

# The Kestrel

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON CHAPTER FOR CENTRAL NEW YORK AND THE EASTERN LAKE ONTARIO BASIN

Vol. 46 | No. 2

Fall/Winter 2015

ONONDAGA  
Audubon



## FALL PROGRAMS

### Conserving Bats in the Northeast

**Wednesday, September 9, 7 p.m.**

DeWitt Community Library  
3649 Erie Blvd. E., ShoppingTown Mall  
Dewitt, N.Y.

SUNY-EF graduate student, Bronson Curry, is studying bats to better understand how differences in habitat between coastal and inland landscapes affect bat populations. He will introduce the audience to the backyard bats of the northeast, major issues in bat conservation today, and describe the methods researchers use to capture and track these elusive animals.



BRONSON CURRY

### Birds of Amazonian Ecuador

**Wednesday, October 14, 7 p.m.**

Baldwinsville Public Library  
33 E. Genesee St, Baldwinsville, N.Y.

During her PhD research at the University of Arkansas, Abigail Darrah, studied the ecology and behaviors of a small, neotropical bird, the Wedge-billed Woodcreeper. Abby will discuss how the woodcreepers' interactions with other bird species peaked her interest in this common, but little studied bird and what interesting results she found about the movements and ecology of this species.

### Golden-winged Warbler Habitat Restoration

**Wednesday, October 21, 6 p.m.**

Flower Memorial Library  
229 Washington St., Watertown, N.Y.

Audubon New York's work in the St. Lawrence Valley to conserve and manage habitat for Golden-winged Warblers is an ongoing success. Their partnerships with local land-owners, agencies, and land trusts has led to direct on-the-ground management of habitat, resulting in Golden-winged Warblers nesting in newly restored habitat. Linnea Rowse, Audubon New York Field Conservationist/Project Specialist will present this information and more, discussing how and why Audubon is doing this work.



CHRISTIAN ARTUSO

### Audubon: Father of Ornithology

**Wednesday, November 11, 7 p.m.**

Manlius Library  
1 Arkie Albanese Ave, Manlius, N.Y.

Join Syracuse University MLIS Candidate Deanna L. King to discover the story behind the Audubon Society's namesake: wildlife artist and naturalist John James Audubon. Audubon's seminal work, *Birds of America* popularized the scientific and recreational study of birds in our country. Since its release in the 1820s, *Birds of America* has been renowned for its beauty and the impressive size of the double-elephant folio on which it is printed.

## The Kestrel

Editors Thomas Riley, Alison Kocek,  
Kim Farrell

### Officers, Chairs, and Directors 2015-2016

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### Join

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 [audubon.org](http://audubon.org). Joint members with National Audubon receive *The Kestrel* plus *Audubon* magazine.

### Volunteer

If you would like to talk to a committee chair about how you might help, contact [OnAudubonCom@gmail.com](mailto:OnAudubonCom@gmail.com) and we will get back to you.

### Donate

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

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

### Stay in touch

Letters to the editor may be sent to [OnAudubonCom@gmail.com](mailto:OnAudubonCom@gmail.com) or to the address above.

Visit our website: [OnondagaAudubon.org](http://OnondagaAudubon.org)



If you would like to receive *The Kestrel* by email only, please send your request to [OnAudubonMembership@yahoo.com](mailto:OnAudubonMembership@yahoo.com).

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Changes and Opportunities



By Paul Richardson  
President

I hope everyone has had an opportunity to enjoy some good bird watching over the spring and summer. Here are a few details from last spring...

In March, Onondaga Audubon selected Julia Yeatts as the recipient for the Ruth Engelbrecht Memorial Scholarship for the Educator's Week at Hog Island, Maine. I attended a portion of the Audubon Council meeting in Saratoga Springs. The meeting concentrated mainly on statewide forest initiatives and issues surrounding the overpopulation of white-tailed deer in New York State.

In early May, we held our fourth Onondaga Audubon Bird Festival at Derby Hill. I thank the Bird Festival committee and the host of volunteers who helped make this event a great success.

Recently, due to term limit rules, three of our officers and board members are departing; Gerry Smith (past president and vice president), David Nash (secretary), and David Perrin (long serving director). In addition, Rose DeNeve, who was an active member on many initiatives and did wonderful work as co-editor for our publications, needed to step down. I want to thank each of them for selflessly giving hours upon hours of their time to help make Onondaga Audubon what it is today. Alison Kocek and Diane Emord have graciously agreed to step up and will take over the duties of vice president and secretary on July 1, respectively.

Over this summer, Onondaga Audubon will be working on condensing its land parcels at Derby Hill. The Town of Mexico is presently proposing a new water district along Sage Creek Drive. The condensing of these parcels will help lessen greatly the financial impact of the proposed

water district on the organization in the future. We hope to have this process completed in the early fall.



Onondaga Audubon owns seven of the parcels on this map of Sage Creek Drive

I once again encourage everyone to please participate in this year's Christmas Bird Counts. Last fall's *Audubon Birds and Climate Change* report indicated the importance of obtaining good citizen science data on wintering bird populations. Even if you are not an expert on identifying birds, you can be grouped with people who are experienced birders. As someone who has participated in these counts for more than twenty years, having an extra pair of eyes out there can be extremely helpful for these counts.

This will be my third and likely final year as president of the chapter. Over this next year I will be searching for new members to enhance our already excellent board of directors. I will also be seeking someone to replace our treasurer, Whitney Smith, who will be leaving after the 2015-16 year. If you are interested in joining the Onondaga Audubon Board or would like to assume the duties of treasurer, please feel free to contact me at [vireo2@verizon.net](mailto:vireo2@verizon.net).

## CONSERVATION

### Sometimes You Lose, but Other Times You Win Big!



By Maryanne Adams  
Conservation Chair

On June 29, 2015, high-volume hydraulic fracturing was officially banned in our state. New York State Department of Conservation Commissioner Joe Martens sums up his department's conclusion as follows:

*High-volume hydraulic fracturing poses significant adverse impacts to land, air, water, natural resources and potential significant public health impacts that cannot be adequately mitigated. This decision is consistent with DEC's mission to conserve, improve and protect our state's natural resources, and to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state.*

This ban is the result of years of effort from grassroots organizations and individuals who never gave up. It is a victory for New York's avian residents as well because they will be exposed to fewer industrial hazards and less habitat loss and fragmentation. We can expect lawsuits from industry and some landowners, but, for the time being, New York will not be fracked.

Travis Glazier, Onondaga County's Director of the Environment, attended Onondaga Audubon's Board meeting on June 24. We invited him to the meeting because we are concerned about the impact that the development of the area around Onondaga Lake might have on wildlife, especially the Bald Eagles that winter roost in the tall trees on the shoreline near the Metro sewage plant. We shared our concerns about the placement of the final portion of the loop-the-lake trail and the potentially negative impact that the presence of humans could have on the eagles. The board agreed that the only acceptable options would be to

site the trail far enough away from roosting eagles to avoid disturbance, or to close the trail from November through March. Whichever plan is followed, large roost trees should not be removed during the construction of the trail or other amenities.

In January 2015, the DEC completed a *Draft Conservation Plan for Bald Eagles in New York State*. The public comment period for this document began on February 23, 2015 and concluded April 10, 2015. During this period numerous comments were received from individuals, organizations, and government entities. Revisions based on those comments and a final plan will result. Respondents seeking information or clarification on a particular topic will be contacted directly with a follow up email.

Onondaga Audubon sent a comment letter last April that addressed shortcomings of the plan (e.g., lack of concern regarding negative impacts from both the use of lead shot in upland areas and alternative energy development). Also, the plan did not specifically mention the Bald Eagles wintering on Onondaga Lake. Blanche Town, Fish & Wildlife Technician 3/Regional Access Coordinator, told me that she was not in possession of documentation of winter roosts, foraging areas, or the presence of a consistently large number of Bald Eagles on Onondaga Lake during the winter months. She is going to revise the *St. Lawrence River Bald Eagle Observation Report Form* to make it suitable for use in other areas and send it to us. The form can be used to provide documentation of the level of winter activity on the lake. With your help we can collect enough data that demonstrates a significant Bald Eagle presence at Onondaga Lake. The data will also be useful to the County for making an informed decision about the placement of the final portion of the trail around the lake. Mr. Glazier was very amenable to receiving information about the eagles and continuing to allow Onondaga Audubon to provide input to the County.

The Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Trustee Council have requested suggestions for restoration projects around Onondaga Lake. Projects will be selected by the Onondaga Nation, USFWS, and DEC.

Onondaga Audubon has several projects in mind including supporting grassland bird habitat, installing Bald Eagle nest sites, putting up Chimney Swift towers, and restoring Common Tern nest sites on Onondaga Lake.

I'll end this article by sharing some very exciting news. One pair of nesting Piping Plovers and three individual plovers have been spotted on Lake Ontario this summer! This is the first time breeding plovers have been verified on Lake Ontario since the early 1980's. Currently, volunteers from Onondaga Audubon, Audubon New York, USFWS, DEC, and New York State Parks are working together to help minimize disturbances to the birds, including stewarding the beach to remind people about the importance of sharing the beach, keeping away from fenced off areas, keeping dogs off beaches, and cleaning up trash that could encourage predators. Thank you for doing your part to keep the plovers safe. By the time you are reading this the birds should be headed to their winter homes, but we hope to have them back next year!



USFWS PHOTO

## SANCTUARIES

### A Migration Season Update



By David Fitch  
Sanctuary Chair

The 2015 migration season took shape during February as we engaged the services of seasoned Derby Hill hawk watcher, David Wheeler, as our contract counter. Regular visitors to Derby Hill know Dave to be skilled at distant raptor spotting and identification. Equally, if not more importantly, Dave has demonstrated his ability to read and interpret weather patterns affecting raptor migration. In this era of high-speed access to information, his daily predictions proved invaluable to many whom were making decisions about travel plans to the sanctuary. These were provided through links to our Facebook page, OnondagaAudubon.org, Oneida Birds, and HawkCount.

Despite the presence of a couple of feet of snow and record low temperatures, the sanctuary residence was opened on February 28th. This required a fair amount of shoveling along with assistance from a neighboring property owner who has a tractor-mounted snow thrower. By hiring that equipment and operator, it was possible to clear a driveway to the cottage, a path to the south lookout, and a portion of the south lookout parking lot. The stubborn winter conditions kept migration to a trickle and confined visitors to a small plowed area through the first couple weeks of March.

By mid-March raptor numbers began to increase, providing early season observers with some outstanding views of raptor field marks made possible by the sunlight reflecting off the still snow-covered ground. As migration picked up, so did visitation. I thank all of you who observed our parking signs while the turf on the hilltop was thawing. Your compliance with our request to park in the lower

lot or along Sage Creek Drive was noticed and sincerely appreciated. For those who may not be aware, during these conditions it is okay to temporarily drive to the hilltop to drop off passengers and equipment before parking below.

We continue to monitor and voice our concerns over the planned town water district extension along Sage Creek Drive. We do not object to the residents obtaining water service to their homes, however, we do not want much needed sanctuary funds depleted to pay for such improvements from which Onondaga Audubon will not benefit. As Paul stated in his report, in the event that we are unsuccessful at having Onondaga Audubon's properties excluded from the proposed district, it will be in our interest to have Onondaga Audubon's parcels consolidated so that annual costs can be minimized.

On a three-year cycle, sanctuary fields are due for mowing this year. We will be requesting equipment from the USFWS to accomplish this project. The mowing is planned for the fall, following nesting season.

The Onondaga Audubon Board has taken action to renew and refresh our membership in the Hawk Migration Association of North America

(HMANA). We will be working to update and improve Derby Hill's presence on the HMANA website this year, which may stimulate increased visitation and financial support.

Speaking of financial support, we had a successful appeal campaign, generating over \$5,700 in support of the sanctuary. This amount exceeds the amount raised in 2014 and I thank all those who contributed. We also express our appreciation to those who contributed in other ways. Tom Carrolan donated new white boards for posting daily and seasonal counts. Bill Purcell performed the count on several occasions giving Dave Wheeler some much-needed relief. Many of you provided assistance with the count when things got hectic. Many offered identification and interpretive assistance to less experienced visitors. Many donated bird food and helped to keep the feeders stocked. Some helped with cleaning and tidying up the premises. I am certain that there are other contributions of time and resources made, which I have missed or neglected to mention, but all are genuinely appreciated. Together we helped to make the sanctuary an enjoyable and welcoming hawk watch. Thanks for your role in that effort.

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## BIRD FESTIVAL

### Great Day for Hawks, Warblers and Visitors

The fourth Onondaga Audubon Bird Festival at Derby Hill took place on Saturday, May 9. This year's event differed from the previous ones in three ways - more volunteers for the day, a south wind with a good raptor flight, and more children visiting than ever before.

The day began cloudy and unsettled. Participants arrived early to set up their booths and tables. Items for the first prize drawing were unpacked and the Onondaga Audubon Welcome/Membership table was prepared. The shuttle van from the Montezuma Audubon Center trundled up Grandview Avenue. Rick West from

"Westy's Birds of Prey" arrived with his fascinating collection of hawks, falcons and owls and made them comfortable in the shade of the huge Norway maple.

At 10 a.m. the crowds started to arrive. Volunteers began the challenging job of helping visitors with parking. The shuttle from the south lookout lot ran constantly and activities filled the day. Masters of Ceremony announced field trips, activities and prize winners. At the Activities for Youngsters booth, volunteers entertained children with pine cone owls, bluebird drawings and demonstrations of how bees



BIRD FESTIVAL PHOTOS BY MICHELE NELIGAN

pollinate flowers. Little ones had a great time playing the Food Web game, hopping, skipping, slithering, pretending to be predators or prey, and trying to eat without being eaten.

People treated themselves to tasty vittles from Chomppers Smokin' Barbeque. The very entertaining Robert Gullotta exhibited some of his fine woodcarvings and showed how a hardwood log can be turned into a realistic duck. A variety of exhibits and information tables educated visitors about fighting invasive species, creating a haven for wildlife using native plants, and promoting environmental stability of coastal ecosystems. Children learned about birds at a hands-on interactive table. Folks found out about the potential impacts of the proposed Natural Gas High Pressure Compression Station in the town of Georgetown (Madison County) on the community and the birds that breed and winter in the area. Volunteers passed out posters, stickers, and handouts about pollinators, Bluebirds, and International Migratory Bird Day.

An eclectic selection of goods and services related to nature and/or health and well-being were represented at seven booths. A great selection of healthy food items,

maple products, handcrafted jewelry and wooden items, wildlife art, local produce, birdseed crafts, and natural dog treats were available. A local practitioner of Eden Energy Medicine shared her knowledge of holistic healing of mind, body, and spirit.

All day long, Westy's raptors calmly watched the humans and round-eyed children stared back. Who wouldn't find it amazing to stand next to a magnificent creature like a Spectacled Owl? Enhancing the excitement, spectacular kettles of hawks appeared overhead during the day. According to the hawk counter's report, a huge flight started up between 2:30 and 4:30, with 1,332 birds in one hour, including 1,161 Broad-winged Hawks. Eleven different raptor species flew overhead during the day and most were visible from the festival area. A constant stream of silent Blue Jays followed the shoreline and a Sandhill Crane passed low over the hill creating additional highlights for the day. The day clearly demonstrated why Derby Hill is so well known as a hawk count and migration site. Those who joined the guided bird/nature walks also experienced the incredible bird diversity at Derby Hill. One group saw Blackburnian, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Magnolia, Chestnut-

sided, Yellow, Black-and-white, and Northern Parula Warblers as well as Common Yellowthroats - a real treat for beginner birders!

The sun emerged from the clouds by 2 p.m., just in time for Gerry Smith's Hawk Talk and the Bluebird Trail Walk. Hardy volunteers stood in the hot sun, selling tickets and setting up items for the last prize drawing. I don't know which was more enjoyable, inspecting the eclectic assortment of items (everything from birding field guides to ice skates) or watching the show as the announcers chose the winners.

The hawk counter remained on duty until 5:00 p.m., tallying a total of 2,148 raptors for the day.

The festival was a success! The volunteers were amazing - thank you! The three hundred some-odd visitors to the bird festival had a great time as Onondaga Audubon continued its outreach mission of increasing environmental awareness and helping people appreciate local natural resources and wildlife. Next year's festival will take place on May 14. Please consider volunteering or participating in this fun-filled event. We'd love to have you!

*Submitted by Maryanne Adams,  
Bird Festival Coordinator.*

## Photo Finish for Birdathon 2015

It was a tight race this year, with the three highest-scoring teams each finishing within one species of the next. Birding in the north country, the Jeffersonian Sweepers came in with the highest overall count at 145. Archaeopteryx, just one bird behind that, took the Region 5 first place honors, while We See Gulls had to settle for second place with 143 species. Joe Brin and Kevin McGann took third at 136, and The Uncommon Mergs did very well finishing only two points out of third place. These scores were below the 2013 all-time high count of 158. The birding conditions were fairly good, with an overnight flight on the previous Thursday, followed by light winds. A solid cloud cover helped keep things going in the afternoon, but also kept raptors grounded for much of the day. Those who got to the Ontario lake shore late in the morning were disappointed to find a heavy fog rolling in from the north.

Birders in the northern counties again had some interesting finds, notably, the first Henslow's Sparrow reported in years, Red Crossbill, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and an array of ducks. But, the Best Bird of the Day was taken by the Mad Cowbirds with a well described, first ever, Blue Grosbeak. Finishing the honors, the Most Birds/Least Miles award was again won by Dave Nash with a high 97 birds and no miles driven.

Overall, 199 species were reported by the 66 participants on 26 teams. There were 17 singles, found by one team only, and 6 doubles.

Next year, the competition for Most Species will include Jefferson and Lewis Counties, requiring the competitive teams to rethink their strategies.

*Submitted by Ken and Rose Burdick, Birdathon Coordinators.*

Team and Members	Species	Singles
Archaeopteryx (Mickey Scilingo, Marty Mau, Chris Spagnoli)	144	3
Bird Brains (Kate Timm, Al Bremmer)	79	
The Blackburnians (Janet Needham McGraw, Jane Needham)	74	
The Blurry-Eyed Vireos (Stephen Baker, Peggy Baker, Tammy Wood)	121	
Joe Brin, Kevin McGann	136	1
Bushwhacking Fool (Dan Crane)	49	1
The Fool On the Hill (Gerry Smith)	97	
Gray-crested Flakcatchers (Sue Boettger, Bill Gruenbaum)	82	
Hooded Warbler (Marge Rusk)	7	
Jeffersonian Sweepers (Tony Shrimpton, Sue Adair, Jeff Bolsinger)	145	5
The Leaf Sparrow (Adrian Ieta, A. Ieta, R. Ieta, S. Usatinski)	44	
Lookin'4Hooters (Frank Brosch, Stephen Schwab, Chris Stanger)	129	
Mad Cowbirds (Dave Baldrini, John Moore, John H. Moore)	94	2
Marsh Madness (Jeanne Ryan, David Ryan)	106	
Osprey Can You See (Dave Nash)	97	
Raven Loonatics (N. Bridges, L. Garrepy, M. Gomborone, B. Reuter, B. Rutledge)	105	1
Skanderlings (Ken Burdick, Rose Burdick, Dave Graham)	95	
Southern Highlanders (Natalia Garcia, Virginia DeBenedictis)	52	
Streaky Sparrow (Abigail Darrah)	125	
Three Sandpipers Walk Into a Bar...(J. Mauro, T. Meier, J. Kresge)	118	
Tri-colored Humans (Ken Hodgson, Maryanne Adams, Sabrina Winslow)	100	2
The Uncommon Mergs (Matt Voelker, Dennis Anderson)	134	1
We See Gulls (R. DeNeve, W. Fidler, M. Magistro, M. Magistro, M. Neligan)	143	
What the Hawk? (Carla Bregman, Jane Fagerland)	81	
What Was That Bird? (June Cowles, Eileen Kampf)	78	1
Wrenegades (Faith Baker, Joel Baker)	84	

## EDUCATION

### Listening to Every Season



Kim Farrell  
Education Chair

Summer is still here, but moving fast. Many of us lament the passing of summer, but one of the best treasures New York offers us is the changing season. The heat of summer moves into the beauty of fall colors and the sounds of migrating birds. Fall transitions to winter with the first snowfall and the chance to re-discover which animals have traveled right by our houses, leaving fresh tracks in all that white stuff. Birds intensely visit feeders, and young birders get the opportunity to see the beauty of a cardinal without having to master the use of binoculars. As the cold, long winter finally breaks to spring, another wave of amazingly colorful birds in breeding plumage moves back in, adding to the spring flowers and greening of vegetation everywhere. Finally, summer returns with hopefully some heat, lawns that grow so fast, and broods of ducks and geese swimming our waterways. Why am I rambling on about the changing seasons? In New York, every season gives us a hands-on opportunity to learn and re-learn about our environment. A few newsletters ago, I challenged you to step outside in the middle of winter and just listen for several minutes. I challenge you to listen to every season in the same way. For a short moment each week, step outdoors, look and listen. What has changed, what is new? Many of you are adamant birders who are already outdoors often and very tuned into the changing patterns of our avian friends. With bird watching comes a knowledge of shifting vegetation, weather patterns, and temperatures. Is there anything you are missing? Are new insects out on the leaves, different pollinators flying around, or small animals making noises in the woods along with the

birds? Use each season to discover something new, and when you do, most importantly, share that information with someone else!

*Discover the wonderful new children's book, "Hass the Great Blue Heron: the Beginning of an Adventure". A tale of an anxious Great Blue Heron, living on the St. Lawrence River, and awaiting the hatching of his first child. "Hass" is available at amazon.com. Proceeds benefit Save the River, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving the St. Lawrence River.*

### **Audubon Adventures**

New for the 2015/2016 school year: (1) why and how to protect habitats, (2) challenges to clean water resources, and (3) different forms and sources of energy: pros and cons. Contact Kim Farrell at [jkfarrell1@windstream.net](mailto:jkfarrell1@windstream.net) if you are interested in ordering an Audubon Adventures kit for your classroom, or your child's classroom. Learn more at <http://audubonadventures.org/Purchase.htm#classroom>



## **Upcoming Events**

### **19th Annual Montezuma Muckrace Friday and Saturday, September 18 and 19**

This Big Day competition begins at 7:00 p.m. Friday, and runs for 24 hours. Teams will compete to see who can see the most species within the Montezuma Wetlands Complex in Cayuga, Wayne, and Seneca counties. There will be five categories in which to compete: Competitive, Low Carbon (no cars used), Recreational, Family/Mentor, Photo

See more at: <http://friendsofmontezuma.org/projects-programs/muckrace/>

### **Happy Owl-ween: Live Owl Program Saturday, October 17, 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

Jean Soparano will have live owls on display during her presentation about the silent hunters of the night. Then from 7:30-8:30, join the Montezuma Audubon Center staff for an owl prowling around the woods and grasslands in search of the wild owls of Montezuma. Fee: \$6.00/child, \$8.00/adult, \$25.00/family. Space is limited and registration is required.

For more information, call 315-365-3580 or e-mail [montezuma@audubon.org](mailto:montezuma@audubon.org). Additional programs will be posted at [ny.audubon.org/montezuma](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 information on other field trips and events please visit us online at [www.onondagaudubon.com/birding/field-trips/](http://www.onondagaudubon.com/birding/field-trips/)

**Please contact the trip leaders for details on specific times and meeting places.**

### **Green Lakes State Park Saturday, September 19**

Paul Richardson: 315-488-5022

A field trip to Green Lakes State Park for fall migrants. The hike will take from 3 to 5 hours (or more) depending on trail length and weather conditions. It is highly recommended that participants bring their own water and insect repellent.

### **Creekwalk/ Onondaga Lake Saturday, October 17**

Paul Richardson: 315-488-5022

An inaugural chapter field trip to Onondaga Lake to look for waterfowl and late migrating songbirds.

### **Derby Hill/ Lake Ontario Saturday, October 24**

Gerry Smith: 315-771-6902

Professional Ornithologist, Gerry Smith, will lead a trip to Derby Hill or the southeastern Lake Ontario area. Depending on the wind conditions at Derby Hill the trip may stay primarily at Derby (to look for Jaegers, etc.) or move on to other parts of the southeastern Lake Ontario area to look for late shorebirds, waterfowl, and raptors.

### **Fair Haven Beach S.P. Saturday, November 21**

Gene Huggins: 315-696-8065

A long time tradition, and popular field trip, to look for Purple Sandpipers. Please bring a lunch and dress very warmly. Migrating waterfowl, Red-throated Loon, Bald Eagle, Dunlin, and Snow Buntings are just some of the possible birds to be seen on this trip. There is always the possibility of a Snowy Owl on the dunes. Easy walking.

### **Point Peninsula and Jefferson County Saturday, November 28**

Gerry Smith: 315-771-6902

A trip to a unique area of the starkly beautiful north country to look for late passerine migrants including sparrows, raptors, and waterfowl.

**Thank you for reading the THE KESTREL electronically.**

**You have saved the chapter postage and printing costs**

**as well as reducing the impact on the environment.**

## WINTER FIELD TRIPS

*continued from page 7*

### **Baldwinsville to Oswego** **Saturday, January 16**

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

Led by an expert birder, we will be looking for waterfowl and gulls along the rivers from Baldwinsville to Oswego. Eagles can be expected..

### **North Country** **Winter Raptors**

**Sunday, January 17**  
Gerry Smith: 315-771-6902

Gerry will lead a trip to northwestern Jefferson County for winter hawks, open country birds, and waterfowl. Snowy Owl is possible with other northern species likely. This trip will be primarily by car and is weather dependent. There may also be an option to extend the field trip to look for Short-eared Owls at dusk.

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Local count dates and compilers are listed below. Contact them to be a part of this important National Audubon citizen science project.

### **Clinton**

Saturday, December 19, 2015  
Matt Perry 315-796-2233

### **Cortland**

Saturday, December 19, 2015  
Matt Young may6@cornell.edu

### **Montezuma**

Monday, December 14, 2015  
Chris Lajewski 315-365-3580, x200

### **New Woodstock**

Wednesday, December 30, 2015  
or Thursday, December 31, 2015  
Matt Young may6@cornell.edu

### **Oneida**

Friday, January 1, 2016  
Bill Purcell 315-382-2871

### **Oswego**

Sunday, December 20, 2015  
Bill Purcell 315-382-2871

### **Rome**

Sunday, December 20, 2015  
Bruce Carpenter 315-271-9073

### **Skaneateles**

Sunday, January 3, 2016  
John Cashier 315-469-3314



### **Syracuse**

Saturday, December 19, 2015  
Kevin McGann 315-635-7013

### **Watertown**

Saturday, December 19, 2015  
Gerry Smith 315-771-6902