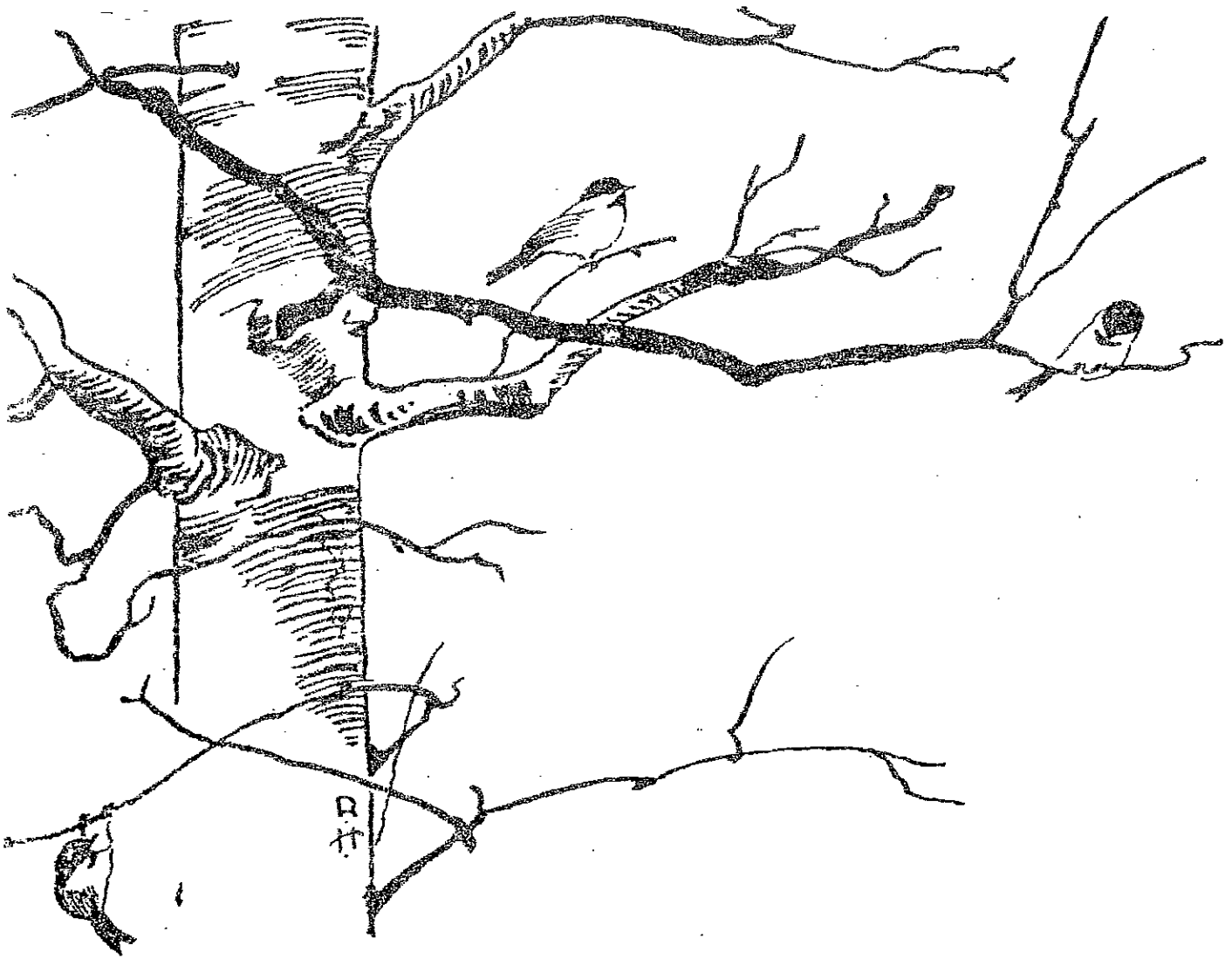
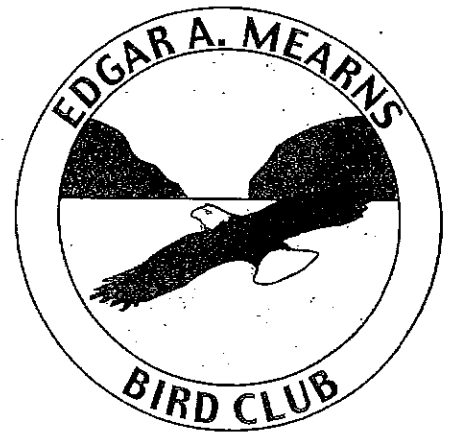


THE ORANGE FEATHER



Orange County, New York

2016 – Spring/Summer

THE ORANGE FEATHER

A publication of

EDGAR A. MEARNS BIRD CLUB

Orange County, New York

2014 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

Hi All and welcome to the Spring Edition of the Orange Feather 2016. I would be remiss if I didn't start by recognizing Jeff Goulding, for his fine leadership of our club over the past 4 years. Jeff's efforts to propel the club forward in a positive direction were evident throughout his tenure as President. Jeff brought a new structure to the meetings, with a clear agenda that was posted before each meeting, so that all could know what to anticipate and also giving each of us an opportunity to prepare any thoughts that we may have had in reference to those topics. This is a practice, which I plan to continue during my term. Additionally, Jeff's efforts to use technology and social media to spread the good news of our club were ever present. During the 4 years that Jeff was President, I am pretty sure that our membership doubled! I can't help but believe that it was a direct result of his leadership. So, Thank you Jeff, for all that you have done.

This winter, has been an odd one for sure. The waterfowl never showed up...not really. The Snow Geese seemed to fly past on their Southern Migration. The gulls that typically show up on the river by the second week of January, because of the ice flow have only this week begun show up. The ice is minimal and the Eagles have noticed too. While the northeast is "enjoying" a milder than normal winter, we birders are missing out on some of our seasonal treats. While most of our neighbors only enjoy the outdoors, two or three seasons per year, we typically have something new to enjoy in each season. This week has given some hope for this winter's birding. Longspurs were reported in the beginning of the week, the first Rough-legged Hawks by mid week and a pair of Iceland Gulls were keeping the company of a Lesser Black-backed Gull on the Hudson, by week's end. Eagle numbers are increasing in recent days and a couple of Greater White-fronted Geese have been found. Keep them coming!

I have often described birding as a "Treasure Hunt". It's how I think of it for sure and I love the thrill of the hunt!! Like any treasure hunt, you never know what it is that you are going to find. You can increase your chances of finding treasure by looking in spots more likely to hold treasure, by doing it

with a friend and by educating yourself about what you hunt for. I am sure that there are many other similarities, but this one I know well; there is a direct correlation between the amount of time that you invest in hunting for your treasure and the amount of times that you find treasure. In time, you learn tricks to increase your time to prize ratio, but that just leaves more time to find more prizes.

I wish you all a happy and healthy and safe 2016. May we all find the time for "treasure hunts" long and short and may we enjoy the treasures we find with friends.

Happy Hunting,

Curt McDermott

MEMBERSHIP

Colleen Daly from Warwick was our 144th Mearns member to join in 2015. We extend a warm welcome to her and to the following new members for 2016: Richard and Joyce Greenwald, New City; Diane Bliss, Middletown; Joanne Cox, Cornwall; Sean, Susan and John Ward, Newburgh; Bill Collopy, New Windsor; and Kelsey, Stephanie and Beatriz Schuyler, Walden. We hope you can take part in many of the upcoming field trips, monthly meetings, the Club picnic, and other events in the day ahead.

Linda Strohl

MEETINGS

The Following meetings are at Washingtonville Middle School: March 14, April 11 and May 9. The program for April 11 is: Breeding marsh birds of the Hudson River Valley and Restoration of Iona Island. Presenters are Alan Wells and Edwin McGowan.

The Club picnic is on Saturday June 4th. See the field trip schedule for details.

The September 12th meeting will be at Kenridge Farm (HHNMODC).

All meetings begin at 7:30 PM.

Alan Wells

EDGAR A. MEARNS BIRD CLUB
Financial Report 2015

INCOME:

Beginning Balance-January 2015	\$ 955.97
Dues (2015 and partial 2016), Donations, Interest (\$.62)	1,136.68
Total Income:	\$2,092.65

EXPENSES:

Orange Feathers: Feb-\$226.15 Aug-\$266.48	492.63
Donations NYSOA	50.00
Young Birders	25.00
Young Birders (for 2016)	25.00
“Break 100” meal	57.00
Club Picnic	60.54
Insurance	452.81
Jimmy Lynch (for projector)	50.00
Total Expenses:	\$1,212.98

Ending Balance-December 2015 (combined Checking and Savings)	\$ 879.67
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Linda Strohl, Treasurer

FALL/WINTER FIELD TRIPS PAST

Bashakill – August 29 – Joyce Depew, Leader – It was a very cool morning and as I drove over Wurtsboro Mountain on Route 17 there was a wall of fog to greet me. This is very typical as the temperatures fluctuate at the end of August and into September. When you see this kind of fog high up on the mountain you can easily expect that the Bashakill will be fogged in during early morning...and it was. About 30 happy birders showed up at the Stop Sign Trail for this outing in anticipation of the beginning of fall migration. While waiting for the fog to lift I decided to begin the outing by walking down the trail towards the observation tower. We had an unexpected sighting of a DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT. This bird does not appear at the Bashakill too often and I enjoy watching them. I watched it gracefully swoop in a downward spiral to land in a small area of open water. Later on when we returned to the parking lot the fog had lifted. We continued to the Nature Trail and the Deli Fields and ended around 1:15 PM due to hungry birders and the steadily increasing heat. **The species count was 73!** This was a tremendous number and only possible with the “many eyes” out in the field today. **Not visible today** were Bald Eagles and there were only a few sparrows spotted on this trip. Here are some of today’s birds: Wood and American Black Ducks, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret (I’m disappointed that there was only one), Osprey, Merlin, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Blue-headed, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos, Brown Creeper, Eastern Bluebird, Wood Thrush, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwings, 12 species of warblers including a beautiful Blackburnian, Hooded and Wilson’s, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee, an empid, Baltimore Oriole, Song and Swamp Sparrow.

Doodletown & Bear Mountain - September 5 – Joe Trapani, Leader – Seven of us met at the parking lot on 9W to do the Doodletown walk. I think the Labor Day weekend kept the number down. The weather was perfect, a great day to be out. We ended up with 49 species. There were lots of Red-eyed Vireos, but a nice Yellow-throated was also found. We had a good variety of woodpeckers, including Pileated. An eagle, Osprey and 8 species of warblers made for a terrific day. Lunch at Lynch’s Restaurant made for a good end of the trip.

Black dirt – September 12 – Joe Cullen, Leader – At the start of the trip it was quite foggy with temperatures in the mid 50’s. As the day went on, the fog burned off and the temperature rose into the 70’s. 22 members met to search for whatever fall migrants we could find in the fields and grasslands of the black dirt region of Orange County. The areas we visited included Skidders Lane, the old “Warren Sod Farm”, Turtle Bay Road, Pine Island Sod Farm and Missionlands Road. Killdeer were seen in most of the areas visited. At the Warren Sod Farm we found a flock of American Golden Plovers along with at least one Black-bellied Plover. A few Horned Larks were also seen near and among the plovers. A few American Kestrels were seen along the roadways, but we saw good numbers of them at Missionlands Road. One congregation of at least 12 kestrels were on the wires near the end of the road, an unusually high number to see together. Unfortunately we did not find any of the sandpiper species which had been seen in the area during the previous week. Overall, we tallied a list of 43 species seen during this trip. We ended the trip, as has become our custom, by having lunch at the Harvest Inn.

Bashakill I – September 19 – Scott Baldinger, Leader – At 8:00 AM 24 club members met at the Stop Sign Trail parking area for this morning's foray around the Bashakill. As is typical for this time of year, the Bashakill, at times, is subject to fog during the seasonal change which was the situation this morning. There was some decent activity at the parking area and orchard, with good numbers of birds high up in the trees but the foggy conditions was making it difficult for identification. I decided to move to the Nature Trail which is usually a bit better to get views of birds when conditions are a bit tough. This was the case this morning and as the sun rose, the fog burned off quickly. This great birding spot always delivers good birds and we immediately started to see them. The boardwalk area and the section of trail just passed the boardwalk proved to be the best birding we would experience today. The highlight of the morning were great views at 3 PHILADELPHIA VIREOS, (a fourth would be found later in the morning at the Deli Fields). We found a modest number of wood warblers at the Nature Trail with 2 TENNESSEE WARBLERS, Northern Parula, Canada and Chestnut-sided highlighting our warbler list. Other good finds there included 4 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, 3 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 4 Scarlet Tanagers, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush and Baltimore Oriole. We then moved on to the Deli Fields and highlights here included Northern Harrier, Broad-winged (3) and Red-tailed (2) Hawks. Pileated Woodpecker and the fourth Philadelphia Vireo of the morning, Field Sparrows, Eastern Bluebirds and Cedar Waxwings were seen. We finished with 62 species for the trip. After birding, 11 of us headed over to Danny's for some good food and conversation.

Bashakill II – September 26 – Kathleen Ashman, Leader – Ten members of the club assembled at the Deli Field's lower parking lot at 8:00 AM on a chilly fall Saturday morning. The parking area itself was pretty active with Gray Catbirds, Eastern Phoebe and Northern Flickers. Also sighted here and nearby were a male Common Yellowthroat, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Wood and Swainson's Thrushes and an Olive-sided Flycatcher. Walking up the roadway we were treated to a large mixed flock of Eastern Bluebirds and American Goldfinches. A Northern Harrier flew past as well as a moderate sized skein of Canada Geese high overhead. In the fields to the right of the road we spotted a bright yellow Palm Warbler. Sparrows sighted were Song, White-throated and Field Sparrow. Non bird sightings included a dead fox along the path and two baby snapping turtles along the roadway. The group then elected to go to the Nature Trail which proved to be fairly quiet. Members did manage to spot a Brown Thrasher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Scarlet Tanager, Black-throated Green Warbler and a Hairy Woodpecker. We then tried the Stop Sign Trail and Havens Road, managing to add two Bald Eagles, a Wood Duck and a Great Blue Heron. Total species for the day was 47. Temperatures ranged from 52 to 62 with mostly cloudy skies and a light 8-10 mph breeze.

Storm King Art Center – September 27 – Bob Slechta, Leader – This was one of Bob's "pop-up trips. Write up by Jeff Goulding. 15 enthusiastic birders met at 8:30 AM in the lower parking lot amid brisk fall temperatures (mid 50's-mid 60's) with a strong hint of warmth still being felt from the sun. After introductions were made all around, the group headed out of the parking area to the entrance road and took a left towards the back side of the center. From the start, birds were being seen; Song Sparrows and even a Savannah was seen in the parking lot. Along the side of the road more sparrows were spotted and we started seeing Ruby-crowned Kinglets, which turned out to be quite a few by day's end. An Eastern Phoebe was spotted on the gutter of

a roof by Liza Antony. With Bruce Nott's scope, good views were had not only of the phoebe, but many other birds along the way. Good looks were had at Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireos. Eastern Bluebirds, although distant, were spotted on a sculpture named "The Frog" and on another, some European Starlings decided that the piece was a good place to perch. As the day started to warm up, Turkey and Black Vultures started to take to the skies, soon followed by a Red-tailed Hawk and a pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks. An American Kestrel was spotted on a pole. It kept flying off to the field and returning. An Osprey was spotted heading south down the valley. Along the way to the Buddha statue more Song Sparrows were spotted on tops of weeds and Palm Warblers were there too. Better looks of the bluebirds were also afforded us. At the Buddha, mixed kettles of TV's, Blacks and Broad-winged Hawks were seen over the distant ridges. A Cooper's Hawk was thought to have been spotted by Ajit, who commented earlier that over 11,000 Broad-wings have passed over Mt. Peter so far. A small kettle of Common Ravens were seen as they flew over, the tell-tale grunts were heard. Heading along the back side of the center near the Mirrored Fence a Black and White Warbler was spotted high in an oak tree with White-breasted Nuthatches being observed and heard. Coming up a steep hill, Bob got on a Nashville Warbler, but too briefly for all to enjoy the bird. Further down the other side of the hill a small flock of about a half dozen or so Northern Parula Warblers were seen at eye level, because of the hill, along with a Downy Woodpecker and more nuthatches. As the trip neared the end a Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green Warbler were seen bringing the total to 8 species of warblers for the day. All in all it was a great day of birding surrounded by beautiful sculptures and excellent weather.

Stewart State Forest – September 30 – Bruce Nott, Leader – On a rainy September 30th Bob Slechta and I birded roughly 3 ½ miles of trail finding 39 species. Two Lincoln's Sparrows and a Blackpoll Warbler were the highlights. Afterwards, we checked out Masterson Park at Washington Lake and added Nashville, Wilson's and Canada Warblers, Indigo Bunting and Pied-billed Grebe which brightened up a rainy day.

Kenridge Farm October 3 – Amy Greher, Leader – I led the so-called walk today. It rained and rained. It was a real miserable day. Five birders showed up for the walk. The temperature was a cool 44 degrees. We left Kenridge at 8:15 for a group breakfast. At least we were warm and well fed. We returned, but it was still raining. A total of 9 birds were observed, mainly from the car: Northern Mockingbird, Blue Jay, Chipping, Song and Field Sparrows, European Starling, Belted Kingfisher, American Crows and a Northern Flicker. Better luck next time.

Goosepond - October 7 – Bill Iannone, Leader – Eleven members enjoyed a beautiful fall day that turned out to be warm with plenty of sunshine. We found 43 species including the usual Ring-billed Gulls at our McDonald's meeting place. In the past few years we have been going to the bridge and stream and returning to our cars. Perhaps next year we will resume our former itinerary and continue on to the fields and wetlands. The paths are clear in the spring. We got our usual Black and Turkey Vultures as well as a nice sampling of hawks: Cooper's, Broad-winged and Red Tailed. Northern Flicker, Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were identified with a Brown Creeper and some Eastern Bluebirds. The warblers that were still coming through Goosepond were Palm, Yellow-rumped and Common

Yellowthroat along with a number of good looks at Blackpolls. An added side trip to the boardwalk on Route 17M, which is part of Goosepond, added Great Blue Heron and more sparrows: Field, Song, Lincoln's, Swamp and White-throated.

Winding Waters Trail – October 10 – Bruce Nott, Leader – Today's trip started with a temperature of 45 degrees and ending four hours and 15 minutes later at 70 degrees. 12 people birded this 2 ½ mile trail finding 46 species. Highlights included: Lincoln's Sparrow, Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers, Blackpoll, Common Yellowthroat, Baltimore Oriole, Northern Harriers and a flyby Bald Eagle.

Croton Point – October 14 – Peter Johnson, Leader – information unavailable

Storm King Art Center – October 17 – Bob Slechta, Leader – Sixteen people showed up today on the season's first cool and breezy day to bird and enjoy the fall colors and dramatic sculptures of Storm King Art Center. Being three weeks later than the last trip here we had a marked decline in warbler species (8 vs 2 today), with good sightings of Palm and Yellow-rumped. We also had fewer raptors (6 vs 2 today) with only an accipitor species and Red-tailed Hawk seen. New today were Common Grackle and Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Towhee, White-throated Sparrow and Golden-crowned Kinglet, but no catbird, wren, tanager or Red-eyed Vireo. Birds still hanging around from the last trip that haven't departed yet were Blue-headed Vireo, Eastern Phoebe, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Field, Savannah and Chipping Sparrows plus American Robin and Eastern Meadowlark. Add in the usual residents of woodpeckers, chickadees, Blue Jays, Cedar Waxwings, American Goldfinches, and Song Sparrows and we ended the morning with 38 species.

Chadwick Lake – October 24 – Bruce Nott, Leader – Temperatures were in the 30's to 40's. Seventeen birders walked the 4 mile trail with 46 species seen in five hours' time. Highlights included 7 Hermit Thrushes and 2 Winter Wrens. Some other species seen were: Canada Goose, Hooded Mergansers, Wild Turkeys, Double-crested Cormorants, Bald Eagle, all the woodpeckers (except Red-headed), Carolina Wren and both kinglets. Warblers included: Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green and Pine. An Eastern Towhee and Field, Song and White-throated Sparrows were also spotted.

Oil City Road – October 31 – Kathleen Ashman, Leader – 17 members gathered on a cold, crisp, clear October morning to walk the Liberty Loop in search of sparrows and waterfowl. Several large skeins of Canada Geese flew overhead, while the sound of shotgun fire scared up ducks at the far end of the loop. Unfortunately they were too far away to be identified. Closer to the platform we were able to spot 3 Northern Shovelers, a Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal and Mallards. The grasses to the left of the platform held many sparrows including Song, Swamp, Savannah, Chipping and an American Tree Sparrow spotted by Bob Slechta. Just after leaving the platform, we spotted our first Rusty Blackbird of the day sitting in a small tree near the road. We proceeded to the east side of the loop so as to have the morning sun at our backs. As we started down the trail, Mary Buskey spotted three American Coots swimming in a small area of open water. The eastern side produced many more sparrows as well as American Goldfinch. White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos were seen in abundance. Eight more American

Coots were spotted swimming together in one of the open channels, and two immature Northern Harriers flew very near to our group. We did manage to find two Fox Sparrows, one of which was very cooperative and sat in the same position for quite some time, allowing everyone to get good looks at the bird. Waterfowl at the end of the loop kept well hidden amongst the grasses. Green-winged Teal and Mallards were spotted, but did not swim out into the open. As we rounded the loop at the south end we spotted a Merlin flying north over the refuge. Not long after, Bruce Nott spotted a Peregrine Falcon streaking north as it hunted over the refuge. Going up the west side of the refuge loop, we spotted more sparrows and an Eastern Bluebird. A sharp-shinned Hawk flew among the tree branches and low across the trail in front of us. In the wooded area we had a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Golden-crowned Kinglets and a Brown Creeper. As we completed the loop we saw several more Rusty Blackbirds. After the walk we adjourned to the Harvest Inn to eat lunch, discuss the trip and catch up on each other's activities. In total, 47 species were seen. Temperatures were between 28 and 48 degrees. Winds were calm. Skies were generally clear with high cirrus clouds.

Kenridge Farm – November 7 – David Baker, Leader – We had 18 Mearns Club members show up for the field trip. Weather was slightly overcast but the temperature was in the low 60's, not too shabby for early in the morning in November. As Bob Slechta puts it, we are apparently into the winter birding mode with the number of species being down a bit (we had 34), but activity was still high in the thickets along the back trails. Our best sightings were as we walked back to the Muskrat Pond. As we scanned down the grassy path we could see good numbers of Dark-eyed Juncos, Song Sparrows and best of all, Fox Sparrows. They were flitting from one side to the other. We had at least a dozen sightings of Fox Sparrows, many out in the clear for great looks. While the waterfowl has yet to make an appearance in decent numbers, we did have a drake Wood Duck on the Muskrat Pond. While trying to catch a good glimpse of him, several of us managed to see a fleeting Cooper's Hawk make a dive down into the brush along the edge of the pond and then quickly move back into the thicker surrounding with his quarry. During the morning's stroll, we also added Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed Hawks to the list. It's that time of year when we have apparently seen the last of the migrating warblers and now await the true "winter species" we all love, like Short-eared Owls and Rough-legged Hawks. In the meantime Kenridge always proves to provide good "interim birding" on wonderful habitat. By the way...don't be surprised if you see Barry starting to grow a mustache in the near future, but that's another story.

Black dirt – November 14 – Joe Cullen, Leader – Fifteen participants met today for a birding trip in the black dirt region of Orange County. The day was partly cloudy with temperatures in the 40's and windy, with occasional gusts up to 25 mph. Possibly because of the windy conditions, many of the usual land birds were scarce. Chickadees and Titmice, for example, were not seen at all and only a few sparrows were seen briefly, but remained hidden in brush and tall weeds. The open grassland birds, however, were more cooperative. Several flocks of Horned Larks were seen and in a few areas American Pipits were seen among the larks. At the Pine Island Turf Farm we found three Snow Buntings, also among a flock of larks. At the "camel farm" several hundred Canada Geese were present and among them were two "blue phase" Snow Geese and Bruce found a Cackling Goose and a few Brant. Our last stop was at Oil City Road where we

found more waterfowl including Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon and a number of American Coot. We ended the trip with an overall count of 30 species.

Eastern Orange lakes – November 21 – Linda Strohl, Leader – Today's number of ducks seemed to be rather low. It was the opinion of several members that the weather has been just too warm, and the majority of the ducks have not yet arrived. Nevertheless, 17 members car-pooled for this trip around the area to enjoy the mild temperatures, beautiful sunny day and interesting conversations. At Beaver Dam Lake we spotted Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Canada Geese, swans, many Ruddy Ducks and Bufflehead. Brown's Pond had one Killdeer, a Bald Eagle flying overhead, female Common and Hooded Mergansers, some hybrid ducks, Ring-billed Gulls plus more Ruddy Ducks, swans and Bufflehead. At Crestview Lake we observed Ring-billed Ducks. American Wigeon, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, American Black Ducks and Green-winged Teal were seen at the very active pond next to Walmart. After checking a few more areas, we finished at the Hudson River where we added an immature Herring Gull and a Great Black-backed Gull. Altogether we totaled 48 species.

Black dirt – November 28 – David Baker, Leader – In spite of threatening drizzly and chilly weather, 12 Mearns members ventured out to the black dirt area of Orange County in search of the usual winter visitors. The Canada Geese were present in large numbers, but try as we may, nobody could find a Cackling or White-fronted in their numbers. Skinners Lane provided us with our first looks at one of our targets, the Horned Larks. Though few in number, they were close in proximity and afforded us great looks through the scopes. More were seen flying in at a distance, but they were too far away to get really good looks at those birds. We did have several Northern Harriers fly by, a nearby Great Blue Heron, and of course, the American Crows were present in large numbers. As we continued to the back side of the farms, we found many songbirds in the thickets near the Wallkill. American Tree Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, Song Sparrows, American Goldfinches, a couple of Fox Sparrows and several White-throated Sparrows were seen flitting among the Ailanthus trees and surrounding brambles. We crossed the bridge over to the old Warren Sod Farm and finally Bob Slechta spotted a large flock of Horned Larks flying in. We pursued the birds and finally located them at a distance with the scopes. Bob and Barry were also able to pick out a pair of Snow Buntings among the group. We were prohibited from birding the Pine Island Turf Farm as there was active hunting taking place, so we finished the morning at the Oil City Platform. The ducks were plentiful, mostly Mallards, but a few Green-winged Teal and American Black Ducks were in the group. A nice sized raft of American Coots was also present. We did find a Swamp Sparrow to add to the mix as we began to make plans for the traditional lunch at the Harvest Inn. All-in-all, it was an enjoyable day in spite of less than ideal weather conditions. Final tally for the day was 35 species.

Shawangunk Grasslands – November 28 – Tom and Jane, Leaders – 13 or 14 of us gathered at the Grasslands on a dark, drizzly, with wind yet, late afternoon. On a day that was predicted to be mild, the temperature was around 40 degrees, the sky had big black clouds, and it was downright bone-chilling, so I'd say we were a pretty hardy group! Some of us started out at Wallkill. Bob spotted a Bald Eagle as we left to go onto Lippincot Road. There we saw 7 Common Mergansers and one female Hooded Merganser on the river. We made a quick stop at

Blue Chip to scan for the White-fronted Goose reported earlier in the week. Huge numbers of Canada Geese spread themselves out in groups throughout the farm, near and far, so we didn't spot the White-fronted this time. Some of us stayed in our cars at Galesville, some of us by the cars, and the hardiest stood on the ramp. At least one Red-tailed Hawk and three Northern Harriers were seen in the distance, and the faint sound of small birds were heard. Finally, just as it was too dark to see almost anything, two Short-eared Owls appeared in the distance. From the ramp we could see them sparring. As were ready to leave, huge rafts of honking geese flew overhead in different groups and directions, always a spectacular sight. We wonder whether the owls would begin to hunt earlier in the day as the winter progresses. 10 species were seen.

Cape Ann, MA – December 5 & 6 – Jodi Brodsky, Leader – Our trip unofficially began at the Causeway Restaurant for lunch on Friday, 12/4. They serve the best fish chowder on the planet. After lunch we birded Halibut State Park. It's an easy walk to an overlook facing the Atlantic Ocean. We had excellent, close views of Harlequin Ducks and a raft of scoters. It was hard to miss the previously reported drake King Eider hanging out with the White-winged Scoters. The official trip began Saturday morning at the Fisherman's Monument. We were greeted by the expected wintering ducks, loons and scoters. We spent the day driving around the Cape enjoying the beautiful scenery along with most of the typical birds of Cape Ann. At the Elks Lodge we had, what I believe to be, a second drake King Eider along with several Black Guillemot. These birds were pretty far out. There were many Common Loons, a few Red-throated Loons and even fewer Red-necked Grebes. We did not see any white winged gulls in spite of stopping at the fisherman's pier twice. We spent part of the day looking for an Ash-throated Flycatcher that had been seen in the area. Our group missed that bird, although a few of us stopped to see the Ash-throated Flycatcher that had been hanging around Hammonasset State Park in CT on Friday morning enroute to Cape Ann. On Sunday, the group caravanned to Parker River NWR. A few ducks were added to the list, but there were no surprises. Overall, it was a great weekend of birding.

NE Orange Pop-Up – December 5 – Bob Slechta, Leader – How could I not have run today's pop-up trip? It was too nice of a day for early December with mild temperatures, plenty of sun and no wind, and a good day it was with 58 species seen before lunch! We birded the northeast corner of Orange County and hit the Walmart swamp, Washington Lake, Brown's Pond and the Chadwick Lake area doing very well with ducks. Our waterfowl tally today included Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked and Ruddy Ducks, Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Hooded and Common Mergansers, plus Pied-billed Grebe and American Coot. We didn't do too badly with land birds either with all the woodpeckers sans Red-headed, all the corvids, Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle, Carolina and Winter Wrens, American Robin, Eastern Bluebird, Belted Kingfisher, Great Blue Heron, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Pine Warbler and best of all, two very cooperative Barred Owls at a location Bruce Nott led us to. Our total for the day was 62 species, not bad for early December.

Southern Orange Christmas Count - cancelled

Eastern Orange Christmas Count - December 19 – Bob Slechta, Compiler – While the weather on the day of the count was cool and blustery, the unusually mild weather this fall was certainly a pleasant departure from the last two years of cold, snowy counts. 45 individuals in the field and 8 feeder watchers participated this year and came up with a tally of 81 species and 26,841 individual birds. Helping us attain those numbers was all the open water this year, providing us with a good mix of ducks. Otherwise, it's a bit problematic trying to discern the effects of the mild weather on our numbers. We certainly had a lot of Snow Geese and Common Grackles this year though. Was that because they were coming through our area later than usual and showing up on count day? What about the low numbers we had for Northern Flicker, Carolina Wren and White-throated Sparrow? Perhaps it's a result of the harsh winters the past two years? Black Vulture and Fish Crow, on the other hand, set new record highs for the count. Our first Black Vulture on a count was 3 birds in 1991 with a second sighting in 1999 of one bird, after which they were seen more regularly and in ever increasing numbers. Fish Crow, on the other hand, was reported sporadically since 1980 in one's and two's till 2004 after which they were always seen and in ever increasing numbers. Both birds are currently doing quite well in our region. Another count factual pertains to the best bird of the day, a Bonaparte's Gull off Plum Point, seen only once before on the 1983 count. So, you never know what's going to show up on count day which always makes going over the numbers with the usual back and forth banter and frivolity an enjoyable event, especially when its preceded by a scrumptious pot luck dinner which was again hosted by Ronnie and Herb Stein. Thanks ever so much.

Jamaica Bay/Jones Beach - January 1 – Herb Stein, Leader – cancelled

Croton Point January 9 – Bob, Slechta, Leader – Today's trip was a tad on the slow side but not bad. At least the weather wasn't bone-chillingly cold like the last two winters so the thirteen of us could leisurely walk about. Unfortunately we managed to miss the Lark Sparrow that's been hanging around, the warm weather today not forcing the bird to be out actively feeding, I suspect. However, for a consolation we all got great looks at a perched Great Horned Owl. Other mentionable sightings for the park today were Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Carolina Wren, Belted Kingfisher, Red-tailed, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, plus Bald Eagle. As for ducks, their number were rather low, but in scouring stretches of the Croton River we did find Common and Hooded Mergansers, Mallard, American Black, Ruddy and Wood Ducks. By far, the most numerous duck of the day was the Bufflehead. Great Cormorants were also spotted from the top of Croton Dam finishing out our day with 46 species.

Duck Count – January 17 – submitted by Bob Slechta – Since there was no organized Duck Count set up this year, I got the idea at the last moment to spend the day out counting waterfowl. I got Joe Cullen to join me and asked Bruce Nott, our NE Orange lakes expert if he'd like to join in our effort. Bruce covered the Newburgh/New Windsor/Cornwall area while Joe and I covered Monroe, Greenwood Lake, Warwick and the black dirt. Interestingly, some of the lakes were almost completely frozen while others were completely open. Our open ground was exposed and not covered by snow which allowed us to tally 4309 Canada Geese. Two Snow Geese were spotted on Breezy Hill Road and there was a call-in sighting by Ken and Curt McDermott of a

Greater White-fronted Goose along with 500 Canadas south of Orange County Airport. Besides the geese mentioned we had 26 Mute Swans, 262 Mallards, 30 American Black Ducks, 40 Gadwall, 2 American Wigeon, 12 Ring-necked Ducks, 16 Bufflehead, 280 Common Mergansers, 52 Hooded Mergansers and 1 American Coot for a total of 13 species and 5052 birds.

Eagle Trip – January 30 – Gerhard Patsch, Leader – Most people dislike the snow, ice and frigid winds of winter, but I am not one of them. I miss Old Man Winter. One of the main reasons I miss a real winter is the lack of river ice. Without river ice, we just don't get the high concentrations of eagles on the Hudson River, and so, we missed observations of eagles eating fish and frolicking on nearby ice floes. On the other hand, this year's relatively mild temperatures (27-45 degrees F) with no significant wind, made for a very pleasant day of January birding. Blue skies and sunshine gave us excellent viewing opportunities and even enabled scope sightings of eagles on the west side of the Hudson River. We did have 40 Bald Eagle sightings for the day. More than I expected. Iona Island and Verplanck Point were the most productive. Waterfowl is always a highlight of this field trip, but duck numbers were also down compared to last year. Besides the ever present Mallards, we also found Common Mergansers, American Black Ducks, Bufflehead, Greater and Lesser Scaup and one Redhead found by Bruce Nott at Lake Meaghigh. At Croton Point we looked for owls and the Lark Sparrow, which had been observed for well over a month by many birders. The Lark Sparrow was a no show for us, but several lucky folks in our group did get to see a Great Horned Owl before it flew off to hide from the rest of us. Bob Senerchia, Chrisann and her brother, Carl Feuerback, walked all the way to Teller's Point and were rewarded with a Peregrine Falcon sighting for their efforts. We found both Horned and Pied-billed Grebes on the Croton River. After lunch, we drove to Black Rock Park and the Croton Reservoir Dam hoping to add some more waterfowl species to our count, but we found nothing new. From the Croton Dam, our last stop of the day, we spotted two more eagles and Ajit found one more very distant Great Cormorant to add to the 30 Great Cormorants we had earlier in Peekskill Bay. Other highlights included a Sharp-shinned Hawk, Hairy Woodpecker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Fox Sparrow and Common Raven. At the end of a very enjoyable day twenty-five participants and friends had tallied 50 species.

Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club Eastern Orange Christmas Count - Leader Sheet
12/19/2015



SPECIES	TOTAL	SPECIES	TOTAL	SPECIES	TOTAL
Snow Goose	385	Red-headed Woodpecker		Rusty Blackbird	17
Canada Goose	4417	Red-bellied Woodpecker	75	Common Grackle	2755
Mute Swan	49	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5	Brown-headed Cowbird	113
Wood Duck		Downy Woodpecker	119	House Finch	142
Gadwall	18	Hairy Woodpecker	13	Purple Finch	1
American Wigeon	10	Northern Flicker	16	Common Redpoll	
American Black Duck	41	Pileated Woodpecker	10	Pine Siskin	
Mallard	504	American Kestrel	1	American Goldfinch	193
Northern Shoveler		Merlin	1	House Sparrow	695
Northern Pintail	3	Peregrine Falcon	CW		
Green-winged Teal	12	Eastern Phoebe			
Canvasback		Northern Shrike			
Ring-Necked Duck	35	Blue Jay	236	Rare/ Unusual Species	
Lesser Scaup	5	American Crow	3248	Brant	
Long-tailed Duck		Fish Crow	1166	Cackling Goose	
Common Goldeneye	1	Common Raven	5	Blue-winged Teal	
Bufflehead	27	Horned Lark		Redhead	
Hooded Merganser	39	Black-capped Chickadee	284	Black Scoter	
Common Merganser	324	Tufted Titmouse	264	White-winged Scoter	
Ruddy Duck	50	Red-breasted Nuthatch		Red-breasted Merganser	
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	142	Ruffed Grouse	
Wild Turkey	56	Brown Creeper	1	Red-throated Loon	
Pied-Billed Grebe		Carolina Wren	13	Common Loon	
Double-crested Cormorant		Winter Wren	4	Horned Grebe	
Great Cormorant		Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	Red-necked Grebe	
Great Blue Heron	10	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	Great Egret	
Black Vulture	96	Eastern Bluebird	96	Northern Goshawk	
Turkey Vulture	72	Hermit Thrush	1	Broad-winged Hawk	
Bald Eagle	7	American Robin	407	Virginia Rail	
Northern Harrier	5	Gray Catbird	CW	Bonaparte's Gull	1
Sharp-Shinned Hawk	7	Northern Mockingbird	25	Northern Saw-whet Owl	
Cooper's Hawk	4	European Starling	6966	Say's Phoebe	
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	American Pipit		House Wren	
Red-tailed Hawk	92	Cedar Waxwing	13	Wood Thrush	
Rough-legged Hawk		Snow Bunting		Varied Thrush	
American Coot	2	Yellow-rumped Warbler		Brown Thrasher	
Killdeer		Eastern Towhee	1	Lapland Longspur	
Wilson's Snipe		American Tree Sparrow	72	Common Yellowthroat	
Ring-Billed Gull	1206	Field Sparrow	5	Wilson's Warbler	
Herring Gull	153	Savannah Sparrow	2	Yellow-breasted Chat	
Iceland Gull		Fox Sparrow	3	Chipping Sparrow	
Great Black-backed Gull	3	Song Sparrow	46	Lark Sparrow	
Rock Pigeon	264	Swamp Sparrow	2	Harris's Sparrow	
Mourning Dove	232	White-throated Sparrow	151	Brewer's Blackbird	
Eastern Screech Owl		White-crowned Sparrow	3	Baltimore Oriole	
Great Horned Owl		Dark-eyed Junco	1123	Pine Grosbeak	
Barred Owl	2	Northern Cardinal	133	White-winged Crossbill	
Short-eared Owl		Red-winged Blackbird	125	Evening Grosbeak	
Belted Kingfisher	7	Eastern Meadowlark			

CW ~ Count week 3 days prior & 3 day post count

SPECIES 81
INDIVIDUALS: 26841

Seeking Knowledge

I've been a birder for awhile (a long while) but recently have begun to think about Birding from a philosophical perspective as well as how to become a "better" birder, so I decided to visit the Birding Guru.

After the airport delays, missed bus schedules, and weather set-backs, I finally reached the base of the mountain and gazed up at the long, rocky, switch-backed trail leading to the obscure cave at the top. Undaunted I began the steep climb.

Upon reaching the pinnacle, out-of-breath and perspiration-soaked, I came face-to-face with THE Guru. He was squatting, yoga style, at the entrance to his cave and appeared to be pondering. He had bins around his neck (8x42's I think).

Groping for the proper way to address this sage, I began with, "Your Highness (no pun intended) - -Quite a view you've got from up here!" He replied, "Call me Ishmael - -I really liked the book!" I continued, "Why did you choose this place for your office?" "Why indeed," he retorted, "This is the mid-point and the highest elevation in the whole migration flyway - - -you should see my List! But that's not why you're here - - how can I help?"

I answered, "I was wondering why I - - and many of my friends - -go "Birding"? It takes a lot of time, energy, travel, and money. I'm uncertain as to return on investment - - is it worth it?"

Obviously peeved by my inquiry he replied, "Depends on what you expect. Birding needn't involve your assumed criteria - - lots of people enjoy birding just by looking out the window watching their feeders. No pain, no strain, no expense- save, perhaps, for a little bird food."

"Well, yes, that's true", I stammered, "Some of my best days have been when I sat in one place and let the birds come to me - - but on the other hand I like to visit new places and the chance to see different species".

Ah! Enlightenment! Your journey here is already a success! Different strokes for different folks!"

Somewhat chagrined I thought it best to change the focus (no pun intended), "How can I become a "better" birder?" "That's easy" he said, "Go back to being 20 years old again! Look - -don't disparage yourself - - you're getting to be, er, well- a trifle long-of-tooth. You don't have the eyes and ears of the younger set - - but you have more experience and probably more time to devote to the pastime (no pun intended). Keep On Truckin! A Bad Day Afield is better than A Good Day at Work!"

"WOW! I offered facetiously, "You could be a cheer leader in a torture chamber! Intellectually I know those young punks - those fast guns that can hear a warbler change its mind - have the advantage. It's just that I'm jealous!"

"Ah! More enlightenment. Don't be Jealous - - Be Curious. And see your audiologist. More importantly, for improving, nothing beats time behind the binoculars. The unexpected- the golden nugget - won't be found if you don't look. Good Looks are better than Good Luck!"

"That's for sure" I acknowledged and then admitted, "I've plagiarized the Lottery's sales pitch and use it as my own mantra - 'Hey! You Never Know!' But before I go downhill (no pun intended) may I ask, 'what's your best sighting?"

"That's simple" he said with a smile, "the White Whale."

COOx2

A HARBINGER OF SPRING



Here's a favorite warbler we can all look forward to hearing and seeing this spring.

IRELAND OR TEXAS OR BOTH – PART II

The Ireland trip: May 7-17, 2015 “Ireland in Spring: Birds, Traditional Music & Pubs” with Field Guides. The tour took us around the southern half of Ireland. We traveled east, then south, west and north, ending back at Shannon eleven days later. There were 14 participants including Fitz and I and Sharon and David Baker, and our two guides, Terry and Karen McEneaney. We all went a day early to give us time to adjust to the time change. We flew from Newark to Shannon Airport. Shannon is a small, friendly, easily traversed airport. We spent the first night at the Bunratty Castle Hotel. Birding the hotel grounds and local area during that first day gave us several lifebirds, including: Common Wood-Pigeon, Eurasian Jay, Eurasian Magpie, Rook, Hooded Crow, Common House-Martin, Great Tit, European Robin and our favorite, the Eurasian Bullfinch. As it turned out, that was the only bullfinch of the trip. We had dinner with the Bakers at Durty Nelly’s Pub and went to bed early!

Our target bird for the first day of the tour was the Red Grouse, a subspecies of the Willow Ptarmigan that is found only in Ireland and the British Isles and never turns fully white. We went into the Slieve Blooms (Mountains). There on a heather covered hillside Terry was able to call in a grouse. It flew straight at us, giving us all excellent looks. Then the rains came. This was the only day that the rain caused us a significant inconvenience. Actually it was not an inconvenience as we got an unexpected tour of Dublin, the Irish Sea and Dublin Bay. We were not supposed to go that far north, but the birding was great from the bus and we added many species to our list. On North Bull Island we saw Common Red and Greenshanks, Common Shelduck, Gray Heron, Whimbrel and Common Snipe. We also added several gulls and two tern species. Then it was on to our first pub and dinner in their dining room.

The next day saw us go into the Wicklow Mountains and Glendalough Nature Reserve, where we walked between the lakes and added Common Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Gray Wagtail, and Goldcrest. We saw the remains of a 12th Century round bell tower and some outer buildings. After lunch at Avoca Mill and Café we were delighted to see two soaring Red Kites and a Common Buzzard. The night was spent in Dungarven and then it was on to Cobh by way of Middleton and the Jameson’s Brewery. No samples, though. We had Common Swifts as we drove along. Cobh is a fascinating city. It was the last port of call for the Titanic. Most Irish emigrants left from this port as they headed to the USA, Canada or Australia. When we were there they were commemorating the 100th sinking of the Lusitania which occurred just off this coast. There were many reenactors on the streets as we toured the city. The night was spent in Skibbereen, an off the beaten path city. Killarney was our next stop. Along the way we took a short walk along Lough Hyne and made a stop in Glengarriff Forest where we got a glimpse of the “blue flash”, the Common Kingfisher. It actually perched for a brief moment. We had panoramic views of the Killarney valley and its lakes as we traveled up and through the mountains. We spent two nights at the Killarney Lakes Hotel. We had a wonderful view of the lake out our window and even had a rainbow over the lake on the second morning.

While in Killarney we went a little way around the Ring of Kerry to Valentia Island. A Eurasian Kestrel greeted us as we exited the bus. Northern Gannets and European Shags were on the cliffs and in the ocean. We heard a Reed Warbler and saw a Grasshopper Warbler and we had a

Red-billed Chough fly overhead. We had lunch at a pub in Portmagee, great Shepherd's pie! That night at the hotel we had our first music session. Two friends of Terry's played the button accordion and the uilleann pipes. It was fun to listen to them as they played and explained the instruments.

It was now on to the Dingle Peninsula. We spent an hour or so on Inch Strand looking at a nesting Northern Fulmar, enjoying the water and picking up rocks and seashells to bring home. We had lunch in Anascaul at the South Pole Inn (BLT's!). The lunch stop was home to Tom Crean who explored the South Pole with Shackleton. Outside the Inn was a stream and we finally got good looks at the White-throated Dipper. Once we reached the Dingle Peninsula we took the Sleah Head Loop out of town. Beautiful coastline and it was a no coat day. I think it was the only no coat afternoon. We had time to walk around Dingle town before dinner and an evening stop at John Benny's Pub where we heard Elise Kennedy and two others play in a musical session. We went back to Sleah Head the next day and again enjoyed the vistas, rock walls, sheep and a 13th century church and other stone buildings. The second night in Dingle had us enjoying the music of Seamus Begley who played the button accordion and was accompanied by Matt on guitar. Seamus has traveled the world including playing at an Irish festival in the Catskills!

It was now time to head north to our last hotel in Ennis. We went by way of Shannon, and Bunratty. A Stop at the airport got us a Water Rail (unfortunately we were not able to draw it out of the reeds.) We stayed in a big old fashioned hotel in Ennis. We enjoyed music in the pub after dinner. Our last full day of birding was spent at the Cliffs of Moher and the Burren. The cliffs were so windy it was hard to stand up. We saw hundreds of Black-legged Kittiwakes, Common Murres, Razorbills, Northern Fulmars and a few Atlantic Puffins. The Burren is an area of limestone outcroppings. We passed Limerick Castle home of "Red Mary" who lived during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Our last birding stop was at a 4th century BC tomb portal, an opening to the underworld and home of the "little people". Our last two life birds were a Common Whitethroat and a singing Common Cuckoo who actually says "cuckoo".

We had 96 species of birds, 39 lifers; we traveled through 13 counties, visited 10 pubs and had many fun musical sessions, including music in the bus as we drove from place to place. Our guides were knowledgeable and well organized, our fellow travelers were fun to be with. From my diary: "Ireland is GREEN, lots of sheep, cows and fields; gorse (yellow) and stone walls; ruined castles; fast rivers; wild seacoast. Towns were colorful. Birds were colorful or very drab. Glad we made this trip."

Jan Fitzpatrick

P.S. We don't have any trips planned right now, so someone else will have to fill in this space come August!

SPRING & SUMMER FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE – E.A. MEARNS CLUB

March trips (see last Feather for details): 3/5-black dirt region; 3/12-Bashakill & environs; 3/19-Rye; 3/26-Oil City.

April 2 – Eastern Orange Lakes – Meet Linda Strohl (496-3021) at the NW (auto service) end of the Newburgh Walmart parking lot at 8:00 AM. Ducks!

April 2 – Shawangunk Grasslands – Meet Tom and Jane (255-0565) at the “Popp” Memorial Park in Wallkill (next to Stewart’s) at 5:00 PM for ducks, woodcock and maybe Short-eared Owl.

April 16 – Bashakill – Meet Joyce Depew (978-9952) at the Stop Sign Trail at 8:30 AM for ducks, grebes, Rusty Blackbirds and other early migrants.

April 23 – 6 ½ Station Road – Meet Karen Miller (381-3283) at 8:30 AM at the Heritage Trail/6 ½ Station Road parking area. We’ll look for kinglets, sparrows, early warblers and ducks.

April 27, Wednesday – Kenridge Farm (HHDC) – Meet Amy Greher (783-6363) at 8:00 AM for the beginnings of the spring migration.

April 30 – Chadwick Lake – Be there at 8:00 AM to meet Bruce Nott (542-0583). With water, woods, and brush this is a great spot for birding. Meet at the town park at the south end of the lake.

May 4, Wednesday – Doodletown – Meet Ajit Antony (534-7052) at the 9W parking area at 8:00 AM to catch the early migrant push at this premier birding location.

May 7 – Bashakill – Join Gerhard Patsch (225-5840) at the Nature Trail at 7:30 AM and see if we can come up with 80 species by noon.

May 11, Wednesday – Goosepond – Meet Bill Iannone (783-7467) at the boardwalk trail off 17M at 7:30 AM for this always enjoyable bird walk.

May 13-14 – Break 100!! – Countdown Pot Luck at the Fitzpatricks at 5:00 PM Saturday. Let them know what you are bringing and how many are coming (496-7718). Form a team or join one and see how many bird species you can identify in Orange County from 4:00 PM Friday to 4:00 PM Saturday. For general information on the Break ask around or call Bob Slechta (534-7029).

May 21 – Doodletown – with Joe Trapani (446-3929). Be at the 9W pull-off at 8:00 AM to look for Cerulean, Hooded, Kentucky and maybe Mourning Warblers.

May 28 – Shawangunk Grasslands – Look for Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows and other grassland specialties with Tom and Jane (255-0323 or 255-0565). Meet at the park. Time to be posted on the Mearns Yahoo site.

June 4 – Mearns Club Picnic – Meet at Winding Hills Park, Montgomery at 12:00 noon. Bring a dish to share and a lawn chair. Contact Linda Strohl (496-3021) or Tracy Patsch (255-5840) if you have any questions.

August 27 – Bashakill – Meet Joyce Depew (978-9952) at the Stop Sign Trail at 8:00 AM to catch the first wave of fall migrants.

September 3 – Black dirt – Meet Jeff Goulding (764-7207) at the Jolly Onion at 8:00 AM to search for Buff-breasted Sandpipers, American Golden Plovers, larks etc.

September 10 – Doodletown – Be at the 9W pull-off at 8:30 AM to meet Amy Greher and search for some good confusing fall warblers.

September 24 – Bashakill – Meet at the Deli Fields at 8:00 AM. Scott Baldinger (888-2333) will help us look for Philadelphia Vireos and Swainson's Thrushes.

September 28, Wednesday – Stewart State Forest – with Bruce Nott (542-0583). Meet at 8:00 AM at the Ridge Road (north off 17K) parking lot to look for sparrows, thrushes and warblers.

October 1– Hudson Highlands Discovery Center's Kenridge Farm – Meet Dave Baker (446-4030) at 8:00 AM to look for Palm Warblers, Lincoln's Sparrows, etc.

FIELD TRIP 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. Please do this soon after you lead the trip. Please include the number of species seen, number of participants, weather conditions and highlights of the trip. If you post the trip online, please send an expanded report fleshing out the details of the online posting. A complete listing of species seen is not necessary. Thank you!

This just in: There will be two field trips to Storm King Art Center. They are Sunday, May 1st and Saturday, September 17th. Bob Slechta will post details on the Mearns Yahoo site before each field trip.
