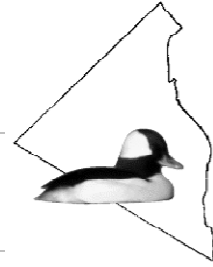


The Observer



The Rockland Audubon Society Quarterly Newsletter. Since 1947. Volume 62, Number 1
February 2009 — April 2009

www.rocklandaudubon.org

Special Interest Articles

Christmas Bird Count 2008:

Julia Warger recounts last month's CBC, birds that were spotted, and the ensuing festivities.

Page 1

...And, the official numbers from the 2008 CBC.

Page 7

Conservation Corner:

Tom Fuller examines wind power — and the perils it presents to our flying, feathered friends.

Page 3

What's Inside:

Message from the President	2
New Members	2
From Mothering Heights	3
Field Trips	6
Notes & Sightings	6
Programs	8

Audubon NY Declares 2009 the Year of the Kestrel

As a child growing up in Southern California, I was fascinated with birds and would spend hours pouring over the pictures in my well-worn copy of the Golden Nature Guide to the Most Familiar American Birds (I was very young, really!). By far, my favorite was the picture of the lone male "Sparrow Hawk", now known as the American Kestrel. This sleek, colorful predator fired my imagination. I HAD TO SEE THIS BIRD!!! In the years that followed, I have seen many kestrels. Probably none was more memorable than "Orley", a kestrel kept by a fellow student during my University days. Orley was named after a character in a then-popular beer commercial. (What do you expect, we're talking about university students here!) The kestrel was allowed to fly the long corridors of the biology building and would perch atop the museum shelves.

There, he would scream incessantly until someone slipped him a mouse! To this day, kestrels are still one of my favorite birds!

Until recently, American Kestrels were relatively easy to see in New York and in Rockland County. They are most abundant during the spring and fall migration, but a few reside during the summer and winter months. New York naturalist James De Kay in 1844 reported that kestrels were common in the state. This remained true until the 1970s when a slow, gradual decline began. In Rockland County the Christmas Bird Count data indicate a precipitous decline in wintering kestrels beginning in the early 1980s. Hook Mountain Hawk Watch data show a more gradual decline except in the last 5-6 years when numbers fell sharply. These declines are reflected throughout most of North America, but are strongest along the Atlantic coast. **Con't on page 5...**

Julia Warger: My First Christmas Bird Count

The morning started early, dark and cold. As I stood outside my house waiting for my team to arrive, I could see a hint of light across the Hudson in the eastern sky. I was praying the owls would be awake as they were our first objective for my very first Christmas Bird Count. When the team arrived we did get two Eastern Screech Owls to respond to our audio tape, but the Great Horned Owl who had been busy calling the night before was no where to be seen or heard.

We piled into the vehicles and moved on to our next destination which was a known roost area for Black Vultures. ...16, 17, 18, and two more, warming themselves stork-like, on the chimneys of the two houses up there on the ridge.

Next, we raced down 9W to capture the sunrise on Haverstraw Bay at the ferry terminal. It was cold and breezy but the colors were downright fluorescent and we had our first Bald Eagle of the day in the eye of the scope. He was in the market for a fish breakfast. My breakfast arrived in the form of a delicious muffin presented by our team leader, Della.

Before lunch, we were counting ducks. Although I am a novice birder, I have a long history of being able to count things, so when my teammates said "how many," it was a contribution I could make! I counted twice before I announced my number, just to be sure. When the flock of Canvasbacks topped 700 in Stony Point Bay, I was in awe and my fingers were getting a work out.

Con't on page 5...

Our Mission

Rockland Audubon Society's mission is to promote environmental conservation and foster an appreciation of birds and nature through education programs and activities.



The Observer is the newsletter of the Rockland Audubon Society, Inc. P.O. Box 404 New City, NY 10956

Editor: Tom Sullivan
Layout: Trisha Sullivan

Send articles, trip reports, poetry, drawings, photos and comments to sullivantp@gmail.com
Submission deadline: April 15, 2008.

Is there something you'd like to read about in *The Observer*? Please, just let me know!

Membership

To join send a \$20 check (\$15 for senior citizens) payable to National Audubon Society to: Veronika Krause, 8 Spruce Street, Orangeburg, NY 10962.

Allow 4 to 8 weeks for delivery of Audubon Magazine and *The Observer*.

Message from the President

Happy New Year!

The national and international news, both good and bad, tend to dominate our thoughts, sometimes making it hard to recognize and appreciate "the little things" that nonetheless contribute to history. They may not have made the nightly news, but the members of Rockland Audubon Society (RAS) contributed several significant records to the annals of ornithological history during 2008.

Four new species — White Ibis, Cackling Goose, Rufous Hummingbird, and King Eider — were added to the list of species recorded for Rockland County! Three of the four were also significant additions to species records for New York State.

A record number of species was seen during the RAS 62nd Christmas Bird Count! Field and feeder counters saw 92 species on 14-Dec-2009, with four more species seen during count week (three days before and three days after count day), for a total of 96. This year's count results are on Page 7, as well as on our website, where you can also find a trip report with photographs, and data for all 62 RAS counts. Thanks to all participants!

I am pleased to announce that our Chapter has been awarded \$1000 from Audubon New York's grant program to purchase a new laptop and laser printer. This equipment will help improve the delivery of our educational programs and our publication capabilities. Thanks to Al Caccese and Laura McCarthy, Audubon New York, and the Audubon Council of New York State.

Good birding!

Della Wells
December 2008

Welcome New and Returning Members!

Albert Ahlf, Sara Ameri, Roberta Barhydt, Lorraine Bege, T. Bentkowski, Patricia Berenger, Sarah Bonvissuto, Wendy Brown, Hannah Buckler, Donald & Shaney Burd, Frances Clancy, Keith Cornell, Michael Crean, C. Denton, James Downs, Bernard & Joyce Doyle, Adeline Feist, Frank Fernandez, J. Forkin, Helen Fullem, Joanna Galdone, Cedric Garlick, Carmen Gatta, Anne Georges, Joseph Gerber, Allan Glatman, Robert Goetschius, Rahul Gopalkrishnan, William Greenberg, Francesa Greene, E. Grosch, Ellen Hart, Julian Harvey, Ralph Hautau, Barbara Hendricks, Betsy Hill, Olivia Imoberdorf, Frank Janouskevec, Reva Andrea Klein, Joseph Koenigsberger, Courtney Kurisko, Marion Laufenberg, George Lehmborg, Janet Leiper, Maria Litwinowicz, Ramona Lotti, R.J. Lounsbury, Elizabeth Lund, Alexander Lurkis, J.T. Maloney, Sandra Mattson, Steve McDonough, Michael McNamara, Alice Mills, Joseph Murphy, Ellen Musso, Scott Neabore, Kathleen Orapello, Dane Paciarelo, Ed Packer, Shannon Payne, Idelle Peterson, Elizabeth Phinney, Alethea Pratt, Laurie Puca, Sharon Quayle, Harriet Raidman, Maria Ramirez, Phyllis Rand, Lois Reid, Marinelle Riley, Daniel Rosenstein, Joan Rothman, Mark & Ellen Rutenberg, Conrad Rutkowski, L. Ryan, Kei Sakayama, Sue Salant, Barbara Schmidt, Morton Shreck, Elaine Siebenaler, Ellen Silverman, Yelena Silverman, Elizabeth Silverstein, Jean Sloan, Eliezer Spaeth, Winifred Strakosch, Jack Stewart, Mary Tiegreen, John Tyler, Margaret Weidner, Louis Wintermeyer, Jean Zambrano, Sima Zisman, Joshua Zuckerman.

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Programs: Julia Warger*
Webmaster: Alan Wells

Wind power is an attractive alternative energy source. It is renewable, emission-free, and relatively cheap. Although less than one percent of our power currently comes from wind, it is the fastest growing renewable industry.

Its popularity has certainly exploded in New York. In the summer of 2008, Mayor Michael Bloomberg proposed putting wind turbines on New York City's skyscrapers, bridges, and waters. Sullivan County Community College is building a turbine on its campus, and Islip residents can now erect windmills on their property.

Ornithologists and bird conservationists have long been concerned about the impact wind power may have on bird populations. This issue came to light in the mid-1980s when an alarming number of bird fatalities were discovered at the Altamont Pass wind farm outside San Francisco. Its 4000 turbines strike down an estimated 4,700 birds each year, including hundreds of raptors such as Golden Eagles. Its layout, location in a raptor migration corridor, and the now abandoned turbine design seem to make this facility exceptionally dangerous.

Studies of more modern wind farms show somewhat lesser impacts. Bird mortality rates vary from less than one bird/turbine/year to nearly 8 birds/turbine/per year. The 195-turbine Maple Ridge Wind Power Project in Lewis County, New York falls toward the higher end of this range: A 2007 study there found 5.67 fatalities per turbine during the survey period. The 25,000 turbines across the nation are believed to be responsible for tens of thousands of annual mortalities. About 80 percent are songbirds and 10 percent may be raptors.

Although this accounts for only a small fraction of all 'unnatural' bird deaths (hundreds of millions are killed each year in collisions with buildings, communication towers, power lines, and vehicles), it is one more hazard vulnerable bird populations must face. Substantially higher numbers of bat fatalities are being discovered. Here, impacts are not the main culprit. Examinations showed signs of internal hemorrhaging consistent with trauma from the sudden drop in air pressure surrounding turbine blades.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acknowledges that as more facilities with larger turbines are built, cumulative effects may contribute to the decline of certain species. They have established voluntary guidelines to minimize such effects through careful evaluation of proposed sites, proper location and design of turbines, and research to assess impacts on birds. New York and other states are following suit.

While organizations such as the National Audubon Society and the American Bird Conservancy support the development of clean energy sources such as wind power, they strongly encourage careful consideration of migratory pathways, important breeding areas, and sensitive species. Only through thoughtful planning can wind power truly be an environmentally friendly alternative. — *Tom Fuller is on the RAS Conservation Committee*

From Mothering Heights: Case of the Kidnapped Koi, with Peg Venture, Wildlife P.I.

It was a dark and stormy night. I was in my office, doing some paper work and playing a few hands of free cell solitaire when he walked in. It was Handsome Hank, the town Handyman. His thick blond hair and steel blue eyes always caught me off guard. And, believe me, the boy could fill out a pair of overalls! He was the most popular tradesman in town, especially with the widows and divorcees. "What can I do for you, Hank?"

"Some of my fish are missing. First it was just Bubba and Big Wally, but now they've got Bertha and Bobbie Jean!"

"Hank, you NAME them? Have you been fishing in the Industrial Runoff again?"

"No, no...it's my koi pond! Someone's stealing my biggest and best!"

"Okay, Hank I'm on the case...my usual fee...you cover my expenses and clean my gutters."

There was nothing I could do that evening, so I spent the time listing all the usual suspects. I could eliminate most of them. Like Doe-eyed Dolly and the rest of the White Tail Gang, there was no motive. No, I was looking for an omnivore, or at least a pescadore. Don't know if that's a real word, but like most detectives, I'm good at faking stuff. Plus, in high school, Sister Ligouri always told me that Latin would come in handy one day, and I didn't want to let the old girl down.

So, that left me with a few likely candidates. Big Ben Bear hadn't been seen in the neighborhood for quite a while, and Rita Raccoon and her bandits had been deported over to the next county after their trash can spree. Mile E. and Cyrus Coyote only took fish when nothing else was available, and this year was a bumper crop of chipmunks, so they had no motive. This was a real poser.

The next day, I took a walk up to the lake to clear my head. I felt the answer was right in front of me, but I just couldn't see it. And, sure enough, there it was...the one culprit I hadn't thought about! So, I called Hank with the good news. "Hey, remember that heron that's been hanging out at the lake? Well, Lesser Blue's your thief! I got CCSI (Critter Crime Scene Investigators) to test him, and they found evidence of koi DNA. Don't worry, Hank, they flew him down to Florida where he's got warrants. But, in the future, you might want to consider a protective net over your pond."

Yes, it's a good life! Business is booming; the local wildlife a little safer; another mystery solved; and I got Hank in his overalls on a ladder cleaning my gutters. Doesn't get any better than this! — *Peggy Bruner, RAS member*

Upcoming RAS Field Trips

www.rocklandaudubon.org

4

If it is raining, call the field trip leader at least one hour before the meeting time to see if the trip is a go. Also, call the trip leader for directions to the field trip site, or if you will be on the trip but not at the meeting place.

17 JAN (Sat) Pelham Bay Park

Meet Jim Previdi at 8 am at the Commuter Parking Lot, Route 303 North, West Nyack, for carpooling. Search for owls & waterfowl in this wild(er) corner of the Bronx. Dress warmly; bring snack & hot drink. Return by early afternoon. 845-942-8448

20 JAN (Tue) Winter Waterfowl Count

Meet Carol Weiss at 9 am at the parking lot by the baseball field at the entrance to Piermont Pier. Walk the pier to count the ducks and from there drive north through the county, counting waterfowl wherever there is open water. Call Carol if you can help with this **statewide count**. Results are reported to the NYSDEC. 845-358-3659

31 JAN (Sat) Winter Birding in Orange County

Meet Jim Previdi at 2 pm at the Commuter Parking Lot, Route 303 North, West Nyack, for carpooling. See raptors and field birds. Northern harriers and short-eared owls are usually sighted just before sunset. Should return by 6:30 p.m. 845-942-8448

1 FEB (Sun) First Sunday Walk at Kennedy Dells Park

Meet Veronika Krause at 8 am at the parking lot on North Main Street in New City opposite Blue Jay Circle. Over by 10 am. 845-359-9294

7 FEB (Sat) Hook Mountain Hike

Meet Vince Plogar at 9 am at the Commuter Parking Lot, Route 303 North, West Nyack, for carpooling. Hike the Long Path above the Hudson to see what is around. 845-596-8924

13 FEB (Fri) Owl Prowl at Stony Pt. Battlefield

Meet Della and Alan Wells at 7:30 pm on the circle at the arch at the end of Battalion Rd, accessed from Park Rd. off Route 9W in Stony Point. Bring a flashlight. 845-942-5751

15 FEB (Sun) Rockland Lake State Park

Meet Della and Alan Wells at 9 am at the flagpole in the North Pool parking lot. Looking for late wintering ducks. Great for beginners. Over by 11:30 am. 845-942-5751

22 FEB (Sun) Croton Point Park

Meet Carol Weiss at 8 am at the Commuter Parking Lot, Route 303 North, West Nyack, for carpooling. Look for wintering birds and possible rarities on the Westchester side of the Hudson. 845-358-3659

1 MAR (Sun) First Sunday Walk at Kennedy Dells Park

Meet Carol Weiss at 8 am at the parking lot on North Main Street in New City opposite Blue Jay Circle. Over by 10 am. 845-358-3659

14 MAR (Sat) Woodcocks at Kakiat Park

Meet Della and Alan Wells at 7 pm at the Kakiat parking lot on Route 202 opposite Viola Elementary School in Suffern. Bring a flashlight. 845-942-5751

5 APR (Sun) First Sunday Walk at Kennedy Dells Park

Meet Veronika Krause at 8 am at the parking lot on North Main Street in New City opposite Blue Jay Circle. Over by 10 am. 845-359-9294

12 APR (Sun) The Celery Farm, Allendale, NJ.

Meet Della and Alan Wells at 9 am at the Celery Farm parking lot on Franklin Turnpike, Allendale, NJ. Look for waterfowl and very early spring migrants. Over by Noon. 845-942-5751

19 APR (Sun) A Spring Stroll at Mt. Ivy Swamp

Meet Veronika Krause at 10 am at Pomona Middle School parking lot on Pomona Rd. Look for Marsh Marigolds and chipping sparrows along the railroad embankment. Over by noon. 845-359-9294

25 APR (Sat) Doodletown for Early Migration

Meet Carol Weiss at 7 am at the pull-off on Route 9W just north of the Iona Island causeway, south of Bear Mountain. First warblers of spring! Some uphill walking. Bring snack. Over by noon. 845-358-3659

28 APR (Tue) A Weekday Walk at the Celery Farm in Allendale, NJ.

Meet Elyse Fuller at 8 am at the Celery Farm parking lot on Franklin Turnpike, Allendale, NJ. Look for waterfowl and early spring migrants. Over by 10:30 am. 845-351-2893

2009: The Year of the Kestrel, *con't from page 1*

Before discussing the cause of the decline and what can be done to reverse this trend, perhaps a bit of background information is in order.



Photo credit: American Kestrel, by Alan Wells

The American Kestrel is the smallest of the North American falcons. It is widespread, ranging from Alaska and northern Canada beyond the Arctic treeline to South America (except Amazonia). Kestrels are commonly seen hovering over open and semi-open habitats in search of prey. It also hunts by pouncing on prey from a perch. Its diet consists of insects, such as grasshoppers, cicadas, beetles, dragonflies, butterflies, moths, and small rodents, including voles, mice, and shrews. It will also prey upon small birds, reptiles, and amphibians. For nesting, kestrels require a cavity, but they do not excavate it themselves. Instead, they take advantage of naturally existing cavities or holes created by woodpeckers. They will also take advantage of nest boxes or nooks and crannies in buildings. In New York, typically 3-5 eggs are laid between April 5 and June 29. Incubation lasts about 30 days. Fledging occurs in about another 30 days.

So why are kestrel populations declining? No one knows for sure, but several theories have been advanced. Kestrels, like many raptors, have suffered from such human related sources as shooting, trapping, window strikes, and road kills. They also were affected by DDT misuse, but likely not to the extent of several other species. It has also been suggested that agricultural clearing in the 19th and early 20th centuries actually benefited kestrels by providing open hunting areas bordered by narrow strips of suitable nesting trees.

Now that cleared land is being reforested and farms are being turned into malls and housing developments, kestrel habitat is being lost. It should be noted, however, that kestrels survive quite nicely in cities. New York City birders have been recently monitoring a number of nests in high rise buildings in the very heart of the Big Apple!

In an effort to stem, or even reverse, the kestrel population declines in our state, Audubon New York is currently developing a Year of the Kestrel program—a program designed to promote awareness of the kestrel's plight and to brainstorm ideas for increasing their numbers. Look for more information in 2009. In the meantime, you might want to help by building your own kestrel nest box (contact RAS for instructions if you can't find any at your local library), reporting nesting kestrels locations to RAS, monitoring a kestrel nest, or participating in the Hook Mountain Hawk Watch.

— Alan Wells is Webmaster of the Rockland Audubon Society

Julia Warger's First CBC, *con't from page 1*

As we moved on over to the mostly frozen pond at Letchworth after lunch, my counting skills had advanced to picking out the pairs of orange legs of Mallards as seen underneath, hence behind, the larger Canada Geese.

My more sophisticated birder teammates were quick to spot the little birds. Yep, 39 European Starlings in that tree and two Blue Jays squawking in the woods over there, but I like the big birds. Three vultures: two Turkey and one Black provided a side by side comparison of color and form as they sat on the aromatic dumpster at the Patriot Hills Golf Course.

We met some friendly humans along our journey, too, including the former mayor of Haverstraw who was taking a brisk walk at Peck's Pond and my neighbor David who is a Park Ranger at Haverstraw Bay County Park - to whom we are ever-grateful for the open restrooms. My first Christmas Bird Count was a great success as it wrapped up with a delicious repast that evening at the Pot-Luck dinner. Good friends, good food -- John's smoky grilled chicken! Yumm! -- and some great birding stories to share.

See page 7 for official numbers from Rockland Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count, 2008.

— Julia Warger is in charge of RAS Programs

Notes & Sightings, *compiled by Carol Weiss*

6

2008 — What a Rockland year!

In March we had a first-ever-in-the- county Cackling Goose, and then in August, the first White Ibis. And in the fall, two more new birds were added to the Rockland County checklist.

On September 24, I received this message from Beverly Simone: This morning there were three migrating hummingbirds in my yard, which is a happy sight in and of itself. But one of them looked different. As it fed at the feeder, I saw it was very red. It rested for a moment on a stick and I got a good look at what I'm sure was a Rufous Hummingbird!

And the next day I went to Beverly's house about 12:40 and in 15 minutes saw the hummingbird twice. My first look was when it was at the feeder and I saw its orange and red gorget and its orangy head, and the white belly. As it flew away, I glimpsed its orange back. I then saw it fly — a flash of orange — behind the house. I walked to my car for my camera and returned to the yard near the feeder. Within a couple minutes I saw a hummer land in the asters and then it flew back to the feeder and hovered for a second or two, between the feeder and me. I must have moved for it disappeared quickly. Alan and Della Wells were at the site the next day and Alan took several pictures.

Beverly wrote on October 26: I thought that the Rufous Hummingbird had gone, last I saw him was 10/10. Until today - He's still here! Should I remove the feeder? Would that force him to fly south, or just starve him? I'm concerned. . .

And on November 25: My most recent sighting of the Rufous was last Thursday 11/20. On Friday morning, I attached a heater to the feeder. I wasn't home Friday night and when I returned late Saturday, the nectar had frozen solid because the heater failed. I then rigged up another heater which worked because on Sunday the nectar wasn't frozen. I haven't seen him since last week - although I don't have a clear view of the feeder due to the heater. I'm hoping he's still alive and that I'm not just making O&R Utilities happy.

While the male Rufous Hummingbird was deciding whether or not to stay for the winter, Drew Ciganek called with another intriguing sighting: a first year King Eider swimming and diving just off the dock at the end of the Piermont Pier. The eider was seen by several birders on Monday morning and even more on Tuesday and Wednesday. It was a lifer for Karl Knoecklein! It was still there on Sunday, Nov. 30 — eight days after it was first noted. (And still there on Dec. 6.)

Returning to September, I had the experience of spotting a Swallow-tailed Kite as it circled Hook Mountain.

It was Monday the 8th, two days after Hurricane Hannah flooded Rockland and kept many of us indoors. The kite appeared from below the south side of the mountain — over Upper Nyack. It circled the entire hilltop, at times coming within a few hundred feet of me, and then flew south over Nyack and disappeared from view. It's times like this when a hawk watcher does not want to be alone. The Swallow-tailed Kite is not a new bird for Rockland County; other sightings were in 1900 and 1951. But it is a first for the Hook Mountain Hawk watch, which began in 1971.

Finally, Jessie Traband reported an intriguing warbler in her yard: "I saw the bird I have identified as a Connecticut Warbler on October 12. I had plenty of time to observe it through my living room window, and had two bird books open on the table next to me. I have since Googled both the Mourning Warbler and Connecticut Warbler images, and still go with the Connecticut — though habit-wise (gleans spiders and mites from understory) might make it seem more like the Mourning. Although it was often moving about on the ground, as evidenced by the shaking of the clump of goldenrod, I did not actually see it walking (I read that the two birds walk differently). I was alone, so had no one to confer with - drats! Put it down as a 'possible/unconfirmed' sighting."



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Photo: King Eider at Piermont Pier

ROCKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY 62nd CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - December 14, 2008

Years Seen	Common Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL		
16	Snow Goose	1							1		2		
45	Canada Goose	714	264	3	81	11	247	1,836	462	451	4,069		
58	Mute Swan	5	1					1	7		14		
29	Wood Duck								8		8		
32	Gadwall		16						4	12	34		
62	American Black Duck	11	13				1	4	6	8	43		
61	Mallard	182	205	58			24	36	66	253	44	868	
1	Mallard X American Black Duck	1									1		
28	Northern Shoveler								71		71		
56	Canvasback	654									654		
33	Ring-necked Duck	3									3		
51	Bufflehead								16	26	49		
53	Common Goldeneye									69	69		
32	Hooded Merganser	2					10	12	30		54		
61	Common Merganser	16					4	350	863	405	584	15	2,237
55	Ruddy Duck	12								302	314		
16	Wild Turkey		19	12						24	55		
27	Double-crested Cormorant	12						1	12		25		
37	Great Blue Heron	2							1	3	8	14	
7	Black-crowned Night Heron										14		
22	Turkey Vulture	33	6						8	4	51		
10	Osprey	8	14	7	3	8	6	1	12	11	70		
31	Bald Eagle	3									6	18	
32	Northern Harrier										2	3	
36	Sharp-shinned Hawk		3	1					1		11		
27	Cooper's Hawk	1							1	3	1	2	8
56	Red-tailed Hawk	5	7	6	7	6	11	13	3	10	68		
16	Rough-legged Hawk										1	1	
52	American Kestrel										1	1	
6	Merlin	1									1	2	
12	Persimmon Falcon										1	1	
55	American Coot	1								25	26		
1	Greater Yellowlegs										1	1	
1	Lesser Yellowlegs										1	1	
13	Wilson's Snipe										1	1	
60	Ring-billed Gull	229	14	4			76	81	151	430	462	1,447	
62	Herring Gull	10	1							2	3	16	
62	Great Black-backed Gull	19							1	1	7	5	33
32	Rock Pigeon	145	18	3			31	85	68	12	362		
61	Mourning Dove	11	20	25	28	28	17	27	24	34	214		
46	Eastern Screech-Owl	2	1								2	12	
33	Great Horned Owl		1								1	1	
14	Barred Owl										5	9	
59	Belted Kingfisher	4	1								1	1	12
38	Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	13				8	1	3	3	10	43	
30	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1								1	2	

Years Seen	Common Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL		
62	Downy Woodpecker	19	18	1	10				9	7	18	100	
62	Hairy Woodpecker		5		2	1			1	3	6	21	
60	Northern Flicker	3	8	2	1				3	2	3	25	
52	Pileated Woodpecker		3		2				1		2	8	
62	Blue Jay	17	55	9	26	12	30	25	25	37	236		
62	American Crow	32	53	18	55	21	298	30	26	77	610		
35	Fish Crow									2	2		
11	Common Raven	2									3		
11	Horned Lark										1		
62	Black-capped Chickadee	13	39	3	36	2	17	30	17	32	189		
62	Tufted Titmouse	9	47	4	21	2	32	24	30	37	206		
41	Red-breasted Nuthatch				1						1		
62	White-breasted Nuthatch	3	7	9	2	3	13	3	10	5	6		
60	Brown Creeper	2	3								3		
53	Carolina Wren	3	14	1	1	1	6	11	2	10	49		
57	Winter Wren		1								1	3	
56	Golden-crowned Kinglet	7	5		2						4	20	
45	Ruby-crowned Kinglet		3	4							9	8	
25	Eastern Bluebird				4						3	1	11
41	Hermit Thrush		7								1	1	11
61	American Robin	4	29	1	11	9	11	47	2	332	446		
51	Gray Catbird		1								1	1	1
57	Northern Mockingbird	11	16	4	2	4	9	13	16	29	104		
62	European Starling	781	518	87	314	75	958	68	128	2,945	5,874		
7	American Pipit	15									15	15	
48	Yellow-rumped Warbler		8								8	8	
43	Eastern Towhee										1	1	
62	American Tree Sparrow	5	3						5	4	7	24	
27	Savannah Sparrow										6	6	
62	Song Sparrow	13	22	21	1	4	5	37	29	16	148		
56	Swamp Sparrow		1								1	1	
62	White-throated Sparrow	42	54	7	12	1	20	43	13	102	294		
62	Dark-eyed Junco	12	192	71	92	58	44	41	31	124	665		
62	Northern Cardinal	18	41	11	11	9	16	20	14	40	180		
62	Red-winged Blackbird	1									414	415	
21	Rusty Blackbird		1								1	1	
53	Common Grackle		1								72	76	
44	Brown-headed Cowbird		1								1	1	
55	Purple Finch										3	3	
47	House Finch	6	38		6						1	62	
8	Common Redpoll				1						1	1	
33	Pine Siskin		2								2	2	
62	American Goldfinch	5	72	40	45	16	15	27	13	120	353		
62	House Sparrow	132	83	63	16	85	50	20	139	588	888		
	TOTAL Individuals:	3,257	1,970	471	791	802	2,932	3,106	2,384	6,128	21,335		
	TOTAL Number of Species:		92										

Four (4) additional species seen during Count Week (three days before/after Count Day): American Green-winged Teal, Long-tailed Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe

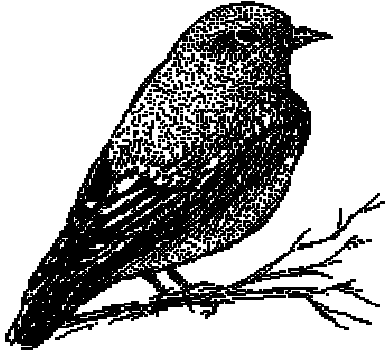
Note: "Years Seen" column includes all 62 counts, from 1947 through 2008

DISTRICTS: 1) Haverstraw-Stony Point; 2) Ramapo; 3) S. Ramapo; 4) N. and W. Clarkstown; 5) Central Clarkstown; 6) S. Clarkstown; 7) W. Clarkstown; 8) E. Clarkstown; 9) E. Orangetown Participants (40 Adults, 2 Fledglings): Dan Albanides, Debbie Bell, Frank Bonanno, Eugene Brown, Drew Ciganek, Ronald Conzo, Karen D'Alessandri, Azucena Dow, Tom Dow, Philip Faurot, Glenns Foster Roberts, Susan Freiman, Elyse Fuller, Tom Fuller, Joanna Galdone, Michael Garber, Stephanie Garber, Larrie Goetz, Tom Harten, Christopher Healy, Gene Herskovic, Frank Kemmer, Karl Knoecklein, Bonnie Koop, Veronika Krause, Sandy Matison, Ken Mcnichol, Marsha Meyer, Patricia Murray, Gloria North, Donna Nye, Jeremy Pardo, Vince Plogar, Jim Previdi, Helen Russell, Joan Totton, Jessie Traband, John Tyler, Julia Warger, Carol Weiss, Alan Wells (Complier), Della Wells

Feeder Counters (4 locations): John & Jane Lampkin, Caroline McDonald, The Pardo Family, Nancy Slowik

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DATED MATERIAL: PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

Upcoming Rockland Audubon Society Programs

RAS meets at Rockland Country Day School, 34 Kings Highway, Congers, NY, at 8 pm

Feb. 6 Constitution Marsh: Jewel on the Hudson

Eric Lind will discuss Constitution Marsh Audubon Center, in Cold Spring, N.Y., an important habitat where one can sense the natural side of the Hudson River. Lind is the center's Director.

Mar. 6: Iona Island

Donald "Doc" Bayne will give an illustrated talk on the diverse history and eco-system of Iona Island, Bear Mountain, NY. Doc Bayne will follow up his lecture with a walking tour of Iona Island in the spring – watch for date and time.

Apr. 3: To be Announced

An exciting lecture is being planned – details will be on the website in January.

May 1: RAS Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner — and Birds of Rockland County.

RAS' own Lorrie Pallant, Education Chairperson, presents this often requested program on our fellow avian friends – come learn about the birds you will find in your own back yard. This program is open to the public, and advance reservations are requested for the dinner, which begins at 6:30 pm.

June 5: Wolves of North America*

Join Atka, a six year old Arctic gray wolf who is the youngest ambassador at the Wolf Conservation Center in Westchester as he and his handler present a program that promotes conservation of wolves by teaching about them, their relationship to the environment, and the human role in protecting their future.

****This program starts at 7 pm and admission of \$5, children 2-12, \$3 (under 2 free), seniors (62+) \$3, will be charged to help RAS cover the cost of bringing this very special guest!***