

Northern New York Audubon

Serving the Adirondack, Champlain, St. Lawrence Region of New York State

Mission: To conserve and restore natural ecosystems in the Adirondacks, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the Earth's biological diversity.

Volume 38 Number 2

June-August 2010



Joseph and Joan Cullman Conservation Foundation Annual Lecture

Saturday, June 5th, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Paul Smiths Visitor Interpretive Center

Dr. Peter Marra

Science in the Urban Jungle: Neighborhood Nestwatch

Neighborhood Nestwatch is a citizen science program aimed at gaining a better understanding of how urbanization affects the survival and reproductive success of migratory and resident birds. At the same time NN is designed to teach people and volunteers about bird biology through hands on learning in their own backyards.



Great Adirondack Birding Celebration

Plan to participate in the 8th annual Great Adirondack Birding Celebration, which will offer workshops, lectures, a dessert reception at *To Be Announced* followed by an owl prowl, a social hour, a barbeque lunch and 16+ field trips. Headquartered at the Paul Smiths Visitor Interpretive Center, the festival runs from **Friday, June 4th through Sunday, June 6th**. As they have since the festival's inception, NNYA members helped design and will lead field trips, which include such exciting destinations as Spring Pond Bog (Spruce grouse), Whiteface Mountain (Bicknell's thrush), and Bloomingdale Bog.

Dr. Peter Marra will deliver the Joseph and Joan Cullman Conservation Foundation Annual Lecture on Saturday night at the Paul Smiths VIC.

For more information visit the Great Adirondack Birding Celebration website at: www.adkvic.org

1	Great ADK Birding Celebration
2	Hamilton County Birding Festival
2	NNYA Annual Meeting/Outing @ Heaven Hill, Lake Placid Lake Everest Canoe/Kayak
3	NNYA 2010 Raffle/2 Nights for 2 at Mirror Lake Inn NNYA Board of Directors Mtg.
3	NNYA Nominations/Vote For Director/For Secretary Project Silkmoth
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NNYA

Northern New York Audubon, Inc.

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President

Newcomb (518) 582-2157

Larry Master, PhD
Vice-President

Lake Placid (518) 523-2214

Charlotte Demers
Interim Treasurer

Newcomb (518) 582-2157

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Northern New York Audubon, Inc.

A chapter of National Audubon Society serving the Adirondack, Champlain and St. Lawrence regions of northern New York, including Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton and St. Lawrence counties.

Correspondence and Membership Information

Northern New York Audubon

PO Box 488

Keene Valley, New York 12943-0488

John Thaxton, Newsletter Editor

PO Box 488

Keene Valley, NY 12943-0488

NNYA Web Site: www.nnya.org

Charlotte Demers, Web Master

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Vol. 38 No. 2

Adirondack Birding Festival

Inspired by the success of the Great Adirondack Birding Celebration, the Hamilton County Department of Tourism started its own Adirondack Birding Festival five years ago and hit a home run. NNYA members designed and led the field trips for the Hamilton County festival and will help lead them again for the 6th annual festival, which runs from **Friday, June 18th to Sunday, June 20th**. Activities include canoe/kayak trips on the Sacandaga and Kunjamuk rivers, the south inlet of Round Pond and Good Luck Lake; trips to Ferd's Bog and the Whitney Wilderness Area; a hike up Pillsbury Mountain to look for Bicknell's thrush, and a hike along the Northville/Lake Placid Trail; Gerry Lemmo's presentation of his outstanding photography of birds and other things Adirondack at Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake; and a luncheon cruise on Raquette Lake aboard the W.W. Durant.

For more information visit the Adirondack Birding Festival website at:

<http://www.adirondackbirds.com>

Saturday, July 24th, 2010

Annual Meeting/Outing

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Heaven Hill Farm

Lake Placid, New York

Scheduled Activities:

- **9:00 a.m.** – Meet at the Heaven Hill farm house for a birding adventure. The property includes fabulous fields and some second growth northern hardwoods.
- **12:00 ish** – Meet back at the farm house for lunch either out on their patio or inside if the weather isn't cooperating. Both have great views of the High Peaks. We will have a quick NNYA meeting and the raffle drawing.
- **1:00 p.m.** – Head down the road to Henry's Woods, a 212 acre parcel at the beginning of Bear Cub Lane, for some afternoon birding.

To bring: lunch, snacks, beverages, binoculars, and insect repellent

Cost: Free!

Directions: Bear Cub Lane is off of Old Military Road in Lake Placid. It will be on your left if you are coming from the east past the ski jumps or on your right if you are arriving from the west or Saranac Lake direction. Drive up Bear Cub Lane for 1.5 miles to Heaven Hill Farm, which will be on your right. There is a small white mailbox at the end of the drive. You will see a large Heaven Hill Farm sign with stone pillars at the crest of the hill as you look up the driveway. We will meet and there is parking behind the large white "farm house" on the left.

Lake Everest Canoe/Kayak

Wilmington, July 9th, 2010

Lake Everest is the damned up part of the W. Branch of the Ausable River in Wilmington. If one puts in at the town beach and paddles upstream the water remains deep enough to paddle through some very birdy territory before becoming white water. The songs of veeries sometimes fill the air of an evening, we paddle beneath an osprey nest and usually see eastern kingbirds feeding young. The current is quite gentle, which makes for a relaxing paddle.

Leaders: Pat & JohnThaxton

Meet: Lake Everest Beach (left side)

When: Friday, July 9, 5 p.m.

Bring: Canoe/Kayak and paddles, PFDs, clothing for the weather and binoculars.

Contact: Pat & John @576-4232 or jpthax5317@aol.com.

*****2010 NNYA Raffle*****
Mirror Lake Inn
2 Nights for 2 with Breakfast

As a member and supporter of Northern New York Audubon, you contribute to an organization dedicated to conserving and restoring wildlife and their habitats through advocacy and education. All of these programs are funded by donations from NNYA members and other generous supporters. Membership donations only cover approximately 50% of the operational costs of the organization. We need your help to continue to offer a variety of activities and take advantage of educational opportunities.

This year's fundraising raffle has the extraordinary prize of a 2 night stay for 2, including breakfast, at Mirror Lake Inn, which has received AAA's Four Diamond Exceptional rating for the past 25 years in a row.

You will be receiving in the mail a book of raffle tickets that are \$5.00 each or the book of six for \$25.00. Please help support NNYA by purchasing or selling tickets. Send your check or money order made out to "Northern New York Audubon" in the envelope provided. If you would like additional raffle tickets please contact Charlotte Demers at (518)582-4551 ext 103 or cdemers@frontiernet.net. The drawing for this fabulous prize will be at the NNYA Annual Meeting to be held **July 24th** (see facing page). For more information on this event, visit the NNYA web site (www.nnya.org) and click on "events."



NNYA Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday, June 5th, 1:00 p.m.
Paul Smiths VIC

NNYA board of directors meetings are open to the entire membership; The meetings have a casual, friendly atmosphere and often produce important decisions about our chapter's activities and direction.

Contact President Charlotte Demers (cdemers@frontiernet.net) for more information.

Nominations/Vote

For Board of Directors: Brian McCallister, Pat Thaxton,
 Kathleen Wiley

For Secretary: Mary O'Dell



Project Silkmoth

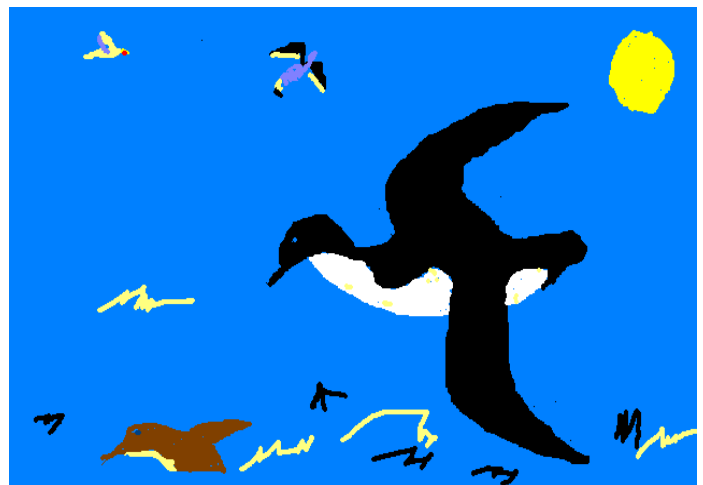
Project Silkmoth is a volunteer-based survey documenting the presence of Giant Silkmoths (family Saturniidae) in northern New York State. Sightings and photographs of silkmoths submitted by volunteers will be incorporated into a sightings database and used to create occurrence maps for each species.

The database will be a source of information about silkmoth species that are thought to be declining in the northeastern U. S. and can serve as a baseline for future studies on the geographic distributions of these moths. The data will become part of the Adirondack All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory database.

Sightings will be accepted from northern New York State, which is defined as north of a line from Oswego to Utica to Saratoga Springs. A list of target species, identification information and sightings forms can be found at the web-site www.projectsilkmoth.org.

Like to Watch Loons? Join in the Annual Loon Census on Saturday, July 17th from 8:00-9:00a.m.

Help the Wildlife Conservation Society look for loons! Join in the Loon Program's Annual Loon Census on Saturday, July 17th, 2010, from 8-9a.m. For more information or to choose a lake to conduct your observations, please email adkloon@wcs.org or call 518-891-8872. To learn more about the Annual Loon Census, visit www.wcsadironacks.org.



8th Annual Great Adirondack Birding Celebration Schedule

For registration information visit the Paul Smiths Visitor Interpretive Center's web site: www.adkvic.org or call 518.327.3376 for more information.

COST: In order to provide better services to participants, a few changes have been made to the Great Adirondack Birding Celebration for 2010. A registration fee will be charged this year as follows: individual registration, \$35; family registration, \$50. Registration entitles participants to the following: the dessert reception and Owl Prowl at Paul Smiths VIC (June 4); the morning field trips (June 5-6); the June 5 barbecue lunch at the VIC; and a one-year membership to the Adirondack Park Institute. Call (518) 327-3376 for more information, or visit www.adkvic.org

Friday, June 4th, 2010

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Check in, registration packet pickup @ Paul Smiths VIC.

10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. All day ecology workshop at White Pine Camp (additional \$40 fee, see workshop description at www.adkvic.org.)

2:00 p.m. Wetland Walk @ Paul Smiths VIC with Dan Spada.

7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Welcome to the GABC/Dessert Reception for registered participants—location to be announced.

9:00-10:00. Owl Prowl @ Paul Smiths VIC.

Saturday, June 5th, 2010

7:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Morning field trips/Preregistration.

Dawn Chorus Walk @ the VIC (this event starts @ 5 a.m.)

Bird Banding @ the VIC with Dr. Jorie Favreau (associate Professor, Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Program, Paul Smiths College).

Bloomingtondale Bog (Boreal Habitat/Boreal Species).

Intervale Hollow Farm (Mixed Habitat).

Whiteface Mountain (Bicknell's Thrush/Mountain Species).

Madawaska (Boreal Habitat/Boreal Species).

Spring Pond Bog (Boreal Habitat/Boreal Species).

11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Vendors/Exhibitors in Paul Smiths VIC Great Room.

11:30-1:00 p.m. Lunch Break—Barbeque Lunch Available at Paul Smiths VIC.

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Afternoon Programs/Paul Smiths VIC

3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Teddy Roosevelt Birding Challenge/Paul Smiths VIC.

5:00-7:00 p.m. Dinner Break (On your own).

7:00-9:00 p.m. Evening Program/Paul Smiths VIC.

7:00-8:00 p.m. The Joseph & Joan Cullman Conservation Foundation Annual Lecture (PS VIC Theater):

*Science in the Urban Jungle:
Neighborhood Nestwatch.*

Dr. Peter Marra (Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center)

**RAFFLE PRIZES WILL BE DRAWN AFTER THE
EVENING LECTURE**

Sunday, June 6th, 2010

7:00 a.m.-11:30 p.m. Morning Field Trips/Preregistration

Bloomingtondale Bog (Boreal Habitat/Boreal Species).

Intervale Hollow Farm (Mixed Habitat).

Whiteface Mountain (Bicknell's Thrush/Mountain Species).

Madawaska (Boreal Habitat/Boreal Species).

Spring Pond Bog (Boreal Habitat/Boreal Species).

**Please Note: To Register by Telephone Call:
518.327.3376**



Hamilton County Department of Tourism/Audubon New York Adirondack Birding Festival

Note: Registration is required for each outdoor event (registration is not required for any evening programs).

To Register, call 800.648.5239

Monday-Friday 9:am-4:00pm

Friday, June 18th, 2010

7:00 am Walk: Ferd's Bog, Inlet (Boreal Species).

7:00 am Road Safari: Long Lake (Whitney Wilderness IBA).

2:00 pm Canoe/Kayak: Sacandaga & Kunjamuck River

7:00 pm Slide Presentation: Adirondack Museum, Blue Mountain Lake—Woodland Wonders Gerry Lemmo.

Saturday, June 19th, 2010

6:00 am Hike: Pillsbury Mountain, Speculator

7:00 am Canoe/Walk: Round Lake/Sabattis Bog, Long Lake (Whitney Wilderness IBA).

7:00 am Road Safari: To be announced.

2:00 pm Driving Safari: Powley Road, Piseco.

2:00 pm Walk: Lake Eaton, Long Lake.

3:00 pm Movie: Winged Migration, Indian Lake. Details to be forthcoming.

7:30 pm Presentation: Boreal Species, Great Camp Sagamore, Raquette Lake, Featured Speaker: Joan Collins.

Sunday, June 20th, 2010

7:00 am Hike: Low's Ridge/Hitchens Pond, Long Lake.

7:00 am Hike: Northville/Lake Placid Trail, Long Lake.

7:00 am Hike: NLP Trail/Piseco Airport, Piseco.

7:00 am Canoe/Kayak: Good Luck Lake, Sacandaga River West Branch, Piseco.

12:30 pm W.W. Durant Cruise, Raquette Lake.

Dear NNYA Members

Thank you all for responding so generously to our 2010 appeal letter. As you may know, all of the efforts by our members and directors are performed voluntarily and number thousands of hours a year. However the materials, printing and mailing of our publications as well as fees for electronic information require your kind donations.

—Pat Thaxton, Membership

NNYA/Joseph & Joan Cullman Conservation Foundation/Wild Center Summer Naturalist Programs

This year's Summer Naturalist Intern, Katie Christman, will "float" among visitors to the museum in order to create a positive and personal experience of the facility and its exhibits for as many people as possible. She will also conduct *Birding Basics* workshops at The Wild Center and several off-site locations. The following tentative schedule is subject to change, so please make an effort to register for each trip.

June 12th, July 3rd, 17th, 31st and August 14th

Boreal Birds and Bogs

Bloomington Bog

Time: 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Leader: Katie Christman

Registration: Please call Sally Gross at 359-7800 x116 or email sgross@wildcenter.org

This is great habitat for boreal species such as boreal chickadee, gray jay, and black-backed woodpecker. The area encompasses a large bog wetland area and cedar woods with a sedge marsh.

Every Wednesday morning in June, July and August

Time: 8:00a.m. - 10:00a.m.

Wild Wednesdays at the Paul Smiths Adirondack Park Visitor Interpretive Center

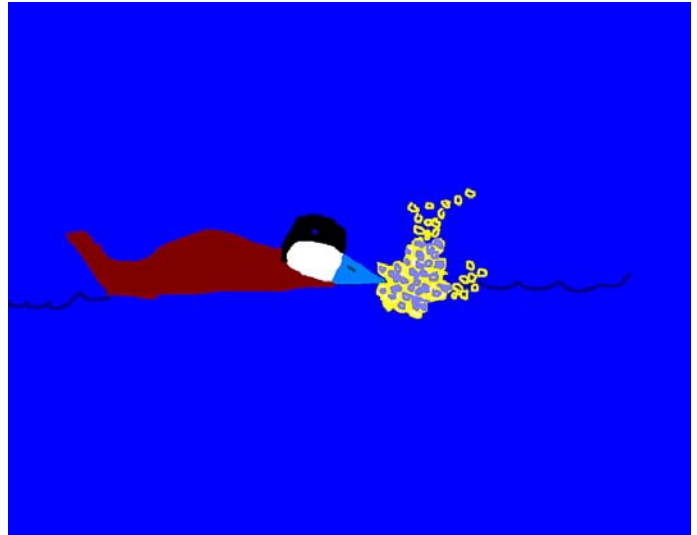
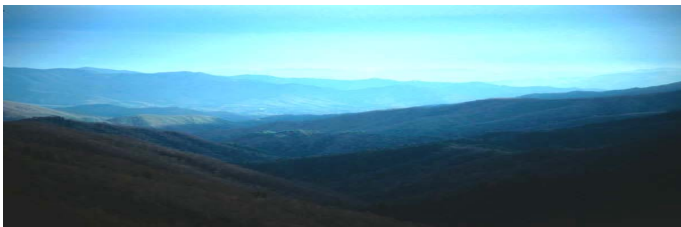
Join The Wild Center naturalists on Wednesdays at the Paul Smiths Adirondack Park Visitor Interpretive Center in Paul Smiths to discover the rich diversity of habitats on its 1500 acres – Northern Hardwood forests, open marsh, sphagnum bogs, streams, conifer wetlands, and ponds. Starting in June we'll focus on spring migrating birds and wildflowers. As the season progresses, we'll explore pond life, wetlands, insects, and bog orchids. Free.

June 26th, July 10th, July 24th and August 7th

Time: 8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Whiteface Mountain Ecology Exploration

This interpretive hike will focus on mountain habitats and birds on Whiteface Mountain Veteran's Memorial Highway and summit. We will stop along the way to look at the forest transition and check out the incredible views. At the summit, be prepared for a short hike ~ ¼ mile on rough, rocky ground. This is a great opportunity to check out the alpine ecosystem as well as maybe see or hear the rare Bicknell's Thrush. The group will meet in Wilmington and from there will carpool to the summit via the toll road. Cost: \$5.00 (payable at the Tollhouse).



Now Available Online: 57 Years of *The Kingbird* In a Searchable Archive

The New York State Ornithological Association announced the launch of a new online data base of its quarterly ornithological journal, *The Kingbird*. For the first time, researchers, students and birders will be able to perform keyword searches of the thousands of articles published in *The Kingbird* since its inception in 1950. The archive is accessible free of charge @:

www.nybirds.org/KBsearch.htm

The archive of *The Kingbird* represents an investment by NYSOA in the future of New York State's birds. The new data base currently contains about 8 million words on nearly 16,000 pages comprising over 5,200 files. In addition to the searchable archive, there is an online library of 228 full issues, a special supplement, and 4 ten-year indices available for download or online browsing. The public archive and library will be updated at least once a year to ensure that it always includes all but the most recent 4 issues of *The Kingbird*.



**ADIRONDACK PARK INVASIVE
PLANT PROGRAM
2010 Regional Rapid Assessment:
Terrestrial Invasive Plants
CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR
SUMMER 2010**

Do you enjoy being outside? Do you have an interest in plants and experience in plant identification? Would you like to be a part of a regional effort to stop the spread of invasive species? Consider volunteering for this summer's Regional Rapid Assessment of Terrestrial Invasive Plants in the Adirondack Park.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

Surveys in the region began more than ten years ago. In 1998 and 1999, volunteers conducted roadside and backcountry surveys for terrestrial invasive plants. Data from these surveys established a regional baseline of invasive plant distribution which provided the information that led to the formation of what is today the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP), a four time awarding-winning invasive species partnership program.

Now, 12 years later, APIPP partners are replicating these initial surveys. Through this summer's regional rapid assessment, we will document occurrences of terrestrial invasive plants; identify new plant species that may be making inroads to the region; and, gain an important perspective of invasive plant spread over a 12 year period.

Invasive species are a long-term environmental, economic and societal challenge. Invasive plants degrade natural areas because they can crowd out and alter the habitat for native plants and wildlife. Species such as Japanese knotweed, garlic mustard, and purple loosestrife were just beginning to get established in the Park in the late 1990s; now they are increasingly common, particularly in areas of disturbance. Opportunity exists to ramp up treatment programs for established species while helping to detect new invaders and prevent them from spreading.

Volunteers are key to the success of this project. As part of the Regional Rapid Assessment Team you will make a great contribution to the fight against invasive plants.

WHOM TO CONTACT

If you would like to participate as a volunteer this summer, please contact Kathleen Wiley, Volunteer Invasive Plant Project Coordinator, at kathleen_wiley@yahoo.com or (518) 576-6405, or Hilary Smith, Director of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, at the Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy: hsmith@tnc.org (518) 576-2082 x 131.

A Bird in the Hand

As I stared forlornly at a blinking cursor daring me to strike a key, I flinched at the painfully loud sound of a bird crashing into a window in the adjoining room. I went into the living room to investigate, figuring the bird had collided with a window on the far side of the room. Birds that fly into my living-room windows tend to land on the deck, stunned, and I frequently need to set them upright until they get their bearings, which usually only takes a minute or two.

No bird on the deck.

I hypothesized, correctly, that the collision I had just heard sounded of sufficient force to propel the bird beyond the deck, which at that location measures only about four feet wide. A conscientious objector to lawns, I spent a minute scanning the ferns and wildflowers in my yard until I spotted the bird, a hermit thrush, breathing rapidly. I went outside to retrieve it and cup it in my hands to keep it warm. I blew gently on the downy feathers near the bottom of its belly and discovered a prodigious cloacal protuberance. As I blew on it a little more forcefully, he looked at me with what I interpreted as profound suspicion. I moved him slowly back and forth before me, during which movements he kept his eyes on mine, demonstrating, to my great relief, that he hadn't broken his neck and had no trouble moving his head.

I could feel his heart beating. After 10 minutes, which is a long time to be standing among weeds holding a bird, I felt his heartbeat calming down and stood the bird up on my open hand, figuring he would fly away. Instead, he just stood there, looking over his shoulder at me once in a while but for the most part simply checking out the scene. I raised my hand up quickly as though to toss him straight up in the air, but he just flapped his wings for balance as he held on tightly to the skin between my fingers. I raised my hand quickly a few times and decided the bird's wings and its sense of balance seemed fine.

After 20 minutes, which is a long time to be meandering around on a driveway and a front porch with a bird in your hand, I tried to throw the creature straight up into the air. He flapped and dug his claws in, obviously not ready to leave. Each time I tried throwing the thrush up into freedom he flapped and held on more tightly, then looked over at me with what I interpreted as mild disdain. So I decided simply to circumnavigate the front yard a few times as I wondered at the wisdom of bringing the bird inside the house so I could relieve myself. Then it dawned on me that 16 acres of thick woods surround my house and that the bird probably wouldn't take offense at me directing the results of a biological imperative with one hand while holding him with the other. He watched with undivided, rapt attention as I contributed some nitrogen to the greater Adirondack ecosystem.

Sure enough, soon as I began answering nature's call I heard the painfully loud sound of footsteps on the gravel drive right behind me. My heart sank. My neighbors tend to drop by unannounced perhaps twice a year, and wouldn't you know that one of those two occasions would be right now? The bird, meanwhile, started flapping its wings excitedly even as it tightened its grip on my fingers. For a moment I imagined my neighbor imagining whom to call upon witnessing my extraordinary, two-fisted performance—the ASPCA, the



DEC, Essex County Mental Health Services?

Unable to suppress a moronic smile, and hoping to find Bill or Charlie behind me rather than Gail or Melissa, I craned my neck backwards and encountered the unblinking gaze of a large deer, its enormous backlit ears a textbook example of robust small capillary circulation. The thrush let out a loud, rising, whiny zwhzee, which startled me, which in turn startled the deer, which leaped into the woods and retreated about 40 feet before stopping to look back at me and the bird. The thrush gave me a look that suggested satisfaction at having scared off the deer, and then the sheer absurdity of the situation delivered me back to reality.

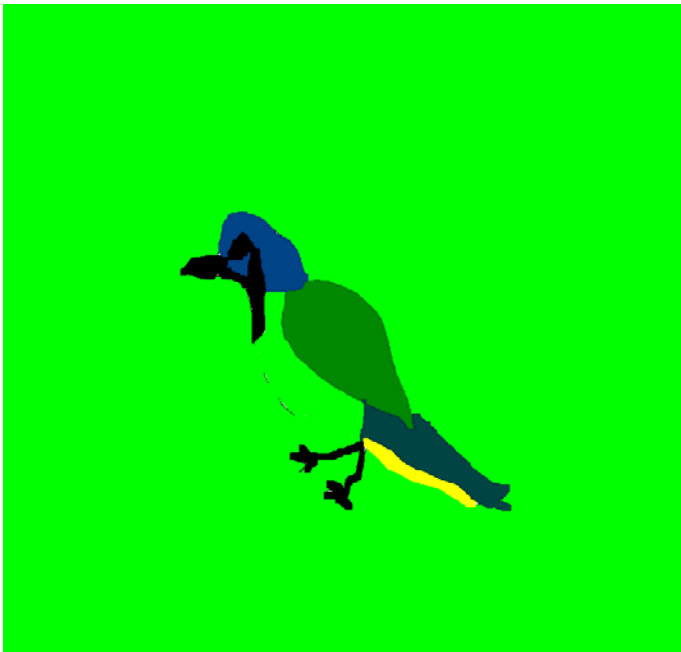
I had to pick my wife up at work and needed to leave in five minutes or else go inside with the bird and make a call explaining why I would be a little late. I held the bird about a foot in front of my face and said, with theatrical seriousness, "Now listen, I'm going to say this only once: If you don't fly off my hand, I'm going bring you into my house, put you in a cardboard box, close it and leave you alone, in the den, for at least a half-hour, maybe more."

Upon hearing this threat, the bird, perhaps frightened, perhaps angry, relieved itself. I screamed "{expletive-deleted} you" and flung the thrush straight up for all I was worth, with the result that the angle of my hand and the bird's clumsy but powerful wing beat sweeping across it as it burst into flight conspired to splatter my nose and mouth with a spray of the still warm poop. Clenching my teeth, and wiping my mouth so forcefully with the back of my hand I cut my nose with the bezel of my watch, I glared at the bird, which had lit on a branch just beyond my reach, facing away from me.

When it heard me curse after scratching my nose, the thrush did an about-face hop, looked down at me from a height of about nine feet and opened its beak in what I interpreted as the biggest {expletive-deleted}-eating grin I ever saw.

—John Thaxton

This essay, in a slightly different form, originally appeared in Adirondack Explorer



President's Message

Our long-time Treasurer, Amy Freiman, has decided to step down after serving on the Board of Directors for over ten years. We all owe Amy a huge "Thank You" for all of the work she has done over those years. It takes a lot of dedication, energy and knowledge to serve as Treasurer and Amy possessed those qualities and so much more. She will be missed.

Hopefully I will see some of you at the Great Adirondack Birding Celebration on June 5th and 6th at the Paul Smiths VIC. We will be voting on the slate of officers and new board members at 1:00 PM on June 5th at the NNYA booth. Please stop by and vote if you are at the Celebration.

I also hope to see everyone at the Annual Outing on July 24th at Heaven Hill Farm in Lake Placid. It is a nice facility and a beautiful location with lots of potential for some great birding. We will be drawing our raffle prize that afternoon – a two night stay for two at Mirror Lake Inn. Thanks to the folks at Mirror Lake Inn for making this raffle possible.

Lastly, those of you traveling the Adirondack Northway in Essex County will get to see the fruit of a winter's worth of labor on display and hopefully in use – over 24 American kestrel boxes that volunteers made at three NNYA build-a-box workshops have been erected in the region.

NYS DOT workers in Essex County erected nine of the boxes, three between Exit 31 and Exit 32 of the Northway. Keep your eyes on the lookout for our smallest and most colorful falcon. Hopefully we will have some nesting success to report in the next newsletter.

—Charlotte Demers

Poetry Corner

Of Mere Being

The palm at the end of the mind,
Beyond the last thought, rises
In the bronze décor,

A gold-feathered bird
Sings in the palm, without human meaning,
Without human feeling, a foreign song.

You know then that it is not the reason
That makes us happy or unhappy.
The bird sings. Its feathers shine.

The palm stands on the edge of space.
The wind moves slowly in the branches.
The bird's fire-fangled feathers dangle down.

—Wallace Stevens

Editor's Note

Every time one of my neighbors pulls me aside to personally inform me that spring arrived at least two weeks early, instancing the apple blossoms in late April and the lilacs in early May, I describe how the NNYA field trip to Ausable Marsh in April produced an astonishing six new early arrival dates, or roughly the same number of early arrival dates my wife and I have produced during twenty years of birding in the Adirondacks. If global warming's ominous implications for the health of the planet strike you as downright terrifying, think of the boon it represents to early arrival date watchers.

I devoted a good deal of space to the Paul Smiths Great Adirondack Birding Celebration and the Hamilton County Department of Tourism/Audubon New York Birding Festival. I thought you might find it helpful to have their complete schedules in front of you in a portable format capable of obliterating black flies and mosquitoes. Other real time events to attend include a paddle on Lake Everest and the NNYA Annual Outing/Meeting, where we will pick the winner of our 2010 raffle for a two night stay for two, including breakfast, at Mirror Lake Inn.

I published the Invasive Plants Program's call for volunteers because I feel the scope and importance of the project deserves all the help it can get. An ambitious inventory of invasive plants throughout the Adirondacks seems almost frighteningly necessary, and you can participate by working in the areas you frequent anyway. You might also enjoy helping out with the annual loon census, an annual endeavor that has evolved into a critical database of loon populations in the Adirondacks; everyone counts loons during a single hour so that loons moving from place to place don't get counted twice. I also detailed the Joseph and Joan Cullman Conservation Foundation/NNYA Wild Center Summer Naturalist Programs, which include *Wild Wednesdays* at the Paul Smiths VIC as well as a series of field trips to Bloomingdale Bog and Whiteface Mountain.

You can find inside an important new resource: A link to the online, searchable database of every issue ever published of the New York State Ornithological Associations journal *The Kingbird*. I, for one, never thought this extremely ambitious project would actually materialize, but, hey, you never know.

Because I never got it together to line up an artist to illustrate this issue of the newsletter, I resorted to using several paintings from my ongoing series *Birds of Play*.

—John Thaxton