

# The Kestrel

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

Vol. 55 | No. 1

Spring/Summer 2024



## SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

### Discovering Birds through Colored Pencil Sketching

**Sat., January 27, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.**

Online Virtual Meeting via Facebook Live

In this session, Anna Stunkel will lead a guided drawing of a Snow Bunting and discuss how sketching aids our observation skills and deepens our appreciation for birds. You'll have the opportunity to add questions to the chat and message us after the class with images of your drawings for feedback! This class will be streamed live on the Onondaga Audubon Facebook page on Saturday January 27th at 12 p.m. (~1 hour)

ANNA STUNKEL



*Snow Bunting, a winter visitor in New York.*

### Birding Book Club

**February & March**

**See OAS Social Media for details.**

Books to be featured include:

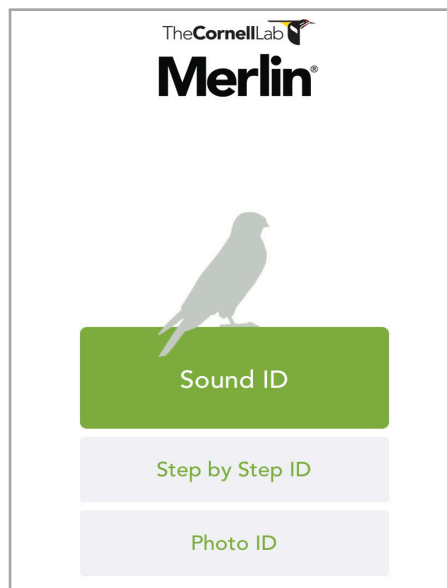
- *Better Living Through Birding* by Christian Cooper
- *Slow Birding: The Art and Science of Enjoying the Birds in Your Own Backyard* by Joan E. Strassmann

### Behind the Scenes of Merlin Sound ID

**Wed., April 10, 6:30 p.m.**

Location TBD

The Merlin Bird ID app, created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, is a global field guide and a powerful tool to help identify the birds around you. Merlin can help you identify 1,000+ bird species by sound even when you can't see them - but how does it work? Alli Smith, Merlin Project Coordinator for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology will take you on a behind the scenes look at Merlin to learn how Sound ID was developed, and how you can help us expand Merlin to cover more species worldwide.



*Home screen of the Merlin App.*

### Let's Go Mothing at Derby Hill!

**Sat., July 20, 9 p.m.**

Derby Hill Bird Observatory  
RSVP Required, link available on website.

Moths come in all sizes, shapes, and colors and are an important food source for birds. The dog days of summer bring the highest number of these flighted nocturnal lepidopterans - so join us during National Moth Week to discover the array of moths and other insects present at Derby Hill. Baltimore Woods Nature Center staff, David DuBois and Anna Stunkel, will bring their moth attracting setup and will help attendees photograph and identify the moths and other insects that we find. They will also describe how to contribute these findings to science using iNaturalist. This is a fun event for adults, children, and people of all abilities! Please bring a chair, headlamp, camera or cell phone, and your favorite insect/moth guide, if you have one. This is a joint program between Onondaga Audubon and Baltimore Woods Nature Center.

ANNA STUNKEL



*A male Io Moth, one of the many moth species that can be seen throughout New York State.*

## The Kestrel

<b>Editors</b>	Kayla Fisk, Alice Daniels
<b>Officers, Chairs, and Directors 2023-2024</b>	
<b>President</b>	Dori Joiner
<b>Vice President</b>	Alison Kocek
<b>Secretary</b>	Anna Stunkel
<b>Treasurer</b>	Robert Kuehnel
<b>Birdathon</b>	Paul Richardson, Whitney Smith
<b>Conservation Education</b>	Maryanne Adams
<b>Field Trips</b>	Paul Richardson
<b>Membership Programs</b>	Danielle Davignon
<b>Native Plants Sanctuaries</b>	Diane Emord Dave Fitch
<b>Directors</b>	Maryanne Adams, Alice Daniels, Kayla Fisk, Jason Luscier, Anna Stunkel

### Join

To become a member of Onondaga Audubon Society, 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 a representative will contact 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.com](http://OnondagaAudubon.com)

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



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

Problems with subscriptions should be referred to the membership chair at [OAS.Membership@gmail.com](mailto:OAS.Membership@gmail.com).

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Breeding Bird Atlas, Onondaga Audubon, and Conservation News

By Dorothy "Dori" Joiner  
President

Hello, Fellow Birders!

As spring approaches, we look forward to welcoming back our local birds to their breeding grounds. When you go out birding, remember that this year is the final year to participate in the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas, a survey conducted once every 20 years for three consecutive years to gather data about the state's bird population. Many blocks in our area have been overlooked and need surveying. We need your help to cover these blocks. Please consider adopting a block, taking note of all bird behaviors, especially breeding and nesting, and recording your observations in the atlas portal in eBird. These surveys provide valuable data about the distribution of breeding birds and inform future conservation efforts. To learn more about the atlas and how to participate in this important citizen science project, please visit this link: <https://ebird.org/atlasny/about>. See page 5 for more information.

Recently, some long-time members of our Board of Directors have stepped down, namely Paul Richardson, Dave Fitch, and Joan Ragland. I want to thank them for all of their hard work and dedication. Paul and Dave are still committee chairs but are seeking replacements for their Field Trip Coordinator and Sanctuary Chair positions. Joan is now training a new volunteer, Danielle Davignon, to take over the job of Membership Committee Chair. Welcome Danielle! The Conservation Committee has also gained two new members: Jenn Yoshioka and Nancy Bronstein. Many thanks to both of you for stepping up and helping out!

Our Open House held in September was a success. Many attended, learned about Onondaga Audubon, and some volunteered for committees. However, there remains an

urgent need for more volunteers to keep our organization running. We need leaders and helpers for these committees: Programs, Education, Event Tabling, and Website Manager. (To find out how you can help, see the box on page 3.)

Meanwhile, at our Derby Hill sanctuary, all renovations to the cottage have finally been completed. For more information about this, see the report on page 3. This spring, we will sponsor several work days at Derby Hill and need volunteers to help with a few projects. More information about these opportunities will be announced later on social media.

As a part of our mission, Onondaga Audubon ensures that our members are kept up-to-date with the current conservation issues in our area. We recognize that human activities often clash with wildlife; therefore, we are responsible for making the public aware of these conflicts and speaking up for our local birds. One such issue is the Micron project that will begin soon in our region. While it will undoubtedly benefit the local economy, it poses a significant threat to the native birds and wildlife due to the destruction of their habitat. Therefore, we must take every possible action to mitigate the impact that the construction of this project, as well as the large-scale housing development and associated services, will have on the surrounding land. For more information about the project, please refer to the conservation article on page 4.

Lastly, don't forget to check out our popular field trips, led by experienced birders at local birding hot spots. Birding with one of these expert leaders is the best way to improve your birding skills and discover where to find migrating spring warblers!



Seaside Sparrow feeding young.

ALISON KOCEK



# SANCTUARIES

## Maintenance and Remediation

By David Fitch  
Sanctuary Chair

The Onondaga Audubon Board of Directors has extended an invitation to Brandon Brogle to count for a third migration season at Derby Hill and he has accepted. Please join me in welcoming him back.

This past summer, the Onondaga Audubon's board authorized Clarke Construction to replace the windows on the Derby Hill Bird Observatory's (Derby Hill) residence porch and to install an improved entrance door to the basement. The storm door to the porch was replaced by local contractor, Jake Burke.

In July, while inspecting bluebird nest boxes, Judy Thurber discovered that Purple Martins were nesting in the old Martin house located along the trail from the lower parking lot to the north lookout. I believe that there were four nest compartments in use. I'm hoping that in 2024, we can entice Martins to try out the newer nest gourds at the top of the hill.

It has been brought to our attention that some of the trees in the hedge-row behind the location numbers at the north lookout have grown to the point that they are obstructing visitor's views of approaching raptors. This is especially noticeable during weather conditions that cause the

birds to fly low. I believe that most of the trees in question are Ash that will eventually succumb to Emerald Ash Borer. However, since the main trunks of these trees are relatively small in diameter, it would be easier to fell them sooner rather than later. This is not a project that I intend to tackle alone, so I would appreciate hearing from anyone willing to assist me in this effort.

At Noyes Sanctuary, additional trail markers have been posted in an effort to make the trails easier for visitors to follow and the clearing of fallen trees from across the trails continues. New signs warning of the potential presence of deer ticks have been added at both sanctuaries.

*If you would like to receive the 2023 Derby Hill Bird Observatory Rough-leg newsletter and be added to the mailing list for future issues, please contact: oas.membership@gmail.com*



*Adult Purple Martin tending to young at the Purple Martin house.*



*The Cottage at Derby Hill Bird Observatory with its new windows.*

## Help Wanted

Onondaga Audubon is currently seeking individuals to serve as leaders of several Committees. The Chairs of these committees may also serve as members of the Board of Directors.

**-Education Chair.** Designs programs to engage children and young adults with the natural world by educating them about birds, wildlife, and environmental conservation. We work with schools to provide in-person and virtual activities and classes.

**-Field Trip Coordinator.** Duties are to schedule public field trips by communicating with Field Trip leaders and carefully arranging a calendar twice yearly.

**-Program Coordinator.** Task is to find speakers and schedule presentations either in person at local libraries or virtually via Zoom. Topics for these free public meetings include birds, wildlife, ecology, conservation, and the environment.

**-Sanctuary Chair.** Oversees and coordinates activities at two Onondaga Audubon sanctuaries. These sanctuaries are the Derby Hill Bird Observatory in the Town of Mexico, NY, and the Richard Noyes Sanctuary in the Town of New Haven.

### New Positions:

**-Webmaster and Social Media Manager:** This position requires someone with experience in website design and social media posts. Tasks include keeping the website up-to-date with relevant information and updating social media platforms

**-Event Table Coordinator.** Duties include taking our table, literature, and banner to Program Meetings and other environmental events such as Earth Day. Besides displaying information, the coordinator reaches out to attendees, answers questions, makes people aware of and encourages them to join our organization.

DAVE FITCH

DAVE FITCH

## CONSERVATION

### Micron will Bring Big Changes – Can We Make Things Better for Wildlife?

By Maryanne Adams  
Conservation Chair

On October 18, I attended the table talk session hosted by the Micron Community Engagement Committee. At that event, it became clear that no one on the committee had any awareness (or concern about) the impact of hundreds of acres of habitat loss caused by the building of the Micron plant on the 1400-acre campus and the impending loss of open space as available land is gobbled-up by developers for housing and other anthropocentric services. One category of discussion questions asked (Community Development, Housing, & Recreation): “What is needed to meet the housing and recreation needs of Central New York residents, especially underrepresented populations, to ensure it is an equitable place where everyone can thrive?” I don’t believe they were thinking about the segment of the population that values undeveloped land. Land like this is a place where wildlife and native plants can thrive, and people who enjoy activities like birding can enjoy the kind of recreation that does not require any infrastructure except possibly a portable restroom.

Another discussion question was, “In what ways will your community benefit if it ensures equitable access to housing, recreation, and overall community development?” Members of the birding community, many of whom are members of Onondaga Audubon, may not be benefitting from the Micron development as much as other unrepresented groups. It is likely that the direct loss of habitat from the construction of the plant, and the loss of hundreds of acres of “unused” space for housing will contribute significantly to the decrease of bird populations that are already in decline.



MATT BROWN

*A Short-eared Owl, one of the many grassland species facing threats from loss of habitat.*

The construction of the Micron plant will annihilate the open space once used by Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls. In addition, many other valuable components of this landscape will disappear: 315 acres of forest; 430 acres of meadows, grasslands, and brushlands, and 131 acres of wetlands. And, as vegetation is eliminated, buildings, roads, and other paved or impervious surfaces will increase from 5 to 514 acres. The site will certainly become unrecognizable to the nonhuman inhabitants who can no longer survive there.

Although there may not be documentation of an endangered plant, animal, or insect inhabiting this area, the value of the birds, insects, plants, and animals that have occupied the space for many years should not be labeled “inconsequential.” They are not. All of them contribute to the diversity of the area.

The need for mitigation is clear. However, one does not mitigate the loss of nature by trading it for economic benefits, jobs, housing, infrastructure, or community services. That’s like cutting down an apple tree and handing out grapes to make up for the loss of the apples. Micron needs to take positive steps to make up for the environmental losses it is creating.

There are actions that Micron could take that would prevent and mitigate harm to the natural environment at the facility. These include:

- creating opportunities for volunteers to remove and rescue native plants, trees, and seeds on the site before construction begins
- using rainwater-permeable

materials for roads, parking lots, sidewalks, and other “non-natural” surfaces

- using the most efficient and eco-friendly HVAC designs and systems available
- seeking LEED Platinum certification for the entire facility
- using bird-safe glass for all windows and doors
- using “eco-friendly” lighting in all outdoor installations
- maintaining native plant gardens on all roof surfaces where feasible
- minimizing waste disposal during the construction and operation of the facility
- maintaining or enhancing the environmental integrity of neighboring natural areas, waterways, and residential/commercial areas

Additional actions that could be taken by Micron to conserve and support the natural environment in Onondaga County as well as in the surrounding areas are:

- Purchase and gift local land to be permanently held in natural “non-developed” state at least equal to, if not surpassing, the acreage of the Micron site.
- Plant two or three native trees in the local community for each one cut down during clearing for construction on the Micron campus.
- Adopt and encourage sustainable practices housing temporary construction workers and permanent employees. This could involve rehabilitating vacant residential properties in Syracuse, converting empty buildings into apartments, and re-purposing



abandoned malls into housing.

- Make generous and sustained donations to support the efforts of local conservation organizations and wildlife rehabilitators.

- Encourage and provide incentives for Micron employees to support the efforts of local conservation organizations.

Micron's footprint will extend far beyond the actual site of the facility. Hundreds of acres of land will be required for housing and other services as thousands of workers and their families move to the area. I have already seen newspaper articles about two inactive golf courses purchased for conversion into housing. Developers will continue to speculate and purchase all the open land they can north, south, east, and west of the facility. Land will be cleared, and even more trees and native plants will disappear. After houses, apartments, and other facilities are built, most landscaping will be done with non-native species or cultivars that look pretty. It is imperative that every opportunity is employed to put native species back wherever possible to improve the environment and to promote diversity. We need a highly active campaign to replant native vegetation wherever possible.

Onondaga Audubon hopes to form a coalition with like-minded conservation groups who share our vision. Can we count on Micron to invest in a better future for those of us who value the natural world? Please contact Onondaga Audubon if you would like to help us with this mission.

MATT BROWN



*A Northern Harrier hunting over an open field. This species is considered a threatened species in New York.*

## Birdwatching for ALL with Birdability in Central New York

By Jason Luscier

Onondaga Audubon values inclusivity in all that we do, so it is important to us that we learn more about accessibility issues related to birdwatching. What places in Central New York are accessible to folks with vision impairments? Where can a person using a mobility device go birdwatching? These questions and more are answered via the website [birdability.org](http://birdability.org). In the past year,

Onondaga Audubon has surveyed and cataloged multiple birdwatching locations for their accessibility. To learn more, users can (1) visit the birdability website ([birdability.org](http://birdability.org)), (2) click on 'Birdability Map,' and (3) zoom in on CNY and peruse interesting locations for observing birds. We will continue to catalog all throughout CNY, so please check back in the coming months. We want all (EVERY ONE) of our members to have safe access to observe our awesome local wildlife!! To learn more or if you have any questions, email Jason Luscier at [lusciejd@lemoyne.edu](mailto:lusciejd@lemoyne.edu).

## 2024, The Final Atlas Year

By Alison Kocek  
Vice President

As we head into the final year of the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas III, we encourage atlasers to go beyond your local birding sites and visit incomplete priority blocks. Data from this Atlas will be used to make conservation decisions by NYSDEC for the next 20 years so it is critical for us to help give them the most accurate picture of where birds are nesting in New York State. Onondaga County alone has 18 incomplete priority blocks and it will take the entire birding community to fill in all of these gaps. If you are already using eBird to collect your birding lists, the only things you need to do to contribute to the atlas are:

1. In settings, change your portal from 'ebird' to 'New York Breeding Bird Atlas.' Any checklists submitted to the 'ebird' portal, even if they contain breeding codes, will not be used in the Atlas.
2. Check the boundaries of the block you are birding in and create a new list if you exit one block and enter another. eBird will give you a warning if you are nearing an Atlas block edge. Also, be certain the hotspot you select for your list is in the block you are actually birding in – create a

new hotspot in the block you're birding in if needed.

3. Add breeding codes to all the species you observe. Even the 'H – In Appropriate Habitat' code is very important to use as any species not given a code will not be included in the Atlas.

4. If you aren't using eBird, you can still submit lists as long as you follow #2 and 3 above.

We will be hosting pop-up Atlas trainings this spring/summer to get new atlasers going so keep an eye on our social media for this. Also please don't forget that not all birds nest in the summer. There is a huge deficit in data on nesting owls which begin nesting as early as January. Be sure to include any winter owl observations in the Atlas portal with a breeding code. Thank you for helping us with our goal of completing all of the priority blocks in Central and Northern New York this summer!

Please contact Jane Graves, Regional Coordinator for Cayuga, Cortland, Onondaga, Ontario ([jgraves@skidmore.edu](mailto:jgraves@skidmore.edu)) if you would like to commit to finishing a priority block, have any questions about the Atlas, or need help submitting non-eBird data.

# BIRDATHON

## Spring Birdathon

By Paul Richardson and Whitney Houston  
Birdathon Coordinators

Our 66th Annual Birdathon will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2024. Both competitive and recreational teams are invited to take part. We also encourage teams to raise funds in support of Onondaga Audubon's mission to conserve birds and their habitats here in Central and Northern New York.

### The Rules

**When:** Saturday, May 18, anytime between midnight and midnight—no rain date!

**Where:** Anywhere you like within Jefferson, Lewis, Onondaga, Oswego, Madison, Oneida, and Herkimer Counties, plus Cayuga County north of Route 31.

**Teams:** Join another, form your own, or go solo. No assigned territories.

**Count:** Carefully identify species by sight and/or ear—follow the honor system, please.

As we approach Birdathon day on May 18, we will be posting additional information on our social media pages as well as the Onondaga Audubon website ([onondagaaudubon.com/Birdathon/](http://onondagaaudubon.com/Birdathon/)).

### Records to Beat

**Most People:** 43 teams, 116 birders (1999)

**Most Funds:** \$7,500 (2001)

**Most Money / Team:** \$2,111. (2023)

**Most Species Combined:** 209 (2011)

**Most Species / Team:** 158 (2013)

### For More Information:

[onondagaaudubon.com/Birdathon](http://onondagaaudubon.com/Birdathon)  
Sign up now for this exciting bird-watching event and help support Onondaga Audubon's local education and bird sanctuary priorities. Contact Paul Richardson at [richardsonp.audubon@gmail.com](mailto:richardsonp.audubon@gmail.com)

The 2023 Birdathon raised just over \$5000. Below is the list of 2023 team donations.

### Updated 2023 Team Donations

Team Name	Total Donations
Bluebirds	\$100.00
Marsh Madness	\$2,111.00
Ms. Chickadee and Mr. Hoot	\$100.00
Old Gray Gnatcatchers	\$100.00
Osprey Can You See	\$170.00
Raiders of the Lost Auk	\$579.00
The Blackburnians	\$1,500.00
The Loon Rangers	\$300.00
Wrenegades	\$100.00
<b>ALL TEAMS COMBINED</b>	<b>\$5,060.00</b>

## Naturally Attracting Birds To Your Yard

By Alison Kocek and Kayla Fisk

We often get asked, "Why aren't birds coming to my feeder?" The common answer is that many yards lack habitat for birds outside of a bird feeder. Many birds only use feeders when their other, more natural, options are limited. Below are some suggestions for how to easily create a more bird-friendly yard.

**What to do:** A slightly messy yard is a birdy yard. Sometimes in the effort to manicure our yards, we forget that we are taking away important habitat for birds.

• **Natural nesting habitat.** Leave dead/dying trees standing (that are not a falling hazard) to provide a rich source of insect food as well as valuable nesting locations for cavity-nesting birds.

• **Winter food sources.** Do not bag fallen leaves. Rake them into your flowerbeds to provide mulch for plants, preserve hibernating pollinators, and provide a food source for birds. Leave dead seedheads standing as a food source for finches.

• **Shelter.** Hiding places from predators and shelter from the weather can be created by leaving a pile of branches in a corner of your yard to create a brush pile. Planting evergreen trees or shrubs (plants that have leaves during all seasons) can also provide shelter year-round.

• **Water features.** Build a pond or put up a bird bath. A clean drinking source in the extreme heat and cold is important for birds and can also be used for bathing to keep birds' delicate feathers clean.

• **Plant native plants.** Native plants and birds developed together and are a recognized food source. They support native insect populations, the main food source for birds. Non-native plant species often support far fewer varieties and numbers of insects, meaning birds must spend more time searching and have a lower chance of finding food.

### What to avoid:

• **Window strikes.** Clean, shiny windows confuse birds and lead to collisions, injury, and death. Put up window screens or apply window decals (Solyx, Feather Friendly, CollidEscape).

• **Dirty Feeders.** Clean your feeders and water features. Locations where many birds gather allow bacteria and viruses to easily spread among individuals. Clean feeders and water features weekly with a 10% bleach solution to help prevent the spread of diseases. If you cannot commit to a cleaning schedule, take your feeders/water features down until you can.

• **Domestic predators.** If you observe a cat or other predator in your yard, temporarily remove feeders and water features to avoid endangering the birds you are trying to help.

• **Chemicals and pesticides.** Chemicals not only kill plants and insects, but also the birds and wildlife that eat them. Avoid chemicals whenever possible, especially systemic pesticides that stay with a plant for life and are known to kill pollinators years after use.

By making your yard more bird-friendly, you will not only make your yard a better place for birds but also for all local wildlife. Providing some of these natural features, you will be surprised at the added variety of species you will attract, a win-win for the birds and for you to enjoy them.

## FIELD TRIPS, CLASSES, AND EVENTS: MARCH 2024-JUNE 2024

**Please contact the trip leader at least two days in advance to sign up.** Trips will be limited in number of participants, and sign-up is required. Trip leaders will limit the number of people as they see fit; they will reveal the time and meeting place when each participant enrolls. Those who do not sign up in advance will not be allowed to participate.

**Pop-up Field Trips.** Additional trips may become available and will be announced one to two weeks in advance on social media, so keep an eye out for these special events.

**Welcome to all beginning birders!** We hope you'll join us this spring to enjoy birds migrating back to their summer nesting grounds. Please bring binoculars if you have them; if not, let the leader know, as you may be able to borrow a pair. Be sure to dress according to the weather and wear appropriate footwear. Bring water and snacks if you need them.

### **Derby Hill Bird Observatory Saturday, March 30 and April 27**

Anna Stunkel [appywalker@gmail.com](mailto:appywalker@gmail.com)

Join Anna Stunkel for a day at Derby Hill, one of North America's best spring hawk migration sites. Dress very warmly and bring binoculars. Please contact Anna to sign up.

### **Saturday, March 30, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.**

This is the peak time for many adult raptors. Besides the normal Turkey Vultures and Red-tailed Hawks, we may expect to see Red-shouldered and Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Harrier, and both Bald and Golden Eagles.

### **Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.**

This second field trip to Derby Hill falls when Broad-winged Hawk numbers are often high, and all of the 15 regularly occurring raptor species are possible at this date.

### **Green Lakes State Park Friday, May 17**

Dave Fitch 315-657-2040  
[dfitch52@gmail.com](mailto:dfitch52@gmail.com)

### **Saturday, June 15**

Paul Richardson 315-488-5022  
[richardsonp.audubon@gmail.com](mailto:richardsonp.audubon@gmail.com)

Join Dave (Friday, May 17) and Paul (Saturday, June 15) for our popular field trips at Green Lakes State Park. Hike

with these experienced birders through woodland and grassland habitats. Good chances for Orchard Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Bluebird, and other nesting species. Please contact Dave or Paul for more details.

### **Discover Derby Hill Bird Observatory Saturday, May 11, 8 am-3 pm**

A day of field walks that celebrate bird migration. Explore the trails and habitats of this premier birding location with experienced leaders. Walks start every hour.

### **Seneca Meadows Wetlands Preserve**

**1712 Black Brook Road in Seneca Falls, NY 13148**

### **Monday, May 13th and June 9th**

Fred Leff, Cell phone (315) 956-0462  
(text preferred please),  
[fredleff@verizon.net](mailto:fredleff@verizon.net)

Join Fred for a morning birding trip to the Seneca Meadows Wetland Preserve looking for spring migrants including songbirds and waterfowl. Bring a water bottle, hat, and insect repellent as this area is relatively open. The trails are usually dry, but there are two newly accessible ones that can be very wet. Carpooling is recommended for people traveling from the Syracuse area. Please contact Fred for more details.

### **Weekday Bird Walks**

### **Thursday, May 16 and 23**

Pleasant Valley Preserve, Cedarvale  
Diane Emord 315-412-2801  
[Demord55@gmail.com](mailto:Demord55@gmail.com)

Join Diane for morning beginner bird walks at the new Pleasant Valley Preserve, a CNY Land Trust property located on Pleasant Valley Road. Bring binoculars. Diane will give instructions on how to use binoculars correctly and give tips on how to spot and identify woodland birds. The trip will take 2-3 hours. Easy walking, no facilities. Please contact Diane to sign up.

### **Whiskey Hollow and Vicinity Saturday, May 25, ¾ day**

Joe Brin 315-857-4734

Traditional Spring migrants and breeding birds trip to the special gorge which is an Important Bird Area and partly protected by Central New York Land Trust. We'll

look for several vireos, Cerulean, Hooded, and Mourning Warblers; Scarlet Tanager; Barred Owl, which nests there; and Acadian Flycatcher, found in only a few places in Region 5. Moderate to difficult terrain due to a few steep, muddy trails. Trip usually lasts until mid-afternoon. Please contact Joe for time and meeting place.

### **Great Adirondack Birding Celebration**

### **May 31 – June 2, 2024**

8023 State Route 30  
Paul Smiths, New York 12970  
518-327-6241, ([vic@paulsmiths.edu](mailto:vic@paulsmiths.edu))

The Great Adirondack Birding Celebration -- the longest-running boreal birding festival in the Northeast -- will be held from May 31st to June 2nd at the Paul Smith's College Visitor Interpretive Center (VIC) in Paul Smiths, New York. The festival will feature field trips to boreal birding hot spots, informative lectures, workshops, a raffle, social hours, and more. Please contact Paul Smiths VIC for more details about this event.

### **Camillus Forest Unique Area Saturday, June 1**

Paul Richardson  
[richardsonp.audubon@gmail.com](mailto:richardsonp.audubon@gmail.com)

This forest contains some of the tallest and oldest trees in Onondaga County. Although it is a forest many parts of the hike will be through meadows and along open fields. Location is good for Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, as well as Hooded, Blue-winged, and Mourning Warblers. Trip should be at least 3-4 hours. Moderate to difficult due to some steep trails. Please contact Paul for more details.

### **Sterling Nature Center Sunday, June 2**

Maryanne Adams 315-626-6368  
[goldtailedhermit@aol.com](mailto:goldtailedhermit@aol.com)

Maryanne will lead a beginner's bird walk at Sterling Nature Center. Bring binoculars. Nesting Great Blue Herons are possible at the rookery, as are many other nesting species. Contact Maryanne to sign up.

*Continued on page 8*





P.O. Box 620  
Syracuse, NY 13201

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 1  
Auburn, NY 13021

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

### Sustainability Practices

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MATT BROWN

*Canada Geese with goslings. If entering this sighting into the Breeding Bird Atlas you would use the code FL- Recently Fledged Young.*

## FIELD TRIPS: MARCH 2024- JUNE 2024 Continued from page 7

### Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge

#### Monday, June 3

Dave Fitch 315-657-2040  
dfitch52@gmail.com

Join Dave on this trip to Montezuma to look for ducks, geese, swans, and other marsh and shorebirds. We will also check out other birding hotspots within the Montezuma complex as time permits. Contact Dave for more details.

### Adirondack Boreal Birding Festival

#### June 6-9, 2024

Hamilton County  
Lake Pleasant, NY 12108  
518-548-3076  
info@adirondackexperience.com

Located entirely within the Adirondack State Park, Hamilton County is the third largest, yet least populated, county in New York State. Over 60 percent of the land area is either wilderness or forest. This event features birding hikes, walks, safaris,

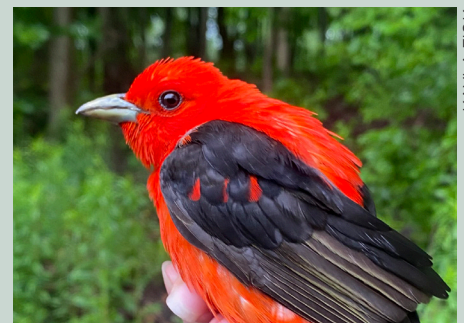
outings, and seminars throughout the county. All field trips are free, but registration is required for each outdoor event. Nesting birds, rising trout, rushing water, wildflowers, and the newborn of many species make the woods and waters of Hamilton County a desirable location to explore.

### South Meadows Nature Area and Labrador Pond

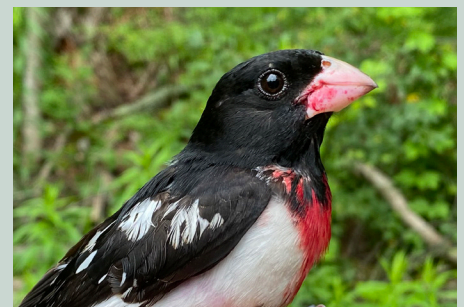
#### Saturday, June 8

Michele Neligan, 315-450-6860  
michele.neligan@gmail.com

Explore the varied bird life found in Onondaga County's southern highlands. Numerous species of birds have been recorded at South Meadows and Labrador Pond during the summer. Black-billed Cuckoo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Pileated Woodpecker, Willow Flycatcher, Field Sparrow, Blue-winged Warbler, and Indigo Bunting are just some of the birds that we may encounter. Please contact Michele regarding the meeting time and place.



KAYLA FISK



KAYLA FISK

*Scarlet Tanager (Top) and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Bottom) are a few of the species that can be seen during the Spring Bird Banding Sessions at Baltimore Woods. Follow our social media accounts to receive updates on banding when they become available.*