

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 37 Number 2

June-August 2009



Joseph and Joan Cullman Conservation Foundation

Annual Lecture

Saturday, June 6th, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

Paul Smiths Visitor Interpretive Center

Dr. Bridget Stutchbury

Silence of the Songbirds

The acclaimed author of *Silence of the Songbirds*, Dr. Bridget Stutchbury directs the *Stutchbury Lab*, an institute of behavioral and conservation ecology at the University of York, Ontario. Dr. Stutchbury's work includes using *geolocators* on purple martins and wood thrushes in order to track individual birds to their wintering grounds and back; studies of gap-crossing and forest fragmentation with radio-tracked hooded warblers, wood thrushes and scarlet tanagers; DNA studies of extra-pair mating systems among passerines; and work on the behavioral ecology and conservation of tropical birds.

Silence of the Songbirds, a deeply felt and lyrically written overview of the seemingly myriad threats to songbirds, will inform Dr. Stutchbury's lecture. A compelling overview of modern trends—from global warming to deforestation—and their impact on songbird populations, Dr. Stutchbury's lecture will serve both as a warning and a call to action. *Canada Warbler* All photos this issue by Gerry Lemmo



Great Adirondack Birding Celebration

Plan to participate in the 7th annual Great Adirondack Birding Celebration, which will offer workshops, lectures, a dessert reception at Great Camp White Pine followed by an owl prowl, a social hour, a barbecue lunch and 16+ field trips. Headquartered at the Paul Smiths Visitor Interpretive Center, the festival runs from **Friday, June 5th through Sunday, June 7th**. 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), the Osgood River by canoe (Black-backed woodpecker, Northern three-toed woodpecker) and Bloomingdale Bog.

Dr. Bridget Stutchbury, author of *Silence of the Songbirds*, 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.adkvc.org

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NNYA

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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.

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Northern New York Audubon Newsletter is published by Northern New York Audubon, Inc.

Vol. 37 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 four 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 5th annual festival, which runs from Friday, **June 19th to Sunday, June 21st**. Activities include canoe/kayak trips on the Sacandaga and Kunjamuk rivers, the south inlet of Raquette Lake and Good Luck Lake; trips to Ferd's Bog, the Whitney Wilderness Area and Moose River Plains; a hike up Blue Mountain to look for Bicknell's thrush, and a hike along the Northville/Lake Placid Trail; Dr. Nina Schoch's presentation on Loons at Great Camp Sagamore and a power-point presentation by Gary Lee, co-author of *Adirondack Birding: 60 Great Places to Find Birds*; 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 18th, 2009

Annual Meeting/Outing

W.H. Miner Agricultural Institute, 8:30 a.m.

Altona Flat Rock

Join NNYA members for our annual meeting/outing at Altona Flat Rock, an 18-mile long, 3-mile wide sandstone barren created by the catastrophic drainage of proglacial Lake Iroquois 12,000 years ago. Almost 5,000 acres of pine barrens and forests owned by the Miner Institute surround the Flat Rock area and support 120 species of birds, 30 species of mammals and 15 herptiles.

The day begins at 8:30 a.m. when we meet at the entrance to the Miner Institute and go on a birding field trip led by Dr. Kenneth Adams of SUNY Plattsburgh. Dr. Adams will select the ecosystem in the upper Little Chazy watershed (forest, riverside, bog, fen, pine barren) that seems most promising for the day and spend the morning birding with us. Dr. Adams has seen 126 species of birds at Flat Rock. When we're there many birds will have young in their nests and be active foraging and feeding the chicks, while other species will have newly fledged young.

Bring lunch and join us at a cabin on the Miner Institute's property, then stay if you like for the short annual meeting, after which we'll probably go birding again or explore this fascinating geological area further.

Dr. Kenneth Adams is a professor at Plattsburgh State University where he teaches courses in Plant Ecology, Forest Ecology and Management, and Wildlife Ecology and Management. His primary research interests are the effects of disturbances on ecosystem development. Since 1974, Ken has utilized forest stands owned by the William H. Miner Research Institute in Chazy, New York to study ecological effects of silvicultural treatments, fire, and most recently, ice storm impacts. Ken received a Ph.D. in forest ecology from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, New York.

Directions: Meet in front of the Miner Institute Building at the intersection of Ridge Road and Route 191; take the Northway to Exit 41, then go west on Route 191 for .8 miles.

Rand Hill Road, Clinton County

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Leader: Judy Heintz

Registration: Call Judy at (518) 563-5273

Explore a large boggy/alder swamp area, thick woods and a recently logged woods thick with turkeys and grouse. Judy found yellow-throated vireo in this area last year and routinely sees at least a dozen species of warbler while listening to hermit and wood thrush, veery and winter wren.

2009 NNYA Raffle Swarovski ST-80 Spotting Scope

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 fundraiser has the extraordinary prize of a state-of-the-art Swarovski ST-80 Spotting Scope with a 20x-60x zoom eyepiece lens and a carrying case, a \$1200 value. Swarovski's *Swarotop* and *Swarodur* multi-layer coatings on all the lenses and prisms of this superb scope deliver the optimum in color fidelity, brightness, sharp focusing and brilliance of image. Nitrogen filled and both water- and fog-resistant, the ST-80 focuses as close as 19 feet, has an integrated sunshield and a cover glass that prevents the penetration of dust and moisture when the eyepiece is not connected.

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 18th**. For more information on this event, visit the HPAS web site (www.nnya.org) and click on "events."



Lake Everest Canoe/Kayak Wilmington, July 10, 2009

Lake Everest is the dammed 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.

Leaders: Pat & JohnThaxton

Meet: Lake Everest Beach (left side)

When: Friday, July 10, 5 p.m.

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

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



Saturday, August 22 Noblewood Park, Willsboro in Essex County

Leader: Matthew Medler

To Register: Email Matt at mdm2@cornell.edu

This park, along the shore of Lake Champlain, offers both beautiful scenery and excellent birding. During late August, Noblewood's vast sandbars typically host hundreds of Bonaparte's Gulls, scores of Common Terns, and up to 30 Caspian Terns. With so many gulls present, there is always a chance of picking out a Little Gull (seen annually at Noblewood), Black-headed Gull, or something even rarer. Shorebirds are hit-or-miss at Noblewood, but when they are present, they can often be observed and enjoyed at close range. This field trip is jointly sponsored with the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club.

Black-throated green warbler (left), Chestnut-sided warbler (below)



Cormorant Controversy

Editor's Note: For years now a controversy has raged over whether or not to control the burgeoning double-crested cormorant populations. Fishermen claim the birds eat salmonids; an elaborate study suggested they ate alewives, yellow perch and other undesirable species. Ten years ago, when I visited the Four Brothers Islands to help Mike Peterson band gulls, we found eighteen dead cormorants lying on the ground among a slew of empty .22 caliber cartridge casings. The young birds in the nests starved to death. Meanwhile, cormorant droppings killed every tree on one of the islands, making it look as though forest fire ravaged them. I don't have a strong opinion about the issue but know many members do. I considered this letter an excellent explanation of the DEC's position on cormorant control.

To The Editor,

Mike Peterson's articles, titled Crown Point Banding Station and Cormorant Control in the September-November 2008 Northern New York Audubon newsletter contain errors regarding Double-crested cormorant nesting and management actions on Lake Champlain.

Stewardship of the public resources on Important Bird Areas (IBA) and Bird Conservation Areas (BCA) is guided by careful analysis of scientific information. Management of wildlife and habitat resources in IBA and BCA designated areas is an integral part of responsible stewardship. Every waterbird rookery on Lake Champlain is designated as an IBA, BCA, or both, and at every site, managers have expressed concern about direct impacts to other bird species and habitat damage from cormorant nest building and guano killing trees. It is important to maintain the tree structure in some Lake Champlain rookeries to provide diverse nesting habitat for herons, gulls, terns, cormorants, and other colonial nesting waterbirds. The goal of management is not to protect all forested islands, or completely eliminate cormorants, but to maintain balanced populations of waterbirds and their nesting habitats. If a visitor at the Crown Point Banding Station hears shooting and asks "why are they doing this" the correct answer is "because New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) staff are implementing adaptive cormorant management. This work has been authorized by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, after considering scientific data, public comment and the need to protect public resources."

Double-crested cormorants nesting on Lake Champlain went from one nest in 1981 to 4,459 in 1999. Abundant yellow perch, rainbow smelt, and now alewife populations create a high carrying capacity for cormorants, and availability of nesting sites is likely the factor limiting their population on Lake Champlain. Recognizing this rapidly growing cormorant population was a threat to other colonial nesting waterbirds, Audubon Vermont was the first to begin cormorant management on Lake Champlain, by building exclusion structures to prevent cormorant nesting on islands they own and manage. The lakewide cormorant population continued to increase, and new nesting occurrences were observed, includ-

ing the colony at Crown Point. Cormorant nesting was first documented at Crown Point in 2000 with 70 nests, and except 2007, there have been unsuccessful nesting attempts there every year since 2000. In 2008 this nesting colony exhibited signs that it would produce young for the first time, and control action was initiated. We culled 435 cormorants at Crown Point in 2008, from an estimated Lake Champlain population of 16,000. Department staff also assisted The Nature Conservancy and their consultant, Dr. Dave Capen, with egg oiling research on Four Brothers Islands in 2008, but no cormorants were culled by the Department on Four Brothers Islands or in the vicinity.

There is a broad spectrum of opinion about how to protect colonial waterbird nesting habitat. Techniques used to control cormorants include exclusion, nest destruction, hazing, and shooting. Exclusion is effective at protecting ground-nesting terns, but is impractical to protect tree-nesting species such as herons. Nest destruction can be effective, but when a nest is simply removed, most often birds will re-nest. An alternative is to apply corn oil to eggs in nests. This thwarts hatching, and reduces the likelihood of re-nesting, as the adult birds often continue to incubate the oiled eggs. Hazing cormorants at nest and roost locations has also been utilized, but it is labor intensive, and can lose effectiveness over time. New cormorant nesting locations are often in heron rookeries, ruling out many common hazing techniques. Shooting is an accepted and necessary component of cormorant management to reinforce hazing and to effect immediate, local control at nest and roost sites.

In 2003, results of research on colonial waterbirds on Lake Champlain was presented to the Wildlife Technical Committee of the Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Management Cooperative, comprised of New York, Vermont, and US Fish and Wildlife Service representatives. As a result, the Cooperative adopted a Memorandum of Understanding with the USDA Wildlife Services, the Federal agency tasked with resolving wildlife conflicts, and formed a Cormorant Communication Committee to integrate the non-government groups into decision-making. The Wildlife Technical Committee determined that a comprehensive Lake Champlain Colonial Waterbird Management Plan was needed to coordinate actions taken by each of the government jurisdictions and landowners. That plan is now outlined, and further meetings to draft the document will occur in 2009. Please contact me at jaracett@gw.dec.state.ny.us to be added to the e-mail list for the Cormorant Communication Committee.

Migratory bird management is the most scientifically and administratively complex endeavor which I have been involved with in my career. For generations, state and federal officials tasked with conserving public natural resources have evaluated migratory bird population trends and habitat dynamics in a shared decision-making framework to achieve consensus on management actions. This complex collaboration relies upon sound science, and I encourage all with an interest in bird conservation to help build informed public support for adaptive management of Double-crested cormorants.

Joe Racette
Wildlife Biologist
NYSDEC

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

This year's Summer Naturalist Intern, April Costa, 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.

Blackburnian warbler



June 5th, 20th, July 2nd, 16th, 30th, August 6th Adirondack Birding Basics The Wild Center

Time: 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Leader: April Costa

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

Enjoy a morning walk at The Wild Center with Summer Naturalist and Northern New York Audubon Intern April Costa. Learn the basics of birding – identification, using a field guide as well as how to attract birds to your own back yard. A spotting scope will be used to view birds on the Raquette River from Oxbow Overlooks. Please be prepared with sturdy walking shoes, binoculars/field guides (we have some for use), appropriate outdoor clothing, bug spray, and water. Meet at 8:30 am at The Wild Center public parking Lot.

June 11th, 25th, July 11th, 23rd, August 8th Boreal Birds and Bogs Bloomingdale Bog

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

Leader: April Costa

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 sedge marsh and coniferous

Hooded merganser



woods. Easy walking along an old railroad bed. Please be prepared with sturdy walking shoes, binoculars/field guides, appropriate outdoor clothing, bug spray and water.

Saturday, June 13th, 27th, July 9th, 25th, August 1st, 13th

Whiteface Mountain Ecology Exploration

Time: 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Leader: April Costa

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

Please join Summer Naturalist and Northern New York Audubon Intern April Costa for an interpretive hike focused on mountain habitats and birds on Whiteface Mountain. Meeting place is **The Candy Man** in Wilmington at 8:30 am. Take Rte 86 from Lake Placid to Wilmington (Approximately 10 miles). The Candy Man is located on the right side at the four corners in Wilmington – from there we will carpool to the summit via the toll road stopping along the way to look at the varying forest types and transition as you go up the mountain. At the summit, be prepared for a short hike – ¾ mile. This is a great opportunity to check out the alpine ecosystem as well as maybe see or hear the rare Bicknell's Thrush. Please be prepared with sturdy walking shoes, binoculars/field guides, appropriate outdoor clothing, bug spray, and water.

Ivory-billed woodpecker below left/Pileated woodpecker (below right)



7th 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 2009. 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 White Pine Camp (June 5); the morning field trips (June 6-7); the June 6 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

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

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

7-10 p.m. Welcome to the GABC / Dessert Reception for registered participants only, followed by an Owl Prowl @ Historic White Pine Camp, Paul Smiths.

Saturday, June 6th

MORNING FIELD TRIPS (7-11:30 am) Registration Required

Morning Bird Walk at the VIC with Dr. Eugene Morton. (Bird Banding at the VIC with Dr. Jorie Favreau.

Bloomingdale Bog (Boreal Habitat / Boreal Species)

Osgood River Canoe Trip (Boreal Habitat / Boreal Species)

Whiteface Mountain (Bicknell's Thrush / Mountain Species)

Madawaska (Boreal Habitat / Boreal Species)

Spring Pond Bog (Boreal Habitat / Boreal Species)

11 am - 4:30 pm, Paul Smiths VIC Registration NOT required for inside programs. Drop in. Free & open to the public.

11 am - 3 pm Vendors / Paul Smiths VIC Great Room

11:30 a.m.- 1 pm Lunch Break (Barbecue Lunch available; PS VIC)

12:30-1:30 p.m. Damsels & Dragons ... "Flying Jewels of New York State." Dragonfly & Damselfly presentation.

1-2 p.m. Birdscaping Your Backyard with Kathy Linker.

2-3 p.m. So You're Not a Birder. Trail walk with Dick Harvey Registration required for activities below, except lecture.

2-3 p.m. Educational Raptors of the APA Visitor Interpretive Centers with Rynda McCray (Environmental Educator).

2-4 p.m. "Damsels & Dragons ... "Flying Jewels of New York State" Art Show Opening with Vici & Steve Diehl.

Teddy Roosevelt Birding Challenge (Registration required)

5-6:30 pm

Dinner Break (the GABC committee is currently working on local dinner arrangements)

EVENING PROGRAM (7:30-9 pm, Paul Smiths VIC—see next column).

2009 Huntington Lecture Series

July 2—*Fire Towers and CCC Camps of the Adirondacks: History, Lore and Legacy.* Marty Podskoch—Author.

July 9—*Birds of the Adirondacks*—Brian McAllister—Adirondack Field Naturalists.

July 16—*People and the Park: How New Yorkers have shaped the Adirondacks We See Today*—Mike Brennan—APA VIC.

July 23—*Wilderness Pioneer Bob Marshall's Adventures in the Adirondacks*—Phil Brown—Adirondack Explorer.

July 30—*Where, How Fast and How Far do Adirondack Deer Move?: Exciting New Insights from GPS Collars*—Matthew Smith—Graduate Student SUNY ESF.

August 6—*Coyotes, Deer and the "Landscape of Fear"*—Dr. Jacqueline Frair, SUNY ESF Faculty and Robin Holeviski—Graduate Student SUNY ESF.

August 13—*Minerals of the Adirondack Highlands*—Michael Hawkins, New York State Museum.

August 20—*Vernal Pools: Teeming with Life and Mystery*—Mary Beth Kolozsvary—Biodiversity Research Institute at the New York State Museum.

Joseph & Joan Cullman Conservation Foundation Annual Lecture Dr. Bridget Stutchbury, author of *Silence of the Songbirds* (PS VIC Theater) Saturday, June 6th, 7:30 p.m.

RAFFLE PRIZES will be drawn after the Keynote Address
SUNDAY, JUNE 7

NOTE: The VIC building is closed Sundays and Mondays. The June 7 programs are held off-site (make arrangements when you register). The VIC trails are still open for birding on Sunday and Monday. Trail maps are available at the front door

MORNING FIELD TRIPS (7-11:30 am)

Registration Required

Bloomingdale Bog (Boreal Habitat / Boreal Species)

Osgood River Canoe Trip (Boreal Habitat / Boreal Species)

Whiteface Mountain (Bicknell's Thrush / Mountain Species)

Madawaska (Boreal Habitat / Boreal Species)

Spring Pond Bog (Boreal Habitat / Boreal Species)

Adirondack Birding Festival

19 June—Friday

7 a.m. Ferd's Bog—Inlet

2 p.m. Kunjamuk River Paddle - Speculator

2 p.m. Sabbatis Road Driving Safari—Long Lake

7 p.m. Adirondack Museum—**Gary Lee: Boreal Birds, Warblers, Loons and Waterbirds of the Adirondacks**

20 June—Saturday

7 a.m. Moose River Plains Driving Safari—Inlet

7 a.m. NP Trail Hike—Long Lake

7 a.m. W. Branch Sacandaga River Paddle—Piseco

2 p.m. Powley Road Driving Safari—Piseco

5 p.m. Cedar River Walk—Indian Lake

5 p.m. Sacandaga Pathway Walk—Speculator

7 p.m. Great Camp Sagamore—**Dr. Nina Schoch: Mercury and Migration—Conservation Through the Lives of Adirondack Loons**

21 June—Sunday

7 a.m. South Inlet Paddle—Raquette Lake

7 a.m. Fiddler's Pond Hike Piseco

7 a.m. Rack Lake Hike—Indian Lake

7 a.m. Blue Mountain Hike—Blue Mt. Lake

12:30 p.m. W.W. Durant Cruise—Raquette Lake

Scarlet Tanager



Thank you Rishes Auto Service For a \$2960.00 Donation

Rishes Auto Service, a repair and body shop as well as an AAA road service and towing contractor, made a \$2,960.00 donation to NNYA this March. Rishes raised the money during last year's battery roundup, an environmentally friendly event initiated by AAA.

Rishes collected hundreds of batteries, from individuals and businesses, and returned them to the battery manufacturers for a core credit, which resembles a bottle deposit. Most car batteries get a credit of about \$5.00, and some truck batteries earn as much as \$30.00 when returned. The battery manufacturers then recycle the lead and other materials and responsibly dispose of the non-reusable parts.

NNYA dedicated \$2,000.00 of this donation to a research project focused on the habitat needs of the golden-winged warbler, which is currently experiencing one of the most rapid population declines in North America. The St. Lawrence Valley remains a stronghold for the golden-winged in New York, and the research, led by Dr. Tom Langen of Clarkson University, will examine the birds preference for habitat along electrical transmission line corridors.

Dr. Langen's research will help us better understand how habitat management could enhance the survival of this gorgeous songbird

NNYA Board of Directors Meeting Saturday , June 6th, 1:00 p.m. Paul Smiths VIC

NNYA board of directors meetings are open to the entire membership; they are an excellent forum for exchanging ideas about our increasingly dynamic Audubon chapter. The directors seek and greatly appreciate any and all input from chapter members. 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.

Nominating Committee For Board of Directors: Angelina Ross

Common yellowthroat



Dear NNYA Members,

Thank you all for responding so generously to our 2009 appeal letter. As you may know, all of the efforts by our members and directors are performed voluntarily and number thousands of hours annually. However the materials, printing and mailing of our publications as well as fees for electronic information require your kind donations.

Thank you again,

Pat Thaxton



Common Loon

Like to Watch Loons? Join in the ACLP's Annual Loon Census on Saturday, July 18th from 8-9a.m.

Help the Adirondack Loon Conservation Program look for loons! Join in the ACLP's Annual Loon Census on Saturday, July 18th, 2009, from 8-9a.m. For more information or to choose a lake to conduct your observations, please contact the ACLP Program Manager at asauer@wcs.org or at 518-891-8836. To learn more about the ACLP's Annual Loon Census, visit www.adkscience.org/loons.

—ACLP

Poetry Corner Autumn Refrain

The skreak and skritter of evening gone
And grackles gone and sorrows of the sun,
The sorrows of sun, too, gone . . . the moon and moon,
The yellow moon of words about the nightingale
In measureless measures, not a bird for me
But the name of a bird and the name of a nameless air
I have never—shall never hear. And yet beneath
The stillness of everything gone, and being still,
Being and sitting still, something resides,
Some skreaking and skrittering residuum,
And grates these evasions of the nightingale
Though I have never—shall never hear that bird.
And the stillness is in the key, all of it is,
The stillness is all in the key of that desolate sound

—Wallace Stevens

Editor's Note

While putting this newsletter together I kept getting distracted by my plans to make a bird feeder that dispenses night crawlers for the single parent American robin currently incubating eggs in a balsam fir two feet from my front door and one foot from the window at the top of the basement stairwell. Before he started building the bird bounced up and down on several branches in the balsam, which struck me as the avian equivalent of kicking a used car's tires, but then he got hyper and erected a nest in no time. I haven't seen the female in weeks, so I decided to act as her surrogate by providing a generous supply of big juicy worms in, probably, the Pyrex baking dish I use in my illuminated cluster fly trap, but that's another story, for another season.

Yes, breeding season has arrived and so has birding celebrations season, so take advantage of a couple of June weekends bristling with hikes, paddles, lectures, slide shows and, of course, plenty of cool birds. I featured the schedules of both the Great Adirondack Birding Celebration centered at the Paul Smiths' VIC and the Adirondack Birding Festival, which takes place at various sites in Hamilton County. I've led field trips for both celebrations and guarantee you will have fun if you participate. Whatever else you do, don't miss the Joseph and Joan Cullman Conservation Foundation Annual Lecture featuring Dr. Bridget Stutchbury, author of *Silence of the Songbirds*.

I ran a very long *letter-to-the-editor* about double-crested cormorant control, specifically about the DEC's position on the issue, largely because I know many NNYA members have strong opinions about the surging cormorant population. Let me know your reaction to what struck me as a very articulate description of the DEC's cormorant control policy.

I definitely plan to buy a book of tickets for the 2009 NNYA Raffle, which has as a prize a Swarovski ST-80 spotting scope complete with a 20x-60x zoom lens and a carrying case. A fancy optical instrument indeed, this beautiful scope will undoubtedly enhance the birding experience of its lucky winner. The raffle drawing will take place at NNYA's annual meeting/outing at the W.H. Miner Agricultural Institute, a fabulous place to go birding and have lunch in a private cabin in a private forest adjacent to Altona Flat Rocks, one of the most unique ecosystems in the world.

You'll also find inside descriptions and schedules of some of the field trips the NNYA/Cullman/Wild Center Naturalist Intern will lead this summer, and a well-deserved "Thank You" to Rishes Auto Service, which donated \$2960 to NNYA (they raised the money recycling auto and truck batteries.)

I feel especially pleased to feature in this issue the work of Gerry Lemmo, an incredibly talented photographer with an enviable range. You can see more of Gerry's work at his web site, www.gerrylemmo.com, where he has a fabulous selection of galleries showcasing everything from wildlife to landscapes to still lifes, as well as gorgeous prints for sale. And how about that shot of an Ivory-billed and a Pileated woodpecker at active nests in the same tree, in Bloomingdale Bayou, who'd a thunk it?...

—John Thaxton