



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 42 - Number 4

November / December / January 2011-2012

PROGRAMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOVEMBER 2011 PROGRAM MEETING

FAYETTEVILLE FREE LIBRARY
300 ORCHARD STREET, FAYETTEVILLE, NY

Wednesday, November 9, 7:00 PM

Boreal chickadee and environmental outreach programs in the Adirondacks

Paul Hai, an ESF staff member stationed at the Adirondack Ecological Center, will discuss some work he has done on the Boreal Chickadee and environmental outreach programs in the Adirondacks.

DECEMBER 2011 PROGRAM MEETING

FAYETTEVILLE FREE LIBRARY
300 ORCHARD STREET, FAYETTEVILLE, NY

Wednesday, December 14, 7:00 PM

Story of the Bald Eagle Recovery in NYS

Mike Allen, a retired DEC agent who worked extensively on the recovery of the Bald Eagle in NY state, will share the story of his work.



More information on upcoming events including Onondaga Audubon's 1st Annual Bird Festival and The Biggest Week in Birding at Magee Marsh are listed on page 8.

Donation needed: Pedestal sink for Derby Hill!

**Welcome
North Country members!**

Please see pg 5.

CONSERVATION

by Maryanne Adams, Conservation Chair

THE ELEVENTH HOUR

"They (the gas industry) cannot mitigate the impact of a dispersed industrialization across the landscape." These are the words of Kevin Heatley, a restoration ecologist who was one of the presenters at a forum in Hammondsport on September 15, 2011 ("Fracking the Fingerlakes: The Rest of the Story," www.shaleshockmedia.org). It's as simple as that. The cumulative impact of building thousands of gas wells that will utilize the process called "high volume slickwater hydraulic fracturing" (HVHF) or "fracking," is hard to imagine.

Here in New York, the state is poised to allow a process that will bring long term changes to the character and ecology of the land. To conserve space, I am not going to reiterate the excellent points



Photo of Allegheny National Forest/Hemlock Run/Indian Run Area - OGM Development showing well sites and roads fragmenting forest, 8/11/07.

http://www.alleghenydefense.org/forest_watch/slideshows.shtml
August 2007 Lighthawk Flyover

Conservation continues on page 3

THE KESTREL

Vol. 42 - No. 4

Nov / Dec / Jan 2011-2012

Editor Julie Covey

Officers, Chairs & Directors - 2012-2013

President	Gene Huggins
Vice-President	Paul Richardson
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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 the membership chair.

Letters to the Editor may be sent to:

Onondaga Audubon Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 620, Syracuse, NY 13201
Phone 315-696-8065
<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 submissions for the next issue is
January 8, 2012.*



Montezuma Audubon Center Autumn Programs

To register or for more information about the Montezuma Audubon Center or its programs please call 315-365-3588 or e-mail montezuma@audubon.org.

Space is limited. Registration is required.

The Center is open Tuesday-Saturday 10 AM - 4 PM.

Programs will be on the following dates:

11/2 - 8-11 AM - *Montezuma Birding Trip*

11/4 & 11/5 - *Nature Art Expo*

11/9 - 9-11 AM - *Birding Hike**

11/12 - 2-4 PM - *Scout Merit Badge Day*

11/16 - 9-11 AM - *Nature Hike**

11/18 - 1-3 PM - *Home School Nature Series: Bird Bonanza*

12/16 - 1-3 PM - *Home School Nature Series: Furry Friends*

For detailed information about these programs, please visit <http://ny.audubon.org/montezuma.htm>.

*50% Discount for Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex applies to programs with an asterisk. 

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:

Onondaga Audubon Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 620
Syracuse, NY 13201

You will receive The Kestrel newsletter several times per year.

Onondaga Audubon Society Chapter Code:

**RO5
7XCH**

CONSERVATION from pg 1

made by Thomas Riley, previous Conservation Chair in the February/March 2010 *Kestrel*. You may access that issue online through the Onondaga Audubon Society website.

This is the proverbial Eleventh Hour because soon the DEC will begin to issue permits for wells that utilize HVHF to release natural gas from the Marcellus shale. In fact, according to an article in the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (9/26/11), the DEC is planning to expand office space in the Southern Tier and add 142 more staff in order to cope with the expanded role of regulating the natural gas industry in New York. What will that cost New Yorkers? At least \$13 million/year for staff, \$1 million for the office space, and \$8.2 million more for non-personnel costs like vehicles and equipment. And since the DEC plans to prohibit hydraulic fracturing within 100-year floodplains, outdated flood maps must be amended at an additional cost of about \$500,000 per year.

(“DEC to update Southern Tier flood maps,” www.stargazette.com, 10/10/2011). The only economic gains directly connected to gas extraction in New York come from the state income tax on the profits made by property leasers, so additional funding sources need to be put into place.

Even without spills, accidents, or water contamination, “safe” hydrofracking will have negative impacts on wildlife, especially birds that require minimum disturbance and large expanses of unbroken forest for successful breeding. Neo-tropical migrants are especially sensitive to habitat fragmentation. When patches of forest, shrubland, wetlands, and grasslands are made smaller, the total amount of contiguous habitat is reduced while the amount of edge habitat increases. Opportunistic species like Brown-headed Cowbirds and European Starlings take advantage of the situation. Non-native vegetation takes over, reducing the number of native plants. It is obvious from the amount of fragmentation in the Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania that it is impossible to allow extensive gas drilling exploration and still maintain the quality of a forest. Bird species of high conservation priority merit protection. As suitable breeding habitat in Pennsylvania shrinks, it is more imperative that New York preserves remaining core forest areas by keeping them off-limits to gas exploration. In addition, the effects of noise and light pollution on wildlife populations need to be addressed.

The latest draft of the Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) was released by the DEC this summer. It is better than the last version, but still needs improvement. The document is available online at www.dec.ny.gov/energy/75370.html. Comments about the recommendations outlined in its 1537 pages will be accepted until December 12. Audubon New York voiced concerns with the dSGEIS, which I will summarize here, but I urge you to visit Audubon’s website and read the entire letter. The main concerns of Audubon New York are as follows:

- ④ There are 40 Important Bird Areas in the Marcellus shale region that could be impacted by drilling. They need protection, as do the remaining areas of unfragmented forest. Also, “priority wildlife habitats” must be off limits to drilling. The impact on birds of conservation concern, including Neo-tropical migrants was not considered and should be.
- ④ Water used in the drilling process (“flowback” water) is toxic and needs to be stored in covered tanks, not open impoundments where it could attract wildlife and birds.
- ④ The cumulative impacts of multiple drilling pads, roads, and pipelines upon the “largely intact forested landscape” have not been considered because more than one agency is involved in their oversight. Taken separately, the impact of disruptive activities seems less serious than it actually is when you look at the cumulative effect.
- ④ The dSGEIS should protect all water sources within New York State equally, but right now it outlines higher standards for the Catskill Watershed which serves the New York metro area.
- ④ Last, in order to offset the many destructive and negative impacts of increased gas drilling on surrounding habitats and certain species, there needs to be a source of funding. A Severance Tax - a fee for extracting, or “severing” natural gas from the earth, is needed in order to pay for the mitigation of the deleterious effects of expanded gas drilling. The DEC will also need a way to pay for more staff to monitor gas wells and related activities. (www.ny.audubon.org/IssuesAction_ConservationIssues_NaturalGasDrilling.html).

In general, it is the position of Audubon New York

CONSERVATION from pg 3

that the “rush to drilling” should be delayed to allow time to work out the concerns listed above and to develop sufficiently stringent regulations. In the meantime, it is important for anyone who is concerned that the dSGEIS does not afford adequate protection for New York’s environment, wildlife, and residents to take action. Here are a few ideas:

- ① First, educate yourself about Hydraulic Fracturing. If you want a balanced approach, based on fact, I recommend that you watch the video of Cornell University Professor Anthony Ingraffea’s presentation “The Marcellus Gas Shale Play: Information for an Informed Citizenry,” www.what-the-frack.org, 3/31/10.
- ① Visit the OAS website and access some of the links that have been posted. A brief description or comment has been added for each.
- ① Read the dSGEIS, or at least the sections that concern you the most, and comment about the deficiencies before December 12. Send copies of your comments to all elected officials who are relevant, especially Governor Cuomo. Check the Rochesterians Concerned About Unsafe Shale Gas Extraction website, www.r-cause.net, for videos and testimonials given at the New York Assembly Hearing on the SGEIS on October 6. There are some great ideas there. Many internet sites offer support for how to comment on the DEC document. The Gas Drilling Awareness for Cortland County (GDACC) website and The Marcellus Accountability Project for Tompkins County’s “Resources for Commenting on the revised Draft SGEIS (2011)” is another.
- ① Attend a public hearing and speak out about ways to improve the dSGEIS. The complete hearing schedule is on the Gas Drilling Awareness for Cortland County website. I plan to attend the hearing in Binghamton, NY on Nov. 17.
- ① Learn the positions of the candidates in town and county elections and vote for officials who support your view of hydraulic fracturing.
- ① If you don’t want to see fracking in your town, ask your town board to enact zoning that prohibits it.
- ① Write a letter to the editor of your local paper, sharing your concerns about hydraulic fracturing.
- ① Check the OAS website for possible action with

regard to fracking. Several board members will be attending the Audubon Council meeting the third weekend of October and it is possible that the attending chapters might develop a plan of action.

The next time you hear bird song while hiking in a deep, silent forest, drink a glass of well water, or find a pair of Cerulean Warblers on breeding territory, remember that we can no longer take these things for granted. Please write letters to the DEC and to any official whose job it is to protect our well-being and our way of life.

Editor’s note:

Another site you may wish to check out:

The Talisman company was handing this coloring book out to children at company picnics to point out how benign gas drilling was:

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/>

[pdf/201106/201106talisman_coloringbook.pdf](http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/201106/201106talisman_coloringbook.pdf) 

INDUSTRIAL WIND UPDATE

While not as destructive as hydro-fracking, Industrial wind complexes have severe impacts on birds and bats and other aspects of the natural world. These impacts intensify when projects are placed in inappropriate locations such as sites where migrant birds concentrate, areas with concentrations of raptors or other sensitive areas. Areas near/in the Great Lakes, along mountain ridges and in/on ocean coastlines are questionable sites for such projects. We applaud the decision of the New York Power Authority to abandon its GLOW (Great Lakes Offshore Wind) project in lakes Erie and Ontario. Unfortunately onshore projects are still planned for areas close to Great Lakes shorelines. Based on data from the Wolfe Island Ontario project and many other factors, New York should reconsider and eliminate all projects within 5 miles of our two Great Lakes or St. Lawrence River. The more we learn about current industrial wind projects that use large horizontal turbine designs the more questions are raised. While these projects may provide alternatively generated power they are definitively not “Green” in any true sense. Much more technical development, design change, ecological impacts assessment and other study is required before turbine complexes are placed in ecologically sensitive areas. 

O.A.S. PICNIC

A warm and humid day greeted members of the Onondaga Audubon Society as they participated in this year's annual picnic on June 11th. The event was hosted by Dr. Robert Lockwood and his wife Judith at their lovely home near Marcellus, N.Y. About fifteen people brought a wide assortment of delicious salads and desserts to be enjoyed by all.

This special time afforded each one of us an opportunity to meet Tracey Burke Laszlo and Chris Lajewski, winners of the Ruth Engelbrecht Memorial Scholarship Award. These two educators were given the opportunity to attend the Audubon Camp on Hog Island, Maine.

After the picnic, a few of us hiked through a nearby forest that the Lockwoods had helped to preserve. Magnificent Black Cherry, American Basswood and Sugar Maple towered over the well-worn path. On occasion, the silence was broken by the begging calls of young birds that we couldn't readily identify. Suddenly, an adult Yellow-bellied Sapsucker landed on a tree not far from the concealed nesting hole. In a brief moment, we learned a natural sound that most of us were unfamiliar with. Thank you to Dr. Robert & Judith Lockwood for their gracious hospitality and the beautiful surroundings of their home.

Gene Huggins,
President of the Onondaga Audubon Society. 

WELCOME ABOARD

Gene Huggins, Onondaga Audubon President

We hope Audubon members in Jefferson and parts of Lewis Counties enjoy your first installment of our newsletter *The Kestrel*. As a result of recent realignment of chapter service areas, Onondaga Audubon's official territory has been expanded to include these parts of the North Country. We believe that we can serve you better than Northern New York Audubon was able to because:

- Our main operations base in Syracuse is just a quick trip down Interstate 81 from Watertown.
- Our world class sanctuary at Derby Hill on Lake Ontario is as close to downtown Watertown as is to downtown Syracuse.
- We already have a North Country field trip planned for 3 December 2011.
- By spring of 2012 we will offer some program meetings and field trips near Watertown.

- We have a long history of Jefferson county members since our founding in 1951.
- We are active on conservation issues in Jefferson/Lewis counties with the Eastern Lake Ontario Basin and St. Lawrence River as priorities.
- We offer members the opportunity to take *The Kestrel* in full color online.
- Our newsletter editor Julie Covey and recent past president Gerry Smith are North Country residents and OAS ties to members in the area are strong.

Onondaga Audubon is now officially the chapter for the Eastern Lake Ontario Basin and our education, conservation and nature activities will reflect this. Please visit our website <http://www.onondagaaudubon.org> where the last two years of our newsletters are posted. Gerry Smith is working on a North Country committee to conduct OAS activities in Northern Oswego and Jefferson counties. If you would like to help please contact him at 315-771-6902 or goshawk@gisco.net

We hope that you will be interested in and support the negotiated change in service areas between Onondaga and Northern New York chapters. Please note however, that a member may choose what chapter they wish to belong to. For anyone wishing to remain with Northern New York Audubon simply contact them for guidance.

We look forward to serving you and please feel free to contact us! 

OAS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD 2011

The Onondaga Audubon Society is proud to announce this year's Distinguished Service Award to Elizabeth Chapman. Elizabeth went with me on a field trip many years ago, and it was then that she decided to involve herself in some way with our organization. She



became the Membership & Subscription Chairman and for thirteen years has persevered in up-dating countless addresses and sending forth correspondence for membership renewal.

Congratulations, Elizabeth for your tireless efforts on behalf of the Onondaga Audubon Society.

Gene Huggins, President, O.A.S. 

BIRDATHON FUNDRAISING RESULTS 2011

Region 5 2011 Birdathon Fundraising			
Team Name	Team Members	Funds Raised	Notes
The Blackburnians	Janet Needham McGraw & Jane Needham	\$600.00	4 th Place Fundraising Team
Bluebirds	John Rogers & Pat Burns	\$85.00	
The Butterbutts and Tail Waggers	Jason Mauro, Tom Meier , Becky Lynch	\$388.40	
Crazy Celts	Gene Huggins & Michele Neligan	\$25.00	
Gray-crested Flakcatchers	Sue Boettger & Bill Gruenbaum	\$505.00	
King David's Heron	Lin Garrepy, Nancy Bridges, Barb Reuter	\$1,422.00	Top fundraising Team
Loonatics	Deb & Emma Rahalski	\$220.50	
Mad Cowbirds	John H Moore, Dave Baldrini, Peter Moore, Katalin Moore, Geoff Moore, John P Moore	\$100.00	
One Jay Not Blue	Judy Wright	\$242.00	
Osprey Can You See	Dave Nash	\$150.00	
Que Sora Sora	Ken Burdick, Rose Burdick, Dave Graham	\$633.00	3 rd Place Fundraising Team
Shrike Force	Dr. Stephen Schwab, Dr. Stephen Baker, Christopher Stanger	\$300.00	
Solitary Sandpiper	Paul Richardson	\$200.00	
Team Ovenbird	Dave & Jeanne Ryan	\$1,075.00	2 nd Place Fundraising Team
Ten Legs and a Tail	Ken Hodgson, Maryanne Adams, Juanita Willson	\$525.00	
Tweedle-dee-dum	Tom McKay & Jim Stacey	\$100.00	
Twenty Twitters Trackside	Dick Askeland	\$175.00	
Woodcocks	Kevin McGann, Bill Purcell, Chris Spagnoli	\$200.00	
Wrenegades	Faith Baker, Jim Baker, Charlie Baker	\$105.00	
19 Teams combined		\$7,050.90	Grand Total

Thank you  *to all our teams!!!*

BIRDATHON 2011 FUNDRAISING RESULTS WRITE-UP

This year was a nice sequel to last year's excellent financial results, with Birdathon participants and donors again making a significant contribution to OAS. The total received of \$7050.90 was better than last year, making it the third-best year ever. This fundraising is done with very little guidance from the coordinators, yet year after year, the group goes above and beyond. We truly appreciate the level of involvement and the commitment of each of this year's nineteen money-raising teams.

The *King David's Heron* team of Lin Garrepy, Nancy Bridges and Barb Reuter jumped into the lead this year in fundraising. After being narrowly edged out last year for top honors, they re-doubled their effort and set a new all-time record of \$1422, pushing up the bar by a whopping thirty percent. The runners-up were *Team Ovenbird* of Dave and Jeanne Ryan, setting a personal best for the 6th year in a row at \$1075. *Que Sora Sora* team of Dave Graham and Ken & Rose Burdick finished up third, while Janet Needham McGraw and Jane Needham of *The Blackburnians* came in fourth. Also, honorable mention goes to two teams – *Three Blind Titmice* team of Maryanne Adams, Ken Hodgson & Juanita Willson and Sue Boettger and Bill Gruenbaum's *Gray-crested Flakcatchers*.



Many thanks to the 2011 teams. Please support them again for Birdathon in 2012! 

SANCTUARIES

The two weddings that were scheduled for Derby Hill this summer were blessed with wonderful weather and each of those events went extremely well according to the participants. Danielle Lichtenstein and William Rombough were married on the hill on July 9 under beautiful blue skies and Jacqlyn Witmer and David Riposo were married on the hill on September 10 under equally beautiful conditions.

Derby Hill continues to draw picnickers, strollers,

and sunset watchers as well as birders during the summer and early fall. It is a lovely site, and the mowed trails are always inviting thanks to the work of Ken Hodgson.



*Bride & Groom
Jacqlyn
Witmer
and David
Riposo from
the 9/10/11
wedding on
Derby Hill.*

The Noyes Sanctuary trails were checked and cleared on October 9 by my wife Janet and me. The lake that day was absolutely calm and crystal clear. The trails were all dry.

Finally, I have recently limited my sanctuaries role. I will continue as membership secretary for the Derby Hill Bird Observatory and I will be a trail steward for the woodland trail at Derby Hill. I will also be the trail steward for all of the trails at the Noyes Sanctuary. A committee of the OAS Board will be managing all of the functions at Derby Hill.

David Muir, Sanctuaries Chair

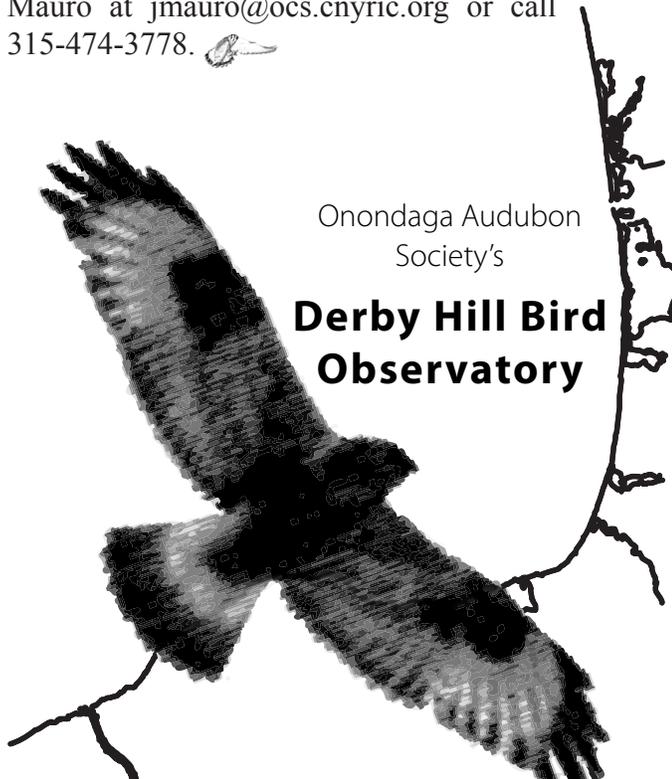


*Hummingbird and friend
&
Hungry baby Finch.
Photos by Sandra Moore*



1ST ANNUAL BIRD FESTIVAL AT DERBY HILL

On May 12th, Onondaga Audubon will hold its first ever Bird Festival at Derby Hill. Located on the shore of Lake Ontario, in the town of Mexico, Derby Hill Bird Observatory is known as one of the best locations to witness the spring raptor migration. Not only that, but many other migratory song birds and water fowl can be seen there as well. The Onondaga Audubon Society has an active and enthusiastic board of directors that wants to create more opportunities for education, conservation and advocacy. It is our goal to have this yearly festival to raise money so that OAS will be able to fund these opportunities. The festival is in the planning stages, but may include such activities as raptor identification seminars, bird walks, ongoing raffles, native plant sale, food vendors, and kid's activities. To make this a success, OAS is looking for volunteers to help with aspects such as finding donations or donors, manning booths, help with parking or facilities, leading bird walks, or other needs that may arise. If you are interested in helping with this exciting event please contact Jason Mauro at jmauro@ocs.cnyric.org or call 315-474-3778. 



SPRING MIGRATION AT MAGEE MARSH

The Biggest Week in American Birding has been scheduled for the week of May 4-13, 2012. Onondaga Audubon Society members may reserve a room with two double beds at the Comfort Inn in Port Clinton, Ohio at the special rate of \$79.94/night, w/tax. The cutoff date for reserving a room at this price is April 4. You can stay for as many or as few days as you like during this block; just stick with your arrival date. Contact M. Adams at goldtailedhermit@aol.com for our group booking code and so that I can keep a tally of how many folks are going. You may call the Comfort Inn directly at 419-732-2929 to make your reservation. Updates about the Biggest Week are available on the Black Swamp Bird Observatory website (bsbobird.org).

2012 Biggest Week activities include:

- + Kenn Kaufman Bird ID Workshops
- + TONS of Warblers & Other Migrants
- + Guided Bird Walks & Bus Tours
- + Guided Lake Erie Islands Trips
- + Songbird Banding Demonstrations
- + American Woodcock Walks
- + Birding by Ear Workshops
- + Digiscoping Workshops

And MORE! 

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.

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@gmail.com 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!** 

REPORTS ABOUT HOG ISLAND

Editor's note: The following are reports from this year's Ruth Engelbrecht Scholarship award winners. Enjoy!



Hog Island was an experience of a lifetime. The setting is historic and beautiful. The people are dynamic, exceptional in knowledge, sharing and kindness. The variety of learning opportunities included birding, sea life, geology, pond and bog life, authors, illustrators, photographer, insects, after dark exploration and of course puffins!

Different breakout sessions were offered each morning and afternoon. There were also evening presentations as well as pre-breakfast birding and hiking. It was exciting to be with a group of over 70 like-minded people yet at the same time there was such diversity. The opportunity to learn from each other and share strategies and best practices will have a positive impact on countless numbers of students of all ages. As we



A very large tree on Hog Island, ME (1st above) and a Puffin offshore. Photos by Tracey Burke Laszlo.

share what we have learned, in classrooms, nature centers, with friends and family, and in everyday life we create connections and a better understanding of the world we live in. As Charles Jordan (The Conservation Fund) said, "What they do not know, they will not protect, and what they do not protect, they will lose."

Attending Educators Week at Hog Island was a tremendous gift. Thank you to the Onondaga chapter of the Audubon Society and the Ruth Engelbrecht Scholarship program for a life changing experience.

Tracey Burke Laszlo

I can summarize my experience on Hog Island in one word; inspirational. From the natural beauty of the rugged Atlantic coast, to the majestic mountains climbing high in the sky, from the playful Atlantic puffins and tasty lobsters to the knowledge and creativeness of the educators and facilitators, everything was inspiring. I realize now that opportunities like this will not come around too often. A week on an island with colleagues from around the world, sharing ideas to connect people with nature, swimming in the 60 degree ocean, no access to phones or emails; how magical!

Out of all the hiking, swimming, sharing, eating, and boating, the experiences that will remain with me the closest are those that I shared with fellow naturalist and Audubon employee Ted Gilman from Greenwich, CT. From birds to bugs and owls to opossum, Ted is an amazing naturalist! I followed him around and joined his training sessions as often as I could. With many years of experience, Ted openly shared ideas for connecting young children to birds. He mucked around with us in the pond looking for macroinvertebrates and shared ideas for connecting people to these small creatures. Ted is an excellent owl caller and he delighted us while having a conversation with a Barred Owl on the other side of the bay. I learned many new tricks of the interpretive trade from Ted and I have already used some to spice up my programs. Jokingly, I said to other educators at Hog Island that I wanted to kidnap Ted and bring him back to Montezuma with me! Ted is inspirational and I hope our paths cross again. But until then, I am loaded with new tools for my interpretive tool belt and it's time to inspire!

Chris Lajewski 



Shore of Hog Island. Photo taken by Chris Lajewski.

ONONDAGA AUDUBON 2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Income			Received
	NYSOA Annual Meeting		\$8,947.00
	Audubon Together Green		\$5,800.00
	Birdathon		\$6,414.90
	Contributions		
		Additional Fundraising	\$921.05
		Annual Appeal	\$130.00
		Audubon dues & Membership	\$1,455.00
		Derby Hill donations	\$3,584.00
		Donations from box at DH	\$84.48
		Other Contributions	\$30.00
		Total Donations:	\$6,204.53
	National Audubon dues		\$4,277.75
	Honeywell Grant Administration		\$1,500.00
	Honeywell Grant		\$18,819.00
	Total Income:		\$51,963.18
Expenses			
	Affiliations		\$320.00
	Audubon Together Green		\$0.00
	Birdathon		\$10.00
	Communications Committee		\$370.00
	Conferences		\$651.61
	Conservation		\$0.00
	Contracted services		\$4,500.00
	Derby Hill Maintenance		\$758.85
	Derby Hill Sanitation		\$578.31
	Derby Hill Utilities		\$1,876.42
	Education		\$478.25
	Fund Raising		\$50.00
	General Operations		\$857.28
	Honeywell Onondaga Lake		\$9,480.09
		Hawk Platforms Montezuma	\$0.00
	Insurance		\$3,703.10
	Newsletters		\$5,692.74
	NOYES		\$0.00
	NYSOA Annual Meeting		\$8,642.39
	Participation Fees		\$160.00
	Programming		\$400.00
	Scholarship		\$2,365.00
	Taxes & Assessments		\$139.36
	Transfer to be added to reserve		\$0.00
	Travel		\$0.00
	Total Expenses:		\$41,033.40
	VANGUARD FUND:		\$5,111.43

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Messina, Treasurer

ONONDAGA AUDUBON ANNUAL APPEAL

Please help us to continue Onondaga Audubon's mission "To engender in the people of the Central and Northern 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."

Please accept my contribution of:

_____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other dollar amount

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Email _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____



OAS Kestrel
2011-12

Please make checks payable to:

Onondaga Audubon Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 620
Syracuse, NY 13201

Onondaga Audubon is a chapter of the National Audubon Society.
Contributions to Onondaga Audubon are fully tax deductible.

Thank you for supporting our mission!

What does the money contributed to Onondaga Audubon go toward?

Insurance

The Kestrel

Hawkwatcher

Utilities (At Derby Hill)

Derby Hill & Noyes maintenance

Education



The new sign at the end of Sage Creek Road.

Many other basic operating needs also demand attention. Your contributions help OAS to continue its bird-related mission of education and conservation.

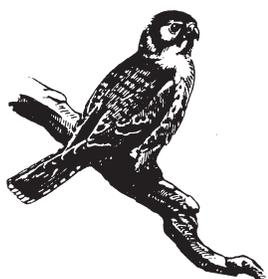
Please help your Onondaga Audubon Society achieve success in its mission!

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THE KESTREL



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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.onodagaaudubon.org>.

FAIR HAVEN BEACH STATE PARK

November 19, Saturday about ¾ of a day
Gene Huggins 315-696-8065

Gene will lead his traditional trip to Fair Haven State Park to look for Purple Sandpiper. There is also the possibility of seeing a Red-throated Loon, Snowy Owl, Horned Larks and Snow Buntings. **Important: Please dress warmly.** Please contact Gene for details.

NORTHWESTERN JEFFERSON COUNTY

December 3, Saturday 9 AM -3 PM
Gerry Smith 315-771-6902

Gerry will lead a trip to Northwestern Jefferson County for early winter hawks, open country birds and waterfowl. Short-eared Owl and Snowy Owl are possible with other northern species likely. This trip will be primarily by car and is weather dependent. For anyone interested, an extension to dusk to seek Short-eared Owls leaving their daytime roost may be offered. Please contact Gerry for details.

OSWEGO RIVER/OSWEGO HARBOR

January 7, Saturday 4-6 hours
Bill Purcell 315-382-2871
wpurcell@twcny.rr.com

Join Bill on a trip to look for waterfowl and gulls along the Oswego River to the Oswego Harbor. Please contact Bill for details. 



*Immature
Cooper's Hawk
Photo by
Timothy Colson,
taken near
Memphis, NY.*