

Northern New York Audubon

Serving the Adirondack, Champlain, St. Lawrence Region of New York State

Mission: To conserve and restore natural ecosystems in the Adirondacks, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the Earth's biological diversity.

Volume 43 Number 2

June-August 2015



Saturday, June 6th, 2015, 7:00 P.M.
**The Joseph and Joan Cullman Conservation
 Foundation/Northern New York Audubon 2014
 Great Adirondack Birding Celebration Lecture**
Bicknell's Thrush:

Conserving a Bird of Two Worlds
Chris Rimmer, Executive Director
Vermont Center for Ecostudies

The keynote speaker for the 2015 Great Adirondack Birding Celebration is Chris Rimmer, speaking on "Bicknell's Thrush: Conserving a Bird of Two Worlds." The Bicknell's thrush is one of North America's most rare and vulnerable songbirds. Nesting only in mountaintop forests of northern New England and New York, and wintering primarily on the island of Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti), Bicknell's thrush faces numerous threats to its long-term survival. On its breeding grounds these include acid precipitation, ski area development, communications tower construction, wind power development, mercury contamination and climate change. The species' limited winter habitats are under siege from deforestation, caused by human population pressures. Since 1992, Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE) Executive Director Chris Rimmer has led efforts to conserve the species and these habitats on which it depends. Rimmer will discuss this fascinating and rare songbird, VCE's efforts to study it in New England and the Caribbean, and how Bicknell's thrush represents a vital conservation link across international boundaries.

About the Speaker: Chris Rimmer is Executive Director of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, a non-profit wildlife conservation group based in Norwich, Vermont. He completed studies in Wildlife Biology at the University of Vermont and graduate work in Ecology and Behavioral Biology at the University of Minnesota, where he studied yellow warblers on the James Bay coast of Ontario. Prior to his graduate studies, Chris was an itinerant field biologist, with stints in Peru, Ellesmere Island, James Bay, coastal Massachusetts (Manomet Bird Observatory) and Antarctica. Much of his recent work has focused on conservation research of Bicknell's thrush at both ends of its migratory range, from New York and New England to Haiti and the Dominican Republic.



1	Keynote Speaker: Chris Rimmer, Executive Director, Vermont Center for Ecostudies
2	President's Message Field Trip: East Branch Organics Field Trips: Indian Creek Participate in the Loon Census
3	Field Trip: Massawepie Mire—Boreal Birding Field Trip: Roosevelt Truck Trail Nominations for NNYA Board
4	13th Annual Great Adirondack Birding Celebration; Schedule of
5	Events; Keynote Speaker; Field Trip Information
6	11th Annual Adirondack Birding Festival; Schedule of Events, Field Trips; Presentation—Wendy Hall, Rehabilitator
7	ASRC Falconer Science/Natural History Summer 2015 Lecture Series NNYA Annual Outing/Meeting
8	Editor's Note: <i>The ineffable joys of a rapturously glorious spring afternoon in the Adirondacks</i>

NNYA

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Northern New York Audubon, Inc.

A chapter of National Audubon Society
serving the Adirondack, Champlain and
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Correspondence and Membership Information

Northern New York Audubon
PO Box 488

Keene Valley, New York 12943-0488

John Thaxton, Newsletter Editor
PO Box 488

Keene Valley, NY 12943-0488

NNYA Web Site: www.nnya.org
Charlotte Demers, Web Master

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Vol. 43 No. 2

President's Message

I've had the honor of serving on the board of Northern New York Audubon for the last eight years. I consider myself lucky to have been a part of such a dedicated, passionate and committed team. I will be officially taking off the President Hat in June but will continue to be involved in whatever way I can. There are several new names on the nomination list this year and I'm excited to see what the future brings for our chapter. Stay tuned...there are great ideas coming your way!
--Leah Valerio

Wednesday, June 17th & Friday, July 24th, 2015 Indian Creek Nature Center Canton, NY

Time: 6:30 a.m.

Meet: Main parking Lot at entrance to Indian Creek Nature Center

Leader: Dr. Susan Willson

Registration: No need to register; call Dr. Willson if it looks like rain.

Join Dr. Willson on a bird walk in the fabulous Indian Creek Nature Center, a 350 acre preserve that borders flooded lands between the Oswegatchie and Grass Rivers. The highly diverse habitat at Indian Creek supports an extremely diverse population of nesting birds, including a population of golden-winged warblers. The beautifully maintained trails and boardwalks wind through wet, marshy areas as well as brushy sections bordering mixed forest.

Saturday, July 11th, 2015 East Branch Organics Keene, NY

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet: Parking at East Branch Organics (driveway immediately north of Stewarts)

Leaders: John & Pat Thaxton

Registration: No need to register—just come

In addition to all the plants and flowers growing in this nursery and gardening center, the property adjoins a wet, marshy area bordered on the far side by relatively mature mixed forest. The resident warbling vireos here never shut up, hummingbirds buzz from flower to flower and ovenbirds and yellow warblers sing incessantly. East Branch Organics offers a surprising diversity of habitats in a very small space, with the result that this trip provides excellent birding with very little need to walk farther than a hundred yards. Green herons either nest in the marshy area or fly by every other year we offer the walk.

Participate in the Annual Loon Census on Saturday, July 18th from 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Help the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) look for loons, as part of the 13th Annual Loon Census. This year's Census is on Saturday, July 18th, from 8-9a.m. You can participate by observing loons by boat or on foot for one hour on census day. The data you collect will help assess New York's loon population. To sign up or learn more, please email adkloon@wcs.org or call [518-891-8872](tel:518-891-8872). For full details about the Annual Loon Census, visit www.wcsadirondacks.org

Wednesday, June 3rd & Saturday August 15th, Indian Creek Nature Center Canton, NY

Join Ann Spencer, MaryBeth Warburton and Eileen Wheeler for a bird walk at Indian Creek, a beautiful, 350-acre preserve with both forest and wetlands.

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Meet: Indian Creek Nature Center entrance

Contact: Eileen @ 315.386.2482 or MaryBeth @ 315.268.0150

**Massawepie Mire
Boreal Birding
Monday, July 20, 2015
Colton, NY**

Join Joan Collins for a hike into lovely, remote Massawepie Mire, the largest bog in New York State. Massawepie is also



a designated "Important Bird Area" (IBA) in New York. The trail through the mire is an old railroad bed, now a perfectly level dirt road. There are several different habitats encountered along the trail including mixed forest, boreal forest, bog, and marsh. The South Branch of the Grass River is crossed at about 1.5 miles down the trail and Silver Brook at 3 miles. Participants will watch for many bird species including, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Palm Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow, and if we are extremely fortunate, the elusive Spruce Grouse! Bog plants such as the carnivorous Sundew and Pitcher Plant are also found along the trail. Moose tracks are often observed at the mire. We will hike over 5 miles round trip on level terrain. Bring food, water, appropriate attire/hiking shoes, binoculars, hat, sunscreen, and insect spray. Meet at the Geiger Arena parking area in Long Lake at 7 a.m. for transportation to the trailhead on Long Lake's "Little Bus"! There is a restroom at the Geiger Arena meeting location. Register by calling the Long Lake Parks and Recreation Department at 518-624-3077. This field trip is jointly sponsored by Northern New York Audubon and the Long Lake Parks and Recreation Department. There is a maximum of 15 participants.

**Roosevelt Truck Trail
Tuesday, August 25, 2015
Minerva, NY**

Lovely, mature boreal habitat spans the 2.5 mile long Roosevelt Truck Trail. This wide, road-sized trail runs between Route 28N and the Blue Ridge Road in Minerva. Joan Collins will lead a hike along this route beginning at the Blue Ridge Road trailhead and ending at the Route 28N trailhead. The trail has hilly and level terrain with an overall loss of 100 feet in elevation by the end of our hike. The habitat along the route provides a year-round home to many boreal bird species. Participants will also be looking for animal tracks – Black Bear and Moose tracks are frequently found on this old road. In August, the Roosevelt Truck Trail is a wonderful place to look for mushrooms and lichens. Meet at the Geiger Arena parking area in Long Lake at 7 a.m. for transportation to the trailhead on Long Lake's "Little Bus"! There is a restroom at the Geiger Arena, and there are two outhouses along the trail at camping locations. Bring food, water, a jacket, appropriate attire/hiking shoes, binoculars, hat, sunscreen, and insect spray. Register by calling the Long Lake Parks and Recreation Department at 518-624-3077. This field trip is jointly sponsored by Northern New York Audubon and the Long Lake Parks and Recreation Department. There is a maximum of 15 participants.



Photos by Joan Collins

**Nominations for the NNYA
Board of Directors**

President—Kendra Ormerod,

Vice President—Joan Collins,

Shelly Cihan, Russ DeFonce, Tom Langdon, Christiaan King, Larry Master, Linnea Rowse

**Members are invited to participate in the
vote at Paul Smiths VIC on Saturday,
June 6th @ 1:00 p.m.**



Find us on
Facebook

The 13th Annual Great Adirondack Birding Celebration

June 5th—June 7th 2015

At the Paul Smith's College VIC,
Paul Smiths, New York

Sponsored by:

Northern New York Audubon

Paul Smiths College

Adirondack Birding Center at the Paul

Smiths College VIC

Wild Birds Unlimited

Schedule of Events

Friday, 5 June

6:00—7:00: Continental Breakfast in VIC Great Room
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM: Check In/Registration/Materials (VIC Front Desk) **Deck Sit—Free**
8:00 AM – 3:00 PM: **Birding Across the Adirondacks Field Trip** Participants leave the VIC for an all-day field trip “down the mountain” to the beautiful shoreline of Lake Champlain in search of migratory birds; **Birding the St Lawrence Valley Field Trip**. Preregistration required, maximum 16 participants each trip \$70 extra.
9:00 AM—5:00 PM *Birds of a Feather Art Show and Sale*. Friday dinner on your own.
7:00 PM—8:00 PM: *Birds of the Adirondacks* slide show presentation. (\$5 a la carte)

Saturday, 6 June

6:00 AM – 7:00 AM: Coffee, tea, bagels, juice, snacks in the VIC Great Room
7:00 AM - 11:30 AM: **Field Trips** (preregistration required):
Bloomingdale Bog (\$40)
Whiteface Mountain (\$50, includes highway toll)
Madawaska Flow (\$40)
Intervale Lowlands (\$40)
Birding by Ear @ the VIC (\$40)
Beginner Birder Workshop @ the VIC (\$40)
9:00 AM—11:30: Heaven Hill Farm/ John Brown Homestead (\$30)
9:00 AM—5:00 PM: Check in/Registration; Deck Sit (free)
9:00 AM—5:00 PM: *Birds of a Feather Art Show & Sale*
9:00 AM—5:00 PM: Vendors/Exhibitors in VIC Great Room
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM - Catered lunch at the VIC the Sunspace Gallery
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM: *Basics of Warbler Identification* (\$10 a la carte); Teddy Roosevelt Birding Challenge (free); Workshops \$ (TBA)

6:00 PM—7:00 PM: Coffee in the VIC Great Room

Dinner on your own Saturday night

7:00 PM—8:00 PM: **Keynote Lecture: *Bicknell's Thrush: Conserving a Bird of Two Worlds*, Chris Rimmer, Executive Director, Vermont Center for Ecostudies** (see front cover) (\$10 a la carte)

8:00 PM—8:30 PM: Reception, raffle drawing (free).

Sunday, 8 June

6:00AM—7:00AM Continental Breakfast in VIC Great Room

7:00AM—11:30AM Field Trips (preregistration required)

Bloomingdale Bog (\$40)

Whiteface Mountain (\$50, includes highway toll)

Madawaska Flow (\$40)

Intervale Lowlands (\$40)

Birding by Ear @ the VIC (\$40)

Beginner Birder Workshop @ the VIC (\$40)

9:00AM—11:30AM Heaven Hill Farm/John Brown Homestead (\$30)

9:00AM—5:00PM *Birds of a Feather Art Show/Sale*

Field Trip/Workshop Descriptions

Birding by Ear at the Paul Smith's College VIC

Designated an Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy, the Paul Smith's VIC property contains every habitat type found in the Adirondack Park with the exception of alpine vegetation. Included on the property is a 60-acre marsh, five ponds, several brooks and swamps, bogs, fens, and varied forest types, most notably northern boreal forest. The 14-mile trail system traverses a variety of habitats with extensive boardwalks through wetland ecosystems. Common sightings at the Paul Smiths VIC include: Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Great Blue Heron, American Bittern, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Black-backed Woodpecker. Warblers include (Yellow) Palm Warbler, Northern Parula, Blackburnian Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler and Nashville Warbler. Other sightings may include Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, and Wilson's Snipe, Broad-winged Hawk, Hooded Merganser, and Ring-necked Duck.

Beginner Birder Workshop

at the Paul Smith's College VIC

You probably feed the birds in your backyard and enjoy the beauty they bring, but lately you've been asking yourself what the other birds are that visit the trees in your neighborhood during the spring and summer months. Well now's the chance to start learning those birds! Our Beginner Birder Workshop will take you step-by-step through the intricate lives of birds. Leaders will introduce field identification and song identification skills in a relaxed manner so you can fully absorb the intricacies of the lives of birds.



Birding Across the Adirondacks Field Trip

The focus of the all-day *Birding Across the Adirondacks* field trip will be the different habitats that make up the six-million acre Adirondack Park. We will depart from the Paul Smiths College VIC in vans at 8:00AM with lunch and beverages on board. Our first stop will be the boreal habitat of Bloomingdale Bog to search for birds typical of a boreal wetland, including the gray jay, black-backed woodpecker and olive-sided flycatcher. We will then stop to check for grassland species in the Lake Placid area, looking for bobolink, northern harrier, Savannah sparrow and several species of swallow. Then we will drop in elevation to the Lake Champlain valley to explore shoreline, open and scrub fields, wetlands, mixed woods and second growth forests. Here we expect to see blue-winged warbler, golden-winged warbler, marsh wren, Baltimore oriole, scarlet tanager and yellow-bellied flycatcher. We expect to tally some sixty species in these eight different habitat types. We will return to the VIC at about 4:00 PM. Our exact itinerary is subject to change. Bag lunch included.

Bloomingdale Bog / Bigelow Road

This is great habitat for boreal species. The area encompasses a bog and cedar woods with sedge marsh and coniferous woods. Sightings may include: Boreal Chickadee, Gray Jay, Black-backed Woodpecker, Palm Warbler, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cape May Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow.

Intervale Lowlands

This 135 acre farm and nature preserve, includes 8,600' of frontage on the West Branch of the Ausable River in Lake Placid. With a mixture of young boreal forest and open fields, the "farm" is home to 17 species of breeding warblers. The Mourning Warbler is common, and the Cape May Warbler was confirmed nesting during the last atlas. Also found here are five species of nesting woodpeckers (including Black-backed), Brown Thrasher, Indigo Bunting, Lincoln's Sparrow, Alder Flycatcher, Turkey, Woodcock, and Ruffed Grouse. American Bitterns nest across the street; and Olive-sided Flycatchers and Rusty Blackbirds have visited. Nest boxes/platforms were put up for Ospreys, Kestrels, Bluebirds, Flickers, Hooded and Common Mergansers, Chickadees, and Barred and Saw-whet Owls. Bald Eagles fish the river on a weekly basis. Resident mammals include: Beaver, Coyote, Deer, and Bobcat. Moose, Bear, and Otter visit occasionally.

Birding the St Lawrence Valley

The all-day trip will explore a wide variety of habitats, including fields, edge forest, deciduous forest and lowland conifer wetlands. The trip will include visiting active waterfowl gathering places near the shoreline of the St Lawrence River as well as stops in the raptor-rich agricultural fields near Massena. We'll search for buntings, sparrows, hawks, ducks and much more on the all-day outing. We will depart from Paul Smiths College VIC in vans at 8:00 AM with bag lunches and beverages on board. Our exact itinerary is subject to change. Preregistration required. Bag lunch included.



Intervale Lowlands photo by John Thaxton

Madawaska Flow

Madawaska has been a favored boreal birding area for a half-century or more. The area encompasses conifer forest, mixed hardwood forest, a variety of wetlands, as well as Madawaska Pond. Sightings may include: (Yellow) Palm Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Northern Parula, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Olive-sided Flycatcher. As the habitat changes to white pine forest, the Brown Creeper can be found nesting behind loose bark. Madawaska Pond may have Green-winged Teal, American Bittern, and Bald Eagle.

Whiteface Mountain

The trip will begin with a flat, easy walk around Lake Stevens Tree Trail at the Whiteface Mountain Memorial Highway toll house and then carpool up the toll road, stopping at pull-offs and searching for Bicknell's Thrush, Blackpoll Warbler, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Boreal Chickadee.

Intervale Lowlands photo by John Thaxton



11th Annual Adirondack Birding Festival June 12th—June 14th, 2015 Schedule of Events & Trips

Please Note:

Each of the outdoor trips will require different equipment necessary for a pleasant birding adventure. Suggested hiking equipment includes binoculars, camera, sunscreen, bug dope (netting or bug shirt suggested), water, snacks and/or lunch, flashlight (headlamp) and comfortable waterproof footwear. Registration is required for each outdoor event. Registration is appreciated but not necessary for any of our evening presentations. To register, call (800) 648-5239 or (518) 548-3076 Monday—Friday 9:00 AM—4:00 PM.

Friday, June 12th

Hike: Lows Ridge/Hitchens Pond, Long Lake 7:00 AM

A walk into beautiful Hitchens Pond and the Upper Dam on the Bog River. Common Loons nest on Hitchens Pond each year. Bald eagles are also a common sight.

Meet: Bog River Falls Parking Area, Route 421 (off Rt 30)

Walk: Ferd's Bog, Inlet 7:00 AM Ferd's Bog is a unique wildlife rich habitat surrounded by a 50-acre boreal forest. Short (0.3 mile) hike to see wood warblers and boreal birds from a floating walkway.

Meet: Raquette Lake Common School Parking Lot, northeast corner of Route 28 & County Road 2

Walk: Raquette Rail Bed, Raquette Lake, 10:00 AM This walk will follow the Ferd's Bog walk (see above). In 2013 we saw over 20 species during this walk alone.

Meet: Trailhead for Shallow Pond at the Browns Tract Upper Pond

Walk: Forked Lake Road, Long Lake, 2:00 PM A favorite—5th year in a row. This 2 mile walk on the Forked Lake Campsite road will bring us through a variety of woodland habitats. We could see a variety of woodland thrushes, and Gray Jays have been seen in the area.

Meet: Forked Lake Campground Parking Lot. Enter the campground from North Point Road.

Walk: G-Lake, Morehouse, 7:00 AM A scenic drive through a spectacular hardwood forest leads to a 0.4 mile hike to the lake with its scenic view across the water to the north; common loons nest here, as do overbirds, winter wrens, several vireos and a rich variety of warblers.

Meet: Intersection of Route 8 & G-Lake Road that leads into G-Lake. We will meet on Route 8.

W.W. Durant Dinner Cruise, Raquette Lake, 6:30 PM

Join us on a very special cruise celebrating the Black Fly Challenge Mountain Bike Race and the Adirondack Birding Festival. Boarding time is 6:00—6:30 PM and the cruise will last from 6:30—8:30 PM. You may also ride on the top deck of the Durant without the dinner. Cash snack and beverage bar as well as use of the restrooms (below) will be available to those riding on the upper deck. **Cost:** Upper Deck Cruise,

\$13 if pre-registered/\$15 normal rate if not; Dinner Cruise, \$37, includes meal, cruise, tax and tip. **Reservations:** Please call Raquette Lake Navigation directly at (315) 354-5532 to make reservations; visit www.raquettelakenavigation.com for more information.

Saturday, June 13th

Hike: Roosevelt Truck Trail, 7:00 AM This gently rolling trail passes 5 miles (round trip) through a pristine boreal forest; gray jay, boreal chickadee, black-backed woodpecker and Cape May warbler are possibilities.

Meet: NP Trail parking lot on Rt 28N at Tarbell Hill Rd.

Driving Safari: Perkins Clearing, Speculator 7:00 AM A search for warblers, flycatchers, buntings and grosbeaks.

Meet: Mason Lake parking area on west side of Route 30, north of Speculator.

New Driving Safari & Hike: Sabattis Circle Road & Round Lake Road, 6:30 A.M. A lovely drive and hike that features boreal habitat with breeding black-backed woodpeckers, gray jays, boreal chickadees and Lincoln's sparrows.

Meet: Mt. Sabattis Pavilion (ice skating rink) parking lot, directly across from the Post Office.

New Driving Safari & Hike, Elm Lake Road 7:00 A.M., A drive/hike through newly open-to-the-public land formerly owned and operated as a working Timberland & Forest tree farm by International Paper.

Meet: End of Elm Lake Road, where pavement turns to dirt.

Presentation: 4:00 PM

Adirondack Museum Adirondack Wildlife Refuge and Rehabilitation Center

Wendy Hall will bring to the Museum a variety of birds of prey, including hawks, owls and falcons. She will discuss the nature of these birds and the challenges of helping injured raptors return to the wild. Experience up close the beauty and wildness of these truly magnificent birds.

Sunday, June 14th

Driving Safari: Moose River Plains IBA, Inlet 7:00 AM

The roads, once used for logging make exploring this wilderness very easy, and the various habitats are home to almost every breeding species in Hamilton County.

Meet: Entrance to Limekiln Lake Campground, on Limekiln Road.

Walk: Northville-Lake Placid Trail, 7:00 AM A walk through a variety of habitats, including boreal forest, marsh/bog, swamp, mixed forest, deciduous woods and along a shore of Long Lake. We will look for black-backed woodpecker, boreal chickadee, yellow-bellied flycatcher, northern goshawk, bald eagle, common loon and many warbler species.

Meet: Parking Lot on south side of Rt 28N @ Tarbell Hill Rd

Road Walk: Indian River Parcel (former Gooley Club Lands), Indian Lake, 7:00 AM A walk through former Finch Pruyn Lands now owned by The Nature Conservancy, accessible to the public for the first time in 150 years. Hike through newly discovered boreal forests and hardwood stands and newly opened access roads through the Indian River Tract (part of Essex Chain of Lakes Tract). **Meet:** Chain of Lakes Rd., 1.3 miles east of Indian Lake on Rt 28N.

**THE ASRC FALCONER
SCIENCE/NATURAL HISTORY
SUMMER 2015 LECTURE SERIES**

TUESDAY EVENINGS - 7:00 p.m.

Free admission and open to the public

ASRC WHITEFACE FIELD STATION

110 Marble Mountain Lane

Wilmington, NY 12997

July 7

Why So Cold?

**Presentation by National Weather
Service Meteorologist Conor Lahiff**

This talk will highlight general weather across the North Country with a focus on winter weather patterns, including a review of this past winter. Also discussed will be teleconnections such as La Nina and El Nino and how they affect local and global weather and climate change.

July 21

**New York State Mesonet Provides
Critical Weather Data**

**Presentation by Dr. Jerald Botzge,
Program Manager and Dr. Everett
Joseph, Director of ASRC**

The New York State Mesonet is a network of 125 weather stations to be deployed across the state by the end of 2016. Funded by FEMA, the network will measure air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, pressure, rainfall, solar radiation, and soil temperature and moisture at every site. In addition, 17 of the sites will also measure vertical profiles of wind, temperature and moisture, and another 20 sites will measure snow depth. The NYS Mesonet will collect these observations every five minutes, providing real-time, quality-controlled data to users statewide. These data will provide the aviation, ground transportation, energy, agriculture, and emergency management sectors with critical weather information for more accurate, more efficient decision-making. Dr. Jerry Brotzge, Program Director of the NYS Mesonet, will provide an overview of the system and describe how users of the data can be involved.

August 4

The Great Adirondack Moose Count.

**What is affecting moose across the continent and how do our moose fit in? Presentation by Ben Tabor
NYS DEC Wildlife**

Discussion of the current and future moose research plans in New York State. We will discuss the effort to estimate the moose population, health,

and productivity. The moose project is an undertaking by several interest groups including but not limited to NYSDEC, SUNY-ESF, Cornell University, The Wildlife Conservation Society, Biodiversity Research Institute, and others.

August 18

**Altitudinal Shifts of Adirondack Birds in
Response to Climate Change?**

**Presentation by Dr. Jeremy J. Kirchman,
Curator of Birds, New York State Museum**

Animal species are expected to shift their geographic ranges toward the poles or up in elevation in response to ongoing climate warming. Many recent studies find evidence for latitudinal shifts from citizen-science projects such as the Breeding Bird Survey, or state-wide faunal atlases, but detecting altitudinal shifts with these data is more difficult. In an effort to directly measure altitudinal range shifts of forest-breeding bird species I have repeated a survey conducted 40 years ago along an altitudinal transect up Whiteface Mountain. I find evidence for uphill movement of most bird species over the last 40 years. In this lecture I will describe this study and also discuss others that indicate more changes are in store for the birds of the Adirondack high peaks.

NNYA Annual Outing/Meeting

Sunday, July 19th, 11:00 A.M.

Robert Moses State Park

Massena, NY

Bring lunch and join NNYA board members and members at large for a day of hiking and exploring.

Robert Moses State Park is located partly on the mainland and partly on Barnhart Island. Visitors reach the park through a tunnel under the Eisenhower Lock. The park is spacious, home to a large variety of flora and fauna and offers a multitude of recreational opportunities, including wooded campsites and cabins, a marina and boat launch, some of the best fishing in the Northeast, picnic areas, a swimming beach, tennis courts and a year round nature center. The park's nature, hiking and cross-country skiing trails wind through fields, forests and wetlands showcasing spectacular views.



Editor's Note

Besotted by the play of light and wind on a coruscating field of gold and chartreuse grasses that looked like a magical body of water, I suddenly flinched violently as a huge, dark shadow lurched immediately beside me, blocked out the sun and then swooped, stalling and shimmering and disappearing, then reappearing as a raven croaked and soared overhead, contorting and correcting for the strong wind by the nanosecond, making me smile at the ineffable joys of a rapturously glorious spring afternoon in the Adirondacks. A Savannah sparrow sang somewhere in the shimmering, undulating grasses as a trio of blindingly bright huge clouds cast acre-sized shadows that rolled and glided over the luminous field, making it look downright submarine.

I half expected to see a school of fish materialize before me but stared instead at the mid-spring foliage on the hills and mountains, looking yellowish green chartreuse, rather like it does in early autumn, when the reddish carotene starts supplanting the green chlorophyll, delivering that same yellowish green that characterizes the foliage at either end of the year—that jaundicey yellow green that so contrasts with the dark greens of the softwoods higher up on the mountainsides, which perch like a lid on the hardwoods below those times of year.

By way of escaping the Memorial Day weekend madness in and around Keene, Pat and I went to Ausable Marsh Wildlife Management Area and walked a couple miles along the dike, stopping every ten feet or so to look for a calling or singing bird, watching the brisk wind ripple the water and the cloud reflections disappear and then reappear between gusts, wondering at the population of red-winged blackbirds in the marsh, and the incessant songs of the warbling vireos. A great-crested flycatcher seemed to have followed us from where we parked to where we ended our walk, and we finally saw it, along with a pair of Baltimore Orioles and a marsh wren, not to mention a pair of yellow warblers building a nest. Pat managed to spot a Wilson's snipe flying by us twenty feet away, and then pointed out an American bittern flying low over the dyke and landing in the rushes—I saw it after it landed, but when I looked over at Pat and tried to refind it I saw only rushes, and more rushes.

On the walk back to the car we met a young family with three children, the two boys intent on catching a leopard frog, which managed to leap away from, and then startle them, every time they even got close, and a middle-aged couple from Lake George Village, who had camped at Ausable Point to escape the holiday weekend madness in Lake George and who interrogated us in extenso about what birds we had seen and they might see, conspiratorially joyful that other people wanted to get away from the maddening crowd. It turned into one of those afternoons that drove home how special the Adirondacks have become for us, how rich in nature and the possibilities of quiet contemplation, the simple but enviable pleasures of walking through a quietly spectacular landscape, with birdsong everywhere, corduroy wind-ripples sporadic on otherwise perfectly mirror-smooth water, a couple of children now and again trying to catch a frog and a couple of adults trying to get away. —**John Thaxton**