



The Kestrel

ONONDAGA AUDUBON

The National Audubon Chapter of Central New York and the Eastern Lake Ontario Basin

Vol. 44 | No. 3

Fall/Winter 2013

You Need to Know...

Starting with this issue, *The Kestrel* will be published twice a year. It will carry on its 60-year-plus tradition of thought-provoking conservation commentary, as well as a schedule of the chapter's field trips and public programs. Birding events and activities will also continue to be featured.

Like many non-profit organizations, Onondaga Audubon is experiencing increased expenses and a reduced income stream. Most of our members come from *Audubon* magazine subscribers. National Audubon gives us a share of those membership fees so we can provide a local program. That share has averaged about \$4,200 in recent years. Servicing 1,200 members with newsletters alone cost the chapter roughly \$6,500 last year.

We hope to reduce our newsletter costs while maintaining quality communication and extending our reach. Our website OnondagaAudubon.com is robust; we have two lively Facebook pages (Onondaga Audubon and Derby Hill Bird Observatory) and a newly minted Twitter account. We know that not everyone is comfortable with digital media, and we plan to continue with a print edition of *The Kestrel* as long as we can afford to. We encourage everyone to check out our digital offerings. If you choose to receive *The Kestrel* alone electronically, the chapter saves more than five dollars per year, and you are making a green choice. Please see page 2 for how you can make that change.

And thank you for your interest in birds and conservation.

The Editors

FALL PROGRAM MEETINGS

Birds of Africa

Wednesday, September 11, 7 p.m.

Manlius Public Library
1 Arkie Albanese Way, Manlius, N.Y.

An associate professor of physiology at SUNY Upstate Medical University, Jeffrey Freedman, Ph.D. is also an avid birder, traveler, and photographer. At this meeting, Dr. Freedman will discuss the ecological niches filled by some of the birds he has photographed in Africa and the similar niches filled by birds here in the northeastern U.S.

eBird and the New Birding Technology

Wednesday, November 13, 7 p.m.

Fayetteville Free Library
300 Orchard St., Fayetteville, N.Y.

After leaving college, Penn State master's degree candidate Drew Weber spent summers doing surveys for the now-published *Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania*. Thus began his work in melding evolving digital technology with birding skills. In this presentation, Drew will share what he has learned about creating bird lists across digital platforms, including eBird and BirdsEye for iPhone, and what that data can tell you about birds—and your birding.



DOUG DENEVE

A Week in the Everglades

Wednesday, October 9, 7 p.m.

Onondaga Hill Free Library
4840 W. Seneca Tpke., Syracuse, N.Y.

Scott Stoner and his wife, Denise Hackert-Stoner, are photographers, naturalists, and educators who have long been part of the N.Y. State Capital District's art and nature community. Through photos and narrative, the couple will explain why they return again and again to photograph Florida's fabulous Everglades.



DREW WEBER

The Kestrel

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Honorary Directors Dorothy Crumb, Ellie Long, Marge Rusk

Onondaga Audubon Society, Inc., is a chapter of the National Audubon Society.

The mission of the Onondaga Audubon Society is to engender in Central and Northern New Yorkers a greater appreciation for their land, water, and other natural resources, and to increase respect for the wildlife that inhabits these places, especially birds. Onondaga Audubon believes this focus will lead to wiser use of these resources, and we encourage such use through programs, field trips, sanctuary management, and environmental education.

Onondaga Audubon owns and operates two sanctuaries on Lake Ontario: Derby Hill Bird Observatory and Richard A. Noyes Sanctuary.

Our sanctuaries, monthly programs, and field trips are free and open to the public. Please visit www.onodagaaudubon.com for details about these opportunities for public participation.

To become a member of Onondaga Audubon Society chapter, please send your name, address, and a check for \$15, payable to Onondaga Audubon Society, to the address below. Chapter-only members receive *The Kestrel* newsletter. For information on National Audubon Society membership, please visit our website at www.onodagaaudubon.com. Joint members with National Audubon receive *The Kestrel* plus *Audubon* magazine.

Problems with subscriptions should be referred to the membership chair at OnAudubonMembership@yahoo.com.

Letters to the editor may be sent to OnAudubonCom@gmail.com or to the address below.

The Kestrel is printed on sustainable forest paper using environmentally sensitive inks and printing methods.

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

Looking for a way to make a difference?

We have lots of opportunities for volunteers. Whether you have an hour to give or are looking for a bigger challenge, we can point you in the right direction.

- The Field Trip Committee is looking for field trip leaders.
- The Conservation Committee has openings for letter writers and activists.
- The Board of Directors is looking for legal counsel related to sanctuary ownership issues.
- The Program Committee could use a volunteer to help with venue contact and speaker liaison.
- The Communications Committee is looking for someone to handle program and field trip publicity.

If you would like to talk to a committee chair about how you might help, contact Onondaga Audubon at OnAudubonCom@gmail.com and we will get back to you.

Receive this newsletter online—it's the green thing to do!

Save trees, reduce solid waste, and support the chapter at the same time.

If you would like to receive *The Kestrel* only electronically and save the chapter the printing and postage costs, please send your request to OnAudubonMembership@yahoo.com



How to Donate

Onondaga Audubon has a yearly budget of approximately \$20,000, of which less than \$5,000 comes from dues. Your generous contribution makes it possible for us to continue our public programs, educational initiatives, and conservation advocacy, as well as to maintain two sanctuaries.

If you would like to help us achieve our mission, you can do so by mailing your check to:

Onondaga Audubon
P.O. Box 620
Syracuse, New York 13201

If you would like to discuss including the chapter in your estate planning, please contact Gerry Smith at (315) 771-6902.

The chapter is always happy to accept dollar donations. However, some folks have equipment and supplies they no longer need—and that we could really use. Here is our wish list:

- Portable digital projector
- Portable public address system
- Shop vacuum
- Gently used scopes and binoculars for Derby Hill Bird Observatory

If you have any of these items ready for donation, please contact Ken Karwowski at sterna@twcny.rr.com.

It's easy to stay in touch with us!

- Visit our website OnondagaAudubon.com
- Follow us on Twitter and Facebook



If you would like to receive email reminders about public programs and field trips, send an email to OAS.Programs@gmail.com with the word *Subscribe* in the subject line.

CONSERVATION

OAS Faces Host of Issues in Coming Year



By Maryanne Adams
Conservation Chair

West Monroe, N.Y., Indiana Bats

In spite of adequate environmental protections now in place, the DEC has issued a permit allowing inappropriate activity in an environmentally sensitive area. It seems that proper procedures were not followed and there was a lack of communication between the New York DEC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As a result, a private landowner removed trees and filled in a small wetland at the edge of Toad Harbor wetland. Did the Army Corps of Engineers communicate with the Department of Fish and Wildlife about allowing the removal of trees that would negatively impact Indiana Bats? Gerry Smith will obtain specific information regarding the actions taken by the DEC. He will then send a letter explaining our concerns to the Town of West Monroe. It is important that the agencies charged with protecting and overseeing important natural areas be made aware that they are being monitored by concerned citizens and organizations, and that due process needs to be followed.

Lake Ontario

In the wake of public commentary about Plan Bv7, the International Joint Commission (IJC) has issued a revised water management proposal for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. Basically, the new plan, simply called Plan 2014, is very much like Bv7, with triggers for deviation from the plan when water levels reach designated highs or lows. This new plan has the intent of reducing some of the negative effects of extreme water levels on shoreline property and recreational boating while still providing some environmental benefits. It does not do as much to improve lakeshore ecosystems as the previous plan, but it is still better than what is currently

in place. Onondaga Audubon will be submitting a letter to the IJC supporting Plan 2014, and Gerry Smith was physically present at the technical hearing held July 17 in Oswego. You can learn more about the plan and the dates and locations of hearings on the commission's website: http://www.ijc.org/en_/los/

West Barrier Bar Park, Fair Haven

Many of you have visited this 32-acre parcel on the west side of Little Sodus Bay, Lake Ontario. Although many fishermen, birders, and picnickers use this space on a daily basis, it is not particularly well-maintained and it is being overrun by Pale Swallow-wort. (I base my identification on the maroon color of the flower. The blooms on Black Swallow-wort would be very dark purple, almost black.) I was curious about whether or not there were any plans to control it. Because this is a Cayuga County Park, I called Gary Duckett, director of Cayuga County parks and trails. He told me that there are currently no management plans in place because the park is "in limbo" right now. The county has approved a plan to turn it over to the state of New York, who will then deed it to the Village of Fair Haven. In a conversation with Fair Haven mayor Bill McVea, I learned that this should happen in the fall, and the park will then get some much-needed attention. Mayor McVea strongly favors removing both the swallow-wort and invasive honeysuckle and replacing them with native plants and shrubs. The mayor will let Onondaga Audubon know when the transfer occurs, and he welcomes our involvement in improving West Barrier Bar Park.



On June 17, David Muir, Janet Muir, and Maryanne Adams joined more than 2,500 other New Yorkers outside the state capital building to say "NO" to hydrofracking in New York State.

New York Crossroads Rally, Albany

This event sent two messages to N.Y. Governor Cuomo: "No" to hydrofracking and "Yes" to renewable energy. On June 17, David and Janet Muir and I joined more than 2,500 others outside the state capitol building, where we listened to some very inspiring speakers and then marched around the block. Those attending include Natalie Merchant, Oren Lyons, Lois Gibbs, Debra Winger, Maurice Hinchey, Sandra Steingraber, Arun Gandhi, and others. Space does not allow me to do the speakers justice here, but to learn more, please visit www.shaleshockmedia.org, where you can watch a video of the entire rally and hear what speakers had to say.

Please visit <http://onondagaaudubon.com/conservation/> for information about these and other issues impacting birds and the environment. Anyone who wants to help address any of these conservation issues may e-mail me at goldtailedhermit@aol.com

MARYANNE ADAMS

An invasive European species, Pale Swallow-wort forms extensive stands that crowd out native grasses and other plants. A New York study on grassland birds has indicated that as Pale Swallow-wort cover increases, grassland bird presence declines.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

New Leadership and Loss of a Colleague



By Paul Richardson
President

It is an honor to be elected president of Onondaga Audubon Society, and I want to thank both the nomination committee and our membership for the opportunity to lead this wonderful organization for the next two years. I also want to say thank you to my good friend, Gene Huggins, for his outstanding leadership over the last two years.



MICHELE NELIGAN

Onondaga Audubon's new president Paul Richardson (left) with outgoing president Gene Huggins.

I look forward to working along with vice-president Gerry Smith and a very strong board of directors. I have watched our board members—many of whom I have known for years—enthusiastically contribute their unique talents and ideas, which have helped Onondaga Audubon grow. This year we have added four new members to the chapter's board: Frank Moses, who is director of the Montezuma Audubon Center; Alison Kocek, who is a graduate student at SUNY – ESF; Michele Neligan, who has volunteered her services at a variety of Onondaga Audubon events, including our Bird Festival at Derby Hill; and Diane Emord, who is

a retired science teacher and previously served on the board in the late 1980s.

The Onondaga Audubon Bird Festival at Derby Hill was held on Saturday, May 11. Despite unfavorable weather conditions, the turnout was terrific. It takes many hours of dedicated volunteer service to make such an event a success, and I would like to thank Jason Mauro and his committee for their hard work in organizing this event.

Recently, Onondaga Audubon Society was solicited to endorse the Invasive Fish and Wildlife Prevention Act of 2013 (House Resolution 996). Many environmental organizations, including the National Audubon Society, Audubon New York, and the National Wildlife Federation, have already endorsed this act. The Onondaga Audubon board voted to endorse this act at its July meeting.

While serving as president, I will remain the chapter's field trip coordinator. I have set up several field trips for fall and early winter of this year, including trips to Sylvan Beach, Green Lakes State Park, Fair Haven State Park, and Point Peninsula. I invite everyone to go on these trips. And if anyone is interested in leading a future field trip, please contact me at vireo2@verizon.net, and I will be happy to set it up for the next edition of *The Kestrel*.



Bob Long holding the Norman I. Stotz Award he and his wife, Ellie, won in March 2012.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the passing of Dr. Robert Long. Bob served as president of Onondaga Audubon and was a board member for many years. I met Bob and his wife, Ellie, when I attended my first Syracuse Christmas Bird Count compiling session at their house in the early 1990s. I also had the good fortune of working with him as a fellow board member. Bob was an outstanding birder who always encouraged others to partake in the activity. He will be truly missed.

Hearts and Hands Needed for Derby Hill Bird Observatory Projects

- HQ building insulation project
- HQ building trim painting
- Sage Creek blind painting/ roof repair
- General grounds and trail maintenance

Work days are being planned at the observatory for weekend days of September 21, 22, 28, and 29. Other dates can be arranged based on your availability. Contact Ken Karwowski at derby.hill.count@gmail.com for details.

Watch for additional work days on www.OnondagaAudubon.com.

SANCTUARY REPORT

Raptors, Passerines, and More



By Ken Karwowski
Chairman of the Physical Plant
Derby Hill Bird Observatory

This year Derby Hill Bird Observatory celebrated its 35th consecutive spring migration hawk count. Conducted from February 26 through May 31, primary counter Steve Kolbe set a new record for coverage hours, often counting from dawn to dusk. Bill Purcell assisted him in the count. After the count, Steve Kolbe headed to Wyoming, where he counted Goshawks nesting in the Tetons.

Most raptor species showed average or above-average numbers for the spring season, with a total of 47,094 migrant raptors of 16 species being observed. Count hours totaled 739, including time spent at both north and south lookouts.

New season records were set this year for Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles, and Merlins. In addition, the single-day Merlin record at the site was tied at 14 birds on April 19. Especially notable was the observatory's best American Kestrel flight since 1995, with 137 birds recorded on April 18.

Expected rarities for the season included three Black Vultures, but, surprisingly, Swainson's Hawks were absent. Morning passerine flights were quantified in late April and throughout May, leading to new high counts for many species at the Hill. A more complete description of this year's count will appear in the Derby Hill newsletter this fall, but until then more information can be found online at www.onondagaaudubon.com/derby-hill-bird-observatory/.

In early fall we will be making a reconnaissance of Noyes Sanctuary to identify any maintenance issues requiring attention. In the meantime, should anyone find any problems while hiking the trails at Noyes, please let me know by emailing me at derby.hill.count@gmail.com.

EDUCATION

Audubon Brings Adventures in Nature to Area Schools



By Kim Farrell
Education Chair

Many of you reading this article are educators. As educators, you know what a challenge it is to make learning exciting for your students and yourself. National Audubon Society has an excellent resource to help those of you teaching at the 3-5 grade level.

Audubon Adventures Classroom Kits provide teachers a unique way to address core standards while connecting children with the outdoors. Kits provide four lessons on the environment and include a teacher guide, background facts on each topic, student handouts, hands-on activities for both the classroom and the outdoors, and student assessments. Each lesson also defines the national language arts and science standards that will be met. Audubon Adventures can be used as a source for non-fictional reading or as a full science lesson. For more information about these kits, visit <http://education.audubon.org/audubon-adventures>.

Onondaga Audubon is able to provide Audubon Adventures to a limited number of schools at no cost. During the last school year, we distributed kits to schools in Tully, Marcellus, Syracuse, Watertown, Alexandria Bay, and Carthage. One educator told us, "The kids loved them, and the information fit right into our lessons." If you are interested in a kit for the 2013/2014 school year, please contact jkfarrell1@windstream.net.

Whit's Trivia

Rules: Email your answers to whitstrivia@yahoo.com by **October 15**. One winner will be chosen at random from all correct answers. The winner will receive a bird-related prize! Be sure to include your name and address in your email. Winner and answer will be announced in the next Kestrel (first name and last initial only).

Recently, the New School in Syracuse received an Audubon Adventures Kit. One of the school's student requirements is to get involved with a passion that both builds student confidence and gives back to the community. Emmy Newman, a seventh-grade student at the school, contacted Onondaga Audubon expressing an interest in birds. She used an Audubon Adventures kit to teach her class about the environment. She also raised over \$500 to support Onondaga Audubon, built a kestrel box for Green Lakes State Park, went on her first three birding trips, and participated in the 2012 Christmas Bird Count. Emmy has nurtured a passion that will last a lifetime, and we were thrilled to be involved. Onondaga Audubon is grateful for the money Emmy raised and will use the funds to continue helping others create a passion for birds.



Emmy Newman

On another note, the 2013 recipient of the Ruth Engelbrecht Scholarship is Michael Pierce, a biology teacher at Carthage Senior High School. The scholarship helped Michael attend a week-long program on Audubon's Hog Island in Maine, where he worked with other educators as they learned and shared favorite techniques to engage children in nature.

Previous Question: What waterfowl species can dive up to 200 feet in pursuit of shellfish?

Answer: Long-tailed Duck
Winner: Joel C.

New Question: What factors led to the listing of the Black-capped Vireo and the Least Bell's Vireo as endangered?

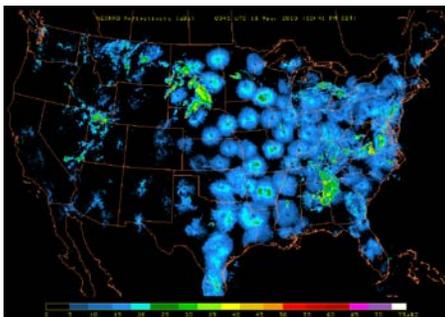
2013 Birdathon Flies High

By Ken Burdick

Participants in the 55th annual Audubon Birdathon, held May 18, enjoyed another great day of birding on the “Big Run.” Total species count for all teams combined was 199 this year—a tie with 1996 for third-best ever. Individual teams also did very well, with many bagging personal best counts.

Participation was good, with 32 teams made up of 67 members. Most teams were well-established regulars, but we also had one all-new team and two previous teams that returned to the fray. We especially want to recognize Maryanne Adams, Ken Hodgson, and Wayne Fidler for enlisting new young birders for their teams.

Weather during May made a near-perfect setup for the event. Nocturnal migration during the 15 days preceding the Birdathon was almost totally blocked. Then, on the 15th some birds were moving, and on the 17th the floodgates opened.



A frame from the radar animation for Birdathon eve

In the competitive area, there was a bit of a surprise this year. Joe Brin teamed up with Andrew Van-Norstrand and Drew Weber, taking the “Most Birds” category by storm. Their eye-popping total of 158 species topped the previous record of 152, set by the Woodcocks in 2009. Looking forward, this is a daunting sum to beat, but we see no sign of an end to the upward trend in the historical data.

Second place went to the Woodcocks at 149 species (Bill Purcell,

Kevin McGann, and Chris Spagnoli); third place with 130 went to We See Gulls (Wayne Fidler, Mary Magistro, and Mark Magistro). Fourth place at 121 was a tie between A Strange Tern of Events from Baltimore Woods (Jason Mauro, Tom Meier, Becky Lynch, and Jonathan Kresge) and Wandering Ataloss (Brenda Best and Matt Voelker). In addition, Gerry Smith had an impressive 127 species from Jefferson County, outside the official competition boundary.

For “Most Birds/Least Miles,” Dave Nash again took it away with a very good 98 species in the Clay Marsh area. The numbers of Singles (15) and Doubles (16), seen by only one or two teams, was above average. These included some great candidates for “Best Bird,” including What Was That?’s Sandhill Crane, Woodcocks’ Clay-colored Sparrow, Wandering Ataloss’ Evening Grosbeak, and Bushwhacking Fool’s Rusty Blackbird. These were bested by Faith and Joel Baker’s vagrant Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Williamstown to take the award.

Other team results include the Blackburnians / 60 (Jane Needham, Janet McGraw), Bluebirds / 113 (John Rogers, Pat Burns), Blurry-Eyed Vireos / 109 (Stephen and Peggy Baker), Bushwhacking Fool / 46 (Dan Crane), Car-Guys / 79 (Bernie Carr, Steve Guy, Steve Mooney), A City Siskin / 59 (Tom McKay), Crazy Celts / 78 (Gene Huggins, Michele Neligan, Rose DeNeve), Gray-crested Flakcatchers / 75 (Sue Boettger, Bill Gruenbaum), Ken and the Gyrfalcons / 87 (Ken Hodgson, Maryanne Adams, Sabrina Winslow), King David’s Heron / 61 (Nancy Bridges, Lin Garrepy), Lookin’4Hooters / 118 (Stephen Schwab, Chris Stanger), Loonatics / 96 (Debbie and Emma Rahalski), Mad Cowbirds / 113 (John P. Moore, Dave Baldrini, Peter Moore, John H. Moore), Marsh Madness / 106 (Jeanne Ryan, David Ryan, Sarah Stuart), Old-gray Gnatcatcher / 113 (Paul Richardson), One Jay—Not Stellar / 114 (Judy Thurber), Oran Station / 54 (Kyle Buelow), Rudder-ing Grackle / 74 (David Wheeler), Slim Pickens / 46 (Pete Davidson,

Phil Taylor), Southern Highlanders / 75 (Natalia Garcia, Virginia DeBenedictis), Stony Point Black Bellies / 120 (Tony Shrimpton, Sue Adair), West Wings / 108 (Ken and Rose Burdick), What Was That? / 68 (June Cowles, Eileen Kampf, Ann Chad-derdon), Wrenegades / 93 (Faith and Jim Baker, Joel Baker), and The Yardbirder / 50 (Mickey Scilingo).

Fundraising has proceeded well. At this writing, we are now 99.44 percent sure of the final number. With the books on Birdathon nearly closed, the total for 2013 stands at \$5,218. Many thanks again to all who joined in!

(To see a full report of the 2013 Birdathon, please visit the Birdathon page at the Onondaga Audubon website: www.onondagaaudubon.com/birding/birdathon. If you do not have internet access, you can receive the report by sending a letter to the Editor at the address on page 2.)

Second Annual Bird Festival a Winning Success

Onondaga Audubon held its Second Annual Bird Festival May 11 at Derby Hill Bird Observatory. Despite less than perfect weather, attendance was up more than 50 percent from last year, as bird and nature lovers climbed the Hill to see live hawks and owls, take part in bird walks, and enjoy other activities. With an array of vendors, several drawings, a silent auction, and tasty onsite barbecue, the event raised more than \$2,500 for the chapter.



PHOTOS: MICHELE AND MICHAELA NELIGAN



Author Focuses on Derby Hill Bird Observatory

On April 30 author Richard Crossley spent several hours at Derby Hill Bird Observatory chatting with birders, watching hawks and waterfowl, and making photographs. Along with Jerry Liguori and Brian Sullivan, Crossley is co-author of *The Crossley ID Guides*, a series of bird guides that uses multiple photographs of each bird in a natural setting so birders can come to see and know the whole bird. His vision of bird identification and use of digitally manipulated photographs has shaken the world of field guides and caused even seasoned birders to rethink the way they look at birds.



Fall Events

Howland's Island Bird-Watching Hike Thursday, September 5, 9–11 a.m.

Fee: \$3/child, \$5/adult, \$15/family.

Montezuma Muckrace

7 p.m. Friday, September 6, to 7 p.m. Saturday, September 7

http://friendsofmontezuma.org/muck_race.html

Montezuma Birding Van Tour

Thursday, September 12, 9 a.m.–noon

Fee: \$7.50/child, \$12.50/adult.

Birding and Boating on the Seneca River Saturday, September 21, 1:30–4:30 p.m.

Fee: \$7.50/child without rental, \$12.50/adult without rental, \$25/solo kayak rental, \$40/canoe rental.

Montezuma Christmas Bird Count Monday, December 16

Contact Chris Lajewski at 315-365-3588 or clajewski@audubon.org for details.

For more information, call 315-365-3588 or e-mail montezuma@audubon.org. Additional autumn/winter programs will be posted at <http://ny.audubon.org/montezuma>.

FALL/WINTER FIELD TRIPS continued on page 8

Onondaga Audubon field trips are free and open to the public. New birders and non-birders are welcome. For more information about these trips and any additional field trips, please visit us online at www.onondagaaudubon.com/field-trips/

Green Lakes State Park Saturday, September 7 Saturday, September 28

Our series of field trips at Green Lakes State Park (GLSP) continues with additional trips in September and October. Each hike will take at least 3 to 5 hours, depending on trail length and weather conditions. Participants should bring their own water and insect repellent. Please contact Paul Richardson at 315-488-5022 for specific times and meeting places.

Sylvan Beach Saturday, September 21 4-5 hours

Bill Purcell 315-382-2871
wpurcell@twcny.rr.com

Join Bill on a trip to look for migrant warblers, sparrows, and shorebirds at Sylvan Beach. Please contact Bill for more details.

Derby Hill / South-eastern Lake Ontario Saturday, October 26

Gerry Smith 315-771-6902

Depending on the wind conditions at Derby Hill Bird Observatory, this trip will focus primarily on Derby (to look for Jaegers and other birds) or move on to other areas along south-eastern Lake Ontario to look for late shorebirds, waterfowl, and raptors. Contact Gerry for more details.

Point Peninsula and Jefferson County Saturday, November 9

Gerry Smith 315-771-6902

Gerry will lead a trip to the Point Peninsula and Jefferson County region to look for late passerine migrants, including sparrows, raptors, and waterfowl. Please contact Gerry for more details.



Trip leader Joe Brin (far left) answers a birder's question during his field trip to Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area on June 1.

ROSE DENEVE

Onondaga Audubon
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FALL/WINTER FIELD TRIPS continued from page 7

Fair Haven Beach State Park

Saturday, November 23
8 a.m.–1 p.m.

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 Red-throated Loon, Snowy Owl, Horned Larks, and Snow Buntings. *Important:* Please bring lunch and dress warmly. Call Gene for more details.



ROSE DENEVE

Bundled birders surround trip leader Gene Huggins (center) in the 2012 quest for the Purple Sandpiper at Fairhaven Beach. Gene will lead another field trip to Fairhaven on November 23.

Syracuse Christmas Bird Count

The 2013 Syracuse Christmas Bird Count will take place on **Saturday, December 21**. Those interested in participating should contact count coordinator Kevin McGann at 315-635-7013 or kmcg13@verizon.net

Watertown Christmas Bird Count

The 2013 Watertown Christmas Bird Count will be held **Saturday, December 14**. Those interested in participating are asked to contact Gerry Smith at 315-771-6902.

Northwestern Jefferson County Saturday, January 18

Gerry Smith 315-771-6902

Gerry will lead a trip to Northwestern Jefferson County for 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. Call Gerry for more details.

Baldwinsville to Oswego Saturday, January 25, 5-6 hours

Bill Purcell 315-382-2871
wpurcell@twcny.rr.com

Join Bill on a trip to look for waterfowl and gulls along the rivers from Baldwinsville to Oswego. Please contact Bill for more details.