



# THE KESTREL

Onondaga Audubon Society  
A Chapter of National Audubon

*Serving Cayuga, Cortland, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, Tompkins Counties and other areas of Central and Northern New York for 58 years.*

*The Audubon chapter for the Eastern Lake Ontario basin.*

New Series Volume 41 - Number 3

July / August / September 2010

## PROGRAMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SEPTEMBER 2010 PROGRAM MEETING IN CONJUNCTION WITH BEAVER LAKE NATURE CENTER

Wednesday, September 22, 7:00 PM

Dr. John Confer, professor emeritus at Ithaca College, will speak on the California Condor reintroduction program. Dr. Confer will discuss the threats confronting and opportunities to improve the status of this highly endangered species.

Dr. Confer's wife, Karen Allaben-Confer was also recently artist-in-residence for the California Condor reintroduction program in northern Arizona. Dr. Confer's program will also include examples of his wife's work.

## SAVE THE DATE!!

The Onondaga Audubon Society and the Montezuma Audubon Center will be hosting the 2010 NYSOA Annual Meeting, October 22-24, 2010. More details will be in the next *Kestrel* and on the Onondaga Audubon website of <http://www.onondagaaudubon.org>.

*Please consider attending!*



*Pileated Woodpecker on suet.*

*Photo by Sandra Moore.*

## CONSERVATION

by Thomas Riley, Conservation Chair

### BLAMING THE VERY BIG AND THE VERY SMALL.

I am watching President Obama's Address to the Nation about the crisis in the Gulf of Mexico on June 15<sup>th</sup> as I write this column. I was hoping for an aggressive vision of a new energy future from the President. While his presentation that we all make the creation of a clean energy future a national mission was heartfelt, I am afraid that without the adoption of a cap and trade plan for carbon emissions it will be too little too late. I hope there is more to President Obama's plan than he revealed tonight.

Everyone's level of frustration with the failed BP deepwater oil well is heightened with each new day's report of the continuing flood of oil assaulting the gulf coast. The realization of the magnitude of the extent of the oil dispersal is very sobering. We need to keep the finger of blame pointed at BP and be certain to tag them with the event. Lets not refer to it as the Big Spill or the Deepwater Horizon Spill or the Gulf Spill, which are the monikers I am reading in the media. It should always be the BP Spill. It is my



*Emerald Ash Borer.*

*Photo by David Cappaert of Michigan State University.*

*Conservation continues on page 3*

## THE KESTREL

Vol. 41 - No. 3 July / August / September 2010

Editor Julie Covey  
Distribution Elizabeth Chapman

### Officers, Chairs & Directors - 2010-2011

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Onondaga Audubon Society, Inc. is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Meetings will be held at various sites primarily within Onondaga County on different dates during different months from September to May, excluding January and February. Please check *The Kestrel* and/or <http://www.onondagaaudubon.org> for details on each monthly meeting's date and time. Meetings usually run approximately two hours long. Field trips are held year round to observe birds, and other interesting aspects of nature. All programs and field trips are free and open to the public.

OAS owns and operates two sanctuaries on Lake Ontario: Derby Hill Bird Observatory and Richard A. Noyes Sanctuary. Derby Hill is an important site for spring hawk migration. Noyes Sanctuary provides a variety of scenic and birding opportunities in all seasons. Both sanctuaries have maintained trails and are free and open to the public, dawn to dusk.

Chapter only members receive *The Kestrel* newsletter. Joint members with National Audubon receive *The Kestrel* plus Audubon Magazine. Onondaga Audubon encourages membership in both National Audubon and the local chapter. Members are encouraged to actively participate as volunteers in all functions of Onondaga Audubon.

Problems with subscriptions should be referred to membership chair, Elizabeth Chapman.

Letters to the Editor may be sent to:

Onondaga Audubon Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 620, Syracuse, NY 13201  
Phone 315-771-6902  
<http://www.onondagaaudubon.org>

**The mission of the Onondaga Audubon Society is to engender in the people of the Central New York Community a greater appreciation of wildlife, land, water, and other natural resources. The members of Onondaga Audubon believe this will lead to the wiser use of these resources and encourage this result through our programs, field trips, sanctuary management and environmental education.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Deadline for the next issue is September 15, 2010.*

## PLEASE, CONSIDER TAKING THE KESTREL ONLINE!

Help Onondaga Audubon Society save money by taking your *Kestrel* online. Those taking the *Kestrel* online receive an email with the link to the latest *Kestrel* when it becomes available.

As of this newsletter, more than 90% of the OAS membership is STILL getting the print version of the newsletter. Help make a difference - help Onondaga Audubon save money and trees!

An added bonus is that all the pictures in the electronic, online version are in gorgeous full color!

Please contact newsletter editor Julie Covey at [birdeditor@tds.net](mailto:birdeditor@tds.net) for more information. In the email, please include your postal mailing address, so we may be certain of whom we are taking off the postal mailing list. *THANKS!*



## PHOTOS NEEDED!

If you have pictures you would like to have shown in *The Kestrel* or on the OAS website, please send them to *The Kestrel* editor at [birdeditor@tds.net](mailto:birdeditor@tds.net) or to Onondaga Audubon Society, Inc., P.O. Box 620, Syracuse, NY 13201



### Onondaga Audubon Society Chapter Membership Application

For information on National Audubon Society membership please visit the OAS website:  
<http://www.onondagaaudubon.org>.

### IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN:

To enroll as a member of the Onondaga Audubon Society chapter only please send your name, address, and a check for \$15, made payable to the Onondaga Audubon Society, to:

Elizabeth Chapman  
250 Oarlock Circle  
East Syracuse NY 13057

You will receive *The Kestrel* newsletter several times per year.

**Onondaga Audubon Society Chapter Code:**

**RO5  
7XCH**

# CONSERVATION from pg 1

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guess that the last super-tanker with an oil company name on it was the Exxon Valdez.

We can blame three Democratic State Senators for a missed opportunity to give their constituents a stronger voice in reviewing Environmental Impact Statements. New York Senators Valesky, Aubertine and Stachowski joined with 29 Republican Senators and voted against the Environmental Access to Justice Act (Bill S1635) that would have restored the right for citizens of New York to challenge finding of Environmental Impact Statements before they are released. This right, which had been removed under pressure by real estate, industrial and utility interests, would give a more level playing field for ordinary citizens to determine the quality of their environment when they are up against big money. I guess these senators don't think we deserve that right.

Not to pick on something smaller than a fingernail but a beetle is my last target. In May, I attended a three-hour presentation on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) by Cornell entomologist, Mark Whitmore. It is his opinion that we are going to lose the ash trees in our forests and urban streetscapes over the next 20 years.

We do not have a comprehensive grasp of the role ash trees play in a forest's ecology, but the loss of any biodiversity in the forest ecosystem is likely to impact other species. The winged seed, samaras, typical of ash species, is a favored food source by Purple Finches, Rose-breasted and Evening Grosbeaks.

Woodpeckers are certainly going to have a bonanza as the larvae is just under the bark, numerous and easy to access. It is generally thought that the elm tree disease was one of the circumstances leading to the widespread establishment of Red-bellied Woodpeckers in upstate New York. Who knows what species will benefit and what species are going to be more susceptible with this change to our forests?

The entomologists and foresters working on containing this outbreak can use our help. As many Audubon members are often in wooded areas there are a couple of things we can do.



***Emerald Ash Borer Trap.***

***Photo by the editor.***

The first is to keep an eye out for signs of infestation of ash trees by the EAB. The sooner the scientists locate an outbreak the better chance they have of slowing the spread of the insect. This web site has good information on how to recognize signs of EAB infestation and how to report it: [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info). You can also call to report EAB at 1-866-322-4512 (USDA Forest Service) or 1-866-640-0652 (NYSDEC). They are eager for our help.

The second thing that you can do is to help preserve the genotype. Botanists are collecting ash seed from diverse sites to be frozen and stored in multiple locations in the hopes that at a future date a control will have been found for the beetle and these seeds can be used for the restocking of ash trees in our forests, yards and streets. This web site gives you information on how to participate: [www.nyis.info](http://www.nyis.info)

Let's see – a very big oil company, a few mid-weight New York Senators and a small green bug. Of these three the only one I cannot really blame is the bug. It doesn't know any better. The other two should.



***Seth Cutright, Derby Hill Hawk Hawk Counter 2010 on one of the last days of the season.***

## BIRD BANDING

---

Bird Banding at SUNY Oswego's Rice Creek Field Station has been a regular fall, spring and occasional summer event since the fall of 2007. Master bird bander Jim Keefer volunteers to conduct this bird population ecology research and teach others about resident and migrating birds in our area. Visitors are welcome to observe and assist with the hands-on experience during banding. Visit [www.oswego.edu/ricecreek/biology](http://www.oswego.edu/ricecreek/biology) then select Vertebrates from the links on the left for more information about bird banding at Rice Creek.

# BIRDATHON 2010

How do we describe Birdathon 2010? After the blowout year of 2009, exceptional would be out of place. But, it was also not bad. The weather was more pleasant than in memorable history, yet windy. No exceptional birds were found, yet many nice finds were made. The group as a whole found fewer species, yet many teams found more. Perhaps the day is best summarized as exceptionally unexceptional.

The one area that did stand out was participation. Last year's turnout was rather light, so we were pleased to see the return of several old teams and a jump in the number of participants. Back on track for the number of teams, a total of thirty-four groups reported results, up 7 from last year. Surprisingly, the number of birders surged from 54 to 82 this year. As organizers, we believe that high participation is the key to success, so this is a very positive sign. Thank you *everyone* who joined in! Fundraising was up too. We will follow up with details in a future issue of *The Kestrel*.

The weather leading up to the event was dominated by light southerly winds, with fog on Friday, and a stiff northwest wind on Saturday that kept many birds under cover. Although difficult to find, the wood warblers appeared to be more abundant than normal, with competitive teams finding an average of 24 species – four more than last year. The overall total count of different species was 191, a typical number for this event and well below the all-time record of 200.

## WINNER'S CIRCLE

In the competitive category, there was little in the way of surprises. This year, Andrew VanNorstrand joined forces with the Woodcocks – Bill Purcell, Kevin McGann and Chris Spagnoli, together taking the top honors. Their grand total of 143 species gave them a first-place finish for a second year in a row. This total represented a return to the normal range after last year's record-breaking 152.

Bucking the trend, the Archaeopteryx team of Mickey Scilingo and Marty Mau scarcely noticed the change in birding conditions. They finished second at 141, with only one less species than last year. This tenacity nearly won them top honors. And, rounding out the top three was the White winged Sconers (Tony Shrimpton, Sue Adair, Lisa Welch and Dave Wheeler) at 134. Next year, they may have to work a bit harder to stay in the top three, as Joe Brin continues to edge up in the standings. Just 4 birds back, he and Jim Tarolli, AKA "I Like Shrike!", tied for 4<sup>th</sup> with the "Redstart to Finish" duo of Judy Thurber and Catherine Landis.

Not far behind them, two new teams - 'Til the Bittern End and "Jethrogull" – show promise, and may be making some waves next year.

## RARITIES, SINGLES AND DOUBLES

This Birdathon had an unusually large number of species that were found by only one or two teams. That is, we had 15 "singles" and 5 "doubles". We won't go into detail, except to note that Jerry Case, with three, had the most singles, and that Dan Crane was able to deservedly land Lincoln's Sparrow and Rusty Blackbird by bushwhacking into the Adirondack Pepperbox Wilderness. The singles are listed with the team results.

Lacking any true rarities or an obvious winner, an impromptu panel of judges was drafted to select the best bird of the day. Their decision was that Ruddy Duck should take the award. So, custody of the Clark(e)'s Nutcracker will be shared by Dave Graham and Ken Burdick for locating and identifying this inconspicuous bird.

## AWARDS

Aside from high scoring teams and best bird, we had categories for the youngest new birder, smallest carbon footprint and the best team name. The first, Youngest New Birder was awarded to Meredith Atwood from the ESF team 'Til the Bittern End. The second category, for Smallest Carbon Footprint was handily won by Dave Nash who earned a rating in excess of 93 BPG (Birds Per Gallon). Finally, we regret that no selection was made for Best Team Name. There were too many good choices, and we could not agree on a winner.

As a closing note, we wish to express our gratitude to Michele Neligan for organizing the Picnic and to Gerry Smith for saving the day by making a last-minute run for propane to fuel the grill.

Ken and Rose Burdick - Birdathon Coordinators



# OAS BIRDATHON TEAMS

Region 5, May 15, 2010

Teams & Members

Teams	Territory	Total Species		Team Singles	
Archaeopteryx (Mickey Scilingo, Martin Mau)	Oswego & Onondaga Cos.	141	*		2nd Place
The Blackburnians (Jan Needham McGraw, Jane Needham)	Onondaga Co.	71			
Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher (Rosemary Hanagan)	Derby Hill, Sterling Nature Center, Fair Haven Beach State Park, Oswego Harbor	49			
Bombycillidae (Jerry Case)	Madison, Onondaga & Oswego Cos.	87		Blue-winged Teal, Semipalmated Plover, Orchard Oriole	
Bushwhacking Birder (Dan Crane)	Town of Webb - Pepperbox Wilderness	49		Lincoln's Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird	Most Intrepid
Crazy Celt (Michele Neligan)	Onondaga & Oswego Cos.	43			
Derby Hill Diurnal Raptors (Seth Cutright)	Derby Hill and Sage Creek Rd.	57			
Gal 'n You All (Brenda Best and Betty Armbruster)	Madison & Oneida Cos.	81			
Gray-crested Flakcatchers (Sue Boettger & Bill Gruenbaum)	Towns of Manlius, DeWitt, Cicero, Pompey, Fabius & Sullivan	93		Gadwall	
Hooded Warbler (Marge Rusk)	Town of Sterling	44			
Hummingbird (Rudolph Capek)	Onondaga Co.	26			
I Like Shrike! (Joe Brin, Jim Tarolli)	Onondaga & Oswego Cos.	130		Greater Yellowlegs	4th Place (tie)
Jethrogull (Stephen Schwab, Stephen Baker, Christopher Stanger)	Onondaga & Oswego Cos.	118			
Kauffman guide to Toms and Jays (Jason Mauro, Tom Meier, Matt Kauffman)	Towns of Marcellus, Onondaga, Mexico, Skaneateles and Syracuse	107			
King David's Heron (Lin Garrepy, Nancy Bridges, Barb Reuter)	Towns of Pompey, West Monroe, Constantia and Syracuse	86			
Linda Pickens and friends (Linda Pickens)	Fair Haven	27			
Loonatics (Deb & Emma Rahalski)	Towns of Sterling, Salina, Lysander, Van Buren, Mexico, Scriba, Schroepfel, West Monroe, Fulton & Oswego	76			
Mad Cowbirds (Dave Baldrini, John H. Moore, John P. Moore, Peter Moore)	Towns of Van Buren, Clay, Salina, Schroepfel, Lysander, Mexico, West Monroe, Constantia, Volney, Scriba & New Haven, Richland	116		Pectoral Sandpiper	
Oran Station (Kyle Buelow)	Hamlet of Oran	56			
Osprey Can You See (Dave Nash)	Clay Marsh and environs	93			Most Birds Least Miles
Piranga (Gene Huggins)	Town of Tully	51			
Pompey Uppies (Jill Radway, Paul Radway, Ken Amody)	Syracuse & Town of Pompey	58			
Redstart To Finish (Judy Thurber, Catherine Landis)	Whiskey Hollow, Sunset Bay, Noyes, Phillips Pt., Toad Harbor, Derby Hill & Syracuse	130		Least Bittern, Gray-cheeked Thrush	4th Place (tie)
Solitary Sandpiper (Paul Richardson)	Onondaga Co.	105			
Team Ovenbird (Jeanne and David Ryan)	Towns of Dewitt, Fabius, Manlius, Pompei, Sullivan, Cazenovia & Fenner	104		Northern Goshawk	
Three Blind Titmice (Maryanne Adams, Ken Hodgson, Juanita Willson)	Oswego & Onondaga Cos.	78			
'Til the Bittern End (Meredith Atwood, Steve Campbell, Lewis Grove, Sara Hansen, Natasha Karniski, Scott Warsen)	Oneida, Onondaga & Oswego Cos.	121			Youngest New Birder
Timberdoodle (Dick Askeland)	Eastwood and environs	61			
The Tweet Party Movement (Tom McKay, Jim Stacey)	Towns of East Syracuse, Dewitt, Erieville & New Woodstock	45			
Two Owls and a Hen (Ken & Rose Burdick, Dave Graham)	Towns of Skaneateles, Elbridge, Spafford, Otisco & Marcellus	97		Ruddy Duck	Best Bird
White winged Sconers (Tony Shrimpton, Sue Adair, Lisa Welch, Dave Wheeler )	Cayuga, Oswego & Onondaga Cos.	134	*	Sanderling, Dunlin	3rd Place
The Wing Nuts (Kate Timm and Al Bremmer)	Town of Sterling, Fair Haven Beach State Park	84			
Woodcocks (Bill Purcell, Kevin McGann, Chris Spagnoli, Andrew VanNorstrand)	West Monroe, Parish, Constantia, Hastings, Palermo, Schroepfel, Volney, Scriba, New Haven, Richlan, Albion & Amboy	143		Northern Saw-whet Owl	1st Place Team
Wrenegades (Jim & Faith Baker, Charlie Baker, Ted Baker, Barb Robinson)	Oneida & Oswego Cos.	100			
* Includes Trumpeter Swan					

# BIRDATHON 2010 SPECIES LIST

GEESE-DUCKS		SHOREBIRDS (cont)		JAYS-CROWS-RAVEN		WARBLERS (cont)	
Snow Goose	2	Greater Yellowlegs	1	Blue Jay	33	Yellow-rumped Warbler	26
Brant	3	Lesser Yellowlegs	8	American Crow	32	B-T Green Warbler	22
Canada Goose	33	Upland Sandpiper	3	Fish Crow	2	Blackburnian Warbler	14
Mute Swan	9	Sanderling	1	Common Raven	7	Pine Warbler	14
Trumpeter Swan	2	Least Sandpiper	13	<b>LARKS-SWALLOWS</b>		Palm Warbler	12
Wood Duck	21	Pectoral Sandpiper	1	Horned Lark	5	Bay-breasted Warbler	6
Gadwall	1	Dunlin	1	Purple Martin	14	Blackpoll Warbler	8
American Black Duck	2	Wilson's Snipe	4	Tree Swallow	33	Cerulean Warbler	8
Mallard	32	American Woodcock	13	Northern R-W Swallow	22	Black-and-white Warbler	19
Blue-winged Teal	1	<b>GULLS-TERNS</b>		Bank Swallow	20	American Redstart	26
Northern Shoveler	3	Bonaparte's Gull	8	Cliff Swallow	15	Prothonotary Warbler	10
Green-winged Teal	4	Ring-billed Gull	30	Barn Swallow	31	Ovenbird	26
Lesser Scaup	6	Herring Gull	16	<b>CHICKADEE-NUTHATCH</b>		Northern Waterthrush	15
White-winged Scoter	5	Great Black-backed Gull	12	Black-capped Chickadee	33	Louisiana Waterthrush	4
Long-tailed Duck	4	Caspian Tern	17	Tufted Titmouse	28	Mourning Warbler	6
Common Goldeneye	4	Black Tern	9	Red-breasted Nuthatch	14	Common Yellowthroat	31
Hooded Merganser	2	Common Tern	20	White-breasted Nuthatch	25	Hooded Warbler	17
Common Merganser	5	<b>DOVES-OWLS</b>		<b>CREEPER-WRENS</b>		Wilson's Warbler	6
Red-breasted Merganser	7	Rock Pigeon	29	Brown Creeper	8	Canada Warbler	12
Ruddy Duck	1	Mourning Dove	32	Carolina Wren	8	Scarlet Tanager	22
<b>GAMEBIRDS</b>		Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5	House Wren	28	<b>SPARROWS etc</b>	
Ruffed Grouse	7	Black-billed Cuckoo	10	Winter Wren	9	Eastern Towhee	20
Wild Turkey	25	Eastern Screech-Owl	3	Sedge Wren	3	Chipping Sparrow	29
<b>LOONS-GREBES</b>		Great Horned Owl	3	Marsh Wren	11	Field Sparrow	20
Common Loon	10	Barred Owl	11	<b>KINGLETS-GNATCATCHER</b>		Vesper Sparrow	4
Pied-billed Grebe	10	Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	5	Savannah Sparrow	20
Double-crested Cormorant	19	<b>NIGHTHAWK-HUMMINGBIRD</b>		Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9	Grasshopper Sparrow	5
<b>BITTERN-HERONS</b>		Common Nighthawk	4	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	16	Song Sparrow	32
American Bittern	11	Whip-poor-will	4	<b>THRUSHES-MIMICS</b>		Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Least Bittern	1	Chimney Swift	24	Eastern Bluebird	27	Swamp Sparrow	20
Great Blue Heron	27	R-T Hummingbird	16	Veery	24	White-throated Sparrow	11
Green Heron	19	<b>KINGFISHER-WOODPECKERS</b>		Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	White-crowned Sparrow	24
<b>RAPTORS</b>		Belted Kingfisher	19	Swainson's Thrush	3	Dark-eyed Junco	20
Turkey Vulture	33	Red-headed Woodpecker	11	Hermit Thrush	12	<b>CARDINAL-BUNTINGS</b>	
Osprey	23	Red-bellied Woodpecker	26	Wood Thrush	27	Northern Cardinal	31
Bald Eagle	16	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	15	American Robin	33	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	28
Northern Harrier	7	Downy Woodpecker	24	Gray Catbird	31	Indigo Bunting	14
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8	Hairy Woodpecker	23	Northern Mockingbird	13	<b>BLACKBIRDS-ORIOLES</b>	
Cooper's Hawk	9	Northern Flicker	27	Brown Thrasher	12	Bobolink	26
Northern Goshawk	1	Pileated Woodpecker	16	<b>STARLING-WAXWING</b>		Red-winged Blackbird	33
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	<b>FLYCATCHERS-VIREOS</b>		European Starling	30	Eastern Meadowlark	18
Broad-winged Hawk	7	Eastern Wood-Pewee	13	American Pipit	7	Rusty Blackbird	1
Red-tailed Hawk	30	Acadian Flycatcher	5	Cedar Waxwing	7	Common Grackle	33
American Kestrel	18	Alder Flycatcher	3	<b>WARBLERS-TANAGERS</b>		Brown-headed Cowbird	27
Peregrine Falcon	5	Willow Flycatcher	15	Blue-winged Warbler	15	Orchard Oriole	1
<b>RAILS-CRANES</b>		Least Flycatcher	19	Golden-winged Warbler	4	Baltimore Oriole	30
Virginia Rail	9	Eastern Phoebe	27	Tennessee Warbler	8	<b>FINCHES-HOUSE SP.</b>	
Sora	7	Great Crested Flycatcher	24	Nashville Warbler	13	Purple Finch	17
Common Moorhen	12	Eastern Kingbird	25	Northern Parula	14	House Finch	23
<b>SHOREBIRDS</b>		Yellow-throated Vireo	10	Yellow Warbler	32	American Goldfinch	31
Semipalmated Plover	1	Blue-headed Vireo	12	Chestnut-sided Warbler	25	House Sparrow	27
Killdeer	29	Warbling Vireo	22	Magnolia Warbler	21		
Spotted Sandpiper	20	Philadelphia Vireo	3	Cape May Warbler	8	<b>NUMBER OF SPECIES</b>	<b>191</b>
Solitary Sandpiper	11	Red-eyed Vireo	24	Black-throated Blue Warbler	18	<b>TEAMS REPORTING</b>	<b>33</b>

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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The OAS has completed another successful year of operation as of 30 June 2010. Highlights of the past year include:

- Additions of Libbie Messina, Tim McCoy and Margaret Tzen to the board with Judith Lockwood and George Spak departing. Many thanks to all for their service.
- An improving fiscal situation as the "Great recession" is hopefully waning. Cost cutting efforts for major items like *The Kestrel* have been successful. Many thanks to the more than 100 members who now receive the newsletter online resulting in saving both costs and trees. Many thanks to all who supported OAS efforts through the Birdathon, an increased success, and other fundraising efforts.
- Derby Hill completed a 32<sup>nd</sup> year of consistent raptor monitoring with Seth Cutright of Wisconsin serving as staff ornithologist. These data continue to increase in value with each passing year. This year Turkey Vulture numbers surpassed Broad-winged Hawk as the most numerous species at Derby. While interpretation of migration data can only be done in the long-term, it is clear that the dramatic increase of this species over the last 40-50 years continues. Be sure to look carefully at all Turkey Vulture this year to check for those carrying wing tags that say "We are number one." Hmm.....
- Looking forward: the OAS Board through the education and sanctuary committees is seeking to improve our education efforts directed at Derby Hill visitors and nearby schools in future years. We hope to develop an intern/volunteer educators program that will involve a variety of interested volunteers and student interns. If you would be interested in helping in this or other programs at our sanctuaries please contact Dave Muir or Maryanne Adams.
- OAS is hosting the New York State Ornithological Society meeting 22-24 Auburn 2010. Full details on this meeting will be on our website by mid-July and in the fall edition of *The Kestrel*. I encourage OAS members to come to this gathering of state birders.
- Cooperative efforts with Honeywell Corporation and the Montezuma Audubon Center will continue involving Onondaga Lake in the coming fiscal year. Programs for teachers concerning Onondaga Lake offer exciting cooperative educational opportunities.

Many thanks to Honeywell for funding the keynote speaker at the NYSOA meeting and these other efforts.

As I conclude my third year as your president and look forward to my final year in office, I wish to express my thanks to the board and members who are doing great work in conservation, education and bird matters. Many thanks to all those providing critical financial support. OAS is a positive force in our region in all these areas. We are only limited by people, time, and financial resources. I hope that all who can, will get involved in supporting OAS with their time and hard earned dollars. Good birding and may the natural world bring peace and joy to your life.

Gerry Smith  
Onondaga Audubon President



## SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

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The Derby Hill hawk migration season has ended and our counter, Seth Cutright, has returned home to Wisconsin. We want to thank Seth for his fine work.

The season did not produce very many outstanding days, and the final total this year fell below thirty thousand birds, with the new leading species being the Turkey Vulture. A full report of the season will be published this fall in the Derby Hill Bird Observatory Newsletter that will be sent out to all Derby Hill contributors.

Also at the sanctuary, the Red Trail has been remarked and cleared and now follows the route that was established a couple of years ago as an Eagle Scout project.

At the Noyes Sanctuary, all of the trails were checked and cleared on June 21. There are some wet spots that need some work on the Green Trail and there are a number of step-over logs on several trails, but all of the trails should be easy to follow. The only caution is the abundance of poison ivy, but the woods and shoreline are lovely, and the birds are singing (including Hooded Warblers).

Finally, I would ask that anyone who hikes the trails at either sanctuary and finds any problems, please contact me to let me know about them (673-4875 or [dmuir@gmail.com](mailto:dmuir@gmail.com).) Thank you.

Dave Muir, Sanctuaries Chairperson

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## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are free and open to the public. Novice birders (and non-birders too!) are welcome. If you are planning to join us on a field trip, you should notify the leader whose telephone number is listed with the trip details. Please call at a reasonable hour as most birders turn in early. Carpooling from the meeting place is encouraged. If your schedule allows you to join the carpool, do remember to offer to help the driver with the cost of gas.

Occasionally changes in published field trips and/or additional trips are announced on the OAS website <http://www.onondagaaudubon.org>.

### CAMILLUS FOREST UNIQUE AREA

August 28, Saturday Paul Richardson  
488-5022 Vireo2@verizon.net

This forest contains some of the tallest and oldest trees in Onondaga County. Although it is a forest, most of the hike is through meadows and along open fields. We will look for early fall migrant songbirds. Trip should be 2-3 hours. Moderate to difficult due to some steep trails. Please contact Paul for time and meeting place.

### VERONA BEACH/DITCHBANK ROAD

September 12, Sunday Bill Purcell  
382-2871 wpurcell@twcny.rr.com

On Sunday, September 12, Bill will lead a trip to Verona Beach for warblers plus the Sod Farm and Ditchbank Road (if good habitat) for shorebirds. Email or call Bill for details.

### SOUTH MEADOWS NATURE AREA, TULLY, N.Y

September 25, Saturday Gene Huggins  
696-8065

Gene will lead a field trip to this upland area for late migrant thrushes, warblers, and possible Purple Finches. Easy to moderate on a well- marked trail. South Meadows Nature Area is under the Save The County Land Trust and is maintained by the Tully Action Group. Please contact Gene for time and meeting place.



Male Northern Flicker. Photo by Sandra Moore.