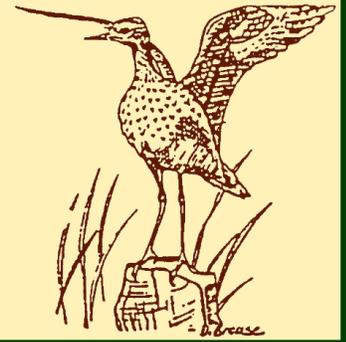


The Upland Plover



Newsletter of the North Country Bird Club, Inc. Since 1948
September-October 2022 Volume 63 No.5

FALL MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

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

FIELD TRIP: MONTEZUMA NWR

Saturday, October 1st

Meet at Arsenal St Wal-Mart at 8:30 am

Our fall trip to the Montezuma region will include, along with the National Wildlife Refuge, several other sites in the area. This is an excellent opportunity to observe waterfowl and shorebirds, as well as songbirds and raptors. **Reservations are required** before or at the September 14 Club meeting.



UPLAND SANDPIPER
(once known as Upland Plover)

NY 12 near
Gunns Corners

July 24, 2022

Photo by
Brian Miller

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!

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, September 14

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

Program: **Owls In Flight**

How do Owls fly without making a sound? What is the secret to their hunting prowess? Our program will answer these questions, as well as giving other fascinating information about these skilled predators of the avian world.

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**



YELLOW WARBLER

Sackets Harbor - June 26, 2022 Photos by Jauri Jantzi

Jauri reported that the bird seemed curious and not at all frightened.

I don't feed the birds because they need me.

I feed the birds because I need them.

— Kathi Hutton

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Richard Brouse
315-788-6778

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Newsletter Editor
Bill Haller
315-639-6848 or 778-1484

haldex@twcny.rr.com

**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](#)

I BIRD NEW YORK CHALLENGES

*Jim LaPlante, Board Chairman of the Ontario Bays Initiative Land Trust and a Club member, wrote to call our attention to a DEC program encouraging both youth and adults to become interested in birding. Jim also notes that **OBI's Downybrook Nature Reserve** has now been designated a "stop" on the **NYS Birding Trail**, an exciting development for birding in our region. Downybrook would certainly be a great location for Challenge participants to visit. It is, of course, a great location to visit for anyone interested in birds and the natural world. Downybrook is on Perch Lake Road, about three-quarters of a mile north of Brownville. The following is Challenge information from the DEC.*

It's that time of year again! The annual I BIRD NY Challenges are now live and open to birders of all ages and abilities across the state. To complete the Beginner Birding Challenge, participants 16 years old and younger must identify 10 common New York bird species, while more seasoned birders may try the Experienced Birding Challenge, in which participants must identify 10 or more different bird species found across New York.

Entries can be submitted via mail or email until October 14. All Challenge participants will be able to print a certificate of participation and will be entered for a chance to win birding accessories. Participants will receive an extra entry for identifying half of the birds (5) on NYS Birding Trail sites! As an extra bonus, the first 50 participants from either challenge will also receive a special goodie bag of birding swag items.

Visit the NYS Birding page ([I Bird NY Challenges](#)) for complete information.



BALTIMORE ORIOLE (Juv)

Sam Adams Rd - July 16, 2022

Photo by Robin Booth

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Perch River WMA / Ashland Flats WMA - August 20: On Saturday, August 20, ten members and friends of the Club, after visiting the observation tower at Ashland Flats WMA, proceeded to Perch River WMA to take advantage of the annual opening of that refuge to the public. The skies were clear. At mid-day, while we were at Perch Lake, the temperature topped out at 89 degrees, 1 degree shy of the record high for the date. We observed a total of 24 species.

At Ashland Flats WMA, we sighted 5 Great Egrets, 2 Northern Harriers, a Great Blue Heron, a Killdeer, a Belted Kingfisher, Wild Turkeys, Turkey Vultures, a Blue Jay, Tree Swallows, and Canada Geese. At the Stone Mills Pool, we again saw Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets. We also observed a Trumpeter Swan, an American Bittern, an Osprey, a Downy Woodpecker, a Gray Catbird, a family of Eastern Kingbirds, and several American Goldfinches. At the Upper Pool, across Vaadi Rd from the Stone Mills Pool, we sighted 2 Pied-billed Grebes. Before going to Perch Lake, the group stopped for lunch at Longway's Diner. At Perch Lake, we again saw a Trumpeter Swan, a Killdeer, and a Gray Catbird. Sightings there also included Bald Eagles, a Red-tailed Hawk, an Eastern Wood-Pewee, a White-breasted Nuthatch, and a Common Yellowthroat, as well as Double-crested Cormorants, a female Mallard, and Ring-billed Gulls. After leaving Perch Lake, some members visited the Lower Pool at Perch River Village, where they sighted a pair of Trumpeter Swans with 5 Cygnets, as well as Double-crested Cormorants and Canada Geese.

While it was certainly warm, the group had a very rewarding day. Perch Lake, usually inaccessible to the public, is a really beautiful place to visit. The lake is surrounded by the Refuge, with no structures along the shore, giving the feeling that one has been transported to a much earlier and more peaceful time. If you have not yet done so, we highly recommend that you visit whenever you can gain access.

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, Jon Holcombe of Wellesley Island.

TREASURER'S REPORT - July 31, 2022

Checking acct balance\$2729.52

Savings acct balance.....\$1895.76

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.

SPRING BIRD CENSUS 2022

Species: 202 - Observers: 22

22 Club members submitted 19 census forms for our Spring Bird Census this year. We express sincere thanks to all who took the time and made the effort to contribute. 202 species were recorded during the Census, two fewer than the 204 species reported last year. Observers recorded 12 species in 2022 that were not seen in 2021, while 14 species recorded in 2021 were not observed this year. One species was recorded this year for the first time during the eleven most recent years of the Census (2012-2022): a Tricolored Heron, reported by three observers. The Heron was sighted several times at Stone Mills Pool during June. Of the 53 Warbler species found in North America, 26 - nearly half - were reported on the Census. 5 of the 19 Census forms listed more than 100 species, with a high of 180 submitted by Dick Brouse. The average number of species reported was 86.

Observed in 2022 but not during the previous ten years: Tricolored Heron

Observed in 2022 but not in 2021 (12 species): White-winged Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Tricolored Heron, Dunlin, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Northern Shrike, Philadelphia Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Canada Warbler

Observed in 2021 but not in 2022 (14 species): Brant, Snowy Egret, Northern Goshawk, Semipalmated Plover, Upland Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl, American Pipit, Cape May Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Evening Grosbeak

Reported on 18 or on all 19 Census forms (18 species): Canada Goose, Wild Turkey, Turkey Vulture, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, European Starling, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, American Goldfinch

Reported on only one or two Census forms: 49 species (indicated below by "♦" after the species name)

Observed only before May 1: 13 species (indicated below by "1" after the species name)

Observed only on or after May 1: 61 species (Indicated below by "2" after the species name)

Observers: Robin Booth, Joe & Sheree Brosk, Marion Brouse, Richard Brouse, Janet Burrows, Lynn Chavoustie, Sue Gwise, Bill Haller, Dan Heneka, Ron & Jean Jacob, Kathy Killeen, Joanne Lackey, Corky Marlowe, Dee Piiparinen, Lauri Piiparinen, Pam Rosenthal, Mike Shepard, John & Marie Smith, Kezia Sullivan

SPECIES: GEESE, SWANS, & DUCKS: Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Tundra Swan, Trumpeter Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler♦1, Northern Pintail1, Green-winged Teal, Redhead1, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup1, Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter♦1, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck♦1

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS: Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite♦2 LOONS: Common Loon

GREBES: Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe♦, Red-necked Grebe♦1 CORMORANTS: Double-crested Cormorant

BITTERNS & HERONS: American Bittern, Least Bittern♦2, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret♦2, Tricolored Heron2, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Glossy Ibis♦2 VULTURES: Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture♦

EAGLES, HAWKS, & FALCONS: Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle♦1, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon

RAILS & CRANES: Virginia Rail♦2, Sora♦2, Common Gallinule (Moorhen)2, American Coot♦, Sandhill Crane♦1

SHOREBIRDS: Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper♦2, Spotted Sandpiper2, Semipalmated Sandpiper♦2, Dunlin♦1, Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock

GULLS & TERNs: Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull♦, Caspian Tern, Common Tern♦2, Black Tern2, Arctic Tern♦2 DOVES & PIGEONS: Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove CUCKOOS: Black-billed Cuckoo2, Yellow-billed Cuckoo♦2

OWLS: Eastern Screech Owl♦2, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl

GOATSUCKERS: Common Nighthawk♦2, Whip-poor-will SWIFTS & HUMMINGBIRDS: Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird

WOODPECKERS: Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker♦1, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker

FLYCATCHERS: Eastern Wood-Pewee2, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher♦2, Alder Flycatcher♦2, Willow Flycatcher2, Least Flycatcher2, Eastern Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird SHRIKES: Northern Shrike♦1

VIREOS: Yellow-throated Vireo2, Blue-headed Vireo2, Warbling Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo2, Red-eyed Vireo

JAYS & CROWS: Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven

LARKS & SWALLOWS: Horned Lark, Purple Martin♦2, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow2, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow

CHICKADEES & NUTHATCHES: Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch♦, White-breasted Nuthatch

CREEPERS & WRENS: Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Winter Wren, Sedge Wren♦2, Marsh Wren2

KINGLETS & THRUSHES: Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher♦2, Eastern Bluebird, Veery2, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush2, American Robin

MIMIC THRUSHES: Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird♦2, Brown Thrasher

STARLINGS: European Starling PIPITS & WAXWINGS: Cedar Waxwing

WOOD WARBLERS & TANAGERS: Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler♦2, Tennessee Warbler2, Nashville Warbler♦2, Northern Parula♦2, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler2, Magnolia Warbler♦2, Black-throated Blue Warbler2, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler2, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler2, Palm Warbler♦2, Blackpoll Warbler♦2, Cerulean Warbler♦2, Black-and-White Warbler, American Redstart2, Ovenbird2, Northern Waterthrush♦2, Mourning Warbler♦2, Common Yellowthroat2, Hooded Warbler♦2, Canada Warbler♦2, Prothonotary Warbler♦2, Scarlet Tanager2 (continued on the next page)

Spring Bird Census data continued from previous page:

SPARROWS & GROSBEAKS: Eastern Towhee, American Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow², Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow², Grasshopper Sparrow², Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting²
BLACKBIRDS: Bobolink², Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole², Baltimore Oriole
FINCHES: Purple Finch, House Finch, Common Redpoll⁴, Pine Siskin⁴, American Goldfinch
OLD WORLD SPARROWS: House Sparrow

NORTH COUNTRY BIRD CLUB SIGHTINGS

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

Sightings reports were not as extensive as those received for the previous issue. This is to be expected, of course, as summer, compared to spring, is not as active a season for birders. However, a number of very interesting sightings were received in recent weeks.

Robin Booth, one of our most dedicated birders, sent reports summarizing her sightings at and near her home in Cape Vincent. Robin reports that regular sightings along the St. Lawrence River included Osprey, Great Blue Heron, Common Loon, Belted Kingfisher, Mute Swan, Caspian Tern, Common Tern, and Double-breasted Cormorant. On 8/20, Robin saw a female Bald Eagle on the river. At her home in Cape Vincent, regular visitors included a Northern Flicker, 2 House Wrens, a Gray Catbird, a Northern Cardinal, Brown-headed Cowbirds, and many House Sparrows and Common Grackles. After she saw Ruby-throated Hummingbirds only a few times in July there, Robin reports that both male and female Hummingbirds have appeared daily from 8/16 on. Notable sightings at her home included a Screech Owl on 8/1, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on 8/18, and a Baltimore Oriole on both 7/6 and 7/11, an unusual time for a visit from this species. Robin also birds regularly on Sam Adams Rd in the Town of Cape Vincent. She reports that regular visitors there during the summer included Wood Thrush, Brown Thrasher, Common Yellowthroat, Red-eyed Vireo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Kingbird, Northern Cardinal, Eastern Towhee, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Song Sparrow, Gray Catbird, House Wren, and American Goldfinch, as well as American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Common Grackle. Robin also sighted a Philadelphia Vireo there.

Peggy Coe reported on June 28 that an Eastern Kingbird had appeared at her home in Watertown. Peggy noted that one had perched on a pole in her yard regularly for several years, but she didn't see one last summer.

On June 25, Ellen Darabaner, Kathy Killeen, and Corky Marlowe birded at Wehle State Park on Stony Point, where they sighted Eastern Bluebird, Yellow Warbler, Ovenbird, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Kingbird, Song Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Red-eyed Vireo, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Baltimore Oriole, Northern Cardinal, American Robin, American Goldfinch, and Brown-headed Cowbird.



GREEN HERON

Town of Lyme - August 2022
Photo by Lynn Chavoustie

Kezia Sullivan reported that Screech Owls were in a maple tree at her home in Sackets on the night of 7/12 and were very talkative. Connie Barone reported that she had seen an American Kestrel in Sackets on 7/20. Connie also witnessed a very interesting event at her home along the lakeshore there. Two Great Blue Herons emerged in flight from below her deck. One

had a fish in its beak. The two birds engaged in aerial combat, and the one with the fish swallowed it in mid-air.

On 7/28, John and Marie Smith reported a second nesting of Eastern Bluebirds in one of the boxes they monitor at Downybrook Preserve, with a successful fledging of 3 chicks on 6/30.

On 8/13, Lynn Chavoustie reported some interesting activity at her home in Three Mile Bay. The Osprey in the box just across the road raised 2 young. House Wrens fledged young in her yard. Tree Swallows nested in 3 of her boxes. And, for the first time ever, Eastern Bluebirds nested in one box. She also saw a Green Heron along Cty Rt 5 on 7/8. On 8/26, Lynn visited Ashland WMA and sighted 3 Sandhill Cranes, 8 Great Egrets, 4 Great Blue Herons, an American Bittern, a Northern Harrier, and 15 Tree Swallows. Proceeding to the shoals on the north shore of Point Salubrious, she saw a Great Black-backed Gull with a juvenile, 23 Caspian Terns, and a substantial number of Herring Gulls and Ring-billed Gulls. On 8/30, Bill Haller sighted a Great Black-backed Gull with a juvenile at the same location. However, there were no Caspian Terns among the large groups of Gulls.

On the weekend of 8/27-28, Robin visited Canoe Point State Park and the area nearby. While there, she sighted a Brown Creeper, Warbling Vireos, Red-eyed Vireos, 2 Black-and-White Warblers, an Eastern Wood-Pewee, a Red-bellied Woodpecker, a Hairy Woodpecker, and a Downy Woodpecker. Robin also saw a group of 5 Common Loons on the St. Lawrence over that weekend. While staying at Canoe Point, she heard Loons all night long. Robin also reported sighting Northern Harriers along Mason and Favret Roads, and Cedar Waxwings on Sam Adams Rd.



HOUSE WREN

Antwerp - July 2022

Photo by Steve & Vici Diehl

THE NAMES OF OUR WINTER BIRDS

Why do we call the bird a Bunting? Why Junco? Certain birds bring to mind winter in the North Country. Several, including the following, have names which seem to be more than a bit obscure.

Bunting: the name may derive from the Scottish *buntin*, meaning plump, or from the German *bunt*, meaning multi-colored

Junco: from the Latin *iuncus*, meaning reed, now used as a genus name in the Finch family (however, what the species has to do with reeds is not clear; Juncos are not birds of the marsh)

Siskin: from Middle Dutch *siseken*, derived from Middle Low German *sisek*, related to Czech *cizek*, which may be imitative of the call of the Eurasian Siskin, a common European bird

Redpoll: refers, of course, to the bird's berry-red crown patch; *poll* is from the Middle English for head - so a poll is a counting of heads, and redpoll means red-headed

Titmouse: derives from Old English *tit* and *mase*, meaning "small bird" - over time, *mase* morphed into "mouse" possibly because the quick-moving little gray bird reminded people of a mouse



RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

Cape Vincent - August 21, 2022

Photo by Robin Booth

NYSOA's Annual Convention is being hosted by Onondaga Audubon this year. The Convention will meet in Oswego from Friday, September 30, through Sunday, October 2. In addition to the business portion, the Convention will include speakers and field trips. To find out more about the Convention schedule and what is of special interest to birders, go to: [NYSOA Conference 2022](#)

Over the past half-century, nearly one-third of the wild birds in the United States and Canada - 2.9 billion birds - have vanished. More than half of grassland birds have disappeared. Bird families with especially heavy losses include the sparrows, blackbirds, warblers, and finches. To slow this loss and help birds to recover, the Cornell Lab recommends these Seven Simple Actions: ([7 Actions To Help Birds](#))

1. Make windows safer by breaking up daytime reflections and using fewer lights at night
2. Keep cats indoors - Cats are estimated to kill more than 2.6 billion birds each year
3. Reduce lawn area and replace with native plants
4. Avoid pesticides - Common weed killers can be toxic to wildlife
5. Drink coffee certified by the Smithsonian Institution as bird-friendly
6. Avoid single-use plastics if possible and recycle what you do use
7. Watch birds and share what you see through eBird, FeederWatch, or similar programs

Connie Barone of Sackets called our attention to the following item, an article posted on the Smithsonian website. It makes one wonder whether we understand our avian friends as well as we sometimes think we do.

Woodpeckers Don't Have Shock-Absorbing Skulls

Margaret Osborne on the Smithsonian Magazine site

Posted July 18, 2022

About 12 thousand times a day, woodpeckers drill their beaks into trees to search for food, make nests or communicate with other birds. "This is basically what the woodpeckers need to do to survive, so if they're not sleeping and they're not resting, they are probably pecking on something," says Wesley Hochachka, an ecologist at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. "There's no respite from it at all." In the scientific community, researchers have widely accepted that the birds have some sort of shock-absorbing mechanism in their heads that allows them to repeatedly smash their beaks against trees without getting a concussion. But this didn't make sense to Sam Van Wassenbergh, a biologist at the University of Antwerp. A built-in shock absorption mechanism would hamper the birds' pecking ability, and they'd need to exert more energy to reach their meals. In a paper published in Current Biology, researchers used high-speed cameras to film three species of woodpeckers hammering into a tree. They tracked motion on different points of the birds' heads to see how they moved in relation to each other. Because a woodpecker's brain and eye are jammed closely together with little room for movement, researchers tracked the eye to analyze how the birds' brain moved. If the birds' skulls absorbed shock, the brain would decelerate slower than the

beak. But the team found no difference in movement patterns between the beak and brain—suggesting that the head acted as a stiff hammer rather than a shock absorber. Van Wassenbergh says this is logical. "People don't use hammers that have a shock absorber built into them. That would just make hammering inefficient," he says. So how do woodpeckers repeatedly drum their beaks against trees without getting concussions? It has to do with their size.

"We forget that woodpeckers are considerably smaller than humans. Smaller animals can withstand higher decelerations. Think about a fly that hits a window and then just flies away again." A woodpecker's brain is about 700 times smaller than a human's. The researchers created a model to calculate pressure in the woodpeckers' skulls. They found that the birds would need to hit wood twice as fast to concuss themselves. "That really lays to rest the idea that some part of the head is acting as a shock absorber," Margaret Rubega, an ornithologist at the University of Connecticut who wasn't involved in the study, says. Maja Mielke, a biologist at the University of Antwerp, says this research shows how scientists may need to re-examine commonly held beliefs. "It's always

worth looking at phenomena that we believe we are already understanding, because sometimes, there can be surprises," she says. "Intuition can fool us."



BLUE JAY

Annual Picnic, Brouse Preserve

July 10, 2022

Photo by Kathy Killeen

Regular at \$10.00 Number _____ Total \$ _____

Sponsor at \$15.00 Number _____ Total \$ _____

Patron at \$20.00 Number _____ Total \$ _____

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SURF SCOTER**

**AMERICAN SCOTER
WHITE-WINGED SCOTER**



PIPING PLOVER

South Colwell Pond, Lakeview WMA
August 2022

Photo by Christine Bourquin



THE ANNUAL PICNIC

Brouse Preserve - July 10, 2022

Photo by Kathy Killeen

Birding Tips from the Cornell Lab: Several short articles offering tips on bird identification have been posted by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology on its website. The articles include *Four Keys To Bird Identification*, *Learning Bird Songs And Calls*, *Tricky ID's*, and several others. Access the articles at: [Bird ID Skills](#)

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

All birders are urged to assist in gathering data for New York's third **Breeding Bird Atlas**, a definitive resource for bird conservation efforts.

Begin at the How To Atlas page: [BBA3 - How To Atlas](#) For a map of Atlas blocks: [BBA3 - Blocks](#)

For further info and to submit checklists: [BBA3 - Checklists](#) (you will be asked to sign in to or to create an eBird account)

Website Links: All links to websites in the electronic issue of the *Plover* are in "live" format. Clicking on the link will automatically open the 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

Join the **New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA)**. Membership includes both quarterly journal and newsletter.

Details 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 OCTOBER 15

Please send sightings, photos, or other items to the Editor by October 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**

The following three pages are included only with the electronic version of the *Plover*, as a thank-you to those who save the Club money by receiving the newsletter by e-mail. The pages include additional photos from our members and other materials of interest.



EASTERN BLUEBIRDS FEEDING
Three Mile Bay - August 2022
Photo by Lynn Chavoustie



HOUSE WREN
Antwerp - July 2022
Photo by Steve & Vici Diehl



GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL
Point Salubrious - August 26, 2022
Photo by Lynn Chavoustie



PIPING PLOVER
South Colwell Pond, Lakeview WMA
August 2022
Photo by Christine Bourquin



TREE SWALLOWS
Three Mile Bay - August 2022
Photo by Lynn Chavoustie



CASPIAN TERNS
Point Salubrious - August 26, 2022
Photo by Lynn Chavoustie

FUERTES PAINTING: BIRDS OF PREY IN FLIGHT

TURKEY VULTURE

PEREGRINE FALCON

COOPER'S HAWK

NORTHERN HARRIER



BALD EAGLE

RED-TAILED HAWK

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK

OSPREY



GREAT GREY OWL LANDS ON WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER'S CAMERA

Photographer Anaïs Trépanier ventured into the wilds with the hopes of capturing memorable photos but instead ended up as the subject of one when a giant Great Grey Owl swooped down and perched on her camera. Trépanier had ventured out on a photo expedition with fellow photographer Thomas Pham-Van and other photographer friends to the Côte-de-Beaupré area north of Quebec City, Canada. She says she spotted the Great Grey Owl sitting on a fence and, while she stopped to take a few photos, it suddenly flew over to her position. Trépanier says that the owl perched on her camera for about 30 seconds, and she tells CBC she remembers standing as still as possible as she heard her friends tell her not to move as Pham-Van fired off a series of photos. “The owl took off and flew straight ahead and then made a loop to come back, heading towards Anaïs,” Pham-Van says. “I was already amazed to see this magnificent bird and to have the privilege of capturing it in flight, but I was so surprised to see it perched on the camera lens. I couldn’t believe my eyes. I had a quick look and then started taking pictures again. A friend who was with us was yelling at Anaïs not to move, I had the shivers.”

Great Grey Owls are the world’s largest species of owl by length, but much of their size is deceptive, as their large heads and long tails obscure the rest of their body. Their wingspan can exceed five feet, and they are known to have excellent hearing which helps them locate and capture moving prey beneath more than two feet of snow. It is the only species of owl that is known to take a plunge into snow after listening for moving prey from low-altitude posts.

(from the website Petapixel.com - by Jaron Schneider - May 11, 2022)