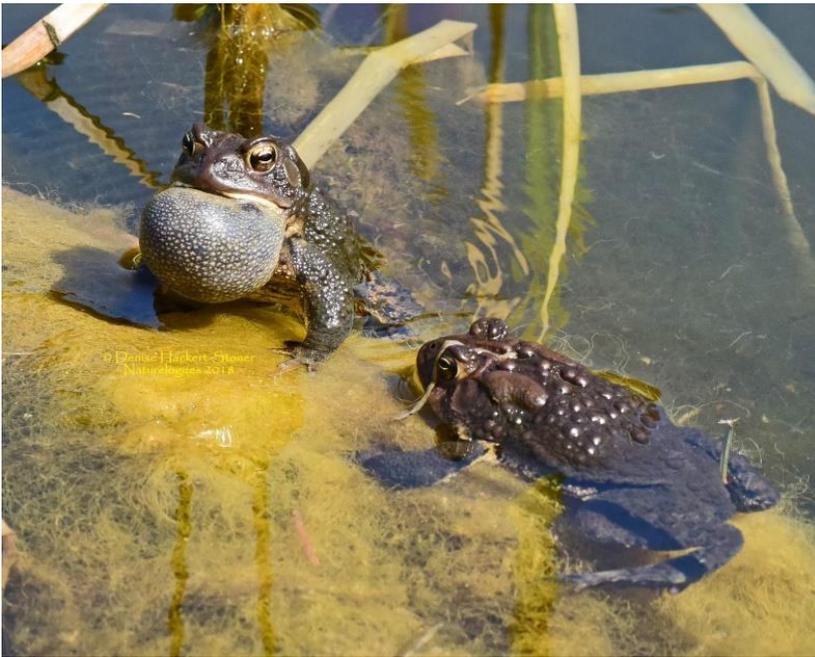
### Toads in Love

Denise Hackert-Stoner

It was an exceptionally warm day in early May after our prolonged winter, and love was in the air. Literally. The new pond in front of the Five Rivers Visitor Center was loud with the trilling love song of the American Toad! Cameras in hand, we approached the serenading amphibians cautiously, not wanting to disrupt the romantic mood. We were quite surprised to discover that unlike frogs, who often hop into the water even before we see them, these toads did not seem at all shy or disturbed by our presence. On the contrary, they continued their trilling, courting, and mating even as we snapped away, and we were able to capture their joyous interlude without concern.



The toads that we may encounter in our lawns and gardens are generally land dwelling, but each spring they will heed the call to return to the shallow, still waters at pond edges, vernal pools, and even large spring puddles, to breed. Males skillfully use a special vocal sac to create the familiar “ringing telephone” trill to attract females.



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

Once paired, the female releases long strands of many eggs, which are immediately fertilized by the male atop her. The mating ritual of the American Toad doesn't always go neatly, or politely. Often a pair is interrupted by an interloper, who may then find itself quite literally "kicked to the curb" by the defending male.



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



American Toad Egg Strand

### American Toad Tadpoles



The entire spectacle lasts only for a few days at most, and before long the toads return to their solitary ways in our fields, forests, and backyards.

Meanwhile, back at the pond, a new generation is getting underway. Interestingly, toads seem to choose temporary or new ponds for their love nests. These types of water bodies tend to be free of fish, ensuring the survival of many more eggs and tadpoles, which usually emerge within a week of egg laying. It takes about four-to-six weeks for the small, black tadpoles to absorb their tails, grow legs, develop lungs, and be ready to hop out of the water as tiny toadlets. Yes, that's right. Toadlets. One of my favorite new words. Unlike frogs, whose tadpoles take much longer to develop (the bullfrog's tadpole sometimes develops over the span of two summers), and are therefore much larger when they develop their legs, the American Toad's tadpole is completely developed within a six-week period, and the tadpole is much smaller. Thus the great size difference between the adult American Toad and the toadlet. And thus the amazing cuteness factor in the young toad, and our opportunity to use the word toadlet!



Toadlet

This summer if you encounter a toad in your garden, be happy! They consume a large number of insects and are a boon to gardeners. They are not harmful in any way, unless your pet dog decides to eat one. Toads do produce toxins as one of their defense mechanisms. It has protected them from being consumed by most predators. But dogs have not undergone this genetic learning, so they may become ill after ingesting a toad.

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



American Toad in Garden

Consider the toad you meet while digging up your beets. She is wary, though not panicked at your presence. She is a solitary creature who has left her offspring behind at the pond's edge way back in the spring, and her brief encounter with that thrilling, trilling male is but a distant memory. She spends most of every one of her days hunkered down in the leaf litter or compost pile. Her nights are spent hunting insects. Come winter she will burrow down into the soil to hibernate. But next spring when she hears that familiar trill, something will stir her to leave her lonesome ways, however briefly, and return to the water.

For more on the American Toad:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American\\_toad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_toad)

<https://srelherp.uga.edu/anurans/bufame.htm>

<http://wildlifeofct.com/american%20toad.html>

<http://askanaturalist.com/what-are-these-tiny-toads/>

<https://www3.northern.edu/natsource/AMPHIB1/Americ1.htm>

<http://www.psu.edu/dept/nkbiology/naturetrail/speciespages/americantoad.htm>

<https://musicofnature.com/american-toad-mating-frenzy/>

<http://www.psu.edu/dept/nkbiology/naturetrail/speciespages/americantoad.htm>

## Upcoming Field Trips.

### June

**Saturday, JUNE 2, WEST MOUNTAIN NIGHTJARS** (Warren County; evening)

**\*\*\*This is a tentative trip, please see description below\*\*\***

Coordinator: TBA

For the last two years, Chuck-will's-widows have been observed near the West Mountain Ski Area near West Glens Falls. This species may be slowly expanding its range into the Northeastern part of the country, with additional reports in the Great Lakes, Southern New England, and even Ontario Province over the last ten years. The birds begin calling and foraging as darkness falls, and can even be seen perching and flying, albeit in poorly lit conditions. Other nightjar-family members, Eastern Whip-poor-will and Common Nighthawk, have been observed here concurrently with the Chuck-will's-widow. If they are detected again this coming May, we will organize an evening meet-up at the observation location, if feasible. The location, date, and time will be announced on the club website, and on the HMBirds yahoo group as well. Stay tuned!

**Sunday, June 3, CHERRY PLAIN** (Rensselaer County; morning)

Coordinator: Naomi Lloyd 518-596-5964 [naomi\\_kestrel@yahoo.com](mailto:naomi_kestrel@yahoo.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.

**Saturday, June 9, AMY'S PARK** (Warren County; morning)

Coordinators: Tom and Colleen Williams 518-857-2176 [trwdsd@yahoo.com](mailto:trwdsd@yahoo.com)

This Lake George Land Conservancy property, located north of Bolton Landing, includes the headwaters for Indian Brook and contains important wildlife habitat within its large, unfragmented forest and wetland complexes. LGLC has created four hiking trails for passive recreation, exploration and education, which include lookout areas to view the active beaver pond and its resident wildlife. Birders can expect wetland species, and the typical suite of higher-elevation breeders. Canada Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher have bred here.

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Warren County Municipal Center, 1340 Route 9, Lake George (Northway Exit 20, Queensbury), to carpool to the park.

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS..... (continued)

**Sunday, June 10, FOX HILL RD** (Saratoga County; morning)

Coordinator: John Hershey 518-371-3114 [hersheyj@nycap.rr.com](mailto:hersheyj@nycap.rr.com)

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 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 coordinator for reservations, and other information.

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

**Sunday, June 17, GALWAY NATURE PRESERVE** (Saratoga County; morning)

Coordinator: Ellen Pemrick 518-882-9163 [lnmp@nycap.rr.com](mailto: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-natur...>

## July

**Saturday, July 7, LEADER'S CHOICE**

Coordinator: David Harrison 908- 892-5495 [david.harrison57@earthlink.net](mailto:david.harrison57@earthlink.net)

This trip will be leader's choice, exploring some of the northern reaches of our region, looking for thrushes, warblers and vireos that are often seen only in migration around the central parts of the region. Possible destinations include the trail to Botheration Pond (sub-boreal and north woods type habitat), Amy's Woods (variety of habitats), or the areas around the trailhead to Tongue Mt. (marsh/wetland and wooded areas).

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Northway (I-87) rest area between Exits 17 and 18 northbound, near Glens Falls.

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS..... (continued)

### August

#### **Sunday, August 19, PEBBLES ISLAND STATE PARK/COHOES FLATS (Saratoga/Albany Counties; morning)**

Coordinator: John Hershey 518-371-3114 [hersheyj@nycap.rr.com](mailto: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.

#### **Monday, August 27 through Wed., August 29, 2018, COUNTING COMMON NIGHTHAWKS (Albany County; evenings)**

Coordinators: Tom and Colleen Williams 518-857-2176 [trwdsd@yahoo.com](mailto: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. A long-distance migrant, Common Nighthawks travel in large flocks, on one of the longest migration routes of any North American bird. Most travel over land through Mexico and Central America to reach their wintering grounds in southern South America. Common Nighthawks are among the last migrants to return to their breeding grounds in spring. In the Capital Region, the bulk of southbound migration occurs from mid-August until early September with a peak around the end of August.

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

*Feathers*

**Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club**

**c/o Five Rivers EEC**

**56 Game Farm Road**

**Delmar, NY 12054**