THE KESTREL

Onondaga Audubon Society

A Chapter of National Audubon

Serving Cayuga, Cortland, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, Counties and other areas of Central and Northern New York for 61 years.

The National Audubon Chapter of Central New York and the Eastern Lake Ontario Basin

New Series Volume 44 - Number 2

May / June / July 2013

PROGRAMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE NOTE: Speakers and venues are subject to change. Please check www.onondagaaudubon.com for the most current information. All programs last 60 to 90 minutes.

MAY 2013 PROGRAM MEETING

Wednesday, May 8, 7:00 PM

Onondaga Lake Honeywell Visitors Center, Geddes, NY Located off I-690's Exit 7, follow the signs. Full directions may be found on www.onondagaaudubon.com.

Ornithologist Rudy Gelis will talk about eco-tourism and birding in Ecuador.

JUNE 2013 PROGRAM MEETING

Wednesday, June 12, 7:00 PM

Beaver Lake Nature Center 8477 E. Mud Lake Rd., Baldwinsville, NY 13027

Jean Soprano will do a live raptor show and speak about special adaptations that raptors possess.

NEEDED: KESTREL EDITOR

Onondaga Audubon is looking for a volunteer to manage the publication of up to three issues a year of the chapter's newsletter, *The Kestrel*. The editor would work with article authors, edit and proofread content, and prepare each issue for printing. Experience with digital publishing software and print production would be helpful. An appreciation for the written word and a concern for good grammar and spelling are important. Materials and guidance to start will be provided.

Contact Tom Riley at (315)784-5036 or OnAudubonCom@gmail.com to learn more.



CONSERVATION

INDUSTRIAL WIND

by Maryanne Adams, Conservation Chair, with input from Gerry Smith

Is it hypocritical to decry fossil fuel use and then disparage an alternative energy source like wind power? The answer is complicated and depends on priorities. Corporations, of course, wish to make a profit no matter what externalities result from this goal. The consumer wants cheap electricity. Environmentalists want to curb Global Warming. And last, but not least, birds and bats simply wish to survive. Unfortunately, the life forms with the smallest voices are caught in the crossfire.

Most of us realize the importance of bats for their roles in pollination, seed dispersal, and pest control. Unfortunately, thousands are killed by wind turbines every year. In fact, according to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, in that state alone, wind turbines killed more than 10,000 bats in 2010 (1). Because the average reproductive rate is only one or two young per year, losses to certain bat species may not be recoverable.



Button promoting proper siting of wind turbines (Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Magee Marsh, Ohio)

Conservation continues on page 3

THE KESTREL

Vol. 44 - No. 2 May / June / July 2013

Editor Julie Covey

Officers, Chairs & Directors - 2013

President Gene Huggins Vice-President Paul Richardson Secretary David Nash Whitni Smith Treasurer Membership Whitni Smith Maryanne Adams Conservation Education Kim Farrell Tim McCov **Programs**

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Invasives George Spak
Field Trips Paul Richardson
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Development Gerry Smith

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Rose DeNeve, Kim Farrell, Ken Karwowski, Tim McCoy, Jason Mauro, David Perrin, Thomas Riley,

Gerry Smith.

Honorary Directors Dorothy Crumb, Bob & Ellie Long,

Marge Rusk

Onondaga Audubon Society, Inc. is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Meetings will be held at various sites primarily within Onondaga County on different dates during different months from September to May, excluding January and February. Please check *The Kestrel* and/or http://www.onondagaaudubon.com for details on each monthly meeting's date and time. Meetings usually run approximately two hours long. Field trips are held year round to observe birds and other interesting aspects of nature. All programs and field trips are free and open to the public.

OAS owns and operates two sanctuaries on Lake Ontario: Derby Hill Bird Observatory and Richard A. Noyes Sanctuary. Derby Hill is an important site for spring hawk migration. Noyes Sanctuary provides a variety of scenic and birding opportunities in all seasons. Both sanctuaries have maintained trails and are free and open to the public, dawn to dusk.

Chapter only members receive *The Kestrel* newsletter. Joint members with National Audubon receive *The Kestrel* plus Audubon Magazine. Onondaga Audubon encourages membership in both National Audubon and the local chapter. Members are encouraged to actively participate as volunteers in all functions of Onondaga Audubon.

Problems with subscriptions should be referred to the membership chair.

Letters to the Editor may be sent to:

Onondaga Audubon Society, Inc. P.O. Box 620, Syracuse, NY 13201 Phone 315-696-8065 http://www.onondagaaudubon.com

The mission of the Onondaga Audubon Society is to engender in Central and Northern New Yorkers a greater appreciation for their land, water, and other natural resources, and to increase respect for the wildlife that inhabits these places, especially birds. Onondaga Audubon believes this focus will lead to wiser use of these resources, and we encourage such use through program meetings, field trips, sanctuary management, and environmental education.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deadline for submissions for the next issue is July 1, 2013.

ATTENTION SNOW BIRDS!!!!

Would you be interested in receiving *The Kestrel* online? We don't want you to miss the winter issues while you are enjoying the sun somewhere warm. Please send your email address to whitstrivia@yahoo.com so we can ensure that you are kept up-to-date.

Whit's Trivia

Rules: Email your answers to whitstrivia@yahoo.com by June 15. One winner will be chosen at random from all correct answers. The winner will win a bird related prize! Be sure to include your name and address in your email. The winner and answer will be announced in the next Kestrel (first name and last initial only).

Previous Answers:

Q1: What bird has a long hind toe allowing it to climb trees? Answer: The Plain Chachalaca. Winner: Jeanne R.

Q2: This bird species, that went extinct in the 1980s, lived in the marshes of western Florida.

Answer: The Dusky Seaside Sparrow. Winner: No winner

This edition's Question: What water fowl species can dive up to 200 feet in pursuit of shellfish?

Onondaga Audubon Society

Chapter Membership Application
For information on National Audubon Society membership please visit the OAS website:
http://www.onondagaaudubon.com.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN:

To enroll as a member of the Onondaga Audubon Society chapter only please send your name, address, and a check for \$15, made payable to the Onondaga Audubon Society, to:

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

You will receive The Kestrel newsletter several times per year.

Onondaga Audubon Society Chapter Code:

RO5 7XCH

CONSERVATION from pg 1

We all know that birds are killed by wind turbines, but soon it may become even easier to obtain permission to do this. Currently, there is a proposal on the table to change an important rule that protects eagles by rushing to get it approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before the new Secretary of the Interior takes charge. At this time, corporations may obtain permits that kill a limited number of eagles, but the permits must be renewed every five years. However, "... at the request of wind industry lobbyists, the federal government has now proposed making the permits good for 30 years! That means 30 years without the possibility for public review of the permit." (2) If this were to happen, environmental organizations might finally raise a fuss at the national level.

Locally, answers are still "blowing in the wind" in the Jefferson County part of the OAS service area. Here, and in nearby Canada, several wind projects are proposed for the critical flyway along the eastern and northeastern part of Lake Ontario. In our opinion the fact that these large scale projects are even still being considered for such sensitive areas is a testimony to the arrogance and stubbornness of their proponents. In the town of Cape Vincent, at the junction of the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario, those wonderful environmentalists, British Petroleum, are seeking an Article 10 approach to override town law. Article 10 is a power plant siting bill passed by the state legislature in the middle of the night a couple of years ago. In addition to being highly undemocratic in its manner of enactment, this legislation can override local home rule. While we will not know the outcome of this procedure in Cape Vincent for about a year, there are reasons to be concerned. In addition to being the worst kind of "greenwashing" on BP's part, any project in an area with very sensitive bird and bat resources should be of great concern to true environmentalists. Another proposed project in Jefferson County, Horse Creek, threatens grassland birds, bats and rare alvar natural communities. This projects time frame is longer than the Cape Vincent project's, but still requires careful monitoring. In nearby Canada, a turbine complex at Ostrander Point is a terrible proposal being close to Prince Edward Point, a migration concentration area of great importance.

We are sure that some reading this article will not agree with these concerns and will cite the need for "green energy." While we are in complete agreement that we need alternative energy to reduce further climate change, these projects will do more harm than

good. Industrial wind is far more about corporate tax breaks and profits than it is about alternative energy. Did you know that something called the production tax credit (PTC) provides wind energy producers with 2.2 cents for every kilowatt-hour of electricity produced? The PTC "provides a subsidy to the wind industry that is at least 12 times greater than that provided to the oil and gas sector and 6.5 times greater than that provided to the nuclear industry." (3) With an incentive like this and lack of meaningful siting guidelines beyond voluntary ones, is it any wonder that energy companies are scrambling to grab all the land they can? Responsible corporate citizens would not consider placing habitat-disrupting bird and bat Cuisinarts in areas where these projects are proposed. What we see in the North Country and Canada are stubborn corporate entities backed by either selfinterested and/or misguided citizens who care little for impacts on other organisms.

We applaud the citizens and local government of the Town of Hammond, St. Lawrence County. Through wise land use decisions concerned about the long-term future of their community, they developed limits on wind power. Apparently these reasonable restrictions were not to the liking of the corporate sponsors of the project who took their toys and went home. Cape Vincent's leaders have endeavored to do the same but BP persists in trying to thwart local home rule. Gosh, for those who viewed the conduct of this corporate entity during the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, such conduct sure does come as a great SURPRISE?

These comments do not necessarily reflect those of the OAS board. When one considers kW output, destruction of critical habitat, cost of subsidies to the taxpayer, and appalling lack of placement guidelines and regulatory oversight, industrial wind power is a highly problematic energy source. Dispersed small tower personal wind power appears a good idea, but giant multinational corporations cannot make a fortune on that. In his 20s and 30s, Gerry Smith fought nuclear power with a passion. In those days none of us (except for, maybe, Al Gore) had heard of global climate change. Currently, and understanding all its downsides, the only ways to meet energy matters of the next 50 years are conservation, efficiency and, per Mr. Smith's next bumper sticker - MORE NUKES.

References:

- 1. http://www.bu.edu/synapse/2010/10/29/the-effect-of-wind-energy-on-bats/
- 2. http://www.examiner.com/article/bald-eagles-next-offering-to-corporate-gods-of-greed/
- 3. http://www.manhattan-institute.org/



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In the past fiscal year, our chapter has been very fortunate to have the wisdom and skill of a much needed finance committee. The committee has worked closely with the Treasurer in establishing a budget and clarifying the financial status of our society to the Board of Directors. They will review any requested changes to the adopted budget and make recommendations to the Board. We are currently solvent, due in large measure to a generous donation from the Ruth Knight Estate. Our new Treasurer, Whitni Smith, is doing an admirable job in the care of finances, for which we are truly grateful. She has the added responsibility of being our Membership Chairman too.

Information about who we are and what we do as an organization has blossomed across the social media. There are now between 200 to 500 hits on both the O.A.S. and Derby Hill Facebook pages. We are also sending out notices via the Internet to 214 people regarding our field trips and programs. This has resulted in an increased attendance at our public meetings and the field trips we lead. These noteworthy accomplishments can be credited to the tireless efforts of my Communications Committee, Tom Riley and Rose DeNeve. The Derby Hill Bird Observatory Chairman Ken Karwowski has updated our software to allow more accessibility to the data on migratory birds of prey.

This issue marks a transition in the publication of our newsletter, *The Kestrel*. A remarkable and very talented lady by the name of Julie Covey is leaving the job of being our editor. She has faithfully made signs, checklists, and edited countless articles for *The Kestrel*. We are going to miss Julie very much and I know that whatever she does, it will always be a resounding success. Thank you so much.

Steven Kolbe is our new Derby Hill hawk counter. He comes from Union, Kentucky, and from all accounts, he is doing an excellent job.

On Saturday May 11th, O.A.S. will hold its Annual Bird Festival at Derby Hill. This event is a great opportunity to participate with your family in hawk

watching and nature walks. There will be raffles, a silent auction, and especially food, to curb your appetite. Many volunteers have sacrificed their time in making this occasion a huge success.

The definition of versatile is one who is competent in many things. This is an apt description of Ken Karwowski. Ken has placed extra insulation in the cottage attic at Derby Hill. He has been surveying property boundaries at the DHBO to denote any ownership inconsistencies that might exist with our neighbors. In fact, he is now learning how to weld. Thank you, Ken, for all your time and effort.

The Onondaga Audubon Society has continued the time-honored tradition of informing the public about conservation issues in Central N.Y. and across the nation. Maryanne Adams has done a very thorough job of investigating the issues that may affect our environment and presenting them in a manner that is both balanced and fair. The subject matter she has written on will either have a positive or negative impact upon our environment. I not only encourage you to read them, but take a proactive stance with Maryanne on the issues.

Tim McCoy, who is a graduate student at SUNY Environmental Science & Forestry and my Program Chairman, has had the hard task of providing a speaker for our monthly meetings. Tim has been in contact with professors and fellow students who have graciously donated their time to present us with a wide range of subjects. We continue to meet in local libraries throughout the area. Tim may be leaving us this summer, but he has passed the torch on to a fellow graduate student.

Education continues with O.A.S. awarding the Ruth Engelbrecht Memorial Scholarship to a deserving teacher. This year the award went to Michael Pierce, who teaches Living Environment and Introduction to Biology at Carthage Senior High School in the Black River Valley. Michael will attend "Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week" at the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine. This is the first time O.A.S. has chosen a candidate from our newly expanded Eastern Lake Ontario Basin Region.

Twelve Audubon Adventures kits have gone out to local schools under the guidance of Kim Farrell from the Education Committee.

There are many people who deserve recognition for supporting the mission of the Onondaga Audubon Society. Michele Neligan and her daughter Michaela for their enthusiasm and inspiration, Jason Mauro for his help with the Bird Festival, Niles Brown for being my mentor, Dave Perrin for his chairmanship of the Steering Committee, Gerry Smith for his informative insights, David Nash for his excellent work as Secretary, David Muir for his oversight of the DHBO Newsletter, Ken & Rose Burdick for the Birdathon, Liz Williams for the mail, and Frank Moses, who is always a great motivator.

I am very happy to announce Paul Richardson as the next President of the Onondaga Audubon Society. Paul has served with both interest and enthusiasm in his roles as Vice-President and Field Trip Coordinator. He is a keen birder with excellent skills in distinguishing the call notes of resident and migratory birds. Paul continues to be a good friend of mine, and I am confident that he will continue the chapter's mission with sincere dedication.

Often a leader's success is determined by the support they receive from their cabinet or advisory board. In my case, I couldn't have had a better governing board then those who serve diligently for the Onondaga Audubon Society. Thank you very much to all of you!

See you at Derby Hill.

Gene Huggins, outgoing President for O.A.S.

A THANK YOU...

July of 2006 was when it began. A friend asked me if I would be interested in taking over *The Kestrel*, an 8 page newsletter put out by Onondaga Audubon. At the time my kids were both small (one and four years old) and I was doing little odd jobs here and there to make some extra money as I did the stay-athome mom thing. The first newsletter was difficult, due to getting accustomed to a new editing program, and figuring out what was what, but it was rewarding. The rest, as they say, is history.

In the past 6.5 years the newsletter has changed as the organization has changed. At times it was a struggle to get articles and information to put into the newsletter. I would set a deadline, and nothing would come in, so then the phone calls and emails to board members and others would begin. Now, that is far from the case. As is evident by this 12 page issue, Onondaga Audubon is a thriving, active organization today that has something to say to its members, and does so effectively through *The Kestrel* as well as through its website www.onondagaaudubon.com. The change in the newsletter's content was gradual, but to look at my first attempt at the publication and what is done today, is quite a difference.

The other projects that have sprung up along the way have been gratifying as well. Working with the OAS board has been a joy. I ask for input and they give - allowing me to produce products, whether it be a sign or a checklist, that reflect the mission and focus of this organization. THANK YOU - to everyone I have worked with over the years!

And now it is time to move on... I am leaving *The Kestrel* in the competent hands of the OAS board. Whoever steps up to work on this newsletter will be given everything they need to continue *The Kestrel* at its same level of quality, much like it was given to me. To whoever takes over, it will not be a blind hand-off; I will help the person to understand what it takes to tweak it all and get a good product. It is not hard, it just takes a little bit of knowledge and the willingness to want to do things right.

To edit this newsletter and working with the Onondaga Audubon board has been rewarding. I wish the next editor the best!

Julie K. Covey, outgoing Kestrel editor



Common Redpoll. Photo by Julie Covey.

Everyone is welcome to join us at the ONONDAGA AUDUBON BIRD FESTIVAL at Derby Hill

Onondaga Audubon invites the public to Derby Hill Bird Observatory on Saturday, May 11, for its annual Bird Festival. Live hawks, bird walks, nature activities, and kids' face painting have been scheduled throughout the day. Rick West from "Westy's Birds of Prey" will be in attendance to show and talk about his collection of fascinating hawks, falcons and owls. A silent auction will offer bird and non-bird items, and there will be vendors with wildlife photography, native plants, artwork, optical equipment and hand-crafted jewelry for sale. In addition, the popular Chomppers Smokin' Barbeque will be on hand with their tasty fare. And, of course, the star performers—eagles, hawks, vultures, and other wild birds—will be gracing the skies overhead. Visit the Bird Festival page on the OAS website (www.onondagaaudubon.com) for the complete schedule of events. Directions to Derby Hill Bird Observatory are also on this website. We hope you'll join us and find out just how much fun hawk watching can be! Admission and parking are free, but donations are gratefully accepted.

We are still accepting items for our raffles and silent auction. Please contact Niles Brown at 315-696-6041 if you have an item to donate.





Sign up now for this exciting bird-watching event and help support Onondaga Audubon's LOCAL education and bird sanctuary priorities.

Onondaga Audubon Society's 55th Annual

BIRDATHON 2013

Saturday May 18, 2013

Don't be shy, give the Birdathon a try!

Bird enthusiasts one and all are invited to participate in this year's Birdathon quest. Timed to take place at the peak of spring migration, this is the perfect opportunity to go out and find some great birds. Through your participation, you can help document the occurrence of birds in Region 5 and provide financial support for the important work of Onondaga Audubon, all while enjoying a day of birding. So, mark your calendar, contact your bird-watching teammates, and start making plans for Birdathon 2013.

How Birdathon Works

Date and Time: On Saturday, May 18, go afield for as many (or as few) hours as desired between midnight and midnight. — no rain date!

Boundaries: Bird within Region 5 — Onondaga, Oswego, Madison, Oneida and Herkimer Counties, plus Cayuga County north of Route 31— more than 5,000 square miles.

Teams: Join another, form you own, or go solo. No assigned territories. Please car pool, and bird one place at a time — no splitting up!

Count: Carefully identify species by sight and/or ear — the honor system please!

Fund-raising: Lining up sponsors (flat donations or so much per species) is optional, but definitely encouraged! *Bird List Deadline*: Get your information to the Day-After Compilation Picnic at Derby Hill Sunday, May 19, at 4:00PM.

Final Bird Results: Full birding results will appear in the August/Sept/Oct issue of *The Kestrel* newsletter. *Dollars Deadline*: Turn in to Birdathon Coordinator by June 15.

Records to Beat

Most Participants – 43 teams, 116 members (1999) Most Money for a team – \$1422 (2011) Most Species for a team – 152 (2009) Most Money Combined – \$7,500 (2001) Most Species Combined – 209 (2011)

For more information and to sign up

Online: http://onondagaaudubon.com/birding/birdathon/ Contact: Ken or Rose Burdick, Birdathon Coordinators Phone: 315-685-5571

Email: OAS.Birdathon@verizon.net *or* KenBurdick@ieee.org Mail: Birdathon c/o Ken Burdick 5 East Lake Street Skaneateles, NY 13152

The Causes

Proceeds will be used to support the mission of OAS, specifically the sanctuaries, education and conservation.

SANCTUARIES

DERBY HILL

2013 Hawk Migration

The 2013 hawk migration season got off to a slower than usual start due to late onset wintery conditions. However, things are quickly warming up and our primary counter, Steve Kolbe, and fill-in counter Bill Purcell, have steadfastly remained on post for daily counts, and report an upswing in the number of observations and good spirits. Please stop by and give a big howdy to Steve and Bill.

OAS & Bill Evans of Old Bird Inc. Acoustic monitoring

Onondaga Audubon and Bill Evans of Old Bird Inc. continues its acoustic monitoring program for nocturnal sparrow and warbler migration. Derby Hill is one of about 15 standardized acoustic monitoring stations (http://www.oldbird.org/index.htm)

established to collect data on the numbers and patterns of nocturnal migrating birds. The data is ultimately used to provide a unique index for the changes in bird populations in response to environmental conditions.

Derby Hill Bird Observatory expands migratory bird acoustic monitoring program to include data collection in support of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's "Interim Guidance on Avoiding and Minimizing Wildlife Impacts from Wind Turbines."



Expansion of Onondaga Audubon's acoustic monitoring program in cooperation with the United State Fish and Wildlife Service's is in another important use of acoustic monitoring of nocturnal migrants. Wind-generated electrical energy is renewable. produces no emissions, and is generally considered an environmentally friendly technology. However, wind energy facilities can adversely affect wildlife, especially birds. David Larson of the USFWS will be collecting data from an independent acoustical monitoring station atop the "third field" at the observatory for evaluation in relation to the Service's Interim Guidelines to Avoid and Minimize Wildlife Impacts From wind Turbines. http://www.fws.gov/ midwest/wind/radar/index.html). The monitoring station located at Derby Hill is one of several stations being deployed along the shoreline of Lake Ontario.

Volunteers Needed – for the following general areas:

Derby Hill:

Grounds maintenance:

- Removal of downed branches and raking around the HQ Building.
- Selective brush and downed tree removal from hedgerows chainsaw owner-operators please.
- Early spring trail grooming.

Noves:

Trail monitoring and maintenance

For more information please check our "Volunteers Needed" information on our website: www. onondagaaudubon.org.

If you can help with any of the listed projects, please contact me for details, dates and times at: derby.hill. count@gmail.com

Ken Karwowski Operations Manager

Acoustic monitoring station at Derby Hill. Photo by Ken Karwowski.



FIELD TRIPS & LECTURES @ BALTIMORE WOODS

Led by OAS board member Jason Mauro

For all programs, information may be attained by calling 315-673-1350, sending an email to info@ baltimorewoods.org or checking out the website at http://www.baltimorewoods.org/

Birding Series: Getting Started

April 24, 2013

7-8:30pm

Baltimore Woods and the Onondaga Audubon Society team up to help get you started with a hobby that promises a lifetime of joy. This first program focuses on species ID tips and tricks, binocular selection, and bird feeding essentials. There will be a corresponding field trip on Saturday the 27th.

\$10 for members; \$15 for nonmembers. Lecture & Field Trip Package: \$20 members; \$30 nonmembers.

Birding Field Trip: Getting Started

April 27, 2013

8-11am

Here's a chance to put into practice the basic birding skills learned from the workshop on the 24th. We will visit some key birding hotspots within Baltimore Woods.

\$15 members; \$20 nonmembers. Lecture & Field Trip Package: \$20 members; \$30 nonmembers.

Birding Series: Kick It Up a Notch: Behavior & CallsMay 1, 2013 7-8:30pm

This program in our birding series will introduce you to more advanced topics, including identifying birds by sound and using behavior as an ID tool.

\$10 for members; \$15 for nonmembers. Lecture & Field Trip Package: \$20 members; \$30 nonmembers.

Birding Field Trip: Local Hot Spots

May 4, 2013

8am-noon

CNY is blessed with excellent birding opportunities. Join Baltimore Woods and Onondaga Audubon on this day trip to explore some great local hot spots. This trip will reinforce bird calls and behavior. Meet at Baltimore Woods.

\$15 members; \$20 nonmembers. Lecture & Field Trip Package: \$20 members; \$30 nonmembers.

Birding Series: Birds of Prey

May 8, 2013

7-8:30pm

This last lecture of the birding series will teach you the essentials of raptor identification, including birds on the wing. Join us for the Derby Hill Bird Festival on the 11th to put your new skills into practice as hundreds of raptors fly overhead on their way north.

\$10 members; \$15 nonmembers.



PHOTOS FROM THE HILL... Spring 2013

The following are some photos taken by Steve Kolbe, 2013 Derby Hill Hawk Counter. ENJOY!





ABOVE: Sandhill Cranes on 4/1/13

LEFT: Belted Kingfisher on 3/31/13

RIGHT: Cooper's Hawk on 3/19/13





Spectacular Spring Programs!

To register or for more information about the Montezuma Audubon Center or its programs please call 315-365-3588 or e-mail montezuma@audubon.org.

Space is limited. Registration is required.

The Center is open Tuesday-Saturday 10 AM - 4 PM.

Selected programs are listed below. Please check http://ny.audubon.org/montezuma.htm for more information.

50% Discount for Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex applies to programs with an asterisk.

Saturday, 5/4, 10 AM - 3 PM - 7th Annual

7th Annual



SATURDAY MAY 4, 2013 10am-3pm

- · Live Birds of Prey!
- Kids Games/Activities!
- BBQ, Burgers, Ice Cream!
- Live Music!

Festival!

- · Win Prizes!
- Hiking and Canoeing!
- · Native Plant Sale!
- · Vendors and Exhibitors!

2295 Route 89 Savannah, NY 315-365-3588

http://ny.audubon.org/montezuma
MONTEZUMA
Audubon
CENTER

Wildlife Festival -Celebrating IBAs

Owls, hawks, and mammals, including a wolf, fox and bobcat will be on display! Get your picture taken with Liberty the Bald Eagle! Enjoy puppet shows, games, crafts, artisan vendors, great food, live music, canoeing on Crusoe Creek, a huge bounce house and much more! Fee: FREE for children under 5, \$1/schoolaged child, \$3/adult.

Wednesday, 5/8, 9AM - 1PM & Saturday 5/11, 9AM-1PM -MARSH Volunteer

Events

Volunteers of all ages are welcome to enhance forest habitat for birds and other wildlife by participating in a native tree planting project at Montezuma. We'll provide the tools; you provide the elbow grease. Lunch Provided! FREE!

Wednesday, 5/15, 9AM - 1PM - MARSH Volunteer Event

Come participate in a garlic mustard pulling project at Howland's Island. We'll provide the tools; you provide the elbow grease. Lunch provided. FREE!

Thursday, 5/16, 9AM - 11AM Montezuma Birding Hike

Montezuma's forested habitats are coming to life with dozens of neotropical songbirds like the Cerulean Warbler, Wood Thrush, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The Howland's Island area of Montezuma provides some of the best habitat in the region for these long-distant migrators. A 2-mile long walk over uneven terrain will provide excellent opportunities to hone visual and audio identification skills of songbirds. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair from us. Fee*: \$3/child; \$5/adult; \$15/family.

Saturday, 5/18, 8AM - 11AM Montezuma Birding Van Tour

Hop in our van for an excursion to Montezuma's birding hotspots where dozens of warbler, vireo, thrush and sparrow species can be seen and heard! Participants are encouraged to bring their camera and binoculars. Fee: \$7.50/child; \$12.50/adult, \$35/family.

Saturday, 5/18, 2PM - 4PM - Girl Scout Flower Badge Program

Girl Scouts of all ages are welcome to learn about the kaleidoscope of flowers that are blooming on trees, shrubs and wildflowers. Scouts will go on a flower hunt, stop and smell the flowers, observe the creatures that come to flowers, and learn about how flowers are healers. Then, Scouts will create a flower necklace to wear and a flower bouquet to give to someone special. Fee: \$10/Scout.

Saturday, 5/25, 1:30PM - 4:30 PM - Birding & Boating Series

Join us for the first canoe/kayak paddle of the season on the Seneca River. Bird songs will rain down from the tree canopy while paddling the tranquil waters around Howland's Island. Bring your own canoe/kayak or rent one from us. Fee: \$7.50/child without rental, \$12.50/adult without rental, \$25/solo kayak rental, \$40/canoe rental (maximum 2 adults plus 1 child).

Spring MAC programs continue on page 11.

ONONDAGA AUDUBON PROXY BALLOT, 2013

I the undersigned			, a current member of Onondaga Audubon,	
Print Name				
cast this proxy vote for the slate of officers and directors presented below:				
Paul Richardson – President		Gerry Smith – Vice President		Dave Nash – Secretary
		Whitni Smith – Treasure	• -	
Board members:				
Maryanne Adams	Niles Brown	Rose De Neve	Kim Farrell	Ken Karwowski
Alison Kocek	Jason Mauro	Tim McCoy	Frank Moses	David Perrin
Thomas Riley				
Executed by Date:				
	Signature			

Please send to: Onondaga Audubon, PO Box 620, Syracuse, NY 13201 by May 6, 2013.

Thank you for participating in this process.

SPRING MAC PROGRAMS continued

Saturday, 6/1, 10AM - Noon - Girl Scout Bird Migration Mania

Girl Scouts of all ages are welcome to explore the bird migration phenomena as millions of birds return to Montezuma! Scouts will learn the basics of bird identification while hiking through a forest and grassland. Then, they will learn about the importance of conserving bird habitat while playing an interactive game. Finally, Scouts will participate in a forest habitat enhancement project to help our feathered friends. Fee: \$7/Scout.

$Saturday, 6/1, 2PM\text{-}3PM\text{-}Montezuma\ Birding\ Hike}$

A 2-mile long walk over flat terrain will provide excellent opportunities to hone visual and audio identification skills of songbirds and waterfowl. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair from us. Fee*: \$3/child; \$5/adult; \$15/family.

Friday, 6/7, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

9th Annual Benefit @ Sherwood Inn Skaneateles e-mail Frank Moses at fmoses@audubon.org for more details.

Thursday, 6/20, 8AM - 11AM - Montezuma Birding Van Tour

Hop in our van for an excursion to Montezuma's backcountry birding hotspots where dozens of neotropical migrants can be seen and heard!

Participants are encouraged to bring their camera and binoculars. Fee: \$7.50/child; \$12.50/adult, \$35/family.

Saturday, 6/29, 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM - Birding and Boating Series

Join us for a relaxing canoe/kayak paddle to explore the north end of Cayuga Lake. We'll explore the waterways of this globally significant Important Bird Area and watch songbirds and raptors soar in the air and swim on the water. Bring your own canoe/kayak or rent a boat from us. Fee: \$7.50/child without \$12.50/adult



without rental, \$25/solo kayak rental, \$40/canoe rental (maximum 2 adults plus 1 child).

Don't forget to check out the new **Derby Hill Bird Observatory Facebook Page!**

Updates on the day's hawk flight are posted nightly!

Onondaga Audubon Society P.O. Box 620, Syracuse NY 13201 NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. Postage PAID Permit No 108 Watertown, NY 13601

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THE KESTREL



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FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are free and open to the public. Novice birders (and non-birders too!) are welcome. If you are planning to join us on a field trip, you should notify the leader whose telephone number is listed with the trip details. Please call at a reasonable hour as most birders turn in early. Carpooling from the meeting place is encouraged. If your schedule allows you to join the carpool, do remember to offer to help the driver with the cost of gas.

Occasionally changes in published field trips and/or additional trips are announced on the OAS website http://www.onondagaaudubon.com.

WHISKEY HOLLOW & VICINITY

Saturday, May 25th about ³/₄ day Joe Brin 315-638-8309

Traditional Spring migrants and breeding birds trip to the special gorge which is an Important Bird Area and partly protected by CNY Land Trust. We'll look for several vireos, *Cerulean, Hooded,* and *Mourning Warblers; Scarlet Tanager; Barred Owl*, which nests there; and *Acadian Flycatcher*, found only a few places in Region 5. Moderate to difficult due to a few steep, muddy trails.

THREE RIVERS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Saturday, June 1st about 3/4 day Joe Brin 315-638-8309

Level hike which passes through woods and brushy fields. Good for many warblers and sparrows. There may be both *Bald Eagle* and *Osprey nests*. Easy.

GREEN LAKES STATE PARK SPRING & SUMMER 2013 FIELD TRIPS

This spring and summer there will be a number of field trips to Green Lakes State Park. Each hike will take from 3 to 5 hours (or more) depending on trail length and weather conditions. It is highly recommended that participants bring their own water and insect repellent. Please contact the hike leaders for details on specific times and meeting places.

Saturdays, April 27th, May 18th, June 15th

Trip Leader: Jerry Case 315-687-9599

Saturdays, June 29th, July 20th

Trip Leader: Paul Richardson 315-488-5022

BIG RUN / BIRDATHON

May 18 & 19, Saturday & Sunday

Ken & Rose Burdick 315-685-5571

Take your team birding in Region 5 on Saturday. Then on Sunday, we will meet at Derby Hill for a potluck dinner to compile & hear everyone's bird finds. For details see separate Birdathon blurb on pg. 7 in this *Kestrel*.