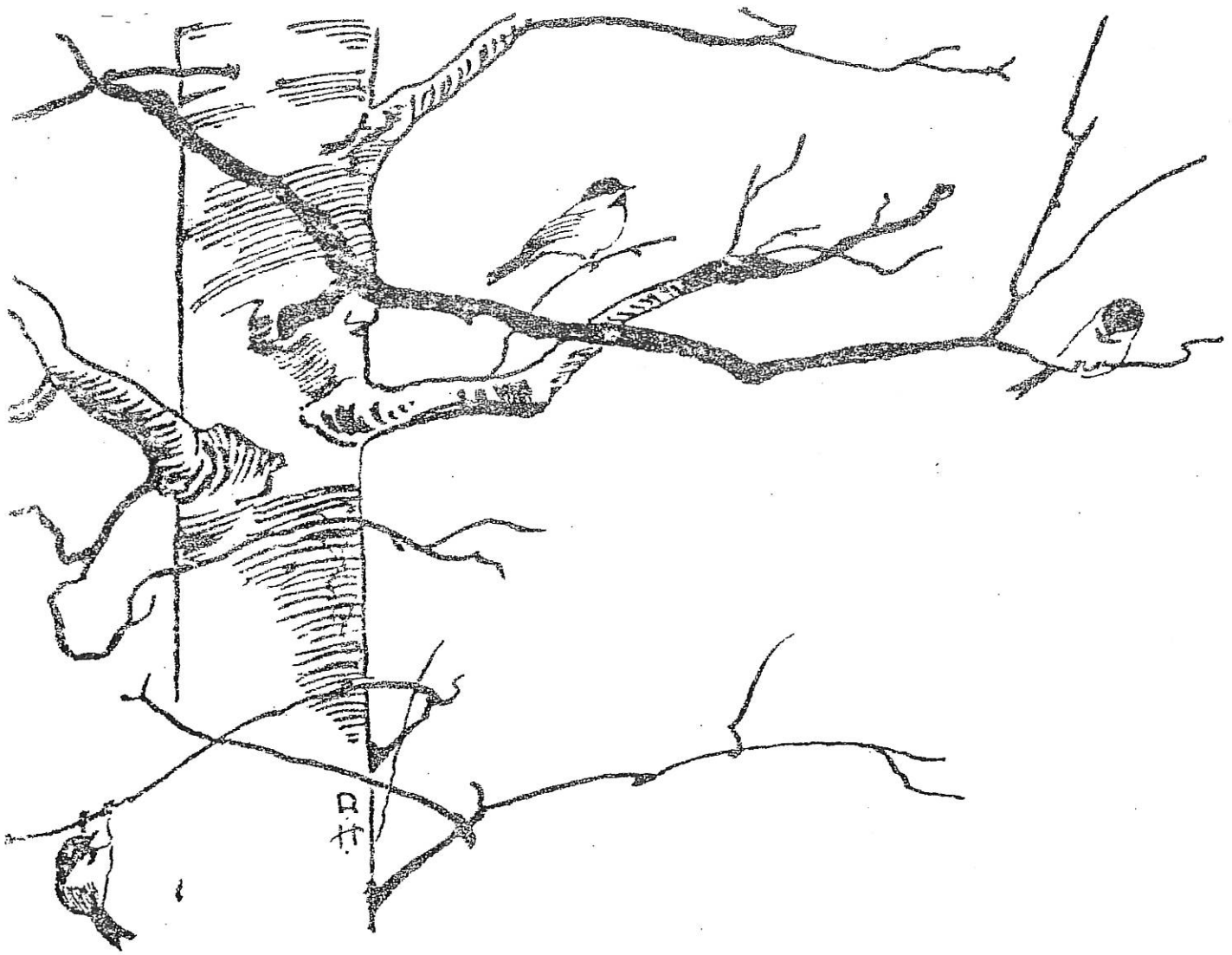


# THE ORANGE FEATHER



*Orange County, New York*

2017 – Fall/Winter

**THE ORANGE FEATHER**

A publication of  
EDGAR A. MEARN'S BIRD CLUB

Orange County, New York

**2017 OFFICERS**

President – Curt McDermott, 549-5596  
Vice-President – Karen Miller, 346-0595  
Secretary – Kathleen Ashman, 294-6140  
Treasurer – Linda Strohl, 496-3021

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Well, we certainly have been busy as a club, scouring the county, state and northeast, since last I wrote. Our members have been exhibiting their discovery skills and honing their identification skills. We do have a pretty skilled nucleus of members out there, finding rare stuff and travelling to see the rarities that others have found. In this Presidents message, I have decided to review what has transpired since the last Orange Feather.

Shortly after the last Feather, members Karen Miller, Scott Baldinger and John Haas travelled to Oswego Harbor and successfully saw a previously reported Clarks Grebe. In March, many of us travelled north to Keene, NY to see one or more of the several Great Gray Owls reported there. Locally, Linda Scrima, this year's local hotshot, was out beating the bushes, when she located a Summer Tanager on May 9<sup>th</sup> at Laurel Grove Cemetery. The bird remained for 2 days, although proving to be elusive. On May 12<sup>th</sup>, that same cemetery was hopping with Cape May warblers and provided the best views that many have had in many years. May 13<sup>th</sup> found the Fitzpatricks at the Hamptonburgh Preserve. While there, they found a White eyed Vireo, which remained through break 100 and was seen by several teams. On May 14<sup>th</sup>, Matt Zeitler had 2 very uncommon spring Dunlin at the Camel Farm. On May 18<sup>th</sup>, Mearns VP Karen Miller had a Prothonotary Warbler vocalizing in the morning and evening along the Linear Park. On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Judy Cinquina found a Yellow-breasted Chat in Sterling Forest. On May 20<sup>th</sup>, a sub adult Lesser Black backed Gull was found at the Newburgh Waterfront by the Break 100 team of Karen Miller, Jeff Goulding, John Haas and Matt Zeitler. This marked the first time in Mearns record keeping history, that an immature of the species, has ever been ID'd in Orange County. On May 20, Karen Maloy Brady found a Dickcissel at the Shawangunk Grasslands, which was enjoyed by Hundreds, over an extended period of time. On May 21<sup>st</sup>, Linda Scrima had 2

Yellow-breasted Chat on Winding Waters Trail. On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, a Henslow's Sparrow was located at the Shawangunk Grasslands, by folks going to see the Dickcissel. In the days following, Peter Relson of the Burroughs Club also recorded a photo of a beautiful spring Nelson's Sparrow along the same path. It makes you think about how much we miss. On May 26<sup>th</sup>, Jodi Brodsky was at the Grasslands for the Dickcissel and Henslow's and upon leaving, found 40 Dowitcher (sp.) on Bates Lane. See how that works?! On May 26<sup>th</sup>, John Haas reported S.b. Dowitcher and White-rumped Sandpiper at the Apollo Plaza. Later that day, Scott Baldinger reported a total of 9 species of shorebirds in Sullivan. In addition to John's post, highlights were Dunlin and B.B. Plover as well. On May 30<sup>th</sup>, Matt Zeitler spotted 2 Red necked Phalarope at the Camel Farm, which with more eyes over the next day, turned into 2 R.N. Phalarope and a Wilson's Phalarope. On June 4<sup>th</sup>, a Cattle Egret was seen by many on Bates Lane. On June 7<sup>th</sup>, a Breeding Plumage Black Tern was found by Linda Scrima at Oil City Rd. On June 29<sup>th</sup>, a second local Dickcissel was found by Rob Stone on Indiana Rd. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, a Forster's Tern was found by guess who...Linda Scrima, on Oil City Road. On July 13<sup>th</sup>, an unbelievable 5 White Ibis were posted to e-bird, as having been seen for a couple of days on Gibson Hill Rd. On July 15<sup>th</sup> two Blue Grosbeak were seen on Indiana Rd., by Ken and Curt McDermott. A single bird was originally seen at this location by Rob Stone. At least two birds were later seen here by John Haas and others. On July 16<sup>th</sup>, Rob Stone, having just returned from vacation, went to Wickham Lake with his son Anthony and their dog and promptly waved his wand, making the Ibis reappear. These birds were enjoyed by several members over the next two days. On July 24<sup>th</sup>, a Snowy Egret was found at the Citgo Pond. On August 5<sup>th</sup> a Little Blue Heron was discovered at Oil City Rd. and remains. On August 10<sup>th</sup>, a White winged Tern showed up in Northeastern Pa. This BEAUTIFUL rarity was seen by several Mearns members.

Thank you all for keeping your eyes open and for keeping us all informed. A special Thanks to Warren Cairo for suggesting the "What's App" telephone App. Additional thanks to Jeff Goulding for following up on that idea and making it a reality and to its administrators for maintaining its access. We now have club wide accessibility to up to the minute reports on sightings. This has been a very valuable tool. Thank you to Linda Strohl for again spearheading another successful club picnic on June 10<sup>th</sup>. This year's event was very well attended and featured many delicious food selections. As always, it was great to share time and stories with friends. On a personal note, I was able to query many of our photographers about camera trouble I was having. I am pleased to say that as a result of that, I am back in business. Yes, it was a formatting issue...Thank you.

Thank you to all the Committee Chairpersons and club officers. Because of you all, we have a wonderful club that we all get to enjoy. Lastly, thank you so much Jan Fitzpatrick for making this publication possible. Your effort and patience do not go unnoticed. Only the patience of a School Teacher could deal with my timeline. For those who didn't notice, I mention sightings that happened after August 10<sup>th</sup>, while all of our reports were due by the 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to Karen Miller, for your work with the online version, which many now enjoy and to Lynn Barber who creates the address labels so that the paper version can be sent out. I am sure I have accidentally forgotten someone. Please forgive me.

See you all in the field and lets have an equally successful and enjoyable fall and winter. Good Birding.

Curt McDermott

\*\*\*\*\*

#### MEMBERSHIP

As of July our Club has a membership of 150 birders. At this time we would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members: Richard Ellis, Salisbury Mills; Rose Mary Cella, Chester; Gregg Kroner, Bloomingburg; Patrick Dechon, Grahamsville; Jim Schlickerrieder, Butler, NJ; Andrew Schuyler, Walden; Linda Scrima; Michael Sparks and Christine Koenig, Chester; and Shannon Kenney and Colm Connell, Cornwall. We look forward to meeting you at our fall Club meetings and having you along on our many upcoming field trips.

Linda Strohl

\*\*\*\*\*

#### MEETINGS

Fall meetings are at Kenridge Farm and winter meetings are at the Washingtonville Middle School Library. All meetings begin at 7:30 PM.

9/11/17: Alan Wells – Birding Cuba

10/09/17: Roundtable: Birding Tour Groups

11/13/17: Dr. Liz Cherry – “For the Birds: Protecting Wildlife though the Naturalist Gaze”

01/08/18: Carol Weiss – Birding Jamaica

02/11/18: no meeting

03/12/18: TBA

Alan Wells

\*\*\*\*\*



## FIELD TRIPS PAST

Hudson River Ramble – February 25 – Gerhard Patsch, Leader – We had a mild day for our February Hudson River Hunt. Like last year there was no ice or snow in sight. The Beacon waterfront, by the train station, was our first stop. The sun was at our backs and visibility was excellent. We quickly spotted a couple of Buffleheads among the ever present Mallards and Canada Geese. Ring-billed, Herring and Great Black backed Gulls were observed, as expected, along with Song Sparrows, Fish Crow and Killdeer. Heading south our next stop was Madam Brett Park, where a short walk gave us some nice sightings of Golden-crowned Kinglets, Eastern Bluebirds, White-throated Sparrows, Downy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers and a couple of Common Mergansers. We continued to Breakneck Mountain where we hoped to spot a Golden Eagle. The group enjoyed the beautiful scenery of the Hudson Highlands and excellent sightings of Bald Eagles, Peregrines, Red-tails and Black Vultures, but no Golden Eagle this time. We continued south along the river with stops at Iona Island/Bear Mountain overlook, Peekskill Bay, Verplank Point and Croton Point Park. Along the way we had sightings of Common Ravens, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, several Bald Eagles and the expected Great Cormorants. Our route covered good waterfowl habitat, but duck numbers were very low compared to past winters. We did find American Black Ducks, Mallards, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Common Goldeneye, Buffleheads and Common Mergansers, but only in single digits. Other highlights included: Red-shouldered Hawk, a Hairy Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle. Saving the best for last, our glamour bird of the day was a beautiful red-phase Eastern Screech Owl, sunning itself in a tree hollow at Croton Point Park. Sixteen members and friends participated in tallying 50 species for the day.

Black dirt – March 4 – Joe Cullen, Leader – Ten members met today to bird the Black Dirt region of Orange County. It was cold and windy. When we started the temperature was in the high teens and never rose above freezing during the trip and the wind made it feel much colder. On Skinners Lane birds were scarce with only two Northern Harriers seen foraging over the fields. Along the road through the old “Warren’s Sod Farm” we found scattered flocks of Horned Larks, but the numbers were down quite a bit from the last trip. A large bird was seen soaring in the distance, unfortunately most of us did not see the bird, but Barry and Bob both got a view of it and thought it was an adult Golden Eagle, a very good bird for this trip. Large flocks of Common Grackles were seen in several places and in one flock we saw on pale, buffy, leucistic individual. On Breezy Hill Road we found a group of Killdeer in one of the pastures. Further down on Lynch Road we saw a good mix of sparrows, including Savannah and several White-crowns. We ended the trip at the platform at Oil City Road where we saw a lone Snow Goose among a large flock of Canada Geese. There were also several Green-winged Teal and Northern Pintails among the geese. Overall, the total count for the trip was 43 species seen. We then went, as usual, to get some lunch at the Harvest Inn, most welcome after such a cold and blustery morning.

Rye Playland & Oakland Beach – March 11 – Jodi Brodsky, Leader – It was a VERY cold day. We saw the expected waterfowl including Northern Shovelers and Green-winged Teal. The boardwalk near the skating rink was covered with snow and ice so we only walked out partway. Thanks to ebird, we were alerted to a few owls that had been seen roosting in Greenwich Park. Last year when we went to Greenwich the place was packed with people so I was not very optimistic. However, our extra miles, frozen fingers and windblown faces were greatly rewarded. In the back of the Holly Grove 5 Long-eared Owls were roosting together in one tree. It was a spectacular sight. On the way out, another birder pointed out a Northern Saw-whet Owl perched low in an evergreen tree right next to the parking lot. As always it was a pleasure to spend the day birding with friends.

Bashakill – March 18 – Jeff Goulding, Leader – cancelled due to weather

Oil City Road – March 25 – Kathy Ashman, Leader – Eleven members gathered at the Wallkill River NWR platform at 8:30 AM on a damp overcast morning for our first field trip after the Spring Equinox. Several Canada Geese were feeding in the grass on both sides of the Liberty Loop Trail as we arrived and Song Sparrows could be heard singing. As usual, a Red-tailed Hawk was perched on the wires overlooking the road and the refuge. As I stood on the platform a Beautiful Rough-legged Hawk flew low along the western side of the refuge. We were fortunate in that the water level was high due to the recent heavy snow and spring rains. Green-winged Teal could be seen at the back of the impoundment in front of the platform, but the majority of the waterfowl were hidden among the marsh grasses. Fortunately a Northern Harrier flying over the marsh put up the large numbers of Northern Pintail. Bob spotted an American Kestrel perched in a small tree out in the marsh. We decided to walk up Liberty Lane rather than walk the Loop as the trail was still snow covered. From the trail we could much more easily observe the Pintails and everyone was able to get good looks at the birds. We estimated that there were at least 600 Northern Pintail on the New York side of the refuge. Additional waterfowl present were American Black Duck and Mallard. A pair of Red-tailed Hawks were seen sitting together in a tree. A flock of Red-winged Blackbirds and American Robins were clustered together in another nearby tree. We spotted a dark phase Rough-legged Hawk perched in a tree at close range and everyone got good looks at the bird. Then to our delight a second Rough-legged Hawk flew in to take its place, but this one was a light phase. Other notable sightings were a pair of Common Mergansers flying overhead and a Tree Swallow. From Liberty Loop we drove to Owen Station Road on the Sussex, New Jersey side of the refuge. On the drive over several members spotted a Pileated Woodpecker flying over the road. On the lake were 11 American Coots swimming with American Wigeon. Additional waterfowl on the pond were Ring-necked Ducks and Hooded Mergansers. Jodi spotted a solitary Ruddy Duck on the far side of the pond as well as a couple more Tree Swallows. A Great Blue Heron flew overhead and Killdeer were calling and flying around the area. Mary spotted a Northern Mockingbird. Because Barry and Bob had heard the call of a Wilson's Snipe from the area on the opposite side of the road we decided to walk up the trail to the south impoundment of the Liberty Loop. Along the way we spotted several Eastern Phoebe, an Eastern Bluebird and several Rusty Blackbirds. We flushed five Wilson's Snipe as we walked the trail.

As we reached the impoundment Mary, Patrick and I heard the distinctive call of the Pied-billed Grebe. Large numbers of Ring-necked Ducks were present as well as Northern Pintail and a number of Wood Ducks flew past us. A Red-shouldered Hawk was perched along the trail with its back to us. It flew a short distance and all were able to get good looks at its banded tail. After returning to our cars we headed to the Harvest Inn to eat. After lunch several people left for the day, however six of us decided to continue the trip by going to Wickham Lake and two decided to head to the black dirt in hopes of locating a Lapland Longspur. Enroute to Wickham Woodland we stopped briefly at the Warwick Town Hall. A majority of the ducks present were Ring-necks, but we did find four Gadwall swimming among them. At Wickham Lake there were 150 Common Mergansers, but as usual they were on the far side of the lake. Three Double-crested Cormorants flew in while we were there, and a few Bufflehead were also present. Next we drove to Glenmere Lake in hopes of spotting a loon or a grebe. As we traveled along Route 94 we spotted some Black Vultures perched atop a silo. We paused briefly at the Pine Hill Road beaver pond, but it was still mostly frozen and we did not see anything new there. As we pulled in at Glenmere Mary spotted an adult Bald Eagle flying over the water. The waterfowl were once again at a distance, but we did see Ring-necked Ducks, Bufflehead, Common Mergansers and Wood Ducks. At this point we decided to call it a day. While exiting the park I spotted two small ducks in the lake close to the road. On observation they were Ruddy Ducks a female and a transitional plumage male. Bob called me later to say that he and Rob had Eastern Meadowlarks on Missionlands Road and 25 Snow Geese behind Debuck's Sod Farm. We ended the day at 2:00 PM with a total of 62 species of birds, and 16 species of waterfowl. Temperature range was 37 to 46 degrees with calm to light winds. Though it remained damp and overcast, we only encountered a few sprinkles along the way. Birds of the day: Rough-legged Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Tree Swallows, Eastern Phoebe, Wilson's Snipe, and Northern Pintail (due to their sheer numbers). It was a wonderful outing and definitely beat the numbers we had on last year's trip.

Eastern Orange lakes – April 1 – Linda Strohl, Leader – Today's trip started at the popular Walmart pond with 9 birders on this chilly morning. While there, a breeding Great Egret was observed and admired by all. Also seen were Bufflehead, Gadwall, Hooded Merganser, Great Blue Heron, Tree Swallows, Hairy Woodpecker and the ever present Ring-billed Gulls. Onto Washington Lake for an April Fools' Day episode. While turning his car around, good ol' Bob drove into a ditch and his car held fast. Thanks to the help of our "muscle men", Bob was freed and subjected to many humorous comments about his driving 'skills' throughout the day. Common Mergansers, Herring Gull, Pied-billed Grebe, a passing Cooper's Hawk and a Common Loon were at this spot. At Orange Lake we added Ruddy Duck, Lesser Scaup, more Bufflehead, 2 more Common Loons, and 2 Bald Eagles. The Gardnertown Marsh gave us Dark-eyed Junco, Eastern Phoebe, Northern Pintail and Eastern Bluebird. While traveling around another part of Orange Lake we added Fox Sparrow and Horned Grebe. At the Route 207 swamp we observed Mute Swan, Ring-necked Duck, another eagle, American Coot and Wood Duck. Beaver Dam Lake had a good variety of both waterfowl and land birds including: Double-crested Cormorant, another loon, Ruddy Ducks (some in full breeding plumage), and Red-tailed Hawks. In the distance we could see ice still on the tree tops. Wild

Turkeys were seen enroute to Brown's Pond. By noon it was time to stop for a delicious lunch at the Neptune Diner. Afterward, some of us continued our search. Four Sandhill Cranes were seen in Montgomery to complete our day's field trip. 59 species were tallied and the spring birding season was well on its way.

Shawangunk Grasslands – April 1 – Tom and Jane, Leaders – We met at 6:30 PM which allowed us time to spot Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers. We counted five harriers, two of them males. At least one Short-eared Owl was perched on a nearby fence post and nicely seen. A second owl may have been present as well. Some early migrants seen included Red-winged Blackbirds, a Common Grackle and a Great Blue Heron flying north. A flock of 15 American Robins were on the south edge of the grasslands and a Black Vulture flew overhead. The weather was cool and brisk. Eventually we moved to the entrance road in hopes of seeing the woodcock display flights there, and we were not disappointed. In fact, we were in for a treat this year. We started to hear woodcock calls from near the pond, spring peepers were beginning to call, and the breeze was dying down, when we spotted our first American Woodcock in flight. We heard and saw at least seven more flights, most of which we were able to follow through to the finish. The group spread out along the entrance road and a gap developed. During one flight two woodcocks took off and flew in formation like fighter jets at head heights through the gap in the group. Another sighting started with a woodcock that was calling from the mowed edge of the entrance road. We could see it before it took off on a well observed flight. We watched this great show until dark. 16 species were seen and 14 members attended.

Rye/Marshlands – April 8 – Jodi Brodsky, Leader – Jodi led and Bob Slechta submitted the report. It was a good choice to start at Marshlands Conservancy as the terrain provided us some protection from yet another windy day. We headed to the marsh first thing and had nice sightings of Common and Red-throated Loons, 4 American Oystercatchers, 4 Northern Gannets, lots of Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Brant, one Horned Grebe, Snowy Egret, several Great Egrets, some Double-crested Cormorants and Red-breasted Mergansers, plus 4 Osprey who provided us with some spectacular aerial acrobatics. The trip to and from the marsh through the woods and field presented us with a completely different mix of birds. Highlights were: Wild Turkey, Tree Swallow, American Kestrel, Eastern Phoebe, Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren (seen poking about on a rotted log), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated and Field Sparrows. As you can see we had a very nice mix of birds at the Marshlands. We still had some time, so off to Playland we went for a few more goodies. How about 40 plus Horned Grebes! Many in breeding plumage! Other highlights were Long-tailed Ducks, 3 Black-crowned Night Herons, Common Raven, a lone Great Cormorant, plus some more Red-breasted Mergansers, Oystercatchers, Common Loons, and some very close Red-throated Loons. Playland also probably produced the nature moment of the day as we were all enthralled watching a Double-crested Cormorant down an eel and try to keep it down. The eel, being very flexible, made several almost successful attempts to escape the cormorant's throat to no avail in the end. It was a good trip with lots of new and different birds to see as spring started to take hold putting birds on the move. Jodi did a great job leading our trip and I'm sure everyone had a good time especially with a tally of 62 species.



Oil City Road – April 12 – Kathy Ashman, Leader – Six members met at the Liberty Loop platform at 8:30 AM. After birding at the platform, we drove to Owens Station and walked from there into the southern impoundment. The morning was overcast and cool with occasional light rain and drizzle. Waterfowl highlights included: Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Ducks, Green-winged Teal and Common Merganser. The only shorebirds seen were two Killdeer. Other birds of note were: Bald Eagle, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Phoebe, Tree and Barn Swallow, and both Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets. The only warbler seen was a Palm Warbler. The temperature range was 55 to 57 degrees. Winds were calm. Despite the weather conditions we had a good morning of birding with a total of 54 species seen.

Bashakill – April 22 – Joyce Depew, Leader – The day began at 8:45 AM under cloudy conditions with spurts of drizzle which continued throughout the day. 8 people participated and we began at the Stop Sign Trail working our way through to the South Road boat launch, the Nature Trail and the Deli fields. The absolute “bird of the day” was a WHITE-WINGED SCOTER which showed up out in the channel waters of the Bashakill along the short spur leading left from the entrance of the Nature Trail. While I was the one who located that bird, I couldn’t ID it because I wasn’t thinking about the possibility of this bird showing up in Sullivan County, far away from ocean water! I do not get to the ocean enough either! Thankfully, Bob, Barry and Joe agreed on the identity of the bird and we invited a few other members via phone to come and view it while it was still there and Bob had the scope on it. Our excursion included a short trip to Fancher Davidge Park in Middletown after lunch where 5 of us observed: Yellow-rumped Warbler, BLUE-HEADED VIREO, HERMIT THRUSH and Eastern Bluebird. No Red-headed Woodpeckers have been seen this year in the park. I hope that they return. We had an additional 55 species seen including Bald Eagle, swallows, kinglets, 3 warblers, and 5 species of sparrows.

6 ½ Station Road – April 29 – Karen Miller, Leader – Our morning started with a cloud covering but it was warm and later actually a bit on the muggy side. Twenty three Mearns members birded the Heritage Trail on both sides of 6 ½ Station Road. We picked up most of the regulars, including a few Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers, 15 Yellow-rumped Warblers, Swamp Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, American Goldfinches and 4 woodpecker species. We were also happy to get 3 Green Herons, 2 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 8 Gray Catbirds, 8 Yellow Warblers and 5 Common Yellowthroats. Our best birds of the trip were a Scarlet Tanager, 4 Baltimore Orioles, 1 Orchard Oriole, 4 Solitary Sandpipers, a Blue-headed and a Yellow-throated Vireo and a Great Crested Flycatcher. I always enjoy the trail across the road, which is more isolated but is a very pretty walk. At times, it seemed very quiet and then we would hear an oriole sing or the Great Crested Flycatcher call. I’m always disappointed when we miss the Barred Owl, but that was left for our next visit. As the migrating birds are returning north, we considered this to be a decent morning of birding that resulted in a list of 56 species. Thank you to all who joined us!

Stewart State Forest – May 3 – Bill Fiero, Leader – Five Mearnsers made a foray into the forest to check for migrants and the usual residents. It was cool and moderately breezy. We started at the Weed Road entrance and followed a road to the right that took us from forest into open fields and scrub areas. Highlights were good views of Rose-breasted Grosbeak and some of the many Blue-winged Warblers that were present throughout. Moving to the Ridge Road northern entrance and Maple Lane to scope out the wetlands there, we had over a hundred Tree Swallows with a few Barn Swallows and a single Purple Martin. A pair of Common Gallinules seen from the Maple Lane east parking lot were a nice surprise. A single Osprey was seen from Maple Lane. Continuing down Ridge Road, we had the usual resident birds and some returning breeders, such as Eastern Kingbird, Veery, Wood Thrush, many Yellow Warblers and Common Yellowthroats, Ovenbird, Black and White Warbler, House Wren and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Four Solitary Sandpipers were seen at the marsh. A surprise was that neither Field Sparrow (which we attributed to the wind) nor Green Heron were seen. Altogether we had 56 species with the aforementioned highlights, (list available on eBird) and enjoyed good birding camaraderie. Stewart is a very productive area, and is probably underbirded. There are many habitats there, and it's a good place to spend a birdy morning.

Storm King Art Center – May 6 - Bob Slechta, Leader – Sixty four species! That's the most we've ever had at the Art Center including eleven warbler species. Unfortunately many of the birds tallied were only heard as it was very hard to locate them in the fully leafed-out trees. Our warbler list included: Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Blue-winged, Black and White, Nashville, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Prairie and Black-throated Green. While we enjoyed our walk on the unique and picturesque grounds other birds of note seen were: Green Heron, Osprey, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-headed Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Kingbird, Veery, Swainson's and Wood Thrushes, Eastern Towhee, Field and White-throated Sparrows, Scarlet Tanager and Orchard and Baltimore Orioles. After a trip like today's I'm looking forward to our fall trip here with high expectations.

Doodletown – May 7 – Alan and Della Wells, Leaders – After nearly a week of unseasonably cool, cloudy, rainy weather, a brief window of clarity opened up on Sunday morning. Rain was predicated for that evening, but we were anticipating a beautiful, albeit cool, morning of spring weather. Initially air temperature was 48 degrees with winds peaking at 7 mph from the south. Della and I arrived about 20 minutes before the 8:00 AM start time and found Bruce and Jodi already there. As we stood at the 9W pull off talking, we heard a Blue-winged Warbler singing from the trees bordering Salisbury Meadow. Bruce and Jodi eventually located the singer and were surprised to find that it was a Golden-winged Warbler. At 8:00 AM the 11 participants (9+2 leaders) followed the steep dirt trail on then north side of Doodletown Brook up to Doodletown Road. Along the way, we passed two pure white pigeons; these perched birds were likely homing pigeons that had been bred for release at weddings and funerals. At least one of the pigeons was seen at the same location on May 1. Homing instinct gone awry? Once to Doodletown Road, we followed it up Gray's Hill to the Reservoir. Along the entire distance we were engulfed in a surround-sound serenade of singing American Redstart,

Blue-winged, Hooded and Cerulean Warblers, Red-eyed, Warbling and Yellow-throated Vireos, Baltimore Orioles and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. But despite the symphony, we actually saw very few of the singers. At the Reservoir, Della was able to pick out a stealthy Green Heron amongst the *Phragmites*. Past the Reservoir we proceeded up Pleasant Valley Road where we encountered more Hooded and Cerulean Warblers along with several Rose-breasted Grosbeak and several stunning Scarlet Tanagers. We went as far as the "Orchard" before deciding to turn around. By now clouds were starting to build and winds increased to a peak of about 14 mph from the SW. Temperatures remained low, only about 51 degrees. Earlier in the day we had heard a report of a Canada Warbler and several Worm-eating Warblers further up Doodletown Road so we headed over to the reported location. We struck out on the Canada but got decent looks at a trio of Worm-eating Warblers having a major territorial dispute. With the deteriorating weather, we headed back down to the Reservoir with the intention of checking out Lemmon Road. A Kentucky Warbler makes an appearance along the road in some years. But by the time we reached Lemmon Road, it was starting to rain lightly, and since we had not heard of any reports of a Kentucky Warbler, we decided to continue down Doodletown Road to our cars. In a last ditch effort to add a few more species, we did a quick drive-by of the platform overlooking the marsh restoration work taking place at Iona Island. While we were hoping for rails, Sora and bittern, none were to be had. We were, however, rewarded with several species for the trip list, including: Marsh Wren, Solitary Sandpiper, Eastern Bluebird and Field Sparrow. Della located what we finally decided was a first year Bald Eagle sitting in a bare tree on the opposite side of the marsh. We ended at 12:50 PM. In all, we tallied 52 species in Doodletown and 14 species at Iona Island. Over the course of the morning we walked approximately 3.2 miles at the Doodletown. While at Iona Island all observations were from a single stationary location. With both locations combined we tallied 62 species. The complete trip lists and photos can be found on eBird: Doodletown:

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/536634077> and Iona Island:

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/536630606>.

Goosepond – May 10 – Bill Iannone, Leader – In the previous days before the trip the weather was cool and it continued this day with a mix of sun and clouds. Unfortunately for Gerhard, he didn't wear his jacket. We had 8 members who counted 65 species visiting a trio of good birding spots. For the early birds we met at the boardwalk on Route 17M at 7:30 AM and moved on to the trail off Laroe Road between 8:30 and 9:00 AM, then continued on to the trail on Bull Mill Road at about 11:00 AM. In the future for those who like to sleep in, it may be possible to meet us at one of the trails at those times. It was one of those days when we heard more birds than we saw but that seems to be becoming more common these days. Some birds treat the Boardwalk as a crossroads in the air for traveling. Several Wood Ducks flew overhead as well as seven cormorants, a Green Heron, and a mix of Tree and Barn Swallows. It is a good environment for Eastern Bluebird who enjoyed the wetlands. We found some Chipping, Song and Savannah Sparrows also. As we entered the trail on Laroe Road we heard a Pileated Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher and a Common Raven. We did get to see circling Broad-winged Hawks, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Veery and Wood Thrush. We counted 13 warbler species including: Blue-winged, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided,



Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Prairie, Black and White, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush and Common Yellowthroat. As usual, we also observed Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager and Eastern Towhee. At the Bull Mill Trail we had Warbling and Yellow-throated Vireos and a bathing Red-eyed Vireo. Overhead we added Red-tailed Hawk and some Chimney Swifts. As always, any birding day is a good day.

Bashakill – May 13 – Gerhard Patsch, Leader – cancelled due to heavy rain

Hudson Highlands Discovery Center – May 17 – Amy Greher, Leader – May 17<sup>th</sup> turned out to be a very warm day for the month of May. Fifteen birders met in the upper parking lot so as not to flood the lower lot with our cars. Not much activity was there so we carpooled down to the lot by the nature center. What a difference. We were greeted by Eastern Phoebes, swallows, finches, a variety of sparrows and a House Wren. Rather than following our usual route, we decided to take the trail leading away from the buildings and ponds and climbed into the woods. We were rewarded with Canada Warblers (3), a Hooded Warbler, a Magnolia Warbler, a Black-billed Cuckoo and a Warbling Vireo. Later in the morning we watched and then positively identified a Rough-winged Swallow flying with the more common Tree and Barn Swallows. We saw a total of 62 species. Among those species were: 4 woodpecker species, Veery and Wood Thrush, Cedar Waxwings, 11 species of warblers, Indigo Bunting, American and Fish Crow, both vultures and Green and Great Blue Herons. Kenridge always affords us great looks at great birds provided the weather cooperates. Join us next time.

Break 100 – May 19 & 20 – see separate article

Ironwood Road – May 27 – Dave Baker, Leader – A dozen Mearns members gathered on a cool and overcast Saturday morning at Ironwood Road in Sterling Forest to look for Golden-winged Warblers, Prairies, Blue-wings, Brewster's and more. It turned out to be a highly successful outing with great views of Golden-wings along the power line thanks to Ajit carrying his scope up and down the steep terrain. In all, we had 55 species with 15 species of wood warblers plus the hoped for Brewster's. Warbler species also included: Blue-winged, Ovenbird, Worm-eating, Northern Waterthrush, Black and Whites, Common Yellowthroats, Hooded, American Redstart, Cerulean (near the wooden bridge), Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Prairie, and Black-throated Green. Among other species of note were Yellow-throated Vireos, Indigo Buntings (which seemed to be calling throughout the entire morning), Alder Flycatcher and Black-billed Cuckoos. Two large Black snakes also made an appearance and were so lethargic as to let all of us get great close-up shots with nothing more than our iPhones. A special thanks to Bill Fiero who kept our eBird tally throughout the trip.

Shawangunk Grasslands - May 28 – Tom and Jane, Leaders – Eleven Mearns members gathered at the Grasslands on a pleasant Sunday morning, with welcomed cool temperatures to start (for late May). The main attractions for the day were the Dickcissel and the Henslow's Sparrow that had been seen for much of the previous week. When we parked and looked over the view from the parking lot we saw many of the typical

grassland birds: Red-winged Blackbirds, Eastern Meadowlarks, Bobolinks, Eastern Kingbirds and Savannah Sparrows. Several Grasshopper Sparrows were also seen. Showing off nearby was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. We walked out to the area where the Henslow's and Dickcissel were seen previously and nicely marked by the presence of other birders intent on seeing these rare birds. Both birds were present and easily seen by all, looking particularly striking through the scopes. Thanks you to all who shared their scopes! Interestingly, the Henslow's Sparrow could be heard at quite a distance fooling a few of us into thinking there could be another bird. Quite the ventriloquist! Some of us decided to walk further on the trail heading east, in hopes of seeking out an Upland Sandpiper, which was heard once this morning. None were seen though. On the walk a number of other species were spotted including: Blackpoll along the tree line, Brown Thrasher, Yellow Warbler, Field Sparrow and a male Common Yellowthroat high in a tree. On the walk back to the parking lot, some of us heard and briefly saw an Orchard Oriole at the tree line bordering Blue Chip Farm and we also got good looks at a Willow Flycatcher. We decided to head to the Town Park where an Alder Flycatcher had been reported by Curt. On the way out a Purple Martin female was spotted on the martin house. Finding the Alder Flycatcher was easy. Curiously he said "rip". We also added a Yellow-throated Vireo, American Kestrel and a Black Vulture. 66 species were counted.

D & H Canal Linear Trail – June 3 – Scott Baldinger, Leader – On Saturday 10 club members met at the Wurtsboro Park and Ride for the last field trip of the season prior to the summer break. This trip was originally planned for the Hickok Brook MUA but had to be changed because of a scheduled event at that location. We planned to walk along the canal path from Hornbeck's Basin up to the Summitville trail head, a 3.5 mile walk along the D & H Canal. We left cars at the trail head for the return back to Hornbeck's. The walk was quite birdy with 56 species found along the canal. Highlights were many and included 4 ALDER FLYCATCHERS found during our walk. Our best get of the morning was an OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER found sitting on a snag about 1.3 miles from the Summitville trail head. It was my first of the year Olive-sided for Sullivan County as they have been elusive this spring. Other nice finds along the canal were a pair of Wood Ducks, Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher, an active Red-bellied Woodpecker nest with both parents feeding a juvenile, Hairy Woodpeckers Northern Flickers, Pileated Woodpecker, Willow Flycatchers, Great Crested Flycatchers, Yellow-throated, Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos, Veerys, Wood Thrushes, Brown Creeper, Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Baltimore Orioles, Louisiana Waterthrushes, Ovenbirds, American Redstarts, Pine and Chestnut-sided Warblers and big numbers of both Yellow Warblers and Common Yellowthroats.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Break One Hundred 2017

Compiled by Curt McDermott

I think that this year, Mother Nature took "Break 100" as a challenge, and was building steadily toward it. She did, however, give us a slight reprieve and brought the temps from the mid 90's, down to a cool 89 for the start of the break. With water bottles in tow, we headed out for what would be a very successful 24 hours for all. Possibly due to the recent heat, Friday night seemed to be a bit slow for everyone, leaving some of us wondering if we would actually reach that lofty triple digit number. By mid- day Saturday, things really picked up and the goal was in sight. At 4 PM, we finished our birding and were on to the main event. With the birding done and species tallied, we could finally get to the point of it all...Dinner at the Fitzpatrick's. This year, like all in the past, featured wonderful cuisine, created or provided by our members. Our outdoor dining area provides a chance to continue birding if you wish and always a chance to see that Nuthatch or Hairy Woodpecker you missed during the previous day. The atmosphere is relaxing and peaceful and is a wonderful way to wind down from the preceding two days of intense birding. When dinner has ended, our wonderful hosts, Jan and Fitz set out dessert, which is the unofficial signal to take our places for the countdown. With everyone in place and with a full plate of sweets, we conducted our count. At its conclusion, it was revealed, that ALL teams had broken 100. This is the first time in my 13 years as compiler that this has occurred, that I can remember. And all this, within the confines of our very own Orange County. Fantastic job everyone! I hope that we have many more years of the same. Thank you AGAIN, Jan and Fitz. Your hospitality, home and yard, really make the countdown dinner the wonderful event that it is. We will keep coming, as long as you will have us.

This year's participants were broken down into the following teams:

- Team A: Tracy & Gerhard Patsch (108)
- Team B: Sharon and David Baker, Della & Alan Wells (101)
- Team C: Liza & Ajit Antony, Bob Slechta, Rob Brown (128)
- Team D: Kathleen Ashman, Maryangela Buskey, Joyce Depew (113)
- Team E: Karen Miller, Jeff Goulding, John Haas, Matt Zeitler, (106)
- Team F: Ken McDermott, Steve Schuyler, Rob Stone, Curt McDermott (123)

Congratulations to all teams for breaking 100 and to Team C for totaling 128 Birds.

The following Species were seen by only one Group (with location) :

Group A: Pied Billed Grebe – Rt. 207 Swamp across from Station Rd.

Acadian Flycatcher – Peenpack Trail

Group B: Semipalmated Sandpiper – Camel Farm

Group C: Broad winged Hawk – Ironwood Rd.

Alder Flycatcher – Ironwood Rd.

Black throated Blue Warbler – Mine Rd.

Group D: Sharp shinned Hawk – Benedict Park

Barred Owl --?

Tennessee Warbler – D&H Canal

Group E: Sora Rail – Citgo Pond

Red breasted Nuthatch – Hamptonburgh Preserve

Bay breasted Warbler – Pochuck Mountain

Purple Finch – Boxbaum Road

The following species are new to the Orange County only Break 100 List. Listed are the groups that found them and their locations. Some species seen for the first time were seen by more than one group.

Great Egret – Group D – Hamptonburgh Swamp

Gray Cheeked Thrush – Group D – Hamptonburgh Swamp

Great Horned Owl – Winding Waters Trail, Oil City Rd.

Screech Owl – Group B – Area U, Mine Rd.

White eyed Vireo – Groups B,C,D,E – Hamptonburgh Preserve

Ruby crowned Kinglet – Group B – Glenmere Lake

Yellow breasted Chat – Group B – Winding Waters Trail

American Widgeon – Group C – Great Swamp

Ring necked Duck – Group C – 207 Swamp/ Group E – Middletown Reservoir

Mourning warbler – Group C – Ironwood Road/ Group D – Winding Waters

Black crowned Night Heron – Group D – Masterson Lake

Osprey – Group D – D&H Canal/ Group E – Fancher Davidge Park

Kentucky Warbler – Groups E & F – Sterling Forest

Lesser Black backed Gull – Groups E & F – Newburgh waterfront

Black bellied Plover – Group F – 3 birds at Oil City Road

Missing:

Common Loon

Grasshopper Sparrow

Total Species seen was 159.

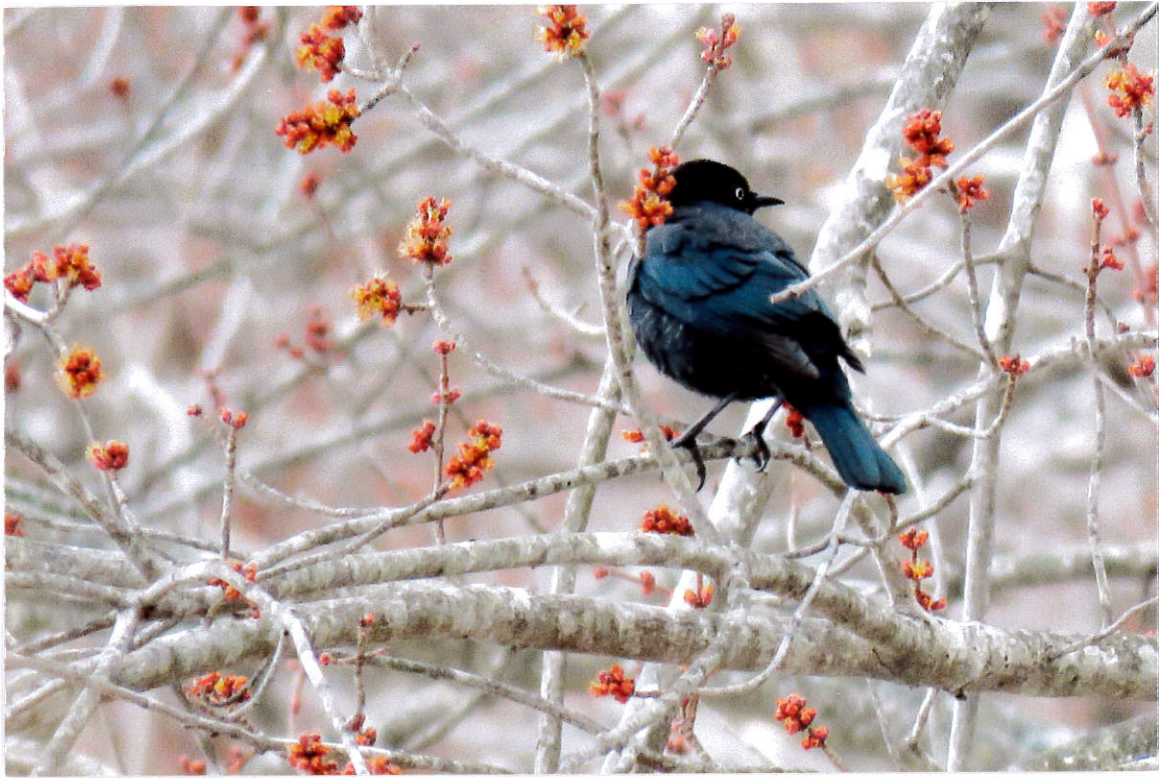
\*\*\*\*\*

### FIELD TRIP PICTURES

Killdeer: Oil City Road 3/25/17 – Mary Buskey







Rusty Blackbird, Northern Pintails: Oil City Road 3/25/17 – Mary Buskey





Solitary Sandpiper:

6 ½ Station 4/29/17

Karen Miller



Blue-winged Warbler:

Stewart Forest 5/3/17

Karen Miller



Olive-sided Flycatcher: D & H Canal 6/3/17



Photo by Dave Baker



## BIRDS TALE

When my wife and I were looking to buy a house 47 years ago, this house was one we were looking at. There was a colony of Purple martins in the back yard and a Barn Swallow nest in the garage. The former owner had tacked a piece of chicken wire up in the corner and it appeared that Barn Swallows had been nesting there for a few seasons. I was more interested in the birds than the size of the kitchen, bedrooms etc., all went well and we bought the house.

At the time there were 2 trees within 60' or so of the Martin house. A Sugar Maple and a Pin Oak, they were about as big around as your arm and about 12' high. In the following years as they grew they encroached on the martins, until they were far higher than the Martin house and the Martins started thinning out and finally one spring none came back. I had tried putting another house up further away but the Martins were not interested. We had them for many years and got a lot of enjoyment watching them, and hearing them every morning. My father and I used to set evenings and watch them, especially when they were feeding young. I have no idea where they were feeding they never seemed to feed around the neighborhood. They would show up quite high, circle around a couple of times and fold their wings back and drop like a stone. At the last second they would pull up and land on the ledge in front of their nest with a mouth full of insects often a big Dragonfly. There were always lots of Dragonfly wings in the grass under the house, and many times the parent would have a hard time getting the Dragon fly thru the hole as the hole was smaller than the fly was long and they often dropped it, I never saw a Martin try to retrieve one. We usually had from 6 to 12 pairs of Martins. Joe and Diane Bradley used to stop now and then and watch them. He would always say "why couldn't you be down the road a ½ mile then you would be in Orange County and we could use them on break 100 day".

Today these trees are about 60' to 70' tall and 22"-24" in diameter and the martin house that they weren't interested in is up at SGNWR waiting for Martins. The Swallow nest is just like it was 47 years ago and this year there is a pair using it. It just takes a little patience.

**Update:** Purple Martins visited the Grasslands box area in May and June during the last few years. As of 7/15/17 there are two nests in the box with adults feeding young!

Ralph Tabor

Ralph wrote this a few years ago and sent it to me recently. Jan

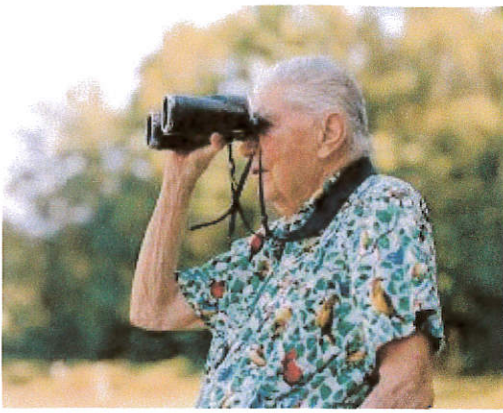
\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you to all the contributors to this Feather. As we head into the fall and winter, please keep The Orange Feather in mind when you see something of interest. Send me your contributions at any time.

Jan Fitzpatrick

Editor

\*\*\*\*\*



Al Merritt sent this article about Chandler Robbins to me.  
When I asked if he had met him, he forwarded the ensuing article.  
Enjoy the tale. Jan

### **Chandler Robbins, a Friend of Birds and Birders**

Here are a few excerpts from Emily Langer's article about Chandler after his death on March 20<sup>th</sup> at the age of 98:

There were many days when Chandler Robbins rose before the sun to partake of the dawn chorus. He was revered as a father of modern ornithology and the principle author of "*Birds of North America: A Guide to Field Identification*". It is a bible for millions of enthusiasts who spend their happiest hours scanning the skies for winged creatures. In 1965 he founded the *North American Breeding Bird Survey*, an initiative that has grown since its founding to involve thousands of volunteer birders in an annual effort of exacting rigor to measure the continental bird population.

He was senior editor for the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia*, but was most celebrated for his *North American* guide, first published in 1966 and known colloquially as the *Golden Guide* for the publishing series. Unlike predecessor guides the book included a wealth of color images as well as maps of each bird's breeding ground and migration path and a sonogram or visual representation of its call. Because of his modesty, his name did not appear on the cover. He was credited with tagging over 115,000 birds, but named his favorite as the House Wren, a plain brown creature that he loved, he told the *Baltimore Sun*, for its amazingly high-pitched and intricate song.

In reference to our meeting Chandler Robbins.

Many, many years ago, we were on an east coast birding trip with John and Margret Dye that took us into the MOS Irish Grove Headquarters. It seems that they had just acquired the property and were in the process of major renovations. When we arrived we found Chandler high atop a ladder painting a window casing in the barn. He greeted us with a wave of his paint brush and descended from his perch. He was very gracious, introduced himself and led us

into the house to show us around. He was also tending a mist net so we couldn't tarry. We followed along to his set-up and found that a Sharpie had got himself entangled. In hand they look so small. After he banded and recorded his findings he released it and we walked a short distance to a nature trail. In the heat of the day there wasn't any activity, except to our delight, a couple of Brown-headed Nuthatches, a lifer for Barb and I. We returned to the house and purchased a copy of his newly published Golden Press book, "*A Guide to Field Identification, Birds of North America*", a collaboration with Bertel Bruun, Herbert Zim, and beautifully illustrated by Arthur Singer. It is a wonderful guide and one of the first with range maps and fully illustrated in color. We still have it but it has been well used.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### A BIRDING TRIP

At the start of July I boarded a flight at JFK to take me to St John's Newfoundland. I met a group of fellow birders who signed on for a Field Guides trip. The trip would cover both Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. At a pond ten minutes from our motel we found a close up tufted duck. A good start to the trip. Later that afternoon we took a boat trip to Gull Island which was covered with kittiwakes, common murre, and puffins. I wouldn't guess at the number of birds but hundreds of thousands sounds about right. A few days later we visited St Mary's Ecological Center and viewed the gannet colony. Spectacular views of ocean and birds. As a bonus we saw some humpback whales. At Argentia NF we boarded a ferry for the sixteen hour trip to Nova Scotia. Good weather made for a smooth ride. In Nova Scotia we birdied Cape Breton Provincial Park. On an early morning walk we crossed paths with mama moose and her foal. At trip's end we recorded eighteen species of warbler. Other birds of note were both ruffed and spruce grouse and a willow ptarmigan. I have to tip my cap to the tour leaders Chris Benesh and Corey Gregory. They were able to find a hundred and twenty species and get us good looks at most of them.

Joe Trapani

\*\*\*\*\*

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR CLUB

In 1958, a course in Bird Studies was taught by Martha Earl under the Washingtonville Adult Education Program. A handful of enthusiastic students wanted to continue pursuing their interest in birds. Margaret and John Dye, members of the class, contacted Ed Treacy already known for his expertise and experience as a birder. They gathered together along with Paul Jeheber and Carrie Carnright to form a bird club.

It was suggested by Ed Treacy that the club be named the Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club as a tribute to the memory of local naturalist and Army Surgeon Edgar A. Mearns. As a teenager Mearns began tabulating the birds of Orange County and the Hudson Highlands. He wrote and published the first "List of the Birds of the Hudson Highlands with Annotations" in 1878. It is interesting to note that Mearns observed "Passenger Pigeon, permanent resident; Bob White Quail, numerous; Orchard Oriole, common summer resident"

From the very beginning the meetings were held in what is now called the Washingtonville Middle School Library where we still hold our monthly meetings. The first Orange Feather (a name suggested by Margaret Dye) was printed shortly thereafter and consisted of a single page which listed upcoming field trips. Today our club has over 100 members and the semiannual Orange Feather has expanded to twelve or more pages.

The Mearns Club is still all about birding. We have about 40 field trips a year and participate in several bird counts and surveys. We continue to update Checklists and records. The contributions our members have made to the world of birding in Orange County have been significant. In 2008 we will celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Five decades of people sharing their love of birds.

Information compiled by:

Tracy Patsch

Ed Treacy

This article appeared in a 2006 edition of The Orange Feather. As you can see, our club will be celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year. Anyone interested in organizing a celebration? If so, contact one of the club officers. Jan Fitzpatrick

\*\*\*\*\*



## A note on our use of the terms Juvenile, Immature and sub-adult

Curt McDermott

In reporting the Lesser Black backed Gull that was discovered on Break 100 this year, I first described the bird as sub adult and later referred to it as immature. I called the bird sub adult, merely because it was not yet in adult plumage but I could not immediately recall what cycle of development its feathers were in. I now recall that the bird appeared to be in its third summer. As a four year gull, it is sub-adult. In fact, all juvenile and immature birds are sub-adult.

The words juvenile and immature are my real focus here. As birders, we seem to use these terms interchangeably and possibly not with the accuracy that we could. Having been curious about the differences, if any, I researched this some time ago and found the topic to be one of controversy. The most trusted and scientific sources led me to the following understanding: Juvenile plumage is typically the first covering of true feathers. These are the feathers that immediately follow the downy stage. For many species, this plumage is lost by the first winter when the bird goes through its first true molt. All sub adult plumages thereafter are referred to as immature. For a good visual aid, check the gulls in a field guide. Juvenile plumages are best displayed within this family. Juvenile plumage is followed by first winter plumage, which is when the bird would lose the juvenile reference and then be described as immature.

I expect some blowback from this one. Haha.

\*\*\*\*\*

## DUES

Your Mearns membership for 2017 will expire on December 31, 2017. Dues for 2018 are due to Linda Strohl by January 1, 2018. Dues are: \$10.00 individual; \$8.00 senior/student; \$15.00 family. You will receive the mailed or electronic version that you requested in the past. If you wish to switch you will need to let Linda know. If you have a new mailing address or email she will also need that information. Make checks payable to: Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club and mail them to Linda Strohl 8 Park Road Salisbury Mills, NY 12577.

\*\*\*\*\*

## FALL & WINTER FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE – E.A. MEARN'S CLUB

September trips: Missing in the last Feather: 8/28 Bashakill, 8:30 at Stop Sign Trail, Joyce; 9/9 Black dirt, 8:30 at Jolly Onion, Jeff; 9/9 Storm King, 8:30, Bob. And see last Feather for details on the following: 9/16 Doodletown; 9/23 Bashakill; 9/27 Stewart Forest; 9/30 Kenridge.

October 4 (Wed) – Winding Waters – Meet Kathy Ashman (294-6140) at 8:30 AM. Late warblers and sparrows (Lincoln's) are our targets.

October 7 – 6 ½ Station Road – Meet Karen Miller (381-3283) there at 8:30 AM. Last year's trip was so good we're doing it again this year.

October 14 – Goosepond – Meet Bill Iannone (783-7467) at the boardwalk trail on Rte. 17M at 8:00 AM. Look for thrushes, sparrows and warblers.

October 25 – Croton Point – Meet Jodi Brodsky (282-1058) at the RR station "boat launch" at 8:30 AM for this always productive fall migrant trap.

October 28 – Oil City Road – Meet Kathy Ashman (294-6140) at the platform at 8:30 AM for shorebirds, sparrows, ducks and maybe Rusty Blackbirds.

November 11 – Black dirt – Meet Dave Baker (446-4030) at the Jolly Onion at 8:30 AM to search for Snow Buntings, Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs.

November 18 – Eastern Orange lakes – Meet Linda Strohl (496-3021) at the Newburgh Walmart parking lot, NW corner, at 8:30 AM for a super waterfowl trip.

November 25 – Shawangunk Grasslands – The Short-eared Owls should be in! Meet Tom and Jane (255-0324, 255-0565) at the Refuge at 4:30 PM.

December 2 & 3 – Cape Ann, MA – If interested in this trip contact Jodi Brodsky ASAP at 282-1058 or jsbbirder@gmail.com.

December 16 – Eastern Orange Christmas Bird Count – Be part of history and have some fun. Contact Bob Slechta (534-7029) for information.

January 13 NYS Winter Duck Count – Want to spend the day counting waterfowl in Orange County? If so, contact Bob Slechta (534-7029)

January 27 – Eagle Trip – Meet Gerhard Patsch (255-5840) at the Rte. 202/6 "Goat Trail" pull off at 8:30 AM. See 100+ eagles, river ice permitting!

February 3 – Jones Beach – Meet Jodi Brodsky (282-1058) at the Jones Beach Coast Guard Station at 9:30 AM. We will look for wintering ducks, grebes, loons, etc.

February 17 – Eagle Trip II – Meet Gerhard Patsch (255-5840) at the (Rte. 32) North Plank Road McDonald's (near Price Chopper and Shoprite) at 8:30 AM for another Hudson River foray for eagles, waterfowl and more.

March 3 – Rye – Check out Long Island Sound for ducks, grebes, etc. with Ajit and Liza Antony (914 213-2869). Meet at the Playland parking lot at 8:30 AM.

March 10 – Black dirt – Joe Cullen (236-4869) will take us on a hunt for larks, buntings, sparrows, black birds and many Snow Geese. Meet at the Jolly Onion at 8:30 AM.

March 17 – Bashakill – Meet Scott Baldinger (888-2333) at the Stop Sign Trail at 8:30 AM to check out the Bashakill for ducks, grebes, Rusty Blackbirds and Fox Sparrows.

March 24 – Oil City Road – Pintails and Green-winged Teal in the hundreds. Snipe, Rusty Blackbirds and our first phoebes are possible. Meet Kathy Ashman (294-6140) at the Refuge platform at 8:30 AM.

March 31 – Eastern Orange Lakes – with Linda Strohl (496-3021). Meet at the Newburgh Walmart parking lot, north end, for a duck-a-licious and quacky trip. See if Bob can drive into a ditch again. Meet at 8:30 AM.

\*\*\*\*\*

### NOTES

The phone number is given for each leader. If you have any doubts about a trip happening due to weather CALL either the night before or in the morning (the leader will be up checking the weather too, so CALL!) You can also keep an eye on the Mearns Yahoo site for trip cancellations or changes.

If you lead a trip you are responsible for sending a write up to Jan Fitzpatrick, 1 Keith Place, Campbell Hall, NY 10916 or [fjfitz@frontiernet.net](mailto:fjfitz@frontiernet.net). Please include the number of species seen, number of participants, weather conditions and highlights of the trip. If you post the trip on-line please send me an expanded report fleshing out the details of the on-line posting. Thank you!

\*\*\*\*\*