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A Question of Survival: Can the Cicada Manipulate Bird Populations

By Caroline McDonald, RAS Board Member

One ornithologist, Walter D. Koenig, Senior Scientist, Bird Population Studies, with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology thinks they can. "There's a hypothesis that cicadas are affecting bird populations. But the big question is why 13 and 17 year cycles, which is something nobody has ever been able to get a good handle on," he told *The Observer*. "But we do have some evidence to suggest that the cicadas are somehow engineering those bird populations so there aren't quite so many birds around when they do emerge."

Working with Andrew M. Liebhold, they have uncovered reasonable experimental evidence "to suggest that the synchrony is, in fact, a part of their cicada mechanism." The insects come out in "huge densities and there aren't enough predators to be able to eat them all," Koenig said.

Birds aren't able to anticipate these very large emergences, "with one exception and that is the two species of cuckoos, the yellow-billed and the black-billed." The birds are neo-tropical migrants, "well known to specialize in insect outbreaks. They do show up in relatively large numbers in areas where there are emergences. Nothing else does that," Koenig said.

Since they have basically no defenses, cicadas are prime prey for a number of birds, some mammals as well as reptiles and fish. Their survival requires a grand strategy in order to insure

their continued existence.



Cicada © Alan Wells

Of the 24 potential or known avian predators investigated by Koenig and Liebhold (2005) using data from the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), only the Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoo became more abundant during cicada emergences than the preceding year.

Of the remaining 22 species, 16 were less abundant during emergence years than the year before, with five being significantly so. Those were:

- Red-headed Woodpecker
- Northern Cardinal
- Common Grackle
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- House Sparrow

The study found that these five species, along with seven others experienced declines of at least 3% from the previous year:

- American Kestrel
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Blue Jay
- American Crow
- Tufted Titmouse
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Brown Thrasher

While it is still unclear just why the numbers of certain birds are low, one theory was laid to rest. “We were able at least to say there wasn’t any evidence to suggest the birds are being scared away by the cicada noise.” Instead, evidence suggests that cicadas “are somehow manipulating the bird population, such that they are at relatively low densities when cicada emergences occur” – meaning there are fewer birds to prey on vulnerable cicadas.

Do birds change their eating habits with a prolific food source? “Certainly, all species are, to some extent, opportunistic,” he said. “While there are a few that specialize on a particular food item and are mostly unwilling to vary, crows, blue jays, woodpeckers – most of the birds that

will be eating the cicadas are highly opportunistic and would be happy to eat them when they are around.”

In looking at their overall pattern, he concluded, “you see that several of these species are at surprisingly low densities during the emergence years. Then their numbers jump and they are high for a couple of years – but the cicadas aren’t around anymore, so they don’t have that extra food source and then the bird populations crash.”

The birds’ numbers ascend again just before the re-emergence of the cicadas and “oddly enough, they crash once more, just as the cicadas are coming out.” The mystery is what is driving this drop, he said.

“It’s possible the cicadas know when that population will drop,” Koenig explained, adding that there are other hypotheses as well, including that the birds are still there, but can’t be heard over the noise of the cicadas; or that the birds are being driven away by the noise of the cicadas, as it might interfere with their communications. “But as best as we could tell, this didn’t seem to be the case – the birds really didn’t seem to be around,” he said. “But the big issue still is what could be driving that?”

While their numbers are affecting the nutrient cycle of birds after emergences, “what could be causing them to crash 17 years down the line is tougher to determine,” he said.

Still many mysteries

Everyone agrees that cicadas are sitting ducks for any bird that wants to come by and eat them, Koenig said, “but nobody records birds just packing in these cicadas. We recently observed a crow and a starling feeding cicadas to their young, but the Cuckoo was the only species we looked at that appeared to actually home in on these insects and show up in higher densities than you would expect otherwise.”

This remains “one of the great mysteries of evolutionary biology that no one has managed to come up with a good answer for,” Koenig observed. “My hypothesis is pretty far out there, but it’s better than what anybody else has been able to come up with in 350 years.”

The End of the Line

By Vicki Beaumont, RAS Board Member

Fishing line can become problematic when lost or left behind. Modern fishing line is made almost entirely from artificial substances including nylon, polyethylene, fluorocarbon and Dacron. In other words, it’s basically a plastic and *not* easily degradable. Toxic additives used to create plastics can leach into the water and this factor actually makes plastic more deadly in the water than on land!

Fishing line lost in the water poses a serious threat to fish, seabirds, marine reptiles, and marine mammals – as well as contributing to coastal litter. Birds and sea creatures often get tangled in the line and their movement can become so constricted that they can’t survive. In fact, I once tried to rescue a seagull whose wings were completely entangled and it did not survive. Ospreys and other birds will pick up bits of trash to add to their nests, but fishing line can make the nest a death trap if the birds get caught in it.

While it is illegal to dispose of any plastic in U.S. waters this is also impossible to enforce – making it imperative that we change our mindsets.

Environmental consciousness – the idea that resources are not limitless and require our protection – did not begin to really take hold in this country until the 1970's. In fact, I recently heard a stand-up comic joking how he missed the 1980's, when you could litter without guilt or retribution!

To help fishermen and women realize the necessity of collecting and discarding their unwanted line, and to make this easier for them, Rockland Audubon Society, has purchased materials needed to create fishing line disposal receptacles. These will be placed prominently at local fishing spots. The project is being funded with a grant from Toyota's "Together Green" program. Our goal is that in the not-too-distant future, it will become a matter of course for unwanted line to be placed in these designated receptacles.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help with this project is certainly welcome to contact RAS (please leave a message mentioning "fishing line recycling container project" along with your name and phone number at 845-639-9216.)

Feeding Birds

By Vicki Beaumont, RAS Board Member

For decades I've been feeding the birds in my yard, maintaining a fairly natural space with plant diversity. This past summer, however, I decided not to buy any niger or sunflower seeds or suet. This saved me a good deal of money, but the other reason for doing this was because I have been thinking about the plight of honeybees. I believe that one reason bees are struggling to survive is because in addition to a number of natural (such as colony collapse disorder) and human stressors, they are often forced to feed from only one source of nectar – such as acres of apricot trees, for example. And so I thought it might be better to expand my offerings to birds.

[Editor's note: According to the United States Department of Agriculture, colony collapse disorder (CCD) is not new. In 1903 in Utah 2,000 colonies disappeared after a harsh winter and unusually cold spring. In 1995-96, beekeepers in Pennsylvania lost more than half of their colonies and were not able to identify a cause. From the winter of 2006-2011 about 33 percent of bees have been lost each year. Varroa mites, a virus-transmitting parasite of honey bees, have frequently been found in hives hit by CCD the USDA said. Among the numerous causes of CCD are pathogens and parasites; stresses of poor nutrition due to overcrowded apiaries and transporting of hives; and environmental stresses including pollen scarcity and lack of diversity of pollens and nectars. Pesticides, including neonicotinoids are also being investigated, although studies on this remain inconclusive, according to the USDA.]

Planting to Attract Birds

Another way to feed the birds without having to buy seed is to plant berry-producing shrubs – many are hardy and native to our area. Some to try are: American beautyberry, whose berries last until mid-winter; Viburnum like the American highbush cranberry; staghorn sumac, a food source for many birds; and of course, the hollies with their beautiful red berries in winter.

Trees like dogwood and mountain ash are another great food source, as are vines like wild grape. In fact, you can make a one-time investment in perennials, such as coneflowers, and watch the American goldfinch go to town on the seeds, rather than buying fairly expensive niger seed.

And so I stopped filling my bird feeders with seed this season – I believe it should be unnecessary, as native plants ought to provide them with whatever nutrients they might need.

And believe me, there has been no apparent reduction in the number of birds in the yard.

Because I also stopped providing syrup for the hummingbirds, I missed out on having them around all season. But I came to realize that the plants where I saw them feeding last year do not bloom until summer is well underway. But I now know that I can try to attract them earlier in the season by providing other colors of flowering plants. From now on I'll save my sugar for baking!

President's Message

It is said that nature abhors a vacuum. In other words, life has rushed in to fill every vacant niche on Earth. In many cases it does so in ways that are far beyond the imagination of the most brilliant of us, seizing opportunities to flourish in the most unlikely of ways and in the most unusual of places.

We in Audubon see examples of this niche filling every time we go on a field trip or even look out the window. The infinite variety of life forms is possible only because each one develops unique tools to tap an unused opportunity; the Brown Creeper goes up the trees, the nuthatch goes down. Yet with each new observation, our sense of the immensity of the unseen grows.

The emergence of the 17-year Cicadas brings some of this to mind. Who could conceive of a creature that emerges after spending 17 years underground, only to mate, die and produce the next generation to begin the cycle once again. It may seem pointless to us. We live, love, laugh, work, create *and* procreate. We strive for high goals and live complex lives.

I don't know what role the Cicadas play in nature, just that there is one. Perhaps in a broader sense, whether we understand the reason or not, life needs no justification for its existence, it has value in and of itself.

Jim Previdi

Welcome New and Returning Members!

Sheila Abrams, Charlene Anolik, Norma Assante, Madeline J Blumbek, Olga Bonasoro, Peter Burger, Thomas Cooper, Lynn Costa, Constance T Elkins, Matthew Gandelman, Rebecca Gmucs, Armando Gonzalez, Frank Grandel, Mary Ellen Greenberg, Joyce Greenwald, Renee Halperin, Allan Hentila, Richard Iannuzzi, Debra Jakalow, David Kandel, Nancy & David Kaufer, Julie Kingsbury, Arthur Landau, Joseph Lange, Francis Lanza, Katrina Lupi, Lincoln Milliman, Victoria Morkoe, Dorothy Morris, Lucille Nassery, Sharon Pagliuca, Elaine Plenert, Joellen Putter, Amy Rapoport, George Renc, Harris B Renfroe, Wolbert Roettgers, Kathryn Rowedder, Joan Ruggiero, Alice Schulman, Sheila Servetar, Jane Stack, Loretta M Tito, John Wallach, Louis Wasser, Keith Whittingham, Richard Whitton, Neelam A Williams !

Notes and Sightings: March – May 2013

Compiled by Carol Weiss

Notes and Sightings is a compilation of bird sightings reported to me by local birders, most of whom are members of Rockland Audubon Society. Most reports reach me by email and therefore not all unusual or note-worthy bird visits are here. Sometimes birders tell me what they have seen, but I seldom remember to write down the sighting when I get home. Some reports are second-hand. For example, visitors to our county found Kentucky Warbler and

Yellow-breasted Chat in Doodletown in mid-May. Please continue to send in your sightings by e-mail (cweiss1124@optonline.net) or snail mail, or call 845-358-3659.

Here are many reports from Rockland's spring:

March 3: A cold wind at Kennedy Dells Park forced us to walk briskly to the shelter of the woods but we passed a few signs of spring: a dozen American Robins, five or six Red-winged Blackbirds, and seven Killdeer, sitting motionless on a soccer field. RAS field trip

March 6: There were four trekkers into the Tallman Marsh this evening. There were swirls and swarms of blackbirds seen from the parking lot. As we neared the swimming pool, we could hear a number of blackbird voices and as we reached the pool, we all noticed that the trees above the pool had leaves and suddenly, realized the leaves were indeed birds, thousands of them. There was a raptor with them; it made a few passes but missed each time. After several glimpses, we identified it as a Red-tailed Hawk. We saw an accipiter also. After just a few minutes in the trees, all the birds dropped down into the marsh and were joined by a few other flocks coming in from the south. I estimated there were 8,000 blackbirds. Most were Red-winged Blackbirds but some were Common Grackles and European Starlings. Carol Weiss

March 7: This afternoon, as a light snow was falling to remind me it's still two weeks until spring, I drove over to Lake Tappan and saw seven immature and two adult Bald Eagles. All the young ones were grouped close together, four in the same tree. The adults gave themselves more space, one to each side of the lake. A friend of a friend, who works on the golf course, said that ever since the eagles started coming around (a little after Thanksgiving), he would find fish bodies and skeletons all around the course. I suppose the birds took their catch to the fairway to enjoy the meal in peace. Peter Johnson

March 13: Ken McNichol reported both male and female Rusty Blackbirds in Tallman Mountain State Park.

March 13: Zenon Bachir noted several American Tree Swallows in a tree at Piermont Pier.

March 13: At Tallman Marsh, five birders who joined me on the walk to see the blackbirds coming into roost at the marsh were rewarded with a spectacle. Flock after mixed flock of blackbirds flew over the ridge and down into the marsh in front of us. We could hear their wings swooshing as they passed overhead. Some flocks dropped directly into the reeds; others spiraled around for a bit before choosing a spot. There were flocks of 50-100 and flocks of 100-300 birds. There was a single Peregrine Falcon flying through the flocks. When it was all over, we came up with estimates of 20,000-50,000 blackbirds. (I chose to report the lowest number.) The birds continued to chatter from the marsh as we walked out to the parking lot. Jane Lampkin later received an e-mail from a friend in Piermont (after forwarding my email to him): "I got home about 9 and it was so loud outside that all the neighbors were standing on their back porches wondering what was going on. I don't know how someone can estimate 20,000 birds but I will certainly vouch for a whole helluva lot of birds." Carol Weiss

March 16: First Eastern Phoebe of the year at Kakiat Park, by the bridge. Also, a flock of Rusty Blackbirds and a couple of America Woodcocks. Jim Previdi

March 19: Last night's horrible four-hour PIP drive home was offset this morning by the sight of about two dozen American Robins near my driveway. Beverly Simone

March 22: Drew Ciganek called from the Pier with the first Rockland County sighting of an Osprey – that is, the first for 2013.

March 25: Caroline McDonald saw a pair of Ring-necked Ducks on the little pond (aka the Ice Cutting Pond) on the northern end of Rockland Lake.

March 25: This afternoon I took a hike up on Clausland Mtn. in Blauvelt State Park. A red-trail-marker trail starts at the high point on Tweed Blvd., goes down the western shoulder of the mountain and comes out on Bradley Parkway, just at the big cut in the rocks. About halfway down I spooked an American Woodcock. It flew up in front of me, only 6-8 feet away. I believe this is the first time ever I've seen a woodcock in this park. I also had Pileated and Red-bellied woodpeckers, Dark-eyed Juncos & crows. In a boggy spot near Clausland Mtn. Rd., I noticed skunk cabbage starting to come up. Peter Johnson

April 7: Ajit and I went to Hook Mountain to look for hawks. We saw only one American Kestrel and one migrating Red-tailed Hawk. Later on the way down, we saw two Pine Warblers. I guess it is time to brush up on warbler ID! Lisa Antony

April 8: Elda and I took advantage of the balmy weather this afternoon to walk Piermont Pier. We saw a remarkable movement of Tufted Titmice, totaling perhaps 100 birds, from the trees by the ball field. From here they were steadily moving to the trees out along the pier. In the scrubby trees at the very end the birds were continually gathering, then flying east across the river. This continued for as long as it took us to walk the pier. We also saw a flock of about 15 Red-breasted Mergansers, south of the pier. Tom Dow

April 8: Saturday in my yard, I saw a pair of Cooper's Hawks circling overhead. Also as I drove on Route 304, I saw a small, white egret – a snowy, I'm supposing. This morning, I saw a female Wood Duck in a tree in the woods behind my house. I remember seeing a male last year around this time. She flew from one branch to another, as if looking for a nesting spot. (Too bad I don't have a pond on my property!) Then she flew off and her mate, which I hadn't noticed, followed her. A bit later, I saw an Eastern Towhee couple pecking at an ivy vine. Beverly Simone

April 10: Rockland Lake: saw a Spotted Sandpiper – a new early date. Bob Deed, in "Birds of Rockland County and the Hudson Highlands," 1976, said, "Our earliest dates are April 26, 1961 (John Orth) and April 27, 1952 at New City (John M. Price)." Interestingly, Bull's Birds of New York State, 1998, lists an individual on the Rockland County CBC, Dec. 23, 1984. Gene Brown

April 12: Spicebush is blooming at Kennedy Dells, trout lily leaves are up, Dutchman's breeches are blooming nearby, and bloodroot has been blooming for several days in my backyard. A Chipping Sparrow appeared in the yard several days ago, where the Red-breasted Nuthatch is still sticking around. Pat Murray

April 12: I've seen three Great Egrets and five Hooded Mergansers at Willow Tree Park, as well as a Double-crested Cormorant and a Belted Kingfisher over the last couple of days. A Barred Owl stopped by at about 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, too. Jeremy Pardo

April 24: Nancy Pena Kohout and I saw a Least Flycatcher on the Haverstraw to Nyack trail, Monday around noon – nearer the Haverstraw end. That's a lovely walk. Julia Warger



Least Flycatcher © Alan Wells

April 28: Piermont: The pier was alive with activity this morning. American Tree Swallows guarded nest boxes, waves of Blue Jays traveled the length of the pier to shorten their inevitable river crossing, Northern Flickers hopped between trees and Downy Woodpeckers were in the reeds. In the marshy area, a steady chorus of Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrows and Carolina Wrens was heard. And on the last few steps towards the parking lot, the brief mellow song of the oriole was heard just before the bird flew over.
Linda Pistolesi

April 30: Caroline McDonald spotted an Indigo Bunting at a feeder in her yard.

May 8: Taking a lunchtime stroll between rain showers, I watched a singing male Bobolink on the Pfizer Pearl River campus. Tom Fuller

May 15: Ruddy Turnstone at Piermont Pier. Gene Brown

May 16: I had a single Bonaparte's Gull and a lone female Red-breasted Merganser. Neither was sighted for the Birdathon, but the merganser appeared again a week later. Carol Weiss

May 17: A White-crowned Sparrow was seen at Silvermine Lake, Harriman State Park. White-crowned Sparrows have been seen in good numbers this spring season: three at Rockland Lake, May 15; four at Lake Welch, May 16; and one in Doodletown, May 18. Gene Brown and others



White-crowned Sparrow © Alan Wells

May 18-19: The single Birdathon team assembled an impressive 113 species, between 6:00 p.m. Friday and 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. Of these, 24 were warblers, which included a Cape May at Rockland Lake. After 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, the rain seriously “fowled” up our plans to reach 115 or more. The last three species were Great Egret, Black-crowned Night-heron and our nemesis, the Rock Pigeon. Carol Weiss, Peter Johnson, Ron Conzo, Veronika Krause and Vince Plogar

May 18: Common Nighthawks were reported from Rockland Lake (4), Piermont Pier (6), and Lake Welch (3). Carol Weiss

May 20: Birders on the Pier today saw a fair number of avian species. Two Brant had touched down overnight; and a dozen Semipalmated Plover were on the north side. Two Forster's Terns sat on rocks on the south side at the dogleg, and a single Least Sandpiper was feeding near the concrete box. Gene Brown spotted a single American Wigeon that Peter Johnson had found earlier in the week. Low tide is always the best time to find unusual birds at the Pier.

May 27: Low tide was between 6:00 and 7:00 a.m., and I reached the Pier about 7:45. At the ball field pond, I was delighted to finally spot a Least Bittern in the reeds. It's been several years since I saw one there. As I walked out the Pier a bit later, I encountered Drew Ciganek, who told me about some dowitchers he had located. Drew then went to see the bittern and found two of them. Later I heard a bittern calling in the same place. The dowitchers were short-billed. Carol Weiss

Upcoming Nature Programs

These programs are made possible through generous donations from our members and friends! Thank you!

Unless otherwise noted, **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, N.Y., 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 contribute a sweet or savory treat for the refreshments table, please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the meeting!

Sept. 6, 2013

Close Encounters with Birds of Prey



Red-tailed Hawk © Alan Wells

Speaker: Bill Streeter, Director, Delaware Valley Raptor Center
RAS welcomes a return visit from Bill Streeter, Director of the Delaware Valley Raptor Center (DVRC), a wildlife rehabilitation and education facility located in Milford, Pa. Mr. Streeter, a raptor rehabilitator, falconer and educator, and his team of educators have been promoting conservation for raptors (hawks, falcons, owls, eagles and vultures) at the center since its inception in 1987. DVRC's goal is to instill a greater respect and appreciation for raptors and foster a more responsible attitude towards all wildlife.

Using 5-6 live raptors, Bill Streeter will introduce the audience to the fascinating world of raptors; their biology and identification, behavior, survival adaptations, predator/prey relationships and much more. The birds themselves are part of the raptor rehabilitation process conducted at the center. Of the many wild birds brought to the center for treatment, most are treated and returned to the wild, but due to their injuries, some must remain in captivity and these are the ambassador birds used to educate the public.

Join RAS members and friends for an evening unlike most and have a close encounter of the bird kind! The joy and truly magical experience with these magnificent creatures cannot be underestimated. This program will last one hour and is ideal for children. Bring the whole family!

Oct. 4, 2013

To Be Announced...

Please check our website or the monthly e-mail reminder for October.

Speaker: TBD

Editor's Note: Thanks to Ron Conzo for taking this photo of the scrumptious 65th anniversary cake enjoyed by all at our May 10th meeting!



RAS 65th Anniversary Cake © Ron Conzo

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 <http://www.rocklandaudubon.org/> for updates!

Audubon in the Parks is an initiative with Audubon New York and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation to advance bird conservation in State parks. To highlight this partnership, RAS is proud to offer an **Audubon in the Parks** series of walks!

SEPT. 1 (Sun) — First Sunday Walk at Kakiat County Park

Meet the trip leader at 8 a.m. in the Kakiat parking lot, Route 202 in the Village of Montebello. Park entrance is directly opposite the drive to Viola School. Stroll through the park, looking for both resident and migrating bird species. This trip will run 2 to 2.5 hours.

SEPT. 14 (Sat) — Birding the Stony Point Battlefield (Audubon in the Parks)

Co-sponsored with Stony Point Battlefield State Historic Site. Meet Alan and Della Wells at 8 a.m. in the main parking lot at the end of Battlefield Rd, accessed from Park Rd. off Route 9W in Stony Point. Take an early fall stroll through this historic site on the Hudson River. 845-942-5751, Park Phone 845-786-2521

SEPT. 15 (Sun) — Tallman Mountain State Park (Audubon in the Parks)

Meet Carol Weiss in the main parking lot of Tallman Mountain SP at 8 a.m. (there may be a parking fee). We will look for birds around the playing field and then walk eastward, first to the north picnic area and then to the swimming pool. From the picnic area there is a fantastic view of the marsh and river and we may see migrating hawks. Plan on three hours; bring a snack and a drink, especially if it will be a hot day. 845-358-3659

OCT. 6 (Sun) — First Sunday Walk at Kakiat County Park

Meet the trip leader at 8 a.m. in the Kakiat parking lot, Route 202 in the Village of Montebello. Park entrance is directly opposite the drive to Viola School. Stroll through the park, looking for both resident and migrating bird species. This trip will run 2 to 2.5 hours.

OCT. 13 (Sun) — Doodletown (Audubon in the Parks)

Meet Carol Weiss at 8 a.m. at the parking area on Route 9W, opposite the Doodletown historic marker. We will take the old road, stopping to bird as we go uphill. There should be hawks and passerines migrating southward. The trip will take from 3 to 4 hours. Bring a beverage and a snack. 845-358-3659

OCT. 27 (Sun) — Piermont Pier for Beginners

Meet Della and Alan Wells at 8 a.m. at the parking lot by the ball field at the Piermont Pier entrance. Practice bird ID and binocular use on ducks and other birds. 845-942-5751

Special Announcement

Birds in Winter

Join Lorrie Pallant, RAS Education Chair, for this special presentation at 1:00 p.m., Oct. 12, 2013 (Sat) at Stony Point Battlefield State Historic Site. Parking is at the end of Battlefield Rd, accessed from Park Rd. off Route 9W in Stony Point. For more information, please contact the Battlefield Office at 845-786-2521.

Birds in Winter will also be presented at the New City Library, Nov. 6 at 7:00 p.m.

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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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*.

The Observer

Editing	Caroline McDonald
Layout	Della Wells
Copyediting	Alan Wells
	Della Wells

Newsletter submissions welcome!

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

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