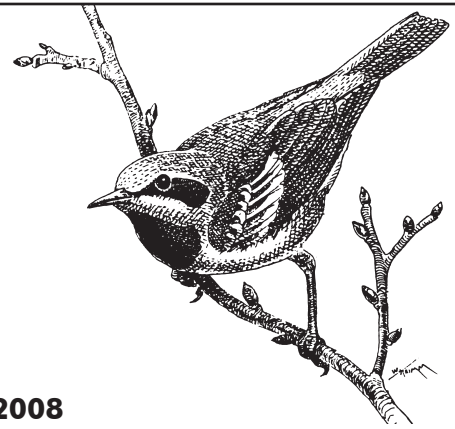


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FOUNDED 1957

# THE Warbler

ALAN DEVOE BIRD CLUB



Volume 50, Number 1, January, 2008

## WINTER BIRDING IN MAINE

by Elisabeth Grace

This past Thanksgiving, for the second year in succession, I decided to spend a few days in Maine. Kate Dunham and I enjoyed many vacations in Maine, as far north as beautiful Deer Isle, and as far south as Wells. I knew of a motel on the outskirts of Wells which welcomes dogs and stays open just late enough in the year to accommodate my plans, and made my reservations. This time, I was joined the day after Thanksgiving by two friends and ADBC members from Albany, Chris Colarusso and Rita Nolan. The extra four eyes helped considerably as we birded spots long familiar to me, all within a few miles of Wells.

Lingering shore birds are one target for winter visits to Maine, and the three of us saw Dunlin, Semipalmated Sandpipers and Black-bellied Plovers at Scarborough's Town Beach. A Hudsonian Godwit had been reported there intermittently for the previous three weeks, as I was told by the eager young student from the University of Maine whom I met there on Thanksgiving Day, but none of us was lucky enough to see it despite repeated efforts. What Jim and I both saw that first morning were rafts of eiders and numerous Long-tailed Ducks, the drakes dramatic in their white, brown and black winter plumage, the hens a little less colorful.

The Town Beach has always been a favorite spot. Fishing boats are moored just off-shore in the bay, some with traditional names like Deliverance and Endeavor, others with girls' names like Mary-Lee, Girl Pat and Marie-Anne, a few with names which fit into neither category, like November Rain. ("Why not November Fog"? I wondered, peering through that first morning's thick mist.) A row of worn pilings, the remnants of a second jetty, used to provide perches for cormorants; on this visit, that species was infrequently seen, and none was there. As it does along most of the south coast

*continued on page 4*

## 25TH ANNUAL WATERFOWL COUNT SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2008



Meet at 9:00 am at  
Stuyvesant Landing.  
Please join us and help count!

## TWO BEECH FORESTS

by Mike Birmingham

This is a story of two beech forests. One grew before beech bark disease. The other grew following the disease. I worked in both forests as a wood cutter and observer of nature. Here is a brief account of my experiences.

Beech trees grow on moist, well drained soils with Sugar Maple, Eastern Hemlock and Yellow Birch. Its sparsely toothed leaves, pointed buds and spiny fruit hulls are not its most recognized characters. Rather, it is its bark, uniquely silver-gray and often mottled.

I went to the beech woods to make firewood with basic tools, an axe and wedge. It is a hard wood, made harder by drying, and difficult to split if knotty. I cut beech to remove it as competition with more valuable tree species. In cutting beech, I unknowingly stimulated root suckers. The suckers grew prolifically creating thickets and pole diameter sized trees. Sucker survival is high due to beech's shade tolerance.

Beech reached enormous sizes. Loggers left beech uncut if defective and most mature beech was defective. Its thin bark is easily broken and wounds are courts for wood rot, and rots lead to hollow cores. Hollow trees are bad for timber and good for wildlife needing cavities.

As an observer of wildlife, I sought beech groves as productive places for my hobby. Some wildlife I saw in the beech groves 50 years ago were deer, turkey, grouse, black bear, squirrel, and opossum. Evidence of animal feeding activities is duff turned exposing mineral soils. Scat

*continued on page 2*

## TWO BEECH FORESTS

*continued from Page 1*

and empty nut hulls at the base of beech indicate recent occupancy. Crowns of beech are homes of birds that feed on insects, nest, sing and seek protection. Predators such as hawks and foxes were common in beech groves.

Mature beech forests disappeared rapidly following beech bark disease (BBD). I entered a BBD forest early in 1970s to remove wood for fuel. I was stuck by its silence. The trees were leafless; the bark dark and rough. It was stillness that gave pause. No bird song; no rustling leaves.

I followed the BBD disease westward spread. In the Adirondacks old growth forests were decimated. Massive beech rotted, toppled and knocked down more trees.

The tangle of branches and boles were up to 20 feet deep. Passage was impractical and dangerous. Recently killed beech had piles of wood chips hip height from Pileated Woodpeckers feeding on the insect infested wood. In Erie County dying tree leaves turned a bright orange-yellow as if to signal a transformation.

Conservationists listened for forest sounds at the Alleghany State Park. Groans



**Beech Leaves**  
Photo by NJ Kern

came from wood fibers twisted and snapped as giants fell and silence returned after the bulky mass smashed earth with a thud. One by one the behemoths fell on a windless day. These lords of the forest did not go quietly.

BBD is not native to the state. Beech scale, also introduced, creates wounds for the fungus to enter and girdle the cambium. Beech scales give beech trunks a white wash appearance. The scale spread on wind and birds; the fungus spores on wind and rain splashes.

Beech forest will recover. Those that arise from root suckers will share the fate of their parents. It is the beech that survive cankers or never cankered that will grow to great sizes and where hope is pinned. Resistance to BBD is widespread. Recovery is hastened by not cutting healthy beech. Leaving

uncut den trees is beneficial for wildlife. The forest following beech bark disease has fewer old growth trees and far fewer den trees.

Nearly 40 years have passed since the encounter with the silent forest stand. I listen to the beech forest and hear the straw colored leaves rustle on a dull breezy December day. The forest sounds healthy.

## 108TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT PERSONAL HIGHLIGHTS

*by Nancy Kern*

The weather was very cooperative with little wind, mild temperatures and no precipitation on December 15th. Debbie Shaw and I birded our portion of the Chatham CBC circle in the morning and found Pine Grosbeaks at two locations east of Ghent. (See photo). The first group was in the same place we sighted them about fifteen years ago, and they were aggressively eating crabapples before the Nor'easter hit the following day. Ellen Scott and I birded in the afternoon and found a nice mixed flock of Horned Lark and Snow Buntings on a field of freshly spread manure. A big flock of Canada Geese flew over Rigor Hill Road and at the end of the V formation was one lone Snow Goose. There were twenty-two participants at the count tally pot-luck and hearty appetites nearly caused our first ever event food shortage! We were saved by Elisabeth Grace's generous



**Male Pine Grosbeak**  
Photo by NJ Kern

donation of abundant hotdogs! We had a tentative total count of 66 + species with more reports to be added. Bill Cook asks that we mail in our reports soon. He will be preparing the report for Audubon after January 5, 2008. Many thanks to our hosts Marion and Willard Ulmer. We enjoyed their beautiful new house addition.

## REMINDERS & NOTICES

### ADBC FIELD TRIPS



#### Jan. 20, 2008, Sun. - WATERFOWL COUNT (25th Annual)

Coordinators: Owen and Carol Whitby

Meet at 9:00 am

at Stuyvesant Landing.

#### Feb. 9, 2008, Sat. - SHRIKE SEARCH (morning)

Coordinators: Drew Hopkins

Meet

at 8 am at Lindenwald parking lot on route 9H. We will look for Northern Shrike on Eichybusch Road in Kinderhook. Then we may check the river for waterfowl.

### COLUMBIA LAND CONSERVANCY OUTINGS

For Information call 374-3729.

Call 392-5252 ext. 205 to register for programs



### HUDSON MOHAWK BIRD CLUB TRIPS & PROGRAMS

For more information, 518-439-8080

**Monday, Jan. 7, 2008** - 7:00 pm at William . Sanford Library (Colonie) - *"HMBC Open House, Birding the Capital Region, and Member Photo Night"*. HMBC welcomes the public as well as members to this meeting.

**Monday, Feb. 4, 2008** - 7:00 pm at William . Sanford Library (Colonie) - *"Birding Adventures in China"* with Joyce Miller.

### EDITOR'S NOTE ABOUT WRITING BIRD NAMES

Bill Cook reminds us about the correct way to write bird names. Please use the standard accepted ABA/AOU names for North American birds. Look in any birding magazine for examples, or at the AOU or ADBC websites' bird lists. Capitalize a specific bird species such as Double-crested Cormorant. If you are talking about any cormorant species in general you don't have to capitalize it.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Andrew Miller  
239 Central Park West  
New York, NY 10024

### PAID MEMBERS FOR 2007

Jane Beaven	James R. Nolan
Roberta Bernstein & Vicki Sand	Rita Nolan & Chris Colarusso
Mimi Brauch	Bertha Petith
Marcel, Marilyn & Noelle Chaine	Tom Phillips
Yvonne Davis	Gloria Scannell
Roland & Molly Drowne	Henry & Susan Scheck
Ruth Tuoti Dufault	Carl, Helen & Stephanie Specht
Howard Ennes	Wendy Power Spielmann
Noel M. Fair	Robert & Elaine Suss
David P. Graziano	Rosemary Tiberio
Drew & Linda N.M. Hopkins (gift membership)	Scotti Tomson
Hertha Johnson	Marion & Willard Ulmer
Nancy Kern & Ellen Scott	Vallerie Wallin
Diedre Leland & Frank Rhyner	Maryann & Gerry Weber
Janet Lincoln & Bob Kessler	Sandy Williams
Mitzi Lobdell	Alan & Phyllis Wirth
Jim & Judi Matthews	David Wolcott & Caroline Leising

### ALAN DEVOE BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Send check to: Sandra Williams, 1730 Co. Rte 9, Chatham, NY 12037, payable to the Alan Devoe Bird Club, Inc.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE & ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Paper Warbler or E-Warbler (please circle your preference)

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

Adult \$15 [ ] Junior (18 or younger) \$10 [ ]

Supporting Adult \$30 [ ] Individual Life \$500 [ ]

Family/Household \$25 [ ]

Supporting Family/Household \$45 [ ]

### ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

General Fund: \_\_\_\_\_

Sanctuary Fund: \_\_\_\_\_

Educational Opportunities Fund: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_



## WINTER BIRDING IN MAINE

*continued from Page 1*

beaches, the tide goes out far and fast, and waders feed most avidly as the mud and sand are exposed by the receding waters. Once the ocean has withdrawn, the birds have access to the many spits of sand it uncovers, and can barely be seen from shore. On Thanksgiving morning, when the fog lifted, I saw at least a dozen seals lounging on one of the sand-bars.

The next afternoon, my friends arrived from Albany. While we made our breakfasts at our motel, our day-time routes were to some extent directed by my wish to introduce Chris and Rita to some favorite eating-places as well as to good birding spots (an admission which more serious birders might frown on!) Luckily, the two objectives often coincide. Bayley's Lobster Pound at Pine Point is just a few yards away from the Town Beach, and Chowderheads is in a small plaza only a couple of miles up Route 1 from Scarborough Marsh. The Maine Diner doesn't have birding spots on its menu, but the excellent food makes up for that-- and it's a good place to end the day and review bird-lists.

A chance encounter with a bird-watching M.D. two days after Thanksgiving sent us south to Ogunquit the following day. I had hoped passionately to see Harlequin Ducks, a species seen in the northeast only in winter and only in certain rocky places off the Maine and Massachusetts coastlines. After parking the car, we chatted with a couple from New Hampshire and together identified Common and Red-throated Loons and Horned Grebes diving just off-shore before setting off up the Marginal Way, the beautiful cliff-edge walk which is a permanent Ogunquit attraction. Edged with fruiting bushes, it offered a protected feeding-spot for a Northern Mockingbird, but no other passerines. We had gone only a few yards further when we began seeing small groups of Harlequin Ducks diving in the choppy water close to the off-shore rocks, just as they are supposed to. In the brilliant sunlight, we could easily study the males' bright patterns, the rust-colored flanks and the white-spotted dark head, neck, back and wings. The bird's Latin name, *Histrionicus histrionicus* seems totally fitting! We walked far enough along the Way to become blasé about finding "yet another group of Harlequins"!

I wanted to show my friends one more spot where Kate and I and the dog of the moment always birded; Scarborough Marsh. A path bisects it, slightly elevated so that there are multiple vantage points for overlooking

the areas of coarse grass and small lagoons that lie on either side. In spring, summer and early fall, herons and egrets are common at this location, Mallards and Black Ducks swim in the pools and Seaside Sparrows frequent the bushes and small trees on either side. On my first visit there, on Thanksgiving, I had watched a Northern Harrier cruising over the marsh looking for food; on our last day, the three of us were unable to definitively find one despite a possible sighting by Chris, and the pools were empty. We added a Black-capped Chickadee (wow!) at the far, wooded end of the trail and then retraced our steps. Suddenly, Chris called out to me, "What's that on top of the dead tree out there?" I quickly guessed Northern Shrike, by its posture and location, although its muted coloring was a bit puzzling. For the next twenty minutes, we watched in awe as the bird gradually flew towards us and perched and posed in a number of small trees and bushes on either side of the path, affording us wonderful views of its brownish head, back and under parts, and its black and white wings and tail. It was an immature bird, the first I'd ever seen, and a great find-- a life bird-- for Chris and Rita.

As well as the birds (and the meals!), our brief vacation was marked by a beautiful full moon which lit up the sky each evening, and by one spectacular sunset. We stood for a while on Scarborough's ocean beach after we left the Marsh, as the sun sank behind the skyline of the town to our west. The sky was brilliant, and was reflected pink, gold and salmon-colored on the wet sand of the long beach, dazzling swaths of marvelous color, which linger in my mind's eye even now. I can't imagine any better place to spend some time before winter really takes over.

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## PROJECT FEEDERWATCH HAS NEW WEB FEATURES

Common Redpolls are venturing south this winter, but even in an irruptive year, none had ever been recorded venturing into New Mexico until this winter. Read the story of how FeederWatchers Ann Ellen and James Tuomey of El Prado, New Mexico, found and reported a Common Redpoll at their feeder: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/News/RedpollStateRecord08.htm>



## BOOK REVIEW BY MARION ULMER

Nature's Way - Observations of a Good Earthkeeper  
by Marion Dusoier Ennes and Edited by Howard Ennes

How many of you remember Howard and Marion Ennes? They were residents of Hillsdale and active members of the Alan Devoe Bird Club until the late 1990s. Marion became editor of *The Warbler* in 1986, a position she held for five years. She obviously loved writing about the world around her, for in 1988 she also started writing her column "Nature's Way" for the Independent. She received the Columbia County Environmental Management Council's "Good Earthkeeping Award" in 1991.



**Marion Ennes**

In 1997, Marion and Howard moved to Fort Bragg, California to be near relatives. It was there that she hoped to

compile her "Nature's Way" writings into a book. However, she died in 2002 before she could accomplish this. Howard decided to undertake the job, using about half of her 349 columns. He did not edit the columns, but let them stand as written complete with their illustrations. However, he has included a brief biography of Marion's life, her mentors from Columbia County and elsewhere including Dr. Edgar Reilly, and a variety of interesting and related facts.

The book is attractive in its layout and has a very adequate index so that anyone wanting to read about a particular bird, plant, or animal can easily locate the appropriate column or columns. The book measures 9"x12", and although it is in paper, it could easily be displayed on a coffee table or given as a gift.

I have a copy of the book if you'd like to see one.

The book is available from the publisher, Cypress House, for a specially negotiated price of \$17.21 plus shipping for ADBC members - 25% off the regular price of \$22.95. To order, call 1-800-773-7782. For more information and a picture of the book cover, go to [www.natureswaybook.net](http://www.natureswaybook.net)

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## ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPERSHIPS/SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Here's a chance for youngsters to spend a week at a DEC (NY Dept. Of Environmental Conservation) Camp in the Adirondacks, the Catskills, or near Rushford Lake in western New York. There's canoeing, swimming, hiking, or birding as well as archery, hunter safety, volleyball, evening campfires and more.

Each year the Alan Devoe Bird Club (ADBC) sets money aside to provide assistance (usually half of the \$250 tuition) to boys and girls wanting to attend environmental camps of their choosing. Although there is no deadline for ADBC campership applications, young people wishing to attend Colby (ages 12-14), Rushford (ages 12-14), DeBruce (ages 12-14) and Pack Forest (Teenage ecology workshop for ages 15- 17) should immediately apply to ADBC for camperships since applications to these camps will be accepted by DEC in Albany on a first come basis starting (by postmark) on Feb. 9, 2008. Young people who are not sponsored are unable to apply to DEC until March 1st, which might mean being on a waiting list or not getting a first choice date. (Sponsoring means that an organization such as a church or the bird club certifies

that the young person is interested in the out-of-doors and can be counted on to be well-behaved and cooperative.)

Applications for camperships (a letter written by the young person telling why he or she wants to go to camp) may be sent directly to The Alan Devoe Bird Club, DEC Camper Program, PO Box 20, Chatham, NY 12037. Money is also available to help educators and youth workers who wish to attend conservation camps or environmental seminars and conferences. For more information about camperships or adult scholarships, please contact Susan Scheck or Marion Ulmer. For more information, or to request an application by mail, please call or write to:

NYSDEC Camps  
625 Broadway; 2nd Floor  
Albany, NY 12233-4500  
(518) 402-8014

[www.dec.state.ny.us/website/education/applycmp.html](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/education/applycmp.html)  
E-mail: [edcamps@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:edcamps@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

# NEW BIRD CONSERVATION HANDBOOK

By Matt Medler

Many of you are undoubtedly familiar with Jeff Wells from his time at Audubon New York in the late 1990s, when, with the help of birders from across the state, he coordinated the first round of New York's Important Bird Area designations. After his time at Audubon New York, Jeff moved on to National Audubon Society, where he was in charge of developing Audubon's WatchList 2002. Since that time, Jeff has become the senior scientist of the Boreal Songbird Initiative, and in the interim, he produced an important new bird conservation book that has just recently been released.

The book is [Birder's Conservation Handbook: 100 North American Birds at Risk](#), and it is a "must read" for anybody interested in bird conservation. The book profiles 100 birds that have been identified as conservation concerns across our continent. Many of these 100 species occur here in New York, either as breeding birds or as migrants. The list of New York species in the book includes several well-known species of conservation concern, such as Piping Plover, Red-headed Woodpecker, Bicknell's Thrush, and Golden-winged Warbler, but it also contains some species that might come as a surprise to some, such as American

Black Duck, American Golden-Plover, and Canada Warbler.

The amount of quality information packed into the Birder's Conservation Handbook is impressive, but arguably the most important part of the book is a section that suggests how we, as average citizens, can help contribute to bird conservation. Despite the sometimes discouraging details of the species accounts, the overriding theme of this book is one of hope--that as individuals, we can make a difference and help conserve the birds we love. If you are interested at all in bird conservation, I encourage you to read this book. If you would like to read an independent review of Birder's Conservation Handbook, I encourage you to visit the BirdCapeMay.org web site: [http://www.birdcapemay.org/tigrina/reviews\\_1107.shtml](http://www.birdcapemay.org/tigrina/reviews_1107.shtml)

And, if you'd like to hear Jeff discuss his book, check out his recent appearance on Vermont Audubon's BEEKS Radio Show at: <http://web1.audubon.org/podcast/public/podlist.php?name=AudubonVermontBirdRadioShow&id=1>

Jeff's appearance begins just before the mid-way point of the sound file.

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## MOUNTAIN LION RUINS HOT TUB SESSION

DEADWOOD, S.D. - A South Dakota woman eased into her outdoor hot tub and cornered a mountain lion crouching less than a foot from her head. Marlene Todd told the Rapid City (S.D.) *Journal* that as she settled into the warm swirling water she heard a rustling noise and saw the big cat looking at her from outside the tub. The animal was apparently as startled as she was, the newspaper reported Sunday. Todd said she had the encounter with the mountain lion Thursday. She said the cat was trapped between the tub and the stairs to her deck and had to jump up onto the edge of the tub to escape. "We locked eyes, and it kicked off of the hot tub and ran away." Todd called police, who said the cat was likely either stalking deer or had sought out the radiating warmth of the hot tub on a cold morning. "It could have been way bad if it would have slipped and fell in the tub with me," Todd said. "I now know what a goldfish feels like in a bowl when the cat is looking at it."

From

Bizarre News

Wed 12/12/07



## 50TH ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRPERSON

2007 has been an active and exciting 50th Anniversary year for our Alan Devoe Bird Club. In April we had a celebration party at our annual membership meeting and dinner at the Columbia Golf and Country Club in Clavarack. Our guest speaker was our last living founding member, Wayne Trimm, and his wife Melody who brought a beautiful little Screech Owl making it an authentic birding event. Our Field Trips were well reported. Although publicity has improved, attendance can vary with weather and sometimes holidays can draw people to other events. Trip leaders, please do not be discouraged, this happens, and we look forward to you leading us into new adventures for the coming year! We sponsored a student to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Camp where students spend a week hiking, canoeing, and learning about outdoor safety, and conservation. We provided National Audubon's Nature's Classroom teaching packets to area schools for their science classes.

We supervised an Eagle Scout Project at the Sanctuary, and hope to have more. Please give us ideas for other improvements we may need. Ecology and bird banding classes for students were given at the Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary. A first of the County BioBlitz was held by ADBC. We did lots of planning, preparation work at the Sanctuary, and despite minor setbacks got the

Cantelle Company tent in place, the County Outhouse's unit strategically hidden nearby, and made use of the two generators provided by Mario's Rentals of Valatie. The very hot weather was a challenge and all through this we



**Nancy Kern - Chairperson**

had a good time and began a good survey of life forms at the Sanctuary. It was the first time in years that so many members have met there, and it brought back lots of good memories and made us more aware of how valuable a resource it is to us and to the community. We made new friends and gained new members too. Eventually we will have a completed report of what we found. Who will ever forget little five year old "Otter" releasing the banded bird for Rich Guthrie?

We did the Waterfowl Count, Century Run and recently our Christmas Count adding to our many years of monthly records of birds seen in our County.

*The Warbler* has received numerous compliments which I appreciate as editor, and give full credit to you who lead, maintain the Sanctuary, educate, travel, observe, report, photograph and then write for us. Please continue to do this, we all benefit greatly.

Thank you to all who have made this a wonderful 50th year! Have a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year filled with lots of rare and beautiful birds.

-- Nancy Kern

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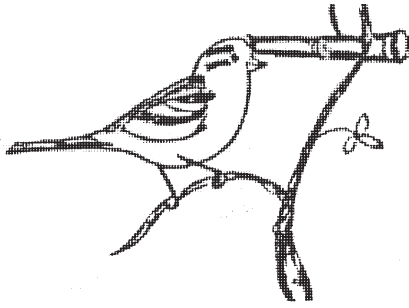
## THE ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DUCK WADDLE

*By Susan Scheck*

This traditional (by now) event has run the gamut with respect to ducks and geese, weather, participants, condition of the lake and other. This year was pretty good in all respects but, because of the 15 degrees Fahrenheit, not too many brave souls came out. We had lovely ducks, though and quite a few nice 'others', especially the Bald Eagle that Rich Nord spotted hiding in a white pine tree. Also seen were: 3 Black Duck, very few Ring-necked Ducks, many Ruddy Ducks, Scaup sp., Hooded and Common Mergansers, and Mallards. In the

"few category" were Buffleheads, American Wigeon and one Pied-billed Grebe. In addition to the water birds, we had Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-tailed Hawk and a singing Carolina Wren. We watchers were quite pleased with the morning's 'catch' and not as cold as anticipated. Tom Phillips, a club member from Nassau, Rosemary Tiberio and Gail and Rich Nord were the lucky ones, as was I to be taken away from my week long trauma with our well and pump.





# BIRD SIGHTINGS

November 2007



Compiled for the Alan Devoe Bird Club by William Cook, Ph.D., Columbia-Greene Community College, 4400 Route 23, Hudson NY 12534

## Report for November 2007

Well, the predictions that this would be a good finch year have come true. COMMON REDPOLLS, PINE SISKINS and EVENING GROSBEAKS were all reported this month. The best bird reported, however, was RED-NECKED GREBE. Mimi Brausch saw one on the Hudson River at Germantown. The last time this species was reported was May 15, 1999, on the Hudson River at Greenport by Bill Cook. The last fall report was November 4, 1997, on Copake Lake by Susan Scheck.

Richard Guthrie spotted a flock of 12 TUNDRA SWANS from the Berkshire Spur near route 5. They were last reported two years ago, November 19, 2005, by Dan O'Connor in Greenport. Lots of AMERICAN COOTS moved through this month. Mimi Brausch counted 90 at Cheviot Landing on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

TURKEY VULTURES seem to be wintering in our area in ever increasing numbers so that they are on the cusp of no longer completely departing as fall migrants. COMMON RAVENS are also being seen regularly in Columbia County. This month Tim Dormady found one at Hand Hollow near East Chatham, one of the newer Conservation Areas available to us for our birding pleasure. And PEREGRINE FALCONS – two were reported this month.

The Whitbys saw two SWAINSON'S THRUSHES in Ghent on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Not particularly late as this species has been recorded as late as mid December coastally in New York. The real trick would be to determine which of the, perhaps three, subspecies that could be migrating through our area they are.

Feeder watching seemed productive this month. John Piwoearski had a WHITE-CROWNED

SPARROW at his feeder. A COMMON GRACKLE has spent a week or more at the Nords' feeder, while a WINTER WREN spent only a day. And Mimi Braush had a GREAT BLUE HERON walk through her yard.

A total of 79 species were reported in November. Of these 58 are common residents, or fall migrants: Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Mallard, Common Merganser, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow. The remaining 21 species are uncommon residents, departing migrants or winter visitors. They are detailed below. Four new species (\*) were added to the annual total this November.

## November 2007 Report

Species	Date	Location	Observer
Snow Goose	8-30	GM AS LV	B L C
Tundra Swan *	15	CN	Guthrie
Green-winged Teal	2 10	CO	P
Ring-necked Duck	16 19	GT	G U
Hooded Merganser	3 20	CM GT	G U
Ruddy Duck	10-30	CM GT	G U
Pied-billed Grebe	8-19	GT HR	U B
Red-necked Grebe *	4	HD/HR	B
Double-crested Cormorant	last 12	GM/HR	G
Peregrine Falcon	18 29	HL RN/HR	Z D
American Coot	2-18	GT GM/HR	U B
Killdeer	11	HL	P
Winter Wren	12	CV	N
Golden-crowned Kinglet	9-26	AS	L
Swainson's Thrush	4	GT	W
Fox Sparrow	11-27	GT TG CM	W A G
White-crowned Sparrow	2	HL	P
Rusty Blackbird	2 10	HL	P
Common Redpoll *	18	HL	Z
Pine Siskin *	5-18	GT AS CM TG CV	U L S Witko
Evening Grosbeak	10 11	TG	A

## November 2007 Summaries

	1981	1986	1998	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total Species	74	65	55	76	62	76	73	71	75	79
Year to Date	188	197	188	199	184	195	183	185	184	195

## JOAN STEINER'S EXHIBIT AT THE NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM IN ALBANY

*by Elisabeth Grace*

Highly recommended: ADBC member Joan Steiner's exhibit at the New York State Museum in Albany, which can be seen until early March, 2008. If you aren't familiar with Joan's work (more than a million of her "Look Alikes" series of books have been sold in 16 countries), getting to know it will be a real treat. Using familiar objects such as pretzels, noodles, bottle tops, candies and dog biscuits-- and hundreds of others-- Joan creates seasonal dioramas, domestic scenes and wonders of the world. An Easter Island effigy made from a sock and a doorstep?-- you have to see it to believe it! In the words of a recent review-- "(the) magic relies on the brain's tendency to perceive what it expects, rather than what the eye actually sees." The exhibition is called "Look-Alikes: The Amazing World of Joan Steiner." Don't miss it!

## Key to Locations:

AC	Ancram
AS	Austerlitz
CL	Clermont
CM	Chatham
CN	Canaan
CO	Copake
CV	Claverack
DT	N. Dutchess
GH	Ghent
GL	Gallatin
GM	Germantown
GP	Greenport
HD	Hudson
HL	Hillsdale
HR	Hudson River
KH	Kinderhook
LV	Livingston
MC	Mill Creek
NL	New Lebanon
RN	S. Rensselaer
SC	Powell Sanct.
SP	Stockport
SV	Stuyvesant
TG	Taghkanic

## Observers

A=Alan, Phyllis & Betsy Wirth, C=Bill Cook, D=Tim Dormady, E=Elle Dietemann, G=Elisabeth Grace, H=Susan Scheck, I=Cris Winters, J=Joan Steiner & George Rodenhausen, K=Kathryn Schneider, L=Mitzi Lobdell, N=Richard Nord, P=John Piwowarski, S=Carl, Helen & Stephanie Specht, U=Marion & Bill Ulmer, W=Owen & Carol Whitby, Y=Will Yandik and Z=Nancy Kern



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## Notable Dates

### Jan. 20th, Sunday

9:00 am - Waterfowl Count. Coordinators: Owen & Carol  
Whitby. For more information, see page 3.

### Feb. 9th, Saturday

8:00 am - Shrike Search. Coordinator: Drew Hopkins  
For more information, see page 3.

### Feb. 14th, Thursday

7:00 pm - Next ADBC Board meeting.



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P.O. Box 20

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*The Warbler*

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