

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 41 Number 2

June-August 2013

The Joseph and Joan Cullman Conservation Foundation/Northern New York Audubon 2012 Boreal and Montane Studies Award (\$2,250) Mountain Birdwatch

One Participant's Observations by Joan Collins



Editor's Note: Joan Collins has participated in the Mountain Birdwatch citizen science program since its inception in 2001, censusing populations of boreal species such as blackpoll warbler, boreal chickadee and Bicknell's thrush. Her observations about Bicknell's thrush in this essay bear a chilling, uncanny resemblance to my own. —JT

Photo by Larry Master



Bicknell's Thrush: An Endangered Species

Bicknell's Thrush, the only endemic bird species in the northeastern United States, is facing a whole series of threats to its short-term and long-term survival. This species, which breeds on restricted "sky-island" habitat at the tops of mountains in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, in addition to a few locations in Canada, will likely be listed under the Endangered Species Act this year.

Climate change is the leading threat facing Bicknell's Thrush. Warming is projected to change the distribution of trees in their montane-forest breeding habitat. Extirpations of Bicknell's Thrush at low elevations and along *(continued p.7)*

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Northern New York Audubon, Inc.

A chapter of National Audubon Society
serving the Adirondack, Champlain and
St. Lawrence regions of northern New
York, including Clinton, Essex, Franklin,
Hamilton and St. Lawrence counties.

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Keene Valley, New York 12943-0488

John Thaxton, Newsletter Editor

Time: 7:00 a.m.

Meet: At the basketball courts in
Wanakena

Bring: Water and snacks/lunch

Registration: Contact (by June 21st)

Bernie Carr: mycocarex@hotmail.com

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NNYA Web Site: www.nnya.org

Charlotte Demers, Web Master

President's Message

A sincere and heartfelt "Thank You" to three very hard working Board of Director members, two of which, unfortunately, will be stepping down from the Board. Jorie Favreau and Leah Valerio have both served six years on the Board and have contributed countless hours to this organization. I am grateful for their hard work, enthusiasm and energy, all of which seemed endless. I am also thrilled to announce that Leah has agreed to take her considerable skill set and transition into the NNYA President.

Mary O'Dell has been on the Board for seven years, and three of those have been serving as the Secretary plus the Publicity Chair. Mary excelled in both of these difficult and time consuming positions—she will be a tough act to follow.

Danke, gracias and merci to all three of you.

I will also be stepping down as President. I have been proud to represent NNYA at various venues and meetings and to report on the amazing things that this group has accomplished. I have had a brilliant time and made some wonderful, life-long friends through my involvement in this organization. It has been a great experience serving these past six years and I appreciated the ability to translate my love of wildlife and ecology into something meaningful. My best wishes to the new President and for the continued growth of this organization.

—Charlotte Demers

Saturday June 1st, 2013 Adirondack Interpretive Center Newcomb

The 1.0-mile Sucker Brook trail runs along the outlet to Rich Lake providing opportunities to glimpse mink and otter in the open water. It is a great mix of hardwood, mixedwood and conifer habitat that supports a wonderful variety of bird life.

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Meet: At the Adirondack Interpretive Center, 5922 State Rt 28N Newcomb, NY

Leader: Paul Hai

Saturday, June 29th High Rock Trail Wanakena, NY

Join naturalists Bernie Carr and Mary Beth Warburton on an easy, seven-mile hike along the High Rock Trail in Wanakena. The hike includes a spectacular view of the Oswagatchie River from High Rock Cliff, and along the journey Bernie and Mary Beth will point out everything from mushrooms to warblers to raptors.

Time: 7:00 a.m.

Meet: At the basketball courts in Wanakena

Bring: Water and snacks/lunch

Registration: Contact (by June 21st) Bernie Carr: mycocarex@hotmail.com;

or Mary Beth Warburton: msmarybeth.warburton@gmail.com ; (315) 268-0150.

Look for NNYA on Facebook—We maintain an active Facebook Page with events, membership information, links and all kinds of other cool stuff!



Saturday July 6, 2013 Huntington Wildlife Forest Newcomb

A beautiful 2-3 mile walk in the privately-owned Huntington Wildlife Forest. We will be walking along a level dirt road that parallels a lovely marsh at the west end of Rich Lake. The walk continues to a small pond and includes both conifer and hardwood habitats. Plan on two hours of easy walking.

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Meet: At the Adirondack Interpretive Center, Route 28N, Newcomb, NY

Leader: Charlotte Demers

Registration: Email: cdemers@frontiernet.net or call Adirondack Interpretive Center @ (518) 582-2000

Saturday, August 3rd Arbutus Lake Newcomb

Participants will take a 2-mile loop around the shore of Arbutus Lake in the Huntington Wildlife Forest. This flat trail goes through mostly softwood and mixed wood forest. A pair of loons have consistently and successfully nested on the lake and it is likely, at this time of the year, that the chicks will be with the adults.

Time: 9: a.m.

Meet: At Adirondack Interpretive Center, 5922 State Route 28N Newcomb, NY.

Leader: Charlotte Demers

Registration: Email: cdemers@frontiernet.net or call Adirondack Interpretive Center: (518) 582-2000

Participate in the Annual Loon Census on Saturday, July 20th 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 20th, 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.wcsadironacks.org

Nominating Committee

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President: Leah Valerio

Secretary: Kathleen Wiley

Board of Directors (Term: 2013-2016)

Michael Burgess, Thomas Cullen, Lisa Godfrey

Lewis Lolya, Dr. Jacob Straub

**NNYA Members Can Vote on the Slate of Nominations on
June 1st, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. at the Paul Smiths VIC**

Annual Meeting Saturday, July 27th, 2013 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Huntington Wildlife Forest 6312 Route 28N, Newcomb NY

Spend a day with NNYA friends and their families on beautiful Catlin Lake in Newcomb, NY. This lake is located on the Huntington Wildlife Forest (HWF), a 15,000 acre research facility operated by the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. This property is not open to the general public so take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy a quiet day on one of the prettiest lakes in the Adirondacks.

Bring your swim trunks, your kayaks, canoes and rowboats (no motors please). There will be canoes, row boats and a few kayaks available for those that don't have their own. Spend the day sun bathing, swimming, paddling or fishing (with a NYS License of course) on the lake. If there is interest, we will tour HWF after lunch and talk about the ecological research that occurs on the property.

Scheduled Activities

- 9:00 a.m. – Meet at the Adirondack Ecological Center (6312 State Route 28N) in Newcomb for a brief talk about the property. Please be prompt: if you're late, you won't be able to catch-up.
- 9:30 p.m. – Drive to Catlin Lake (with a quick stop at an Old Growth Forest stand) and launch boats for a paddle around the lake.
- 12:30 p.m. – Meet at Birch Point Lean-to on the lake for lunch and a quick NNYA meeting.
- 1:00 ish – Head back to shore and vehicles.
1:30 ish – Tour of HWF. We will be making brief stops during our egress from HWF.

To bring: lunch, snacks, beverages, binoculars, swim suit and sunscreen.

To leave home: your pets...**Sorry, but no pets are allowed on the property.**

Cost: Free!

To register: Call Charlotte Demers at the Adirondack Ecological Center at 582-4551 extension 103 or cdemers@frontiernet.net

Directions: The AEC is located 10 miles east of Long Lake or 26 miles west off of Northway (87) exit 29 (North Hudson); a map is provided on the back and at www.esf.edu/aec/facilities/directions.htm or MapQuest to 6312 State Route 28N, Newcomb, New York.

Note: *Because this is a gated property, there will be only one opportunity to leave the festivities early - before lunch at approximately 12:00 pm. If you don't depart at that time you will need to stay with the group until we leave at 2:00 pm.*

The 11th Annual Great Adirondack Birding Celebration

May 31st—June 2nd 2013

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

Mac's Canoe Livery

Schedule of Events

Friday, 31 May

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM: Check In/Registration/Materials (VIC Front Desk)

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM: **Birding Across the Adirondacks Field Trip** (max 15 participants). 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. This field trip will feature stops at many birding hotspots as we look at a cross-section of bird life from high elevation to low. Return to VIC at 4:00 PM. Preregistration required.

Friday dinner on your own

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Dessert/Coffee Reception in the VIC Great Room. Come meet other participants and talk birds!

8:00 PM: **Keynote Speaker at the VIC: Sara R. Morris**, professor of Biology and the Program Coordinator of the Environmental Science Program at [Canisius College](#) in Buffalo, will speak on bird migration.

Saturday, 1 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

Whiteface Mountain

Madawaska Pond

Intervale Lowlands

Little Clear Pond for Loons (canoes supplied)

Birding by Ear @ the VIC

Beginner Birder Workshop @ the VIC

Spring Pond Bog

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM - Catered lunch at the VIC the Sunspace Gallery

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM: Angelina Ross & Glenn Johnson:

"Spruce Grouse of the Adirondacks," lecture presentation in the VIC Theater

Saturday Dinner on your own

7:30 PM: **Keynote Speaker at the VIC: Michale Glennon**, the Adirondack Landscape Science Coordinator for the [Adirondack Program](#) of the [Wildlife Conservation Society](#), will speak on the Wildlife Conservation Society's [Boreal Bird Project](#).

Sunday, 2 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

Whiteface Mountain

Madawaska Pond

Intervale Lowlands

Little Clear Pond for Loons (canoes supplied)

Birding by Ear @ the VIC

Beginner Birder Workshop @ the VIC

Spring Pond Bog

Registration Information

Registration opens 1 May 2013. Call 518-327-6241 for information. Registration forms will be available to print and fill out for mailing on 1 May 2013.

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 (Friday Only)

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. This field trip will feature stops at many birding hotspots as we look at a cross-section of bird life from high elevation to low. Return to VIC at 4:00 PM. Preregistration required.

Bloomington 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.

Little Clear Pond for Loons

Little Clear Pond is a haven for common loon with crystal clear water and healthy food sources for growing loon families. Dr. Nina Schoch is a wildlife veterinarian at Biodiversity Research Institute. She coordinates their Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation in New York's Adirondack Park. Dr. Schoch's research has focused on using Adirondack common loons as a sentinel species to better understand the impact of environmental contaminants on aquatic ecosystems. Schoch will lead us on a graceful, and educational paddle in search of these beautiful symbols of Adirondack wilderness. Canoes will be furnished, but you may bring your own canoe or kayak for this field trip.

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.

Spring Pond Bog

Participants will explore one of the largest peat land complexes in New York State. Spring Pond Bog is the second largest open expanse of peat land in New York and contains a patterned peat land with ridges (strings) and wet depressions. On this field trip, participants should see/hear most

of the more common lowland boreal birds (Gray Jay, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Boreal Chickadee and woodpeckers), and may see some of the less common species such as the Tennessee warbler or the Spruce Grouse. The trip includes bushwhacking in boggy areas and thick spruce/fir/tamarack stands. Wear sturdy boots, as it is often wet to very wet underfoot. No rain pants please (sound may startle certain species).

Whiteface Mountain

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

Keynote Speakers

Friday, May 31st

Dr. Sara R. Morris

Bird Migration

[Sara Morris](#) is a professor of Biology and the Program Coordinator of the Environmental Science Program at [Canisius College](#) in Buffalo, NY. She earned her MS and PhD in zoology at Cornell University. Her research focus is bird migration, specifically in how birds use sites in-between where they breed and winter to successfully complete their migrations. At Canisius, Dr. Morris teaches classes in ornithology, vertebrate zoology, and ecology. During the summer, she is a guest lecturer at the [Shoals Marine Lab](#) and an instructor at the Audubon Camp in Maine.

Saturday, June 1st

Dr. Michale Glennon

**The Wildlife Conservation Society's
Boreal Bird Project**

On Saturday, 1 June, Michale Glennon will speak on the Wildlife Conservation Society's [Boreal Bird Project](#). [Michale Glennon](#) is the Adirondack Landscape Science Coordinator for the [Adirondack Program](#) of the [Wildlife Conservation Society](#). Her research interests lie primarily at the intersection between land use management and ecological integrity, with a number of projects ranging from the impacts of low density, exurban development on wildlife to the potential changes to Adirondack lowland boreal communities resulting from climate change. Dr. Glennon joined WCS in 2003 after completing a Ph.D. at the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, where she explored the effects of land use management on bird and small mammal communities in the Adirondack Park.

The 9th Annual Hamilton County Birding Festival June 7th-June 9th, 2013 Schedule of Field Trips and Events

Please Note:

Each of the outdoor trips will require different equipment necessary for a pleasant birding adventure. Suggested hiking equipment include binoculars, camera, sunscreen, bug repellent (netting or bug shirt suggested), water, snacks and/or lunch, flashlight (headlamp) and comfortable waterproof footwear. In addition, the canoe trips will require a canoe/kayak, paddles, and PFD as required by law. The Adirondack Black Fly can be quite annoying at this time of year, so be prepared with insect repellent and/or bug shirts for each event! 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 Mon-Fri. 9 am - 4 pm.

Friday, June 7th

Walk: Ferd's Bog, Inlet, 7:00 am. Ferd's Bog is a unique wildlife-rich habitat surrounded by a 50-acre boreal forest. Possible species include black-backed woodpecker, Gray Jay and boreal chickadee. **Leader:** Joan Collins.

Walk: Raquette Lake Rail Bed, Raquette Lake, 10:00 am. Last year we saw over 20 species on this walk—great for boreals. **Leader:** Joan Collins.

Walk: Northville—Lake Placid Trail, Long Lake, 7:00 am. A birdwalk in these areas will take participants through a wide variety of habitats including boreal forests, marsh/bog, swamp, mixed forest, deciduous woods and the shoreline of Long Lake. **Leaders:** William Labes & Jerry Roberts.

Walk: Forked Lake Road, Long Lake, 2 pm. This 2-mile walk on the Forked Lake Campsite road passes through a wide variety of woodland habitats—great place for woodland thrushes and gray jay. **Leaders:** William Labes & Jerry Roberts.

Walk: Fall Lake/Piseco Airport, Piseco, 2pm. New for 2013! This walk around Piseco Airport and adjacent habitats usually includes nice looks at nesting bluebirds, and a short hike will include the nearby Fall Lake. **Leaders:** Mary Ellen Blakey & Jamie Taft.

Presentation: All About Birding, 7 pm.

Join Michael Moccio in a lively presentation for both beginning and intermediate birders that will provide useful information to enhance the birding experience. Birders will learn how to advance their skills using identifying tips, how to report birds and proper etiquette in the field.

Saturday, June 8th

Walk: Ferd's Bog, Inlet, 7 am. **Leader:** Gary Lee.

Hike: Lows Ridge/Hitchins Pond, Long Lake, 7 am. A beautiful walk into beautiful Hitchins Pond—possible species include bald eagle, palm warbler, gray jay and Philadelphia vireo. **Leader:** Joan Collins.

Hike: Fiddler's Pond, Piseco, 7:00 am. This is a 3-mile hike (round trip) into wetland areas on the Northville/Lake Placid Trail. Possible species included great blue heron and common loon as well as woodland and boreal species. **Leaders:** Mary Ellen Blakey & James Taft.

Driving Safari: Perkin's Clearing, Speculator, 7:00 am. NYS licensed guides Michael & Wanda Moccio will lead the driving safari into the Perkin's Clearing area in a search for mourning warbler, rose-breasted grosbeak, indigo bunting and olive-sided and alder flycatchers. **Leaders:** Michael & Wanda Moccio.

Walk: G-Lake, Morehouse (Piseco), 7:00 am. A scenic drive through a hardwood forest leads to a peninsula with spectacular views of the lake—nesting loons, woodland warblers, ovenbirds and winter wrens. **Leaders:** Jerry Roberts & Laurie Freeman.

Walk: Rock Lake, Indian Lake, 7:00 am. A 1-2 mile hike through mixed woods to a lovely marsh along Rock Lake—great for boreal species like black-backed woodpecker and boreal chickadee. **Leaders:** John & Pat Thaxton.

Driving Safari: Powley Road, Piseco, 2:00 pm. One of our more popular, this 8-mile drive on a lightly-travelled dirt road tends to turn up American three-toed woodpecker, olive-sided flycatcher, raptors and warblers. **Leaders:** Mary Ellen Blakey & James Taft.

Walk: Cedar River, Indian Lake, 4:30 pm. A riparian walk along the Cedar River, this route usually proves very productive for warblers, flycatchers, woodpeckers and thrushes.

Note: *This trip could run late, due to the time of day and interest of the participants—Plan accordingly.* **Leaders:** Mike & Wanda Moccio.

**Presentation: *Lost Worlds:
in Search of Birds in the World's Last
Wild Places, Adirondack Museum, 7:30***
Speaker: Dr. Bruce Beehler

Sunday, June 9th

Driving Safari: Moose River Plains IBA, Inlet, 7:00 am. Join us on an exciting birding festival trip into the remote wilderness known as the *Moose River Plains Important Birding Area*, a 50,000 acre parcel that includes bogs, boreal forests, open plains, mature upland hardwood tracts and spruce-covered mountaintops. **Leader:** Joan Collins.

Walk: Northville/Lake Placid Trail, Long Lake, 7:00 am. A 4-mile round trip through boreal forest, marsh/bog, swamp, mixed forest, deciduous woods and the shoreline of Long Lake. Great for black-backed woodpeckers, boreal chickadees, yellow-bellied flycatchers, many warblers, northern goshawks and bald eagle. **Leaders:** John & Pat Thaxton.

Hike: Lows Ridge/Hitchens Pond, Long Lake, 7:00 am. Join Dr. Bruce Beehler and NYS licensed guide/birder Jerry Roberts for a walk into beautiful Hitchins Pond and the Upper Dam on the Bog River—nesting common loons, bald eagles and warblers.

Walk: Rock Lake, Indian Lake, 7:00 am. **Leaders:** Mike & Wanda Moccio

(continued from first page) the southern edge of their breeding range are already occurring. Other climate related changes include: frequency and severity of natural disturbances; availability of invertebrate prey; timing of breeding and migration; competition from Swainson's Thrush (which may be physiologically restricted from cool summits); and possible infestation of northern balsam-fir from the Balsam Woolly Adelgid.

Swainson's Thrush has already taken advantage of the warmer springs to move upslope over the past decade. During a Mountain Birdwatch survey on the summit of Whiteface Mountain in 2012, I tallied twice as many Swainson's Thrushes as Bicknell's Thrushes – something that would have been inconceivable just a decade ago. Swainson's Thrushes appear to have taken over the prominent singing perches occupied, in prior years, by Bicknell's Thrush. What effect this change may have on Bicknell's Thrush is not fully known.

Climate change is not the only threat to Bicknell's Thrush. Other threats include: acidic precipitation; mercury deposition (high levels have been found in Bicknell's Thrush and in many other species); logging; habitat destruction on the breeding grounds for ski resorts, other recreational development, communications infrastructure, and wind farms; and forested habitat loss on their even more restricted winter grounds on four islands in the Greater Antilles – 98% of which has been destroyed by logging and clear-cutting for subsistence agriculture.

Primarily due to the threat of global warming, the Center for Biological Diversity petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list Bicknell's Thrush under the Endangered Species Act in 2010. In August 2012, in response to the 2010 petition and a 2011 landmark agreement reached between the Center for Biological Diversity and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that compelled the Service to move forward with the protection process for 757 species including Bicknell's Thrush, the Fish and Wildlife Service announced a "90-day finding" that Bicknell's Thrush, a northeastern songbird threatened by climate change, may warrant protection as an endangered species. A protection decision is due in 2013.

The Endangered Species Act turns 40 this year. It is a powerful and successful legal tool for protecting species at risk of extinction. It provides a legal means for citizens and public interest groups to petition or sue the government to make sure the Act protects species as it was intended to do, and it provides a way to legally protect lands and waters that species need to survive and recover.

While Bicknell's Thrush's winter grounds have been severely lost or degraded, most of its breeding grounds in the United States are already conserved. New York has 24% of Bicknell's Thrush U.S. breeding habitat, and 93% is conserved. Numbers for the other three states: New Hampshire has 45% of the U.S. breeding habitat, with 94% conserved; Vermont has 8%, with 83% conserved; and Maine has 23%, with 41% conserved. The major threat to Bicknell's Thrush breeding habitat, which is mostly conserved, is *climate change*. The question that remains is whether the Endangered Species Act can be used to force the government to address climate change? Can the Act be used to stop CO₂ from being spewed into the atmosphere? (Major sources of human produced atmospheric CO₂ include: electricity genera-

tion (busses, planes, trains, & trucks), home heating, agriculture, and the cement industry.) Most feel it is unlikely. For much of the past 40 years, federal agencies have been defending the Endangered Species Act against changes that would weaken it, and certainly not strengthen it.

—Joan Collins

Intervale Lowlands BioBlitz Sunday, July 21st, 2013

Bioblitzers may come anytime, but birders will likely want to start at dawn, small mammal trappers will likely want to set out traps Saturday afternoon, and bat counters will start at about 9:00 pm on Sunday evening and go for an hour or two. Moth collecting, using baits and mercury vapor lights will run both Saturday and Sunday evenings from 7:30 pm to midnight or later as part of National Moth Week. Families and friends are welcome for Moth Nights.

We are expecting a moderately large, dedicated group of TWG (Taxonomic Working Group) leaders and naturalists from around the region. Please inform your friends and colleagues and contact us for more information. We hope to have a diverse and comprehensive taxonomically informed group—you can help by inviting others to help our efforts. Interested students are especially encouraged to attend.

RSVP—Please RSVP to Larry Master, lawrence-master@gmail.com or Ezra Schwartzberg, ezra@adkres.org. Email us so that we can keep you informed about the event. Please also indicate which group(s) of plants, animals and/or fungi you are interested in inventorying. We will maintain a list of participants on the website and will send out current lists later in the spring and early summer.

—Larry Master

Plattsburgh Christmas Bird Count Compiler Needed

Judy Heintz, the long-time compiler of the Plattsburgh Christmas Count would like to pass on the tradition to an interested birder. This is an exciting, very well-attended count that includes a wide variety of habitats and species, from wintering waterfowl on Lake Champlain to a wide range of woodland and edge species.

Please contact Judy if you would like to explore becoming the next Plattsburgh CBC compiler:
judyfheintz@yahoo.com



Editor's Note

When I woke to the sound of someone rearranging furniture on the floor above me I imagined the extremely low frequency rumble emanated from a gigantic sofa getting pushed a few inches at a time across a hardwood floor, and then, even though I hadn't yet opened my eyes, I saw a bright pulse of light outside my bedroom window followed immediately by an exponentially louder low frequency rumble accompanied instantly by the deafening roar of a stupefyingly hard rain careening wildly off my roof. We needed the rain, what with the longest succession of sunny days I had ever experienced in the Adirondacks having ended that afternoon, leaving the woods almost dusty dry and the dirt road to my house a smoky haze of dust and sand and dirt in my rear-view mirror.

I gave quite a bit of space to the 11th Annual Paul Smiths Great Adirondack Birding Celebration and the 9th Annual Hamilton County Birding Festival, both of which offer a host of field trips and workshops as well as presentations and talks. Both events have grown in popularity over the years and both attract enthusiastic participants. In recent years the two events have taken place on consecutive weekends and attracted visitors from all over the country, including, last year, a woman from Utah who told me she had come all the way to the Adirondacks for the purpose of seeing a Bicknell's thrush and was counting on Pat and I to show her one. We showed her two.

I devoted the front page to Joan Collins' essay *Bicknell's Thrush: An Endangered Species*, which chronicles her experience of seeing fewer Bicknell's thrushes and increasingly more Swainson's thrushes, an observation that closely resembles Pat and my experience leading trips up Whiteface to find the bird. All the facts, of course, have yet to come in, but the prognosis doesn't auger well for this high elevation montane species—if global warming forces them out of their habitat they have no place to go.

I also featured an exciting selection of field trips and a piece about the NNYA Annual Meeting, which will take place at Catlin Lake in the Huntington Wildlife Forest, a 15,000 acre private forest managed by SUNY ESF in Newcomb. It should prove a terrific day of hiking and paddling and commingling with NNYAers and their families.

Even before I finished putting the newsletter together, indeed before I even started, I felt something chillingly close to gobsmakedly overwhelmed by how properly to thank and praise Charlotte Demers, who after six years at the helm will step down as president of NNYA. How could I possibly describe her contribution to this organization other than by holding forth with a cataract of superlatives, like unbelievable, spectacular, nonpareil, enviable, awesome...you get the idea.

A couple of years ago Pat and I attended an Audubon New York meeting, where most of the National Audubon New York Chapters get together to compare notes. When Charlotte started talking about what NNYA had done recently, several of the delegates literally dropped their jaws, whether out of envy or awe I couldn't quite tell. Bravo! —**John Thaxton**
