

The Observer



The Rockland Audubon Society Quarterly Newsletter. Since 1947. Volume 63, Number 1
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Climate Change's Impact on Migrating Birds

While the Winter Solstice marks the shortest day of the year and the beginning of winter, it is also the beginning of the gradual lengthening of days and the renewal of spring. Change in day length, also related to hormonal changes in birds that prepare them for flight, is the primary physiological cue for spring migration.

Most bird species are "hardwired" or genetically programmed to automatically do things like breed, build nests, hatch, feed and molt, as well as migrate in response to changes in day length. These annual cycles of changes in day length are predictable as seasons come and go, but what is not predictable is the year-to-year varying change in the climate. The atmosphere and oceans are warming, polar ice caps are melting and the average growing season has lengthened by at least 12 days.

Such changes in temperature and its effects on habitat could have serious consequences for many species.

As the temperature warms along the East Coast of the United States, findings show that birds are beginning to migrate earlier. Some short-distance migrants have adjusted to this warming by moving up the timing of their activities and migrating sooner to exploit the earlier plant blooms and insect hatchings.

Other species have adapted to this warming by moving their ranges inland and northward. But long-distance migrants may face the greatest impact.

Con't on page 3...

Invasive Earthworms Threaten Our Forests

Ask anyone on the street if earthworms are good for the ecosystem and you will undoubtedly receive a resounding "Yes!" When asked why, they may say something like, "Earthworms mix and aerate the soil." However, recent research on the invasion of these seemingly benevolent creatures into previously worm-free hardwood forests has seriously challenged that concept.

Researchers at the University of Minnesota and elsewhere have documented dramatic changes in native hardwood forest ecosystems when exotic earthworms consume the leaf litter of the forest floor. These changes include losses of native understory plant species and tree seedlings, as well as a change in soil structure and nutrient availability.

Further, evidence is emerging that the changes caused by exotic earthworms may lead to a cascade of other changes in the forest that affect small mammal, bird and amphibian populations, and increase the impact of white-tailed deer. Salamander populations in the forest may be dramatically reduced, while conversely, the lack of leaf litter promotes the establishment and growth of invasive plant species such as Garlic Mustard and Japanese Stilt Grass.

Con't on page 3...

Our Mission

Rockland Audubon Society's mission is to promote environmental conservation and foster an appreciation of birds and nature through education programs and activities.



The Observer is the newsletter of the Rockland Audubon Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 404
New City, NY 10956

Editor: Tom Sullivan
Layout: Trisha Sullivan

Send articles, trip reports, poetry, drawings, photos, and comments to elyse_fuller@yahoo.com
Submission deadline: March 15, 2010.

Is there something you'd like to read about in *The Observer*? Please, just let me know!

Membership

To join, send a \$20 check (\$15 for senior citizens) payable to National Audubon Society to: Karen D'Alessandri
45 Camp Hill Road
Pomona, NY 10970.

Allow 4 to 8 weeks for delivery of Audubon Magazine and *The Observer*.

Message from the President

Rockland Audubon is excited to embark on a special project in 2010. As part of our mission to promote the appreciation and conservation of birds and nature, we are developing a nest box trail.

Our aim is a series of nest boxes placed throughout the county to attract bluebirds, other native songbirds, and kestrels. As you may know, bluebirds and kestrels have declined locally with the disappearance of natural nesting cavities in their preferred habitat of open fields, farms, and meadows. Fortunately, erecting nest boxes has proven to be an effective way of restoring their numbers.

Beyond aiding bluebirds and kestrels, this project allows us to make new partnerships, to connect people with nature, and to help them realize they can make a difference. By building the boxes with local youth groups, we are reaching our most important audience: the next generation of stewards. By installing the boxes on public and private lands such as parks, cemeteries, and golf courses, we are encouraging others to make a positive impact on their local environment.

We are also reaching out to you, our members. There are many ways to get involved with the project. Take part in our public box-building workshop on Thursday, February 18. See page 4 for details on how to make your reservation. Another key way to get involved is to volunteer to become a nest box monitor. The project can only be effective if the boxes are checked periodically to record breeding data and to ensure the boxes aren't commandeered by non-native House Sparrows or European Starlings. A training session for volunteers is being organized for later this winter.

We'll keep you informed about the project through updates on our website, newsletter, and program meetings. To learn more about the project and how you can get involved, please contact: Tom Fuller, Conservation Committee, (845) 351-2893, otterswift@hotmail.com.

Yours Truly,
Elyse Fuller
January 2010

We thank Brownie Troop 40245 for building bluebird boxes for the RAS nest box trail during their troop meeting at Stony Point Battlefield State Historic Site on January 21, 2010. (photo credit: Elyse Fuller)



Board of Directors:

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Birds that winter in South America are not able to forecast whether it will be an early or late spring on the northern stretches of their migration in New England. The weather in South America has little to do with the weather in New England. As a result, their migration times are not changing despite the warming temperatures in New England. Consequently, their migration is now mistimed with their insect food supply. Their arduous journey is subsequently extended to find a safe breeding ground with suitable climate conditions and a plentiful food supply. These migrants are faced with the challenge of finding staging posts with adequate habitat for refueling along their migration route while pushing themselves to the limits of endurance.

As individuals, you can participate in protecting and enhancing habitats that are critical for species migration, as well as year-round residents, by creating healthy bird and wildlife habitat in your own backyards. Natural landscaping with native plants, trees and shrubs offers shelter and food to birds and insects. Most insects feed only on native plants. Since birds feed their young insects, they indirectly depend on native plants that are crucial to our ecosystem. In addition, by providing a water source, such as a pond or bird bath to the landscape, your home will be a warm and welcoming place for the migrants' stop-over. Creating backyard habitats will provide natural corridors and connectivity between ecosystems that will help to sustain birds during their incredible migratory journeys.

—Stephanie Garber is on the RAS Conservation Committee

Invasive Earthworms Threaten Our Forests, *con't from page 1*

Earthworms are not naturally found in the soil of forested regions that were covered with glacial ice during the last great Ice Age. Natural recolonization of native earthworms happens very slowly — less than 1/2 mile in 100 years. Thus, northern temperate forests developed in the complete absence of earthworms. Invasive earthworms arrived here with European settlers during the 1800s. They continue to be transported through human activity such as the transport of compost and mulch and nursery stock, as well as discarded fishing bait.

Earthworms do their damage by quickly consuming the accumulation of leaf litter, often called a “duff layer” that normally forms a layer several inches thick on the forest floor. Decomposition normally is a slow process controlled by fungi and bacteria. This duff layer is the natural home for dozens of native understory plants, including many beloved spring wildflowers. Here the plants find protection from predation and extremes in temperature and the right moisture for seed germination. The worm invasion quickly alters this balance.

Worm damage on my own 5.5-acre property here in New City, NY is profound. Most areas of forest floor have lost all leaf litter and some places are badly eroded as a result. Native plants, such as Poison Ivy, Virginia Creeper and Jewelweed survive, but have been damaged by over-browsing from deer. Patches of Japanese stilt grass have appeared. As I've been pulling out this invasive plant, I have also met the worms. Lots of them! Some are very large- as much as 6” long and nearly ½ “ thick! They are strong, too, and must be moving staggering amounts of soil!

There is research on invasive worms being conducted, including at the nearby Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, NY. There they hope that their results will “allow us to determine if earthworm invasion will be a factor influencing the long-term production of these (north temperate) forests and whether earthworms will influence the response of these forests to other factors, such as nitrogen deposition, climate change and exotic plant invasions.”

—Adapted by Joanna Galdone, a member of the RAS Conservation Committee

For further reading on invasive worms see the following sources:

ecostudies.org

Great Lakes Worm Watch

Brooklyn Botanic Garden

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

Upcoming RAS Field Trips

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If it is raining, call the field trip leader at least one hour before the meeting time to see if the trip is a go. Also, call the trip leader for directions to the field trip site, or if you will be on the trip but not at the meeting place.

7 MAR (Sun) First Sunday Walk at Piermont Pier

Meet Carol Weiss at 8am at the parking lot by the ball field at the Piermont Pier entrance. Over by 10am. 845-358-3659

13 MAR (Sat) Woodcocks at Kakiat Park

Meet Della and Alan Wells at 7:30 pm at the Kakiat parking lot on Route 202 opposite Viola Elementary School in Suffern. Bring a flashlight. 845-942-5751

4 APR (Sun) First Sunday Walk at Piermont Pier

Meet Veronika Krause at 8am at the parking lot by the ball field at the Piermont Pier entrance. Over by 10am. 845-359-9294

11 APR (Sun) The Celery Farm, Allendale, NJ

Meet Alan & Della Wells at 9am at the Commuter Parking Lot, Route 303 North, West Nyack, for carpooling. Great for beginners. May be wet under foot. Look for waterfowl and very early spring migrants. Over by Noon. 845-942-5751

18 APR (Sun) A Spring Stroll at Mt. Ivy Swamp

Meet Veronika Krause at 10 am at Pomona Middle School parking lot on Pomona Rd. Look for Marsh Marigolds and chipping sparrows along the railroad embankment. Over by noon. 845-359-9294

24 APR (Sat) Spring Bird Walk at Stony Point Battlefield

Meet Della and Alan Wells at 8am at the main parking lot at the end of Battlefield Rd, accessed from Park Rd. off Route 9W in Stony Point. Stroll through this historic site on the Hudson River as we search the woodlands for spring neotropical migrants. Over about 10:30am. 845-942-5751 or Battlefield office at 845-786-2521

25 APR (Sun) Doodletown for Early Migration

Meet Carol Weiss at 7am at the pull-off on Route 9W just north of the Iona Island causeway, south of Bear Mountain. First warblers of spring! Some uphill walking. Bring snack. Over by noon. 845-358-3659

29 APR (Thu) A Weekday Evening Walk at Doodletown

Meet Elyse Fuller at 6pm at the pull-off on Route 9W just north of the Iona Island causeway, south of Bear Mountain. Look for spring migrants. Some uphill walking. Over around dark. 845-351-2893



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Bluebird Box Workshop

Join us and Rockland Community College's Environmental Club to learn about bluebirds and build nest boxes for the Rockland Audubon bluebird trail. This workshop is free and open to the public. Children are most welcome!

**Thursday, February 18, 2010, 4:00 pm
at Rockland Community College**

Space is limited. Please call Elyse Fuller at
(845) 351-2893 to make your reservations and for details.

Rockland Audubon Society 63rd Christmas Bird Count

ROCKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY 63rd CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - December 20, 2009

Years Seen	Common Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
17	Snow Goose										1
46	Canada Goose	789	245	179	145	62	38	1,066	944	566	4,004
1	Barnack Goose										1
59	Mute Swan	9						9	2		20
30	Wood Duck		8	1				3			12
33	Gadwall							47			47
22	American Wigeon							1			1
63	American Black Duck	7						5	21	33	33
62	Mallard	120	110	80		44	14	9	69	68	514
2	Mallard X American Black Duck	1									1
29	Northern Shoveler							24			24
57	Canvasback	1,500						3	11	1,514	1,514
34	Ring-necked Duck							15			15
46	Scaup spp.										1
52	Bufflehead	7						23	4		34
54	Common Goldeneye										4
33	Hooded Merganser						25	17			42
62	Common Merganser	31			2	38	1	95	145	2	314
56	Ruddy Duck	3						4	48	55	55
17	Wild Turkey		4		10	13					30
18	Horned Grebe										2
38	Double-crested Cormorant	7									2
28	Great Blue Heron	5	1			1	5	3	1	16	16
1	Great Egret										1
8	Black Vulture	49	2		3						55
23	Turkey Vulture	19	9	8	4	2	1	4	1	12	60
32	Bald Eagle	2						6			10
33	Northern Harrier	1									1
37	Sharp-shinned Hawk	3			1						2
28	Cooper's Hawk	1	3		1			1			8
26	Red-shouldered Hawk	1									1
57	Red-tailed Hawk	5	1	7	3	4	7	13	3	7	50
13	Peregrine Falcon										1
56	American Goshawk							4	2		6
14	Wilson's Snipe										1
61	Ring-billed Gull	236	14	3	6	204	77	65	329	145	1,079
63	Herring Gull	12							2	27	41
63	Great Black-backed Gull	8							1	5	4
33	Rock Pigeon	30	8				11	21	16	36	122
62	Mourning Dove	1	20	25	20	19	20	33	29	38	205
47	Eastern Screech-Owl										3
34	Great Horned Owl										5
60	Belted Kingfisher										6
	TOTAL Individuals:										85
	TOTAL Number of Species:										85

Years Seen	Common Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
39	Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	9	10	8	5	7	9	3	18	70
31	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1		1						5
63	Downy Woodpecker	3	15	1	13	2	5	20	7	19	85
63	Hairy Woodpecker	1	5		3	4		6			25
61	Northern Flicker	2	2	1	1		1	9	3		22
53	Pileated Woodpecker		3	2	1	1					8
63	Blue Jay	6	54	25	15	14	48	27	13	33	255
63	American Crow	19	78	27	14	7	54	28	23	23	273
12	Common Raven	1									4
63	Black-capped Chickadee	2	19	2	23	11	8	32	13	44	154
63	Tufted Titmouse		34	19	34	5	19	19	23	17	172
42	Red-breasted Nuthatch		1								4
63	White-breasted Nuthatch	2	9	2	4	6	2	10	2	25	62
61	Brown Creeper		2		1						7
54	Carolina Wren	3	7	2	3		5	5	1	10	36
58	Winter Wren		1								3
57	Golden-crowned Kinglet		3	4	2						14
46	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1									1
26	Eastern Bluebird										3
42	Hermit Thrush		2								4
62	American Robin		421	34	44	18	20	131	4	443	1,115
52	Gray Catbird										1
58	Northern Mockingbird	11	1	2	3	1	1	14	6	20	59
63	European Starling	439	42	40	35	102	454	556	76	657	2,401
53	Cedar Waxwing										3
49	Yellow-rumped Warbler		16								18
44	Eastern Towhee										2
63	American Tree Sparrow	60						1	14		116
28	Savannah Sparrow										3
54	Fox Sparrow	2	1			2					9
63	Song Sparrow	34	6	5	17	11	1	33	22	193	322
63	White-throated Sparrow	63	75	18	39	29	30	83	48	149	534
63	Dark-eyed Junco	109	104	54	73	72	87	260	69	209	1,037
10	Snow Bunting	7									7
63	Northern Cardinal	15	30	7	14	12	12	23	13	37	163
63	Red-winged Blackbird	30	87								182
54	Common Grackle							55	84		8,678
45	Brown-headed Cowbird										7
56	Purple Finch		1								1
48	House Finch		8	10	14			8	6		62
63	American Goldfinch		8	10	1	4	1	1	4	10	39
63	House Sparrow	82	57	65	6	39	51	44	53	66	463
	TOTAL Individuals:		3,705	1,533	644	563	737	1,067	2,756	2,091	11,964
	TOTAL Number of Species:										85

One (1) additional species seen during Count Week (three days before/after Count Day): Killdeer

Note: "Years Seen" column includes all 63 counts, from 1947 through 2009

DISTRICTS: 1) Haverstraw-Stony Point; 2) Ramapo; 3) S. Ramapo; 4) N. and W. Clarkstown; 5) Central Clarkstown; 6) S. Clarkstown; 7) W. Orangetown; 8) E. Clarkstown; 9) E. Orangetown

Participants (30 Adults, 4 Fieldings): Dan Albaritides, Eugene Brown, Drew Ciganek, Tom Dow, Bernie Doyle, Glynys Foster Roberts, Susan Freiman, Joama Galdone, Michael Garber, Stephanie Garber, Anita Gossett, Tom Harten, Christopher Healy, Gene Herskovics, Frank Kemmer, Karl Knoecklein, Bonnie Koop, Veronika Krause, Caroline McDonald, Ken McNichol, Marsha Meyer, Patricia Murray, Jeremy Pardo, Mickey Pardo, Yudi Pardo, Vince Plogar, Jim Previdi, Tom Rowe, Ronnie Smith, Jessie Traband, Julia Warger, Carol Weiss, Alan Wells (Compiler), Della Wells

Feeder Counters (14 locations): Frank Bonanno, Karen D'Alessandri, William Fahan, Christopher Healy, Judy Kesselman, Steve McDunna, Howard Meiner, Patricia Murray, The Pardo Family, Laurence Pringle, Dina Standing, Beverly Simone, Nancy Slowik, Carol Weiss

Reminder: *The Observer* is Going Green!

Rockland Audubon will be doing its part to protect resources and habitat when *The Observer* goes paperless in late 2010.

We are compiling an e-mail distribution list to facilitate this change. In order to receive the newsletter electronically, please send your e-mail address to webmaster Alan Wells at awells@bestweb.net.

Please put [RAS News] in the subject line and your name in the body of the e-mail. If you do not have e-mail, please call (845) 639-9216 to continue receiving a paper copy.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important transition to a more sustainable Rockland Audubon Society.

Sponsor an Audubon Program

From September through June, the Rockland Audubon Society pays \$100.00 monthly to rent program meeting space at the Rockland Country Day School in Congers. As a way to reduce our Audubon chapter's expenses, we are asking members to consider sponsoring a monthly meeting. You may sponsor a monthly meeting or share the cost with a family member or friend. You may also designate the month you would like to sponsor.

If you wish, we will be happy to recognize your generosity at the beginning of the monthly program meeting you sponsor.

Your contribution will be acknowledged by letter. The Rockland Audubon Society is a non-profit, 501(c) 3 organization.

If you would like to sponsor a program meeting, please mail a check payable to the Rockland Audubon Society to: Donna L. Nye, Treasurer, 309 Front Street, Nyack, NY 10960.

Seeking New *Observer* Editor

After two years of service and the addition of two children to his family, we are saddened to announce that Tom Sullivan must leave the post of *Observer* editor. We thank Tom for all of his great work and contributions.

In light of this loss, RAS is seeking a new newsletter editor. If you know of someone who might be interested in volunteering for the position, please contact Elyse Fuller at (845) 351-2893 or elyse_fuller@yahoo.com.



Special Lecture



Join Lorrie Pallant, RAS Education Chair, at New City Library on Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at 7:00 pm for a lecture entitled "Wet Wings: Birds of the Waters in Our Area".

Welcome, New and Returning Members!

Tamika Adjemian-Hanchrow, Glenn Angell, Timothy Atthe, Rosemary Austin, Louis & Virginia Avino, Sheldon Bieber, Phil & Jean Bilsky, John M. Blanco, Charles Bradford, Nicholas Capozzoli, Keith Cornell, Frank Cumiskey, Candido De Leon, Eric Drucker, Linda Fraser, Nancy Freeman, Matthew Gilson, Marilyn Gross, Renee Halperin, Barbara Hendricks, Charles J. Henny, Howard Hilt, Sonoe Hutchinson, Pamela Irizarry, Donna James, Mary Klein, Robert Klose, Josephine Knudsen, Deborah Lehrman, Cynthia Lewis, Greg Lewis, Mary Ann Lewis, Layne Locker, Tracy Louis, David Mack, Denise Mason, Catherine Mazzucca, John Mc Dowell, E. O'Connor, Kevin O'Neill, Marie Passarello, Rose Perlmutter, Rose Prager, Barbara Randall, Bob Roach, Mary Root, Lynn W. Saaby, Maureen Seniuk, John P. Sullivan, Julia Trahan, Arthur Winoker, Joseph Zavoiski

Notes & Sightings, compiled by Carol Weiss

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“Start with the best” seems to be good advice, whether in choosing desserts or in talking about bird sightings. Piermont’s Pier continues to be the place in Rockland County for rarities and this past season proved it. On November 10, between 9 and 10 AM, I spotted a Grebe south of the Pier, a large black and white Grebe which looked too large to be a Horned Grebe and too small to be a Western grebe. But the chin and the front of the neck were white and the back of the neck and the nape and the crown of the head were sharply black. The black came across the face and covered the eye.



© 2009 Alan Wells

I returned the next day, a Wednesday, with a camera and scope and field guide, and confirmed that the grebe was indeed a Western Grebe and a first record for Rockland. To be sure, I sent the images to Alan Wells, who agreed with me. Alan posted the sighting on NYSBIRDS. Meanwhile, Rosemarie Widmer had spotted the Grebe and had contacted Dennis Murphy of Orange County. So on Thursday and Friday, many birders were at the Pier — the weather wasn’t ideal — found the Grebe, went home, and told their friends . . . The Grebe had places to go. It disappeared on Saturday the 14th, a chilly and rainy day, a nor’easter. On Sunday, a Western Grebe was reported in New Jersey. Was it ours? Meanwhile, a Horned Grebe turned up at the Pier! What a place!

Oct. 10 A late-lingering Marsh Wren along Ferry Road on the Pier. Attempts to photograph the bird failed. The Wren always moved faster than the shutter. C Weiss

Oct. 24 A single White-winged Scoter at the Pier, north side but close to the rocks. C Weiss, Drew Ciganek

Oct. 31 Four Snow Buntings near the end of the Pier; six on Nov. 1.

Nov. 1 Two Osprey above the Pier. RAS field trip participants.

Then, there is Hook Mountain. The Hook Mountain Hawk Watch began in 1971 and records have been kept yearly since then. 6803 Broad-winged Hawks flew by from 8/19 to 10/12, a number that is higher than average and the best in eight years. 2074 were counted on Sept. 20, the highest day count this year. On Nov. 2, one Rough-legged Hawk flew by, the first since 1991. A record 125 Bald Eagles flew by the Hook during the three-month watch, with a one-day high of 19 counted by Steve Sachs and Frank Bonanno on September 19. Many thanks to Trudy Battaly for coordinating the hawk watch and compiling the data. It’s a big job!

Oct. 13 Between noon and 3 PM, about 2000 Brant flew by Hook Mt. C Weiss and others.

Oct. 19 800-1000 Common Grackles flew up and around the top of Hook Mt. C Weiss before the others arrived.

Nov. 9 About 300 Rusty Blackbirds above the Hook; I heard them before I saw them - and I had time to count them twice. C Weiss.

Here are some of my other notes and sightings:

Oct. 2 In Doodletown, 5 Eastern Phoebes, 4 Blue-headed Vireos, many White-throated Sparrows, both Kinglet species, Black-throated Green Warbler, Wilson’s Warbler, three Belted Kingfisher, and two Swainson’s Thrush.

Oct. 9 Harriman State Park, Tiorati Brook Road, 15 Yellow-rumped Warblers feeding on bayberry and bittersweet. On Rte. 106, 22 Golden-crowned Kinglets were counted.

Oct. 15 First American Tree Sparrows of fall season, 3 at small pond in Rockland Lake SP.

Nov. 11 Winter Wren at Rockland Lake SP.

Nov. 19 About 50 Brown-headed Cowbirds at RLSP, and a Brown Creeper there too.

Sadly, I received almost no ‘good bird’ messages from my fellow Rocklanders for this report.

Please send in your observations for December to February to cweiss1124@optonline.net or call me at 845-358-3659. And check out the 2009 CBC Report. There were good birds there too!

Upcoming Rockland Audubon Society Programs

RAS meets at Rockland Country Day School, 34 Kings Highway, Congers, NY

Doors open at 7 pm for refreshments; formal event kicks off at 7:30.

March 5: Birds and Climate Change: Ecological Disruption in Motion.

In this presentation, **Sean Mahar**, Director of Government Relations for Audubon New York, will illustrate how winter distributions of North American bird species are shifting northward and inland correlated to increased winter temperatures. Learn how you can help advance critical measures and improve backyard habitats to protect birds while helping them adapt to a changing climate.

April 9: A Naturalist's Journey

Follow storyteller/naturalist **Chuck Stead** along his journey of social ecological awareness. Starting with a hunter's boyhood he has come to read the landscape of 'grown-up' learning as one might track prey only to discover that they themselves are leaving tracks for others. This is an eco-autobiography that entertains as much as it educates and will leave you with a greater sense of how place-based knowledge is more earned than learned.

Stead, Environmental Studies Professor at Ramapo College in Mahwah NJ has been working on a toxic waste study in the Torne Valley in which he and his student interns sample soil, deconstruct the materials, and document the story of illegal paint sludge dumping in the watershed, the hunting grounds of his boyhood. "The Torne," Chuck says, "is where science and the sacred speak to one another."

May 7: Annual Meeting followed by a presentation entitled Newfoundland: Rugged Land, Wild Sea, Strong People.

Using images, music and story, **Hugh Carola** will conduct a virtual journey to this unique and exciting land at the easternmost edge of North America. Photos of wildlife from Red Squirrels to Humpback Whales; birds & wildflowers of all description and the province's incredible landscapes feature prominently in his program. Prepare to be amazed because Newfoundland is like no place else on earth.

Capt. Carola is the Program Director at Hackensack Riverkeeper where he conducts over one hundred eco-tours annually along the Hackensack River in New Jersey. In August 2007, he undertook a 3-week car-and-ferry trip to Newfoundland, during which time he visited numerous communities and natural areas throughout the province. The photographs he took to document the trip form the foundation of his presentation.