

# THE UPLAND PLOVER



Publication of the North Country Bird Club, Inc.

Since 1948

September / October 2007

<http://www.northcountrybirdclub.org/>

Volume 48 No. 4

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Wednesday, September 12 Meeting of the North Country Bird Club

Stone Presbyterian Church, Chestnut St., Watertown, NY.

Directors' meeting at 7 PM

Membership meeting at 7:30 PM

Program: To be determined

Refreshments supplied by Betty Prosser

### Monday, October 15 Annual Dinner

Rutland Congregational Church at 6PM.

\$9 per person.

Deadline for reservations is Monday, October 8th.

Make reservations with Eve Sweatman at 649-3075.



*Common Shelducks - an interesting exotic seen near Horse Island, Sackets Harbor.*

*Photo by Genie McKay*

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

BY INCOMING PRESIDENT CHRIS REIDY

As the North Country Bird Club approaches its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I am proud to serve as your new president. So, where do we go from here you might ask? I have but one goal for NCBC during my term as president: We need to increase our membership base and share our enthusiasm of birding and the great outdoors with others, especially youngsters. In this new world of YouTube, cell phones and instant messages, it seems that fewer people are paying attention to their natural surroundings. We need to be sure we give today's kids the opportunity to get hooked on nature, just like all of us did.

The countless hours I spent as a kid flipping logs looking for snakes, or catching newts and frogs in nearby ponds are some of the fondest memories of my youth. One such memory is from a fishing excursion with my father and one of his co-workers, Les. It was dusk and we were fly-fishing for trout on a secluded lake in southern New Hampshire when the air was filled with the most haunting sound I had ever heard. I asked what it was and Les said it was a loon. Wow, what the heck was a loon? Since I neglected to ask that follow-up question, I went on for the next few years thinking it was some strange bobcat-like creature, until I finally learned it was a bird.

Although born in the city, my mother always had an interest in nature and was willing to share her knowledge with me. I guess that's what first perked my interest in the nature of things. She would take my younger sister and I to the woods whenever she got the chance and let us experience nature firsthand. I was also fortunate to have an uncle who is an ecologist and was very willing to share his knowledge. I was so amazed at how he seemed to know everything, from a bird making miscellaneous chip notes in the hedgerow, to what animal had made strange tracks in the snow.

Each of us has had one or more people share with them their knowledge of the workings of our natural world. Once exposed, we all got hooked and never looked back. We need to return the favor by sharing our knowledge with, and exposing others to, the wonders of the natural world around us. Some may not care, but a few are certain to be awestruck. The latter are the people who will be the conservationists of tomorrow.

## OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	
Mr. Chris Reidy	298-1166
VICE-PRESIDENT:	
Mr. Jeffrey Bolsinger	
TREASURER:	
Mr. David Prosser	782-8078
SECRETARY:	
Ms. Eve Sweatman	649-3075

## DIRECTORS

Irene Mazzochi	2005-2007
Rena Young	2005-2007
Richard Barry	2006-2008
Jerry LeTendre	2006-2008
June Walker	2006-2008
Richard Brouse	2007-2009
Jeffrey Bolsinger	2007-2009

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS & SPECIAL PROJECTS

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT:	
Mr. David Prosser	782-8078

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION:  
OPEN

FIELD TRIPS:	
Mr. Richard Brouse	788-6778

FUND RAISING:  
OPEN

HISTORIAN:	
Mr. Robert Walker	649-2161

HOSPITALITY:	
Mrs. Marion Brouse	788-6778

JOSEPH A. BLAKE SANCTUARY:	
Mr. Richard Brouse	788-6778

LEGISLATION/CONSERVATION:  
OPEN

MAY CENSUS:	
Mr. Richard Brouse	788-6778

MEMBERSHIP:	
Mr. David Prosser	782-8078

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	
Mrs. Julie Covey	639-4604

PROGRAMS:	
Mr. Jerry LeTendre	654-2512

PUBLICITY:	
Ms. Judi LeTendre	654-2512

SANCTUARY MEMORIAL FUND:	
Mr. David Prosser	782-8078

SCHOLARSHIPS (CAMP COLBY):  
OPEN

www.northcountrybirdclub.  
org

## NORTH COUNTRY BIRD SIGHTINGS

If you have any to report, please send them to: Julie Covey, 26395 NYS Rte 180, Dexter, NY 13634, or email: [birdeditor@tds.net](mailto:birdeditor@tds.net), or call (315) 639-4604. Please, if you call, do so between the hours of 9am and 7:30 pm. **Thanks!**  
Submissions for the next *Plover* are due by October 20th.!

People who contributed sightings:

G&TM Genie & Thomas McKay; KaK Kathleen Killeen; JB Jeff Bolsinger; RB Richard Brouse; JKC Julie Covey.

Place abbreviations: ULLWMA – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, FD – Fort Drum, El D – El Dorado Shores Preserve, PLWMA – Perch Lake WMA

**Common Shelduck:** 2, 8/18, Horse Island, Sackets Harbor, G&TM (exotic, but interesting...); **Snow Goose:** 1, 7/3, Eddy Rd, Theresa, KaK; **American Wigeon:** 8, 6/12, ULLWMA, JB; **Blue-winged Teal:** 12, 8/17, ULLWMA, JB; **Ring-necked Duck:** max 71 including 5 broods, 8/2, ULLWMA, JB; **Common Loon:** 2 chicks, 6/12, ULLWMA, JB; **Pied-billed Grebe:** max 68, 7/31, ULLWMA, JB; **American Bittern:** 1, 5/19, Red Lake, RB; **Least Bittern:** 3, 6/24, ULLWMA, JB; **Green Heron:** 2, 5/22, Kelsey Creek, RB; **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** nightly throughout the summer 15-21 fly over, Limerick Cedars, JKC;

**Bald Eagle:** 1 adult, 5/19, Red Lake, RB; **Northern Goshawk:** 1 adult with young, 6/23, FD, JB; **Red-shouldered Hawk:** 1, 5/19, Red Lake, RB; **Merlin:** nesting in residential area of Canton, also 1 adult being harassed by a Kestrel, 8/4, ULLWMA, JB; **Virginia Rail:** max 9, 6/24, ULLWMA, JB; **Sora:** 1, 5/19, Red Lake, RB;

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 5, 8/9, El D, JB; **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr, 7/27, ULLWMA, JB; **Upland Sandpiper:** 1, 5/12, Twn of Rutland, 1, 6/2, Twn of Brownville, RB; 4, 7/19, FD, JB; **Least Sandpiper:** 11, 8/9, El D, JB; **Black Tern:** 56, 6/24, ULLWMA, JB; **Great Horned Owl:** 1, 5/2, PLWMA, RB; **Northern Saw-whet Owl:** 1, 6/2, ULLWMA, JB; **Whip-poor-will:** 12, 5/24, Limerick Cedars, RB; 1 (last of season), 8/11, Limerick Cedars, JKC;

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 5 pr on FD, JB; 1, 5/12, Twn of Rutland, RB; **Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 3, 7/22, Fox Marsh, Colton, JB; **Yellow-throated Vireo:** 1, 5/19, Red Lake, RB; **Horned Lark:** flock of 20 juveniles, 7/23, FD, JB; **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 1pr nesting, Limerick Cedars, JKC; **Sedge Wren:** max 9, 6/29, FD, JB;

**Blue-winged Warbler:** 1, 5/12, Twn of Rutland, RB; **Golden-winged Warbler:** 1, 5/12, Red Lake, RB; **“Brewster’s Warbler”:** max 3, 6/10, FD, JB; **Nashville Warbler:** 2, 5/5, PLWMA, 2, Massawepie Mire, RB; **Yellow Warbler:** 5, 5/12, Twn of Rutland, 10, 5/19, Red Lake, 6, 6/2, Twn of Brownville, RB; **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 4, 5/12, Twn of Rutland, RB; **Magnolia Warbler:** 1, 5/16, Kelsey Creek, RB; **Blackburnian Warbler:** 3, 5/5, PLWMA, RB; **Prairie Warbler:** 5, 5/20, Limerick Cedars, RB; 5, 6/5, FD, JB; **Palm Warbler:** 4, 6/1, Massawepie Mire, RB; **Black-and-white Warbler:** 2, 5/5, PLWMA, 3, 5/12, Twn of Rutland, 5, 5/19, Red Lake, RB;

**American Redstart:** 6, 5/12, Twn of Rutland, 5, 5/19, Red Lake, 2, 6/2, Twn of Brownville, RB; **Ovenbird:** 5, 5/12, Twn of Rutland, 5, 5/19, Red Lake, 3, 6/1, Massawepie Mire, RB; **Northern Waterthrush:** 3, 5/12, Twn of Rutland, 5, 5/19, Red Lake, RB; **Scarlet Tanager:** 1, 5/12, Twn of Rutland, 1, 6/2, Twn of Brownville, RB; **Clay-colored Sparrow:** max 19, 7/10, FD, JB; **Henslow’s Sparrow:** 7 singing males, June, FD, JB; **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 4, 5/12,

Twn of Rutland, 5, 5/19, Red Lake, 9, 6/10, Kelsey Creek, RB; **Orchard Oriole:** 1 male, 6/13, FD, JB; **Baltimore Oriole:** 6, 5/12, Twn of Rutland, 10, 5/19, Red Lake, RB.

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## INFORMATION FOR REGIONAL SIGHTINGS:

Rare Bird Phone Numbers:

Derby Hill Hawk Watch - (315) 963-8291

Cayugabirds List Serve: Sightings of birds and birding in the Finger Lakes Region with a focus on the Cayuga Lake Basin. Send a message to LYRIS@CORNELL.EDU in body of the message put: JOIN CAYUGABIRDS-L "Your name" where your name is listed as first and last name, kept in the quotes. See <http://www.people.cornell.edu/pages/cth4/CayugabirdsWELCOME.htm> for more information.

Oneida Birds List Serve: Sightings in Central New York around Oneida County. Send a message to LISTSERV@MALELSTROM.STJOHNS.EDU in the subject area put: SUBSCRIBE ONEIDABIRDS first name last name. You will get a message back with full instructions.

New York State List Serve: Sightings throughout New York State. Send a message to listproc@CORNELL.EDU in the subject area put SUBSCRIBE NYSBIRDS-L first name last name. You will get an email back with full instructions.

A list of New York State Rare Bird Numbers and list serves is available at the internet site: <http://www.virtualbirder.com/vbirder/realbirds/rbas/NY.html>

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## CHECK OUT

<http://www.northcountrybirdclub.org/>

MINUTES FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY BIRD CLUB MEETINGS

UPLAND PLOVER ARCHIVES! LINKS TO BIRD RELATED SITES.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS LITWHILER LITTLETAILS

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## BOTULISM E UPDATE

Botulism E- Region 6 wildlife staff continue to monitor Little Galloo Island and the eastern shores of lake Ontario where nesting colonial waterbirds are dying from an outbreak of Type E Botulism. During a visit to Little Galloo Island on 6 June, staff discovered many dead and dying Ring-billed Gulls and a few dead Caspian Terns. Several bird carcasses were collected and sent to the Pathology Unit in Albany where it was determined that Type E botulism was the cause of death. Monitoring has continued since early June and to date staff has counted

over 160 dead Caspian Terns, 750 Ring-billed Gulls, 50 Double-crested Cormorants, 2 Herring Gulls, and 2 Black-backed gulls.

*Submitted by Irene Mazzocchi, Bureau of Wildlife*

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## AN INTERESTING SIGHTING FOR JULY....

*Editor's note: This is an excerpt from an e-mail I received concerning one of the more interesting sightings this summer....*

I live on Eddy Road, Theresa, NY. My backyard faces onto a large field, pond, and woods in the distance. At 7:45 a.m. Tuesday, July 3rd, the Park Manager phoned me to tell me he was watching what he thought was a snow goose, in the back field (he knows my interest in birds).

This field is home to a few families of Canada Geese in the Spring and Summer and early fall; they feed on the grass in the field. We think the snow goose was attracted by their presence.

The bird was there about one and a half hours, so I was able to observe him for a long time, and carefully review my bird books, to verify the bird was a Snow Goose. They are similar to Ross's goose, but his head and bill were just like the pictures in my bird books, of a snow goose, and of course his wingtips were black fringed.

The distance from my backyard to his location in the field is about 500 to 700 feet. I was using an 8 X 42 Nikon ATB Monarch binoculars, so I could clearly see his head.

Then he flew away, northward, probably headed for the Tundra. He must have quite a story to tell, as to why he got separated from his flock months before. I said some prayers he will make it back home!

Kathleen Killeen,

*member of the North Country Bird Club*

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## HELP NORTH COUNTRY BIRD CLUB SAVE MONEY - READ THE PLOVER ONLINE!

Help us to cut our costs for providing you with the bimonthly newsletter, *The Upland Plover*. Members can sign up to receive their copy of the newsletter via email (viewable by the FREE program Adobe Reader that may be found at <http://www.adobe.com>) and see the same newsletter that is sent via USPS. In doing so, you are saving the Club printing and postage costs. As a bonus, the pictures in this version are in COLOR! Please contact *The Upland Plover* editor, Julie Covey at [birdeditor@tds.net](mailto:birdeditor@tds.net) to sign up.

## FIELD TRIP UPDATES

By DICK BROUSE

There were six successful field trips scheduled during the months of May thru July and are as follows:

**May 12** This field trip in the town of Rutland and was lead by Chris Reidy. Please see the article written by Chris following these summaries.

**May 19** Sixteen people enjoyed a sunny day with temps in the low 70's. Some met in the Wal\*mart parking lot and were joined by others in Theresa and then we went on to Red Lake. Fifty-five species were observed on this trip. Dick Brouse lead this trip and with the help of a tape recorder, called in two Virginia Rails so every participant was able to get a closer look. A Sora and an American Bittern could be heard calling back to the tape. On the way back from the lake, an adult Bald Eagle, a Raven, a Red-shouldered Hawk, as well as a Golden-winged Warbler were spotted. A Yellow-throated Vireo was also observed at the lake.

**May 20** For this trip we gathered at Eve Sweatman's home on the Weaver Road in the Town of Brownville. Eve Lead us on a walk around her property as she has several Clay-colored Sparrows nesting. There were also many other species present including a male Bluebird. Thank you to Eve for the fine lunch following the walk.

**June 2** Ten people met at The Perch Lake parking lot and went for a bird walk on Joan Smith's property which borders Perch Lake Wildlife Management Area. 37 species were counted. Joan has Upland Sandpipers and Osprey nesting on her property.

**June 16** Once again this year Corky Marlowe hosted us at her camp in the Town of Croghan on County Rt. 40. Seven people met at the Northland Plaza and drove to her camp where we were joined by two of her neighbors. We walked from her camp to the marsh on Beartown Road. Seventeen species were seen and many others were heard. For those who have an interest in butterflies, many White Admirals were seen along the gravel road. There were also Northern Crescents, Viceroy, Northern Pearly Eye, and several species of Skippers. Dragonflies and Damselflies were also abundant. After the walk we returned to the camp for a pleasant lunch.

**July 14** We returned to Corky's camp to observe Butterflies and were rewarded with Monarchs, Red Admirals, Northern Pearly Eye, Eastern Coma, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Mourning Cloak, Great Spangled Fritillary, and Roadside Skippers. We also saw and heard many bird species. Again we would like to thank Corky for two very fine days at her camp.

**July 11** Nineteen people gathered at *the Rift* on Wellesley Island for the annual picnic. The weather was very stormy on the way to *the Rift* but gave away to be a very fine afternoon.

## FIELD TRIP REPORT – TOWN OF RUTLAND

By CHRIS REIDY, TRIP LEADER

On Saturday, May 12, Chris Reidy led a wildflower/bird hike on the Eddy Farm in Rutland, Jefferson County. In addition to cropland, the farm consists of several acres of old field habitat and rich, mesic beech-maple forest containing many common spring wildflowers. The woods suffered extensive damage during the ice storm of 1998. As a result of the storm and subsequent salvage logging, the forest canopy has been greatly reduced promoting vigorous regeneration of both woody and herbaceous plant species in the understory. The abundance of shrubs and saplings have created excellent habitat for early successional bird species, many of which were observed on the trip.

Despite the cooler than normal weather and brisk winds, nine people participated in the walk. Before leaving the Walmart parking lot, Eve Sweatman's sharp eye located a green heron flying overhead. An upland sandpiper was also observed by Dick Brouse en route to the farm. In the woods, the group got several excellent looks at rose-breasted grosbeaks, Baltimore orioles, chestnut-sided warblers, black-and-white warblers, yellow warblers, and a very cooperative blue-winged warbler. Because the vegetation was so dense, many of the birds were identified by song, giving everybody a good refresher! Although orchard oriole has been observed here throughout the breeding season the past two years, efforts to turn one up were fruitless. The group tallied a total of 48 bird species on the morning. Also, thanks to John Foster for sharing his knowledge of reptiles and amphibians.

The following are highlights of the trip:

### Wildflowers

long-spurred violet (*Viola rostrata*)  
 Virginia waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum virginianum*)  
 maple-leaved waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum canadense*)  
 blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*)  
 common blue violet (*Viola sororia*)  
 downy yellow violet (*Viola pubescens*)  
 wild leeks (*Allium tricoccum*)  
 squirrel corn (*Dicentra canadensis*)  
 herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*)  
 red trillium (*Trillium erectum*)  
 large-flowered trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*)  
 large-flowered bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora*)  
 kidney-leaved buttercup (*Ranunculus abortivus*)  
 yellow trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*)  
 Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*)  
 false Solomon's seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*)  
 foam flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*)  
 Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)  
 blue cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*)  
 broad-leaved toothwort (*Cardamine diphyllo*)  
 cut-leaved toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata*)  
 early meadow rue (*Thalictrum dioicum*)

red baneberry (*Actaea rubra*)

**Ferns and allies**

Field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*)  
 lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*)  
 ostrich fern (*Mateuccia struthiopteris*)  
 sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)

silvery spleenwort (*Athyrium  
 thelypteroides*)

**Sedges**

bland sedge (*Carex blanda*)  
 bear sedge (*Carex albursina*)  
 seersucker sedge (*Carex plantaginea*)

**Birds**

Green Heron  
 Northern Harrier  
 American Kestrel  
 Ruffed Grouse  
 Upland Sandpiper  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
 Northern Flicker  
 Least Flycatcher  
 Great-crested Flycatcher  
 Eastern Kingbird  
 Veery  
 Wood Thrush  
 Gray Catbird  
 Warbling Vireo  
 Red-eyed Vireo  
 Blue-winged Warbler  
 Yellow Warbler  
 Chestnut-sided Warbler  
 Black-and-white Warbler

American Redstart  
 Ovenbird  
 Northern Waterthrush  
 Mourning Warbler  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
 Eastern Towhee  
 Swamp Sparrow  
 White-throated Sparrow  
 Bobolink  
 Eastern Meadowlark  
 Baltimore Oriole  
 Purple Finch

**Reptiles and Amphibians**

brown snake  
 garter snake  
 American toad

*ANNUAL BANQUET*

The Rutland church's famous  
 Chicken and Biscuit Dinner is on  
 Monday, October 15, 2007 at 6.00  
 PM, cost is \$9.00 per person. Make  
 reservations with Eve Sweatman at  
 649-3075. Deadline for reservations  
 is October 8th.

*SEE YOU THERE!*



*PORCH BABY*

*By EVE SWEATMAN*

This little baby sits on my porch.

“Where is your mama?”

I say.

He just left the nest and  
 is wondering how

he ended up here today.

He's chirping and chirping  
 his little heart out,

hoping his mother will hear.

I am so nervous

he'll never get home;

his mother has lost him I fear.

But then in the distance

I hear a faint call

louder and louder it grows.

His mother has found him and he flies to her wing,

As I wipe the tear off my nose!



*NORTH COUNTRY BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP*

Membership is based on the calendar year (Jan 1st - Dec 31st) and renewals are due January 1st. Please check the mailing label on your last Upland Plover as it will give you the last year for which you have paid your dues.

The Plover is now mailed First Class and we appreciate your keeping us up to date on your present address.

*New members are always welcome!*

Please \_\_\_\_\_ enroll, \_\_\_\_\_ renew me as a member of the North Country Bird Club

Number of \_\_\_\_ Individual Regular at \$10.00 for total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of \_\_\_\_ Individual Sponsor at \$15.00 for total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of \_\_\_\_ Individual Patron at \$20.00 for total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total membership dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: North Country Bird Club.

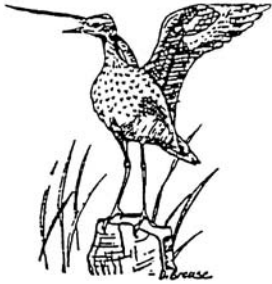
P.O. Box 634

Watertown, NY 13601

*Thank you for your continued support!*

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*NORTH COUNTRY BIRD CLUB ACTIVITIES*

**Meetings/Programs:** September, November, March, April, May - Second Wednesday of the month

**Annual Dinner:** October

**Annual Picnic:** July

**Field Trips**

**May Bird Census & Christmas Bird Count**

**Newsletter:** "The Upland Plover"

**Joseph A. Blake Sanctuary:** open to members year round

**Scholarships:** DEC Environmental Education Camp Colby

**Educational Activities:** The Fragile Wilderness

**Website:** [www.northcountrybirdclub.org](http://www.northcountrybirdclub.org)

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

*SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT UPLAND PLOVER ARE DUE OCTOBER 20TH!*

If you have any sightings, articles, ideas for articles or other submissions for the *Upland Plover*, please submit them to the editor by October 20, 2007 (in order to be put in the November/December 2007 edition).

Contact information may be found on page 2 of this publication.

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*NORTH COUNTRY BIRD CLUB, INC.*  
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