

# The Observer

Newsletter of the Rockland Audubon Society



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## **Birding: Powerful Medicine for Someone in Need**

By Tom Fuller, RAS Secretary

Last November, I was stricken with a nasty case of pneumonia. Let me preface this by acknowledging that as a male, my sense of suffering and woe are magnified many-fold by a strong penchant for self-pity. Nonetheless, my lung capacity was reduced by half and for a few miserable days I allowed myself to question whether I'd even make it.

Out of commission for a wretched couple of weeks, I was capable of little more than lying on my back, staring at the ceiling, and wheezing. A few good books and some strong antibiotics helped me to get through the achy days, but it wasn't until I dragged myself to the window overlooking the backyard that my condition started to improve. There, watching birds brought a sense of comfort, pleasure, and peace as it never had before.

Sitting in the brightness and warmth of the slanting afternoon sun in my less-than-lucid state, these shining creatures seemed to appear out of the light. As they emerged from the trees and shadows, I felt both flattered and awed at their presence. What's more, each bird brought with it reassuring feelings of familiarity.

A Northern Cardinal landing on the hopper feeder brought me back to a glistening childhood morning. My brother and I had slept in the bay window to watch the snow fall beneath the street light, hoping and praying that the storm would cancel school the next day. I opened my eyes to a dazzling winter scene. Before I could rouse my brother, a brilliant male cardinal alighted on a snow-laden branch, just inches from the window. In the innocence of this fresh, bright dawn, our eyes transfixed for a few, breathless seconds.



Northern Cardinal, Dark-eyed Junco, & Mourning Dove © Alan W. Wells

Other birds brought their own reminiscences. A raucous Blue Jay clearing the feeders with an alarm cry evoked the tale my grandmother told of how the jay got its harsh call. Although I was upset almost to the point of tears at how they scattered the smaller birds, her calming story made me appreciate the jays for their colorful character.



Blue Jay © Alan W. Wells

A Carolina Wren sifting through peanut shells triggered a camping trip to the Texas coast. We kept an amused distance as a frantic male placed leaves and twigs beneath the fly of our tent to convince a nearby female to nest there.



Carolina Wren © Alan W. Wells

Even the House Sparrows, scratching through fallen seed, recalled a quirky ornithology professor and his many idiosyncrasies. As his trusty lab assistant, I was charged with shaking the hedges so he could accurately count the flushed sparrows on our walks across campus.

As this wave of memories poured over me, I realized what a gift birding has been through the years. Beyond the many joys and pleasures found in the act of watching birds, it is a pursuit that both lends itself to and is heightened by the connections we so easily make to the past. We not only delight in the birds at hand, but in all of the moments forever linked in association.

And at that particularly lousy moment, when I was stiffly hunched in a blanket before the window, being transported back to these times made all the difference. Before I knew it, the sun was setting and I felt somewhat restored. Just maybe, tomorrow I might summon the energy to venture out and top off the thistle feeders.

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# What are Those Purple Boxes?

By Elyse Fuller, RAS President



Purple Prism Trap for Emerald Ash Borers © Elyse A. Fuller

Have you noticed those purple boxes hanging in trees throughout Harriman State Park and elsewhere? What are they? Luxury penthouses for woodpeckers? Early Christmas decorations? Alien communication systems? Actually, these boxes are “purple prism” traps used to detect the presence of the Emerald Ash Borer. The Emerald Ash Borer is an invasive beetle from Asia that was first detected in the United States in Michigan in 2002.

The Emerald Ash Borer lives up to its name by boring into all of our native ash species to lay eggs from which their larvae hatch to feed on the cambium of the trees. The larval activity prevents flow of water and sugar through the tree’s tissues. Evidence of infection includes thinning and dieback of the upper branches, tunnels below the bark, vertical splitting of the bark, and D-shaped holes where the newly morphed adults exit the trees. Infection has killed tens of millions of ash trees throughout at least 14 states in the Northeast and Midwest.

In New York, the Emerald Ash Borer has been detected mainly in western counties, but more recently as close as Orange County. Since spring of 2010, New York’s Department of Environmental Conservation has placed thousands

of prism traps as part of their detection surveys.

The purple color of the trap and a Manuka oil lure attract the borers. The borers adhere to the glue covered surface, where monitors can collect them to verify their presence. If the borers are detected, a quarantine order will be issued, which among other actions, limits transport of ash firewood in the infested area as well as transport of ash nursery stock. Movement of firewood and nursery stock has been credited for most long-distance movement of the borer. The travel of the insects themselves does not account for major spread of populations, as an adult travels usually less than half a mile in its lifetime.

Unfortunately, infested trees cannot be treated. The trees must be removed and burned or otherwise disposed of in a manner that destroys any eggs, larvae, or pupae to prevent further spreading. Although there is no treatment, early detection will result in a quarantine order and actions to prevent spreading.

For more information about monitoring, please visit the DEC's Emerald Ash Borer webpage  
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7253.html>

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## 65th Rockland Christmas Bird Count

The 65th Rockland Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will be held on Sunday, December 18, 2011. From dawn to dusk, there will be counters in each of nine areas of Rockland County, enumerating the birds of each species that they see. These data are sent to National Audubon Society to be compiled and compared to other national and international counts.

If you would like to participate in the CBC for the first time or if you were unable to count last year, please contact Carol Weiss at 845-358-3659 or [cweiss1124@optonline.net](mailto:cweiss1124@optonline.net). If you counted in 2010, you will be contacted. Note: There is a \$5 participation fee.

If you can't spend the entire day out-of-doors, volunteers are also needed to watch their bird feeders on Count Day. Feeder watchers should submit the highest number of individuals seen at one time. For example, if five (5) blue jays are seen at 9 a.m. and three (3) at 10 a.m., the number reported should be five (5), **not** eight (8). These feeder counts are very important as sometimes a species is seen only at someone's feeder on Count Day. The feeder watcher form is at the end of this article.

The long day of counting birds ends with a potluck dinner and a countdown of the day's sightings. Alan and Della Wells of Tomkins Cove will host the supper, and both field participants and feeder watchers are invited. Call Della or Alan at 845-942-5751 to let them know what you will contribute to the potluck. Driving directions will be sent or e-mailed to participants.

## Rockland Audubon Feeder Count Sunday, December 18, 2011

<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk	<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Towhee (Rufous-sided)
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon	<input type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Screech Owl	<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker	<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow
<input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker	<input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow
<input type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker	<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker	<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal
<input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker	<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Finch
<input type="checkbox"/> Tufted Titmouse	<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch	<input type="checkbox"/> Common Redpoll
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch	<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Siskin
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	<input type="checkbox"/> Evening Grosbeak
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Mockingbird	<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	<input type="checkbox"/> Other - please specify _____

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

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Ways to report your feeder count:

1. Come to the Countdown Potluck Dinner.
2. Phone your results: 845-942-5751.
3. E-mail your numbers: [awells@bestweb.net](mailto:awells@bestweb.net)
4. Mail to Alan Wells, 9 Dunderberg Rd., Tomkins Cove, NY 10986-1003.

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## President's Message

### The Little Chapter that Could...

At different times throughout the year, Rockland Audubon Society board members attend multi-chapter events such as Audubon Council of New York State meetings and regional Audubon chapter roundtables. At these meetings Audubon chapters come together to share ideas and commune on educating the public about birds and nature. Each chapter reports on its major happenings, successes, and problems. Some chapters review their million-dollar budgets and memberships numbering in the thousands.

These are both valuable resources. More money can mean added activities, programs and field trips. More members can translate to more volunteers. But as these chapters offer their reports, I can't help but be proud of what RAS accomplishes with a relatively small budget and much smaller membership.

When RAS offers its chapter report, representatives from other chapters "ooh" and "aah" at our 40-plus field trips offered year around. They are impressed by our ability to offer 10 nature programs annually. These are open not only to our members, but to the public as well. They are impressed that we can offer all of these field trips and programs essentially free of cost to participants. These chapters are impressed by our steadfast commitment to a variety of conservation projects, such as our demonstration rain garden at the Piermont Library, our nest box project, and our pocket bird garden next to Nanuet train station. And they are impressed that we have developed education programs such as "Birding by Ear," "Birds of Rockland County," and "Have You Seen a Bluebird Lately?" and offer them to such a wide variety of community groups.

I like the fact that RAS functions 100 percent through volunteers. I like that we can do all of this with a relatively small membership and budget. I also like that while other chapters are worrying about forming search committees to hire directors, charging for field trips, and paying for insurance and maintenance costs for property, the only overhead that concerns us is what's soaring above on Hook Mountain hawk watch trips.

Don't get me wrong. We do have our challenges and limitations. For example, we always strive to make our funds go as far as they can. Our biggest challenge, however, is keeping our field trips, monthly programs, and projects strong—but they can only stay that way if our members participate and enjoy them. Please help us continue our success by joining us on one of our wonderful walks or nature programs!

Yours Truly,  
Elyse Fuller

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## Welcome New and Returning Members!

Marilyn Angley, Pat Attardo, Alvin H. Bachman, Virginia Barnett, Myrna Curtis, C. G. Dornbush, Patricia Fusco, Catherine Heider, Margaret Holihan, John Kearney, Patrick & Eileen Kiely, Ann Kuehner, Freda Levine, D. Peteet, Eugene Polinsky, Paul Pruitt, Nicholas Roosa, Esther Roseig, Pat & Ann Santelli, Diana Wieggers, Patsy Wooters

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## Notes and Sightings: June through August 2011

Compiled by Carol Weiss

What should you report? Which sightings should you send to me? Birding records are always a process, not a completed document. If you check Robert F. Deed's book, "Birds of Rockland County and the Hudson Highlands, 1844-1976," you'll see that Bob surveyed the historical literature and then listed in taxonomic order, all species that have been reported in our county. For migrants he included the earliest date in spring, the latest date in fall, unusual reports like a winter sighting of a bird that's expected to migrate south, and the highest number of a species seen in one location on a single date. A draft copy of the soon-to-be-released illustrated version of Bob Deed's book can be downloaded for free from the RAS website [www.rocklandaudubon.org](http://www.rocklandaudubon.org). The original edition can also be found in most of the Rockland County libraries (Nyack, Blauvelt, Haverstraw, Nanuet, New City, Palisades, Pearl River, Stony Point, Suffern, Tappan, Tomkins Cove, Valley Cottage, and West Nyack), but as most will not let it be checked out, ask for it in Reference.

Since "Notes and Sightings" is read primarily by our group, include your own highlights such as a life bird, a first-time bird experience or even the location of a nest. I often include a unique sighting from a field trip. Out-of-season sightings, like brant or mergansers in July, are important, for example. Read on; this was a most interesting summer!

**Jun 1:** The highlight of an evening walk on the Pier was a Caspian Tern, always a delight to see. RAS Field Trip.



Caspian Tern © Alan W. Wells

**Jun 7:** Driving north from Iona Island on Route 9W toward the Bear Mountain circle about 8:30 a.m., a large raptor at least the size of a vulture, swooped down from the forest edge to my west and flew in front of my windshield. The bird



had a feathered head and a smooth, heavy hooked beak that was somewhat lighter in color than the body and probably one-third to one-half the length of its head. It was a powerful flier, quickly gaining elevation when it realized we were about to meet. Overall color was dark brown with a hint of brindle or hoariness to the plumage. A sideways glance showed its back, extended wings and fanned tail to be without markings. It seemed about to land in a tree on the east side of the road. After recovering from my shock, I concluded it was an immature Bald Eagle in need of further flight instruction. I wanted to stop for a closer look, but traffic/road conditions didn't permit it. Pat Murray

**Jun 12:** On a Doodletown field trip led by Alan and Della Wells, Yellow-billed Cuckoos were a hit. Three were seen and three others were heard.



Yellow-billed Cuckoo © Alan W. Wells

**Jun 18:** I went to Lake Tappan to check on the eagle nest there; it's now hidden behind leaves and can't be seen, but I did see one large dark wing flapping. Was it a young eagle? I don't know. Carol Weiss

**Jun 20:** Rafael Rivera noted a Great-crested Flycatcher in a bluebird box just inside the Rockland Lake Nature Center. These big flycatchers are cavity nesters and do occasionally use a nest box.

**Jun 20:** I saw a pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and their nest at the Ramapo Equestrian Center. Also saw a Great-crested Flycatcher, two Cedar Waxwings, one feeding the other, and a Red-eyed Vireo. The Baltimore Orioles' offspring have fledged and moved on. Caroline McDonald

**Jun 21:** This evening at the pier I had three American Oystercatchers and a Red-breasted Merganser. Chris Healy

**Jun 26:** Pat and I took a walk at Nyack Beach today and we were fortunate to watch—at very close range—an adult Bald Eagle steal a fish from an Osprey. The eagle harassed the Osprey until it dropped the fish in the river and then the eagle snatched the fish from the water. Frank Bonanno

**Jun 27:** A single Brant at Piermont Pier was reported by Vince Plogar, Linda Pistolesi and Marcel Jaloveckas. Linda and Marcel also saw the merganser reported by Chris.

**Jul 3:** There were 13 Brant at the Pier. Drew Ciganek

**Jul 8:** I was at the Pier this morning and had a fine list of birds, mostly the usual suspects, but there were four irregulars. About eight Least Sandpipers had found their way back from the Arctic, a lone and very skinny Lesser Scaup was dabbling in the water by the south beach, the previously reported Red-breasted Merganser was sitting on a bit of wood exposed at low tide, and three terns were flying around. They were small and had black caps, but were too far away to be identified. Carol Weiss

Note: The scaup stayed around for another week; the merganser, for most of the month.

**Jul 21:** I have hummingbirds and hummingbird moths! Bonnie Koop, Garnerville

**Jul 30:** Six Forster's Terns on the Pier and on the pilings to the south. Drew Ciganek

**Aug 6:** Four Bald Eagles on the Rockland Lake channel light in the Hudson. Two were adult and two were immature. Carol Weiss

**Aug 7:** An interesting collection of birds on the Pier at low tide: eight Semipalmated and 15 Least Sandpipers, six Semipalmated Plovers and one Killdeer, three Forster's Terns and one Common Tern, and six Laughing Gulls. Dan



Albantides, Peter Johnson, Carol Weiss

**Aug 8:** A friend and I took a walk on the pier at lunchtime and got a very good look at an immature night heron. We saw it on the north side, then it flew in and landed nearby, standing on a rock for a long while. How does one distinguish an immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron from an immature Black-crowned Night Heron? This bird vocalized as it flew in to land. It was standing tall with its neck extended and we later we saw it in its more tucked night-heron stance. It seemed speckled (as opposed to spotted) and had a red eye. Its bill was about as long as its head, though we did not note any yellow on it. Its legs seemed pale and more yellow than green/grey. So some features suggested yellow-crowned and others black-crowned. Is there a good way to distinguish them? Linda Pistolesi

**Aug 17:** Almost 200 Common Grackles flew out of the trees and over Rockland Lake about 8 a.m. I only report this because of the high number! Carol Weiss

**Aug 17:** There were a fair number of birds around Lake Sebago in the evening. From our kayaks we were able to pick out a Bank Swallow among the dozens of Tree and Barn Swallows on the wires near the canoe camp, 12 Common Nighthawks flew out over the water near Baker Camp, and 7-10 Turkey Vultures were keeping vigil around a partly submerged deer carcass. Also near the water's edge were a small mixed flock of phoebes, Baltimore Orioles, a Palm Warbler, a Scarlet Tanager (heard) and robins. Peter Johnson, Carol Weiss

**Aug 25:** Seven of us made it out to the Pier to watch the immature Hudsonian Godwit, which Drew had found. It wasn't an active bird, but did stroll and feed quite a bit. At one point we watched it fly a little westward. We hoped it would come closer as the tide came in, but it didn't. We were distracted by Pectoral, Least, Stilt and Semipalmated Sandpipers; Short-billed Dowitcher, Sanderling, Killdeer and Semipalmated Plovers. That's nine shorebird species! We were really distracted by the terns, a few Forster's and common and then suddenly, far out by the pilings downstream from the Pier we saw 40-50 Black Terns. An Osprey put in an appearance and a female Peregrine Falcon cruised over the shorebirds and ducks several times, but never caught anything. That's when we lost sight of the godwit. Carol Weiss and others

**Aug 26:** The godwit did not return, although a few of us were out again looking for it. Caspian Terns were flying around, as were a few Ospreys. Most interesting was the number of small boats heading upriver in groups of three, four and five—probably seeking shelter from the impending storm.

**Aug 27:** Rosemarie Widmer and Judy Cinquina were at the Pier looking for the godwit. They saw the Caspian Terns, a Solitary Sandpiper, a Ruddy Turnstone, and the common sandpipers. Stan Pallant noted a Spotted Sandpiper.

**Aug 28:** I got to the Pier about 4 p.m. (there was a lull in the tropical storm) and ran into Chris Healy and Tom and Elda Dow, who were just leaving. They had seen some Least Terns, along with the Forster's and some commons. Few shorebirds were around—no mudflats or beaches. I then ran into Drew Ciganek, who confirmed their sightings. I went to the south side of the end and sat where I could see the old ferry slip. Right in front of me was a Royal Tern—and I had left my camera in the car! I found the Least Terns, four of them, Common Terns, and Forster's, which we expect to see in Piermont. The royal was fidgety and did not stay long. The last Royal Tern in Rockland's records was in 1960! The last record I have for a Least Tern was in 1977. I believe that makes five tern species and 12 shorebird species on the Pier in just a few days at the end of August. Carol Weiss



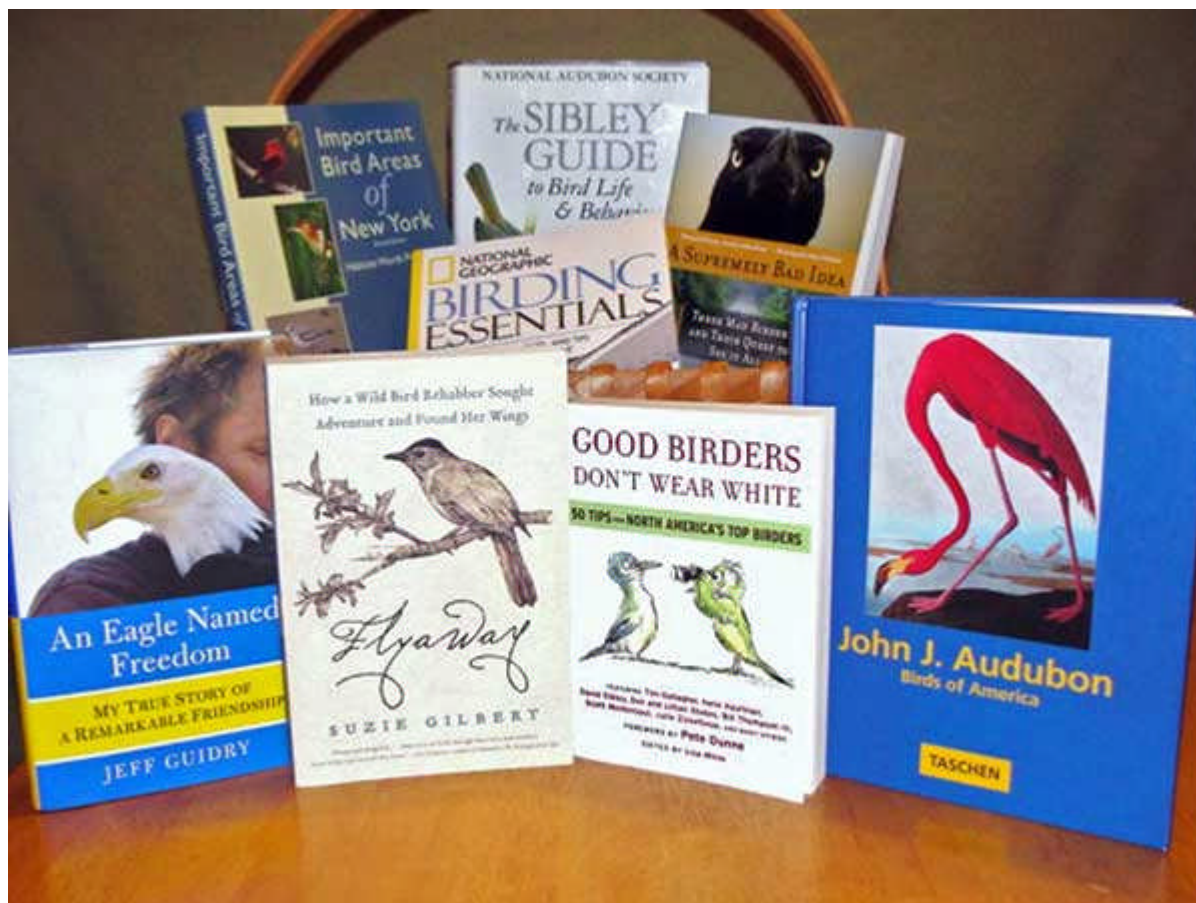
Royal Tern © Alan W. Wells

And finally, there was one more avian visitor after the storm:

**Aug 29:** I first saw the Monk Parakeet around 10:00 a.m. taking a bath and drinking in the flooded parking lot between the Piermont Library and Parelli Park. Later, at around 5:00 p.m., I saw it in a Hackberry tree in Parelli Park near the Community Garden, feeding on berries, Stephanie Garber

Please send your bird notes and sightings to Carol at [cweiss1124@optonline.net](mailto:cweiss1124@optonline.net) or call her at 845-358-3659.

## Bird Lover's Book Basket Raffle



Bird Lover's Book Basket © Elyse Fuller

Enter for your chance to win a basket full of books about birds and birding! The collection of books includes *Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior*; *National Geographic Birding Essentials*; *Flyaway: How a Rehabilitator Sought Adventure and Found Her Wings*; *Good Birders Don't Wear White*, and much more. The collection retails at more than \$125. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Nov. 4, 2011 RAS nature program, which starts at 7:00 p.m. at the Congers Community Center. Tickets are \$2 each or three tickets for \$5. Proceeds go to RAS nature programs and conservation projects. Tickets will be available at the door during the nature program, or you may contact Elyse Fuller at 845-351-2893 to purchase your tickets in advance. You need not be present to win.

## Upcoming Nature Programs

**Nature Programs** are held on the first Friday of each month, September through June, at the **Community Center, Congers Lake Memorial Park**, located at 6 Gilcrest Road, Congers, NY, 10920. Meet at 7:00 p.m. for refreshments and conversation, with a one-hour nature program following, beginning at 7:30 p.m. There is plenty of parking near the building, and it is handicap accessible. All RAS programs are open to the public and donations are greatly appreciated to help cover costs. If you would like to provide refreshments for any of our meetings, please call Julia Warger in advance at 845-947-4453, to coordinate efforts. Leave a message with your name, return phone number, and the date you wish to provide a delicious treat (sweet or savory) for the refreshments table.



**Nov 4, 2011**

## **Talons! A Birds of Prey Experience**



Harris' Hawk © Lorrie Schumacher

Lorrie Schumacher, a master class falconer, has created a uniquely innovative and inspiring Birds of Prey Experience. Her mission is to stress the importance of the role of raptors in the global environment and man's responsibility to the balance of the planet. One look into the eyes of a raptor and a human truly knows humility. Catch a raptor on your fist and you'll feel your heart jump! Lorrie will bring a variety of raptors; eagles, falcons, owls, hawks, with her – meet them up close and personal. This is an excellent program for children and young adults. Suggested donation: \$5 for adults, \$2 for children ages 5-16, children under 5 free.

**Dec 2, 2011**

## **Flora & Fauna of the Hackensack River Watershed**

Only 265 square miles in size, nevertheless the Hackensack River Watershed contains an amazing diversity of plant and animal life. From the slopes of the High Tor Mountains to the marshes of the Meadowlands, creatures of all descriptions live among a wide assortment of ecosystems. Lowland forests, wooded swamps, salt marshes, riparian corridors, open waters and more can be found within this unique bi-state area just west of the Hudson River. Hackensack Riverkeeper Program Director, Hugh Carola, will share slides and stories about many of those places and the animals (literally from butterflies to seals – and including the “usual suburban suspects”) that can be found there. Come and you may not look at that nearby water or patch of woods the same way ever again...

**Jan 6, 2012**

**Bugged Beyond Belief!**



True Katydid © John Lampkin

Our backyards are insect wonderlands. Some fellow travelers are beautiful and familiar, like butterflies and dragonflies. Others are exotic, like the Wavy-lined Emerald caterpillar that sticks flower petals on its body as camouflage. Some are terrifying, like the Ambush Bug that can slay a butterfly 20 times its size. All are fascinating and fun to photograph and study - and John Lampkin has been doing just that. His presentation is an entomological overview that will be educational, visually artistic, and above all, entertaining.





White-marked Tussock Moth © John Lampkin

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## Upcoming Field Trips

**Note:** Please call the trip leader 24 hours ahead if you plan to join the group at the field trip site, rather than the designated meeting place!

**Please check [www.rocklandaudubon.org](http://www.rocklandaudubon.org) for updates!**

### **Nov 6 (Sun) First Sunday Walk in Piermont**

Meet Peter Johnson at 8 a.m. at the parking lot opposite the Goswick Pavilion and ball field near the entrance to the Pier. Signs in Piermont leading to Pier or Ferry Road will get you there. During the 2-hour stroll, look for returning waterfowl and southbound birds of prey. Dress for the cold and wind. 914-261-2895

### **Nov 12-13 (Sat and Sun) Fall Migration at Brigantine and Cape May**

All-day trip (Sat) to Brigantine Unit of Edwin B. Forsythe NWR, NJ. Meet Jim Previdi at 6:30 a.m. at the Commuter Parking Lot, Route 303 North, West Nyack. If desired, continue on to Cape May for an overnight stay, and then bird on Sunday with Alan and Della Wells.  
845-942-8448 or 845-942-5751

### **Dec 4 (Sun) First Sunday Walk in Piermont**

Meet Veronika Krause at 8 a.m. at the parking lot opposite the Goswick Pavilion and ball field near the entrance to the Pier. Signs in Piermont leading to Pier or Ferry Road will get you there. Dress for the cold and wind. Over about 10.  
845-359-9294

### **Dec 18 (Sun) Annual Christmas Bird Count & Potluck Dinner**

Join a team for our 65th Christmas Bird Count. Check [www.rocklandaudubon.org](http://www.rocklandaudubon.org) or call Carol Weiss 845-358-3659

### **Jan 1, 2012 (Sun) Birding at Jones Beach, NY**

Meet Della and Alan Wells at the Commuter Parking Lot, Route 303 North, West Nyack, at 5:45 a.m. See the first

sunrise of 2012 and start your New Year list. All-day trip. Dress for cold and windy weather. 845-942-5751

### **Jan 8 (Sun) Second Sunday Walk at Piermont Pier**

Meet Carol Weiss at 8 a.m. at the parking lot opposite the Goswick Pavilion and ball field near the entrance to the Pier. Dress for the cold and wind. Over by 10 a.m. 845-358-3659

### **Jan 14 (Sat) Pelham Bay Park**

Meet Jim Previdi at 8 a.m. at the Commuter Parking Lot, Route 303 North, West Nyack, for carpooling. Search for owls and waterfowl in this wild(er) corner of the Bronx. Dress warmly, bring snack and hot drink. Return by early afternoon. 845-942-8448

### **Jan 21-22 (Sat & Sun) Winter Overnight, TBA**

### **Jan 28 (Sat) Winter Birding in Orange County**

Meet Jim Previdi at 2 p.m. at the Commuter Parking Lot, Route 303 N., West Nyack, for carpooling. See raptors and field birds. Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls are usually sighted just before sunset. Dress warmly. Should return by 6:30 p.m. 845-942-8448

### **Feb 5 (Sun) First Sunday Walk at Piermont Pier**

Meet Veronika Krause at 8 a.m. at the parking lot opposite the Goswick Pavilion and ball field near the entrance to the Pier. Signs in Piermont leading to Pier or Ferry Road will get you there. Dress for the cold and wind. Over by 10 a.m. 845-359-9294

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## **Mission of Rockland Audubon Society**

An all-volunteer chapter of the National Audubon Society, Rockland Audubon Society's mission is to promote environmental conservation and foster an appreciation of birds and nature through education programs and activities.

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## **Board of Directors\* and Committee Members**

President	Elyse Fuller*	Vice President	Karen D'Alessandri*
Treasurer	Veronika Krause*	Secretary	Tom Fuller*
Conservation	Tom Fuller*	Hospitality	Peter Johnson*
	Joanna Galdone*		Julia Warger*
	Stephanie Garber*	Membership	Della Wells*
Education	Jim Previdi*	Publicity	Caroline McDonald*
E-Contacts	Della Wells*	Programs	Julia Warger*
Field Trips	Jim Previdi*	Webmaster	Alan Wells
Fundraising	Veronika Krause*		

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## **Membership**

To join, send a \$20 check payable to **National Audubon Society** to:

Della Wells, RAS Membership Chairperson

9 Dunderberg Road

Tomkins Cove, NY 10986-1003

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

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## **The Observer**

Editing	Caroline McDonald
Graphics	Della Wells
Copyediting	Alan Wells
	Della Wells

Newsletter submissions welcome!

Please send your contributions for *The Observer* to Caroline McDonald at carolinem38a@yahoo.com. The editor reserves the right to edit any copy for clarity, accuracy and space requirements.

When reprinting, please credit the author and *The Observer* of Rockland Audubon Society.

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