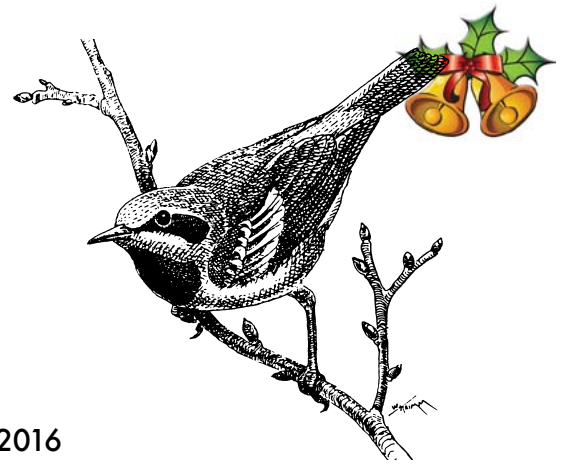




FOUNDED 1957

THE Warbler

ALAN DEVOE BIRD CLUB



Volume 58, Number 12, December, 2016

BIRD COLORS & PATTERNS

Article & Photos by Mike Birmingham, Entomologist

Names from Wikipedia

Bird colors rival those of coral reef fish and butterflies making the topic interesting. Here the focus is on the role of colors in survival and social behavior.

Colors are derived from pigments in skin and feathers. Earthy colors are dark black, brown, red-brown, yellow-brown from melanin; bright yellow, reds and orange from carotenoid; greens, red, brown and pink from porphyrins.



COMMON GRACKLE (*QUISCALUS QUISCULA*) - IRIDESCENT NECK AND HEAD PURPLES CHANGE BRIGHTNESS WHEN BIRD MOVED.

Colors also reflect from structures in feathers that are iridescent or non iridescent. Iridescent structures

(barbules) bend light and reflect it as sometimes brilliant colors that shimmer and glitter because they change brightness as the angle of view changes. Non iridescent colors are blues and whites and many greens. These colors are



NORTHERN CARDINAL (*CARDINALIS CARDINALIS*) - RED COLOR IS FORMED FROM THE CAROTENOID PIGMENT

continued on Page 2

CHATHAM CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SAT. DEC. 17, 2016

Sponsored by ADBC and covers the full day midnight to midnight. Participants can choose to count and report any portion of the day from within the count circle. Coordinator: Bill Cook, phone 518-851-2678 for more information.

The Potluck Dinner and Count Tally will be held in Valatie at 5:30 pm at the home of Marian Sole. Phone: 203-710-9096. The house is located east of the Rte. 203 Bridge, and there is a sign in front that says "Rogers House". Parking is on the street or on the grass across the road.
Marian Sole, 3075 Upper Main Street, Valatie NY

REMINDER!

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP BY JAN 1,
2017!**

Consider a tax deductible donation to help our birds.



BIRD COLORS & PATTERNS

continued from Page 1



EASTERN BLUEBIRD (*SIALIA SIALIS*) - BLUE COLOR IS NONIRIDESCENT, AND IS BLUE AT ANY ANGLE



KILLDEER (*CHARADRIUS VOCIFERUS*) - DISRUPTIVE BANDS AND COLORS MAKE BIRDS HARD TO DETECT ON PEBBLY GROUND.

produced by air pockets in feathers that scatter incoming light.

Why do the Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Willet, Northern Flicker and Dark-eyed Junco



EASTERN TOWHEE (*PIPILO ERYTHROPHthalmus*) - FEMALE COLOR CLOSE TO LEAF COLORS WHERE IT FEEDS

have colors that conceal them on the ground while some have conspicuous flight colors? Maybe the flashy flight feathers confuse predators or serve an important social need. Many open lands birds such as plovers have dark tops and light undersides to conceal them from overhead predators. The Bobolink color pattern is the opposite. Have Bobolinks evolved to look like the tops of dried flower heads or is some other benefit overlooked?

Birds see ultraviolet light giving them a greater visual world than we have. Owls are nocturnal hunters and hear prey as well as see them, but not in color. Diurnal raptors see colors. Brightly colored birds may be hidden by the sun's glare off foliage. Predators have concealment

colors helping them get close to prey without being seen.

Colors are important in recognition of gender and an individuals and age. How does a bird recognize the opposite sex if both



HOUSE SPARROW (*PASSER DOMESTICUS*) - LARGE BIB SIZE ATTRACTIVE TO FEMALES

genders have the same color pattern? It appears that recognition depends on many aspects of special behavior and on multiple traits that vary among species.



RUDDY TURNSTONE (*ARENARIA INTERPRES*) - COLOR PATTERNS VARIABLE AND HELP IT RECOGNIZE INDIVIDUALS

continued on Page 4

ADBC FIELD TRIPS

Dec. 17, Sat. - CHATHAM CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (full day) Sponsored by ADBC.
Coordinator: Bill Cook: 518-851-2678.

REMINDERS & NOTICES



CLC OUTINGS - For Information about CLC events, programs & outings: Visit www.clctrust.org or call 518-392-5252



Jan. 15, 2017, Sun. - NYSOA WATERFOWL COUNT (31st annual) Meet 9:00 am at Stuyvesant Landing. (Beginning in 2009, the count period will always begin two days before Martin Luther King Day, which is the third Monday in January.) Coordinator: Nancy Kern: 518-392-0120.

Feb. 4, Sat. - SHRIKE SEARCH (morning) Meet 9 am at Lindenwald parking lot on route 9H. We will look for Northern Shrike on Eichybush Road in Kinderhook. Northern Harrier and Rough-legged Hawk are more likely than Northern Shrike. Coordinators: Chris Franks and Drew Hopkins: 518-781-0204; 518-249-4711.

NOTE TO FIELD TRIP LEADERS: Following the field trip for which you are the leader, send a brief summary/write-up of the trip for the Warbler to the editor - Nancy Kern, PO Box 321, Ghent NY 12075. email: kernscot@hotmail.com



HUDSON MOHAWK BIRD CLUB TRIPS & PROGRAMS

More info: 518-439-8080 or www.hmbc.net

SAVE THE DATES FOR THE 20TH GBBC

Greetings from the Great Backyard Bird Count team at Audubon, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada! We want to remind you to mark your calendars for the 20th GBBC, coming up February 17 through 20, 2017.

RENEWING MEMBERS FOR 2017

David Caputo
Tim Dormady

ALAN DEVOE BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Annual Renewal Date: January 1st

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 \$20 [] 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: _____





BIRD COLORS & PATTERNS

continued from Page 2

Common color themes include patterns that blend with surroundings. We see earthy colors among woods inhabitants like American Woodcock and Ruffed Grouse. The Savannah Sparrow's stripy breast matches the grassy stems where it feeds. Beach, shoreline and mudflat birds have dark uppers and light lowers that help conceal them from overhead predators. Some birds sport dark eyebrows that cut glare helping them see food. Others however have light colored eyebrows with differences sometimes among genders of the same species. Compare the Common Yellowthroat male with the female. Males have a dark facial mask.



AMERICAN CROW (*CORVUS BRACHYRHYNCHOS*) - BLACKNESS HELPS THE CROWS RECOGNIZE ONE ANOTHER AT GREAT DISTANCES TO ASSEMBLE IN FLOCKS.



RING-NECKED PHEASANT (*PHASIANUS COLCHICUS*) - COLORS INCLUDE THOSE PRODUCED FROM PORPHYRINS PIGMENT

Structures and pigments account for myriad bird colors, and contribute to survival and social behavior. There are advantages and some disadvantages in each color scheme with many of unknown overall value. The accompanying photos and captions help tell the story.



RED-TAILED HAWK (*BUTEO JAMAICENSIS*) - COLOR PATTERN IS THAT OF ITS SURROUNDINGS AND CONCEAL IT FROM PREY

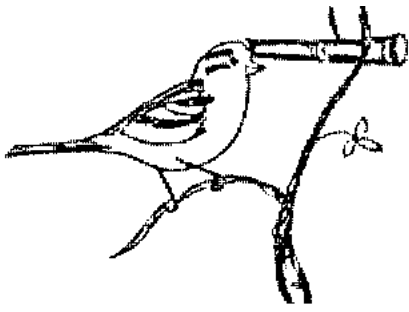


RING-BILLED GULL (*LARUS DELAWARENSIS*) - BLACK WING TIPS HARDENED BY MELANIN AND KERATIN REDUCE EROSION OF FEATHERS IN GULLS, TERNS AND GANNETS THAT FLY FAST AND GREAT DISTANCES.

DEC RECOGNIZES EIGHT NEW YORK BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS AS INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY LEADERS

One is The New York Rural Water Association (NYRWA), headquartered in Columbia County, honored for innovative and creative programming. NYRWA is improving and protecting the health of New York's waters and communities by providing unique and critical services, technical assistance, and training to small, rural communities with populations under 10,000 to help improve and protect water and wastewater facilities. An emergency 800 number gives facility operators access to 24-hour assistance. NYRWA's leak detection program has helped communities save nearly seven million gallons of water each year. Energy efficiency programs are resulting in a cost savings of more than \$200,000 to residents.





BIRD SIGHTINGS

October 2016



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

Report for October 2016

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen and photographed by John Piwowarski last month (September 10, 2016) in Hillsdale on his property. I missed the sighting when I did last month's report but have since added it to the club records. This species breeds in the Adirondacks but we only see this chunky flycatcher during migration and it is often missed. John also was delighted to watch an **American Woodcock** foraging in a marshy area on his property. Here is his description of the feeding behavior: "It had this slow jerky motion which had forward movement and some backward movement with its body as it slowly moved away from me."

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was spotted by students in my Plant Identification Class as we were walking along the shore of Lake Taghkanic on the 25th. The bird was moving through the low shrubbery along the lake. It didn't want to fly out over the water which allowed us to approach it very closely. At first it seemed so small that I thought it may have been a waterthrush but close examination showed it to be a thrush. Bicknell's was ruled out because the bird had no brown tones at all. This is the first ADBC report of this species since August 2011 when Mitzi Lobdell saw one in Austerlitz. **Gray-cheeked Thrush** breeds in Canada and migrates through our area. It is a relatively common migrant but it mostly migrates at night. Furthermore, it is a secretive species that is difficult to observe during the day so it is seldom reported in Columbia County.

All three galliforms were reported again this October but only one report each for **Ring-necked Pheasant** and **Ruffed Grouse**. The population of these species is going down as forests are replacing hedge rows and **Wild Turkey** populations are increasing. This situation is the opposite of what I experienced growing up in Columbia County in the 1950s but probably similar to colonial times.

Nancy Kern began and ended the month with **Merlin**. Winter feeder birds have appeared with a **Pine Siskin** at Marion Ulmer's feeder. This is the time of year when both **Chipping Sparrow** and its winter doppelganger can be seen but even though tree sparrows are all around us none were seen in Columbia County and only one fall chipper made it into the ADBC record this month.

A total of 102 species were reported this October, one less than last October. Of these 61 are common residents, lingering summer breeders or arriving winter visitors: Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Mallard, Common Merganser, Wild Turkey, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, 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, American Kestrel, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow. The remaining 41 species are uncommon residents, departing migrants or winter visitors. They are detailed below. Two new species (*) were added to the annual total this October.

October 2016 Report

Species	Date	Location	Observer
American Wigeon	29	HD	E K
Ring-necked Duck	30	CM	E
Ruddy Duck	30	CM	E
Ring-necked Pheasant	5	AS	L
Ruffed Grouse	17	TG	S
Pied-billed Grebe	26 30	CO	E K
Great Egret	3 8	SP	P C E
Green Heron	8	SP	P C E
Osprey	3 8	SP RN	P C E D
Red-shouldered Hawk	14	CM	eBird
Spotted Sandpiper	4	HR	C
American Woodcock	17 30	HL	P
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	4	CO	eBird
Merlin	1 31	SV	Z
Olive-sided Flycatcher	10SEP	HL	P
Eastern Phoebe	last 15	HL	R
Blue-headed Vireo	8	SP	C E
Tree Swallow	last 14	CM	E
Winter Wren	8	CO	eBird
Marsh Wren	1	SV	K
Golden-crowned Kinglet	16	AS	L
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7-24	AS HL SP RN	L P C E D
Gray-cheeked Thrush *	25	GL	C
Swainson's Thrush	25	CO	eBird
Hermit Thrush	16 20	HL CV CM	P E R F
Wood Thrush	20	LV	C
Gray Catbird	last 19	GM CM	B E
American Pipit	1 16	SV KH	Z E
Tennessee Warbler *	20	LV	C
Black-throated Blue Warbler	3 8	CO	eBird
Palm Warbler	2-17	HL GH CV GP	P E R F
Chipping Sparrow	31	AS	L
Field Sparrow	5	TG	S
Fox Sparrow	27-31	HL	Q
White-crowned Sparrow	15	CM	eBird
Savannah Sparrow	5-17	GH GP	E P R
Eastern Towhee	last 10	HL	P
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2 8	HL SP	P C E
Indigo Bunting	18	RN	G
Eastern Meadowlark	5 30	LV CM	C E
Rusty Blackbird	1	SV	K
Pine Siskin	27	GH	U

Key to Locations:

AC	Angram
AS	Austerlitz
CL	Clermont
CM	Chatham
CN	Canaan
CO	Copake
CV	Claverack
DT	N. Dutchess
GL	Gallatin
GM	Germantown
GP	Greenport
GH	Ghent
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, B=Mimi Brauch, C=Bill Cook, D=Tim Dormady, E=Marian Sole, F=Chris Franks, G=Elisabeth Grace, H=Drew Hopkins, K=Kathryn Schneider, L=Mitzi Lobdell, M=Mike Birmingham, N=Richard Nord, O=Tim O'Connor, P=John Piwowarski, Q=Susan Scheck, R=Leigh McBride, S=Helen & Carl Specht, T=Scotti Tomson, U=Marion & Bill Ulmer, W=Owen & Carol Whitby, Y=Will Yandik and Z=Nancy Kern

October 2016 Summaries

	1981	2001	2007	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total Species	89	90	101	86	102	93	94	102	103	102
Year to Date	181	195	191	174	188	192	189	196	206	197



Alan Devoe Bird Club

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The Warbler

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Notable Dates

December 17, 2016, Saturday

Chatham Christmas Bird Count. For more information, see page 3.

NO ADBC BOARD MEETING IN JANUARY 2017

January 15, 2017, Sunday

9:00 am - NYSOA Waterfowl Count. For more information, see page 3.

February 4, 2017, Saturday

9:00 am - Shrike Search. For more information, see page 3.



The Warbler
Alan Devoe Bird Club
P.O. Box 20
Chatham, NY 12037

FIRST CLASS