

# Feathers

## **NO SPECTACULAR FINDS ON 68<sup>TH</sup> GUY BARTLETT CENTURY RUN**

by Robert P. Yunick

The Club's 68th Guy Bartlett Century Run on May 18, 2013 recorded 153 species tying 36th place against a record 188 in 1986 with the highest group total of 126 by Group A tying 20th place to a record 156 also in 1986. Seventeen people participated in six groups of one to five people each; four of those six groups exceeding the century mark with totals of 107 to 126 species. As no new species were added to the composite list, it still stands at 254 plus three subspecies.

Not coincidentally, the two groups with the highest species counts, Group A with 126 and Group D with 111, were also the longest afield with Group D out for 20 hours and five minutes (01:25 to 21:30) and Group A close behind at 19 hours (02:30 to 21:30). Both reported excellent listening conditions predawn. Groups were varied in their approach as to how they conducted their count. As in recent years, Group A performed an all-Albany County event, joined this year by Group D birding entirely within Schenectady County, and Group E focusing its effort even more closely to one 70-acre parcel of land in Glenville, Schenectady County. Other groups more traditionally roamed farther afield to their favorite birding haunts.

The day's weather was generally favorable, though trees were well leafed thanks to warm weather early in the month, accompanied by no measureable precipitation during the first eight days of May. The National Weather Service at Albany recorded no rain the day of the count, 0.95 in. for month to date giving a year-to-date deficit of 1.03 inches. By late May and into mid-June that situation changed drastically as people complained about ever frequent rain that led to flood warnings that caused closing of the Erie Canal from Lock 6 to 19; as well as events of severe wind and tornadoes.

Other data on the day of the count were a temperature range of 42-72°F., south wind that averaged 5.8 mph, highest 16 mph, gusts to 22 mph; and relative humidity of 29 to 92 percent and average sky cover of 0.7.

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## President's Corner

Early summer. Lazy days of heat, humidity and thunderstorms. Slow days of vacation, picnics and swimming. Air-conditioned days of work, shopping, and just being air-conditioned.

And the birds, what of the birds? Spring migration has passed, nesting has happened, the young ones are out of their nests and we can see just a few shorebirds here and there as reminders of what's to come in August and through the fall.

And the bird club, how is the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club? I'm glad to report that our monthly programs are on schedule, membership is steady, our finances are well in hand and all our other processes are happening as expected. Our field trip schedule this past spring, as usual included many trips see and hear our passing migrants. This has slowed in early summer.

As the relatively new president of this club, I am learning over and over again how many people volunteer their time, their effort and expertise and their good humor to keep this bird club functioning as smoothly as it does. Almost all behind the scenes. And most have been volunteering for years. It is truly wonderful to work with such a great group of people. Kudos and great appreciation to everyone for this. If you'd like to participate and volunteer, we'd love to have you. We have many varied opportunities where you could try your hand. Feel free to contact me, we welcome the new.

Jory Langner  
president@[hmhc.net](mailto:hmhc.net)

Newsletter Contributions Desired

- Have anything you think other birders would be interested in?
- Have a favorite birding spot you want to share?
- Are there any stories or photos that would inspire others?

Share them with the HMBC membership by submitting them to the addresses below:

***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**

**QUESTION OF THE MONTH:**

What direction, activities or actions would you like to see the club take in upcoming months and years? It's our club, it's your club, let me know.

Jory Langner  
[president@hmbc.net](mailto:president@hmbc.net)

**Sad News**

Ginny Sabin has recently passed away. She was the widow of Walt Sabin, who was a long-time and respected member of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club. While Walt was the active field birder, Ginny was quite active in the club, having participated in many of the club programs and events.

**Thanks to Elayne Ryba**

Elayne Ryba will be leaving the Capital District. Our thanks go out to her for all that she has done for HMBC. Elayne created the current design for Feathers, giving it a more modern and attractive look. Elayne was also responsible for having the paper version of Feathers printed and for distributing it to local birding supply stores and other places where birders might find it. Our best wishes go to her in her future residence.

**Thanks to Dan Welch**

Great thanks to outgoing HMBC Membership Chair Dan Welch for his many years of service in that position. For over 10 years, Dan managed the relatively anonymous but vital process of receiving and registering new Club memberships and welcoming all new members to the Club with diligence and efficiency. His dedication and efforts contributed to the smooth functioning of the Club. Thanks Dan!

## Field Trip Reports

### **Malta Tech Park**

*Sunday, May 19, 2013*

The HMBC trip to the Malta Tech Park took place this morning, May 19th, with 16 birders in attendance and a total of 48 species seen or heard. It was a mostly cloudy day with some breaks of sun early on, but it drizzled and temperatures cooled towards the end of the trip. We walked on two trail systems and along the wide sidewalks that are found throughout the park. The day started on the trailhead found on Hermes Road, across from the Hudson Valley Nanotech Campus. Large green circles painted on trees that run along the ridge of a hill marked the way. To the right are additional trails that descend into a ravine. This is a narrow trail, also used by dirt bikers, that goes through deciduous woods and empties out onto Stonebreak Road, just east of the 100 Acre Trail parking area. While lovely, these woods were, at first, rather quiet. Near the end we did hear what would be the first of many singing VEERIES, WOOD THRUSHES, GRAY CATBIRDS, OVEN BIRDS and EASTERN TOWHEES. We broke off from the trail to walk along a clearing that parallels it. Here we had good views of a CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER and an INDIGO BUNTING, the later arriving only yesterday. The group was treated to even closer looks of these two species later on Stonebreak Road, along with FIELD, SONG, and CHIPPING SPARROWS, ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAKS, EASTERN KINGBIRDS with nesting material, and SCARLET TANAGERS.

Continuing up Stonebreak Road, we entered the 100 Acre Wood trail head. This is a lovely section of the Tech Park with broad wood-chip lined paths leading through deep woods and ravines. Stairs and bridges are found in the steeper sections and several stone benches are situated along the trail. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLERS and GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHERS were heard in this area. A cooperative VEERY in the middle of the path was seen by most participants.

After exiting the trails we continued on the sidewalks along Luther Forest Blvd, 100 Acre Wood Rd and back to Stonebreak. A YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER, EASTERN BLUEBIRDS, NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOWS, TREE SWALLOWS, a PILEATED WOODPECKER, NORTHERN FLICKERS, and a BALTIMORE ORIOLE made appearances. Unfortunately, so did several BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS. Flyovers included a RED-TAILED HAWK, DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT, KILLDEER, TURKEY VULTURE and a GREAT BLUE HERON. While doing our compilation, a singing HOUSE WREN signaled its presence.

All in all, after a slow start, it turned into a rewarding day with many lovely bird sounds, several good looks at some beautiful species, and walks through pleasant trails with an enthusiastic group of birders.

- Susan and Tom Beaudoin

### **Perch River Wildlife Management Area**

*Saturday, May 25 – Sunday, May 26, 2013*

The Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club conducted an overnight field trip on May 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> that featured Perch River WMA near Watertown, NY, as its primary destination. Some attendees stopped at Tug Hill WMA in Lewis County on Saturday morning, and at Chaumont Barrens Preserve in Jefferson County on both days. Seven birders endured a cold, rainy drive

## Field Trip Reports *(continued)*

from the Capital District out past Utica, where the precipitation quit, but temperatures stayed cool for May and clearing skies remained tantalizingly close on the western horizon. Three birders joined the group along the way.

At Tug Hill WMA, the winds were stiff and birds were hard to come by. Other than a good look at a CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER, and some vocalizations from BLACK-THROATED BLUE and BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLERS, most birds stayed out of sight. We did not detect our target species, Mourning Warbler, either, so we bailed out early and headed to Chaumont Barrens Preserve, arriving just after noon. It was slightly warmer and a little less windy in Chaumont, but the birding wasn't much better. We did hear our target species, GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER, but a good look is always desired at this species/group to verify whether one is observing a Blue-winged, a Golden-winged, or some combination of the two. Here is a link to some interesting information on the topic: <http://aba.org/birding/v37n3p278.pdf>. We did have fine views of BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER, two GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHERS, BROWN THRASHER, and an EASTERN KINGBIRD.

At Perch River WMA, we started by observing from the main viewing area between the Upper and Lower Pools, then traveled up Vaadi Rd. to the observation tower overlooking the Stone Mills Pool. We saw three PIED-BILLED GREBES, an AMERICAN BITTERN standing in the field in front of the tower, two BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS, two OSPREYS on nests, and several each of CASPIAN and BLACK TERN flying by. We even had a PURPLE MARTIN zoom past at low altitude for very good views.

Sunday morning was a bit brighter, a little less windy, and a tad warmer than the previous day. Birds were much easier to come by as a result. There was a large flyover group of about fifty DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS, three AMERICAN BITTERNS in the same area as the previous day, and a nice assortment of BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS, CASPIAN TERNS, and BLACK TERNS. OSPREYS were numerous. The group also tried nearby agricultural fields along Vaadi and Dog Hill Rds., but had no luck with Henslow's Sparrow or Sedge Wren. We did find a WILSON'S SNIPE, an AMERICAN KESTREL, and many SAVANNAH SPARROWS and BOBOLINKS.

Following the end of the formal trip, three birders went back to Chaumont Barrens Preserve and were able, after a ninety minute back-and-forth odyssey, to view a male GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER, which was a first for one of the participants. I have never worked so hard for a bird in my life!

Here are links to some images from Perch River WMA:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/31316159@N02/sets/72157633722965650/>

And from Chaumont Barrens Preserve:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/31316159@N02/sets/72157633722868128/>

Thanks to all the attendees for enduring the conditions and making this a great birding experience!

- Tom Williams

## Field Trip Reports *(continued)*

### Schodack Island

*Saturday, June 1, 2013*

Schodack Island State Park, just south of Castleton-on-Hudson, was the destination for the June 1st bird walk of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club. Sixteen participants trekked about four miles, under sunny skies. It became very warm and humid later in the morning, but birds remained quite active throughout the trip. All the resident breeders had returned, and no migrant species were recorded.

The heron rookery along Schodack Creek continues. We saw many GREAT BLUE HERONS going back and forth during the morning. Multiple EASTERN WOOD-PEWEES and GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHERS were heard. Among the vireos, YELLOW-THROATED, WARBLING, and RED-EYED were all present. FISH CROW is commonly heard at the park as well.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS can be found on the trail along the river. WOOD THRUSH sang from the deeper woods, and VEERY is commonplace, often foraging on the ground along the trails.

The warblers we detected included OVENBIRD, BLUE-WINGED, BLACK-AND-WHITE, AMERICAN REDSTART (abundant), CERULEAN, and CHESTNUT-SIDED. At least four singing CERULEANS were observed. The group had the most success with them at the 1 1/2 mile marker along the yellow trail, just north of the wooden bridge by the fern swamp.

Other songbirds found in good numbers were SCARLET TANAGER, ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK, and BALTIMORE ORIOLE. Some members of the field party heard a YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO; they seem to be reasonably common around the region this spring.

Thank you to all the attendees, especially to Eric Latini of Capital Region Audubon, our Cerulean "specialist", and to John K. who came all the way from Otsego County and was instrumental in getting the group good views of a foraging male Cerulean Warbler.

- Tom Williams

### Doodletown

*Sunday, June 2, 2013*

The Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club conducted its now-annual expedition to Doodletown, near Bear Mountain State Park in Rockland County, on Sunday. We arrived a bit later than scheduled, and found that parking was at a premium. The New York State Young Birders Club (<http://www.nysyoungbirders.org>) also ran a large trip today. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and keen interest shown by the group when we encountered them along the road.

Our late arrival was due to a quick stop at the Great Vly near Saugerties, where a KING RAIL has been observed for about a week. As we pulled the cars to a stop at the roadside, the rail was crossing the road from one portion of the marsh to

## Field Trip Reports *(continued)*

the other. This is a large bird, with a loud, emphatic call, which entertained us from just inside the reeds for twenty minutes.

At Doodletown, we saw both TURKEY and BLACK VULTURES, the latter seemingly just as common in that area. Two YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOOS were heard, one offering brief views in flight. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS are fairly easy to spot going up the trail, on long-obsolete telephone wires or leafless branches

Once migration has subsided, Doodletown has a standard set of breeding species, but a few occur in high numbers and/or are highly desired by birders farther north where their presence is uncommon. We recorded six CERULEAN WARBLERS, seven HOODED WARBLERS, and two WORM-EATING WARBLERS. A Kentucky Warbler had been reported by others this spring, but we were unable to find it.

Other birds of note were both NORTHERN and LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH, YELLOW-THROATED VIREO, SCARLET TANAGER, and INDIGO BUNTING. Non-avian encounters included several Luna Moths, one Timber Rattlesnake (NYSYBC), and zero bears

Thank you to all of the participants for a very successful outing.

- Tom Williams

### **Schoharie County**

*Saturday, June 8, 2013*

Seven birders visited three sites in Schoharie County on Saturday morning, enduring a foggy, damp start to the day. By noon, the sun was poking through the clouds and it warmed up nicely. As a group we observed sixty-eight species, although we missed our two target birds at the first stop.

That first stop was at Max Shaul State Park in Fultonham, where our vehicles were parked, but the group actually went up Old Rt. 30 (closed) just outside the eastern boundary of the park. The overgrown, but still navigable blacktop roadway runs for about a mile, rising up above Schoharie Creek and away from the road noise of Rt. 30. Highlights were EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE, GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER, YELLOW-THROATED VIREO, VEERY, WOOD THRUSH, many BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLERS, and an INDIGO BUNTING. We dipped on Cerulean and Canada Warblers, both of which had been detected regularly in previous years.

Up at Burnt-Rossman Hills State Forest, elevation 2000 ft., we observed a striking male BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER at the top of a pine, and heard several more of his ilk. Other common species noted were COMMON RAVEN, BROWN CREEPER, BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER, MAGNOLIA WARBLER, WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, DARK-EYED JUNCO and a surprising NASHVILLE WARBLER, which was heard only, but repeated its standard song multiple times.

## Field Trip Reports *(continued)*

The third stop for the group was at the NY Power Authority Visitor Center in N. Blenheim, where we briefly toured the exhibits and wildlife room at the center (highly recommended), then walked for an hour, around the marsh out front, and along part of the Bluebird Trail that heads down to Mine Kill State Park to the south. The open, scrubby habitat near the reservoir produced NORTHERN FLICKER, PILEATED WOODPECKER, EASTERN KINGBIRD, BLUE-WINGED WARBLER, two PRAIRIE WARBLERS, and a flyby BALD EAGLE during the species compilation.

Each of the three locations we visited could be its own trip destination. I would especially encourage further exploration of the NYPA to Mine Kill SP corridor. Birds await us there.

Thank you to all the participants for a fun six hours of birding in three distinctly different habitats. We saw many Red Efts and Red-backed salamanders, too.

*-Tom Williams*

### **Dyken Pond**

*Saturday, June 15, 2013*

Three birders joined me on my first HMBC bird walk as leader on a beautiful blue-sky morning at Dyken Pond on the Rensselaer Plateau. In a little over three hours and 3 miles were tallied 43 species.

We first enjoyed some visual birds in the open area at the Environmental Education Center and had a threesome in one tree - a RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, TREE SWALLOW, and EASTERN PHOEBE. As we entered the Hemlock-Northern Hardwood Forest along the Abbt Farm Trail we quickly switched to hearing songs from the ever-present OVENBIRDS and RED-EYED VIREOS and an occasional BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER. A BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER entertained us at the bog boardwalk and later a WINTER WREN on the Long Trail.

We took a shortcut to the Dustin Swamp boardwalk and heard some wetland species like the SWAMP SPARROW, COMMON YELLOWTHROAT, and an ALDER FLYCATCHER offering "free-beer." The snag tops were occupied by a SONG SPARROW and EASTERN BLUEBIRD.

We took a loop in the forest south of Dustin Swamp to hear BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLERS singing above the hobblebush thickets and had a male OVENBIRD who surrounded us with good views, possibly, due to a nest along the trail. On a side trail to the swamp we encountered a NASHVILLE WARBLER and had a PURPLE FINCH and SCARLET TANAGER directly overhead. Also, in the distance was a NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH and BROWN CREEPER.

Down at Dyken Pond were a pair of circling RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS and ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOWS

Thanks to the participants for sticking it out with me on my first leader walk and for the fantastic weather and low bug count.

*- Jim de Waal Malefyt*

## Field Trip Reports *(continued)*

### **Cherry Plain**

*Saturday, June 22, 2013*

A break in the long rains of June gave ten birders a warm dry day to see and hear (mostly hear) a good sampling of Rensselaer Plateau birdlife. At the first stop at the upper end of Jiggs Highway, we were greeted by a NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH singing loud and clear in a small wetland behind a thick stand of spruce. A walk down Jiggs to the pond yielded YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER and audio from the first of many OVENBIRDS, COMMON YELLOWTHROATS and CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLERS.

At the swamp on Miller Road a RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD perched atop a tall snag was soon displaced by a raucous family of at least three SAPSUCKERS, while a GRAY CATBIRD chanted his interminable monologue. Also present were PILEATED WOODPECKER, SWAMP SPARROW, ALDER FLYCATCHER, several CEDAR WAXWINGS, TREE SWALLOWS, YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, a flyby BROAD-WINGED HAWK and well-seen BLACKBURNIAN and NASHVILLE WARBLERS.

We then took a short walk up Dynamite Shack Road, hearing BLACK-THROATED BLUE and BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLERS, VEERY and HERMIT THRUSH, with close-up looks at a CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER loudly singing a variation of the usual song.

The clearing north of the State Park yielded another great view of a BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER, a heard-only BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER, another BROADWING and a flyover GREAT BLUE HERON. The expected INDIGO BUNTING was missing, but driving to the next stop we came to an abrupt halt upon hearing the song, and there he was, perched atop a small spruce, sunlit and brilliant blue.

At the swamp on CCC Dam Road, 500+ feet lower in elevation with a different assortment of species, we added AMERICAN REDSTART and YELLOW WARBLER to the list, along with WARBLING VIREO, ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK and BALTIMORE ORIOLE. TURKEY VULTURES and an immature BALD EAGLE soared overhead, and a young Black Bear crossed the road not far from the startled birders.

Returning uphill along Miller road we passed a singing WINTER WREN and then made a short stop for a last chance at MAGNOLIA WARBLER which was almost immediately heard and then well seen. Along the same abandoned road Warbler species number 14, a CANADA, was heard singing in the woods across a small pond, bringing the species total to a respectable 58.

*- Phil Whitney*

### **Five Combines Feeder Canal Park**

*Saturday, June 29, 2013*

Eleven summertime birders enjoyed a stroll along the Warren County Bike Path in the Five Combines Park. The Five Combines are a series of locks with a lift of 55 feet. The existing locks were constructed in 1845, replacing the original

## Field Trip Reports *(continued)*

locks which were built with timbers in 1822. They are part of the seven mile long feeder canal which was constructed to supply water and boat access to the Champlain Canal from the Hudson River above Glens Falls.

Birding was challenging due to the heavy cover and the actual number of birds thought to be down from previous years but we did manage to see or hear 34 species as listed below. Highlights included the Combine Locks, a pair of EASTERN KINGBIRDS feeding their young and a GREAT CRESTED FLY CATCHER at its nest hole in the same area with the kingbirds. All attempts to actually see warbling and red-eyed vireos failed!

Thanks to all the participants for an enjoyable morning

- Jim Ries

### **Vly/Botheration Pond**

*Saturday, July 6, 2013*

After rising early and meeting some of the group at Exit 16 Park & Ride, we finally arrived at the North Creek Ski Bowl Park. We were a bit early and had to wait for David Harrison to lead the rest of the way to the Vly/Botheration Pond trailhead. So as birders, we donned our bins to see what was around. BLUE BIRDS and CHIPPING SPARROWS were the main attractions. David drove up about 7:45 a.m. and we carpooled to the Barton Mines Rd ( all uphill) and on to the trailhead, which is on the backside of Gore Mountain. At the trailhead we walked about another 1/8 of a mile farther up the road looking for Mourning Warblers, which had been located in earlier years. We missed the Mourning Warblers, but did find BLACK-THROATED GREEN, BLACK-THROATED BLUE and BLACKBURNIAN WARBLERS. HERMIT and SWAINSON'S THRUSHES were numerous. Also had a BROAD-WINGED HAWK let us have a good look as it preened itself on a limb right above the road. Now we entered the trailhead and met our first obstacle. A stream alongside the road at one point had a crossing spot. We managed to wade splash across without getting too wet. The trail we followed was muddy, slippery and somewhat unpleasant. We slogged along listening to a number of warblers including NORTHERN PARULA, NASHVILLE, MAGNOLIA, YELLOW-RUMPED, BLACK THROATED GREENS, BLACK THROATED BLUES, BLACKBURNIAN, BLACK AND WHITE, OVENBIRDS, COMMON YELLOW-THROAT and probably bird of the day, CANADA WARBLER. SWAINSON'S THRUSHES were very vocal and numerous. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS seemed to be in every tree.

We crossed another brook, again with some difficulty, and came upon The Vly ( bog, swampy area). Here we were trying to find the Olive-sided Flycatcher. Struck out on all the flycatchers. None, zero, notta. Disappointing. Moving on a bit farther, the morning was beginning to look like evening. We decided not to try for Botheration Pond, which was approximately another 1.5 miles. We were getting tired of the mud and rain looked to be on the way. Slogging on back to the trailhead we were constantly hearing the warblers and thrushes. Also in the chorus were SCARLET TANAGERS, RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES, ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK, and WINTER WRENS.

## Field Trip Reports *(continued)*

All together we listed between 33 and 40 species, depending on whose list was counted. Many thanks to David Harrison, who led us with knowledge and experience. Even though we missed two of our target species, Mourning Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher, we had a great birding experience.

- Don Gresens

## Upcoming HMBC Programs

### **Birding in the Danube Delta**

**Speaker: Silvia Mioc**

September 9, 2013 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

William K. Sanford Colonie Town Library

629 Albany-Shaker Road, Loudonville, NY 12211

### **Birds of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve**

**Speaker: Neil Gifford**

October 7, 2013 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

William K. Sanford Colonie Town Library

629 Albany-Shaker Road, Loudonville, NY 12211

## Upcoming Audubon Programs

### **Raptor Rapture 2013**

September 20, 2013, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Join in on the fun!! Spend a full day at the NYS Museum in Albany and see live birds of prey, hear interesting talks and view many educational displays. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Washington County Grasslands, the Albany State Museum, and the Audubon Society of the Capital Region. Save this date! Details to follow.

Free and Open to the Public.

## On Nature

### At Last

by Denise Hackert-Stoner and Scott Stoner

It was June first when I finally managed to carve out an hour to visit the herb garden at the Shaker site in Colonie. There was a wedding going on in the big white barn across the stream, and music wafted out of its open doors. Children chased one another on the lawn. People danced, some played a game of horseshoes. Unnoticed, I wandered from plant to plant during the first heat wave of the season.



**Plantain**



**Wild Blue Indigo**



**Chives**



**Daisies**

Of course the first flowers of spring had long past, the leaves of the Mayapple and Trillium reminders of the cold, gray April that now seemed so long ago. But the early summer flowers were hale and hardy, their heads bobbing gently in the barely-moving breeze; their scents lingering in the heavy air. Peony, Chamomile, Valeria, Comfrey; Viola, Sweet Clover, Indigo, Buttercup. Old-fashioned flowers; useful, beautiful.

I offer some of the best images from that visit now, but there is so much that I can share only memory and imagination: the fragrance of so many blooms mingled in the humid air; the sound of music from the barn bumping up against the clank of horseshoes; the fervor of this sweet season just underway.

For an hour I was lost in a world of flowers, my camera clicking away from every angle. It wasn't until sweat dripped into my eyes that I was aware of the intense heat. By then it was time to pack up. As I set my camera into its bag, the first lovely strains of Etta James singing "At Last" (the couple's first dance, perhaps?) curled around the garden. I stopped, listened, took a last look at the lusciousness all around me, and decided that after a long, gray winter and a cold, gray spring, I couldn't agree more.

Happy Birding to all,

Denise Hackert-Stoner and Scott Stoner

## Guy Bartlett Century Run *(continued)*

There were 37 species seen by all groups, and another 29 by all but one group and 19 seen by only one group, listed in the group summaries below. Every group, despite the size of its species list, contributed at least one species not seen by any other group, a total of 19 species, one to six per group. I wish to correct some information in last year's summary where I stated there were 60 species recorded in every year of the Century Run and another nine in all but one year. Those numbers should be 61 and 10 respectively.

Several species of warblers were among the better finds this year. The lone report of a GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER was the first in 19 years since 1999; while the BAY-BREASTED report was only the 6th in the past 16 years; the CERULEAN for the 20th time in 68 years; and the HOODED for the 9th time, 1st in 1948 then not again until 1999. Negatively, there was no Wilson's which has occurred in 36 of the 68 years, and no Pine Warbler which has been recorded in 56 of the 68 years, last time not reported was in 2004. The most conspicuous miss was no Purple Martin for the 1st time in 60 years.

Several reintroduced species continue to fare well attesting to the worth of these reintroduction programs. BALD EAGLE was recorded for the 10th consecutive year, PEREGRINE FALCON for the 14th consecutive year and WILD TURKEY for the 23rd consecutive year. And while not part of a reintroduction program, the COMMON RAVEN has increased locally to be recorded for the 22nd consecutive year; and the RED-BELLIED WOOD PECKER is now well established having been recorded for 29 consecutive years.

Listed below in the order received (mostly via email...another sign of the times) are the reports of the names of the participants, their times and places afield, as well as those species seen by only their group. Group reporters are marked with an asterisk.

Many thanks to all who participated, especially to those survivors of nearly 24 hours afield. One of these days, somebody or bodies will do a 24-hour count matching the rigor of the NJ Audubon Society's World Series of Birding.

**Group A** – Steve Chorvas, Jackie Bogardus and Larry Alden\*. Entirely in Albany Co.: Alcove and Basic Creek reservoirs, Thacher Park, Partridge Run, Cohoes Flats, Black Creek Marsh, Stanton Pond, downtown Albany, Knox and points in between, 02:30- 21:30, 126 species. AMERICAN BITTERN, WHITE-WINGED SCOTER, COOPER'S HAWK, WILSON'S SNIPE and CANADA WARBLER.

**Group B** – John Kent, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein and Tristan Lowery\*. Black Creek Marsh, Staat's Island, Schodack Island State Park and Cohoes Flats, 06:05-1400, 75 species. CERULEAN WARBLER.

**Group C** – Tom Williams\*. Colonie, Black Creek Marsh, Normans Kill farm, Thacher Park, Bear Swamp, Alcove Reservoir, Stanton Pond, Deer Mountain, Cohoes-Crescent, Saratoga Airport, Vischer Ferry and Ann Lee Pond, 05:00-20:30, 108 species. AMERICAN BLACK DUCK, GREATER YELLOWLEGS and HOODED WARBLER.

## Guy Bartlett Century Run *(continued)*

**Group D** – David Harrison\*. Entirely in Schenectady Co.: Glenville, Duaneburg, Featherstonehaugh State Forest, Mariaville Lake, Scotia, Collin’s Park/Lake; and Blatnick Park, Lock 7, Ferry Drive and Railroad Station Park all in Niskayuna, 01:25-21:30, 111 species. SCAUP spp, EASTERN SCREECH-OWL, GREAT HORNED OWL, ALDER FLYCATCHER, RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET and GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER.

**Group E** – David Gibson, John Blanchard, Kathleen LoGuidice, Christine Cameron and Carl George\*. Seventy acres at 603 Wagner Rd., Glenville, 06:30-20:00, 57 species. RUFFED GROUSE.

**Group F** – Bill Lee, Hank Stebbins, George Shaw, Nancy Slack and John Hershey\*. Watervliet Reservoir, Black Creek Marsh, Thacher Park, Cole Hill Forest, Basic Creek and Alcove reservoirs, Stanton Pond, Dunn Memorial Bridge, Cohoes Flats, Saratoga Airport, Saratoga Lake and Luther Forest Tech Park, 05:30- 21:00, 107 species. BUFFLEHEAD, BONAPARTE’S GULL and EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL.

Species	Group					
CANADA GOOSE	a	b	c	d	e	f
MUTE SWAN	a					f
WOOD DUCK	a	b	c	d	e	f
GADWALL	a		c			f
AMERICAN BLACK DUCK			c			
MALLARD	a	b	c	d		f
SCAUP SPP				d		
WHITE-WINGED SCOTER	a					
BUFFLEHEAD						f
COMMON MERGANSER	a		c	d		f
RUFFED GROUSE					e	
WILD TURKEY	a			d	e	f
COMMON LOON	a		c			f
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT	a		c	d		f
AMERICAN BITTERN	a					
LEAST BITTERN	a	b				
GREAT BLUE HERON	a	b	c	d		f
GREEN HERON	a	b	c			
TURKEY VULTURE	a	b	c	d	e	f
OSPREY				d		f
BALD EAGLE	a			d		f
NORTHERN HARRIER				d		f
COOPER’S HAWK	a					
BROAD-WINGED HAWK	a			d		f
RED-TAILED HAWK	a	b	c	d	e	f
AMERICAN KESTREL	a		c			

PEREGRINE FALCON	a					f
VIRGINIA RAIL	a	b	c	d		f
SORA	a	b	c	d		f
COMMON MOORHEN	a					f
SEMIPALMATED PLOVER	a		c			f
KILLDEER	a	b	c	d		f
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	a		c	d		f
SOLITARY SANDPIPER	a	b	c			f
GREATER YELLOWLEGS			c			
LEAST SANDPIPER	a	b	c			f
WILSON'S SNIPE	a					
AMERICAN WOODCOCK	a					f
BONAPARTE'S GULL						f
RING-BILLED GULL	a	b	c	d	e	f
HERRING GULL		b			e	f
GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL	a	b	c			f
BLACK TERN	a					f
ROCK PIGEON	a		c	d		f
MOURNING DOVE	a	b	c	d	e	f
BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO	a	b				
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL				d		
GREAT HORNED OWL				d		
BARRED OWL	a			d		
EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL						f
CHIMNEY SWIFT	a	b	c	d		f
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD	a	b	c		e	
BELTED KINGFISHER	a	b	c	d	e	f
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	a	b	c	d	e	f
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER	a		c	d	e	f
DOWNY WOODPECKER	a	b	c	d	e	f
HAIRY WOODPECKER	a		c	d	e	f
NORTHERN FLICKER	a	b	c	d	e	f
PILEATED WOODPECKER	a		c	d	e	f
EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE	a	b	c	d		f
ALDER FLYCATCHER				d		
WILLOW FLYCATCHER	a	b	c	d		f
LEAST FLYCATCHER	a	b	c	d		f
EASTERN PHOEBE	a		c	d	e	f
GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER	a	b	c	d	e	f
EASTERN KINGBIRD	a	b	c	d		f
YELLOW-THROATED VIREO	a	b	c	d		f

BLUE-HEADED VIREO	a		c	d		f
WARBLING VIREO	a	b	c	d		f
RED-EYED VIREO	a	b	c	d	e	f
BLUE JAY	a	b	c	d	e	f
AMERICAN CROW	a	b	c	d	e	f
FISH CROW	a	b				
COMMON RAVEN	a				e	f
HORNED LARK			c			f
TREE SWALLOW	a	b	c	d	e	f
NO. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW	a		c	d		f
BANK SWALLOW	a			d		
CLIFF SWALLOW	a		c			f
BARN SWALLOW	a	b	c	d		f
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	a	b	c	d	e	f
TUFTED TITMOUSE	a	b	c	d	e	f
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	a		c	d		f
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	a		c	d	e	
BROWN CREEPER	a		c	d		
CAROLINA WREN		b	c			
HOUSE WREN	a	b	c	d		f
WINTER WREN			c	d		
MARSH WREN	a	b	c	d		f
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER	a	b	c	d	e	
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	a					f
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET				d		
EASTERN BLUEBIRD	a		c	d		f
VEERY	a	b	c	d		f
SWAINSON'S THRUSH			c	d		
HERMIT THRUSH	a			d		
WOOD THRUSH	a	b	c	d	e	f
AMERICAN ROBIN	a	b	c	d	e	f
GRAY CATBIRD	a	b	c	d	e	f
NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD	a	b	c	d		f
BROWN THRASHER	a	b	c	d	e	f
EUROPEAN STARLING	a	b	c	d	e	f
BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	a	b		d	e	f
GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER				d		
TENNESSEE WARBLER				d		
NASHVILLE WARBLER	a	b		d		
NORTHERN PARULA	a	b				
YELLOW WARBLER	a	b	c	d	e	f
CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER	a	b	c	d	e	f

<b>MAGNOLIA WARBLER</b>	a	b		d		
<b>BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER</b>		b				
<b>YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER</b>	a		c	d	e	f
<b>BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER</b>	a		c	d	e	f
<b>BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER</b>	a		c	d		
<b>PRAIRIE WARBLER</b>	a		c	d		f
<b>BAY-BREASTED WARBLER</b>						f
<b>BLACKPOLL WARBLER</b>	a	b	c			
<b>CERULEAN WARBLER</b>		b				
<b>BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER</b>	a	b	c	d		f
<b>AMERICAN REDSTART</b>	a	b	c	d	e	f
<b>OVENBIRD</b>	a	b	c	d	e	f
<b>NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH</b>			c	d		
<b>LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH</b>	a			d		f
<b>COMMON YELLOWTHROAT</b>	a	b	c	d	e	f
<b>HOODED WARBLER</b>			c			
<b>CANADA WARBLER</b>	a					
<b>EASTERN TOWHEE</b>	a	b	c	d	e	f
<b>CHIPPING SPARROW</b>	a	b	c	d	e	f
<b>FIELD SPARROW</b>	a		c	d	e	
<b>Vesper Sparrow</b>	a		c			f
<b>Savannah Sparrow</b>	a		c	d		f
<b>Grasshopper Sparrow</b>			c	d		f
<b>Song Sparrow</b>	a	b	c	d	e	f
<b>Swamp Sparrow</b>	a	b	c	d		f
<b>White-throated Sparrow</b>	a		c	d	e	
<b>Eastern White-cr. Sparrow</b>	a		c			
<b>Dark-eyed Junco</b>	a		c	d		f
<b>Northern Cardinal</b>	a	b	c	d	e	f
<b>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</b>	a	b	c	d	e	
<b>Indigo Bunting</b>	a		c	d	e	
<b>Bobolink</b>	a		c	d		f
<b>Red-winged Blackbird</b>	a	b	c	d	e	f
<b>Eastern Meadowlark</b>	a		c	d		f
<b>Common Grackle</b>	a	b	c	d	e	f
<b>Brown-headed Cowbird</b>	a	b	c	d	e	f
<b>Orchard Oriole</b>			c	d		
<b>Baltimore Oriole</b>	a	b	c	d	e	f
<b>Purple Finch</b>	a			d		
<b>House Finch</b>	a		c	d		f
<b>Pine Siskin</b>	a			d	e	

American Goldfinch	a	b	c	d	e	f
House Sparrow	a		c	d	e	f

## Upcoming Field Trips

### AUGUST

#### August 21- August 31 COUNTING COMMON NIGHTHAWKS (Albany County; evening)

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

The Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) is a member of the “goatsucker” group that also includes whip-poor-wills. It is an aerial insectivore that feeds on the wing at dusk and dawn. It has a notched tail and long, slender, pointed wings with white patches on the primaries. They breed throughout much of North America, although they may be in decline as they are no longer observed during the summer in many urban and suburban areas. They are one of the last birds to arrive at their breeding grounds in spring, and one of the first to leave in late summer. Common Nighthawks migrate up to 6,000 miles, arriving on their wintering grounds in South America by October.

In the Capital Region, the bulk of migration is seen from mid-August until early September; the peak is often centered around August 24-25th. Continuing an informal project that was begun in 2012, we will observe the skies each evening (weather permitting) between the 21<sup>st</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> 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, which is located on Rt. 155 (New Karner Road) in Albany. Bring a chair and binoculars. We will begin each night at 6:30 p.m.

#### Sunday, August 25 PEBBLES ISLAND STATE PARK / COHOES FLATS (Saratoga/Albany Counties; morning)

Coordinator: John Hershey 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 some of the migrant warblers. The river area and rocky flats around the island are usually good for Peregrine Falcon, Osprey, Bald Eagle as well as sandpipers, yellowlegs, 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 I-787 going north, turn right onto Route 470 (Ontario Street) in Cohoes. Then turn left onto Clark Ave. and proceed to the end.

### SEPTEMBER

#### Saturday, September 7 HUYCK PRESERVE / MYOSOTIS LAKE (Albany County; morning)

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

Join us to search for migrant shorebirds and songbirds around Myosotis Lake, at the Huyck Preserve near the hamlet of Rensselaerville. The lake's level usually drops in late summer, exposing the mudflats that attract migrant shorebirds, and in some years American Pipits. We may have to walk on the mudflats to get good looks at the birds, so come prepared to walk in soft mud. After searching the shoreline, we will walk some of the trails through the surrounding hardwood-hemlock forest, which often hosts a good variety of migrant warblers, vireos and other songbirds in early September. Aside from one steep section, the trails are fairly level, but they are uneven in places and may be muddy.

Meet at 8 a.m. at the New Scotland Town Hall on State Route 85 in New Scotland. We will carpool to the preserve from there. E-mail the coordinator if you plan to attend – [jwkent@fastmail.fm](mailto:jwkent@fastmail.fm)

**Saturday, September 14 HAWK WATCHING AND SONGBIRDS IN THE HELDERBERG ESCARPMENT #1 – PINNACLE MT.**

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

We'll first explore the trails of Camp Pinnacle for fall migrants, then head out to "Sunset" the hawk watching site to search the skies for Broad-winged Hawks and other migrating raptors.

Meet in front of the bank at the southwest corner of Routes 20 and 155 in Guilderland at 8:00 a.m.

**Sunday, September 15 SEPTEMBER SCRAMBLE AT FIVE RIVERS** (Albany County; all day)

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

Don

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

How many species of birds can we observe in one September day at Five Rivers? You are invited to help us find the answer. Come on down to the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar on Sunday, Sept 15, 2013. Walk the trails; Explore the ponds, fields, marshes, woodlands; Check in with the event coordinators at the north pavilion at any time. There are benches and picnic tables if you would prefer to do some birdwatching while seated. Bird checklists will be available there for you to record your results. Turn in your checklist(s) when you have finished or email results to the coordinators if you wish. Contact the coordinators if you can volunteer for some time at the pavilion. See you there for a day of birding!

"The Scramble" will begin at 7 a.m. and end at 5 p.m.

**Saturday, September 21 HAWK WATCHING AND SONGBIRDS IN THE HELDERBERG ESCARPMENT #2 - HIGH POINT**

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

We will bird our way out to the hawk watching area, looking for migrating passerines along the 1.5 mile trail out to High Point in Thatcher

Park. There we will look for Broad-winged Hawks and other migrating raptors.

Meet in front of the bank at the southwest corner of Routes 20 and 155 in Guilderland at 8:00 a.m.

**Sunday, September 22 SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AND BATTLEFIELD** (Saratoga County; morning)

Coordinators: Ellen Pemrick 882-9163 [lmnp@nycap.rr.com](mailto:lmnp@nycap.rr.com)

Marne Onderdonk 583-8841 [marne-esq@nycap.rr.com](mailto:marne-esq@nycap.rr.com)

This popular trip features beautiful foliage and a good chance of hawks, woodpeckers, sparrows, bluebirds and late migrants as we walk the woods and grasslands of the battlefield. You never know what will turn up. Please note that a fee is charged to walk the Wilkinson Trail, payable at the visitor center.

Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot near the park's visitor center off SR 32.

**October**

**Saturday, October 5 WOODLAWN PRESERVE** (Schenectady County; morning)

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

The Woodlawn Preserve is located in the Southeast corner of Schenectady County abutting the western edge of the Pine

Bush. The area contains a flood control pond, forested sand dunes and general wetland habitat. Trips in prior years have seen migrating warblers and sparrows. The pond may attract various waterfowl.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in front of Barnes & Noble in Mohawk Commons at the corner of State Street and Balltown Road (State St side). We will carpool the short distance to the preserve.

**Sunday, October 6 FIVE RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER** (Albany County; morning)

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

We'll walk about 2 miles over generally flat terrain with some small hills, passing through a variety of habitats. Previous trips have come up with 6 species of sparrows and 5 species of woodpeckers as well as both species of kinglets. Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Wood Duck and perhaps other waterfowl may be present. Wet grass and muddy spots may be encountered.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot by the visitor center.

**Saturday, October 26 COLLINS LAKE** (Schenectady County; morning)

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

We will visit Collins Lake for late migrating waterfowl from the beach and the east side of the lake. We will also take a walk going east along the north side of the Mohawk River for fall sparrows. Fox Sparrows have been seen in previous years. Foliage will be off of the trees to make finding LBJ's (Little Brown Jobs) a bit easier.

Meet at Jumpin' Jacks in Scotia at 8:00 a.m. Bring a scope if you have one.

***Feathers***

**Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club**

**c/o Five Rivers EEC**

**Game Farm Road**

**Delmar, NY 12054**