

THE UPLAND PLOVER



Publication of the North Country Bird Club, Inc.

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November / December 2007

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

Volume 48 No. 5

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN by Chris Reidy

How often do you find yourselves struggling to find the time to do the things you love only to realize that you are doing them constantly to some degree? For me it seems that my free time gets less and less with each passing year. When I do manage to get the time or make the time, then what? Is going to be birding or botanizing, hunting or fishing, running or just being a couch potato? I have learned to multi-task to the point where I am always birding and botanizing to some degree, regardless of my primary activity. Unfortunately, my wife doesn't agree with my practice of this technique while the wheel.

For example, last year while deer hunting during the early archery season, after having seen no deer for several hours, I began to bird from the tree stand. Being primarily a spring and summer birder, I wasn't familiar with all the various call notes I was hearing all around me. There were kinglets flitting about along with a few Yellow-rumped Warblers and an occasional nuthatch. Periodically a Hermit Thrush would move through. One bird in particular was driving me nuts as it was constantly skulking around from this shrub to that and didn't ever give me a good look. Apparently, after spotting me it became even more vociferous and began to come closer to check out the weird-looking blob in the tree I was disguised as. It came to within a few yards of me before I recognized it as a Winter Wren. Remaining motionless with my bow resting on my lap, the bird descended from its nearby perch and actually landed on my arrow! Scolding me the entire time, it hopped sideways up the arrow with its tiny tail erect to within an inch of my hand before my subtle laughter caused it to take flight. The moment was priceless.

So, if you are like me, although you may not be "birding," you can still bird to some degree to pass the time. Whether its tallying spring migrants while doing yard work or counting red-tails along the highway, you're always tuned in.



Northern Wheatear

First seen by Chris Reidy & Gerry Smith on Wolfe Island. Photographed by Jerry & Judi LeTendre.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, November 7 Meeting of the North Country Bird Club

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

Directors' meeting at 6:30 PM

Membership meeting at 7:30 PM - Refreshments by Marion Brouse.

Program: Kathy Plant-Hunt will be presenting a video showing the work that has been accomplished to the Arsenal Street cemetery in Watertown. Among her goals are to promote birding and create a butterfly trail.

Saturday, November 17 Driving trip on Point Peninsula

Dick Brouse will lead this driving field trip, weather permitting. Meet at the Home Depot parking lot at 8:30 am. Please call Dick at 788-6778 if you would like to attend. We will be looking for Wintering Water Fowl, Hawks, and other wintering species. Half a day trip, lunch is optional.

Saturday, December 15 Christmas Bird Count

See information on page 3 or for more information please contact David Prosser at 782-8078.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	
Mr. Chris Reidy	298-1166
VICE-PRESIDENT:	
Mr. Jeffrey Bolsinger	386-2565
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. Gerry Smith	688-2664

PUBLICITY:

SANCTUARY MEMORIAL FUND:	
Mr. David Prosser	782-8078

SCHOLARSHIPS (CAMP COLBY):	
Ms. Eve Sweatman	649-3075

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, 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 December 16th!

People who contributed sightings:

R&MB Richard & Marion Brouse; ES Eve Sweatman; T&GM Thomas & Genie McKay; IM Irene Mazzocchi; J&JL Jerry & Judi LeTendre; WC Will Covey.

Brant: 5, 10/16, El Dorado, R&MB; **Trumpeter Swan:** 4, 9/18, Perch Lake, IM; **White-winged Scoter:** 24, 10/16, El Dorado, R&MB; **Common Merganser:** 90, 10/16, El Dorado, R&MB; **Ruffed Grouse:** 1, 9/30, V of Cape Vincent, J&JL; **Common Loon:** 1, 10/17, Kelsey Creek, R&MB; **American Bittern:** 1, 10/7, Sackets Harbor, T&GM; **Turkey Vulture:** 41, 10/18, Pillar Pt (feeding on deer carcass), R&MB; **Bald Eagle:** 2 juveniles, 9/18, Perch Lake, IM; **Merlin:** 1, 9/18, Perch Lake, IM; **Black-bellied Plover:** 4, 10/16, El Dorado, 8, 10/18, Pillar Pt, R&MB; **Whimbrel:** 1, 10/2-4, Sackets Harbor, T&GM; **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 8, 8/13, El Dorado, R&MB; **Least Sandpiper:** 7, 9/20, El Dorado, R&MB; **American Woodcock:** 1, V of Cape Vincent, J&JL; **Barred Owl:** 1, 10/13, Limerick Cedars, WC; **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 4, 9/30, V of Cape Vincent, J&JL; 4, 10/4, Kelsey Creek, R&MB; **Blue-headed Vireo:** 1, 9/30, V of Cape Vincent, J&JL; **Red-eyed Vireo:** 1, 9/30, V of Cape Vincent, J&JL; **Common Raven:** 2, 9/8, Pillar Pt, 3, 10/16, El Dorado, R&MB; 2, 9/18, 1, 10/9, Weaver Rd, Chaumont, ES; **Tufted Titmouse:** 4, 10/8, V. Cape Vincent, J&JL; 1, 10/17 & 18, Kelsey Creek, R&MB; **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 2, 9/30, V of Cape Vincent, J&JL; **White-breasted Nuthatch:** 2, 9/30, V of Cape Vincent, J&JL; **Brown Creeper:** 1, 9/30, V of Cape Vincent, J&JL; **Winter Wren:** 1, 9/30, V of Cape Vincent, J&JL; **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 3, 9/30, V of Cape Vincent, J&JL; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 2, 9/30, V of Cape Vincent, J&JL; **Eastern Bluebird:** 3, 9/21, Weaver Rd, Chaumont, ES; **American Pipit:** 17, 10/16, El Dorado, R&MB; **Nashville Warbler:** 2, 9/30, V of Cape Vincent, J&JL; **White-throated Sparrow:** several, 9/30, V of Cape Vincent, J&JL; **Dark-eyed Junco:** 2, 9/30, V of Cape Vincent, J&JL; **Rusty Blackbird:** 7, 10/14, Weaver Rd, Chaumont, ES; 250, 10/15, 150, 10/17, 120, 10/18, Kelsey Creek, R&MB; **Purple Finch:** 3, 10/16, 7, 10/14, 8, 10/18, Kelsey Creek, R&MB; **Evening Grosbeak:** 5 females, 10/17, 1 male, 10/18, Kelsey Creek, R&MB.

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.

CAMP COLBY THANK YOU

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>

Thanks to Betty Prosser for serving the refreshments at the September meeting.

NEW CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEW YORK STATE

As of the end of August 2007 NYSOA announced that there is now an updated version of the Checklist of the Birds of New York State. The checklist as been approved by New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) and includes 467 species representing 19 orders and 63 families of birds. This makes New York State's list current with American Ornithologists' Union's 48th Supplement which was released in July 2007. This updated list may be found at <http://www.nybirds.org/Publications/ChecklistNYSpop.htm> or may be ordered from the New York State Ornithological Association by writing to NYSOA, Inc., P. O. Box 95, Durhamville, NY 13054.



2007 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

This is the voice of the compiler for the 2007 Watertown (NYWA) Christmas Bird Count. This year the count will be Saturday, December 15, 2007. RAIN, SNOW, HAIL, OR SHINE.

I hope that you will be able to participate if even for a few hours. If you know of feeder watchers within the circle, please ask them to count anything at their feeders. Please use the same territory that you have counted in past years.

On the following pages are the map of the count circle and the check list. Please use that list for reporting.

Please let me know if you will or will not be able to participate in this year's count.

I believe this will be my twenty-first year as the compiler, so I would like to keep the tradition alive.

Thanks for you help.

David Prosser, Compiler, 2007 CBC

To: North Country Bird Club

On my trip to Camp Colby I discovered different things. Going to Colby was really a great experience. I learned lots about animals and plants. I thought I would share some of what I learned with you.

One day that I was at Camp Colby we went to a bog. There I learned that cranberries grow in the bog. There is also Venus flytrap related plants. We actually got to watch one eat a fly. First it produces a sugary substance that attracts flies and other insects. Then the fly goes into the plant and there are hairs in the plant that make it so that the fly can't get out. After awhile the fly is tired and falls to the bottom and the gooey liquid kills them. The next trip that we went on I choose to go on a hike. It was a 2.3 mile hike. We climbed up Ampersand Mountain. It in one of the few mountains that was never logged. At the top of the mountain it is clear because people wanted a good view so they chopped down all the trees. This caused erosion. This made the top of the mountain bare and so windy you can't even stand up. That night we spent the night in the woods. We played games and got our tents ready. That night we had tin foil dinners. A tin foil dinner is food already cooked but cold in a tin foil that you cook over fire. After that was over we went on a night hike in the dark. It was amazing. We walked through the woods in the dark and we experienced all of our 5 senses. That was my favorite part of the whole trip. That night we slept in the woods which hurt my back. The rest of the time we played really cool games.

That was my week at Camp Colby. I really enjoyed it and thanks to you I could go. I want to thank you for giving me the scholarship to go to Camp Colby. I learned lots at camp and I think you made a good choice by letting me go.

Colby Camper,
Larisa

Larisa dustiz



2007 ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

The 2007 dinner meeting of the North Country Bird Club was held October 15th in the Rutland Community Church with the ladies of the church putting on the excellent chicken and biscuit dinner. Most people arrived early to make sure that they could get their favorite piece of pie. It is rumored, but not confirmed, that there were no calories in the meal.

Jeff Bolsinger presented a program about his work studying the Golden-cheeked Warbler. Jeff spent four summers at Fort Hood, Texas doing work with the Golden-cheeked Warbler, an endangered species. He spoke of the special habitat the bird requires and the special nesting material used for nesting. He also described the two very distinct songs the bird uses. His presentation was very informative about a species that is still on most of our "life lists".

There was raffle for a door prize, a nice bird house plant container. The club also had raffles for several donated items including a gun rack and several framed photos. Tickets were sold at the State Office Building and at the dinner. Thanks to all those who donated items for the raffles. We will be conducting future raffles as fund raisers for the club.

RAFFLE RESULTS

The North Country Bird Club would like to extend thanks to all who supported us by playing our raffle at the Fragile Wilderness, the State Office Building and at the Annual NCBC Dinner this year. The lucky winners of the raffle are:

Sue Schiavone - Great Gray Owl Print & Gun rack

Larry Gunn - Bluebird Box

Richard Dorr - Bluebird Box

Glenn Grose - Snowy Owl Print

We would like to thank Bob and June Walker for donating the two Bluebird boxes, Dick and Marion Brouse for the Gun Rack, Dave and Betty Prosser for the door prize and Eve Sweatman for the Snowy and Great Gray Prints.

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

OF

WWW.NORTHCOUNTRYBIRDCLUB.ORG

DON'T FORGET YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Memberships for the North Country Bird Club run for the calendar year from January to December. Don't forget to renew your membership for 2008 by December 31, 2007! See the bottom of page 7 for the membership form.



Whimbrel

Photo taken by Genie McKay near Sackets Harbor on October 4, 2007. This bird stayed in the same area for approximately one week.

HELP NORTH COUNTRY BIRD CLUB SAVE MONEY

Read the Upland 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/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>) 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 to sign up.

TREASURER'S REPORT

OCTOBER 19, 2007

Checking account balance as of 10/19/07	\$754.81
Savings account balance of 10/15/07	\$1,365.87

As of 10/19/07, there are no known bills or obligations.

David W. Prosser
Treasurer

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, December 15, 2007

_____ Great Blue Heron
 _____ Tundra Swan
 _____ Canada Goose
 _____ Mallard
 _____ American Black Duck
 _____ Northern Pintail
 _____ Ring-necked Duck
 _____ Greater Scaup
 _____ Common Goldeneye
 _____ Bufflehead
 _____ Hooded Merganser
 _____ Common Merganser
 _____ Northern Harrier
 _____ Sharp-shinned Hawk
 _____ Cooper's Hawk
 _____ Northern Goshawk
 _____ Red-tailed Hawk
 _____ Rough-legged Hawk
 _____ American Kestrel
 _____ Merlin
 _____ Gray Partridge
 _____ Ring-necked Pheasant
 _____ Ruffed Grouse
 _____ Wild Turkey
 _____ Ring-billed Gull
 _____ Herring Gull
 _____ Great Black-backed Gull
 _____ Mourning Dove
 _____ Rock Dove
 _____ Short-eared Owl
 _____ Belted Kingfisher
 _____ Red-bellied Woodpecker
 _____ Downy Woodpecker
 _____ Hairy Woodpecker
 _____ Pileated Woodpecker
 _____ Northern Shrike
 _____ Blue Jay
 _____ Common Raven
 _____ American Crow
 _____ Horned Lark
 _____ Black-capped Chickadee
 _____ Red-breasted Nuthatch
 _____ White-breasted Nuthatch
 _____ Brown Creeper
 _____ Golden-crowned Kinglet
 _____ American Robin

_____ European Starling
 _____ Cedar Waxwing
 _____ Northern Cardinal
 _____ American Tree Sparrow
 _____ White-throated Sparrow
 _____ Snow Bunting
 _____ Song Sparrow
 _____ Dark-eyed Junco
 _____ Brown-headed Cowbird
 _____ Evening Grosbeak
 _____ Purple Finch
 _____ House Finch
 _____ Common Redpoll
 _____ American Goldfinch
 _____ House Sparrow

In the blanks next to each species name please list the numbers seen in your count area the day of the count. Any additional species should be listed on the lines below or on a separate page.

All counts must be inside the 15 mile diameter circle see map on back.

TOTAL PARTY HOURS:

_____ (_____ on foot, _____ by car)

TOTAL PARTY MILES:

_____ (_____ on foot, _____ by car)

If count was at feeder only, check here _____
 Name and address of person making the report

Attach name(s) and address(es) of others in party on a separate sheet of paper.

Please return completed sheets to:

David Prosser
 25492 NYS Rt. 126
 Watertown, NY 13601

Completed counts must be received the evening of the count.

PALM WARBLER

See that tail,
that bright yellow rump,
up and down it wags.
It's silly to do
if there's five of you,
you'll look like a
row of flags.



In early spring you
sneak right through,
heading far north you fly.
And then in fall
if we're lucky at all,
your wagging tail
we'll spy.

Sweet little warbler
with your bobbing tail,
I'll see you again this spring.
Keep yourself warm
in the south where you swarm,
where warblers love to sing.

Eve Sweatman

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

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

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT UPLAND PLOVER ARE DUE BY DECEMBER 16TH!

If you have any sightings, articles, ideas for articles or other submissions for the *Upland Plover*, please submit them to the editor by December 16, 2007 (in order to be put in the January/February edition).

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

THE UPLAND PLOVER
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Watertown, NY 13601
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