

The Upland Plover

Newsletter of the North Country Bird Club, Inc.
November-December 2022 Vol. 63, No. 6



2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE BY JANUARY 1st
PLEASE FILL OUT THE INCLUDED FORM SOON AND FORWARD IT WITH YOUR DUES

THE ZOO PROJECT

In one of the most exciting developments in the Club's long history, we are partnering with Zoo New York to take the joy of birding to children, young people, and adults who are not yet a part of the community of birders. The Zoo reaches many people in our region with whom we have no direct way of establishing contact. This is an amazing opportunity for us. We have already donated a set of feeders and guides, which will enable visitors to the Zoo to view and learn about the birds of our area. As part of the project, the Zoo and its members and guests will participate in both the FeederWatch program and the Christmas Bird Count.

The Club plans to assist the Zoo in presenting a series of programs and field experiences. The first of these is scheduled for **Saturday, November 5, at 11 am**, in the Zoo's meeting room. Titled **Birding 101**, this workshop will teach participants how to get started in birding, identify some key birds, and become a part of select citizen science programs. Those interested are asked to sign up at Zoo New York's website. If you are not a Zoo member, there is an admission fee to the Zoo. The workshop itself is free.

The Club is also establishing a fund to help cover the costs of this ongoing program. If you wish to contribute, please send your donation made out to North Country Bird Club, PO Box 634, Watertown, NY 13601, and marked "Zoo Project."

NOVEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, November 9
7:00 pm at Stone Presbyterian Church
140 Chestnut St, Watertown

Program: **A Murder Of Crows**

Crows are among the most intelligent animals in the world. They are able to use tools, recognize each other's voices and over 250 distinct calls, and can even recognize individual humans. Join us as we learn more about one of the most intriguing species in the world of birds.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

This year's **Christmas Bird Count** for the Watertown Circle (NYWA), conducted by North Country Bird Club in conjunction with Onondaga Audubon, will be held on **Saturday, December 17**. 2022 marks the Audubon Society's 123rd Christmas Bird Count and the 85th year the Club has conducted the local count. Bill Haller will serve as Compiler for the Watertown Circle again this year.

Please join us for the Count. You may either help to cover a sector of the Circle or keep track of the birds at your feeders (if you live within the Count Circle) on Count Day.

If you would like to assist, please contact Bill for more information at haldex@twcny.rr.com or 315-778-1484.

Be a part of this year's Christmas Bird Count!



SWAINSON'S THRUSH

Mason Rd,
Cape Vincent

October 2, 2022

Photo by
Robin Booth

SPRING MEETINGS

WEDNESDAYS

MARCH 8 / APRIL 12 / MAY 10

7:00 PM at Stone Presbyterian Church
140 Chestnut St, Watertown

Cornell Lab's **Project FeederWatch** extends from November through April each year. Through this program, birders around the world contribute valuable data to important academic research.

FeederWatchers count the birds they see at their feeders and send their counts to Project FeederWatch. The data help scientists track movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance.

Anyone interested in birds can participate. Count birds as often as every week, or as infrequently as you like - the schedule is completely flexible. All you need is a bird feeder, bird bath, or plantings to attract birds.

The 2022-2023 FeederWatch season runs from Saturday, November 1, to Saturday, April 30. You may sign up and begin counting at any time during the season. There is an \$18 annual participation fee to cover materials, staff support, and data analysis. (Project FeederWatch is supported almost entirely by these participation fees.)

For more info or to join: [Project FeederWatch](https://www.projectfeederwatch.org/)

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**On The Web:
NORTH COUNTRY
BIRD CLUB
ON FACEBOOK**

For detailed info about birds,
visit the website of
the Cornell Ornithology Lab:
Cornell Lab

Track **bird migrations** at the Cornell Lab's Cornell Birdcast Maps show patterns of migration across the United States. Regional forecasts of migration dates are given for individual species.

Access the Cornell Lab's Birdcams to watch a variety of birds nesting and feeding, and to view the feeders at the Lab:
Cornell Lab Birdcams

eBird Essentials is a free online course which shows you how to use the eBird app to record and submit sightings. Access the course at:

Cornell Lab Academy - Courses

AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

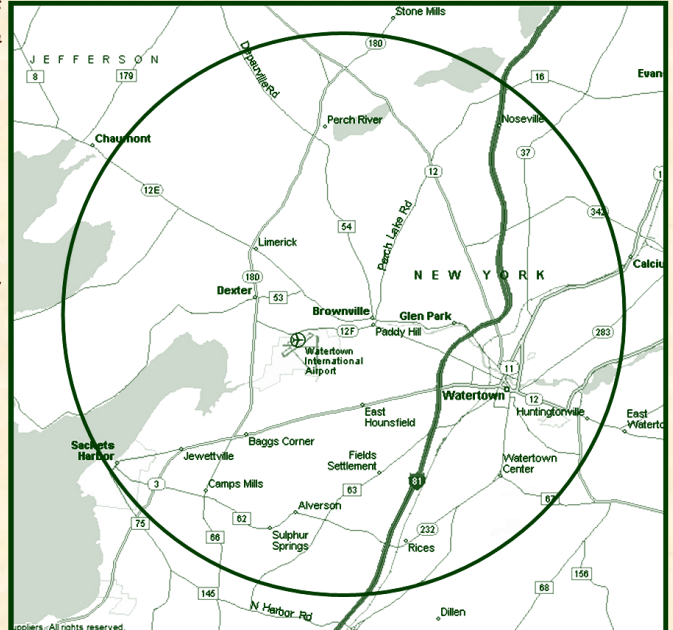
PARTICIPATE AS A FEEDERWATCHER

Those of us organizing this year's Christmas Bird Count hope that as many members and friends of the Club as possible will be a part of this year's Count. If you cannot assist by helping to cover a sector *and you live within the Count Circle* (see map below), you are encouraged to participate as a **Feeder Watcher**.

Feeder Watchers keep track of the birds at their feeders on Count Day and can watch for any part of the day which is convenient (but the longer, the better!). They contribute valuable additions to the Count data and may even see species that those in the sectors do not. Some birds that visit feeders can be difficult to find in the wild (especially on a winter day).

One important note to Feeder Watchers: Since the setting is different, the counting method is different from that used by participants in the field. Rather than the total number of each species seen, Feeder Watchers report the greatest number of each species present at their feeders *at any one time*. So, if you were to observe 12 Goldfinches at your feeders at 10am and 15 there at 2 pm, you would report 15 (not 27) Goldfinches.

If you would like to participate as a Feeder Watcher this year, please contact Bill Haller at haldex@twcny.rr.com or 315-778-1484 for a copy of the required report form. Observations will not be included in the data for the Watertown Count unless submitted using the form.



BE A FEEDERWATCHER FOR THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT!

IRRUPTION ALERT

from Ryan Mandelbaum - Finch Research Network

Purple Finches and **Evening Grosbeaks** have been trickling southward for the past few weeks. But [*in late October*] that trickle turned into a full-on downpour, with large numbers appearing at feeders and migration hotspots across eastern North America.

This year's Winter Finch Forecast predicted that these two species would irrupt southward, following the large spruce budworm outbreak and poor mast crop in much of the eastern boreal. [*This recent movement*] signaled the start of a large-scale irruption event.

A beautiful set of bird-themed notecards is given to a member of the Club by random selection each time the *Plover* is issued, to provide an incentive to keep memberships current. We offer congratulations to this issue's recipient, Richard Boyanski of Clayton .

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT WATERTOWN CIRCLE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17



EVENING GROSBEAK

Cape Vincent

October 24,
2022

Photo by
Robin Booth

TREASURER'S REPORT - Sept 30, 2022

Checking acct balance\$2613.72
Savings acct balance.....\$1916.00

Kathleen Killeen, Treasurer

INFORMATION SOURCES FOR REGIONAL SIGHTINGS AND RARE BIRD ALERTS

A list of **birding listserves** and of sites issuing **rare bird alerts** for New York is available from the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) at NYSOA Sightings Note especially eBird Alerts, Oneidabirds, Cayugabirds-L, and Northern_NY_Birds. Oneidabirds reports sightings from the Syracuse area and the Montezuma region, and some sightings from our area. Cayugabirds-L reports sightings from the Montezuma region as well, and from the eastern Finger Lakes region. Northern_NY_Birds reports sightings mainly from the Adirondacks and the Champlain Valley.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Montezuma NWR: On Saturday, October 1, eleven members and friends of the Club visited the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge and other sites in the Montezuma region. It was a sunny, beautiful early fall day. Beginning at the Refuge Visitors' Center, we moved on to the Wildlife Drive, the Tschache Pool, the Knox-Marcellus Marsh, the Montezuma DEC headquarters, and Van Dyne Spoor Road, which runs through woodlands and along an extensive marshland. We then returned to Watertown, where five members of the group joined for an excellent dinner at Art's Jug.

Highlights of the day included Northern Shovelers and Greater Yellowlegs at the Visitors' Center, a mature Bald Eagle perched high in a tree along the Wildlife Drive, a Northern Mockingbird at Tschache Pool, and over fifty Sandhill Cranes at Knox-Marcellus. We found substantial numbers of Great Egrets both along the Drive and at Knox-Marcellus, where there were also a number of Great Blue Herons. There were also substantial numbers of waterfowl along the Wildlife Drive, but they were mainly near the far edges of the pools, so difficult to identify in the bright sunshine.



NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD



GREAT EGRET

Montezuma NWR October 1, 2022
Photos by Jauri Jantzi

WINTER FINCH FORECAST 2022-23

Each year for the past several years, Canada's Finch Research Network has provided a forecast for the upcoming winter of the movements of several Finch species and other songbirds which follow the same patterns. The forecast was developed several decades ago by Ron Pittaway, a highly respected Canadian ornithologist. Pittaway continued to provide the forecasts until 2021, when he retired and "passed the torch" to Tyler Hoar, his long-time collaborator. Hoar's forecast for the upcoming winter is summarized below. The complete forecast can be found on the website of the Finch Research Network, [FIRN](#) (Go to the Menu on the upper right of the page)

(Note: References to the boreal forest in the following refer to the forests of the northern and central areas of Ontario and Quebec Provinces. Two passerines whose movements are often linked to finches are also discussed here.)

Pine Grosbeak: This year's eastern crop of mountain ash berries is below average. This should lead to movements of Pine Grosbeaks, searching for feeders stocked with black oil sunflower seeds.

Purple Finch: Early movement of this species southward has been occurring for weeks. The Purple Finches had abundant food during the breeding season. The ash crop is good in many areas of the northeast, where ash is dying from the emerald ash borer, so some birds could linger there.

Common and Hoary Redpolls: There appears to be no bumper birch crop in North America this winter. In southeastern Canada, the crop is poor to very poor. There is a potential for a moderate to a good flight south out of the boreal forest. Watch for Redpolls at bird feeders offering nyger and black oil sunflower seeds. Watch for Hoaries in flocks of Common Redpolls.

Pine Siskin: Extensive pockets of heavy white cedar crops should hold small numbers of siskins this winter. However, most of the Siskins remaining in eastern Canada this fall should move southward in search of food. At feeders, they prefer nyger seeds.



RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

Sackets Harbor

August 30, 2022

Photo by
Lauren Eggleston

White-winged Crossbill: The Crossbill pendulum has swung west for this winter. Spruce crops in the eastern boreal forest are mostly poor, as are Tamarack crops. Later in winter, Crossbills might start wandering some as crops are depleted.

Red Crossbill: There are modest numbers in the Adirondacks over to the upper Great Lakes.

Evening Grosbeak: Evening Grosbeaks appear to be on the move this winter. The breeding population appears to be increasing in eastern Canada due to increasing outbreaks of spruce budworm with large outbreaks in northeastern Ontario and Quebec. Expect flights of Evening Grosbeaks into border states this fall. At large platform feeders, they prefer black oil sunflower seeds. (See *Irruption Alert on page 2.*)

Red-breasted Nuthatch: This species has been irrupting south since July and continues. With mostly poor cone crops in the eastern boreal forest, expect this species to continue to move southward. At feeders, Red-breasted Nuthatches prefers black-oil sunflower seeds, suet, and peanuts.

Bohemian Waxwing: In the eastern boreal forest, the native mountain ash berry crops are poor to below average, and other berry crops range from fair to good. Look for this species in traditional area such as Great Lakes states.

NORTHERN CARDINAL (JUVENILE)

Sam Adams Rd,
Cape Vincent

October 13, 2022

Photo by
Robin Booth



In September, our region lost one of our finest birders and a legendary champion for birds and the environment. Gerry (Sherr) Smith, a professional ornithologist, was a long-time member and former President of the North Country Bird Club. He was a mentor to many of us. Gerry served as a Land Steward for the Nature Conservancy for many years and later worked with Onondaga Audubon, where he was instrumental in the founding of Derby Hill Bird Observatory. Gerry also shared his great knowledge and expertise with the public through many, many programs and field experiences, and through the power of his pen. Never afraid to speak truth to power, Gerry led many crusades to protect the natural world and its inhabitants. His dedication and courage, as well as his generosity and his clarity of vision, will be greatly missed. Gerry contributed several articles to the *Plover* over the years. We are reprinting one of these to honor his memory and to allow Gerry to speak to us one more time.

Whither North Country Grasslands Birds - Gerry Smith

When the Upland Plover, now Upland Sandpiper, was chosen as the North Country Bird Club newsletter icon, they were common here. To my knowledge our current newsletter editor has yet to see an Upland Sandpiper in the fields of Jefferson County. The plight of this species locally is indicative of the decline of many Grassland birds worldwide. These birds are in serious trouble for a host of reasons that have clear connection to actions of the dominant mammal on the planet, us. It is well documented that North American Grassland birds are a guild in serious trouble.

Like so many conservation problems in our Anthropocene epoch, the causes appear to be many and varied. Climate change as it relates to precipitation patterns is clearly an issue. Expansion and intensification of monoculture agriculture is a real problem, as are multiple changes to agricultural practices. Large-scale land conversion to farming and human development is reducing habitat for these creatures of wide open spaces. These many threats make effective conservation response very difficult; thus major declines continue. That cartoon Sage of a half century ago, Pogo, famously said "we have met the enemy and dey is us." That about summarizes all such challenges in the Anthropocene.

In the last half century in Jefferson County we have lost Loggerhead Shrike, a Grassland edge species. Upland Sandpiper and Henslow's Sparrow are currently not far behind and appear headed toward local extinction. In a full summer afield in suitable habitat in 2017, I found one bird each for those species. Other Grassland birds, even the once common breeders such as Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark, are declining in our region. Even though both are still fairly common, the future is uncertain. Other species including Sedge Wren, Grasshopper Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow now have unclear and probably declining status. Grassland raptors, including the once common American Kestrel, are also in decline. Only the adaptable Savannah Sparrow seems able to cope with the massive changes of the last four decades.

In our region primary threats include conversion of Grassland to corn and soybeans and multiple mowings of remaining grass areas. Real deserts are full of life, but corn and soybean deserts are not. While feeding Canada Goose, Ring-billed Gull and blackbirds can inhabit these intensive monocultures full of chemicals, few other living things can. Driven by international trade agreements, insatiable appetite for soy in Asia and consolidation of family farms into large agribusiness, this trend appears likely to continue. This intense agriculture is definitely not for birds that depend on Grassland habitat.

Where Grasslands do remain that are in intensive agriculture areas, they are often mowed up to six times between May and October. Under such a regime even the birds with short reproductive cycles cannot successfully raise young. Indeed adults are fortunate if they escape the "grim reaper" of mowing machine to try again elsewhere. While the situation for birds may be better in grazed and late cut Grasslands, as of yet there are not enough of those to halt the overall population decline of many species.

Other aspects of modern intensive agriculture, including its heavy reliance on chemical application, make these lands poor habitat for most birds. It is unlikely that a majority of the farming community will alter these practices without financial incentives and/or public demand. Some enlightened individuals may attempt more ecologically sustainable practices that favor wildlife, and there should be public praise and support for those that do. Unfortunately for the moment it is likely economic forces unfavorable to sound wildlife management on agricultural lands are likely to continue.

So what can those of us who give a heck about these lovely fellow travelers in the North Country do?

- Vocally support all conservation programs at the federal level and let our elected representatives know that conservation is important to us. I have no doubt that federal programs, such as those of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, will be under the budget axe of this anti-conservation administration and its congressional backers. [*Note from the Editor: This article was written during the previous administration.*]
- Seek more New York State Action to protect Grasslands and manage them well on state lands. In particular let the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at the highest levels know we want the return of the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP). Foolishly cancelled by a now retired director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, this program was very useful in the North Country and we want it back.
- Support local land trusts that do true Grassland conservation. An example is Ontario Bays Initiative, that will do conservation easements capable of controlling management practices in a way favorable to maintaining bird populations. Certain types of Ag easements that do little more than prevent conversion of land to housing etc are of little value to most wildlife and should not be considered useful in avian conservation.
- Use personal contacts within the farming community to inform folks of problems Grassland birds face and how they might help. Those interested and financially able to help by altering how they farm may be inclined to do so. Every little effort helps, and future changing personal circumstances over time may permit interested people to help conserve birds on their property.
- Oppose all forms of industrial wind power with tall towers that are a threat to everything that flies.

The plight of our Grassland birds is a wonderful example of the pervasive influence of our species on the planet. There is no malevolent intent on our part, we are just bumbling forward in our usual anthropocentric manner. Our burgeoning population increasingly demands more of the world's land resources to support us, and other creatures are the dispossessed former tenants. Their future survival depends on us keeping their needs in mind. The words of nineteenth and early twentieth century Ornithologist George Bird Grinnell apply now as much as they did during that wildlife destruction crisis. When asked a question "Dr Grinnell, what can we do for our birds" he replied "Make sure they have a place to live". Bout sums it up.



NORTHERN CARDINALS - FEEDING TIME

Sam Adams Rd, Cape Vincent October 2022

Photo by Robin Booth

NORTH COUNTRY BIRD CLUB SIGHTINGS

Please forward notable sightings for the next issue by December 15 (contact info on page 6).

We begin with two especially notable sightings, both made during October. Early in the week of Oct 17, Dick Brouse and Brian Miller reported finding a Hudsonian Godwit at Sherwin's Bay on Pillar Point. The Godwit was seen there several more times that week. Corky Marlowe and Bill Haller saw the bird on Oct 24, along with 7 Great Blue Herons.

Robin Booth reported a visit from 16 Evening Grosbeaks at her home in Cape Vincent on Oct 24. The Grosbeaks arrived mid-morning, flying over Robin's head into a pine tree, then to maple trees. After a brief stay, the birds flew off toward the St. Lawrence River.

In other notable sightings, Bill saw a Great Horned Owl along NY 180 north of Limerick on Sept 7. Corky and Bill saw the Owl on Sept 23 at the same location. Bill spotted the bird again on Oct 3. On Sept 8, Bill and Connie Hoard sighted 2 Caspian Terns and 3 Killdeer on Pt Salubrious. On Sept 17, Robin saw a Northern Harrier, a Red-tailed Hawk, and 3 American Kestrels along Millens Bay Rd. On Sept 21, she sighted an Osprey on the Moffatt Rd. Connie Barone reported that 2 Turkey Vultures landed on the deck at her home in Sackets on Sept 24. (She says they left their calling cards when they departed.) Kathy Killeen saw several Yellow-rumped Warblers flitting through the trees along the Battlefield Trail in Sackets on Sept 29.

On Oct 2, Bill heard several Eastern Towhees "fweeping" along Ransom Rd. Robin saw a Great Black-backed Gull on Pt Salubrious on Oct 7. On the same day, Corky and Bill sighted both Red-breasted and Common Mergansers, 2 Great Blue Herons, and several Double-crested Cormorants at the same location. On Oct 8, Robin saw a Bonaparte's Gull there. On Oct 15, Robin birded on Point Peninsula, as well as in the Cape Vincent area. At Long Point State Park, she sighted 6 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 4 Yellow-rumped Warblers, and 3 Red-breasted Mergansers. She also saw 2 male Ring-necked Pheasants, one on CR 57, the other on

Beach Rd, and found 18 Wild Turkeys on Favret Rd and a Northern Harrier along CR 4 that day. On Oct 16, Robin sighted a Merlin on Mason Rd and 2 Eastern Meadowlarks on Branche Rd. The same day, she counted 172 Double-crested Cormorants on the breakwall in Cape Vincent. On Oct 20, Robin rounded Pt Salubrious, sighting a Bonaparte's Gull, 3 Red-breasted Mergansers, and 2 Mallards. On Oct 23,

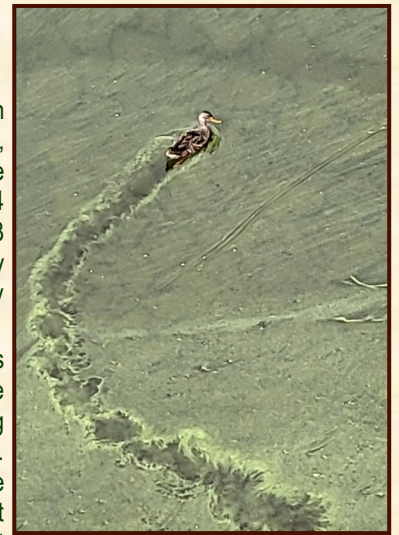
she counted 128 Cormorants on the Cape breakwall. On Oct 22, Robin visited the Blake Wildlife Sanctuary, where she sighted 4 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 3 Yellow-rumped Warblers, a Downy Woodpecker, and 2 Turkey Vultures.

Robin reported extensive sightings from both her home in the Village of Cape Vincent and from a birding site on Sam Adams Rd. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were at both locations throughout September. Robin made her last sighting of the species for the season at her home on Oct 3, also seeing 2 Tufted Titmice and a female Purple Finch there that day.

Other sightings at Robin's home included a Screech Owl on Sept 12, a Hairy Woodpecker and many House Sparrows on Sept 13, and, on Sept 24, 5 White-throated Sparrows, a White-breasted Nuthatch, and 3 Northern Flickers. Robin sighted her first Dark-eyed Juncos of the season (and the first reported to us) on Sam Adams Rd on Sept 17, when she saw 3 along with 3 White-throated Sparrows. At her home, Robin saw her first Juncos, a group of 5, on Sept 25. She then saw 25+ Dark-eyed Juncos there on Sept 29, along with 8 White-throated Sparrows. On Oct 23, Robin was visited at her home by 2 Red-winged Blackbirds, 2 American Robins, a Tufted Titmouse, and a White-breasted Nuthatch.

Robin reports that the following birds have been at the Sam Adams Rd location daily in recent weeks: Northern Cardinal m+f, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, and Mourning Dove. On Sept 4, Robin saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk there, then on Sept 10 a Downy Woodpecker and 3 Cedar Waxwings. On Sept 11, sightings on Sam Adams Rd included a Blackpoll Warbler, 3 Magnolia Warblers, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a Red-eyed Vireo, a Wood Duck, and a Hairy Woodpecker. Also there, on Oct 1, were a Hermit Thrush, a Field Sparrow, an Eastern Towhee, and White-throated Sparrows. On Oct 8, Robin saw 50+ Dark-eyed Juncos and 3 Turkey Vultures on Sam Adams Rd, then on Oct 14, 20+ Juncos, 10 White-throated Sparrows, and 3 American Robins. On Oct 23, visitors at Sam Adams Rd included a Vesper Sparrow, a Hermit Thrush, a Gray Catbird, a female Red-winged Blackbird, a White-crowned Sparrow, and a White-throated Sparrow.

Robin also reported that 2 Eastern Bluebirds came to the Sam Adams Rd location on Oct 29.



DUCK IN THE MUCK

Black River Bay's late summer algal bloom doesn't appear to be a problem for this intrepid Mallard. Sackets Harbor September 2022

Photo by Connie Barone



CEDAR WAXWING

Westcott's Beach October 15, 2022

Photo by Kathy Killeen

Regular at \$10.00	Number _____	Total \$ _____
Sponsor at \$15.00	Number _____	Total \$ _____
Patron at \$20.00	Number _____	Total \$ _____
___ New ___ Renewal	Total Dues \$ _____	
Dues payable to: North Country Bird Club		
P.O. Box 634		
Watertown, NY 13601		
Year: 20 _____	Send newsletter by: ___ e-mail ___ USPS (please check one)	
PLEASE FILL OUT BOTH SIDES OF THE FORM		



TURKEY VULTURES VISITING THE BARONES

Sackets Harbor
September 24, 2022

Photo by Connie Barone

FUERTES PAINTING GOSHAWK



Posted on October 25th by Ginny Alfano on the NNYBirds Listserv:

I have a long-time friend who was a math teacher for 30 years. He still loves numbers, which leads to this trivia. As most of us know, House Wrens build dummy nests in any empty birdhouse they can find. My friend got to wondering just how many sticks they could put in a 4x5x9" house. He emptied one of his birdhouses and counted every stick. There ended up being 1277 of them! Hard to believe that one wren could make that many trips just to make a dummy nest.

LEUCISTIC RED-TAILED HAWK

Pelo Rd, Clayton September 30, 2022

Photo by Angela Picuna

A leucistic bird is largely (often entirely) white, due to one of a variety of genetic conditions which prevent production of melanin and other pigments. Leucism occurs in a wide variety of bird species. This Red-tailed Hawk, seen near Clayton, showed virtually no coloration. Even the tail was white. (The terms leucistic and leucism are derived from the Greek word for white, λευκος.)



SWAINSON'S THRUSH

Mason Rd,
Cape Vincent

October 2, 2022

Photo by
Robin Booth

The Swainson's Thrush is an uncommon visitor to our local area. This species is a forest dweller. In our region, it spends the breeding season in the Adirondacks. During migration, both spring and fall, Swainsons move through this area, but they do not linger. Seeing one depends very much on being in the right place at the right time. On October 2, Robin Booth did just that and saw not just one, but five Swainson's Thrushes on a large pile of dirt and gravel near Cape Vincent. A few days before, Kezia Sullivan was visited by a Swainson's at her home in Sackets. Sadly, the bird had an unfortunate encounter with a structure in her yard and did not survive. The species' song is known for a quality which makes it difficult to track the bird. The bird often sings quietly, to give the impression that the sound is coming from a more distant location. Dense foliage may also cause the sound to reverberate.

Website Links: All links in the electronic issue of the *Plover* are in "live" format. Clicking on the link will automatically open its website in your browser.

To be added to our **E-mail Notification List** for news of select sightings and events in the area, contact the Editor at haldex@twcny.rr.com

To subscribe to e-mailed information from the DEC (select from over 100 topics), go to the subscription page at [DEC Subscriptions](#)

Join the **New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA)**. Membership includes both quarterly journal and newsletter. Info at [NYSOA](#)

N C B C ACTIVITIES

Meetings / Programs: March, April, May, September, October, November (2nd Wed)

Field Trips: Spring - Summer - Fall

Spring Bird Census

Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Newsletter: The Upland Plover

The North Country Bird Club, Inc., is a charter member of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.

RECEIVE *THE UPLAND PLOVER* ONLINE

The same as the printed version, but in COLOR! (Viewed with Adobe Reader)

Contact the Editor (haldex@twcny.rr.com) to sign up.

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT PLOVER ARE DUE BY DECEMBER 15

Please send sightings, photos, or other items to the Editor by December 15.

Contact info: Bill Haller, Editor - Mail: P. O. Box 6, Dexter, NY 13634

E-mail: haldex@twcny.rr.com - Phone: (315) 639-6848 or 778-1484

NORTH COUNTRY BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Membership is for the calendar year. Dues are *per individual*. Renewals are due by January 1st. To ensure that you receive Club materials, please give your correct *mailing* address below.

Name(s): _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

REMEMBER TO INCLUDE YOUR DUES PAYMENT

PLEASE FILL OUT BOTH SIDES OF THE FORM